

# AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

SEND YOUR  
LETTERS TO

THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, SECOND FLOOR, 625 MADISON AVE., NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

Dear Stan, Roy, and John,

And they said it couldn't be done! Yes, all those skeptics who didn't want you to abandon continued yarns said you couldn't possibly have a good story in one issue will have to eat their words now! AVENGERS #83 was utterly fantastic! It featured not one, but two plots.

Number one was the female's revolt. I was really glad to see Jan again but you could have given a better reason for her being in New York. Sick cunt indeed! Is this make-a-funny week?

I was also glad to see Medusa and the Black Widow and wonder of wonders... Roy Thomas! Stan, how did you manage to keep Roy down to only three words? You'd think he was writing for Black Bolt!

Your Rutland parade was cute and provided an immediate setting for plot #2—the Masters of Evil. It was really wild seeing Wanda, Medusa, Natasha, and Jan pounce on the bad guys.

Say, I know it's normal for Inhumans like Medusa, but don't Wanda and Natasha have any lost names? I might say the same for T'Challa and Pietro.

John's art was really great this ish, especially pages 2 & 3. Also, Tom's inking has improved.

And Stan... did anyone ever tell you you wrote great footnotes? And as for you, Roy, take out the garbage! Only kidding, Rascally, you were great, too!

Roger Schoolcraft, 2015 Eldersville Road  
Follansbee, West Virginia 26037

**Thanks, Rog.** Our associate editor and longtime AVENGERS author appreciates your kind words, the more so since one random review of AVENGERS #83 claimed that he gave his lovely wife Jeanie the best line in the entire mag! Only one sad note: it turned out that, at the last minute, Roy and Jeanie couldn't make the 1970 Rutland parade after all, though they had been there in 1969 and are already making plans to show up in the Green Mountain State come Halloween 1971! (And if you think it might just pop up again in one of our madcap mags, then put a big gold star next to your name, son.)

Dear Stan and Roy,

In issue #83's letters section Mr. Wayne Hall complained about your use of phrases such as "Good Lord" and "My God". I'm afraid that I must completely disagree with him.

True, in one aspect, that this may leave an impression on your younger readers, but comics are here not only to entertain us, but to tell it like it is. This is exactly what you people are doing, in including things like campus riots, racial problems, personal problems, and an occasional cuss or three. I think that in this way you're better than any other fantasy mag in the U.S. of A.

Also, I must disagree with Mr. Hall's opinion of Big John's artwork, it was great in ish #83. The spread on pages 2 & 3 should confirm that. Also page 20, panel 2, where Enchantress is getting the reflected kick-back from her own spell, I'd like to know exactly how you break up the picture into those numerous tiny dots of color. Mr. Hall doesn't seem to realize how difficult it is to draw the human figure and still keep it in proportion, especially the female face and figure.

One last thing I have to say. About your dialogue. Every super-villain in town (with a few exceptions) has the corniest speech ever heard. I can understand this in your Norse gods, but NO human being can speak that way and still be comfortable. (Save maybe an actor.) PLEASE try to taper this off in the near future.

John E. Payne, 1120 High Mountain Road  
Franklin Lakes, N.J. 07417

Maybe we will, John, if a few zillion other Marvelmaniacs are as upset about our swingin' super-villains' speech patterns as you seem to be. To tell the truth, we ourselves have never tried to figure out just why so many of our beneful baddies use better grammar than our heroes; could be that ol' Doc Doom's running a school of elocution on the side.

Dear Stan and Co.:

AVENGERS #83 was both a shock and a disappointment. I could hardly believe that Roy Thomas and John Buscema could have turned out such a monstrosity. I mean no disrespect to either Roy or John. I have a high regard for the talents of both; but that is my frank opinion.

The Liberation plot was out of place. I'm not going to debate the pros and cons of the Women's Liberation Movement. I'm sure that both sides have some good and bad points. Nor am I going to state my personal beliefs on the subject. Both would be out of place here.

Actually what I want to do is to try and explain why I feel that the lady heroes of Marvel have no need to be liberated. Basically it's true that the male heroes are more powerful and tend to have stronger powers. But it is also true that the female heroes are a definite asset to such as the FF, Avengers etc. People like Medusa, Wasp, Black Widow, and Scarlet Witch share the same chances and run the same risks. This makes them equal to any and all male super heroes.

Also it was obvious that Valkyrie had control of the other Liberators. Once her real identity was disclosed it only added insult to injury. I can't picture the Enchantress as a woman scorned. How hokey can you be?

The last panel was the worst. After all Goliath and Scarlet Witch have been through together, how can he play the part of a patronizing over-confident male? As the robot on "Lost in Space" once said: "It does not compute!"

PMM, FFF, Shirley A. Gorman, Grande E, Box 14  
Hereford, Texas, 79045

Maybe not to you, Shirl, but you've got to remember that our mile-high man-mountain has been carrying a torch for the beautiful Black Widow for some time now, and it's caused him to voice from time to time a certain skepticism towards members of the fair sex—yes, even those with super-powers as great as or greater than his own!

Y'know, now that we've mentioned our own defense of your final point, it just makes us wonder how Goliath managed to make it thru the entire last half of AVENGERS #83 without a single souflull thought balloon bemoaning the fact that the lovely Natasha was so near, yet so far away!

## KNOW YE THESE, THE HALLOWED RANKS OF MARVELDOM:

**R.F.O.** (Real Frantic One)—A buyer of at least 3 Marvel mags a month.  
**T.T.B.** (Titanic True Believer)—A divinely-inspired "No-Prize" winner.  
**Q.N.S.** (Quite-'Nuff Sayer)—A fortunate frantic one who's had a letter printed.

**K.O.F.** (Keeper Of the Flame)—One who recruits a newcomer to Marvel's rollickin' ranks.  
**P.M.M.** (Permanent Marvelite Maximus)—Anyone possessing all four of the other titles.  
**F.F.F.** (Fearless Front-Facer)—An honorary title bestowed for devotion to Marvel above and beyond the call of duty.

Dere Peebles,

YE GODS! Has a girl no privacy? Holy Everybody-Raid-Wanda's-Bedroom-scene! Do all the Avengers (Wanda excepted) sleep in their colorful long-johns? Or was there an all-knight poker game going on downstairs? OOO-AHH—Holy Pun! Well, anyway, that's not what I'm bugged about just now.

It seems you guys done dood it again—messed up on the magic angle. Time for Hokus-Pokus lessons again. Attention class!

Now, I don't know about Wanda's atomic mutation bit—but, take it from an old dyed-in-the-wool witch, once a spell is laid, it takes no energies to continue it—and it can be stopped by only three things: (a) conscious intent to change or end said spell by the imposing witch; (b) a more powerful spell by another adept; and (c) Love!—the most potent of forces.

Now, we concede the point that Vis—as well as the others—can be drained of their energies; and that Vis could shatter his spell by mental revolt. But, the others have not this power, and simply falling through a couple of stories of crumbling building wouldn't do it either. So, we have a somewhat sticky wicket, if you follow the rules—which you didn't. I hate to say this, boys, but you really ought to have a witch-in-residence for consultation.

I have wracked my benumbed brain for a logical (witchy logical, that is) way to resolve the problem left by yous guys (and also promptly solved by flaunting the rules). The only thing I came up with was—seeing that magic is highly refined mental manipulation of one's surroundings and unseen forces—that the Vision attempts to channel his mental energies to the breaking of the spell, and finally hits on the correct mental attitude, and VOILA! A solution which is, of course, neither here nor there, but fun mental exercise. Hmmm—also possibilities for the Vis to go a-warlocking!

Anyway, since he's got the mental control needed, on to other matters.

I do like the character of Arkon the Mag. It seems with a little maturing of his character, he might end up a do-goodie after all, and there go my plans for Wanda and Vis, which started shaping up on the Van Lunt-Zodiac expedition. Oh well! You know—Arkie reminds me somewhat of the youthful Namor: short-tempered, reckless, ambitious, etc. It should be interesting to see how the character progresses.

Now—the Black Knight—ummmm—could he be descended from ELRIC? I mean—that evil black sword (with its own sentient powers) sounds suspiciously like STORMBRINGER, and it's possible that the sword could have come through the ages to Merlin and thence to Dane's ancestors. The ebony blade is too good to lose—its potential for disrupting Knightie's life is too powerful. So, somehow, bring it back—since the idea of a mystic knight on a



flying horse without a magic sword is kinda klutzy. Dig?

I guess that's all for AVENGERS #84—on the whole, not a bad submission to our eagerly waiting eyeballs.

Selzer!

Paty, Box 402

Walker Valley, N.Y. 12588

And a "Nuts said!" to you, Paty. (Hey, is that your first name, your last, or an acronym? Clue us in, huh?)

All of which reminds us that we really shouldn't be making jokes with one who claims to be a real "dyed-in-the-wool witch," but we've got no logical way to wriggle out of the objections you've raised—so we've got no choice but to try to cover the whole magilla up with a wisecrack. We'd take you up on your veiled offer to become our witch-in-residence, but we've got a hunch that a lady named Wanda might just object. And far be it from your spell-shy Bulpen to get caught between two hex-tossing sisters-in-sorcery!

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