

Zinda4Blake

UNDERWATER!



MY MERMAID ADVENTURE!

by Kevin Ahearn



'ZINDA BLAKE 4' is fiction.
 All references to actual persons, alive
 or dead, made for a good story.

Blackhawk created by Chuck Cuidera, Bill Powell, and Will Eisner

Lady Blackhawk & Kid Blackhawk created by Jack Schiff and Dick Dillin

ZINDA BLAKE.....MERYL STREEP

BLACKHAWK.....ROBERT REDFORD

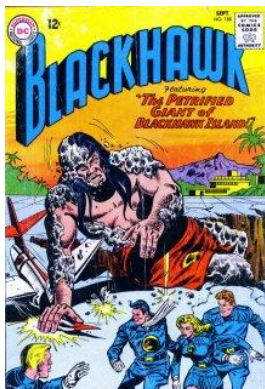
AND INTRODUCING

KILLER SHARK.....BILL MURRAY

PLUS AN ALL-STAR SUPPORTING CAST

Blackhawk is a property of DC COMICS.

Cover: **Exotic Mermaid**



1



"The minute you start caring about what other people think, is the minute you stop being yourself."



APRIL 3, 1961

Dear Diary,

After my Hollywood "interaction"...

NATIONAL
ENQUIRER
Lady BLACKHAWK Vanishes!



'Where is Zinda Blake?'



'Where has she gone?'

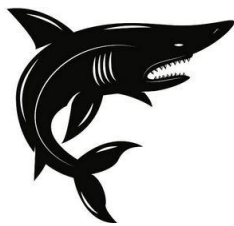


'Do the Blackhawks know?'

*What's good about being **Lady Blackhawk** if you can't take advantage?*



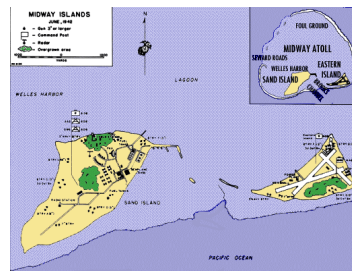
I got a first-class flight to Midway in exchange for an exclusive interview, plus pictures!



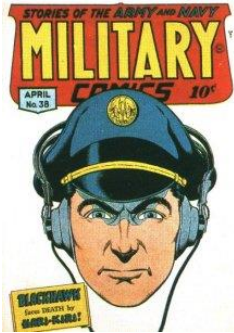
Killer Shark never had it so good!

*The **Hawk-Sub** had not been waiting long.*

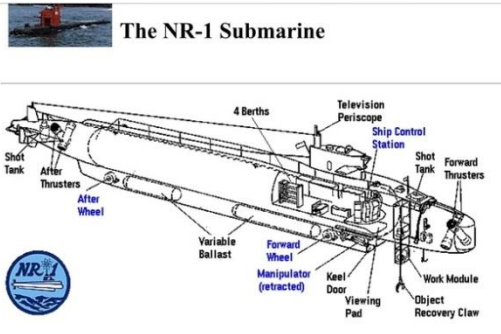
MIDWAY ATOLL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



Strategically vital during WW II, the tiny isles were located “midway” between the Hawaiian Islands and San Francisco.



*'Welcome, Zinda! Good to see you!
Ready to go Shark-hunting?'*



'First class?'



'Your own private room!'



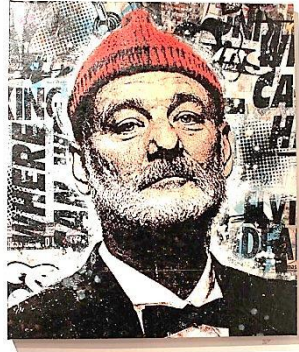
'Shared lou!'



'Sorry, no bathtub!'



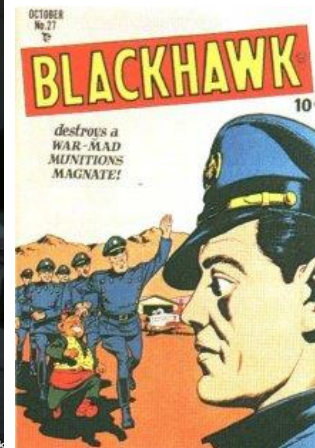
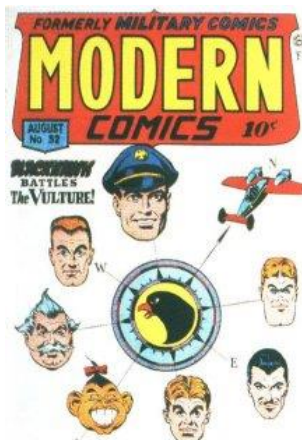
'Hope you like my "submarine" sandwiches!'



'You have a plan, Zinda, to rid the world of this fiend?'

'We'd love to hear it!'

'Fire away, woman!'



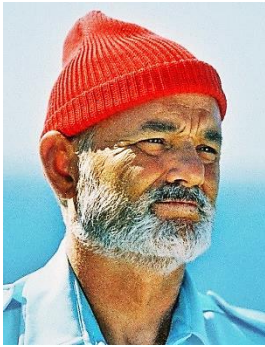
*'My brave and bold, and beautiful "Angels of Vengeance", there is one thing I'm sure about! We ain't gonna catch **Killer Shark** standin' 'round here!'*



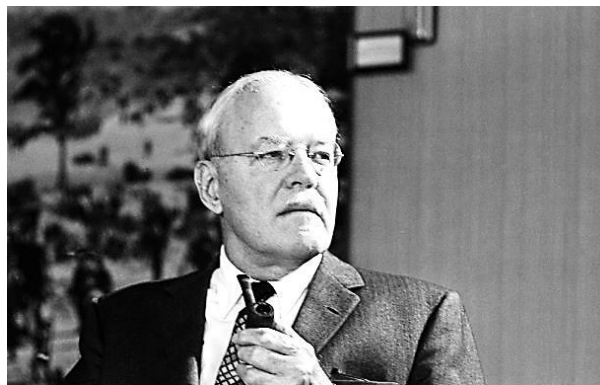
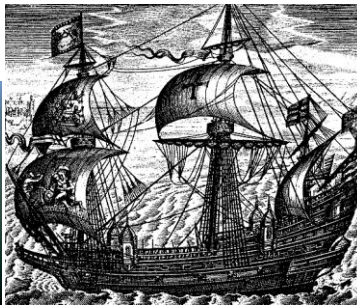
*'Mister President, our exile army is fully operational!
Fifteen hundred diehard rebels, fanatic about overthrowing
Castro! Their flyers await your orders!'*



*'But what will the American people think of an
invasion of a free, sovereign nation?'*

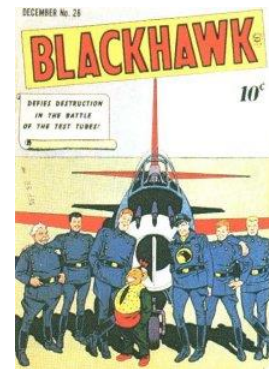
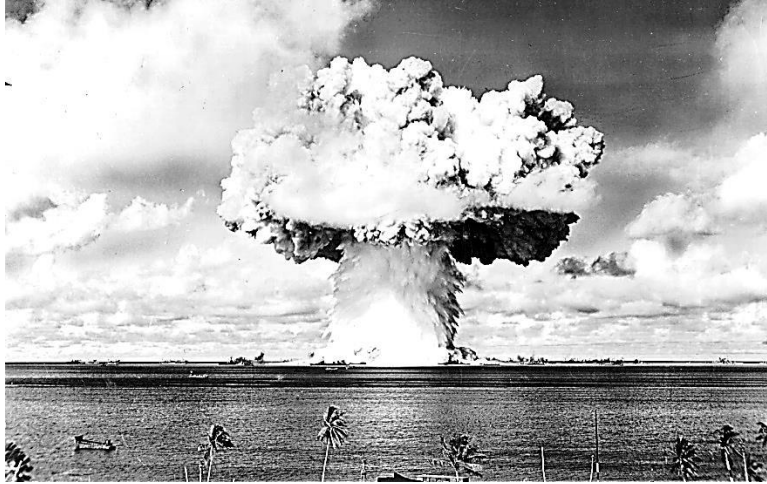


*'Mister President, the American people are far more interested in **Killer Shark** versus **Blackhawk**! Who will get to the sunken treasure first?'*



*'And especially **Zinda Blake**! Especially after her Hollywood rebellion! Men love her, women respect her!'*

*'**Lady Blackhawk** is the headline!'*



'What? We could be walking into an international crisis and you're telling me America is more concerned about...'

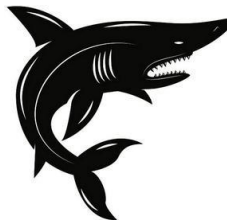


ZINDA BLAKE!'

Under the Pacific on a collision course with the **Hawk-Sub...**



'Listen up, "Denizens of the Deep"! It's time you knew about the real objective of this crucial voyage!'



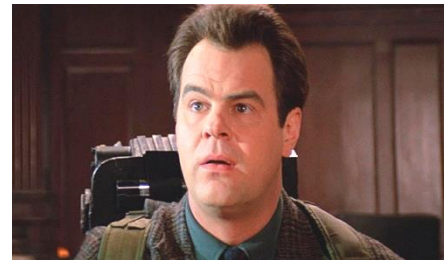
'The Jan Jose is a red herring, a diversion, bait for hungry, incompetent media! I've already looted riches beyond measure. We've after the most precious prize of all!'

'Call me Killer Shark!'



*'But **Killer Shark**, what could possibly be worth more than diamonds and gold?'*

'A scientific discovery?'



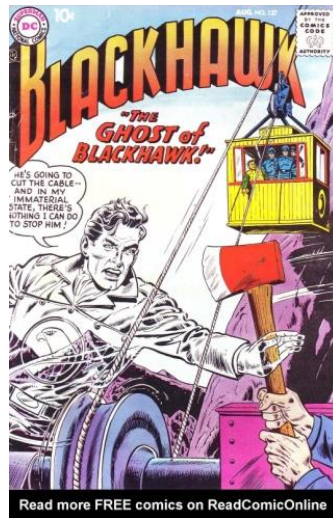
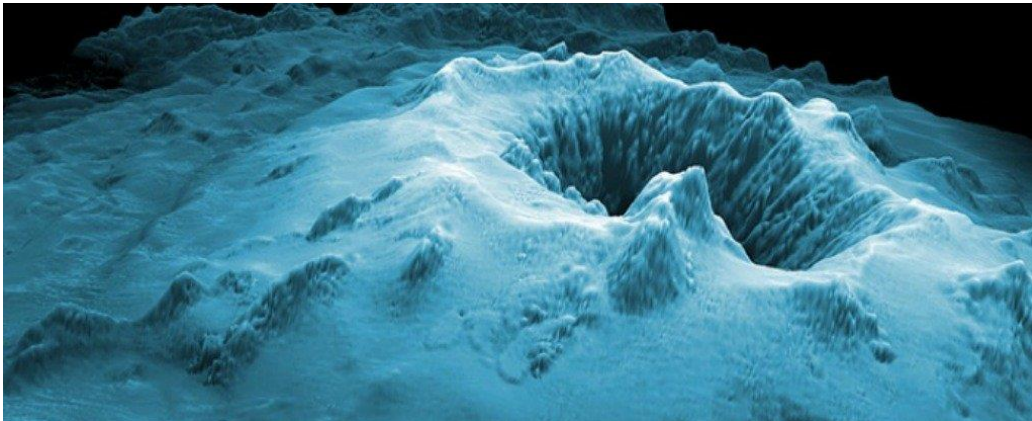
'The "Sonic Signaller" that you've repaired and enhanced...'

*'That's **Killer Shark's** play!'*



'That's right...you're oh, so wrong!

*'We will not intercept the **Blackhawks** at the sunken treasure ship, but a thousand leagues before it at an undersea volcano!'*



*'The **Blackhawks** are invincible as a unit!'*

'The greatest threat to superstitions ever known!'



'But Killer Shark, where's the money in this?'



'We're not going to steal anything?'



'Ah, my trusted "Denizens"! We've hoarded more loot than Blackbeard and Captain Kidd combined!

*I'm after bigger game, what all men strive for...
I want to be remembered, respected...*

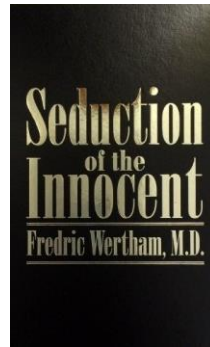
I want Immortality!

*'The treasure ship is a diversion, and so are the **Blackhawks**. I'm after the grandest, most unforgettable prize of all – **Zinda Blake!***

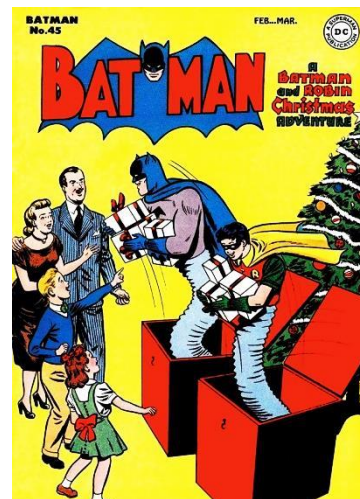
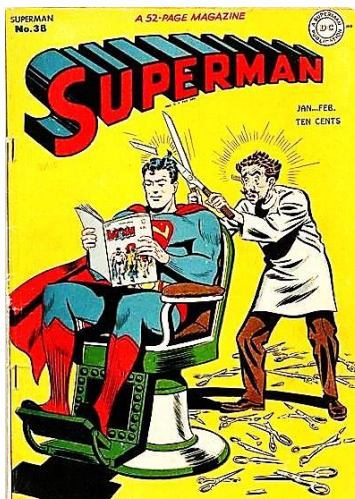


'Call me Killer Shark, baby!'

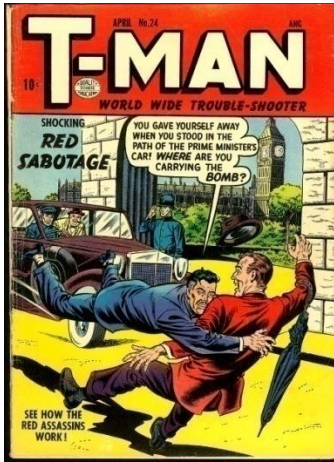
Comics **5** History 1946 1962



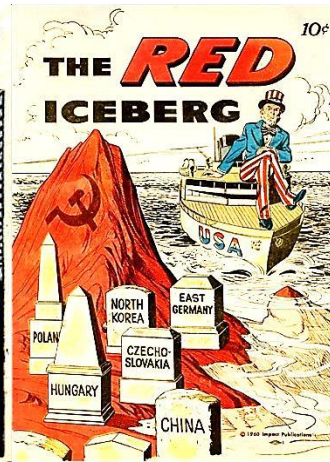
The Bomb and The Book drastically changed the comics industry; made it *softer*.



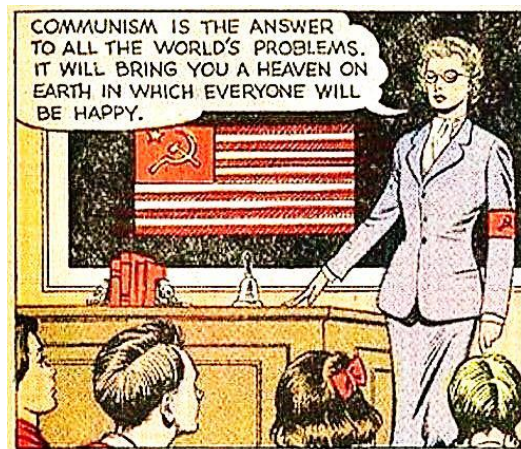
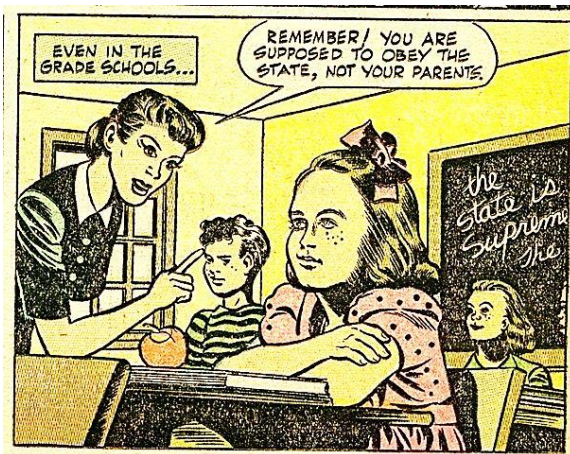
And eager to fight a new, hardened enemy: **Communism!**



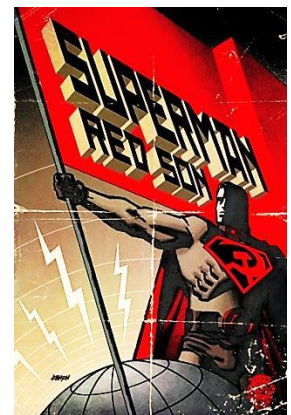
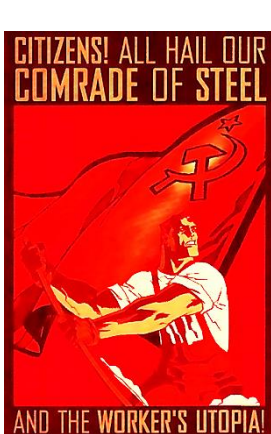
BEWARE, COMMIES, SPIES, TRAITORS AND FOREIGN AGENTS! CAPTAIN AMERICA, WITH ALL LOYAL, FREE MEN BEHIND HIM, IS LOOKING FOR YOU, READY TO FIGHT UNTIL THE LAST ONE OF YOU IS EXPOSED FOR THE SCUM THAT YOU ARE!



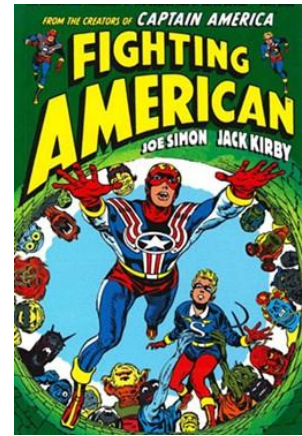
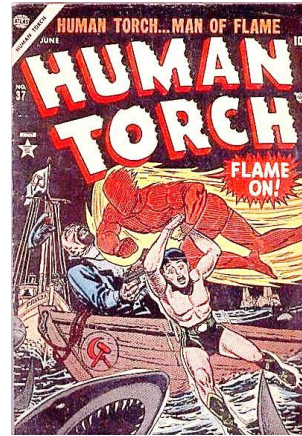
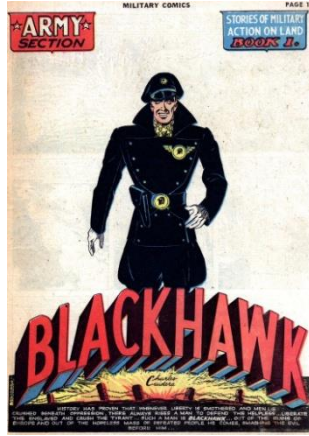
RED PROPAGANDA FOUGHT BACK!



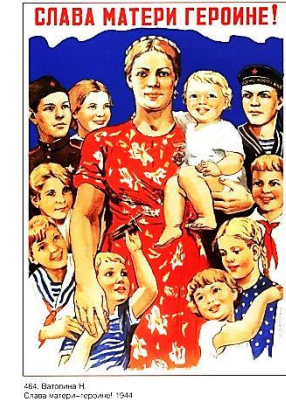
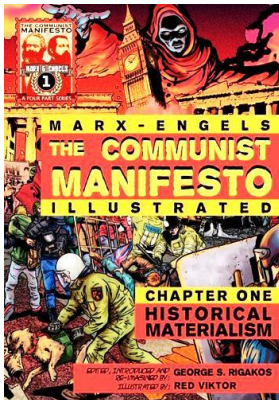
WOULD COMIC BOOK HEROES GO COMMIE?



THE COMICS WOULDN'T GIVE UP!



ANTI-COMMUNISM COMICS HAD ONE FLAW: THEY DIDN'T SELL!



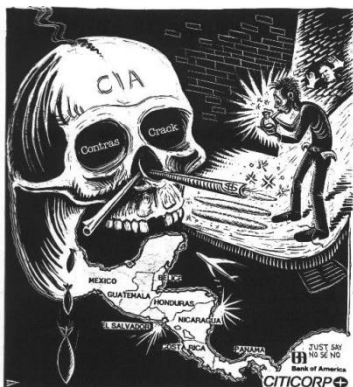
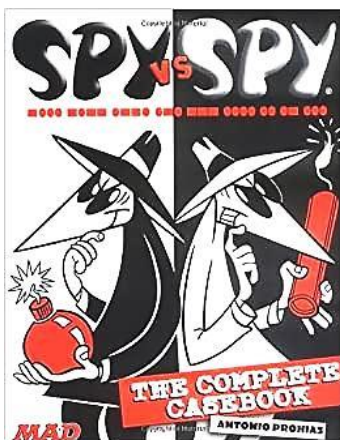
THE RED WORLD EXPANDED WHILE COMICS BECAME STAGNANT AS IF WAITING FOR DELIVERANCE.

IT WAS COMING.





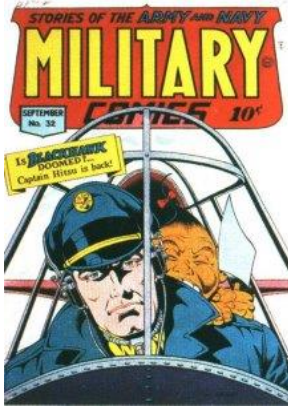
'My "Intelligence Doctors" tell me that, dah, yet another CIA plot against a free country!'



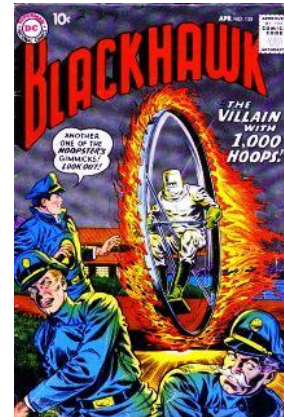
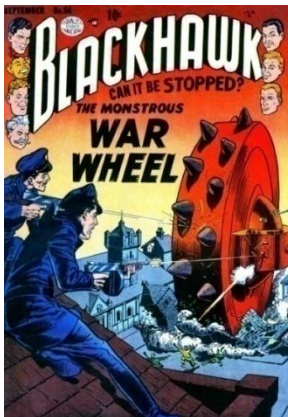
'Exactly, First Secretary! CIA bought and trained an army of Castro-haters to invade and take over Cuba!'



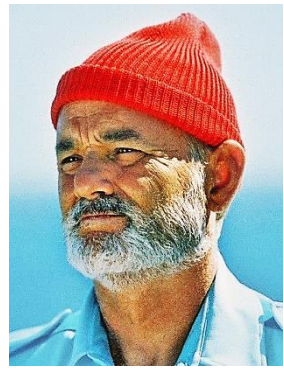
'Fools! Do they really believe KGB would not discover their sneaky little plan?'



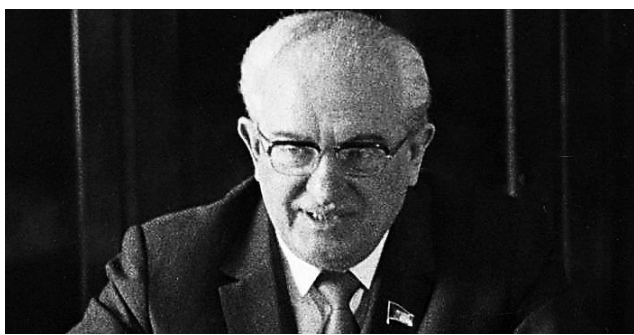
'Brave and learned comrades, there were times like this when my first thought would be: Where are the "Angels of Vengeance"? What are they doing?'



'In the span of just a few years, the Blackhawks have gone from stopping "The Monstrous Warwheel" to barely defeating...wait for it...the "Hoopster"!'



*'Currently, the "Magnificent Seven" are chasing **Killer Shark** around the Pacific!'*

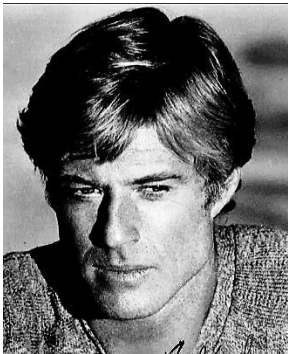


'Little boys playing little boy games! Knights in a tournament for the "First Lady of Vengeance"!'



*'The **Blackhawks** are invincible as a unit!'*

'The greatest threat to illegal aggression ever known.'



'Castro is playing the "waiting" game. And he's playing it well. Who will he join, the Capitalists or the Communists?'

'Don't wait too long, Fidel, or you may have to deal with the "Angels of Vengeance"!'

Somewhere on the Pacific...



'How much longer, Blackhawk?'

'Good question, Zinda! We could reach the San Jose in a few hours.'

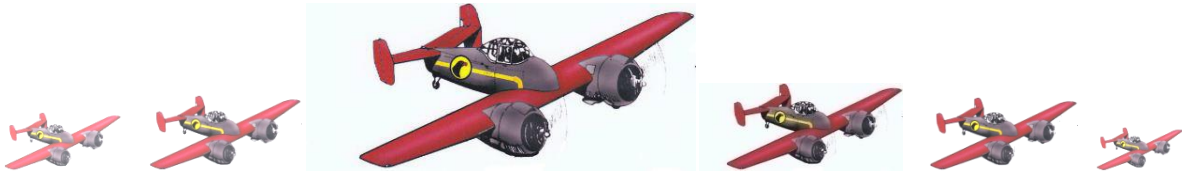
No, I mean, how much longer will you be **Blackhawk**?

'You've been doing this for twenty years!'

'Like I'd one day quit, retire as the "Archangel of Vengeance"?''

*'And I hope to be **Blackhawk** for another twenty years!'*

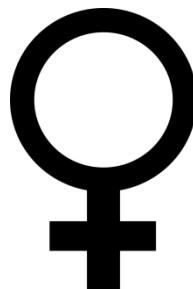
'No "retirement" party for any of us!'



Suddenly, from below...

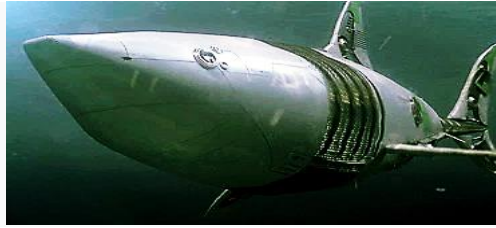


'Blackhawk, picking up something. Another sub?'



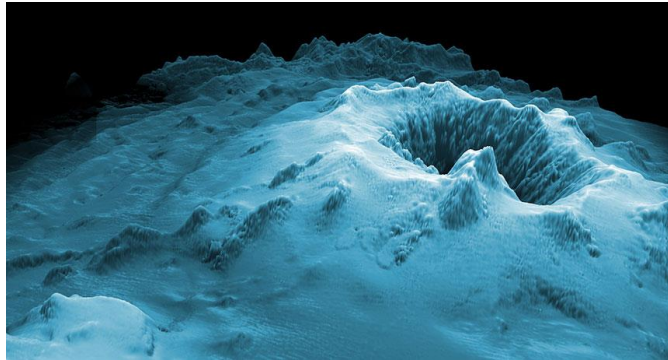
'The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any.'

'What does it take to be the first female anything? It takes grit, and it takes grace.'



*"Denizens", ready torpedoes! Your target is NOT the **Hawk-Sub** or the treasure ship, but the mouth of the volcano!*

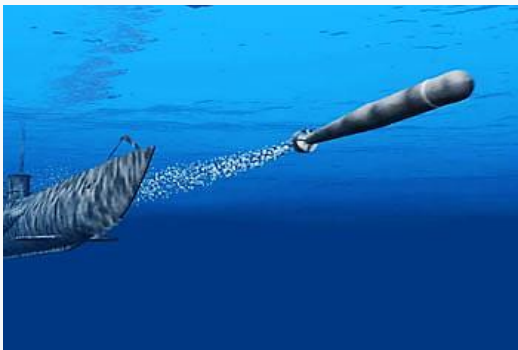
'Call me Killer Shark!'



'Yes, Killer Shark!
Ordnance loaded in tubes!



'Fire one, Killer Shark!'



Aboard the **Hawk-Sub...**



'Killer Shark!'

'I'm going in!'

'Zinda, no!'

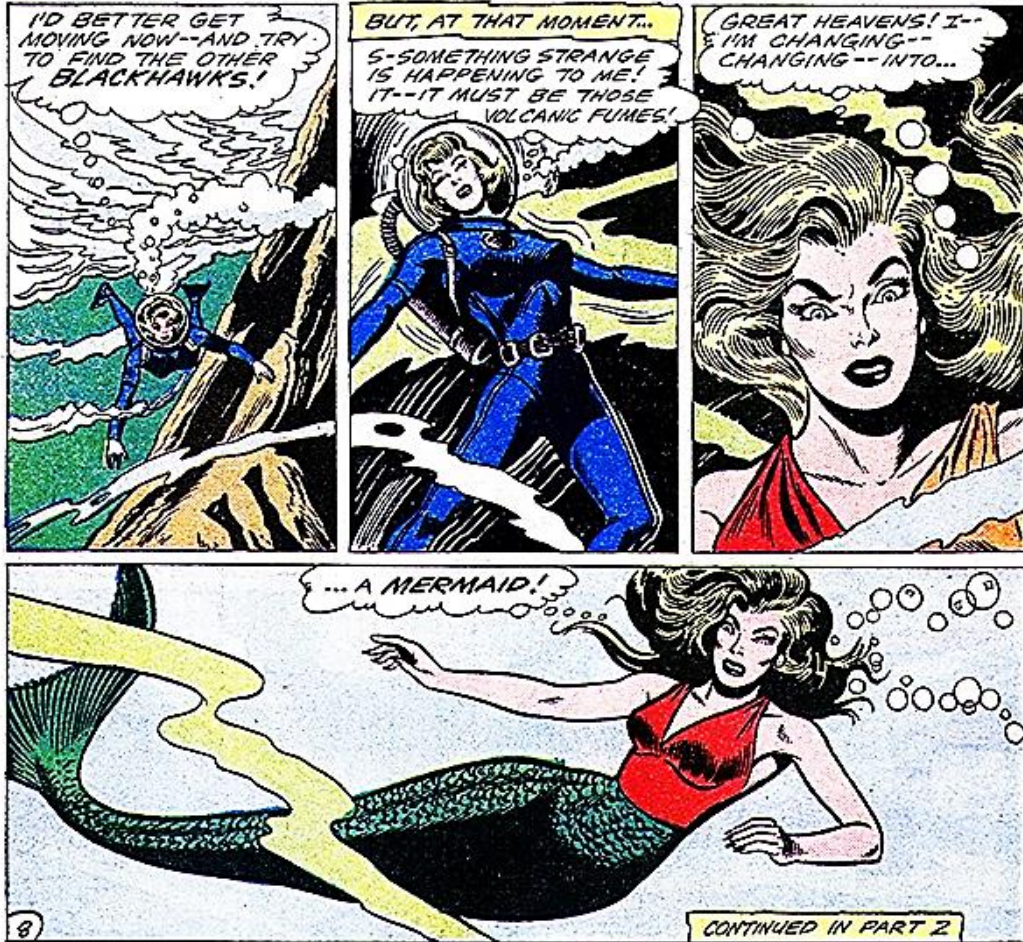


**'Explosion opened up the volcano!
Fumes turning ordinary fish into prehistoric monsters!
Coming over me....'**



'Volcanic gas consuming Zinda Blake!'

'Killer Shark, your girl...'



'So...she's a fish!'

NEW YORK POST

ZINDA BLAKE – MERMAID!



‘Удивительно!’

‘Fantastico!’

‘Incredible!’

‘不可能！’



‘By Jove! Blondes do have more fun!’

2



'I don't see how a world that makes such wonderful things could be bad.'



Ever wonder how a mermaid must feel about being a mermaid?

Well, then, let me be the first to tell you...It SUCKS! I used to have "the sexiest legs on the team!" Look at me now!

I have nothing! No house, no car, and God only knows what my parents look like!

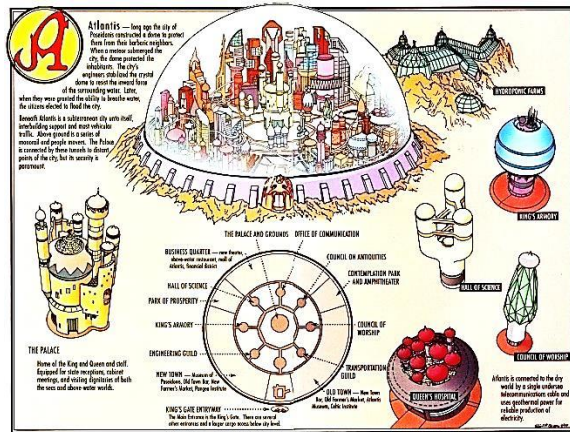


As a mermaid, could I compete in the Olympics?

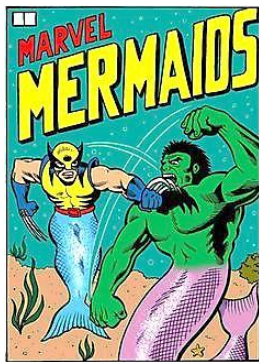


Yeah! J'd represent Blackhawk Island!

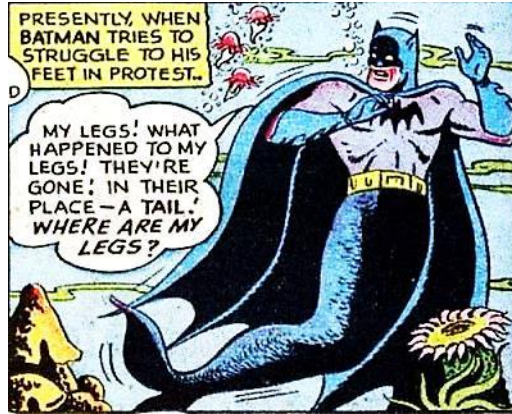
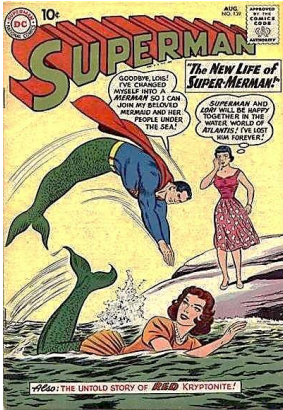
Wait! Superman had a mermaid girlfriend from Atlantis!



What do I eat? Fresh fish on the fin, still wet and flapping? Are there restaurants in the underwater city?



I'm going mad! What will become of me?



Get a grip, Zinda! Superman and Batman became fish and got over it, so can J!

This is Killer Shark's doing! He opened the volcano—The escaping fumes turned fish into monsters and me into...



'Who are you?'

'I'm just an ordinary woman, turned into a fish by an evil man!'



*'What can I do?
Where can I go?'*

'Snap out of it!'



*'The Blackhawks are
invincible as a unit!'*

*'The greatest threat to
foolish fish stories ever known!'*



*Caught between archenemies who think I'm just T & A! I am
Zinda Blake, I am Lady Blackhawk!*

And my team is in big trouble!

HAWKA-A-A-A!



#20.



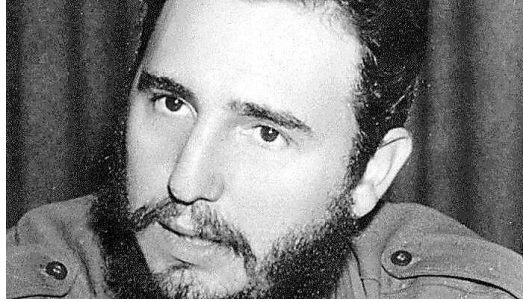
'Something tells me that our American friends are beginning not to love me anymore.'



'Mesmo! Your amigo Kennedy has organized an exile army to invade and throw us out!'



'I want Cuba free.'



'Ha! A gaggle of ametaur malcontents! Our people will rise up and wallop them on the beach!'



'The whites don't know the Latin experie[n]ce!'



'They think we're all a bunch of banditos!'



'Americans want us to either wash dishes or shine shoes!'



'Hollywood's history! Pancho Villa or Zapata. Cuba's a mystery to them!'



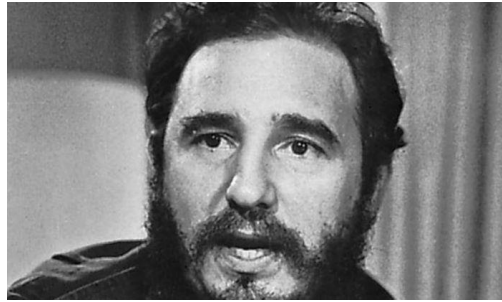


'Please tell the movie people that if they make a Brando bio film, I'm available to play the lead!'



'The stage is set for a grand battle, but the Americans will take no chances! They'll call in their bombers and obliterate opposition!'



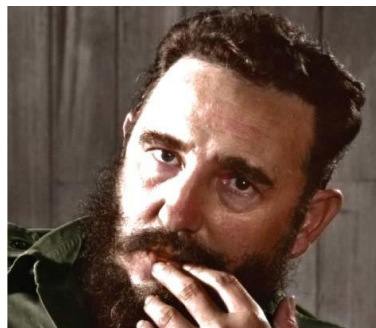


'The Gigantic Uncle Sam attacking our little country? Never happen!'

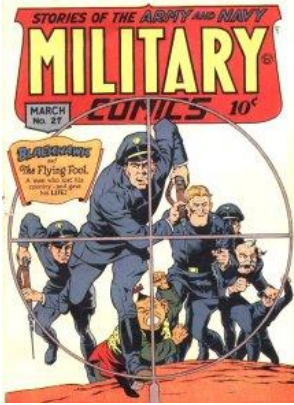


'We're safe as long as we are small and weak?'

'Or do you trust our Communist comrades to back us up?'



'Not the Americans, not the Russians! Only one thing scares me!'



'The "Angels of Vengeance"! If they make Cuba their fight, we are doomed!'

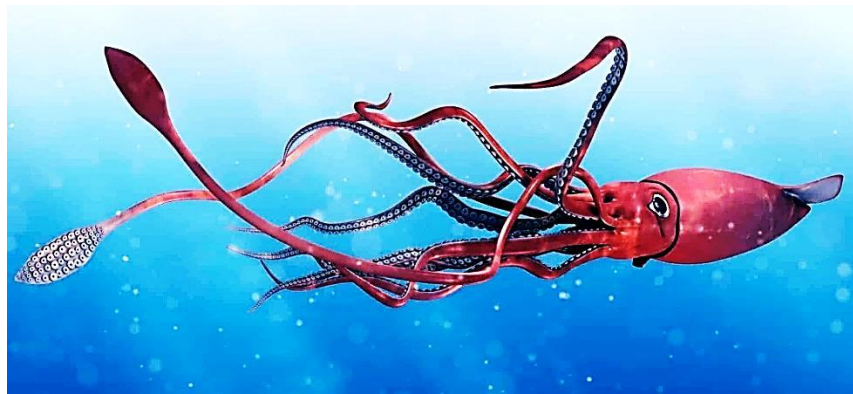
A world away..



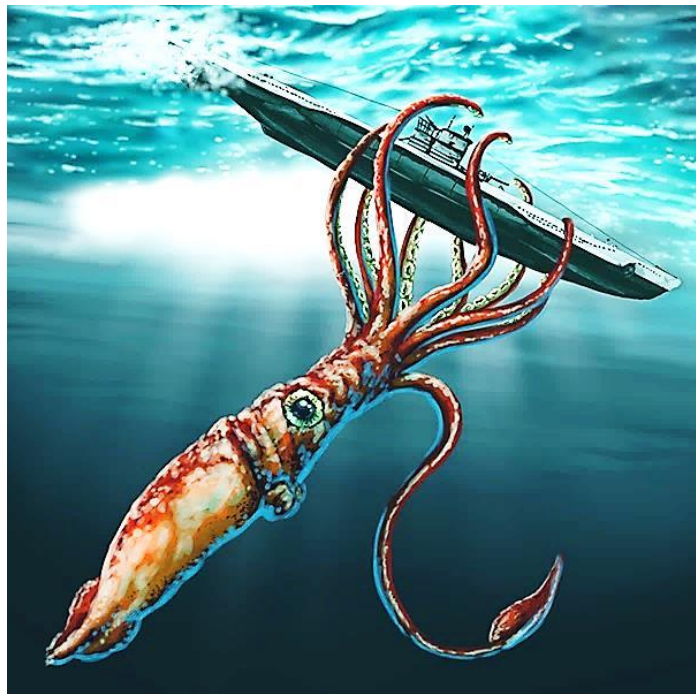
*'Well, little squid near the Hawkmarine!
One shot of my "Sonic Signal" and...'*



www.shutterstock.com • 219299536



*'If only Sir Larry could hear me now...
Let loose the Kraken!'*



'Call me Killer Shark!'



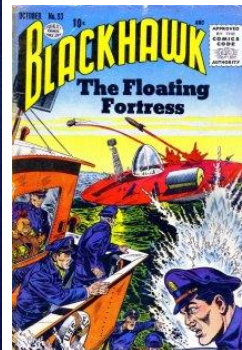
At stately Blake Manor, the *Daily Planet* had to get the story!



'Zinda...a mermaid! I don't want to believe it.'



'How long has she had this "Blackhawk obsession"?'



*'Zinda wanted to be a **Blackhawk** more than anything!'*



'Not a mother, mind you! We should have grandchildren by now!'



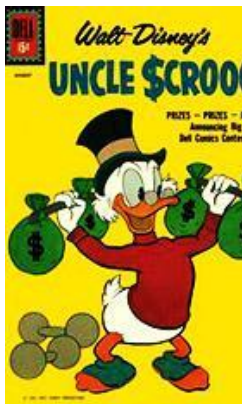
'Killer Shark may be involved!'

'And his dirty "Denizens"!'



'Can a mermaid come home? Should we fill the pool with salt water?'

Comics **6** History KING SUPERMAN



1961 – Top Five Bestsellers

Uncle \$crooge over Superman? And where's Batman? No MARVEL!



Dell had the #1 Bestseller of 1961, but **\$CROOGE** was actually down 15% and heading for the Trivia Recycling Center. Blame it on Saturday morning cartoons bombarding their audience. Cartoon comics suffered severely.

Superman reigned over all. First appearing in 1941 cartoons and then on 1950's television. No other comic book hero from anywhere could rival the Man of Steel!



The world was changing faster than the recently broken "Sound Barrier"! Heros, super or not, man or woman, boy or girl, had to keep up with the times.

Superman, Superboy, Supergirl, Superdog....Appearing in seven monthly comics, the "Founding Father of DC Comics" was raising a family of his own.



“Krypton’s Last Son” had a “Dynamic Duo” of close friends.



No hero or villain in comicdom dared challenge the Justice League.



But these are the Sixties and “the times, they are a’changin’.”



Just down the block, the “Monster Comics” were evolving...

Under the Pacific, aboard the *Hawkmarine*...

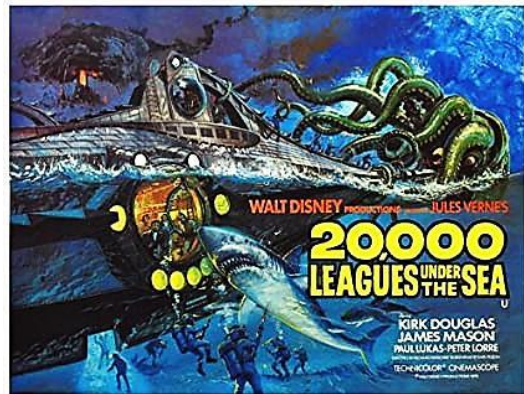
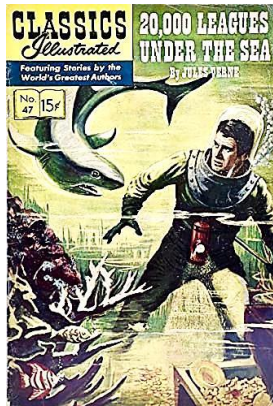
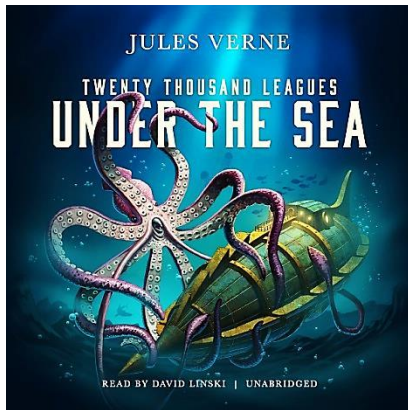


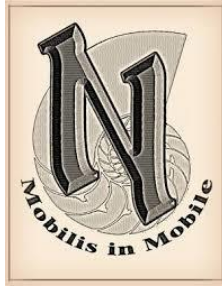
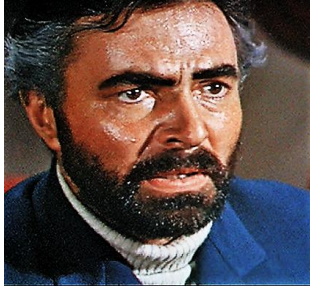
'Great howling jets!'



'Grabbed like a minnow dinner!'

'When it finds the Hawk-Sub inedible?'





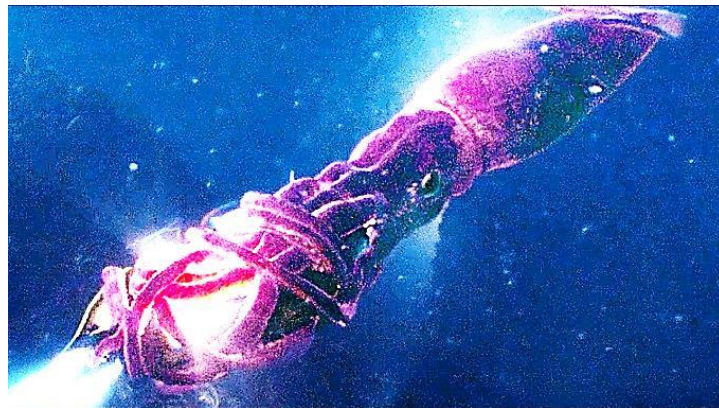
*'The **Blackhawks** are invincible as a unit!'*

'The greatest threat to hungry tentacles ever known!'



'Putting the sea squeeze on us!'

*'The **Hawkmarine** has got to hold!'*





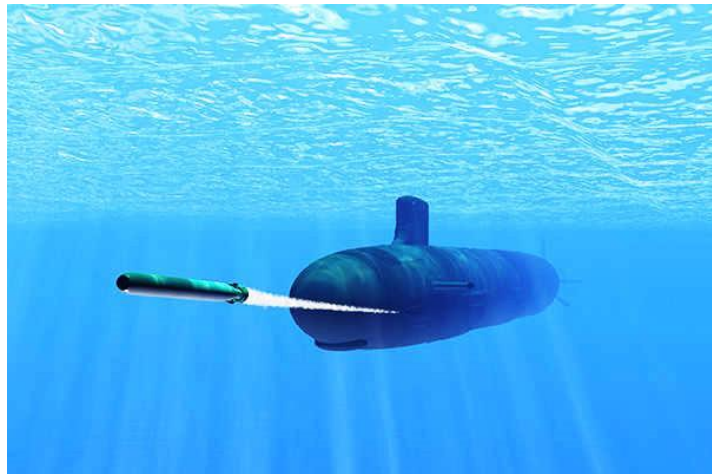
*'The **Hawk-sub** must be triple-hulled!'*



*'A quick way to end this tug of war!
Fire One!*



*'Fire One, **Killer Shark!**'*



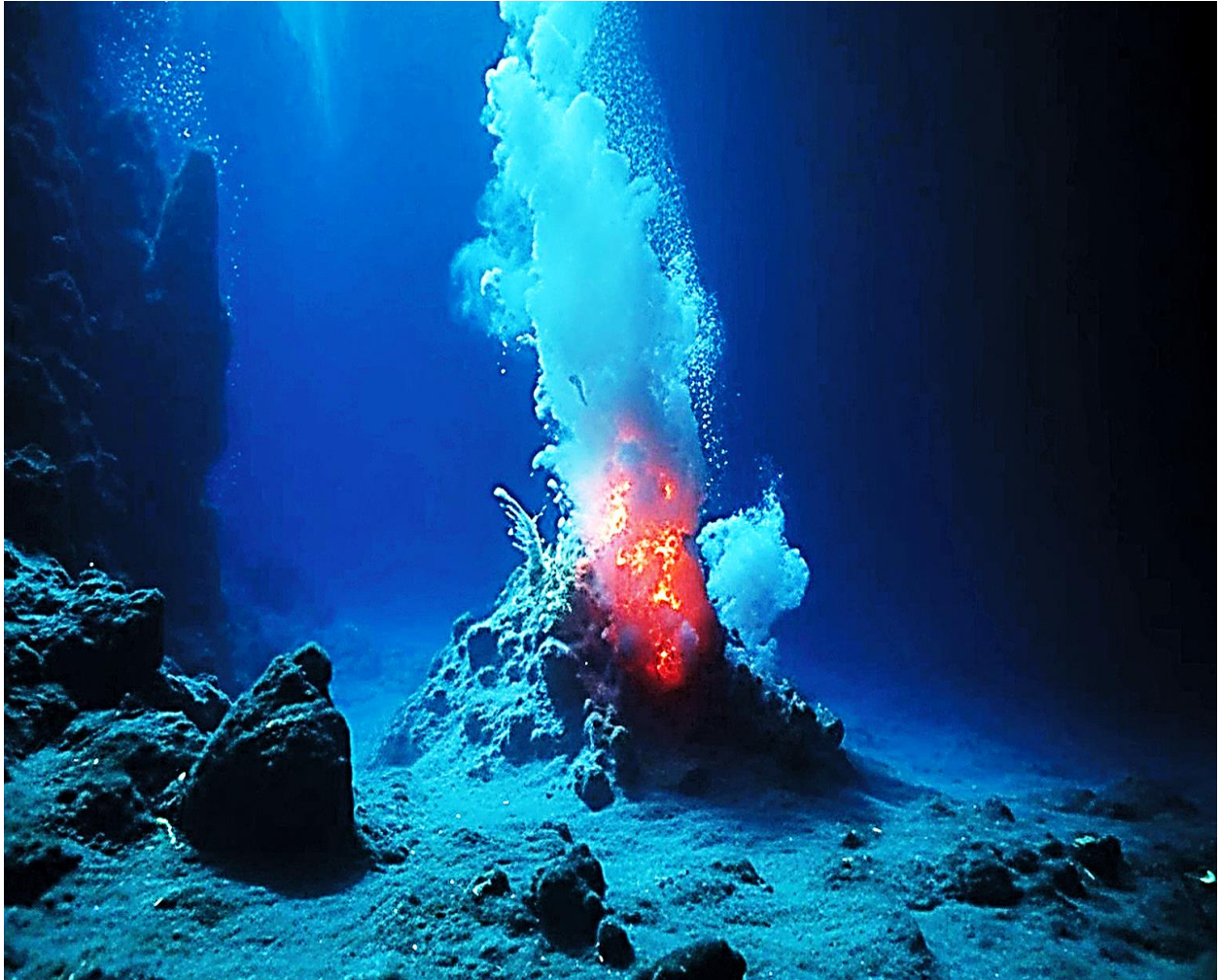
*'Ahoy, Maties, there's a Mermaid in the way!
Oh, Dear Zinda! Together we would have been wonderful!*

*'Call me **Killer Shark!**'*



'Show me Lady Blackhawk, baby!'

3



'I am a member of a team, and I rely on the team, I defer to it and sacrifice for it, because the team, not the individual, is the ultimate champion.'



J'm a mermaid, J'm a mermaid, J'm a mermaid!

But what's a mermaid scientifically? Darwin showed us that Man "came down from the trees." Am I proof that Women came out of the water?

If Woman "evolved" from sea creatures, is a mermaid a woman who got caught in the middle?



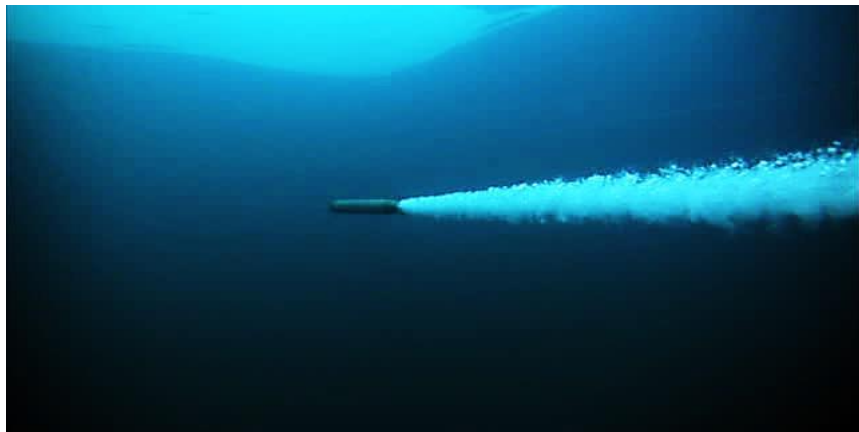
According to the 3,000-year old legend, Atargatis was the mother of the great Assyrian queen, Semiramis. After causing the death of her mortal lover and Semiramis' father, Hadad, she jumped into a lake and assumed the form of a fish.



Gee, some girls have all the luck! Sure beats being a figment of Hans Christian Anderson's imagination!



Meanwhile, the Hawkmarine has been caught by a giant squid and Killer Shark has launched a torpedo to kill my team!



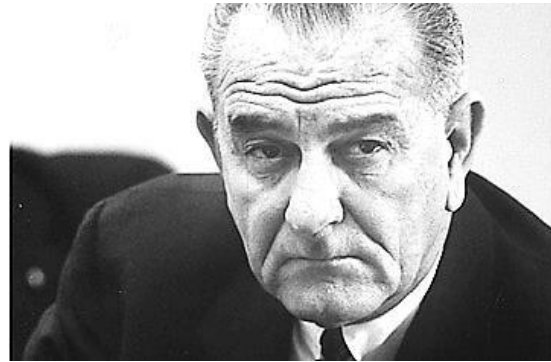
Time to turn on the tail!



'Gentlemen, our time has almost come. The anti-Castro forces are biting at the bit.'



'I don't like it, Jack! Castro freed them from the murdering bum, Batista! Who thinks Cuba will turn on Fidel?'



"Why not? Their hero is getting "Redder" by the hour!"





'Castro got rid of Batista! They love him!'

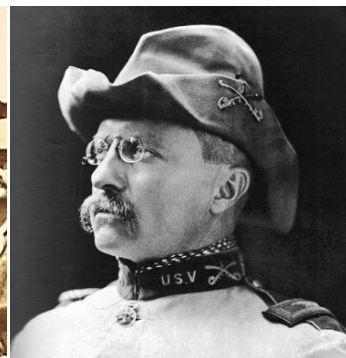
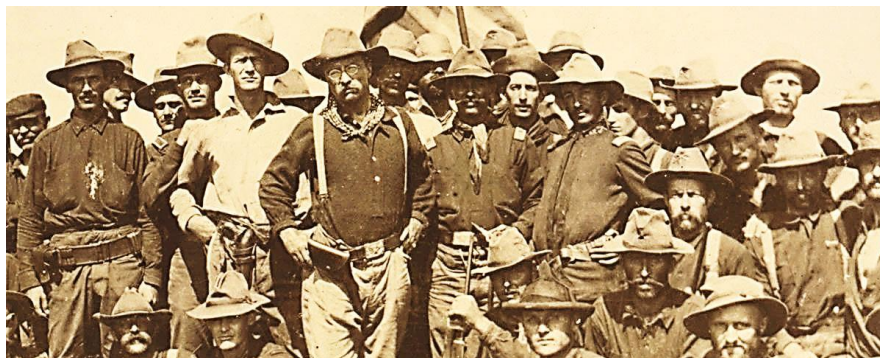
'But is he goes Communist, what then?'



'How Hollywood!'

'Those rowdy "Roughriders, Part Two"!'

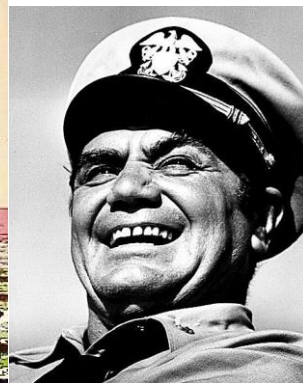
'This had better be a lot smarter than it looks or we're all in trouble!'





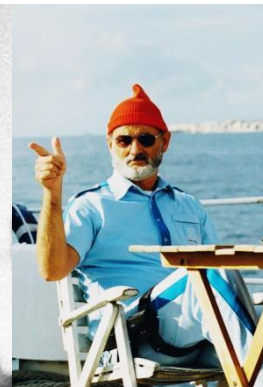
'Mr. President, will you be calling them in?'

'Not as yet, but I will decide!'



'The Blackhawks are invincible as a unit!'

'The greatest threat to naval stupidity ever known!'



'Let's leave the Blackhawks be! With Lady Blackhawk, they're battling Killer Shark, KILLER SHARK!'



'And as we speak, Zinda Blake is swimming with the fishes!'

Aboard the **Hawk-Sub...**



*'Zinda, she's going after
Killer Shark's torpedo!'*

*'If she doesn't turn it
around, we're done!'*





'Like trying to corral a loose truck!'



'Gutsy girl! She's trying to divert the torpedo!'



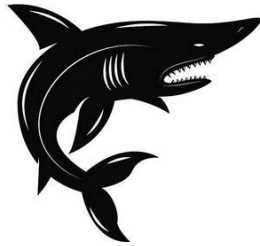
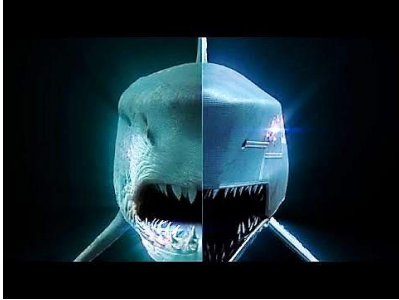
'The volcano's fumes is turning the ocean into a deathtrap!'



'That would soon devour land people around the world!'



'Feel the power of my flapping tail, you dumb, swimming bomb!'



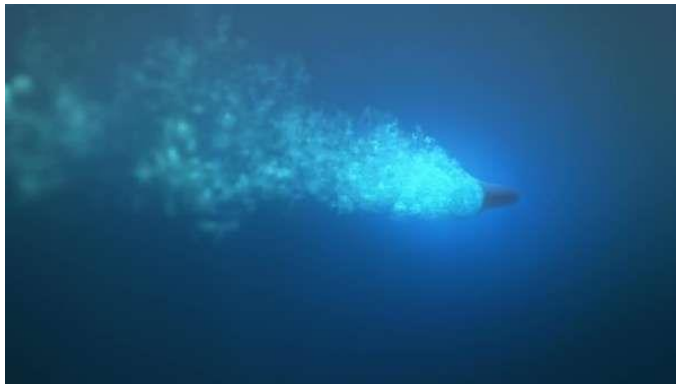
*'Oh, Zinda, you heroic nymph!
And now...?'*



'Not at us!'



'The volcano!'



Comics **7** History

THE SECOND “BIG BANG”

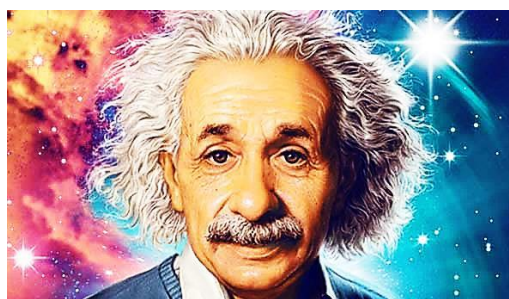
The precursor to **Marvel Comics** was founded in 1939 by pulp magazine publisher Martin Goodman. To capitalize on the growing popularity of superheroes, Goodman created **Timely Comics**.



In 1961 at age 40, Stanley Martin Lieber had come to a dead end. He'd been working for his uncle's company since he was seventeen. He wrote his first story in 1941 (as *Stan Lee*), then went to war (As a *writer!*).

When he came home, the business was in rut. Comics got little respect and comicbook writers got none at all. Stan wanted to quit and write the Great American Novel.

But he had a few ideas he wanted to flesh out. Stan Lee's "creative streak" can only be compared to Albert Einstein's "magical period."



Over four months, March through June 1905, Albert Einstein produced four papers that revolutionized science. One explained how to measure the size of molecules in a liquid, a second posited how to determine their movement, and a third described how light comes in packets called photons—the foundation of quantum physics and the idea that eventually won him the Nobel Prize.

A fourth paper introduced special relativity, leading physicists to reconsider notions of space and time that had sufficed since the dawn of civilization. Then, a few

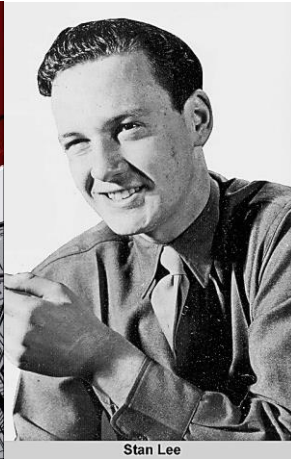
months later, almost as an afterthought, Einstein pointed out in a fifth paper that matter and energy can be interchangeable at the atomic level specifically, that $E=mc^2$, the scientific basis of nuclear energy and the most famous mathematical equation in history.



*'The must have been something in the air at that time.
It was like I couldn't do anything wrong.'*



But his greatest creation would become the most important comic since the coming of **Superman** so many years before.



Stan Lee

“When you try to create a new superhero, you have to keep creating a superpower that’s different.

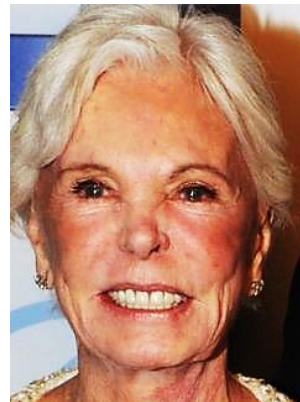
‘With HULK I had the strongest living human being. What’s left?’

‘While I was thinking, I saw a fly crawling on the wall. That would be cool! The next thing I needed was a name! “Crawl-Man? Nah, that didn’t have it! Insect-Man? I ran down the list. Mosquito-Man, Beetle-Man, Fly-Man...

*‘Then I hit on **Spider-Man!***

‘It somehow had a dramatic feeling, a scary feeling. That’s it!’

My publisher didn’t think so, but as always, my dear wife backed me!



‘People hate spiders! You can’t call a hero Spider-Man! Don’t you understand? Teenagers can only be sidekicks!’

‘Why not write it the way you want it? If it doesn’t work, the worst that’s going to happen is they’ll fire you. And you want to quit anyway.’



Platform-to-platform communication: Integration benefits for advertisers & publishers

Introduction



*"With great power
comes great
responsibility"*

Spiderman / Voltaire



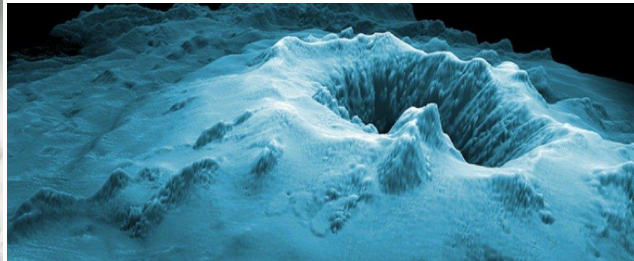
Steve Ditko did the art, including the iconic costume. Jack Kirby contributed the cover. Some sixty years later, a mint *Amazing Fantasy 15* sold for \$1.2M!



'We put him on the cover and forgot about him. Then a couple of months later, the sales figures came in.'

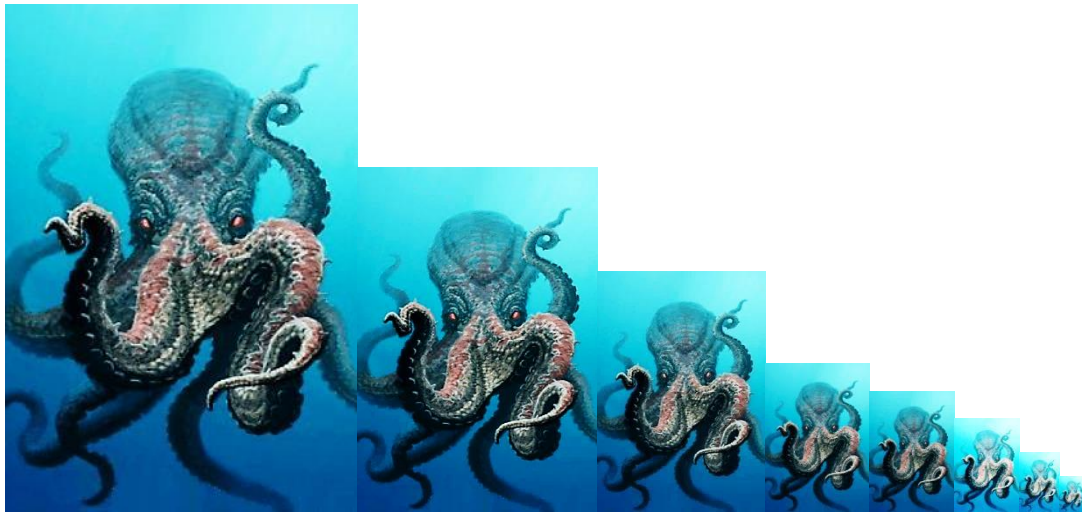
Welcome to the Marvel Universe!





'Bull's-eye! Zinda shut down the volcano!'

'The effected creatures are devolving to form!'



*'Zinda, where are you?
Zinda!'*



*'Good day, GREAT Day, Comrades!
John Kennedy's Mercaneries are about to
invade a sovereign country!'*



'And if they win?'



'We will be humiliated!'



*'The fate of Fidel Castro is up to the **Blackhawks!**
If they join this attack and oust the new Cuban President...
The "World's Policemen" will be revealed as corrupt,
seven lackeys of the American President!'*



*'Ooh, Ooh! The **Blackhawks** are
invincible as a unit!'*



*'The greatest threat to
illegal invasions ever known.'*

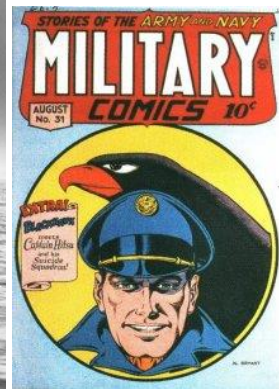
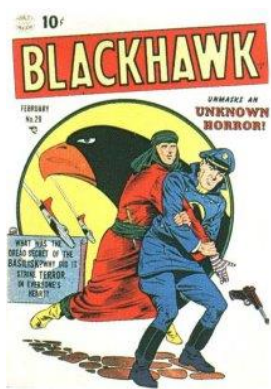


*'Because if Communism loses in the Caribbean,
then Democracy loses in Berlin!'*



'Commander, you have seven submersiners with you. They'll take care of the Hawkmarine!'

'Yes, Mr. Vice President. What then?'



*'You are to fly the **Blackhawks** to their new planes in Georgia! And don't forget **Zinda Blake!**'*

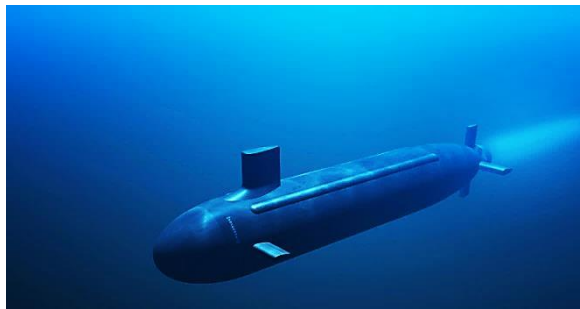
'Sir! I'll have "The First Lady of Vengeance" sit up front with me!'

Under the Pacific...



*'Zinda stuffed the volcano!
All returned to normal!'*

*'Sacre bleu! We're
free!'*



*'Ah, Mr. Williams, you've
lost yet again!'*

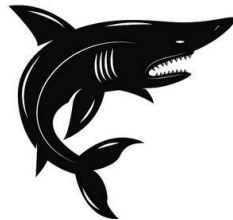
*'Call me **Killer Shark!**
Me, lost? No, **Blackhawk,**
because you haven't won!'*





*'You're a loser, Mr. Williams!
Either give up or swim home!'*

*'Ooooooh, that hurts! But you only
think you knows what winning
means!'*



*'Your plan failed, Mr. William!
No treasure for you or your
"Denizens"!*

*"Archangel of Vengeance", I've accrued
more gold, diamonds, and artifacts than
I know what to do with! The precious
treasure I want for myself...'*



'Zinda Blake!'



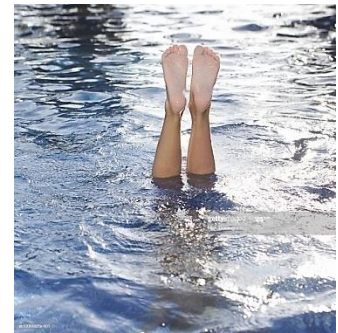
'Killer Shark is getting away!'



'I don't care! We've got to find Zinda!'



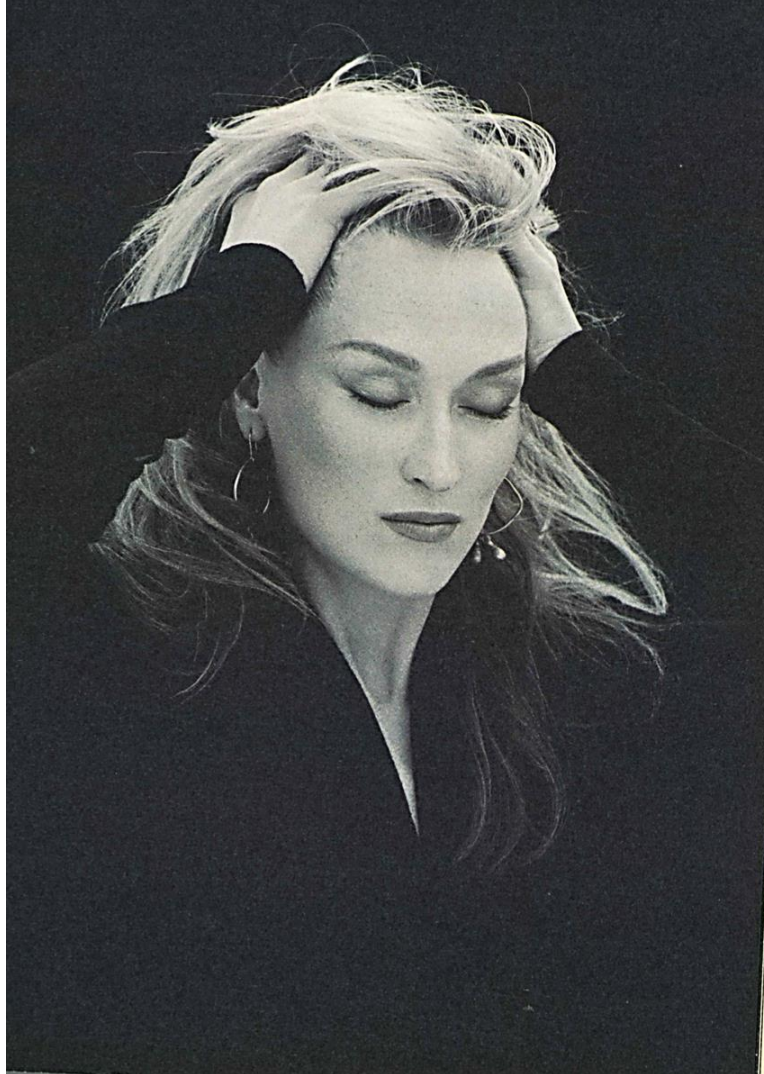
'All hands on deck! Check out ten o'clock!'



'The sexiest legs on the team... they're...BACK!'



'Will any of you gentlemen lend me your clothes?'



ZINDA BLAKE

ONCE A MERMAID, FOREVER A BLACKHAWK!

WHAT'S NEXT FOR
"THE FIRST LADY OF VENGEANCE"?

KILLER SHARK ESCAPES!
"STEALTH" SUBMARINE?

CIA SNAFU IN CUBA: THE "BAY OF PIGS" DISASTER

4



'You don't learn from successes; you don't learn from awards; you don't learn from celebrity; you only learn from wounds and scars and mistakes and failures. And that's the truth.'



APRIL 20, 1961

Dear Diary,

I can walk, I can run, and I can write again. Never has anybody felt better about being human! And I'm going to be a better woman for it!



*What was Washington thinking? First, their **Brigade Asalto** bombers couldn't find any Castro aircraft to bomb!*

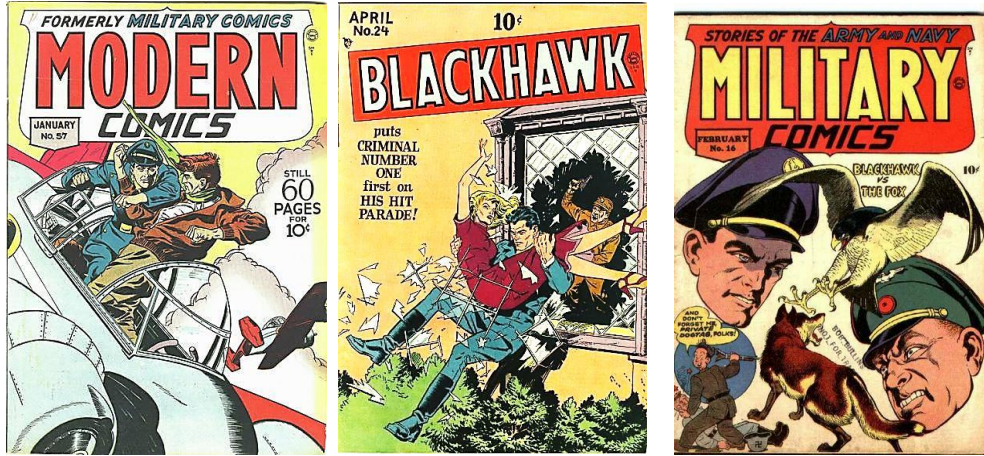


Then the landing craft got caught on the rocks. The paratroopers landed in the wrong places! A radio station on the beach alerted the Cuban Revolutionary Army which reacted immediately with force!



The Anti-Castro "Brigade" was a bunch of amateurs! Ducks on the beach without promised American air support!

*Oh, if only we **Blackhawks** could have helped their quest for freedom!*



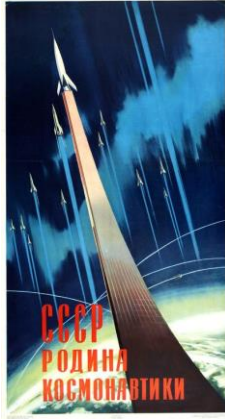
'Over land, oversea, we fight for liberty!'

Whatever happened to that?

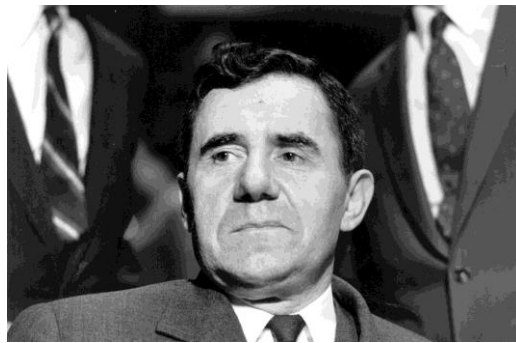
Zinda



'What a glorious day to be Russian!'



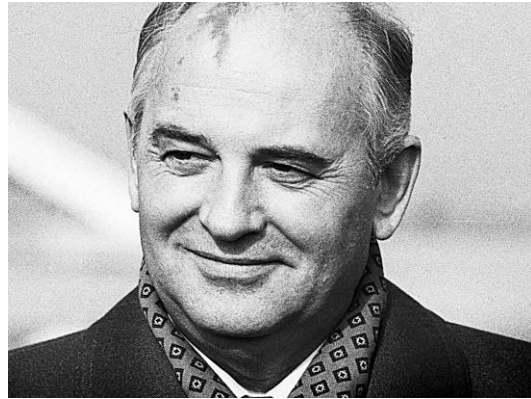
'The Soviet Union has conquered the cosmos while the United States can't even make a successful landing on Cuba!'



'America has been bullying Latin states for decades! Now they know how humiliation feels!'

'And Castro will be rubbing it in over and over and over!'





'Not good enough! Let us make the "Pearl of the Antilles" a Soviet protectorate!'

'Kennedy is a proven weakling! Who would try to stop us? Not the Blackhawks! Not any more!'



'Nyet, Nyet, Nyet, These so-called "Angels of Vengeance" will be too busy chasing costumed criminals!

'Opportunity, Comrades!'

NATIONAL **ENQUIRER**

ZINDA 🐣 BLAKE

COMES HOME!



**What do you say to your
dear daughter, who's been a
BLACKHAWK and a Mermaid?**

Heading west out of Georgia...



'Here's where I leave you guys. Going to be a hot time in "Historic Blake Manor" tonight!



'Leaving us to explain why we "Ran away from a fight with Fidel!"'

'Donnervetter! We'd have wiped out Castro's "revolutionaries" from one end of Cuba to the other!'





'Our "Victory" in Cuba would have spurned on the Russians to overrun Berlin!'



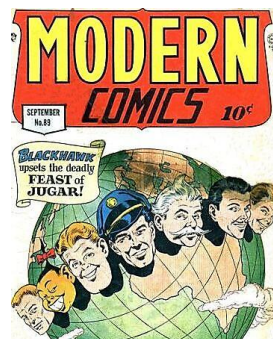
'World War Two all over again! We had to step back!'

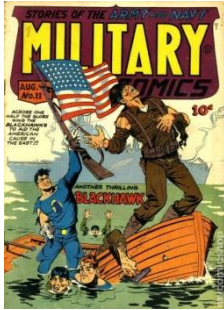


'We lose Berlin, we lose American support. Kiss new planes good-bye!'



'Caught between superpowers, we got to keep them from killing each other!'





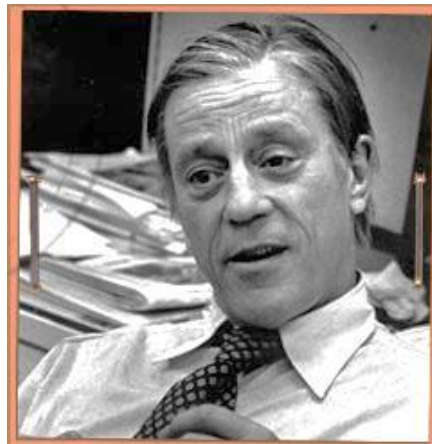
'We've been kicked out of the fight against Communism!

'Kicked out of politics, period!

'Anybody know any colorful supervillains?'

The Washington Post

Did the BLACKHAWKS Save Castro?

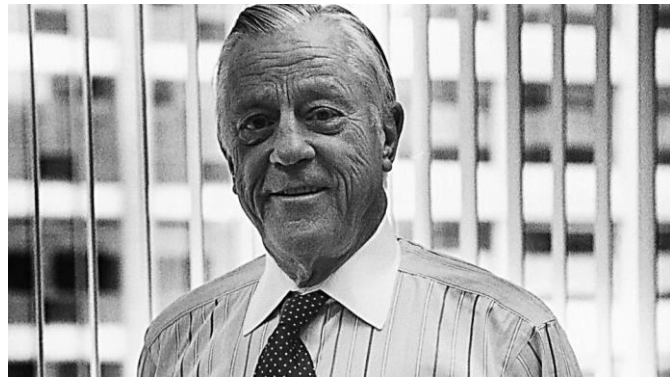


*'Are you guys seriously out of your minds?
You don't go up against the "Angels of Vengeance"
unless you've got a smoking gun, seven smoking guns!'*

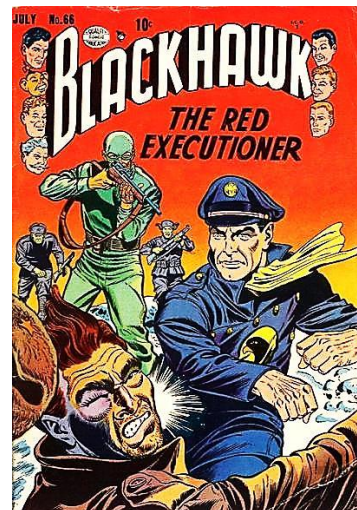
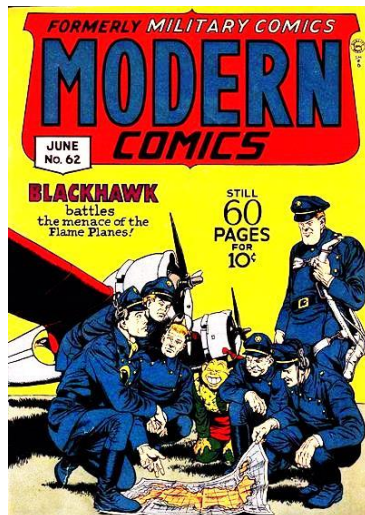
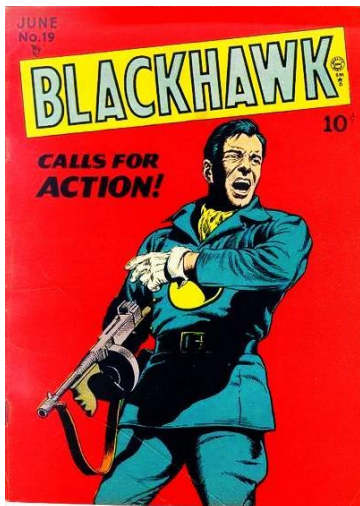


'Cuba's a Communist State aborning and the Soviets are threatening Berlin...'

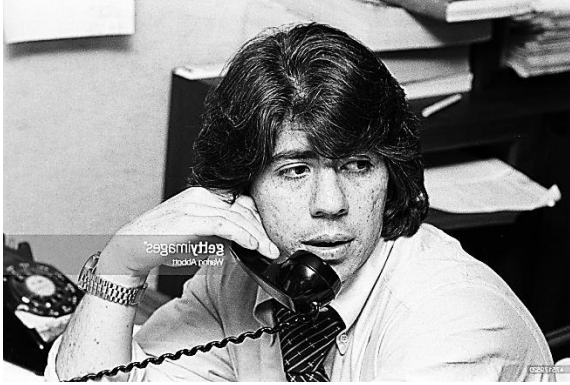
'While the greatest anti-Commie fighting team ever is battling the Chameleon and the Fireworks Master!??'



'Hmmm, what IS wrong with this picture?'



'Are the "Angels of Vengeance" losing it?'



*'We researched this hard. Even talked with **Killer Shark!** He says the **'Hawks** are on their way down!*



'Of course, not everyone agrees, including our competition!'



*'The **Blackhawks** are invincible as a unit!'*

The New York Times



'The greatest threat to fake conspiracies ever known.'



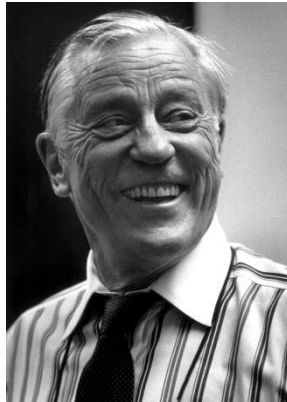
*'The President and his CIA blew the "Bay of Pigs" operation and they're implying that the **Blackhawks** were supposed to provide "robust air support" and never showed up!'*



*'The **Blackhawks** have been fighting the good fight, any good fight for twenty years!'*



'Enough is enough. "Father Time is undefeated!'



*'Oh boy! So you're saying it wasn't Castro the **Blackhawks** saved, but Kennedy!'*

The "First Lady Of Vengeance" got a rude surprise before she got home.



'Approaching aircraft...you are to get in line and WAIT until you are cleared!'



"Wait"? Do you know who I am?1'



'Miss Blake, you will either wait your turn for a secondary runway or I'll put you in cuffs and impound your jet!'



'Yes, sir! I'm complying with a smile!'



'You talkin' to me?'



'Yes! Blake manor and spare me the attitude!'

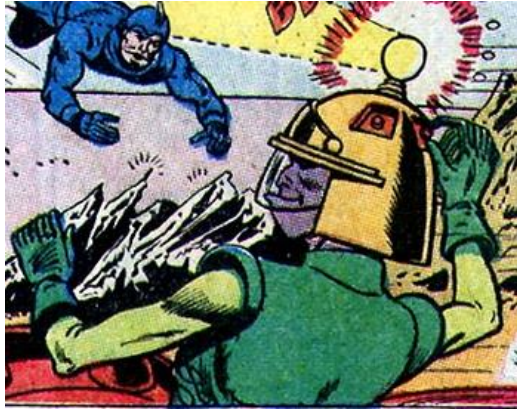


'Oh, Zinda! Thank God you're home and well. I wish we had better news for you!'



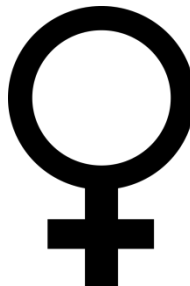
'A new costumed gang is on the loose! And the world's none too happy about Cuba!'

The Anti-Blackhawks League!



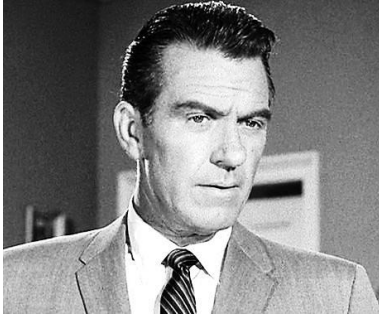
*'Yet another gang of incompetent wannabes!
Won't these fools ever grow up?*

'And I thought Killer Shark was a wacko!'



'In the 1960s we were fighting to be recognized as equals in the marketplace, in marriage, in education and on the playing field. It was a very exciting, rebellious time.'

'To understand how any society functions you must understand the relationship between the men and the women.'



'There's also a cadre of creeps via genetics coming! Watch out!



'Oh, Zinda! Isn't there something else you'd rather do?'



'Mom, we've already covered that!'



'Oh, dear! Times like this I wish I'd had a boy—two boys!'

SPEAKING OF SPORTS

THE DYING OF A DYNASTY



*'Good afternoon, everyone, I'm Howard Cosell.
In the history of the 20th Century, greatness
in sports creates immortality and excellence!*



SOCCER



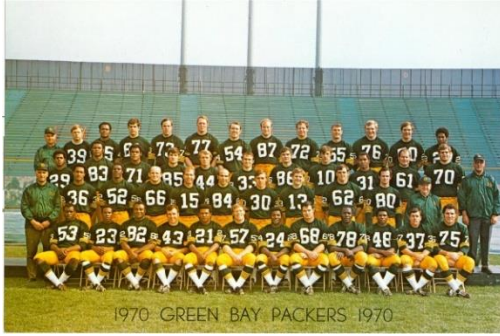
HOCKEY



BASKETBALL



BASEBALL

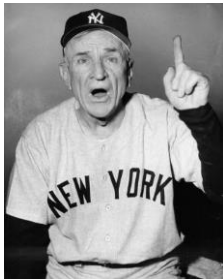


PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

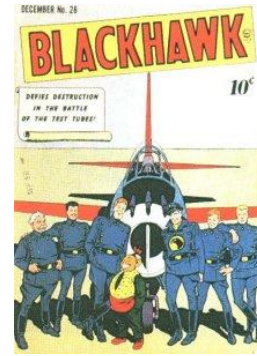


'Any dynasty begins with leadership and these teams got the best---Men who dedicated their lives to the power and purpose of teamwork!'



'It is their vocation to be on alert should the team begin to show signs of wear and tear and keep all eyes open for newcomers to replace ageing veterans!'





*'As this program airs, the Soviets are building a wall, a **WALL**, ladies and gentlemen, in defiance of the greatest team in history, the "Angels of Vengeance"!'*



*'The **Blackhawks** are invincible as a unit!'*

The greatest threat to bad Russians ever known.



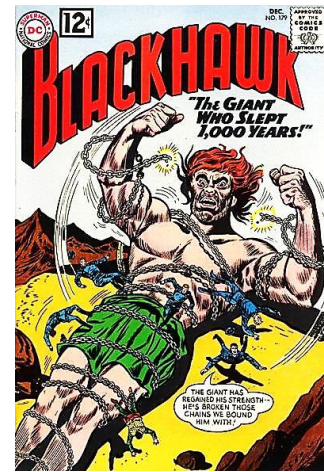
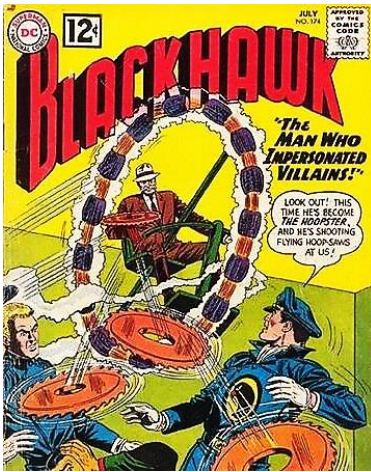
'ICH BIN EIN BERLINER!'

*'Can you imagine, at the height of fantasy, if an American president advocated the building of a **WALL** that would be in the best interests of the United States?*

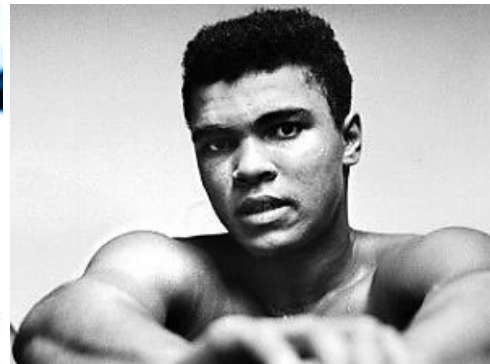
'There would be rioting in the streets!'

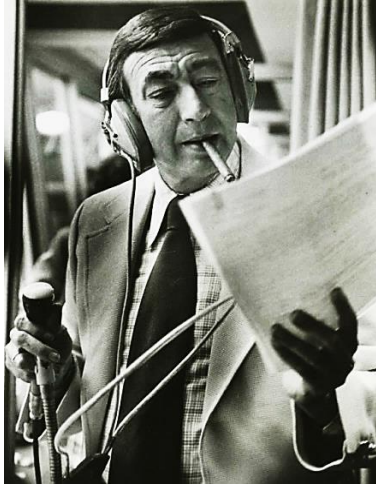


*'Yes, the **Blackhawks** whose twenty-year dynasty may be the greatest in all history! Once "the most feared challenge to the Red cause ever known", the "Magnificent Seven" are currently struggling in silly fairy tales!'*



*'Today's champions, take note of the **Blackhawks** decline. When the day dawns, that you no longer possess the strength and the skill to dominate your competitors, then hop on a horse, hold your head high, and gallop proudly into history!'*



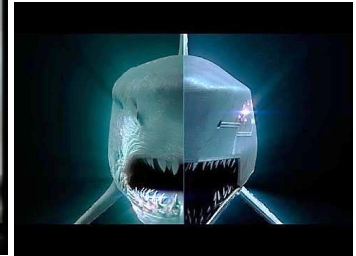
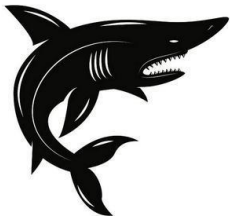


*'The famed "Angels of Vengeance" are a shadow of their former selves!
Once champions, they're "Blackhawk-ing it"--pretending to be who they used
to be and everybody knows better!'*

*'In freefall, the "Magnificent Seven" are doomed to crash and burn!
And who were you expecting to save them...Zinda Blake!?''*



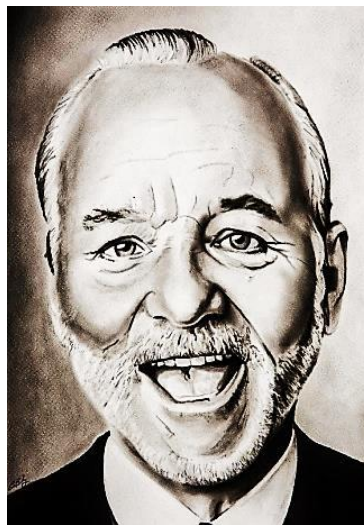
Somewhere in the ocean deep...

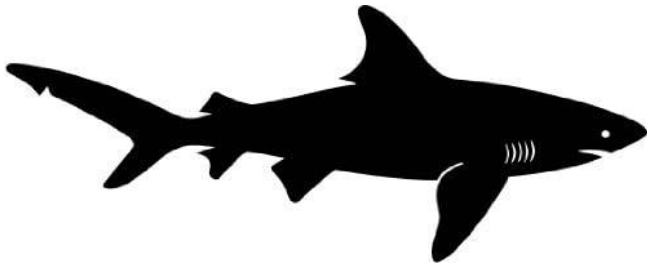


*'Oh, my delirious "Denizens of the Deep",
you just do not understand!'*

*'You think **Killer Shark** is some kind of joke,
a gag the whole world is gagging on!'*

*'Well, get this! My goal is not mere loot. When all is said
and done, it's my mug that will dominate comicdom history!'*

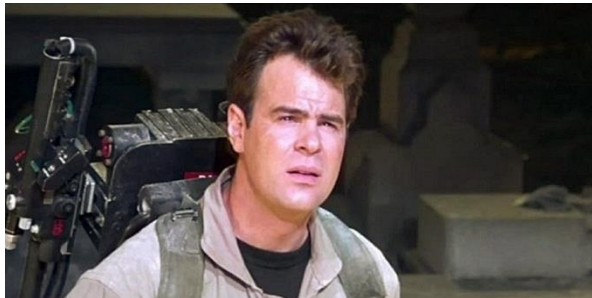




*'Word **Killer Shark!** You will be the villain all others aspire to be!'*



*'The fiercest predators of the Seven Sea will bow before **Killer Shark!**'*



*'A new plan, a new objective, **Killer Shark?**'*



'An incredible strike that will forever immortalize your existence?'



*'I am **Killer Shark**, King of Underwater Crime!
And I will have my queen...'*



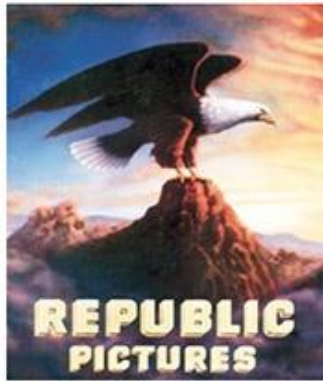
'Zinda Blake!'

Comics 8 History

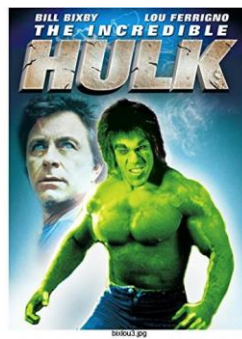
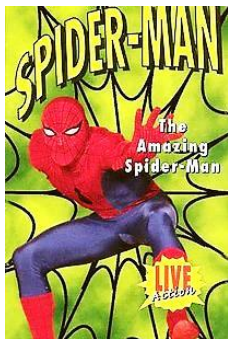
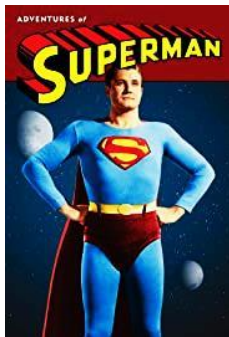
SUPERHEROES GO HOLLYWOOD



Who, in a moment of divine insight, could have imagined that ten-cent paper picture books would lead to a spate of multi-billion dollar film franchises?



After the cheaply made Saturday movie serials came TV.
Comic book characters, in black and white and then in full color, splashed across television screens



Then came the movies, successes and failures



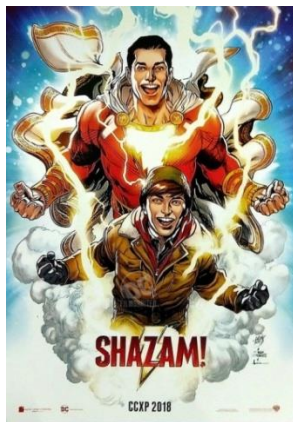
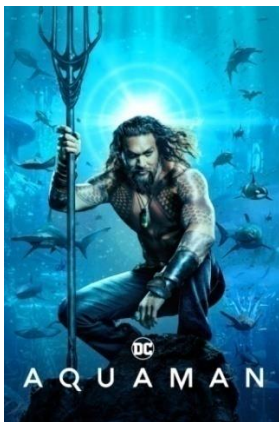
Box-office millions turned into *billions!*



MARVEL took the lead.



DC tried to catch up.



Independents took their shots.



Ticket for ticket, the **AVENGERS** crushed **Justice League**.



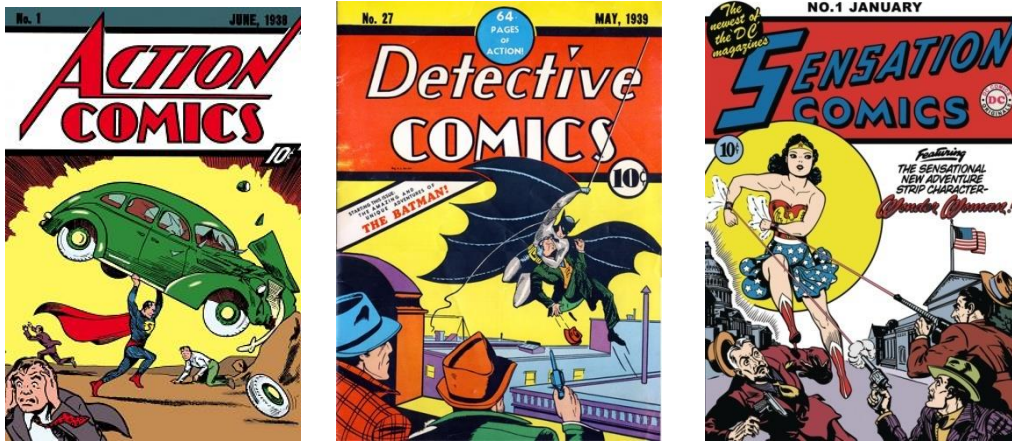
Could these films simply be foreplay, a warm-up for the ultimate comic book spectacular—a twenty-hour, ten-film saga to determine the greatest superhero of all time!



Las Vegas would jump into the action—wages in the trillions! Put fantasy football to shame!



As for those ten-cent paper books that started it all eighty years ago...



Today's comics cost \$4 apiece and few are reading them.



People

Zinda 🐣 Blake



Our Favorite "Angel"!

(To be continued)

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