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AVENGERS



RE-ASSEMBLE

by John Pierce

To most of you, I suppose the word "Avengers" brings to mind a number of costumed characters who gather around Captain America, to aid the star-spangled superman in the fight for the preservation of Truth, Justice, and Irving Forbush.

If so, then I can only say that you are unenlightendd, and that it is my duty to enlighten you--about another group of heroes called the Avengers, that is, and a group which many of us find quite superior to Stan Lee's collection of super-powered hotheads.

These Avengers come to us from the same country which gave us the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, and (horror of horrors!) Twiggy. After all that, it was about time they sent us something good. Instead, they sent us something great!

The Avengers ~~relates~~ is a television show, which has been running in Britain ~~for~~ since 1961. It appeared her from March until September of 1966, and from January through May (with re-runs continuing until September) of 1967. ←

The Avengers ~~RELATES~~ relates the adventures of two British agents, John Steed, "top professional," and his Partner, Emma Peel, "talented amateur." These two puchn, jab, karate, gung fu, and joke their way through one hour of exciting, suspenseful, and often-times humorous spy-adventure in England.

To be sure, the Avengers is a satire; but it is a well-done sztire, played so stylishly that it can easily pass for a genuine spy-thriller (It had me fooled, believe me!). This is no surprise since it comes from the English, the master of satire. As I said, it is a well-done satire; as contrasted to some of our satire (viz., Batman) which is only half-baked.

Steed, played to perfection by David Niven's Cousin, Patrick Macnee, is an elegantly-dressed chap, never without his bowler and broolly (derby and umbrella, for those of you who don't understand English). His cover seems to be that of a man-about-town. He is a connoisseur of fine wines with an abundance of Old World charm and courtesy. No slacker in a fight is he, though, for he handles his umbrella quite skillfully.

Macnee originally played Steed in another British television series. There Steed was a villain; but he proved so popular that Steed and Macnee were given a series of their own, The Avengers, which began in 1962 quite legitimately and seriously as the search of a brreaved husband for his wife's slayers. It was mainly through the attitude and approach of Macnee that The Avengers has evolved from serious into semi-satirical.

The other half of the Avengers (who are never called that during the course of the show) consists of Mrs. Emma Peel. She, the widow of a test pilot, assists Steed in his endeavors. She is well-equipped, too, for in addition to being a very beautiful