



TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPECIAL NEW YEARS ISSUE

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Editor: Jay Van Bockel

Printer: Mike Rengel

PLUS: A FINISHED ILLUSTRATION BY JACK KIRBY!!!

PAGE:	TITLE:
1.	Cover: Iron Man vs. The Controller
2.	Frontpiece: the Phoenix
3.	Table of Contents
	Editorial Editorial
5-7.	Coverstory: the Invincible Iron Man
	The Gripe Page
	Media Bulletins
10 To 20 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	FANZINE News
	The Results of the 2nd Annual Art Contest
	The Fan's Zine Fanzine Review.
	Captain American by Jack Kirby
	Feature Story: The Mighty Avengers
25.	New Things at Marvel
	Kiss News
	The Fans of the Zine-Letter page
29.	An Ad
30.	Iron Man Pinup
31-32	The Super Villain of the Quarter;
31-32	The Red Skull
33-31	Favorites - New Column
	Star Wars Page
	Editorial Continued
65 TO	Dr. Strange & Illusions
	Next Issue
39.	NEXT 122ME

Back Page

40.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

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BONUS: A free 50-word

classified ad per subscr.

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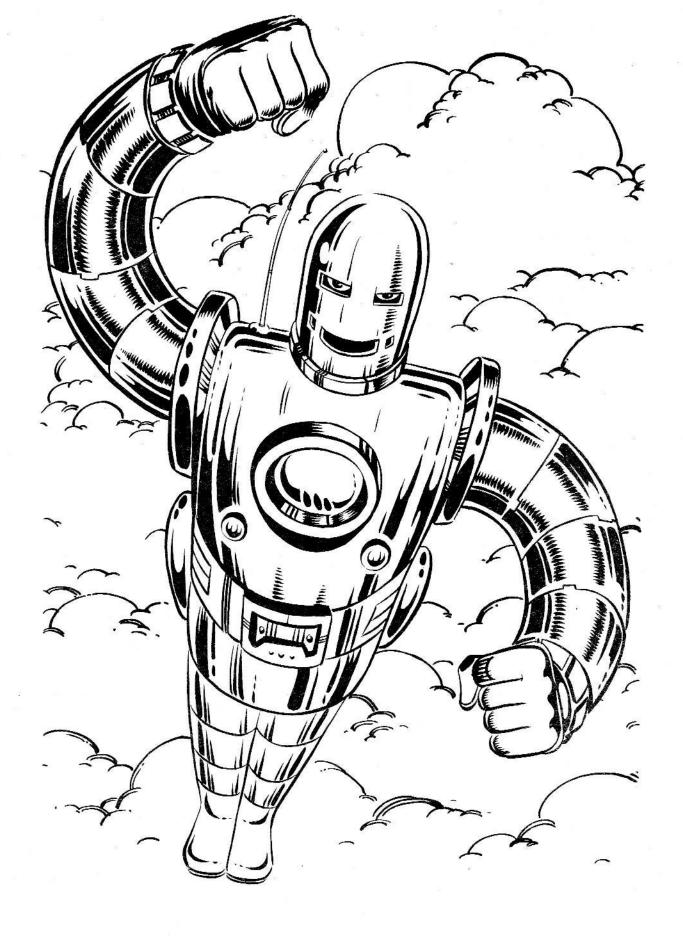
Hi again folks and welcome to the world of The Fan's-Zine! Well, many have said it, each issue of TFZ is better than the last and this issue is certainly no exception!! We have added many new talented people to the ranks of TFZ. The magnificent Alan J. Hanley has become a regular Next issue will feature a Hanley cover also! He also sent me a couple of spot illoes which appear in this ussue. Doug Herring. who's art has appeared in TBG, the Comic Reader, the Comics Journal, Afta among many others, has contributed our stunning front cover. Carl Taylor pencilled our illoe of the present Avengers. Carl's art has appeared in "Nimbus", "The Enforcers" and "the Comic Crusaders Storybook". Carl also writes and draws one of fandom's best stripzines-"the Creature". Issue two will be out soon so order a copy when you see it advertised! San de la Rosa has helped out quite a bit on this issue. Sam did the Red Skull illoe, inked Carl Taylor's Avengers pic, sent me most of the spot illoes in this issue and sent me the pin-up by Jack Kirby! Unfortunatly "the Origin of Captain Kill" will not appear in this issue because no one could do it in time. Mike O'Neal, who is becoming more popular with every appearance, contributed the Iron Man illoe on page #30. Mike also placed an ad in this issue, he's selling custom drawn illoes and strips. I encourage you to deal with him because his prices are low and the quality of his art is top notch!! Mark Heike has captured the "magic" of Steve Ditko's Dr. Strange on our back cover.(it also celebrated Doc's first TV appearance) Mark has done quite a few TBG covers and he drew Paige Comic's "Wanderer" #1 and #2. Columnists Jeff Roberts and Mike Rengel debuet this issue also. At presstime I don't have the first installment of Joseph Taclas' column so his column won't debuet until next issue. I still don't have my interview with Perez yet! I'll wait a little longer to get it from Mike Higgins or Bill Marcinko but, I just don't know at this time.

Goodbye Jay "Newie" Neuenfeldt!!Jay was TFZ's first and only artist for our first year and he helped get TFZ off the ground Best of luck in the future Now you have to pay for your subscription (just kiddin)

As I said last issue, in the next year or two I want to be ranked in the top ten "favorite fanzines" in the Comic"Fan Art Awards" I know it's one helluva goal but, I think anything is possible if you work hard enough for it! I think I can do it with your help! If you really enjoy "The Fan's-Zine" vote for it! Even if you don't vote for TFZ, vote another real fanzine like AFTA or the Fandom Trader Check out the world of fanzines, you'll be glad you did!!

We're having another subscription drive! You can now obtain a four issue subscription (I full year) to "The Fan's-Zine" for our <u>lowest</u> price <u>ever-\$2.00!!Yes</u>, \$2 will now get you 150-175 pages of TFZ mailed via 3rd class the <u>very day</u> we receive them from the printer That's a 40%+ savings over the 85¢ single copy price!!So subscribe!

Look for more articles and columns by me in Paige Collector's Edition and maybe Afta #3! I will probably be doing some strip scripts for Paige Comics and "Captain Kill" may be featured in future Fandom Traders. For all of those who would like to see TFZ come out more frequently; Well, if my current subscription drive works out well TFZ maybe coming out bimonthly before you know it! To further sweeten the subscription offer we are offering a free 25-word classified (see below) with every subscription received by January 1st!



THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

Iron Man, ah how I remember my first confrontation with the golden Avenger. It was the summer of '72, I was at Boy Scout camp in Northern Minnesota. My friend, Kevin, was my "roomie" in the tent. That first night he showed me a number of his comic books. I looked them over and decided to read Avengers #109 first. I read it and the character that fascinated me more than any other was Iron Man! His powers seemed endless and following the story I was under the impressions that he was the most powerful Avenger. Needless to say, that was the comic that got me hooked on Marvel Comics. The first comic I bought when I returned from Scout camp was Iron Man #62. I loved Tony, Happy, Pepper and even Doctor Spectrum! Well, a lot of water has passed under the bridge since then but, Iron Man remains one of my favorite superheroes!!

One of the factors that makes Iron Man so popular is that the book is so unpredictable. Sometimes Iron Man is completely low on power. You never really know exactly what is going to happen next! Iron Man's alter ego Tony Stark, of course, has no special super powers. Iron Man's suite is a complete result of science, not created by cosmic rays, radioactivity or magic which adds to the characters popularity. As does the fact that Tony Stark is so vulnerable without his armor and he is nearly invulnerable without it.

Lets take a look at Iron Man's career in the comics. Iron Man debeuted in Tales of Suspense #39 in a bulky gray suit of iron. When seeing the suit you'd probably wonder how Tony could move at all. Soon after his debeut in Tales of Suspense he wore armor as bulky but, it was now gold. Iron Man appeared in Avengers #1 and became one of the original Avengers. A few months passed without change in the suit, then he took on the same appearance he now posesses except for the pointed things on top of his helmet that resembled the shape of a bear's ears in a kid's coloring book. After a few months he lost the point things and took on his present appearance. He remained a feature in Tales of Suspense from #39-#58. The average Iron Man story was ten pages and was backed up with one or two horror stories. Then in Tales of Suspense #49 Captain America guest-starred and beginning with issue sixty Iron Man and Captain America shared the book. Tales of Suspense #99 marked the end of the series but, that did'nt mean Cap and Shellhead would lose their own mag. On the contrary, their stories doubled in size. They both received their own title: Cap took over the Tales of Suspense numbers, so, the first issue of Captain American was #100 and Iron Man started with #1. (now it's on about #120) The only other major change in the outward appearance of IM was that he aquired a nose on his helmet in issue sisty-eight. It really made Iron Man look stupid so it did'nt last long.

It seems as if every superhero group has one guy who picks up all the tabs. The FF has Reed Richards, the X-men have Pro. X, the Defenders have Kyle Richmond, the Champions had Warren Worthington and the Avengers have Tony Stark (you learn something new everday).

THE GRIPE PAGE

only one gripe this issue, but, I think it's a real good one

Dear Jay,

One of the things that makes me gripe most and loudest is the way that superheroes and comics and treated out of fandom. Tell someone who is not a comic reader himself that you read and collect superhero comics and he'll almost laugh right in your face. They think that comics are infantile and are only for children. Not so! I know many 20-25 year old people and others even older who are absolutly <u>CRAZY</u> over comics. That blows that theory all to pieces.

Outside of fandom, superheroes themselves are treated as brainless, grandstanding morons who can only flex their muscles or show off their spectacular physical attributes. Take, for example, a recent T.V. commercial advertising a fruit drink and health food bars. A woman dressed in a gaudy costume of the super-heroine type jumps out and starts yelling about the goodness of the product. She talks in a loud, forceful voice and stands as if she owns the world. This is the image that most people have of superheroes. Nothing makes me madder that seeing someone portraying a superhero in that way. The only places I've seen them treated with taste and respect and a series starring a certain female of the distinguished competition.

Another thing that gets me is that movie critics positivly hate anything that has to do with a comic book. The Spider-Man and Hulk movies got low marks from TV critics, and some reviews I read put down even the classic <u>STAR WARS</u>. I've come to the conclusion that a lot of critics want only violence, sex, and sickeningly-sweet harry ending movies.

They want nothing to do with a little escapist fantasy. I dunno, maybe all of us fans should have a revolution!

The last thing is the current Hostess ads in Marvel Comics with the Marvel superheroes. This is degrading to the Marvel characters, and frankly, I wish they'd stop it!

To sum it all up, these things make me screaming, cussing, kicking, stomping, frothing-at-the mouth mad and I'd stake my entire collection on the fact that most of you feel the same way too!!

Boy, I agree with <u>all</u> tha you've said Jeff!! You took the words right out of my mouth! So there's no need to bore you with my comments.*On, Jeff's address is above under his column if you'd like to discuss this issue further with him.



MEDIA BULLETINS

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE 3RD KIND - MOVIE REVIEW

As a movie CE3K was excellant! As a sci-fi it was a classic! Many have asked the question: Which was better Star Wars or Close Encounters? Well, to answer that question fairly lets examine the aspects of both films.

For total entertainment appeal Star Wars was better. Star Wars was a light "fun" movie with just the right amount of emotion mixed in. Close Encounters was rather confusing at times, even for a "softcore" sci-fi fan like me; (CK 3K die hard fans will probably say I'm ignorant but, thats the way I feel.) I wonder how someone who is without any sci-fi knowledge got along during certain parts of the movie. I'm not saying Close Encounters was not entertaining. On the contrary, it was quite entertaining but, Star Wars was even more entertaining.

The "Special Effects" catagory is damn close!! I'd say both movies had excellant, <u>outstanding</u> special effects. CE3K's UFOs were certainly impressive! Star War's death star, cantina scenes and spaceships were also quite impressive! It's a hard choice so I simply won't make one. Decide for yourself!

The one aspect that CE3K beats Star Wars is that CE3K made you think for hours, days even weeks after you've seen the movie. Star Wars makes you remember how "fun" it was and how much you enjoyed it but, not about the exvistance of life on other planets.

For overall appeal I prefer Star Wars. Let's face it CE3K would not have been as popular as it is if Star Wars had'nt made the public sci-fi conscious! Star Wars and CE3K can represent Larry Holmes' one-two punch. One hits you, Star Wars, and before you know it the other, CE3K, knocks you out! Also, the books by Erick Von Danken aided CE3K's appeal too.

Star Wars is my favorite movie. Close Encounters is among my "top give" favorite movies. They are both excellant and it was difficult to pick a favorite !!!

INCREDIBLE HULK NEWS

Presently the Hulk is Marvel's #1 attraction. Presently there are two differant Hulk dolls, a Hulk bank, two new books, the 1979 calendar, a coloring book and four differant comic books featuring the Hulk. Many more items are coming soon! The Hulk TV show will, of course, be on this year as it was one of CBS's most successful show in '78. It registered in the top twenty shows a number of weeks. (Interesting Note: While I am writing this I am watching "My Favorite Martian" which was Bill Bixby's first series,) Spider-Man had good enough appeal to be granted a second chance. It will be aired at irregular times during the '78-79 season. If the ratings are good enough it will be granted a weekly series. The original pilot's ratings were good but, the series' five week stand started with good ratings but, finished quite poorly. Other Marvel pilots are underway such as: Dr. Strange and perhaps the Human Torch.

MEDIA BULLETINS (cont.)

Media Mini Reviews BATTLESTAR GALACTICA- ABC

The much heralded Battlestar Galactica has been a alight disappointment this year. I really expected bigger things from it. The show is enjoyable and at times "awsome". The special effects are great, but it does'nt nearly reach the entertainment value of Star Wars. The plots and characters are handled well, but it's missing something.

CENTENNIAL - NBC

In my opinion "Centennial" is the best new series of the year. The actors and actresses are excellant. Robert Conrad and Richard Chamberlain as Paskenell and McKeag are so realistic they're believable. The "on location" shots also aid in making you feel you are really there. The only thing wrong with the series is the recent schedule change from Sunday night to Saturday night. I have a lot of things going on on Saturday nights. For example, next Saturday night I'm going to the Denver Nuggets basketball game so I'll have to miss Centennial. I feel like I'm really missing something special!

ESCAPE FROM GILLIGAN'S ISLAND

The best that can be said about the two hour special aired on two Saturdays in October is that it was fund and enjoyable. At the end of the show the "minnow" II was shipreacked on the same island they were on originally so the series could be revived. I'd like to see it revived but on NBC I doubt if it will happen.

- * A Superman movie will be released right at Christmas time, but I have'nt seen any advertising for the flic yet.
- \star The MARTIAN CHRONICLES began shooting in September.
- * If any of you have wondered why the Fantastic Four cartoon has been moved is because NBC found out that a lot of it's audidence was teens and adults so they moved it to an hour later so no one would miss it because it was on too early. Marvel foes that have appeared on the FF are:
 Magneto, the Mole Man, Dr.Doom, the Inhumans, the Frightful Four.Also the Skrulls.



- * Afta #3 should be out anytime now. It will feature interviews with the "big three" Alan Light, Gary Groth and James Van Hise. Artwork by Fred Hembeck, Doug Herring, Interfan along with a few top pros. Features on Warlock and the Swamp Thing. All for \$1.50 from Bill Marcinko, RPO 5009 Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J. 08903
- * Phoenix, Bill Marcinko may be taking over the editorialship at Phoenix, formally Compass. Watch TBG and AFTA for further announcements.
- * Paige Comics, Steve Streeter plans to release three new books soon: The Dartsman, Liquid Legion and Star Master. Liquid Legion is a satire by Jim Yancey and George Kochell. Star Master features a cover by Lynski, a story by Ward O. Batty and Lynski, backup entitled "The Thresher" Paige/Cosmostar should be out soon as will Fantasma #2, minus co-editor Clifford Meth. Hopefully, Paige Collector's Edition will be out soon also. Write Steve for further information at: 1104 W. Lincoln, Mt. Prospect, Ill 60056.
- * Excelsior #5 will be out soon. Contained in issue five are: An interview with ...guess who..me, Jay Van Bockel, a feature on Spider-Man, Jim Saldana's fanzine reviews and part II of the "Time Travelers." It's 30¢ and a stamp. From: Lloyd Lawrence, Box 459, Claverack, N.Y. 12513.
- * Fan World #3 is probably out right now with a Bill Marcinko interview, a seuling con report, Fan Forum, fan news, zine and dealer reviews and more. From: John Harris, 54 Berkshire Dr, Crystal Lake, ILL 60014.
- * Fandom Trader #14, will also be out soon. It will feature the first installment of Mark Heike and my "Quad-Man." It's Q-M five page origin story. Mark is also going to do the five page "Captain Kill" in TFZ #8. Also, in FT #14 will be an article on young, imaginative and certainly talented Rafael Kayanan. By the way, Rafael will have some spot illoes in TFZ #8 inked by Mike O'Neal.
- * Florida Fandom will feature "The Super Girls" in their next issue which will be #6. It will be out very soon. Cost \$1.00, From: Rick & Ruth Coy, $133\frac{1}{2}$ Akron St., Lake Worth, Florida 33460
- * Frank Antonides, Publisher of Fandom Playhouse, has plenty of copies of #1 left! It features an excellant adaption of Howard the Duck, an article on Carl Barks, a comical centerfold and <u>much</u> more. It's 20 pages of fannish fun for a mere 45¢. From: Frank Antonides, 19 Lake Dr., Freehold, N.J. 07728.
- * Matt Butcher, Publisher of Ultra*Zine is starting a new fanzine editor organization. Write: Matt Butcher, 2550 Windgate Rd., Bethel Park, PA 15102.
- * Explanation: The reason this issue is so late is: 1) I didn't want to send it out over Christmas because so many may get lost. 2) My typewriter ribbon was "ratty" so I had everything retyped and 3) Time allowed me to get better printing including getting the spine saddle-stitched. I hope I am forgiven and I'll try not let it happen again.

THE RESULTS OF THE 2ND ANNUAL ART CONTEST

TFZ Art Contest Coincedence #1: Both Steve Haas, last years winner and Mark Heike, this years winner won with their rendition of Daredevil.

I think choosing between the first and second place winner this issue was one of the hardest decisions I've ever had to make concerning TFZ. It was so close! But since "the Comic Cave", my former mail order operation, no longer exists, both the first and second place winners will receive a free subscription to TFZ starting with this issue, but Mark will also receive a couple of free gifts. Mark will receive TFZ #2-5 as a bonus!! (thats a \$2.50 + value). Okay, here are the top five enteries:

1st Place Winner: Mark Heike

3012 S. 28th St.

Milwaukee, Wisc. 53215

2nd Place Winner: Gilbert Hernandez

1242 S. "H" St.

Oxnard, Calif 93030

3rd Place Winner: George Hartman

109-19 103rd Ave.

Rich, Hill, NY 11419

4th PLACE WINNER: Bob Wright

1394 Alverado Way

Decatur, Georgia 30032

5th Place Winner: Tiger Roholt

2655 Aldrich Ave. No. Minneapolis, MN 55411

Mark Heike drew our Dr. Strange back cover. I don't know how well the painting Mark entered will reproduce, but if it does reproduce well you'll see why Mark won by a narrow decision. If it does'nt, you'll just have to take my word for it. Mark will probably be doing the <u>five</u> page Captain Kill strip for the next issue.

Gilbert Herandez came in a <u>very</u> strong second!! 'Bert also sent me a illo of the first version of Iron Man that appears in this issue and a Star Wars pin-up and a illo of Phoenix, by his brother Jamie, that will appear next issue.

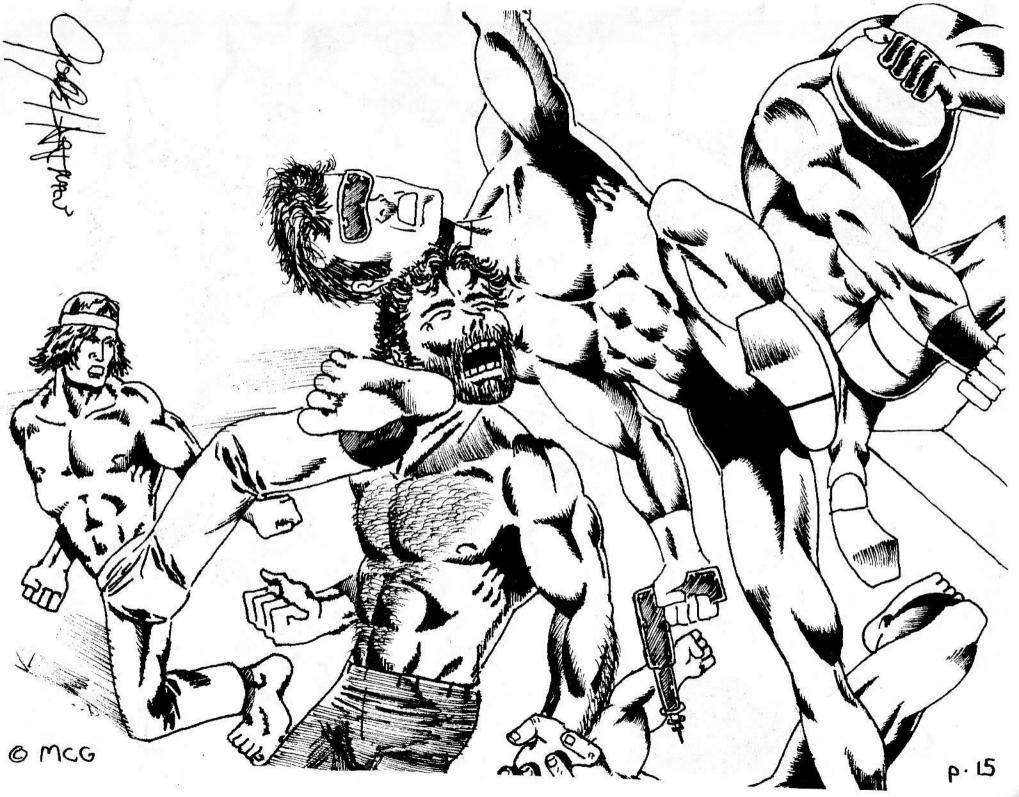
Our third place winner was George Hartman. George will be contributing an illo next issue also. George's art has only appeared in one other zine - "Cosmic Adventures". Welcome aboard George!!

4th place winner Bob Wright has also had art appear in many a fanzine. Among them are the Buyer's Guide, the Comic Book Collector, etc. Bob also sent me a nice illo of Ms. Marvel which I will be using in the near-future.

5th place winner Tiger Rohblt has a lot of thing going!! He runs his own mail order business -Royal Comics. Last spring Tiger held the 1st Royal Comic Con and his special guest was none other than Stan "the man" Lee. Tiger's got another con planned next summer with Stan returning with more special guests. (see con page) NEXT CONTEST: TFZ #10-11











THE FAN'S-ZINE FANZINE REVIEW COLUM

FANDOM TRADER #11: 12 reduced print pages printed photo-offset, 8" by 10", for 50¢ or 6 issues for \$3, 12 issues for \$6. Published monthly. From: Bobby Sommerkamp, 1803 Bayou Grande Blvd N.E., St. Petersburg, Florida 33703. Finally Bobby has returned to the format that best suits FT! FT is an alternative adzine with the lowest ad rates in fandom for it's circulation!! I really enjoy this zine and it has really improved! FT caters especially to the fan fanzine editors so it's really an aid to me. If your a real fan you should subscribe to the Fandom Trader! One gripe, however, the cover was not up to FT's usual standards.

THE ENFORCERS #2: 28-7½" by 10" pages printed photo-offset with a full color cover (wrap-a-round) colored by our own Carl Taylor! The inside is newsprint but, it's better stock than the stuff they're sticking in comic books these days. The art by Larry Houston is excellant, better than some pro art! The story is good, but it's much too wordy! I mean some of the characters just don't shut up! The front cover is inked by Keith Pollard and the back cover is inked by Ernie Chan! Rudy Nebres and Alcala also contribute. The cover is great!! The story resembles an issue of the Avengers however. A really nice package for only \$1 from: Graphics 2000, 3466 S. Sycamore Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90016. Well worth the price!!

FANZINES CLASIFIEDS #1: 12-8" by 10" pages from: Lari Davidson, 8471 Bennett Rd., Richmond, BC V6Y 1n6 Canada. Available for two 15¢ stamps. Lari lists 28 fanzines. (thats all that responded to an offer to list zines <u>free</u> that was advertised in classifieds in TBG) It also features info on how to contribute to zines. If you publish a zine, get it listed in #2 right away!! Include what type of contribs you need, price per copy, sub. price, frequency, etc... to Lari, you'll be glad you did!!

COLLECTOR"S DREAM MAGAZINE #4: Spring 1978. 56 photo-offset pages on newsprint (with printing and postage costs it's hard to use white, high quality paper and keep your price down to!) for \$1 ppd from: G & T Enterprises, 260 Wellesley St. E, #2203, Toronto, Ontario Canada M4X 1C6. CDM is fantastic!! I liked CDM #3, but this issue is much better! The first ever "Consumers Guide to Comic Dealers" list 21 dealers and 21 aspects of their service, very informative! An interesting interview with Bob Overstreet (it's preety good and it sure won't put you to sleep!) Other features include an editorial, an installment of the excellant Pertwillaby Papers, a good Wardworld column, a great Don Rosa cover and an article by Jay Zilber (my favorite prozine writer) that really makes you think!! Future issues will be 128 pages for \$1.95 or four issues (1 yr) -\$7.50. Plus, all new subscribers get a free 25 word "shop my mail" ad!

THE FAN'S-ZINE FANZINE REVIEW COLUMN

NIMBUS #3: 40 deluze photo-offset pages. $5\frac{1}{2}$ " by $8\frac{1}{2}$ ". With a card cover and it's typeset. This is Nimbus' war-anti war issue. I'm not into war comics, but this issue was still very interesting!! The art is supberb in most cases. I was rather disappointed with the front cover, but the back cover by Mike Zeck more than made up for it!! Contributions from top fan and pro artists including: Zeck, Leialoha, Gammill, Vohland, Chan, Colan, Simonson, Buscema, Grell our own Sam de la Rosa, Doug Herring and Carl Taylor and many more!! The articles are also "top notch"! The best article was -"A Comic Writers Fan Club" because I could really identify with it! The Howard the Duck Article was also nice. Nimbus is available for \$1.50 from : Sam de la Rosa, 328 Canavan, San Antonio, TX 78221. Even at \$1.50 it's a real good deal!!! It's even recommended by the Price Guide!

LULA REVU #1: 4-8½" by 11" blue pages. Printed photo-offset. LR is strictly a fanzine review zine like "The Fanzine Connection" was. Unlike Bobby's "find something good in every zine " atitude (which I agree with) these guys are harder on zines than the RBCC! Of the twenty zines reveiwed the highest mark on a scale of "1-10" was "8". They even gave Afta a "6" which in a word is merely "good"!! Man, even the RBCC gave Afta a "8" "very good"! The only real things they found wrong with Afta was layout and a couple to typos. One of Steve Streeter's zines got a "3", "poor"! Listen guys, maybe Steve isn't a "great" artist, but I have yet to purchase one of his zines that wasn't fun, enjoyable and worth the money!! All I can say is, "Lighten up guys before it's too late! As a famous book says, "Let the one without sin cast the first stone " I think that famous quote pretains to this zine. This review reads about like most of the reviews in LR, downgrading! Subscriptions: 8 issues-\$3 from: Pubbug Press Pubs., 11220 Bird Rd., Richmond, BC Canada V6X 1N8. The idea is good, the attitude isn't!

AXIOM #1: $20-5\frac{1}{2}$ " by $8\frac{1}{2}$ pages, zeroxed. This issue is to be the first in a line of "Excelsior" Comics. This stripzine is pretty good considering how hard it is to begin a storyline on a strip. The art is fairly good and the concept is quite original as far as stripzines go. If this issue suceeds and receives favorable feedback, Excelsior Comics will be publishing more titles. Fan ventures such as this need and deserve to be supported, by <u>all</u> of us!! Good luck Lloyd!!! Order from: Lloyd Lawerance, P.O. Box 459, Claverack, New York 12513. Price: 30ϕ and a 15ϕ stamp.

Send all zines to be reviewed to: Jay Van Bockel
500 Willowrock Dr.
Loveland, Colorado 80537

I'll review your zipe absolutly free in issue number eight. The deadline will be February 1st. Your zine will be fairly reviewed and if you feel I've treated your zine unfairly I'll print your rebutal in the following issue. Your review will receive excellant exposure and will be read by over 350 comic fans!!!

***Don't tell anybody but FANZINE REVIEW continues on next page!!

WHAT??...MORE FANZINE REVIEWS?

That's right! I was so swamped with fanzines to review this issue that I've had to expand to a three page review column. Many of you are probably saying to yourselves: Well, where in the @#*% is the PEREZ interview? Is this Van Bockel guy tyring to rip us off? Well, it isn't here and I'm not. (If my english teacher read that she'd throw a fit!) I was supposed to get the Perez interview via Bill Marcinko but he has been hampered by school, financial and personal problems and is unable to get the interview for me at this time. If any of you really feel that you've been taken and without the Perez interview this issue isn't worth the 85¢ let me know and I'll re-emburse you what you feel is fair. Fair enough? Oh, the Perez interview may appear in TFZ #8 watch for my ads in TBG, Fandom Trader and Meet the Dealers.On with the reviews...

AFTA #2: 208-8½" by 5½" pages printed photo-offset for only \$1.49!!!!
From: Bill-Dale Marcinko, RPO 5009, Rutgers U., New Brunswick, N.J. 08903
Afta #2 is the best fanzine I have ever read!! It contains so much at so little a price! Afta #2 contains interviews with Perez, Schwartz and Bill Marcinko himself. Some of the dozens of features include comic reviews, movie reviews, columns on all aspects of fandom, comics and media, CE3K vs. Star Wars, Quizes, fanzine reviews, letters, satire and so much, much, much more! Their isn't anyone in comics fandom who wouldn't get three dollars worth of enjoyment out of Afta. Even if you hate to read, the art in Afta is well worth the price! Afta has art by: Pros: Jack Kirby and Howard Chaykin (covers) and George Perez and Alan Kupperburg (interior illustrations) Fans: Fred Hembeck, Doug Hazlewood, and Sam de la Rosa, Mac Patterson, Mitch O'Connell. Doug Herring, Carl Taylor and many more! Definatly the best thing to come out of fandom all year-maybe forever! If your not into Afta you're missing the best zine fandom has to offer and you're really cheating yourself of some good, fun, thought provoking reading!

THE COMIC BOOK COLLECTOR: 20-8½" by 5½" pages zeroxed for 50¢ from: John Harris. 54 Berkshire Dr., Crystal Lake, Ill 60014. This zine received the First Annual TFZ Most Improved Zine Award! To tell the truth, I though TCBC # 4 was almost a waste of paper, but issue ten is really good!! Besides the cover, the fan art is really pretty good with art by: Mark Heike (who contributed a piece so good that it's worth the fifty cents alone!) George Herandez, Bob Wright, Myra Pearce, David Heath and Stan Osborn. The best feature in TCBC is John's column titles "On the Scene". "On The Scene" updates whats going on in the world of fanzines. John does an excellant job handling "On The Scene"! Other features include a review of "Battlestar Galactica", a trivia quiz, letters and several installments of David Heath's "Our Worlds" strips. One of the best funzines around and at fifty cents you can't go wrong! Oh, the issue is number ten.

MEET THE DEALERS #8: 24-10" by 15" pages printed web-offset. An eight issue sub is only \$1.50. From: Frank Verzyle, P.O. Box 711, Linderhurst, NY 11757. TBG's number one competitor! Meet the Dealers has a circulation of 5,000 and low ad rates. (\$20 full page etc.) Meet the Dealers is an alternate to TBG and I think it's going to work! I plan to support MTD all the way; with plugs, ads etc, and I think you should to! For fandom to prosper fandom must have another good place to advertise. MTD #8 also features fanzine reviews by Robert Jennings, release dates of Marvel and DC comics, and a nice cover by Eddie Eddings! Get your buck and a half in and participate, you'll be glad you did! Best of luck Frank, you certainly deserve it!!



FEATURE STORY: THE MIGHTY AVENGERS

The Advengers is probably the book that a Marvel writer loves to write most of all! Why, you ask? Just think of all the possible guest stars that could appear. Also, the Avengers have the most colorful gallery of super villains of all the Marvel comics. Check out the ten issue epic that has recently been completed. (Avengers \$167-177) Has any Marvel series ever containd so many guest stars? I doubt it? It seems that all the teams are featuring multitudes of guest stars. In recent issues of the Defenders there was over a dozen guest "Defenders"! Well, back to the story. As I write I am wondering who'll leave for their own solo adventures and who'll stay and become a full-fledged Avenger. (which doesn't seem to be so rare or prestigious anymore.)

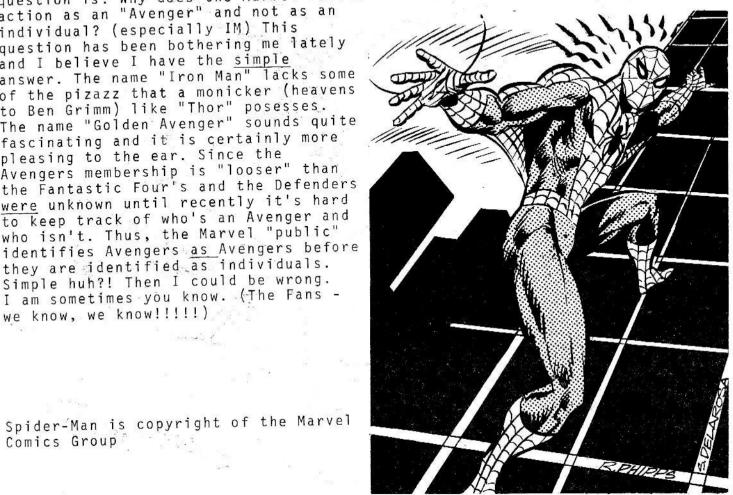
The new twist in the plot of the current Avengers comics is pretty good! I'm talking about how the government stripped the Avengers of all their priorities, machinery and even their quinjets! The good 'ol "Marvel Continuity" even mentioned it in the pages of the Defenders!

One thing that really gripes me lurks in the pages of all the Marvel books. The super villains seem to get stronger and stronger while the superheroes get weaker and weaker. For example, "Michale" heroes to defeat one villain lately! Now that fact represents quite a scar on the "Marvel Continuity"!

There's one more aspect about the Advengers I'd like to examine. The question is: Why does the Marvel"Public" refer to an Advenger in solo action as an "Avenger" and not as an individual? (especially IM) This question has been bothering me lately and I believe I have the simple answer. The name "Iron Man" lacks some of the pizazz that a monicker (heavens to Ben Grimm) like "Thor" posesses. The name "Golden Avenger" sounds quite fascinating and it is certainly more pleasing to the ear. Since the Avengers membership is "looser" than the Fantastic Four's and the Defenders were unknown until recently it's hard to keep track of who's an Avenger and who isn't. Thus, the Marvel "public"

they are identified as individuals. Simple huh?! Then I could be wrong. I am sometimes you know. (The Fans we know, we know!!!!!)

Spider-Man is copyright of the Marvel Comics Group





all Avengers copyright Marvel Comice Group



NEW THINGS AT MARVEL

NEW BOOKS

The Shogun Warriors book has been delayed--it seems that the licensing company for the Warriors has been quite slow in approving the project. The licensing company is Toei Company, Ltd. The first couple of issues are done. Doug Moench did the writing, Herb Trimpe did the pencilling and Dan Green did the inking.

The new Sub-Mariner book remains unscheduled at this time because David Michelinie and Alan Weiss will not be able to remain on the book past the first couple of issues. Jim Shooter is considering taking over the writing chores after Michelinie leaves the book.

Battlestar Galactica will be a regular $35\,$ ¢ book beginning in December. The first three issues will reprint the Marvel Super Special: Galactica issue that should be out right now. After the first three issues Jim Shooter and Roger McKenzie will take over the book.

CANCELLED BOOKS

The Human Fly will cross the finish line with issue #19.

The Hanna-Barbara books appear to be cancelled with the books on the stands now. But, The Comic Reader stated that the contract wit H-B doesn't expire until July of 1979 so watch the newsstands.

Machine Man will be reveived this Spring with a new creative team. The series that was just cancelled because Jack Kirby was going to do the story-boards for the FF cartoon . MM will be reveived with issue #10 probably under Mary Wolfman and, he's back, Steve Ditko.

YEP, DITKO'S BACK!!

After a thirteen year absense Steve Ditko's is back at Marvel. Steve has already done a Captain Marvel and a Godzilla fill-in issue and he'll be taking over the writing chores on Machine Man. He'll also be doing some special projects. Unfortunatly, it looks as if Ditko won't be returning to Spider-Man or Doctor Strange in the near future.

COPYRIGHT BATTLE

It is reported that Marvel's Super Villain Team-Up will come out annually. This is to retain copyright of the term"super-villain" and prevent DC from doing so. Issue #16 should be out during the third week of January and will feature the Red Skull and the Hatemonger in a story by Peter Gillis and Carmine Infantino.

THE DUCK AND THE DRAC

The Howard the Duck strip finished it's stretch on October 29th. The 35¢ comic book will continue because Gene Colan likes Bill Mantlo's scripts. Upcoming villains include: Master of Kitsch, Jackpot, the one-armed-bandit and Captain Americana. Howard may also be granted a buck and a half color mag as a one-shot.

Dracula may continue. Gene Colan is considering remaining as artist and Mike Fleisher will do the writing. According to a Marvel editor, "It won't be the Dracula you're accustomed to." * Mike Zeck will be pencilling the Hulk magazine #16. The story is called "MASKS"

THE TEN RAREST COMICS OF 1978

RANK	TITLE	'78 VALUE	'77VALUE & RANK	(
1.	Marvel Comics # 1	\$10,000.00	\$7,500.00 (1)	
2.	Action #1	7,500.00	5,250.00 (2)	
3.	Motion Picture Funnies Weekly #1	6,000.00	4,500.00 (3)	
4.	Whiz #1	5,000.00	3,750.00 (4)	
5.	Detective #27	4,200.00	3,600.00 (5)	
6.	Superman #1	3,000.00	2,400.00 (6)	
7.	Walt Disney Comics & Stories #1	2,500.00	1,800.00 (9)	
8.	Captain America #1	2,250.00	1,800.00 (8)	
9.	Batman #1	2,200.00	1,800.00 (7)	
10.	Captain Marvel #1	2,000.00	1,500.00 (11)	

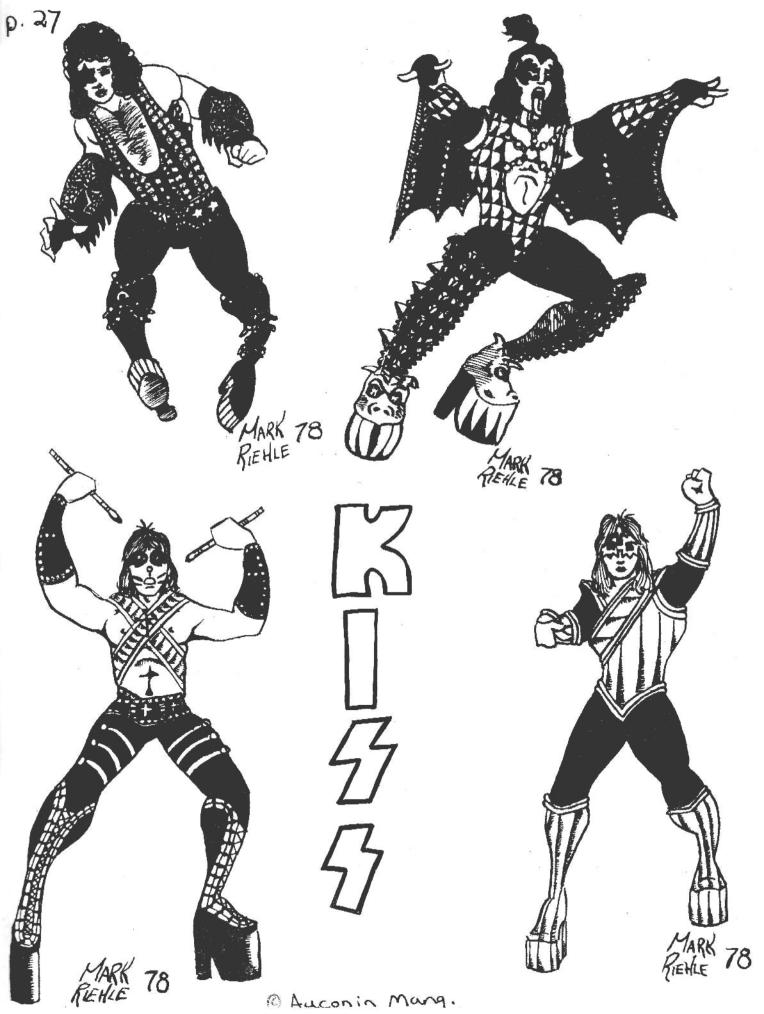
Following these TEN are a number of comics tied at number eleven including: Marvel Mystery #2, 5; Action # 2; and, Donald Duck Tell About Kites (SCE).

This list was compiled with the aid of the "COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE" By Robert M. Overstreet!!

KISS NEWS

- * Watch for the movie made for TV "Kiss Meets the Phantom" this Fall on NBC. Gene, Paul, Peter and Ace will star in their <u>first</u> movie. I don't know about you but I just can't wait!!
- * Unfortunately Kiss is going into semi-retirement. They will not be going on tour for the next two years. My idea is that they want to take a break from their hectic schedule and go back on tour when we least expect it!
- * During the two years Kiss isn't on tour they are supposed to put our solo albums to highlight each member's talents. Some of the albums will not be hard rock orientated.
- * Did Gene Simmons really marry Cher Bono Allman as reported by some inconsistant magazines ? I don't really know. How about you? Do you know ? If you do please let me know so I can tell our readers.
- * Just thought i'd relate a ridiculours rumour that was floating around southern Minnesota this Spring. I cam to school one day and went to my first hour class. Well, nearly everyone at my school knows that I'm a die hard Kiss fam and many people told me about what they heard on the radio. The story was that at a concert someone shot Gene and Peter to death and injured Paul and Ace with, (would you believe it) a machine gun!?! One of my best friends said that his sister heard it on the radio. As it turned out it was reported on the radio, butit was obviously wrong. That just goes to show how rumours get started through planned and/or incompetent journalism.

NEXT: A review of the Kiss movie and the second Marvel super special. (out right now!) Plus a brand new pin up!!! Be there aloha!!!



THE FANS OF THE ZINE - LETTERS PAGE

Jay,
Thanks for the copies of the Fan's -Zine. It was a good print job all the way. I really enjoyed the Bulk-Thung strip. The whole zine is very satisfying to hard-core Marvel fans I'm sure. I'm just a soft-core fannot even medium.

I started to do this cover-type thing for you. I had an evening more or less free. But I spilled a drop of ink and discoverd the paper doesn't take a pen well. It takes a brush well enough but not pen. Since money is right with you, my idea was for you to use it and then offer it to your readers for \$10. Maybe you can use it in TFZ #8. Anyway, hope you can use the enclosed.

Mike O'Neal looks promising. More study for all. To work!

Alan J. Hanley

Rt 2

Camp Douglas, Wisc. 54618

****Thanks for the kind words and contribs Alan!! Alan is one of the few "big names" artists that remain real fans. You know what Alan did for me? He drew and paid for a $\frac{1}{4}$ page ad in TFZ #237!! Now that was extremmly uncalled for and kind!! I enclosed the second paragraph of Alan's letter so you can look forward to it. Also, if you'd like to buy the cover I'll hold it for you! Alan pencilled it and Mike O'Neal or Doug Herring will probably ink it. A bargain at \$10!! Order from me because I'll have it.***

Dear Jay,

Thanks for TFZ #6 I enjoyed it a lot!! Even more thanks for letting me do some art for TFZ #8! (and hopefully #9, #10 and so on) Hurry up as soon as you can with my assignment, I can't wait. This'll be my 2nd published work. My first was for a fanzine that's just about ready for fandom. It's called "Cosmic Adventures" and I did a four page story for it. Enclosed is \$1 for TRZ #2 and #3. see you around

George Hartman 109-19 103rd Ave. Rich. Hill, N.Y.11419

Welcome to the TFZ crew George! Hope to see your art in "Cosmic Adventure soon! Wish I had the address so I could include a complete plug. I'll send your assignment as soon as I plan out TFZ #8.

Due to the lack of space in this issue we could only print two letters. Next issue we will probably have $\underline{\mathsf{two}}$ pages of letters so more of you who are kind enough to write can see your letters in print. Please send all letters of comment to:

Jay Van Bockel 500 Willowrock Dr. Loveland, Colo. 80537

Let me know your opinion on this issue. We enjoy hearing from you!! All of you!!!

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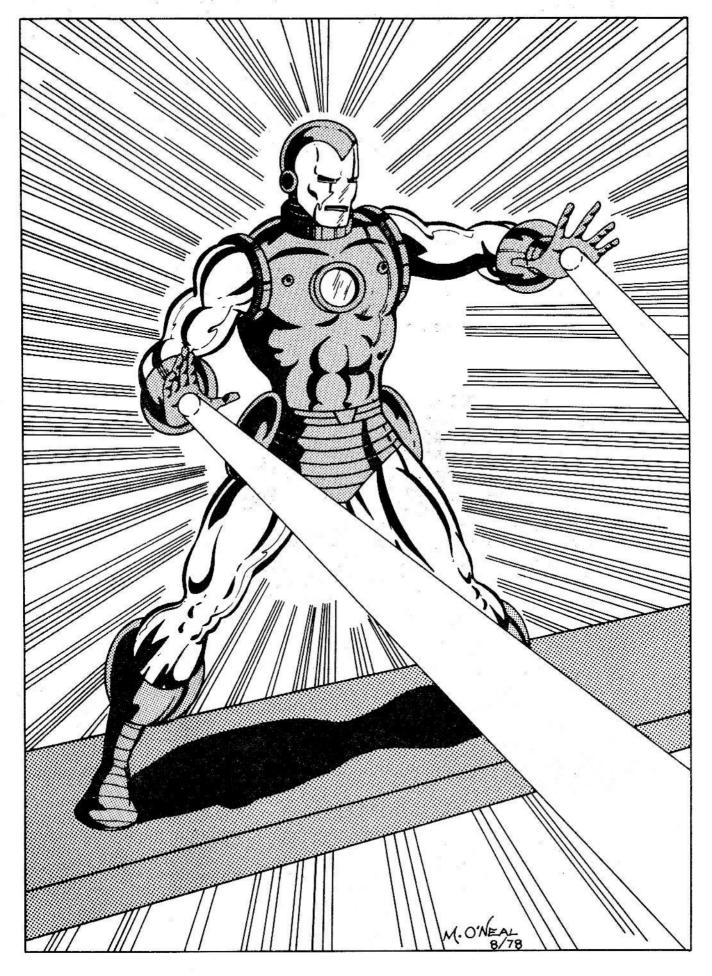
SPOT ILLOES \$2.50! (LIKE THE SPIDER-MAN ILLO BELOW)
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THE SUPER-VILLAIN OF THE QUARTER: THE RED SKULL

When you think of the Red Skull what two words come to your mind? The two words that come to my mind are - merciless Natzi. From a very humble beginning to second in command of the third reich, that is the story of the Red Skull. He started out as a small orphan, a theif, but everything he stole was stolen from him by those bigger than he. He spent most of his teenage life in and out of jails. He became a bus boy at a hotel the Fuehrer, Hitler himself, was staying at. After seeing the young man he (Hitler) decided to make the "common" busboy into a being of hatred, Hitler's right hand man - The Red Skull. Due to all the bent-up hostility the Skull has endured throughout his young life he was the perfect choice!! The "skull" is really only a mask, used to "strike terror into the hearts" of any who would defy the Natzis.

The Red Skull first appeared in Captain America Comics #3. (1940) Most of the Cap comics had Cap fighting the Natzi, Baron Zemo and the Red Skull in particular!! Shortly after Cap's return in the Avengers #4 old foes like Zemo and the Skull popped up in Tales of Suspense.

The Skull has a number of traditional gimmicks or trademarks. (depending on your preferance). Among these gimmicks two particularily stand out. The two also go hand-in-hand, "Chopin's Funeral March" always plays before "the Crimson Dust of Death" turns someone into a dead Red Skull.

The Red Skull last appeared in "Captain America" #226-227. He used his "silver skulled" space ship to transform dozens of Sheild agents into Red Skulls, including Nick Fury. (who played the leader of the Skulls) The story was pretty good but, no explanation to how the Skull survived "Super Villain Team-Up" #12. We probably won't find out for at least a year.



I think the Skull's obvious popularity as Cap's #1 foe is due to his Natzi heritage and his originality! I'll bet you can't name any villains that are more original than a villain with an odd colored exo
**Keleton called a skull.

The Skull's "plain" costume, which consists of a green "jump-suit" and a swastika on his chest, is "plain" so it will attract a readers attention to the Red Skull!

One last "Skull"note: Check out the cover of "Captain America" #227, the closest Skull to the reader on the right side, and behold Marvel's newest supervillain and odvisary for Captain America -the "Yellow Skull"!!



BY Jeff Roberts

Greetings, and welcome to the first installment of "Favorites" the column written for you, the Marvel fan and TFZ reader. It should be written for you, because the hopeful success or possible downfall of this column depends entirely upon the help and support of all you kind people out there. Why? The answer shall be forthcoming, so please be patient. I've a bit of explaining to do first.

Okay, the purpose of this column is to find out what a-1 of you folks like, and to kind of put over a few of my personal favorites in the process, hence the title "FAVORITIES". It's also for sparking up a bit of reader interest, since it's the readers who will be doing the most for the

column, not me.

The format for future"Favorites" columns will be, starting with installment #2: I'll list my favorite things about a certain title, like favorite story, Artists Covers etc, to begin with, and then open up a reader poll, asking your personal favorite (that's where the support is needed, because I will need all your votes to make this column up.) Everything is explained in more detail at the end of this column, but I think this gave you an idea what "Favorites" is all about. I hope you like this column, please let me know what you think about the idea of "Favorites" in general, about Marvel in particular, and please send in your own favorites! in your favorite subjects for a "Favorites installment, and I'll try to put together a column on them. Also, send money, if ya wanna. (for a sub to TFZ -J.V.B.) That's another of my favorites.. Now, onward and upward to new heights of glory!

THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

While trying to think of a subject to start this first installment of "Favorites", I took into consideration the very title of this column and decided to start the ball rolling with my personal favorite single character in the Marvel line: The Invincible Iron Man", this, (to call

on an old literary cliche') here it is.

My very favorite Iron Man story is found in Iron Man #'s 17 and 18 as origional wherein a LMD (Life Model Decoy) took both Tony Stark's and Iron Man's place. I'd always been intrigued by what would happen if one of the many look-alike-the-main character-androids would run amok. This one not only ran amok, but it took the place of one of the most famous and influential inventive genius' in the world and took the place of one of the most powerful superhereos in the Marvel roster. It also succeded in turning the real Tony Stark into an outcast from his own factory. It had the Avengers buffaloed in it's Iron Man guise. It was finally beaten in it's Iron Man disguise by the original Tony Stark when he donned the original golden Iron suit and tied into the LMD, tossing him into a vat of acid.

My second favorite story would be Iron Man #72. Shellhead battles Whiplash, the Melter and the Man-Bull (plus the Black Lama) at, of all places, a San Diego Comic book Convention! I.M. takes care of Whiplash and Man-Bull by himself, but has a bit of help from an Iron Man fan at the con. (Say that three times fast!) in subdueing the Melter. When everything seems to be over, the Black Lama comes after Shellhead with a Scimitar. A half-conscious Melter stops B.L.'s charge by blasting him with fire, saying that f he couldn't kill Iron Man, no one would. Things finally work out, and I.M. is treated as a hero.

My third favorite would be Iron Man #6, where the Crusher returns to bedevil our hero. Crusher always was one of my favorite Iron Man villains, and this issue had him in top form. He finally wound up drowning,

though.

By Jeff Roberts

Let's move on to some favorite covers which the issues of Iron Man has sported over the years. To me, a good depicts the hero, and the hero only. (Like TFZ covers -J.V.B.) These are rare, but occasionally pop up. The best one like that I've seen in a while is the cover of Iron Man #100, depicting Iron Man standing in front of a gigantic "100" and breaking an "I" beam above his head. This, as a matter of fact, was the best cover I'd seen in a long time anywhere.

My second favorite cover is Iron Man #80, which has him flying toward

you out of space, or somewhere like that.

Third would have to be I.M. #96, with Iron Man kneeling in front of a crowd of people. The people say that Iltimo (the villain of the issue) has beaten him, but, he says that "the battle has only begun". Three very good covers!

My favorite Iron Man artist is most definately George Tuska, who drew some of shellhead's best stories. Tuska's style is easily recognizeable through any inker, and that's what I think makes a good artist.

Tuska is tops!

With a favorite artist must also come a favorite inker (or embellisher, depending on how fancy you are), and with all honesty. I'd say that the best inker to ever work on Iron Man is Mike Esposito. Esposito is a tight, clean inker who really knows his stuff. His inks enhance an artist's work to the Nth degree! (especially Tuska's art , love that team!) Making it very pleasing to the eye and good enough to frame and hand on your wall, or even in a museum.

Favorite writer is a hard choice to make, because there have been so many good writers working on Iron Man over the years. When I think about it, I'd have to cast my vote for Bill Mantlo, Shellhead's current scribe. When I first saw Mr. Mantlo's work way back when, I wandered if he would ever make much of himself. He most definately did make something of himself, becoming one of the best writers at Marvel. Bill's scripting is not captions into one beautiful harmony. Bill Mantlo's scripting on Iron Man is some of the best he's ever done. I hope he'll be around for a long, long time!

Letterers and Colorists are mainly a general favorite, meaning that each one does his or her job equally well! but if I choose a favorite for each catagory that has worked on I.M., I'd pick Sam Rosen as favorite

I.M. letterer and George Roussos as favorite colorist.

Archie Goodwin gets favorite editor on my part, even though I'm not exactly sure what an editor does, (me neither!-J.V.B.) (So that explains

it - the fans) Arch is good at doing it!

Iron Man is a very good comic. I like him very much, and I'm sure a lot of you do too. In light of that, I know that all of you will join me in wishing Iron Man a lot of luck in the future and in thanking all the people who have ever had anything to do Shellhead for a job well done! Thanks people, it's been a pleasure!

Okay, now it's your turn to say what you think. Drop me a line containing the following things; Your three favorite Iron Man stories, with a line or two telling why you liked them. Your three favorite Iron Man covers, your favorite I.M. artist, favorite writer, favorite letterer and colorist, and favorite editor. (Please note that I've only covered issues in Iron Man #1 on up. Please vote only for people who worked on those issues, I'll do a Tales of Suspense installment of "favorites" sometime in the future) Thanks to all of you who vote. Be kind to each other and I'll see you here in the next installment of "FAVORITES"!!

"FAVORITES"

by Jeff Roberts

send all votes to me at the following address;
Jeff Roberts R.R. #1 c/o Gary Tharp, SHOALS, INDIANA 47581 THANKS!!

Side Note: Jeff did'nt know this issue would feature Iron Man so this issue is one helluva treat for any I.M. Fan !!!!!!<u>VOTE</u> J.V.B.

THE STAR WARS PAGE

- * As you all know Star Wars was re-release on July 19th. Along with the re-releasing a number of new products have been released such as: kid's shoes, posters, glasses (the kind you drink from) and much more!!
- * Star Wars trading cards are doing extremmly well!! They are already into a fifth series!! They have now tied "Charlie's Angels" gum cards for "most successful non-sport gum cards"! (how they can show 300 pictures of one two hour movie and have some left over is beyond me!)
- * Another "hot" Star Wars novelty is the comic book by Marvel! It's into it's 4th re-printing! The original comic, the reprint comic, SW Marvel Special Edition #1 (reprint #1-3), #2 (reprints #4-6) and #3 (reprints #1-6)!!! That's not even counting the Del Ray paperback reprint. This puts well over 1.5 million copies of

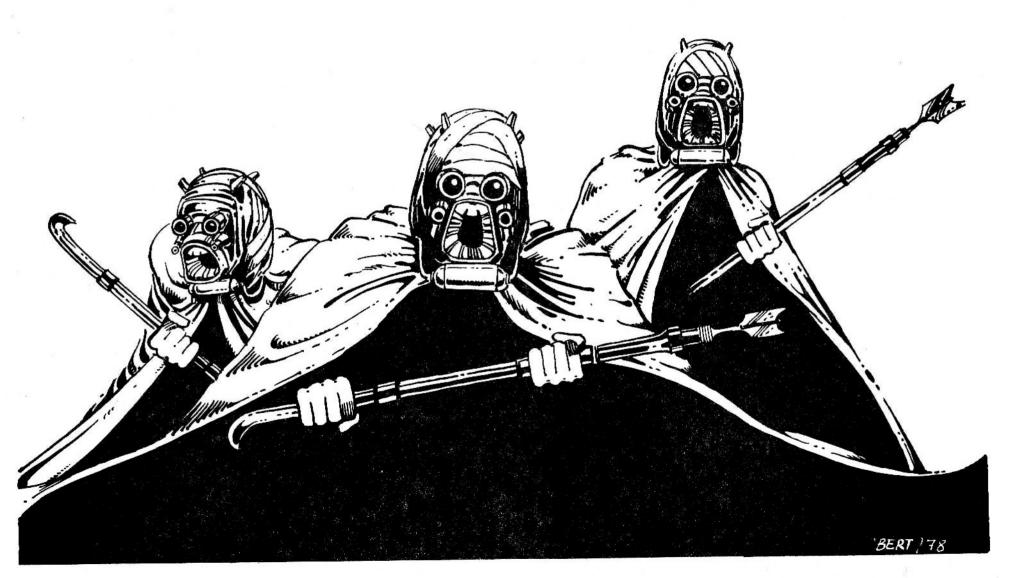
Marvel's version in circulation !!!

* Mark Hamill's new movie - "Corvett Summer" does'nt look to hot. If I see it it'll be because Mark Hamill's in it. Although the modified Corvette really look like a cool car!

Next: More SW news, Star Wars revisited and our Star Wars pin up returns also!

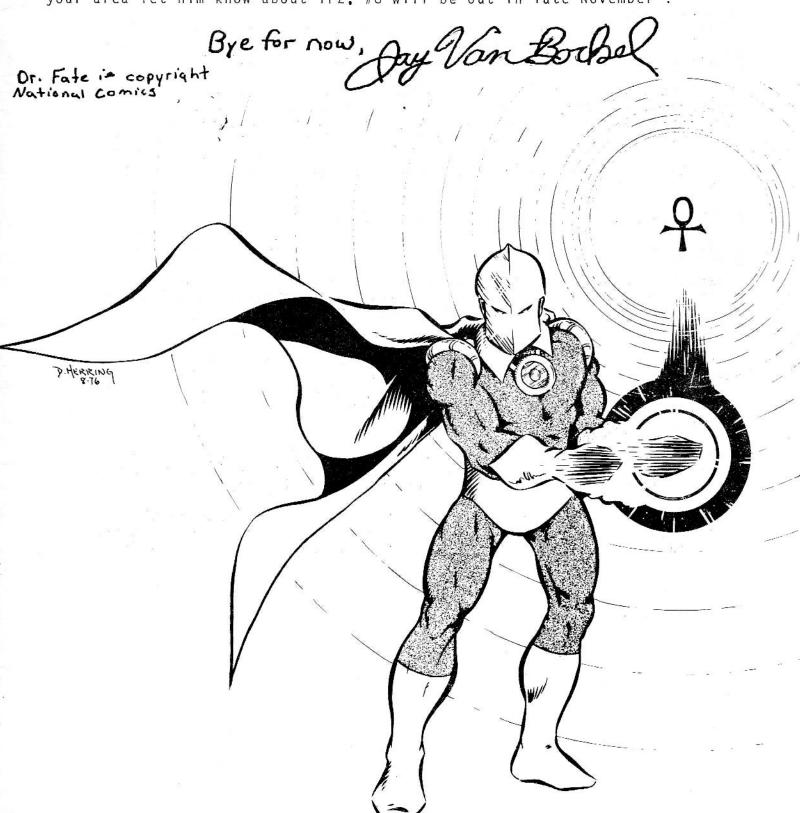
- *One more item I forgot to mention is a new fuzzy Chewbacca doll. It's about 18 inches tall and is equipped with his ammunition belt too. A new item I like but, with a ten dollar price tage it's too expensive!
- (C) Capt. Atom is copyright Charlton Comics.





TFZ will again be taking ads! Since we are now limited to about 40 pages per issue we will feature I-2 page(s) of classified ads. The rate for ads is a mer 1¢ per word and no minimum or maximum! The page(s) will be divided into two columns and the ads will not be reduced, they will be printed as their original size! All classifieds will be retyped so there is no need to type the original ad. TFZ's present circulation is 350+ and #8 will have a circulation of at least 400!! Ad Deadline #8: Nov. 5

Please order a subscription or a copy of #8. If there is a dealer in your area let him know about TFZ, #8 will be out in late November!



DR. STRANGE & ILLUSIONS

Will we continue to be placated with more T&A on network primetime television, or will our imaginations be stimulate with innovative new shows as illustrated by the recent pilot DR. STRANGE ?

The illusory effect that portrayed the titled character as a DEFENDER of GOOD was sure to be a hit with the comic fan, but did it appeal to the beer sipping, sofa shaped consumer that dictates what is shown on television? Will the comic minority be able to make their feelings known with enough intensity? The answers to these questions will determine if and when shows with widened vision will be aired.

The NEW AGE is upon us ---when will the masses awake.

Webster defines illusion as " a deceptive or unreal appearance; hallusination". To make such a definition meaningful, a point of reference must be established as "real.".

In the recent DR. STRANGE pilot the titled character traveled from one level of existance to another as easily as you and I pass from room to room. The earth level was set as the "real" world with the other worlds, although very real to Dr. Strange, were illusions as defined by Webster, since the laws governing those worlds were "unreal" by earth standards.

If one were to change the point of reference to one of the other levels experienced by Dr. Strange and thus made "real" then, again, by definition, wouldn't the earth world be illusory?

If there ARE other levels of existance then it is conceiveable that there are "real" existances of a Higher Order. Then isn't the earth world that we live in only an illusion of the Higher Order?

Issue # 8 will mark the beginning of the Fan's Zine third consecutive year as one of fandom's widest read <u>fan</u>zines!!

Issue # 8 starts off with a cover by fan artist supreme ALAN J. HANLEY!

Special features include: More Pro Art by Marvel's best, Part II of the GEORGE PEREZ interview (finally), the 1979 Marvel Awards, and the Origin of Captain Kill!

Featurettes on the Sub-Mariner, Howard and Duck and Adam Warlock . More on KISS, Marvel on TV and Star Wars too!

Contributors include: Alan Hanley, Doug Herring, Carl Taylor, Mike O'Neal. Sam de la Rosa, Mark Heike, Willie Peppers, Lloyd Lawrence and many more!! And I'll try, I repeat <u>try</u> to get a contrib or two out of Don Rosa, Fred Hembeck, and Doug Hazlewood.

TFZ #8 will be out by Easter Sunday. It'll be 40-44 pages for only $85 \c ppd$, or four issues (1 year) for only \$2.00!!!

Bye for now, Jan Borbel

AR WANTED!

Help dis dude! ... de publis

JEFF ROBERTS RR#1 % GARY THARP SHOALS IND. 47581 THE NEED THE FOLLOWING BOOKS IN FINE OR BETTER TO IMPROVE MY COLLECTION, WILL PAY THE PRICES STATED. I ONLY NEED ONE OF EACH, SO PLEASE WRITE FIRST. INCLUDE AN SASE IF YOU CAN, BUT IT'S NOT MANDATORY FOR A REPLY. THANKS!

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