

ADVANCED IRON¹⁵



AI

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

SUMMER CROSS-OVER ADVANCE

This summer promises big (and possibly catastrophic) things for Tony Stark. Although a lot of the info is being kept under raps, Gary Guzzo, was kind enough to send us the letter at the right. You'll note that it's pretty cryptic, but I think if you use your imagination you'll be able to glean something valuable. You may be able to tell even more from all the preview sketches that he sent us. What does Kang have to do with all this and why does Shellhead look so evil? Feast your eyes and tell me what you think is going on over at Marvel??

All I know for sure, is that the Avengers are involved, creative teams (and possibly characters) will change and at least one member of the Avengers will parish. Kang seems to be the highlighted villain, so you can bet he's behind this whole mess.

SHORT CHANGED?

You'll note that some sections are missing this time around. There's no Things to Come, Sightings or Iron Mania. The first two are missing because, as of this writing, Marvel's preview info is at least three weeks late! I'm assuming that this is due to all the changes that are taking place. Iron Mania is missing because Jason Stephens has hit an unusually large work load at school. But fear not, Jason really wants to make it up to you, so he's planning on putting out an Iron Fan special sometime in the middle of May. Stay tuned!

IRON FAN ON-LINE

Join other Iron Fans on-line.

Here's some addresses to get started:

Iron Fan: IRONFAN@AOL.COM.

Allen Bujak: Shellhead1@AOL.COM

ABOUT THE COVER:

Bart Ney painted this month's cover. Jason Stephens, the sole cover artist for the last 2.5 years got swamped at school, so Bart saved the day with an awesome Shellhead illustration:

"I redrew this image from Marvel Action Hour Iron Man number one, page 3, panel 5. All the original creative credit goes to Anthony Williams and John Nyberg (penciler and inker). I changed the color scheme a little due to frisket problems I was having. I utterly destroyed the painting once by pulling up the frisket too fast and had to start over. I'm still very much an airbrush amateur.

"I think this is the best single panel I've ever seen of the current Iron Man armor. It blew me away the first time I saw it. Without having him do anything, this pose says "Don't screw with Shellhead!" I drew it out on an 18" x 24" board and Xeroxed it after I finished the black layer. Then I laid out the red and yellow sections. After totally destroying the red section once, I decided not to add the highlights for fear of really trashing the thing! With more practice I hope to get more detail into my paintings. ...

"I thought it was great when my airbrush teacher pointed out that after all these years of urban and economic analysis, environmental reports, architectural drawings and historical research, that my whole college experience would be capped off by this final painting of Iron Man! Kind of IRONIC eh??"

MARVEL

MEMO

To: Mark Gruenwald, Editor In Chief
From: Ralph Macchio, Avengers Editor
Date: Monday, April 10, 1995
Subject: Avengers re-design

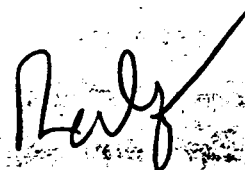
Mark,

Attached are some real top secret character sketches of the new Avengers for your review. Some of them are real hot and tie right into the upcoming Avengers story line.

I have some reservations about the [redacted] costume since [redacted] will be [redacted] by the time the story is in full swing. Also we must remember that [redacted] [redacted] Without [redacted] the team will be a bit [redacted] so [redacted]'s costume really makes sense. All these changes have my head spinning. I think we're really going to shake up the fans with this stuff. Especially [redacted] [redacted]!!!!

Whatever you do, try and keep these things out of the hands of Guzzo. If gets his paws on them they'll end up in every fanzine in the country. You know, he gets so excited about changes this big that he could become a real pain in the [redacted]!

Ralph.

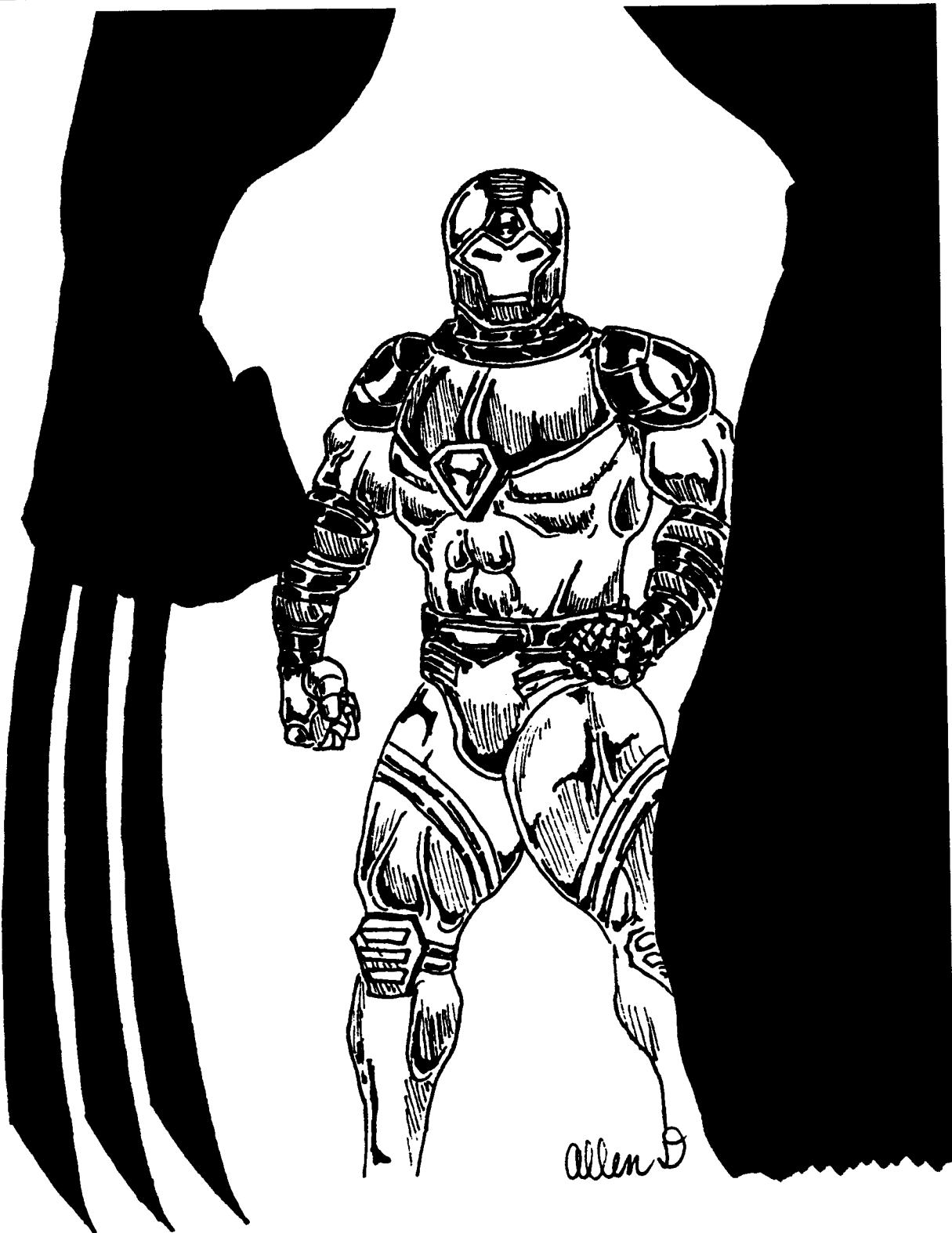


May 1995

Hey, Metalheads, time to *Armor Up!*

S t a r k R e m a r k s

By Mike Kalibabky and Allen Del Caro



I've been flirting with the idea of changing the name of my column from "Stark Remarks" to "Metal Detective." Why change it, you ask? Well, to me, "Stark Remarks" doesn't really pinpoint the thrust of my column. "SR" would probably be a better fit for Jason, Dave, Heath, or Bart. Anyway, "metal detecting" is what I love to do—seek out the influences of Tony Stark and Iron Man throughout the Marvel Universe! Yo, ho! So, should I change the column name or leave it? Help me out here, people. I'd appreciate your comments.

For those of you who have been wondering, I get my Iron Man information by spending a ton of money on comics, fan-zines, and related materials and then relentlessly looking for parallels, tie-ins, and etc. with Iron Man and the rest of the comics world—and the real world. Case in point: Jason Stephens' new IM Guardsman armor on the cover of *AI* #13 prompted me to try to locate the first appearance ever of the Guardsman armor... which was in *Iron Man* #43 (although the armor

wasn't actually referred to as "Guardsman" armor until issue #45). I was able to locate the info quickly via my *Marvel Comics Index No. 8B*, but, alas, I don't have the actual comics to verify or to expound upon this! Sometimes I really regret selling my *Iron Man* and *Tales of Suspense* collections.

Here's another interesting tidbit I encountered. A guy named

Sentry wearing armor based on Guardsman technology appeared in *Amazing Spider-Man* #'s 384-385. So I suppose this armor is Stark-technology based since the Guardsman armors are too. Sentry is a member of the armored group The Jury that tried to take Spidey down for "creating"

**"Claws Done Right"
Title Page Illustration
by Allen Del Caro**

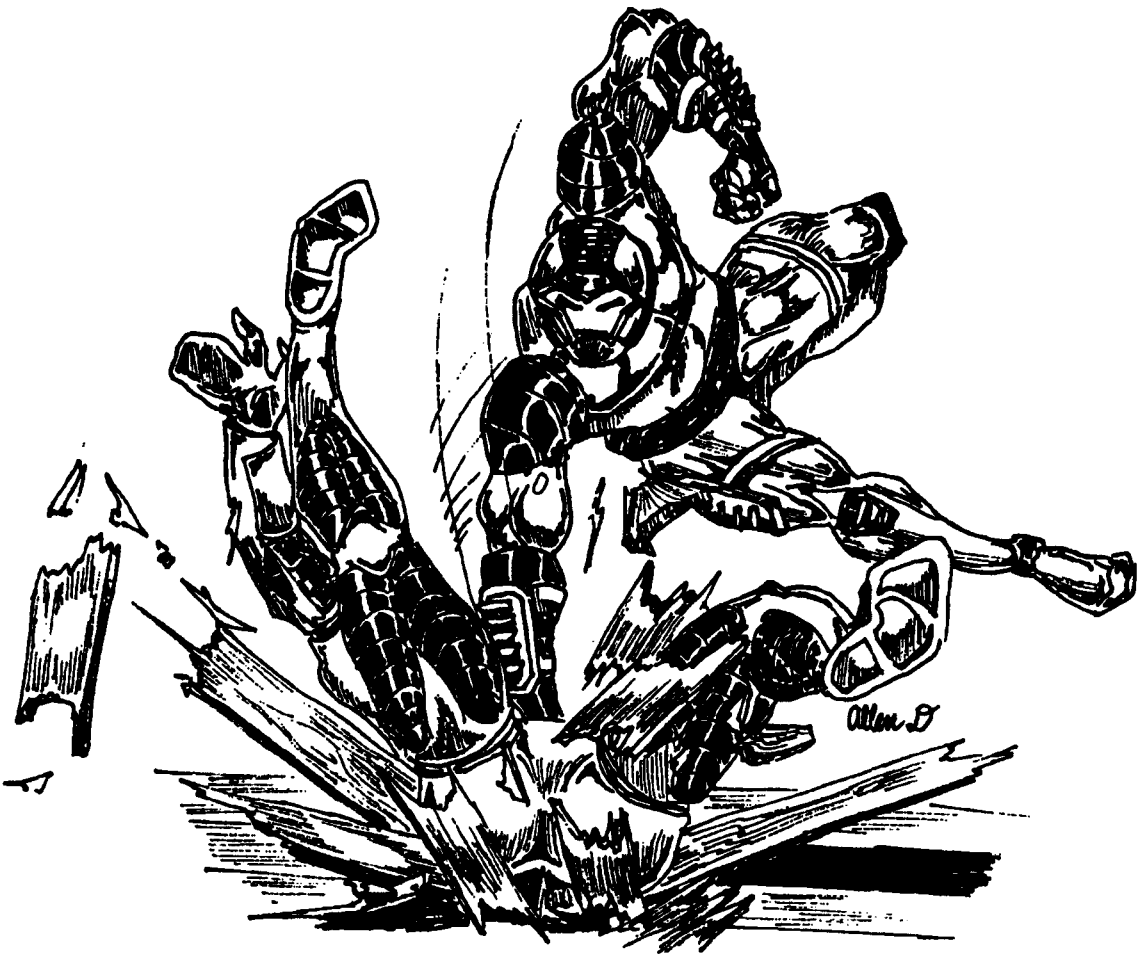
"I've always wondered what would happen if Iron Man and Wolverine were to duke it out. Sure, Iron Man could keep Wolvie at bay with his repulsors and make it a short fight, but if anyone could figure out a way to take Iron Man down in a fist fight it would be Wolverine."

—Allen Del Caro

Venom!

Now I'm wondering, when did the guy get the Guardsman-based armor in relation to the original Armor Wars (ahem, "Stark Wars," actually)? Hmm... As Tony Stark would say, "Needs more study."

Some Stark Enterprises-supplied infrared stealth-vision



goggles appeared in *Avengers* #385. The "Earth's Mightiest Heroes" needed them while investigating an underground anomaly. Meanwhile, check out current *Avengers* issues for guest appearances of Captain America clad in the Tony Stark-created CapArmor!

Then in *Avengers* # 386 check out artist Angel Medina's **really** scary Red Skull splash page and delicious illustration of the new CapArmor at the end of the book.

Jarvis, faithful servant of the

Avengers, recounts his career with the team in the pages of *Avengers* #280, published in 1987. Recovering from a severe beating from Mr. Hyde, Jarvis contemplates retirement while recalling the team's history from its origin to the present time (1987).

Tony Stark, clad in his gold "clunk" armor, hosts the first ever *Avengers* meeting, during which the team's charter is forged, in his New York mansion, the then soon-to-be *Avengers'* headquarters.

Fury of S.H.I.E.L.D. #1 was an

expensive (\$2.50) and disappointing offering despite guest appearances by Tony Stark and Iron Man. Other than the interesting new “eye appliance” worn by Fury—hmmm, is it created by Tony Stark?—, a threat of reduced funding by the U.N. to S.H.I.E.L.D. unless Nick stops smoking, and a cool foil-enhanced cover to the book, I found the Howard Chaykin story to be a typical modern-day S.H.I.E.L.D. spy vs. spy yawner and the Corky Lehmkuhl artwork to be an unimaginative Image knockoff, wherein all the male characters, including Tony Stark, resembled professional wrestlers. Jason Stephens would have an absolute field day critiquing Corky’s scratchings.

To compound the problems with this well-intentioned but poorly executed 22-page flop, *FOS # 1* was shipped a month late and the ashcan edition was never released. Prediction: by Fall 1995, this four-issue limited series can be found in the buck boxes at a local comic convention near you.

I will faithfully continue to read the series, however, because I’ve been a fan of both Nick Fury and his Stark-created S.H.I.E.L.D. gadgets since the days of *Strange Tales*.

On the bright side, *Fury of S.H.I.E.L.D. #2* was released in two short weeks after *FOS #1*! Iron Man cameoed again—Image style. This second installment of a four-part story made a brilliant recovery from all of the missteps in issue #1! Damn!

It was interesting! And although the story is on-going, issue #2 was almost a stand-alone book for anyone who missed out on #1. I’m pumped! I’m pleased.... I’m peeved—IM’s helmet grids were red instead of yellow (Not to mention a red armor leg-pad on the cover.)

Plus, ARRG!, writer Howard Chaykin referred to Stark Enterprises as “Stark Industries,” while artist Corky Lehmkuhl clearly depicted an SE logo in a panel two pages prior to the infraction!

However, I’m awarding Corky this month’s “Swift Kick in the Arse Award” for the saliva-dripping, open-mouthed Fury “thumbnail” lead-character I.D. illustration in the left-hand corner of the cover. Unless you’re a movie (or Dark Horse comic book) Alien, a mad dog, or Venom, there’s no reason for all this open-mouthed, saliva-dripping crap. We don’t need it. Marvel doesn’t need it. I think all this open-mouthed, saliva-dripping garbage started over at Image—so let’s keep it over there. Corky, assume the position... BOOT!

FOS #2 left me with this thought: Could the aging-retardant effects of the Infinity Formula in Fury’s blood be somehow transferred into IronCap via a blood transfusion, thereby saving Cap’s life?

By the way, *Wizard* magazine now refers to the armor-clad Captain America as “IronCap.” I like it. The nickname makes me

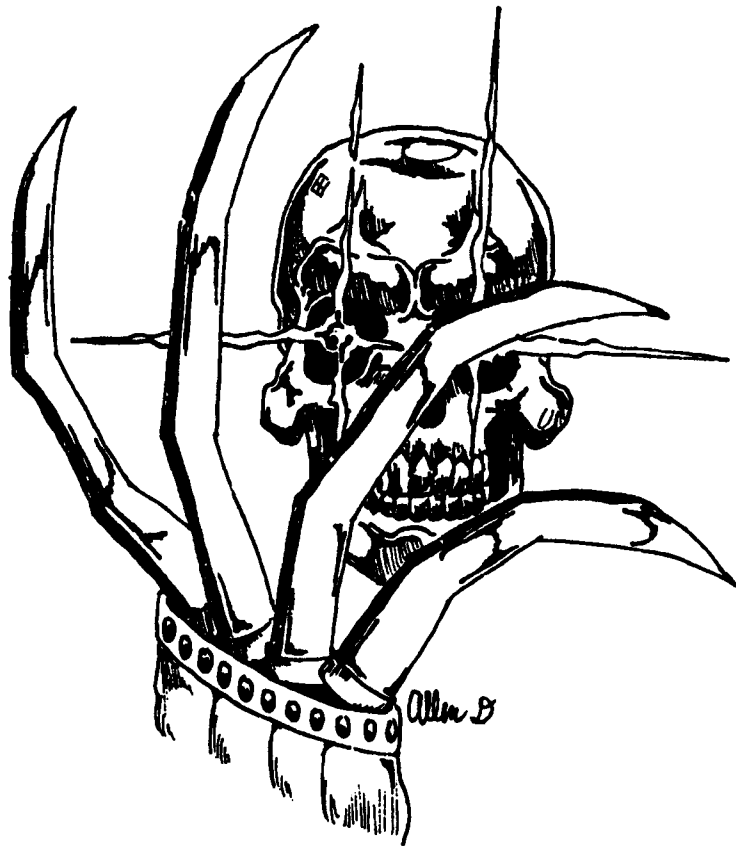
smile. Cap fans, on the other hand, must just fume and hurl the publication across the room every time the name pops up in print. Tee-hee, what fun!

Okay, so now I'm sure some sharp-eyed Iron Fan noticed the spit strand in the open-mouthed Mandarin on the cover of *Marvel Action Hour: Iron Man #7* and what appears to be a small river of drool in Tony Stark's oral cavity area depicted on Page 7. First of all, a spit strand is not "saliva dripping" and the drool on Tony is actually sweat! Fin Fang Foom fiery (bad) breath shut down IM's armor—and air conditioning!—so when Tony's helmet was pulled off... what did one expect to see?

Meanwhile, *MAH: Iron Man* comic book artist Anthony Williams joins writer Len Kaminski and inker Andy Lanning on DC's *Fate*. Please join them for cool tales of the supernatural and sometimes cybernatural. If you enjoyed Len's work on Hellstorm and dig his current gig on *GR2099*, pick up *Fate*.

Congratulations to IronCap artist Dave Hoover for only two grimaces on our Star Spangled Avenger in issue #440. That's way

down from twenty-something in #438! And saliva free, too.



In *Thunderstrike #13*, our favorite "Everyman Avenger" gets set up by the Black Widow into appearing on the *Quality Shopping Show*. His mission: to plug "high quality" Avengers collectables, including an Iron Man figurine—which resembles the recently released 10"ers. T-Strike's segment is a disaster, however, when call-in customers mistake him for Thor! See Pages 23 & 26 of this issue for the hilarious details.

Iron Fan Dwayne Wilder from Sherman, Texas, told me that he's been bugging Marvel since 1987

about doing something with Arno Stark and the current modern-day Iron Man continuity. Hopefully, Len Kaminski did enough with this concept that will please ya, Dwayne. I'm personally on pins-and-needles wondering if Tony Stark created the "articulating jaw" Iron Man helmet that Arno wears.

Dwayne seconded my motion for nominating "Mr. Prime Time" Deion Sanders to portray Jim Rhodes on the silver screen. And if Deion wasn't available, Dwyane suggested Michael Dorn. Hmmmm... Okay!

Note: In case anyone cares, after picking up the 1995 Upper Deck Deion baseball card, my collection now stands at 40 Deion baseball cards.

Guess what? There are at least two people on this planet that buy and love the *Marvel Action Hour: Iron Man* comic book—Dwayne and me. I guess the rest of the world just has to catch up to us... We know a great comic when we see it! Right, Dwayne?

Some of the music in the Iron Man animated episode "The Defection of Hawkeye" was included on Emerson, Lake & Palmer's *Black Moon* album. As all of you closing credit readers know, keyboard wizard Keith Emerson wrote and performed the music for *MAH: Iron Man*.

It appears that Heath "T-Rex" McKnight, in addition to myself, is a

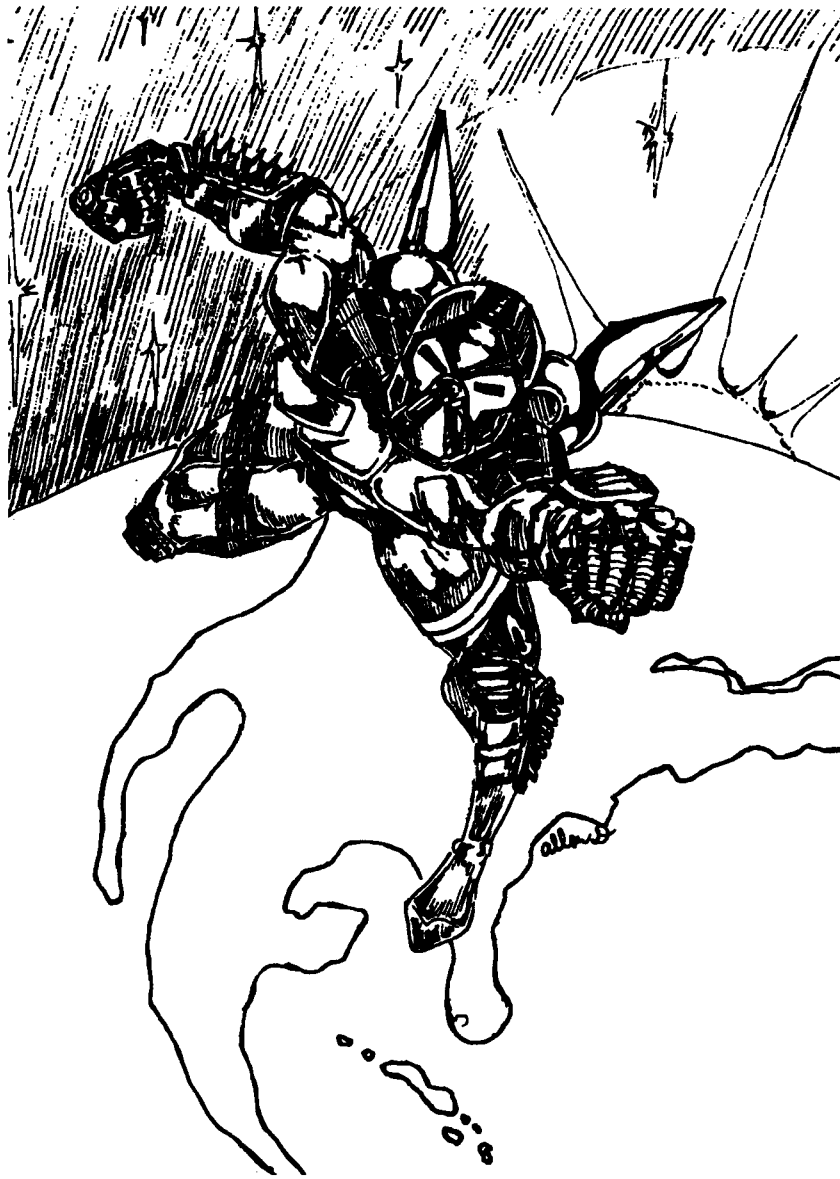
proud winner of a *Marvel Action Hour* animation cel. And according to Heath, there were 6,000 winners in all—I was Winner #598. (Wow, that's a lot of Fantastic Four crowd scenes to give away as Robert Sumner might say!) I'm anxious to hear which one he got. Mine, which I received on April 10th, is a shot of Iron Man flying directly at the viewer. No way was it a genuine animation from the show. The "cell" measures 10" x 6.5". It's cool. I'm not complaining. I love it.

By the way, Heath, in the early 70's there was a band called "T-Rex" and interestingly enough they did a song called "Metal Guru." Hmmmm, sounds like the title of an *Advanced Iron* column, wherein a young aspiring filmmaker could plug a few script ideas for Iron Man movies.

But, then again, who in his or her right mind would take advice or hints from a guy who listens to KC & The Sunshine Band? I wouldn't. Nope, not me.

Two Iron Man-related trading cards are included in the Fleer Ultra Spider-Man Premiere Edition set scheduled to ship in June. Card #121 is a Iron Man-Spidey team-up, while Holoblast card #HB4 pits Iron Man against Venom. A third loosely IM-related card, #104, features the Jury.

This made me wonder: Were there any IM-related cards in past Spidey card sets? Hmmmm. Needs more study. Can any of you Iron



Fans out help me out on this? Just to start things off, I did find a 1994 Fleer Spidey card of Venom & Sentry and an "Avengers File" card, which included Iron Man and the Avengers in a group illustration on the card back.

Well, well, well, now it seems that the second Iron Man figurine assortment won't hit the stores until June, while Set III isn't due out until

September!

From the photos I've seen, the new IM figurines look a little different from the first set. They seem sleeker and the helmets appear, to me anyway, more elongated. The hands are open. I dunno—like, how much can I really tell from the microscopic photos they showed in *Hero* and *Wizard*.

By now the Marvel Metal cards are ancient history, but I noticed that there are unadvertised "alternate" Alternate M cards. For example, the Alternate Iron Man card has the Power Grid rating on the card back and a sliver sky on the card

front. The regular Alt-M IM card has a beautiful blue sky on the card front and the story of how Sir Anthony (Iron Man) became trapped in the days of King Arthur at the hands of that rascal Doctor Doom (see *What If?* #33 for details) on the card back.

The George Perez illustration is a dandy! Iron Man is clad in his classic red & golds (with the hip pods) adorned by a red cape, a

flowing white ornamental (but very manly) gown, and a silver scabbard. His left arm proudly supports a beautiful red, silver, and gold shield containing an "AS" at the top, the Mars male symbol in the center, and an "Fe," the symbol for iron, at the bottom. I laughed out loud when I saw the "Fe." Cute idea! (So if Bethany Cabe armored up would she be a Fe-male?) Thrust forth to the sky in a gesture of power and confidence is the skillfully forged steel blade of Sir Anthony's mighty broadsword. In response the firmament returns an explosive glint of sunlight which strikes the metal surface in a blinding arc of divine glory. Truly this is a Knight to behold! Truly this is a card to possess!

I got a letter from Russ Neff the other day. Russ and I did the classic "Why I Love/Hate War Machine" piece way back in *Iron Fan* #3. Russ wrote to just B.S. a little and to say that he subscribed to *Iron Man* after Hopgood's departure. Russ also mentioned that he still doesn't like War Machine and probably never will. At least Russ is honest.

Maybe Russ has the right idea by subscribing, especially now with the Marvel price hike peaking around the corner. Subscribing now is a good way to beat high prices, sales tax, and mileage to the comic store. However, it's fun and exciting to journey to the local comic shop to check out all the new titles and comic-related merchandise. For me personally it would be very, very

tough—complete with a severe and violent withdrawal period—to give up the weekly pilgrimages. I used to subscribe to *Iron Man*, but the books arrived in a smooshed condition, unacceptable for collecting purposes.

But if you want to save time, money, the headaches of finding your favorite books, and the temptations of over-buying every week, subscribing is the way to go.

And, oh yeah, add Russ's name to the growing list of Iron Man 2020 fans.

Now let's talk about the recently released *Marvel Action Hour* 10" Iron Man figurines, Heavy Metal Heroes, and Hero Caps. It took me four tries at various stores (two Targets, a Toys 'R' Us, and a K-Mart) to get "mint" 10" Iron Man and War Machine figurines (I didn't purchase a Mandarin figurine). Why? The majority of the figurines were so blemished that I refused to buy them. Painting errors, nicks in the painted surfaces, and smudged surfaces, particularly on the War Machine figurines, made me groan in disappointment.

Take heed, Toy Biz. The collective sets of Batman figurines are the best toys of their type on the market. The figurines are consistently well-made, free of blemishes and coloring errors. Beautiful detailing. It sickens me, to think that my all-time favorite superhero's toy personification is a quality control nightmare.

The design on the Iron Man

figurines ain't so hot either. The half-gauntlets and half-boots are a laugh. The armor's belt and whatever it's supposed to be attached to makes IM look like he's wearing a diaper. The communications package ("ears") on the sides of the helmet are missing (they're missing on the small figurines and in *MAH: IM #7* as well).

The legs on my Iron Man figurine were rather rickety, but he stands up and stays up.

Ohhh, sexy knee pads! They remind me of summers past when I helped my friend re-roof his motel.

No further comment on the War Machine figurine. I left mine in the box.

As a Marvel stockholder I'm **embarrassed** that my company, so to speak, has released such a crummy product. I am further sickened to note that the 10" toy Iron Man and War Machine are not "metal enhanced" as depicted on the packaging. Furthermore, the blurb on the War Machine box back mentions "millionaire industrialist Tony Stark." I throw up my hands in disgust and despair—everyone knows that Tony Stark is a **multi-billionaire**... Don't the toy makers and packaging people even watch the animated series that their product is based upon? Obviously not. I don't enjoy complaining or being a piss-ant about this, but if Marvel wants its various animated properties and related merchandise to make money, it better freaking well get with it and

make some cool, attractive stuff for its fans and consumers. Not to mention its stockholders.

And I am further ticked-off after realizing that—in the toy world, anyway—there are more versions of Bat armor than Iron Man armor. What a disaster, man!

Now where were we? Oh, yeah: Heavy Metal Heroes. Boy, are they tough to find! I was only able to snap up an Iron Man vs. Mandarin combination. Luckily it was devoid of defects. The 2.5" poseable characters, and they are cute, come with a (cardboard) chrome stand. IM has a blaster attached to his right gauntlet. The artwork on the blister card, Iron Man shooting Mandy in the arse with a repulsor (looks like it to me, anyway), is well done and accurately colored.

I was unable to find the War Machine vs. Modok combo. The photo of this duo is quite comical. Modok appears to be "flipping-off" War Machine, while WM is training a blaster at said Mr. Bighead. Now this is great stuff!

The Hero Caps are neat. I was only able to find a very limited supply at a Wal-Mart. I picked up a "brass" Iron Man vs. Mandarin slammer, a holographic Iron Man plastic "fat" slammer, a foil-enhanced War Machine cap (delicious!), a plain Modok cap, and a plain Iron Man Space Armor cap. These items were packaged with Fantastic Four caps, so I bought only the blister packs that I could

see contained Iron Man slammers and caps. And I know I missed a lot, due to the limited supply—I have #'s IM 06 & IM 08, while I have an FF 25 ("Dragon Man"). I'm guessing, hoping, that there are at least 25 Iron Man caps—the QUEST begins! And I almost forgot to mention that the art on the caps appears to be original. No rehash. Now, boys and girls, get thine hindends to a Wal-Mart!

Prices rundown:

10" Iron Man, War Machine, and Mandarin figurines, \$9.99 each.
Heavy Metal Heroes (two figurines per set), \$4.99.
Metal Slammer Set with two foil Hero Caps, \$ 4.46.
Heropack Fat Slammer with six Hero Caps, \$2.68.

I did the calcs and it appears that the *Force Works/War Machine* flip book, Issue #12, is a bargain. *Force Works* # 11 had 22 pages at \$1.50, \$.0681 per page, while Issue #12 had 40 pages at \$2.50, \$.0625 per page. Who says this isn't the Marvel Age of Value? Not to mention Issue #12's additional cover!

I like how *Force Works* artist Jim Calafiore depicts Shellhead's helmet grids and faceplate outline as if they were attachments rather than painted- on adornments flush with the helmet's surface. Makes sense. Iron Man could just add attachments or appliances to his headgear. And by appliances I

don't mean toaster ovens or coffee makers (although they might come in handy after an all-nighter).

Coach Dave Huber wrote in with an addition to my Iron Man Meltdown cover list—Issue #165 contains both skin-searing, melting armor and the title "Meltdown"!

Dave and I both fear that Tony Stark might remove the eyeslits from his Iron Man helmet—"it would be damn weird," he mentioned to me in a recent letter. I agree, but wouldn't it be cool to have holographic eyes projected onto the faceplate or something?

Aw, heck, losing the eyeports wouldn't surprise me—the helmet once had a nose! That was gross, man. (See *Iron Man* #68, which also debuted the IM armor's first cybernetically-controlled weapons system, for details.)

To answer Dave's query on further at-large references in the Marvel Universe of Arno Stark and his time travel adventure in the year 2015—there ain't none! Well, none that I've run into. And to frustrate matters further, I saw a reference to Arno Stark being the son of Morgan Stark, but I cannot pinpoint where! I think it was an issue of *Marvel Comics Presents* released sometime in 1994. Perhaps Iron Man Collector Supreme Geary Bee from Weirton, WV can help us out here.

Thanks to both Dave and Jason Stephens for clarifying the moniker, "Silver Centurion," of the red & silver Iron Man suit, which is

referred to as the "Hologram Armor" on an upcoming Iron Man figurine.

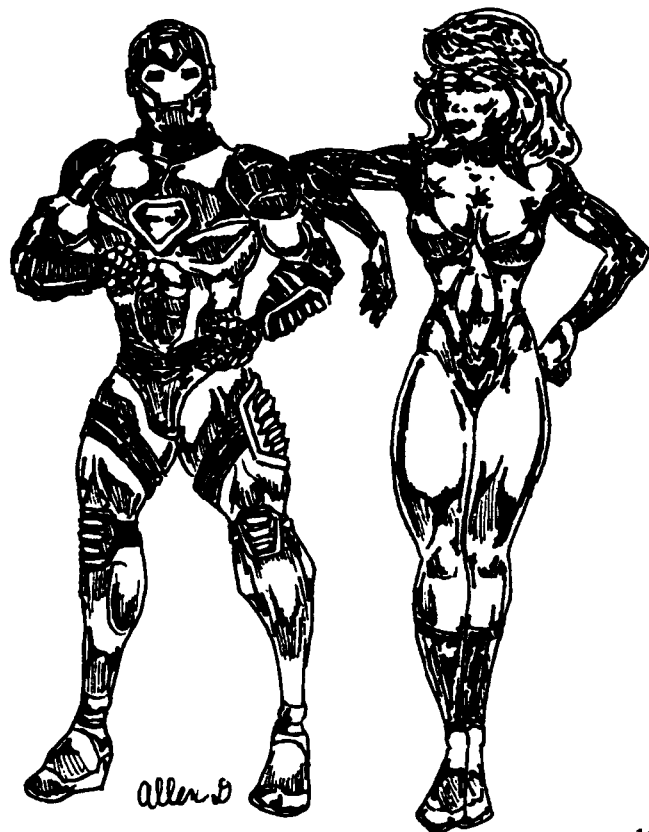
Coach Dave, by the way, coaches high school track. Good luck, Dave, and please let us know how your season is progressing.

Titanium Man, clad in the "Gremlin" T-Man metal long johns, appears in *Blood Truce*, a Nick Fury-Captain America deluxe format team-up book, written by Howard Chaykin and Ben Schwartz, drawn by Andrew Currie. Plus, and unless I'm mistaken, another heretofore unseen Tony Stark-created armor appears—the fabulous Multi-Man suit! Dubbed "Agent Orange," the new set of metal threads looks like a cross between a Guardsman uniform and Obadiah Stane's Iron Monger get-up. Funny thing though, upon seeing the actual armor in person for the very first time, both Dum-Dum Dugan and Captain America, in separate incidents, recognize the suit as a Stark design. But to follow up, how could they? Dugan recalls that the Multi-Man idea "never made it off the doodle pad," while Cap comments aloud how congressional military cutbacks prompted the cancellation of a weapon costing "twenty million a pop." I guess the folks at S.H.I.E.L.D. have the up-to-date details on e-v-e-r-y-t-h-i-n-g. As Thunderstrike would say, "Sheesh!"

Blood Truce is a fun and entertaining read. It's also an expensive one at \$5.95! Double Sheesh!

To Coach Dave: The Agent Orange armor's helmet did not have eyeholes in a manner similar to the Guardsmen armor depicted by Jason Stephens on the cover of *AI* #13. So ya gotta ask yourself, if Tony Stark decided to lose the eyes on his Iron Man armor, could you live with it? I could! Or did Jason's very cool illustration desensitize me to the idea? Any comments on this from the floor?

Notes to Jason and Dave: Tony shaved off his moustache (and dyed his hair blond) in *What If?* #8, Second Series... It has been established that the Marvel 3000 Universe



is an *alternate* universe of the modern-day Marvel Universe—but if this is true, how could Tony Stark have met “The Stark”?... For a while, *Iron Man* was published bimonthly, so this should, to some degree, impact upon attempts to calculate Tony Stark’s age... The classy Iron Man internal helmet displays were created by Scott Benson who recently wrote a piece on cyberspace, the future, and! Len Kaminski & Ghost Rider 2099 for the recent *2099 World of Doom Special*.

In *Crash*, the Iron Man graphic novel published in 1988, Mike Saenz wrote “... (Iron Man) a superhero of some notoriety who was active into the Nineties. Today children everywhere still know Iron Man from his cartoon adventures as well as the popular... breakfast cereal by the same name which comes in 3 flavors and is shaped like tiny rivets...”

Two things here: If Saenz correctly predicted the cartoon show, can the breakfast cereal be far behind?

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

Mike Kalibabky
5325 McNiven Road
Chisholm, MN 55719
(218) 254-2174

April 25, 1995

And because artists need love too

(just ask Jason), please feel free to contact my illustrator:

Allen Del Caro
1459 Scenic Drive
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
(612) 656-1103

I almost awarded myself this month’s “Swift Kick in the Arse Award” for not mentioning Allen’s address and phone number last time! I can be such a freakin’ dolt...

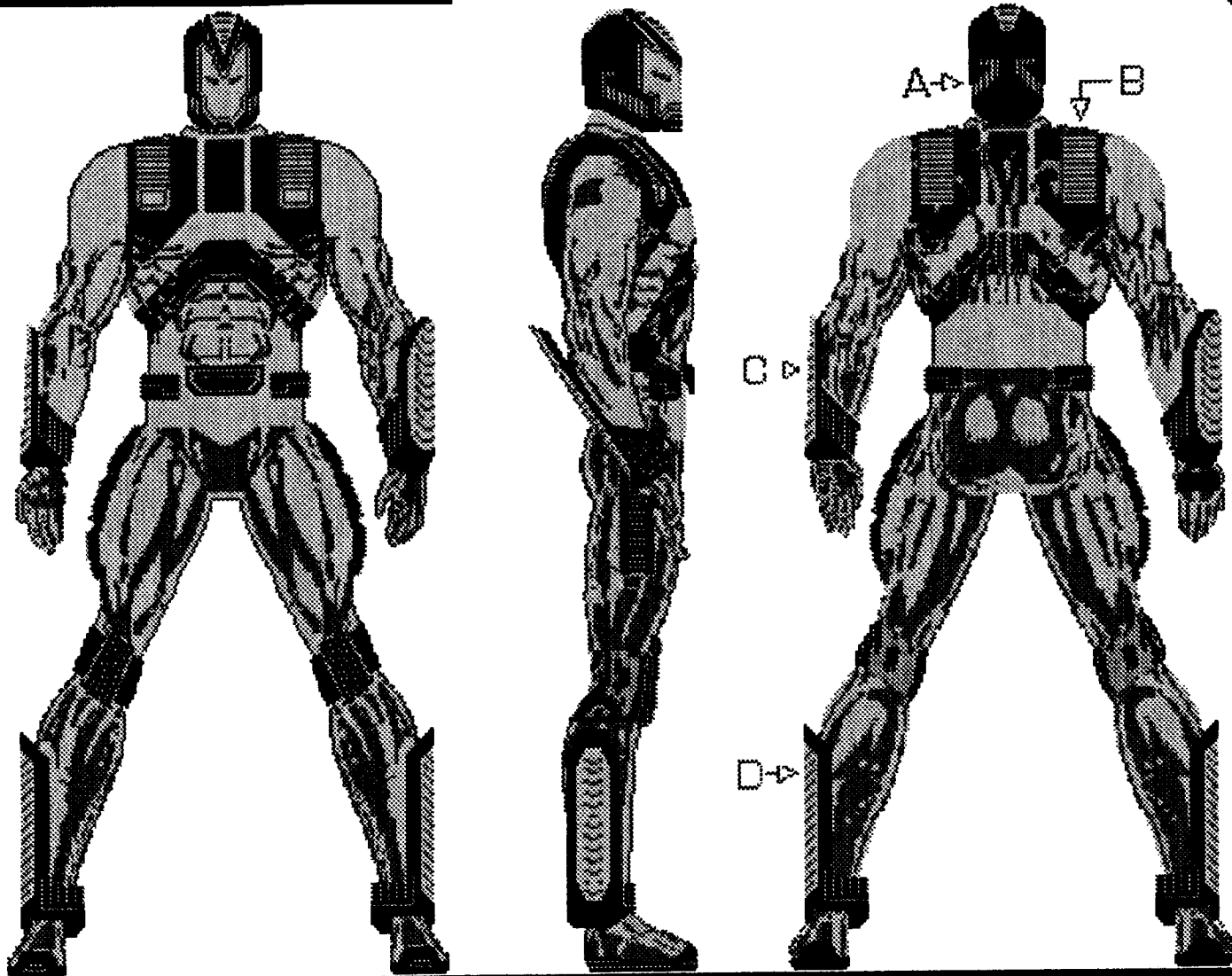
Allen truly loves co-producing “Stark Remarks” with me, and I know he would sincerely appreciate your feedback on his efforts! The man just drew me an absolutely terrific War Machine/Iron Man poster. I’d share it with you all but I’d need a scanner the size of my driveway to capture the image!

A super thank you to both Geary Bee and Editor Bill for each sending me an elusive, swell as all get-out Iron Man t-shirt. Both Allen and I are now *armored up!*

The Invincible Iron Man, Ghost Rider 2099, and related characters are ™ and © 1995 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc.

***We Miss
You
Already,
Len!***

GUARDSMAN Model 2 Mark 1



MODIFICATION LOADOUT

A. Enhanced Sensors
Improved Aft and Side Looking Sensors Can Detect Enemy Status Twice As Fast As A Standard Array

B. Weapons Mounts
Allow For Multiple Heavy Weapons To Be Easily Integrated Into Armor Tactical System

C. Extended Module Space
Extra Area For Module Mounts Support Two Modules At One Time

D. Extended Module Space
Extra Area For Module Mounts Support Two Modules At One Time Including Boot Jet Boosters

Guardsman is a kind of "policeman". The suit supports more passive restraint systems than any other suit. It's primary purpose is to capture and hold an enemy indefinitely. However, it can be re-configured to a heavy firepower design faster than other suits.....

END OF FILE

The ARMOR FILE

Welcome to another *ARMOR FILE*! Of course last month was an April Fool's issue, so the Death Machine and Iron Clown were my little contribution to the fun. I was going to do something different, but at the last minute the idea for the Iron Clown hit me and I whipped up the Death Machine when I thought of the backstory.

This month I've got a new design for the Guardsman. Naturally, the current Guardsman is actually a team of suits at the Vault. If that remains unchanged, this could be considered the "Head Guardsman". My personal preference is that the Guardsman could be a member of a armored hero team. The role that I envision the Guardsman as having on such a team follows this plan:

IRON MAN-Team Leader
WAR MACHINE-Second In Command/Firepower Specialist
IRON MAIDEN-Multi-Role/Science Specialist
GUARDSMAN-Security/Tactical Specialist
FORCE-Reconasnce/Firepower Specialist

Guardsman, as a Security/Tactical Specialist, would have the task of capturing and holding an enemy if needed. As a result, the suit is designed to be more flexible than the standard Iron Man suit to that end. The first difference is that of the helmet sensor array. As you can see, there are now sensors that wrap around the helmet on either side. The point is that sensor efficiency is doubled both on the sides and behind.

The next change is actually a borrowed feature from the War Machine - the shoulder weapons mounting. One noticable feature missing is the main unibeam emitter in the center of the chest. This has been replaced by twin emitters at the bottom of the weapons mounts. Unlike the Iron Maiden, where the emitters slide to the top of the shoulders for better firing position, these don't move. The twin emitters remain front facing at all times and can be set to converge on a single spot, or diverge at an angle of ± 10 degrees in four directions.

Because not all villans can fly, the boot jets are slightly lower power than the standard Iron Man suit. The top speed is the same but it can't be sustained as long as the standard suit. This can be addressed by use of modules that can be added as needed. To accomidate such modules, the surface area for module mounting has been increased over 200% from the current suit. Modules can be added to either the gauntlets or the boots. Becuase apprehension is important to Guardsman's role, the modules run the gambit from Bolis, to EMP emitters, to grappling lines. I may spend one article just on add-ons, later.

That's it for the Guardsman design, except that I should mention that I changed the color scheme to Dark and Light Blue. I think it fits Guardsman better than green. If anyone has any ideas for *the ARMOR FILE*, would like to submit an armor design, or have any ideas for my version of The IRON MANUAL (I need a new name for that), let me know:

Allen Bujak
70 Beeson Rd.
Niles, MI 49120

or electronically at:
Shellhead1@aol.com

Thanks for reading and I'll see you in the
ARMOR FILE.

Editor Bill just express mailed me a big helping of the possible new Avengers character designs he recently received from Marvel. And, yep, Iron Man was among them! I know Bill included the designs somewhere in this issue of *AI* so I won't duplicate his effort. My overall reaction is: WOW! The designs, in my mind, are a cross between manga and Image. Plus, in several cases they seem to personify the character: i.e., one of the Wasp designs resembles a wasp and two of the proposed Iron Man armors have heavy, oppressive old knight-like gauntlets and two trickle-down tear-like rows of rivets on the helmet faceplates (which, in a way, remind me of Allen Bujak's Iron Clown helmet's "optional tear").

My vote for the most outlandish character redesign is Thor! He reminds me of the big-haired, masked Medusa from the Inhumans. Pretty busy outfit: Lotsa spikes, chains, and belts. Big, BIG hammer, too.

The Quicksilver designs remind me of the DC speedster Impulse.

My favorite proposed new Iron Man armor? I immediately ignored the quickly scribbled, no-class Mandroid-like armor. I also turned my nose up at the suit with the nasty "Clockwork Orange" eyeholes on the helmet—but I did like the "backhand" repulsor arrangement. I then nixed the suit that showed a very young, punkish Tony Stark face... sans a moustache (if this is true will I *gasp* have to shave mine off as well?!). The next armor to hit the scrap pile was the "Bane-like" suit with the oversized shoulders, chest, and gauntlets. The remaining armor at least looks a little bit futuristic, with a vest-like chestplate & round uni-beam projector, cool palm-backhand repulsor arrays, and segmented red(?) metal coverings for the arms and legs. In the best tradition of Iron Man, the new headgear contains elements of former IM helmets: the look of the pre-TPU headpiece, a Bob Layton-ish turned-down mouth slit, and rivets on the faceplate. Once colored adequately, I think this suit will pass muster.

But I wonder: Will the new armor be introduced in Iron Man's own title first?

I wish to heartily thank Gary Cuzzo, Director of Publicity, at Marvel for getting us these advanced sneak peeks of what our favorite metal dude may look like in the near future!

So much for the CapArmor. It's a done deal as of *Avengers* #387, Part 2 of the "Taking A.I.M." story arc. The sinister Superia gave Cap an injection at the end of *Captain America* #440, "Taking A.I.M.," Part 1, which led to Cap's abandonment of the armor. Ultimately, I think Cap's

illness will be cured by the cosmic cube, a key ingredient in the storyline! Also in *Avengers* #387: Modok returns! Follow Cap and the Avengers as they battle A.I.M., Modok, and the Red Skull on the island of Boca Caliente. But meanwhile, where does the discarded CapArmor end up, and what's the final fate of the cosmic cube? And, oh, yeah: Will Cap survive?

I need only 5 more Iron Man Hero Caps to complete my collection. They are: IM 15, IM 16, IM 22, IM 24, and IM 25. Anybody have extras they may wish to sell me? Lemme know!

For a very interesting look at an alternate Tony Stark, pick up *X-Verse* #'s 1 & 2.

The Avengers are funded through a grant from the Maria Stark Foundation. Tony Stark, naturally, is the Foundation's director. I learned of this from the *Avengers Anniversary Magazine* published in 1993. It's interesting how the foundation is named after Tony's mother only—is excluding Howard Stark's name Tony's little hidden "revenge" on his abusive father? Interestingly enough, the *Avengers Anniversary Magazine* was published before Len Kaminski revealed the details on Tony's father! So what does all of this mean? It means that the chroniclers of the Marvel Universe are either very coordinated in their efforts or that the "cosmic comic tumblers" just somehow always manage to fall into place.

Treat yourself to one of the most interesting and shocking Iron Man/Tony Stark stories of all time—*Avengers Annual* #9. Please, purchase a copy (cost: under \$ 4.50, and worth every penny), read it, and report your findings to me.

Has anyone been following the 2099 A.D. storyline? For those of you who are, please, if you think of it, get back to me with references to the Stark-Fujikawa corporation and a dude by the name of Ethan Shields (a.k.a. Galahad), a member of Stark-Fujikawa internal security.

Special thanks to Editor Bill for sending me copies of the advanced Avengers character redesigns!

SR Extra
by
Mike Kalibabky

MARVEL PREVIEW

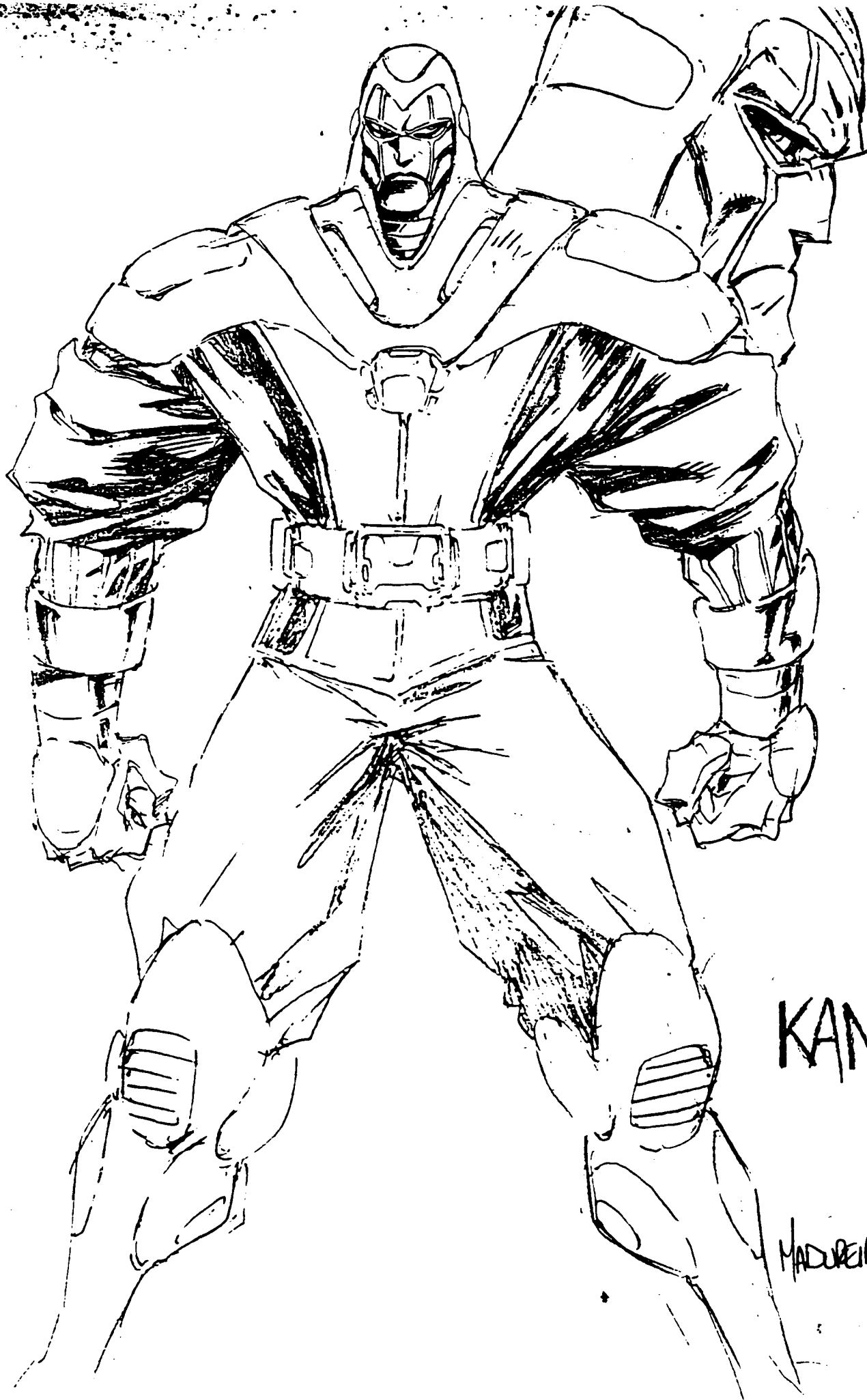
KANG

&

IRON MAN



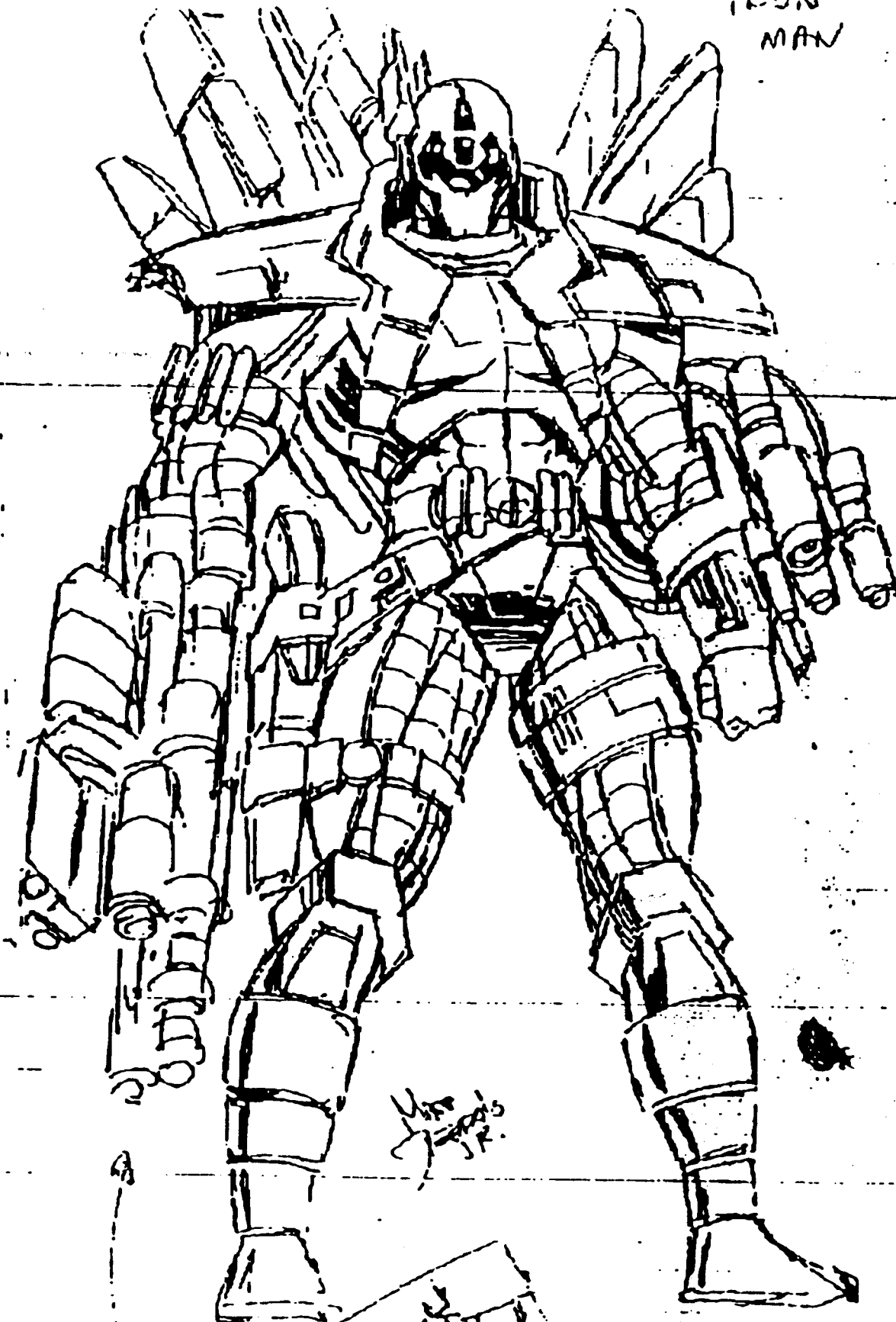
KANG-2



KANG™

MADUEIRA

IRON
MAN



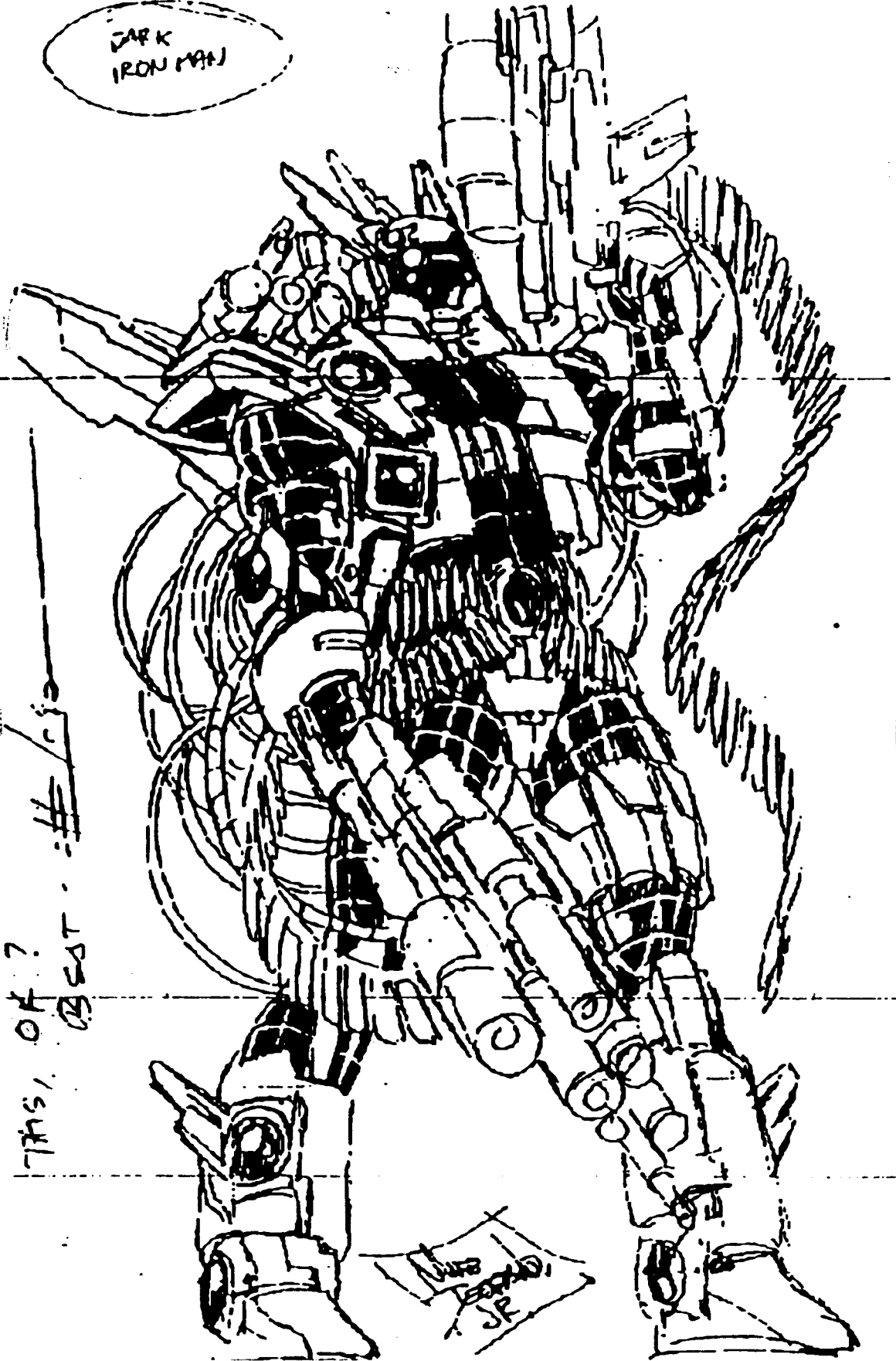
Walt
Disney
S.R.

NO
SPACE DENT
- 1970

fff!!

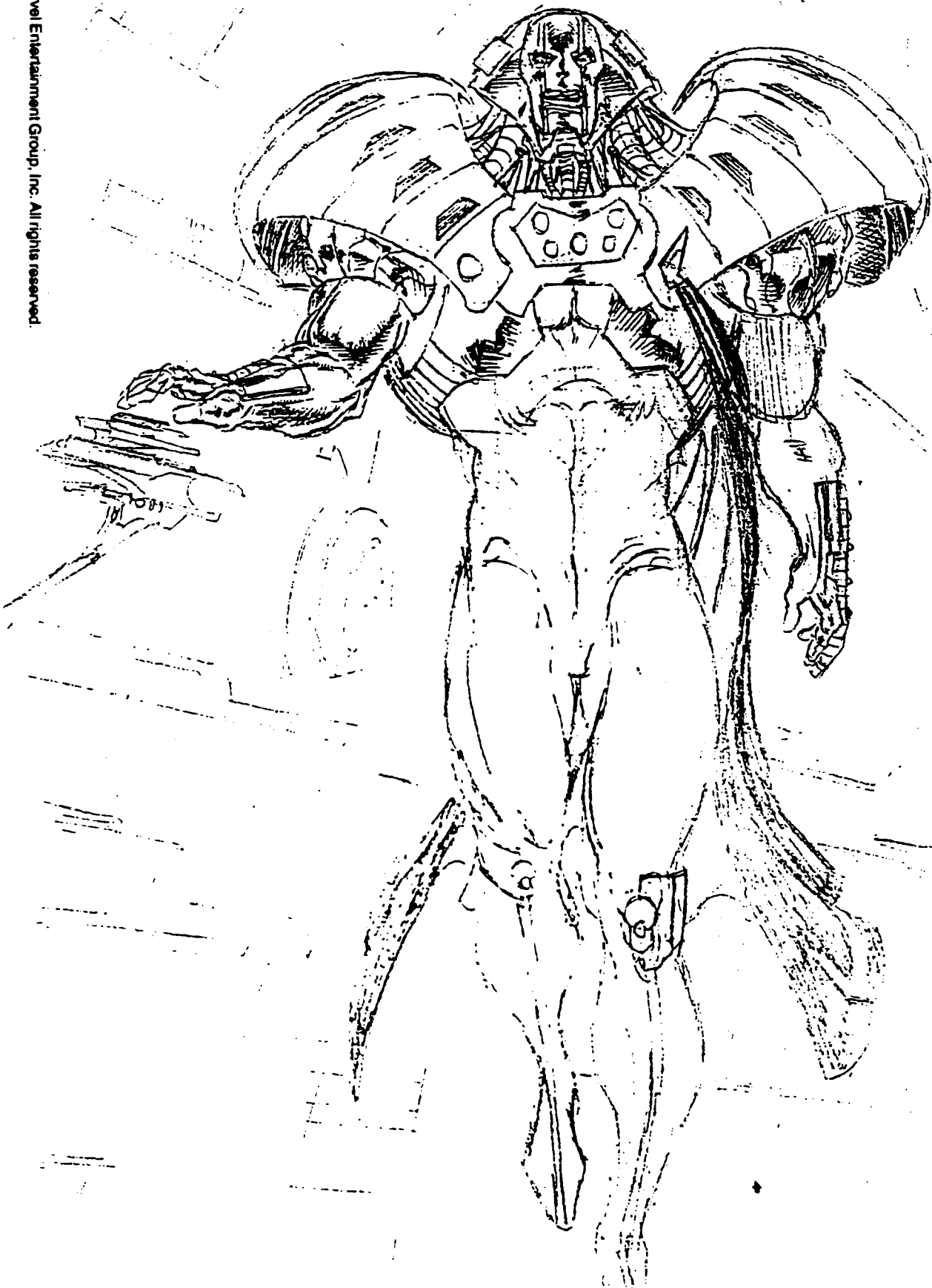
DARK
IRON MAN

THIS OF ?
BEST - #



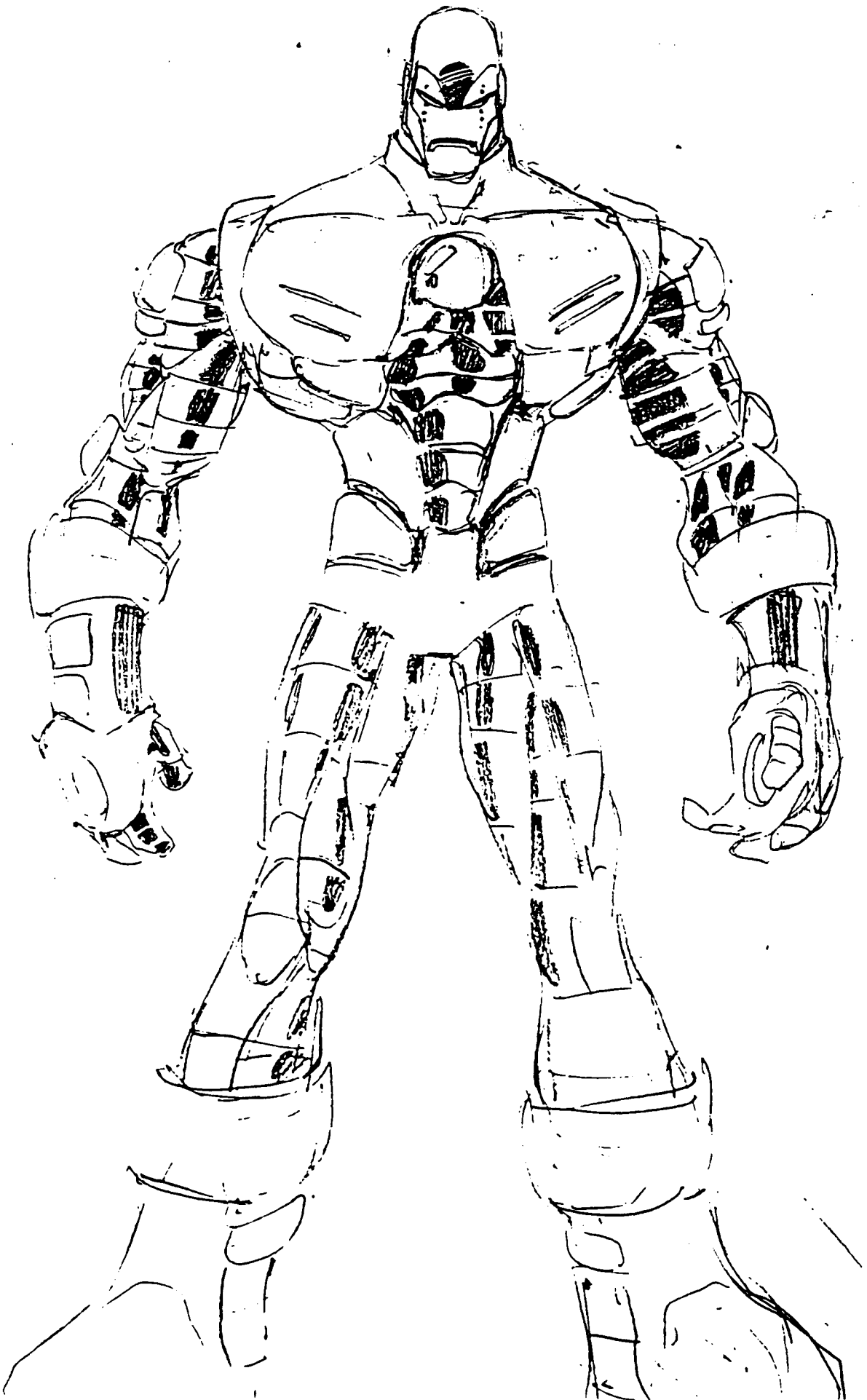
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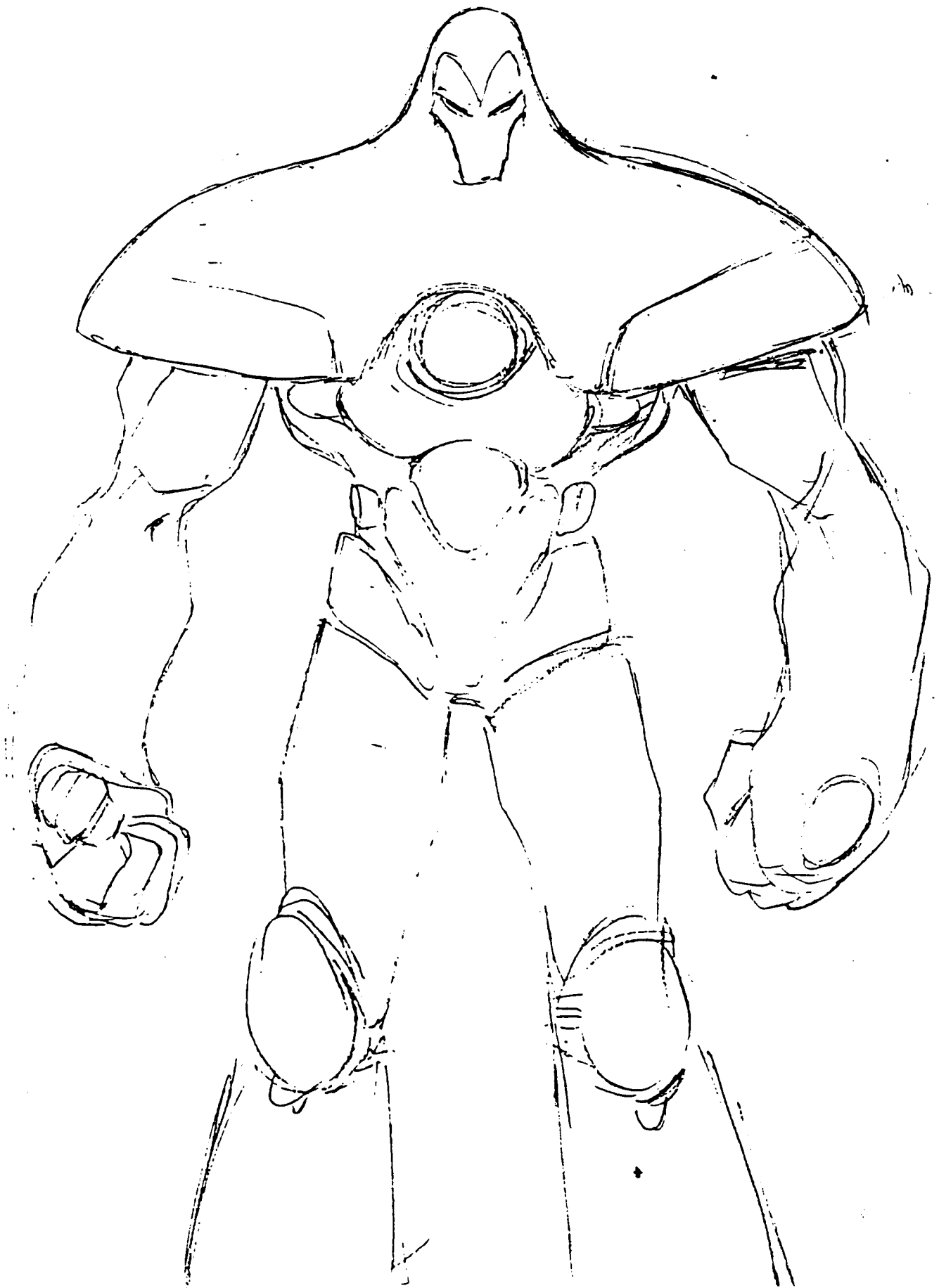


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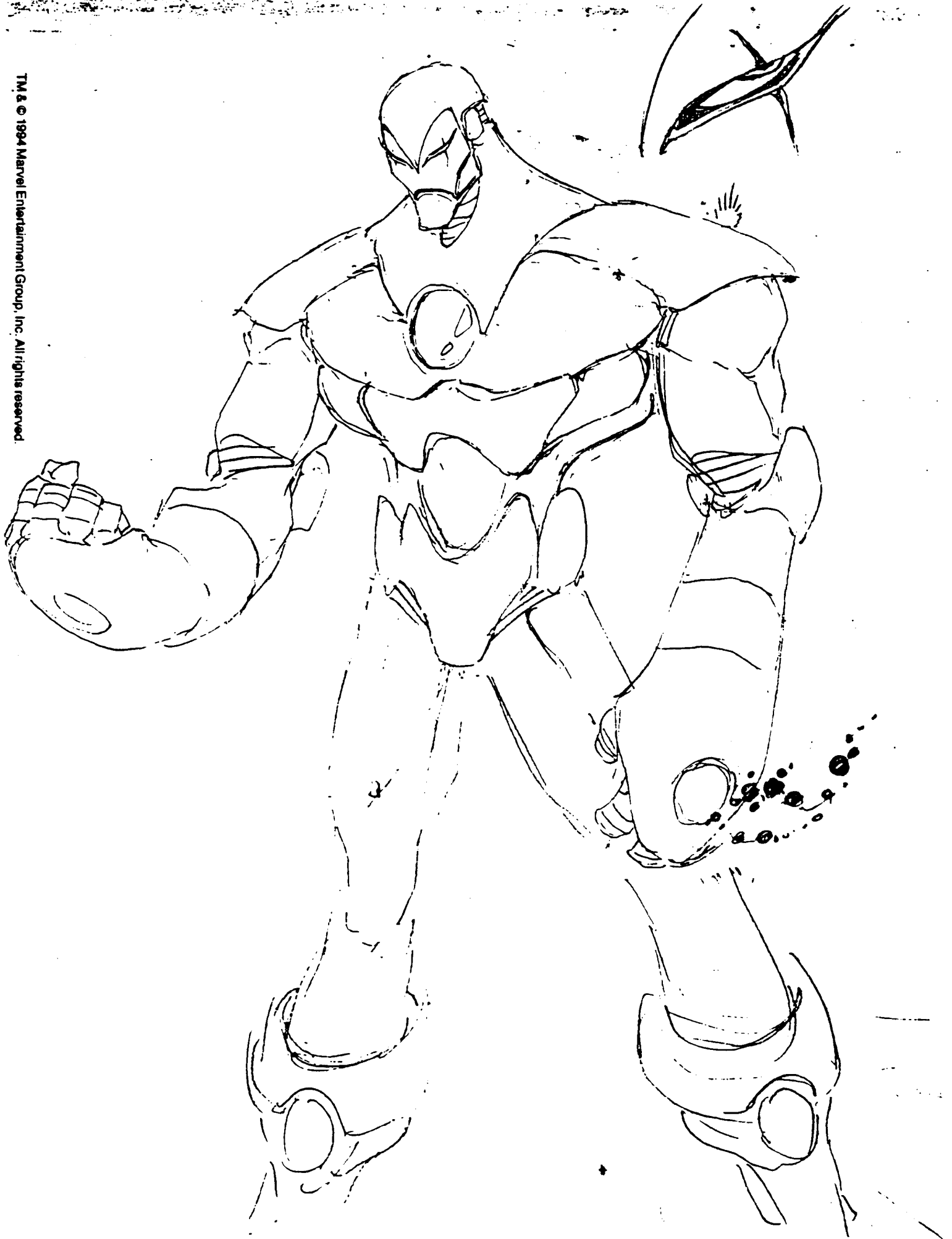
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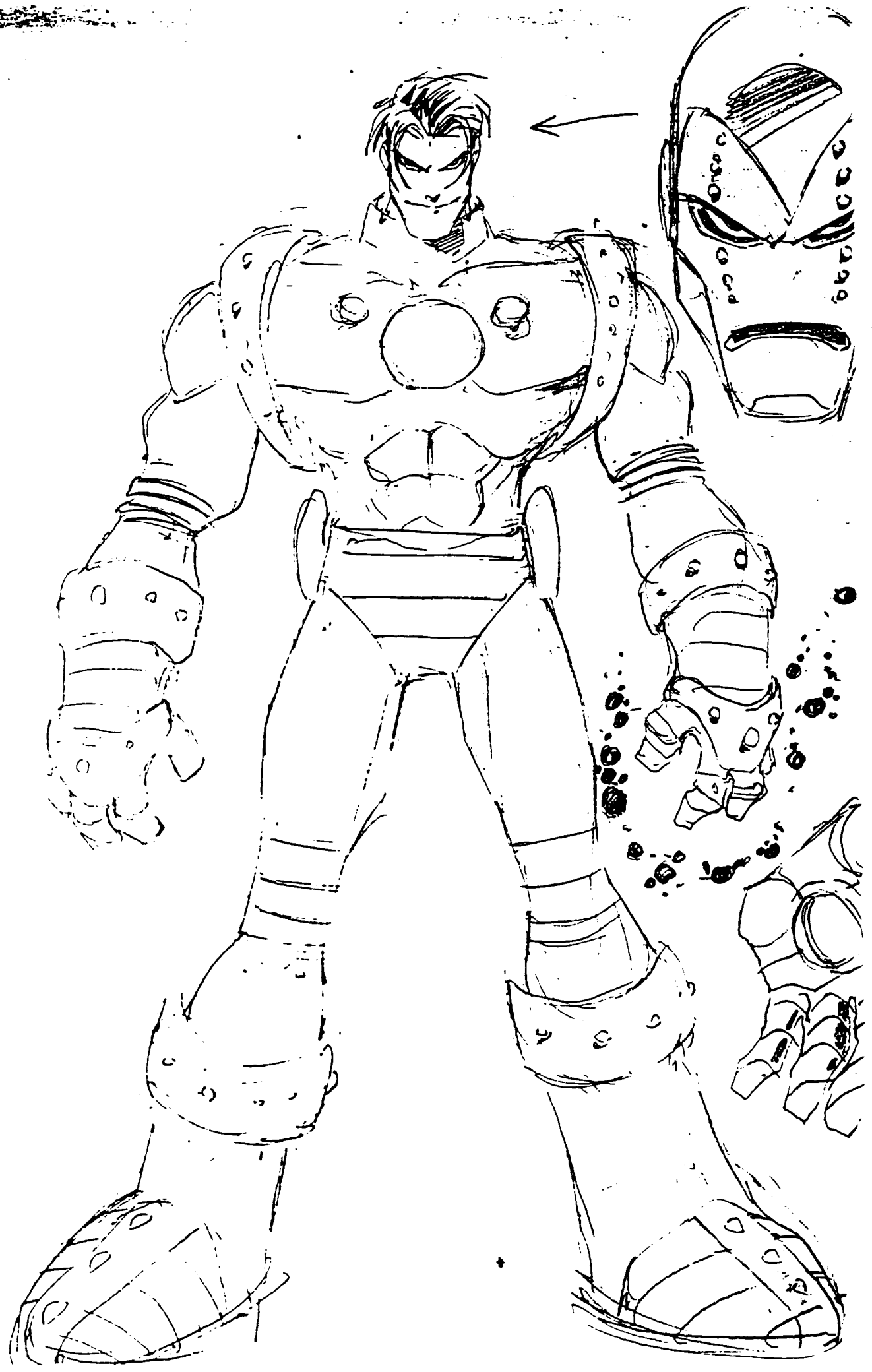


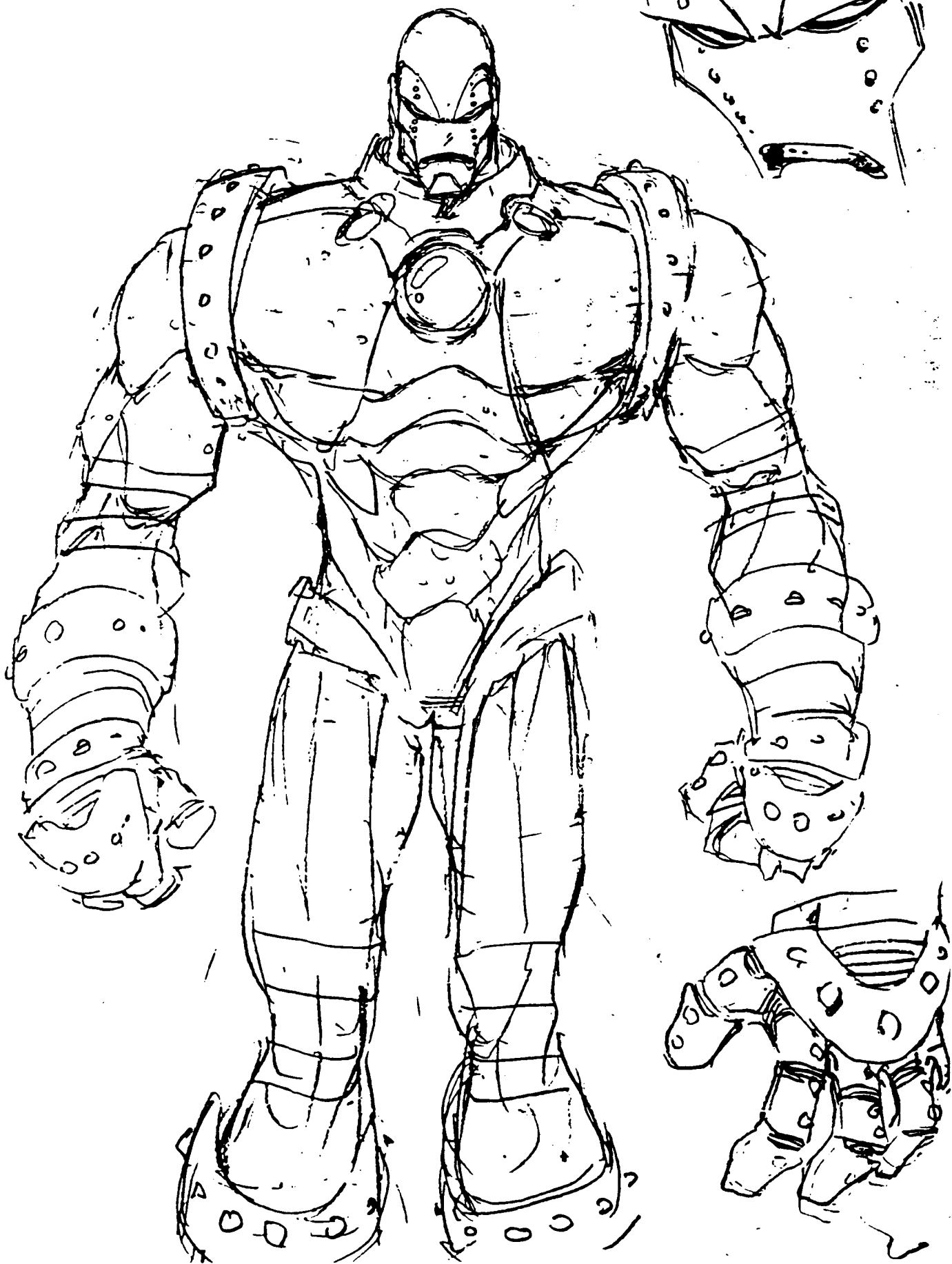
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MARVEL PREVIEW

AVENGERS

Wasp

Thor

Gian Mant

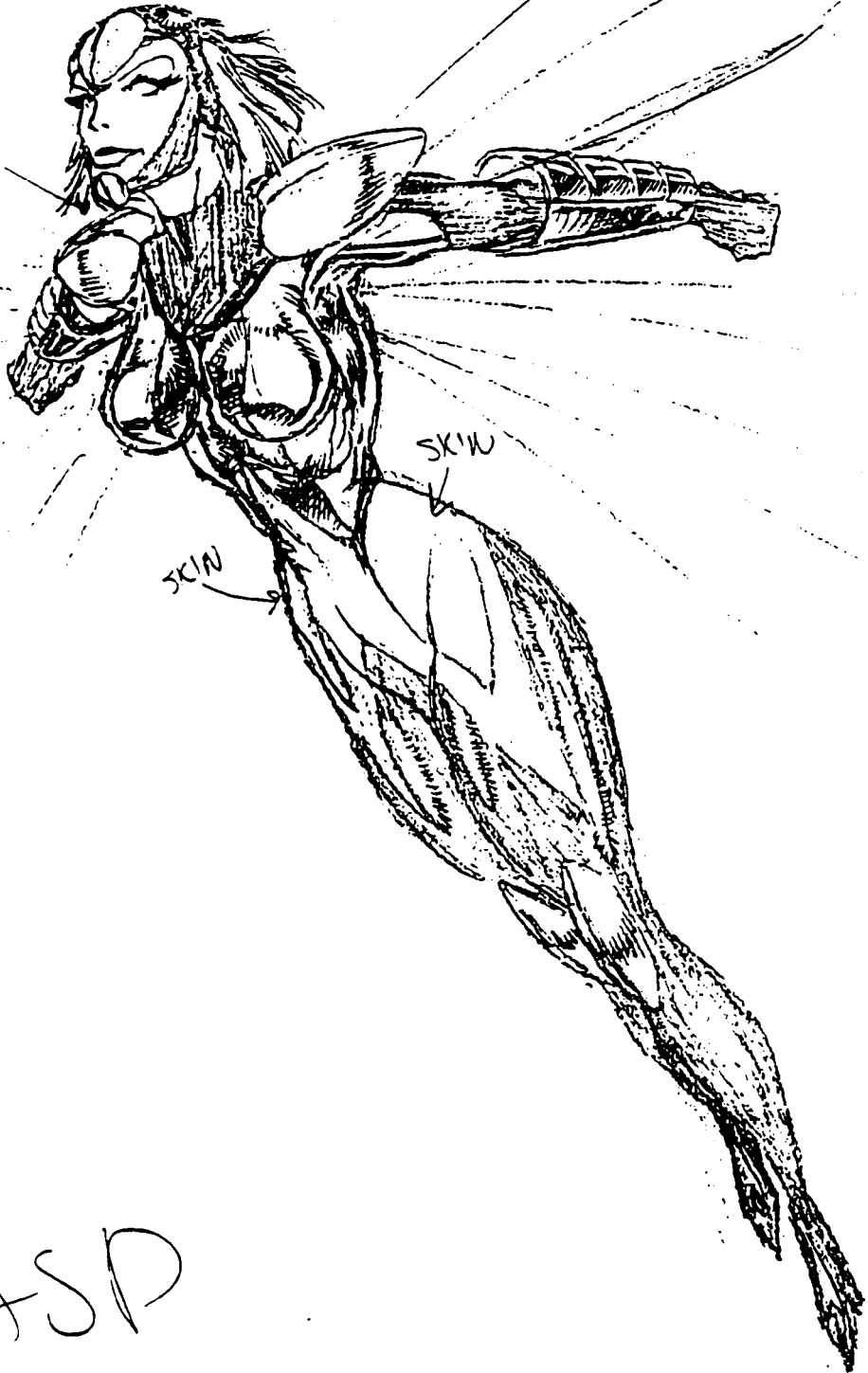
Scarlett Witch

Black Widow

Crystal

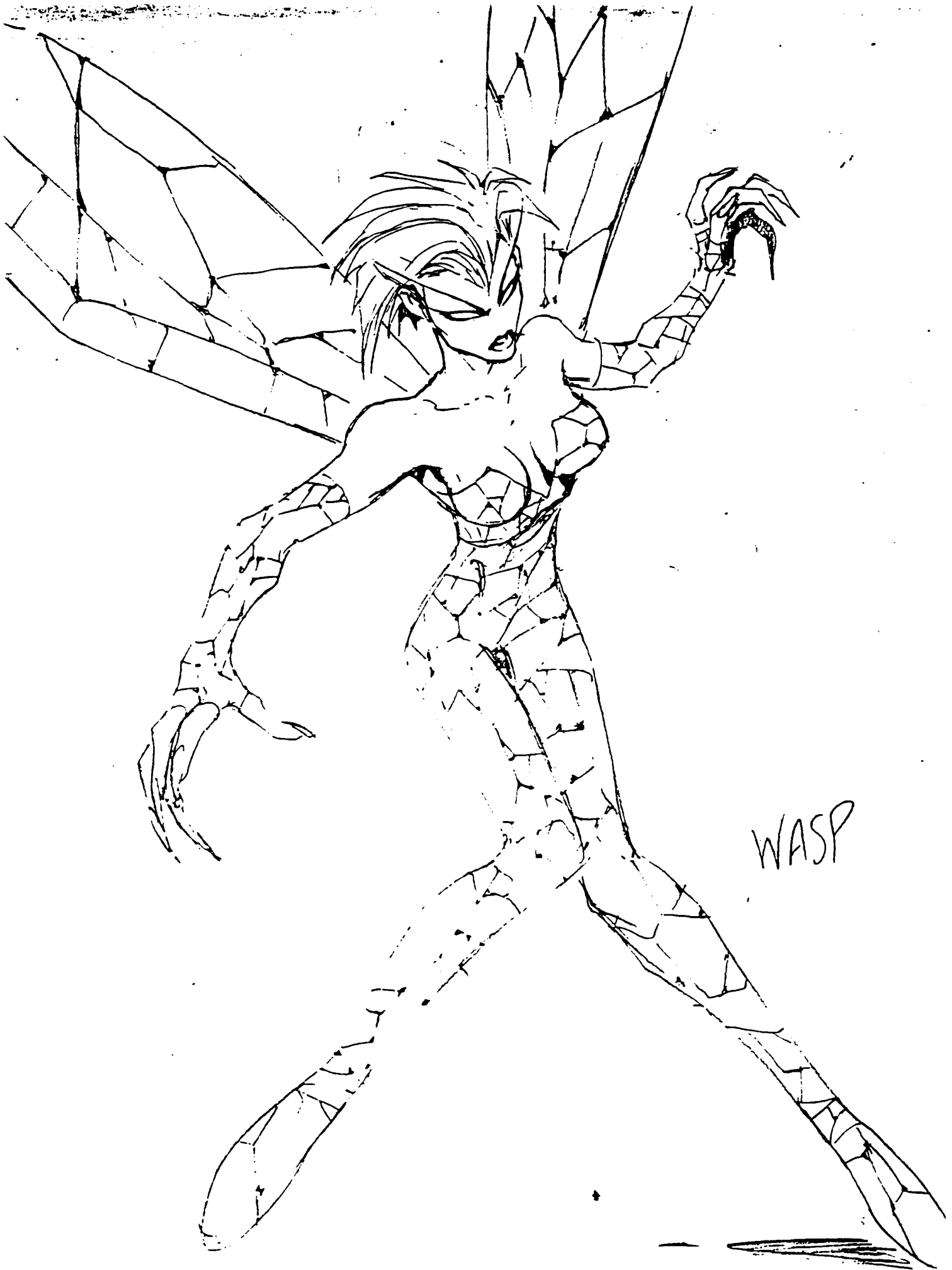
Quicksilver

Hawkeye



WASP





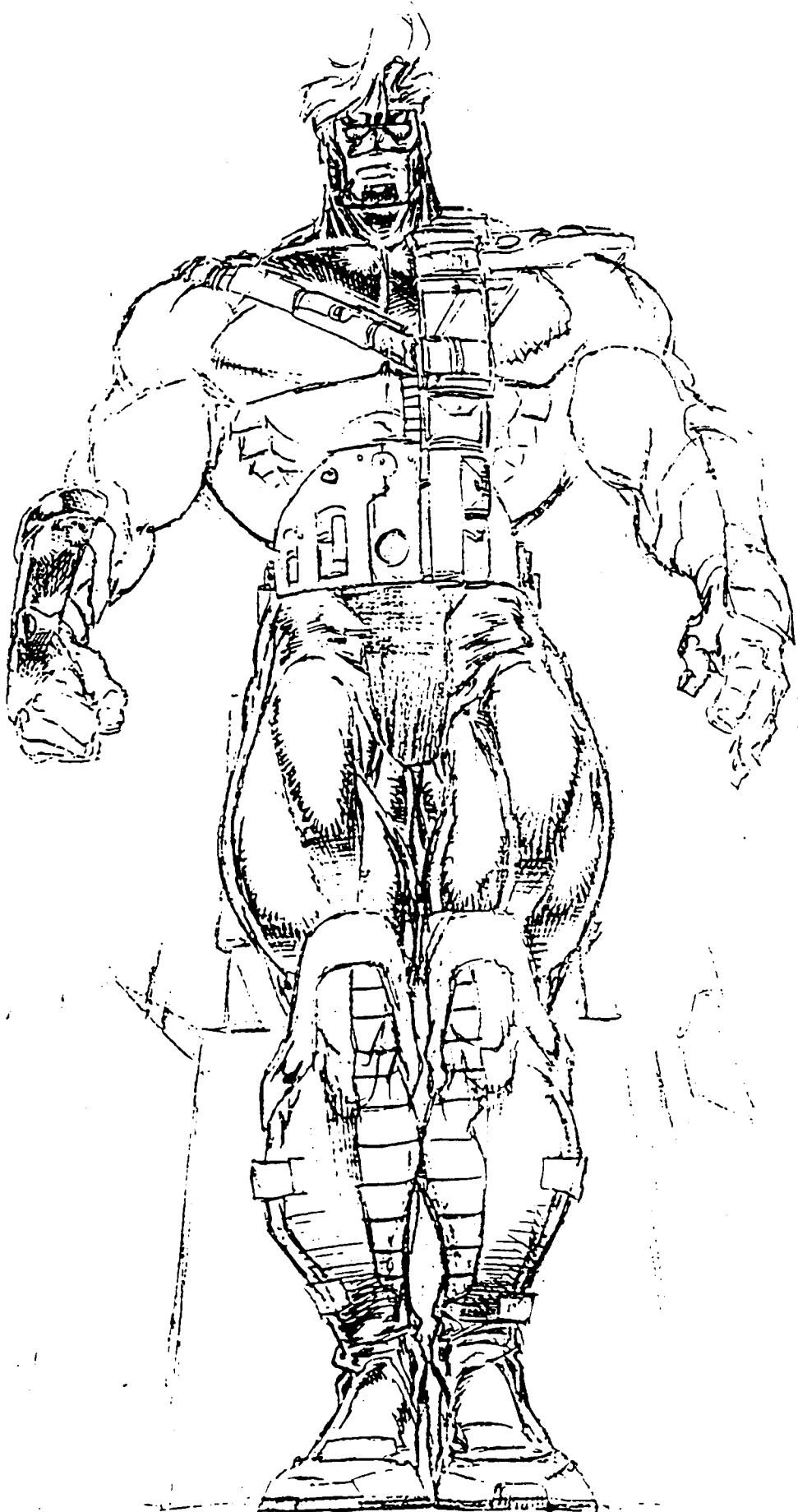
WASP

THOR



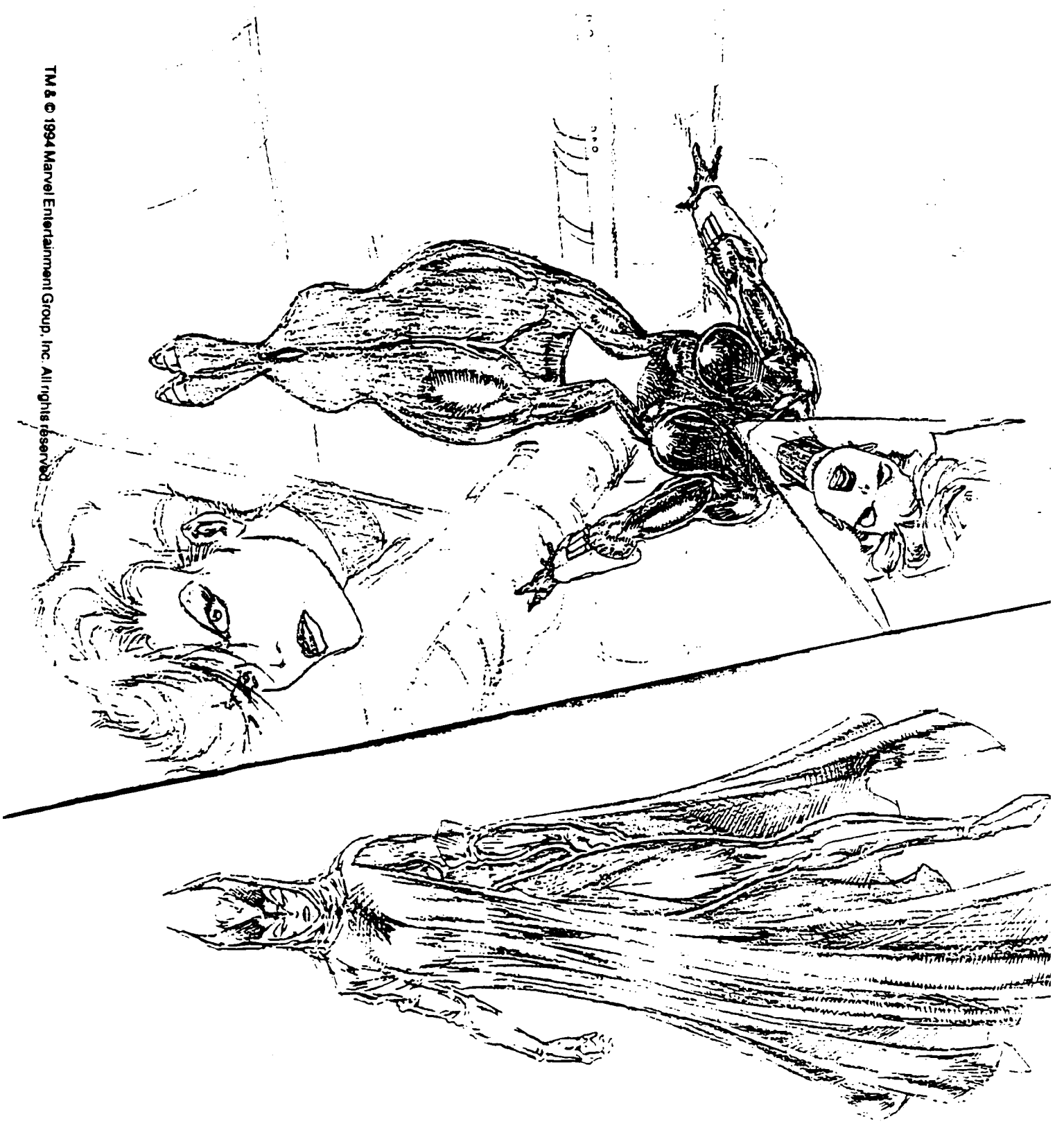
MIKE
FEECHER
R...

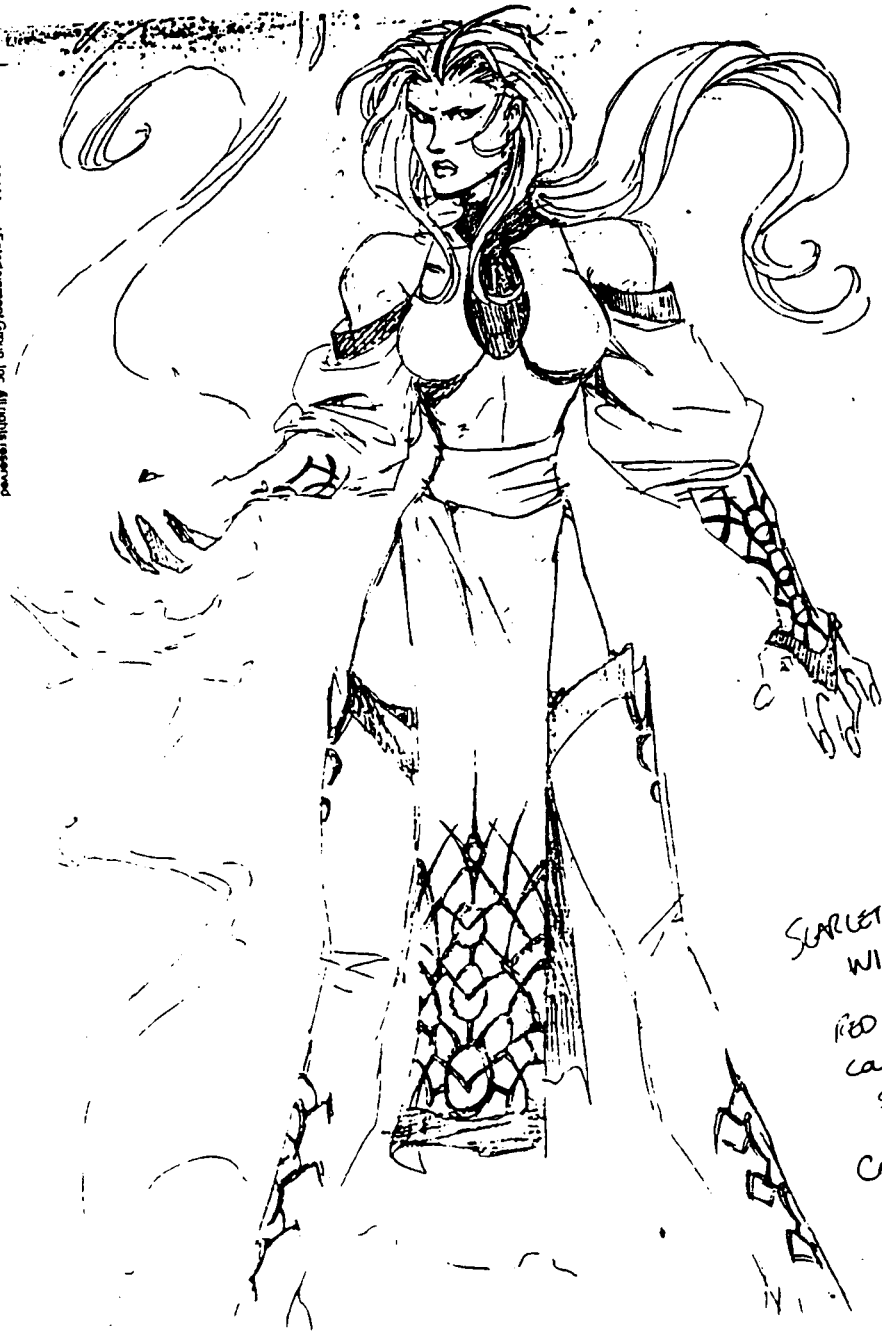
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ALL OF G.I. JOE (M.F.A.)

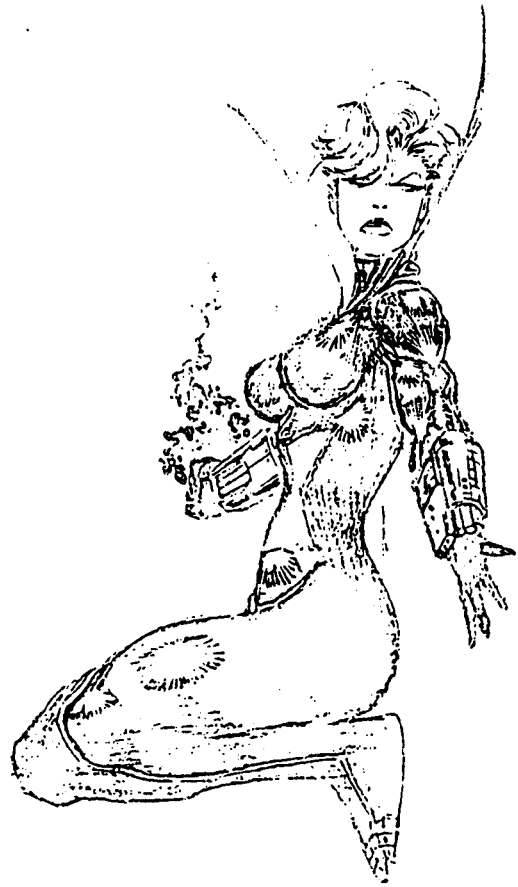
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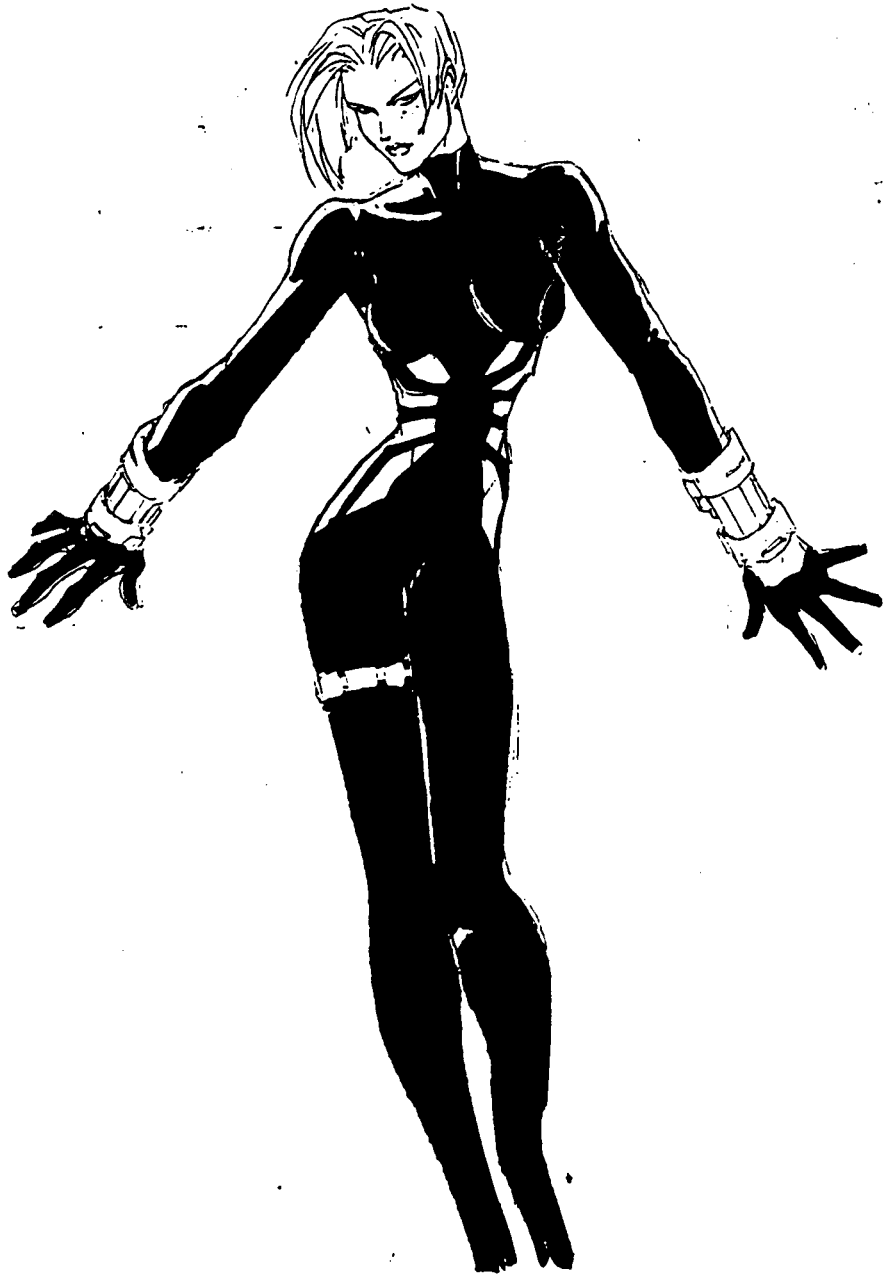




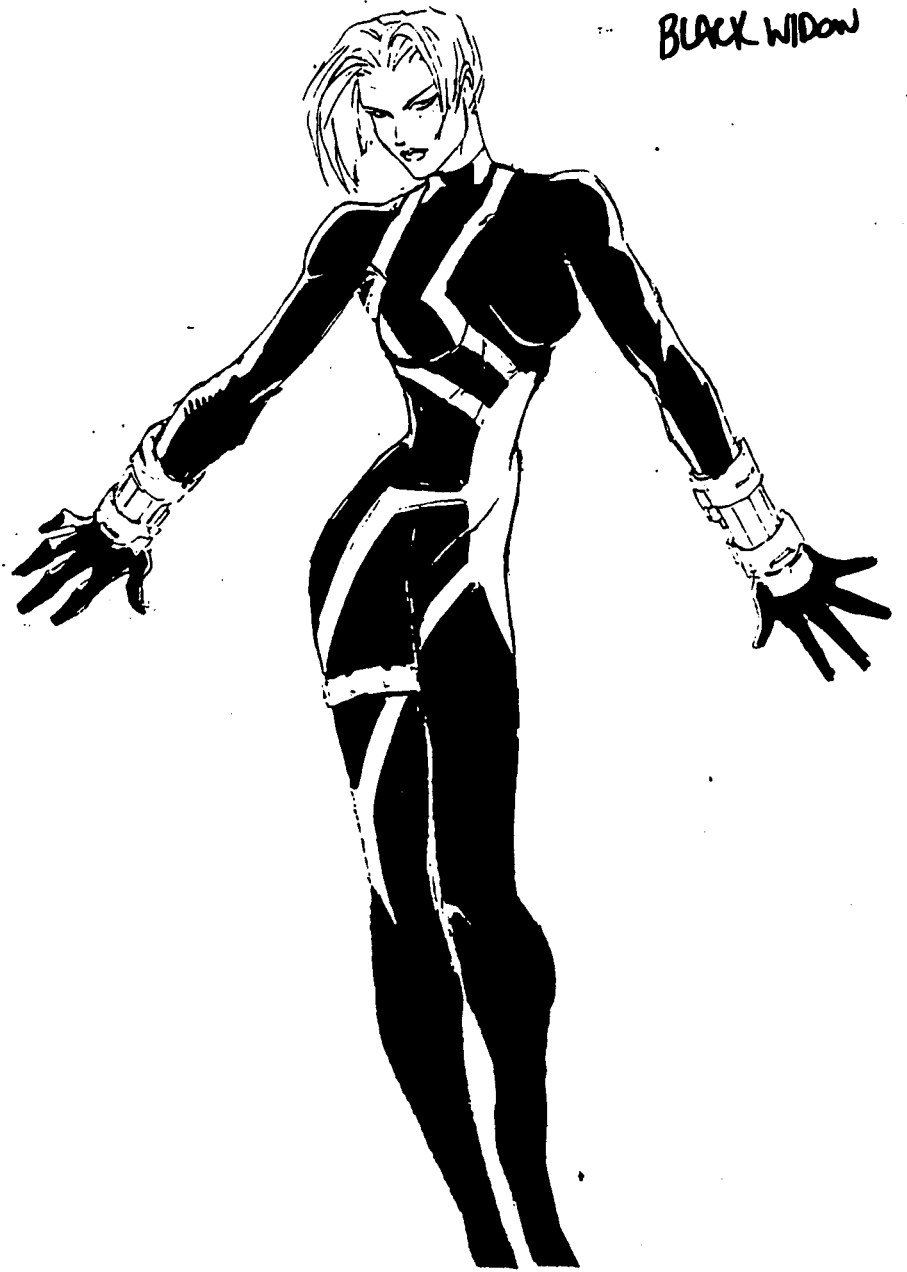
SCARLET
WITCH -

RED + PINK
CASH SETH
STILL
WORKS.
CAN ADD
CAPS

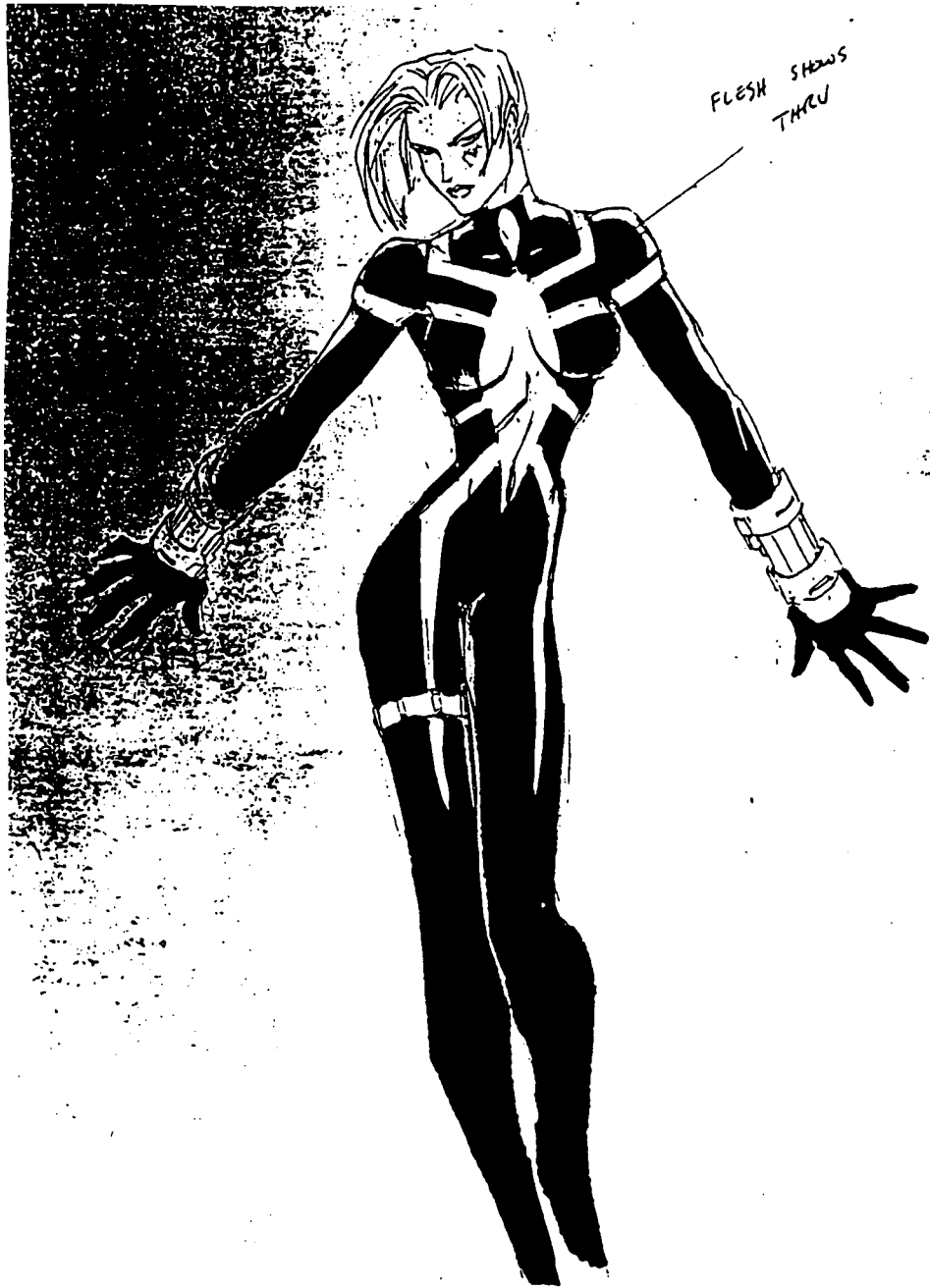




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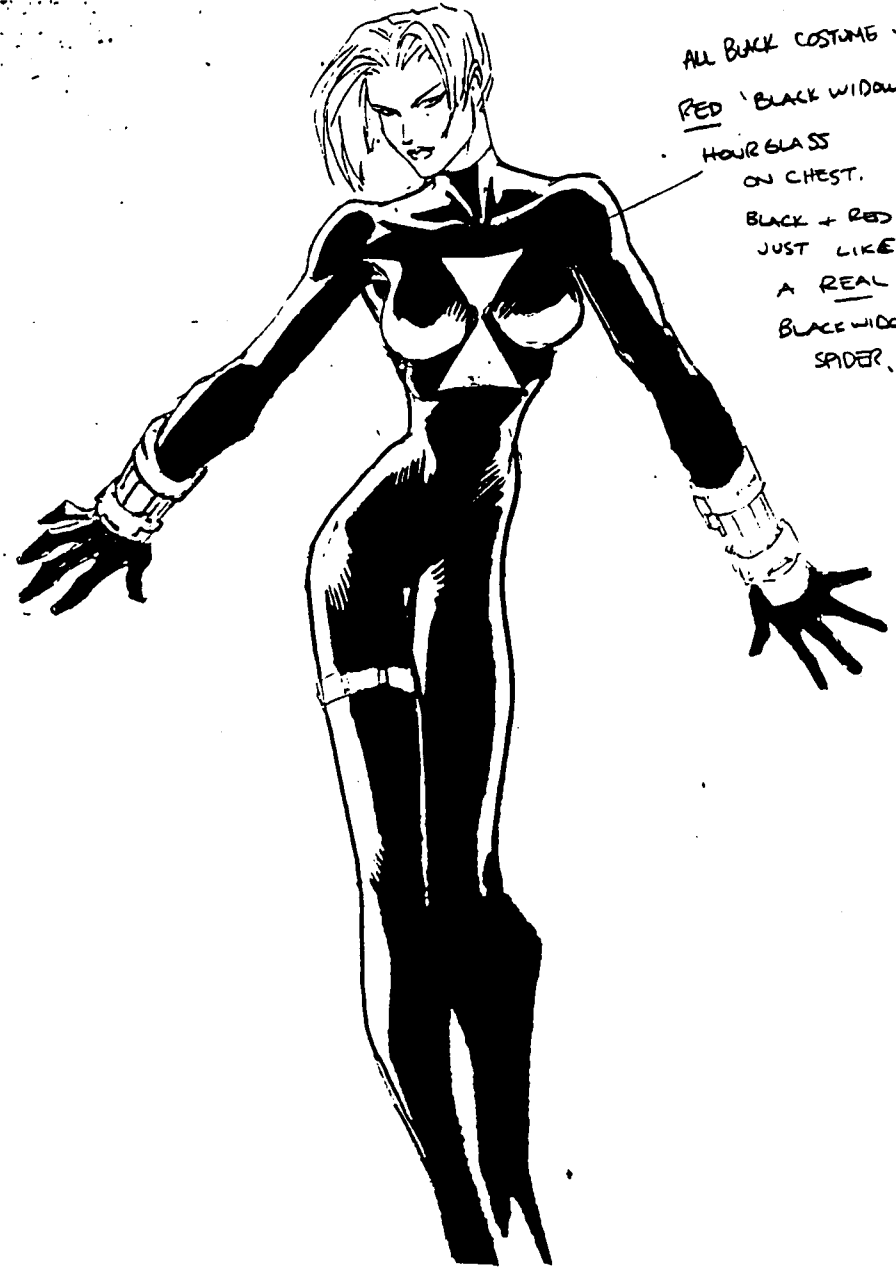
BLACK WIDOW



FLESH SHOWS
THRU

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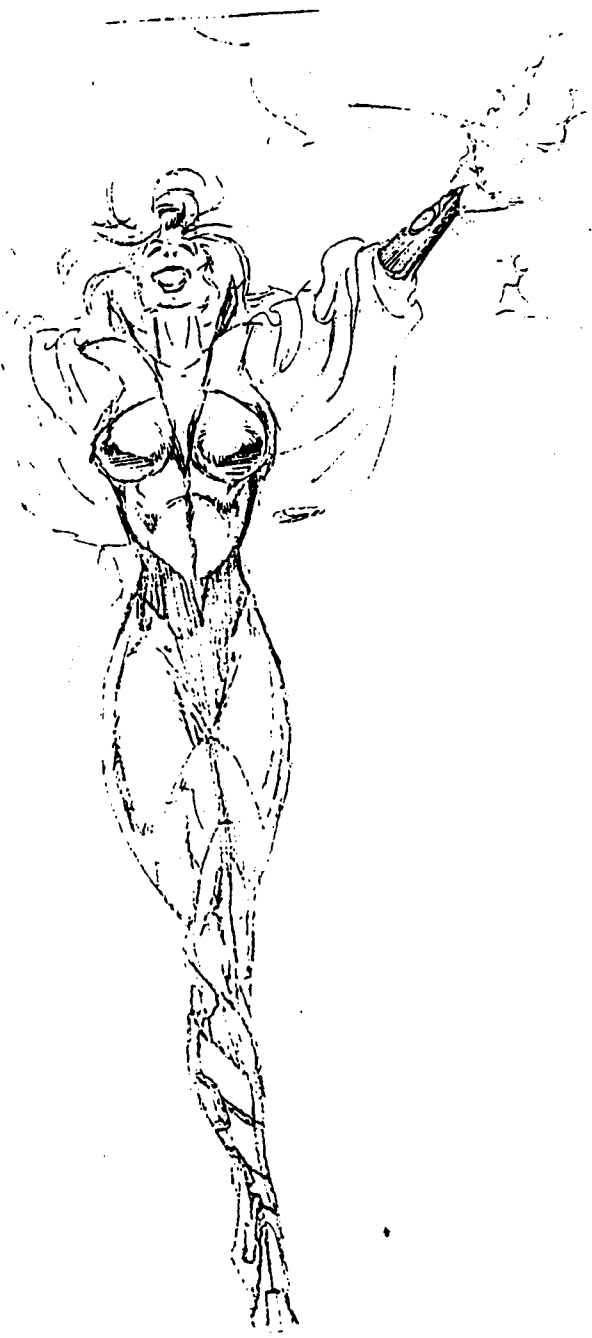
BLACK WIDOW

ALL BLACK COSTUME WITH
RED 'BLACK WIDOW'
HOUR GLASS
ON CHEST.
BLACK + RED.
JUST LIKE
A REAL
BLACK WIDOW
SPIDER.

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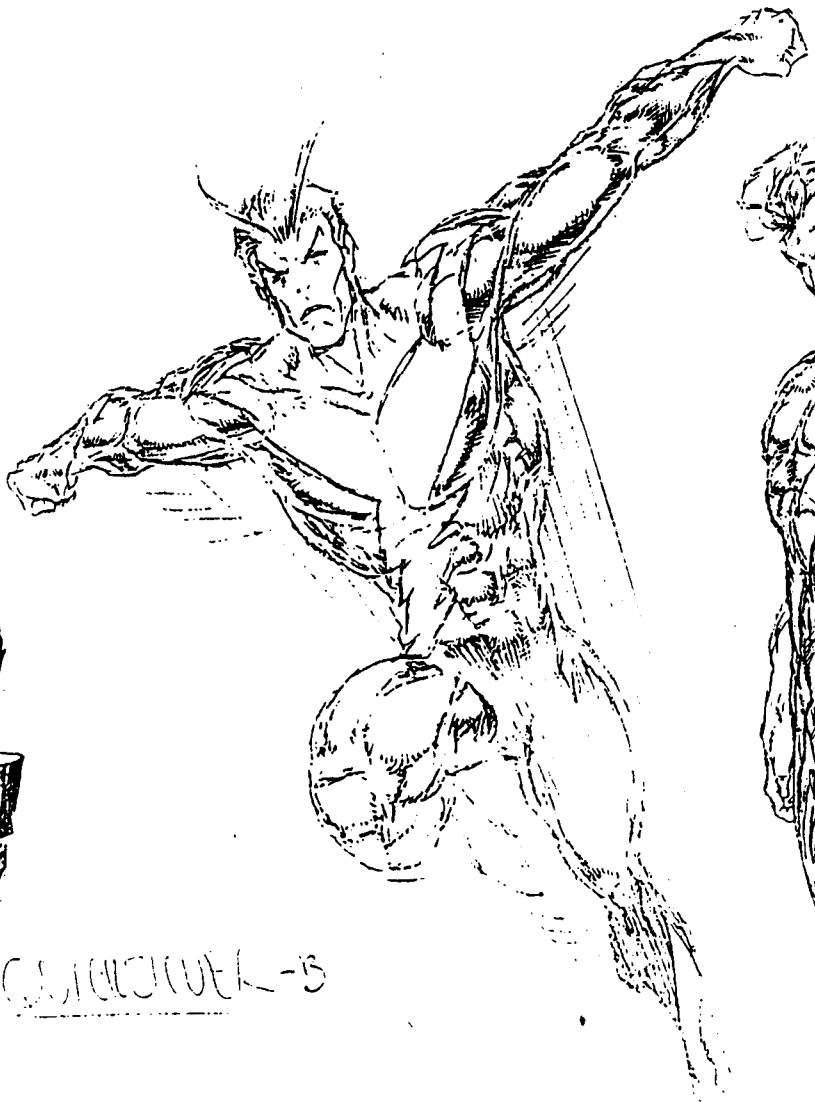


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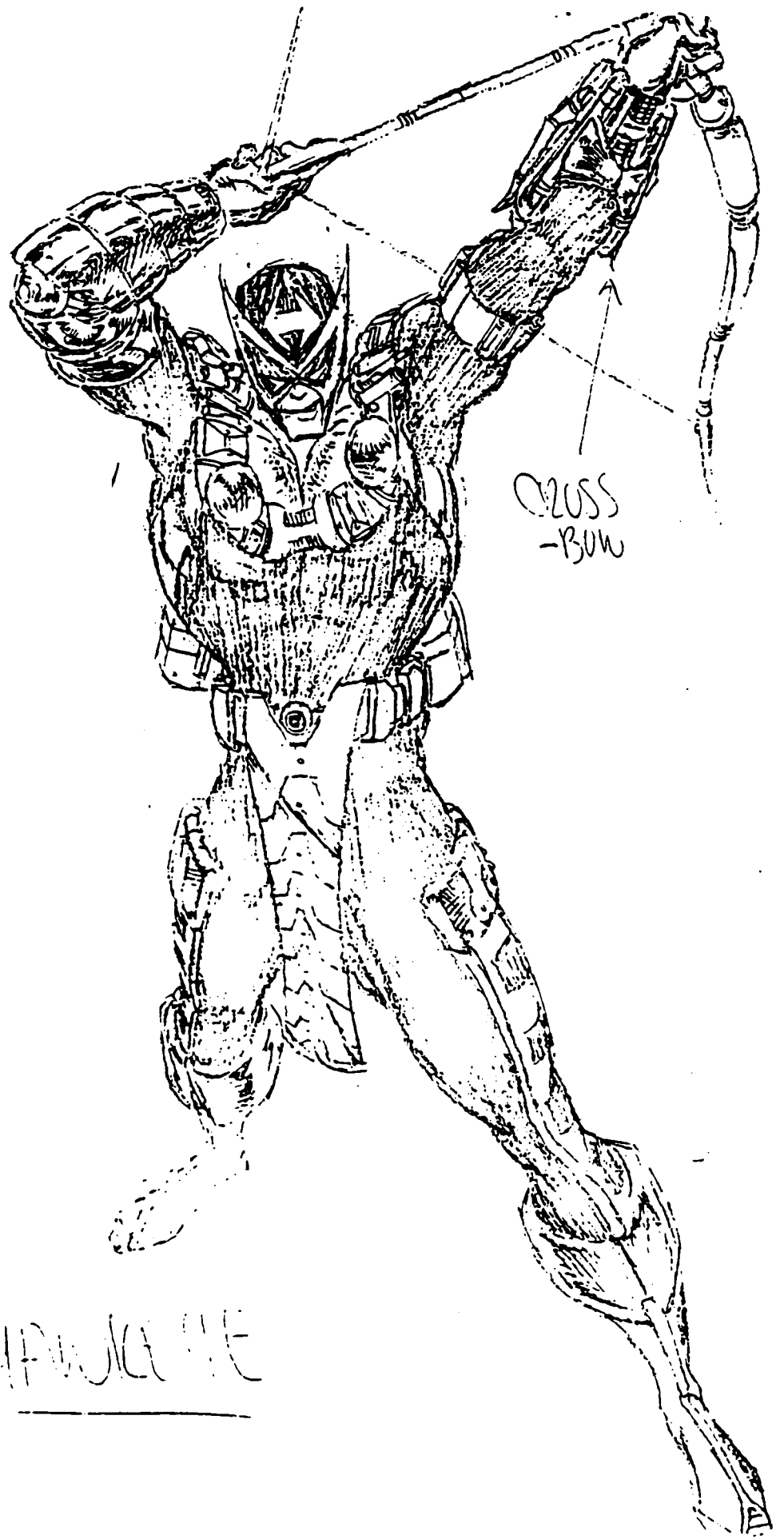
CRUSTAL

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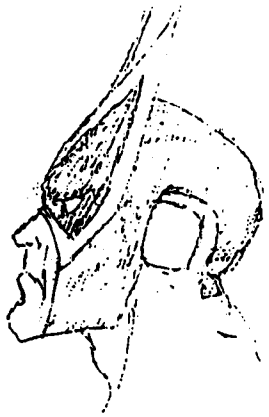


- CHARACTER - 5

NICK SILVER



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CLOSE UP MASK



HAWKLINE
GLOVED



ALTERNATIVE MASK
(W/ POINTED WIGGLES)

COOL MARK -
ONE EYE



SPARE ARROW
HEADS +
OTHER ARRI
STUFF.

HAWKEYE

***Stark Remarks
Additional
Extra
by
Mike Kalibabky***

"Mike," do you have anything else to add to 'Stark Remarks' for May? You still have some time."

It was Editor Bill calling. "Sure," I said, "I just got the *1994 Marvel Annual Report* and I could probably pull a few interesting items out of it."

And that's the story behind "Stark Remarks Additional Extra." Editor Bill made me do it.

First of all, congratulate me. I'll wait... Thanks! Now then, remember how I predicted that Iron Man and Prototype somehow would meet before the end of 1995? Ta-Da: They "met" on Pages 32-33 of the *1994 Marvel Annual Report*. Iron Man, clad in his Hulk-Buster armor, and a group of Avengers are about to meet Prototype and a number of his fellow Ultras, with Thor and Prime ready to shake hands! The Avengers are on the left side of the two-page spread, the Ultras on the right. The commentary on the pages reads, "Iron Man and the Avengers turn around to witness a moment no comic book fan has ever seen before. A moment where the greatest legends of the Marvel Universe meet the greatest Ultras of the Malibu Universe!"

Most of the *Annual Report* gave a healthy spiel on Marvel products that we already know and love. But of special interest was the list of Marvel tv and film projects in the works: Punisher, Nick Fury, Generation X, Spider-Man, X-Men, Iron Man, Fantastic Four, Ghost Rider, Hulk, and Captain America.

(That was for you, Heath.)

Marvel is doing the following deals: advertising promotions with fast food restaurants, creating a Marvel section in the Universal theme park in Florida, and plastering various foodstuffs packaging—Cookie Crisp cereal, Sweet Tarts, and Peter Pan peanut butter—with images of our favorite superheroes.

The *Report* contained six great pages of Iron Man artwork by Tom Morgan—devoid of yellow helmet grids, although the Iron Man illustration by Robert Brown on the cover of the *Report* was

colored correctly.

I was left with a good feeling after reading the *1994 Marvel Annual Report*. I was also left with one question: How bad would Tony Stark and the Hulk-buster armor kick Prime's arse?

Was the shield U.S. Agent tossed into the Hudson River, as seen in *Avengers West Coast* #102, the one Tony Stark created for The Captain and then passed on to the Agent after Cap took over again as Cap? Hmm... I wonder where that shield is now? Sounds like a cool little story that could be developed for an Iron Man Annual. "I felt proud clinging to the arm of U.S. Agent... until he rejected me." Aw, well, just a little something to think about.

I remember an alternate Iron Man in the pages of *Excalibur* a few years back... I'll dig it out and file a report in my June column. I do remember that this Iron Man had a helmet very similar to the current one!

While exploring references to the Stark-Fujikawa corporation and Ethan Shields (a.k.a. Galahad), I ran into a suit of "armor" in the pages of *Spider-Man 2099* #11—the S.I.E.G.E. suit, Situation Emergency Gear, jointly developed by Alchemax and Stark-Fujikawa. The S.I.E.G.E. unit is a flak jacket that morphs into a full suit of armor.

How about this: Iron Man vs. Predator? I think that would rock! How about Iron Man vs. Aliens? That would definitely roll!

I'm waiting for Peter Benchley's *White Shark* to be released in paperback. I was told that it should be any day now. The book is about human beings who have been surgically implanted with gills! It's based upon fact, from what I've read. Sounds like it might make a cool Iron Man story.

Here's something really dumb. In *Marvel Super Hero Contest of Champions* #1, the Avengers are working out in the Avengers Mansion gymnasium. Above the gym floor is a catwalk-like track on which Iron Man and the Vision are running. Iron Man asks the Vision, "Care to do another 50 laps, Vision?" Sure, right, fine. Like Tony Stark is really going to run another 50 laps in armor! Like he could run one lap! Sheesh.

Final remark: *Thunderstrike* #21 is a cool modern-day spin-off of *Avengers* #1. The cover is a classic! Buy a copy! Still only \$1.50!