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NOV.
NO. 206

BATMAN

WALKS THE LAST MILE



THIS IS THE... END!

HEY GUYS!

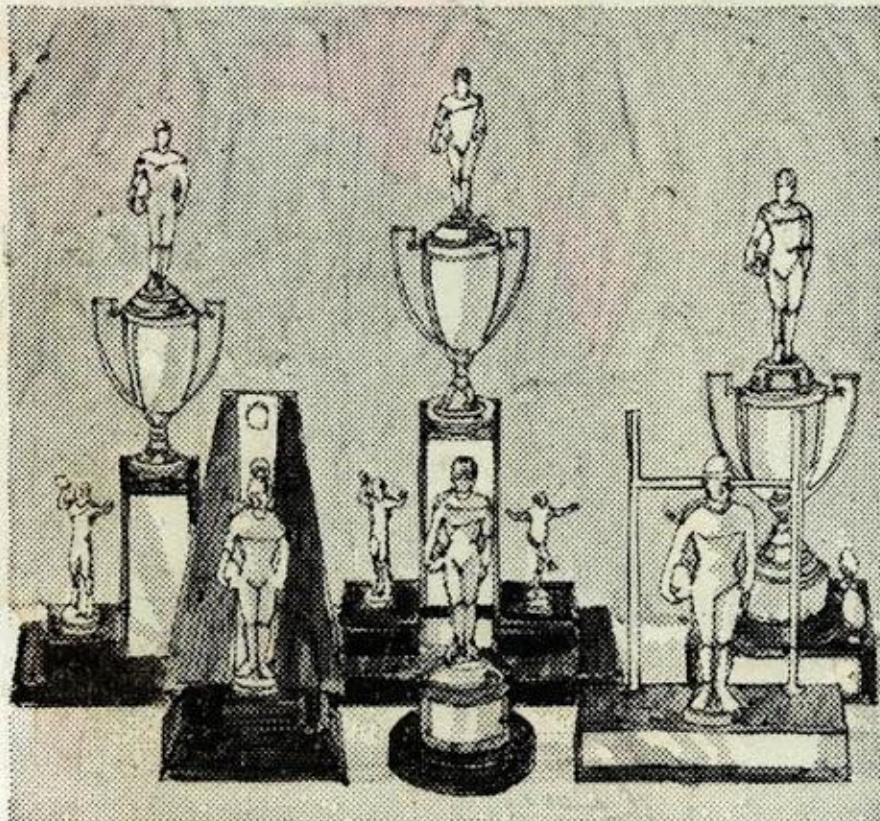
WE'RE GETTING READY TO ENTER THE
FORD-NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

PUNT, PASS & KICK COMPETITION!

IF YOU'RE BETWEEN
8 AND 13 YOU CAN
ENTER TOO!
IT'S FREE!
IT'S FUN!

LOOK AT THE TROPHIES YOU COULD WIN! EVERY
FORD DEALER WILL MAKE 18 LOCAL AWARDS.

You compete only with kids your own age, so you've got
a great chance to win a handsome trophy! And so many
other trophies, for other wins on the way to the National
Finals! More than 70,000 trophies altogether! Wow!



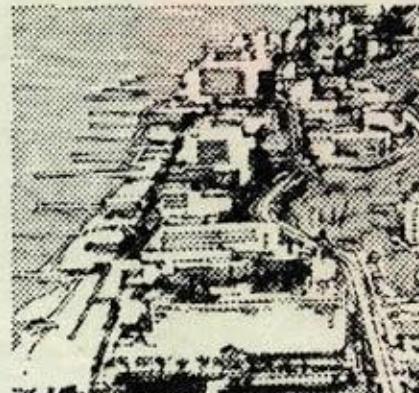
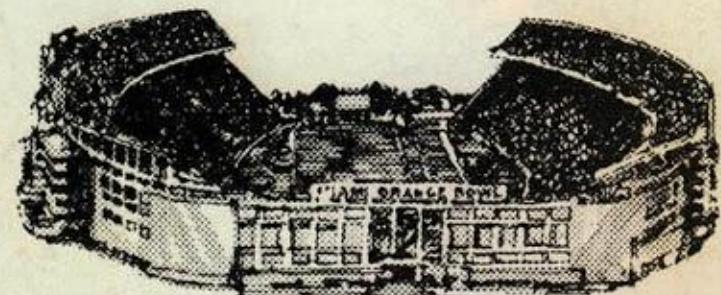
HERE'S ALL YOU DO TO ENTER.



Just take your mom, dad or legal guardian to your participating Ford Dealer and sign up! It's that easy!

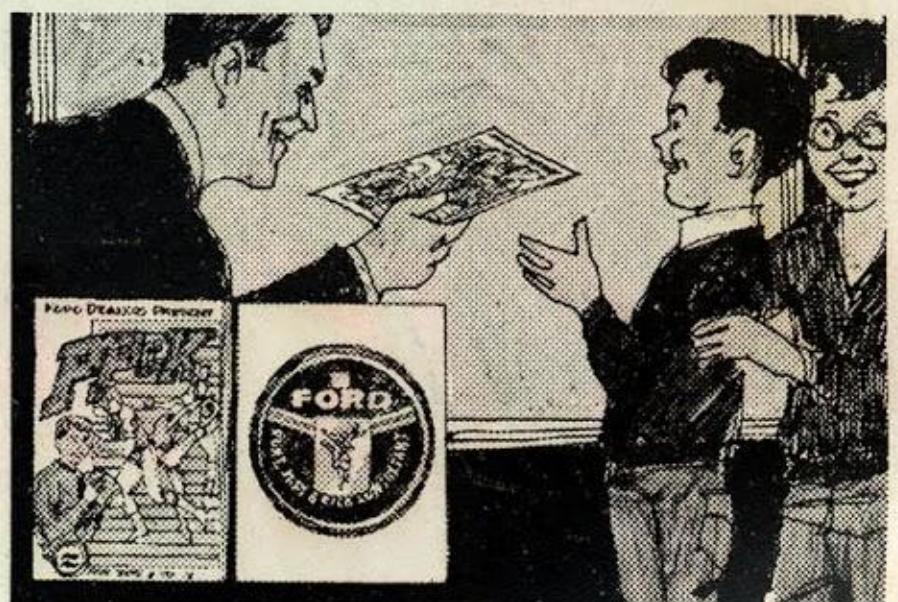
FREE TRIPS, TOO!

Win a District Competition and you get a trip to an NFL city!
Plus a complete uniform free to compete in at half-time.
Win a Division Competition and you and your parents go
on an all-expense-paid trip to Miami, Florida where you
will compete in the PP&K finals at the Orange Bowl during
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Following the finals you and your parents will travel to
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LOOK WHAT YOU GET FOR ENTERING.



Just for signing up you get a swell PP&K pin to wear...
AND a Punt, Pass & Kick TIPS BOOK by the big NFL stars,
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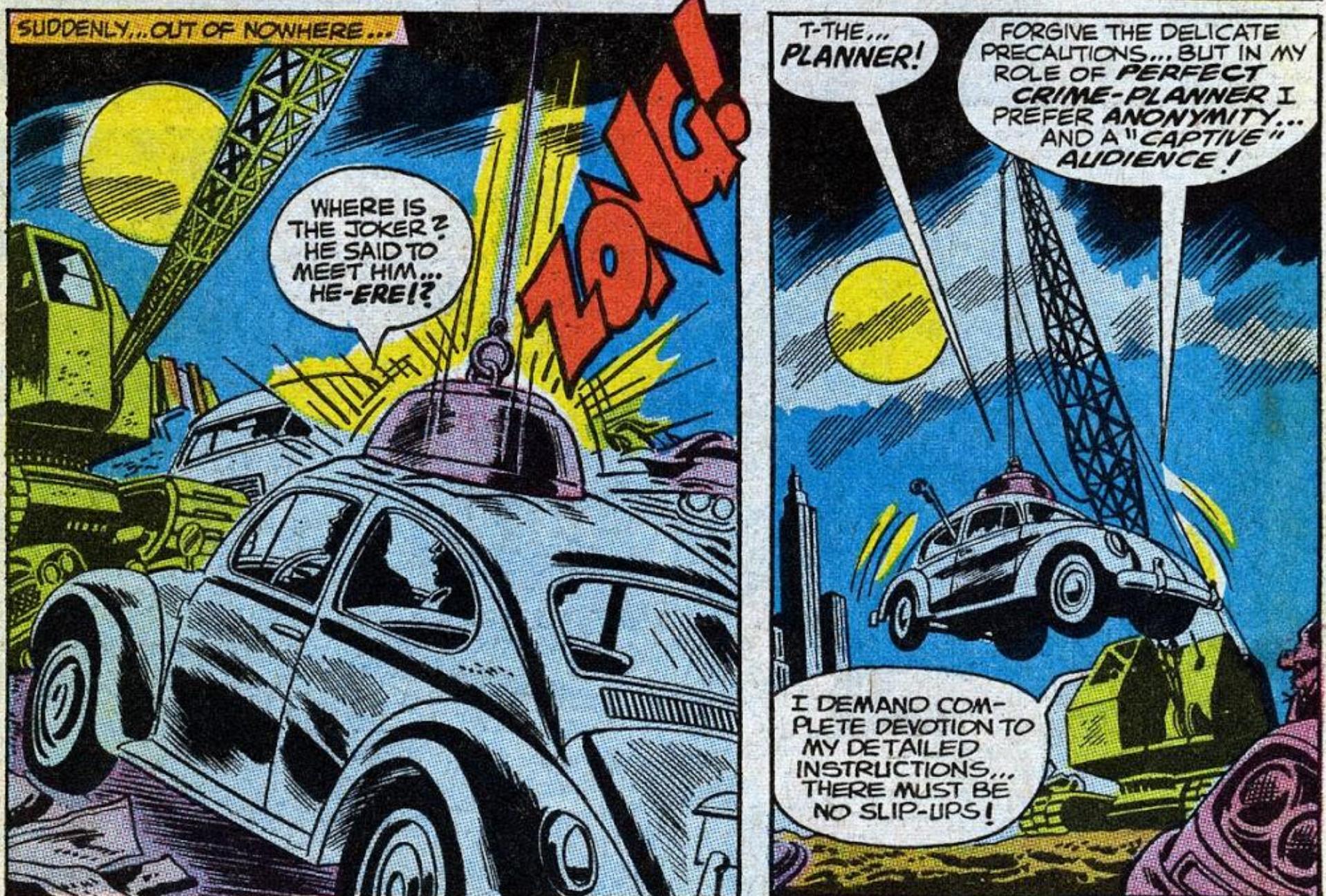
HURRY! REGISTRATION CLOSES OCTOBER 4TH!

TAKE MOM, DAD OR LEGAL GUARDIAN TO YOUR PARTICIPATING FORD DEALER TODAY!

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AND THIS... IS THE BEGINNING!



STORY: FRANK ROBBINS ART: IRV NOVICK & JOE GIELLA

A FAR-OUT SETTING FOR A PERFECT CRIME-PLOT, eh, BATMANIACS?

BUT... AS WE SAID--THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF...

"BATMAN WALKS THE LAST MILE!"

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THE NEXT NIGHT...
IN THE MANAGER'S
OFFICE OF THE
GOTHAM GRAND
HOTEL...

IT HAPPENED DURING LAST
EVENING'S **CHARITY BALL**,
BATMAN! THE CROOKS
CLEANED OUT THE ENTIRE
PROCEEDS OF THE
ORPHANS' FUND--
WITHOUT LEAVING
A CLUE!

A **CLEAN SWEEP**,
COMMISSIONER GORDON...
EVIDENTLY PLANNED BY
A **MASTER CRIMINAL**!
BUT THEY ALL SLIP
UP... SOMEWHERE!

MAYBE NOT THIS TIME,
BATMAN! REAL SLICK...
PROFESSIONAL! MUST'VE
USED GLOVES... NO
FINGERPRINTS--

... AND NO FOOT-
PRINTS, ROBIN!
COULD'VE WORN
STOCKINGS--OR--
WAIT A MINUTE!

WHAT
IS IT?

TINY, GLISTENING
PARTICLES... GROUND
INTO THE ASPHALT
TILE FLOOR! LIKE
BY THE WEIGHT OF
A **HEAVY MAN**!

COULD
THIS BE
THE **BREAK**
WE NEED,
BATMAN?
WHAT ARE
THOSE...

I CAN'T TELL,
COMMISSIONER...
TILL I ANALYZE--

ROBIN!
DON'T
MOVE!

A LONG BLACK
HAIR! APPEARS TO BE
STICKY!... AS IF
HEAVILY GREASED!
EXPLAINS WHY IT
STUCK TO YOUR BOOT
WHILE WALKING
AROUND, ROBIN...

A
LARGE
HEAVY
WOMAN...
WITH GREASY
HAIR--OUR
CULPRIT,
BATMAN?

FIRST AXIOM OF
SLEUTHING, ROBIN
BOY... NEVER JUMP
TO CONCLUSIONS!
COME... WE'LL CHECK
THESE OUT IN OUR
BATMOBILE
PORTABLE
CRIME-LAB!

MOMENTS LATER... OUTSIDE...

FORGET THE "Cherchez La Femme",
ROBIN! THE ELECTRON-MICROSCOPE
REVEALS... THIS HAIR WAS ORIGINALLY
BLONDE -- DYED BLACK!

AND SINCE "GENTLEMEN
PREFER BLONDES" ...
HARDLY WORTH THE
SWITCH FOR A
WOMAN!

SECOND,
IT'S A 100TH-INCH
THICKER THAN
A SPECIMEN
FEMALE HAIR... WHICH HAS A
SPLIT END, INDICATING FRE-
QUENT BRUSHING AND
GROOMING!

YOU
MEAN...?

OUR SUSPECT IS A MAN...
WITH A REAL MESSY
MOP! USES GREASE
TO KEEP IT DOWN ...
SOMewhat LIKE AN
INDIAN USES
BEAR-GREASE!

SPECTRUM-
ANALYSIS INDICATES
THE GLISTENING PARTICLES TO
BE PINACEOUS COLOPHONY... OR
SIMPLY--ROSIN! COMMONLY
USED BY DANCERS... OR...
MUSICIANS!

CAN WE
NARROW
IT DOWN?

THOSE TINY
LINTLIKE FRAGMENTS
CLINGING TO THE STICKY
ROSIN... ALMOST LIKE
SOFT ANIMAL SKIN--
LEATHER!

...THIS IS MORE
LIKE SOFT
DEERSKIN...
AS USED IN
INDIAN
MOCCASINS!

INDIANS... ON THE WARPATH IN
GOTHAM CITY? YOU'VE GOT TO
BE KIDDING...

OR A MUSICIAN...WEARING INDIAN MOCCASINS! BOUND TO PICK UP SOME ON HIS SOLES WHERE HE'S WORKING! COMMISSIONER... THERE WAS A BAND AT THIS BALL...?

WHY--YES! A COMBO-TRIO CALLED "CUSTER'S LAST STAND"! THEY TOG UP AS... INDIANS!

THAT'S OUR MAN...A HIPPIE MUSICIAN!

AT "THE DOOR-WAY"! BUT... ACCORDING TO WITNESSES... NONE OF THEM LEFT THE STAND DURING THE TIME OF THE ROBBERY!

Shortly--
AT THE
DISCOTHEQUE...

LOOK...BIG SQUAT!
BATMAN...AND...
UGH...ROBIN!

DOUBLE UGH! ME NO
LIKE-UM, CHIEF SITTIN'-IN...
GOTTA TUNE OUT TH'
SCENE!

COVER ME,
LI'L MOOSE!

TAKE
'EM ON THE
LEFT, ROBIN!
I'LL GRAB THE
BASS-BULLY..!

AS BIG SQUAT MAKES HIS BREAK, LI'L MOOSE TURNS UP HIS ELECTRIC-GUITAR AMPLIFIER FULL VOLUME AND STRIKES A MIGHTY CHORD...

SQREEEE
TWANG

WORLD'S FASTEST TRAIN

The "New Tokaido" train running between Tokyo and Osaka, Japan, is the fastest train service in the world. Part of Japanese National Railways, this train makes the 320.2 mile run in 3 hours 10 minutes, at an average speed of more than 101 m.p.h. Each train is made up of 12 cars, weighs 80 tons and can reach a top speed of 155 m.p.h. The "New Tokaido" is powered by motors with the energy of 11,943 horsepower.



WORLD'S FASTEST KID

The Cheerios Kid gets his energy from Cheerios. Like you, he needs a fresh supply of go-power every day. And, a breakfast with Cheerios and milk is packed with muscle-building protein and energy for go-power. Get yourself Go. Get Cheerios!



THE AWESOME AMPLIFIED CLAMOR... ABOVE THE THRESHOLD OF PAIN... BRINGS THE DYNAMIC DUO TO A QUIVERING HALT!...

OW-
OW-
OW!

OW-
OUTCH!

BOOM!



GRABBING THE ATTACHED AMPLIFIER CABLE... ROBIN RETALIATES!...

TEARING OFF THE SHATTERED
TOM-TOM, THE CAPED CRU-
SADER DRUMS OUT BIG
SQUAT... TRYING TO BEAT A
HASTY RETREAT...

TRY THIS
TUNE ON YOUR
BULL-FIDDLE...
BASS-BUM!



CRASHING INTO HIS INSTRUMENT
IN A THUNDEROUS JANGLE OF
PLUCKED BASS,
BIG SQUAT
LIES HELPLESS
IN A SHOWER OF
STOLEN LOOT...

HAVE NO
"RESERVATIONS"
ABOUT YOUR SITTIN'
OUT THIS WAR-DANCE...
CHIEF SITTIN' IN!



AND WHEN THE POLICE COMMISSIONER APPEARS ON THE SCENE...

THE ORPHANS' CHARITY-FUND MONEY! THEN THIS COMBO, POSING AS HIPPIES, DID PULL THE JOB! BUT HOW..? DURING THE BALL, THEY NEVER LEFT THE BANDSTAND...

THEY DIDN'T! AT LEAST... NOT TO THE EYES OF THE UNCONCERNED DANCERS! LOOK!

AS ROBIN STARTS TO INFLATE THE MYSTERIOUS SHAPE...

USING THIS... CONCEALED IN HIS BULL-FIDDLE... BIG SQUAT BLEW IT UP DURING A DANCE BREAK... AND THEN, AT THE NEXT NUMBER--

... HE SNEAKED AWAY TO ROB THE BALLROOM SAFE! AND RETURNED... WITH NO ONE THE WISER!

NOW WATCH AS I PROP THAT FIDDLE UP AGAINST THE WALL AND SWITCH ON THE PSYCHEDELIC STROBE-LIGHTS...

A... PLASTIC DOUBLE OF BIG SQUAT!

PRECISELY! AND UNDER THIS BEWILDERING DISPLAY OF HALLUCIGENIC LIGHTING... WHO COULD DETECT THE DIFFERENCE?

BUT... WHO FILLED IN FOR... HIS BASS-PLAYING? THE OTHER TWO WERE BUSY...



SEPTEMBER, 1968

Welcome Wagon

Model of the Month
1957 Chevrolet Nomad

Car buffs across the nation are searching for this eleven year old car. They rejoice when they find one in good condition. The '57 Nomad station wagon is on its way to becoming a classic, and demand far exceeds the supply. Nomad was the first station wagon with passenger car styling and features. It set new standards that are being followed today... and it's still considered a cool piece of machinery. Revell's new Nomad model kit has doors, windows and tailgate that open and close. Wheels roll and front wheels turn. Front and rear can be adjusted to three different heights... just like they modify the real Nomad. Fun to build, for less than \$2.00.

For a catalog of 250 Revell models, send 25¢ to:
Revell, Inc.,
4270 Glencoe
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California
90291.



Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022

Letters to the BATCAVE

Dear Editor: Upon looking at the cover of Batman 202, I immediately thought that this was going to be another sure-fire scheme for some cunning felon to put away our cowled hero for good! (As if they all don't try!) Of course, I had the whole thing wrong but that's my lowly skull for you.

The cover-illustrated story, "Gateway to Death," was just fair. I say this because of a loophole that marred it. I just can't grasp the idea that Alfred would suffer a mental breakdown just because he was going to tell the mysterious robber's name to Batman. Sure, the Psychic Plunderer saved his life, but — like the butler said — it was for his own good and he would probably be helped. Yes, it was a tough decision to make and there was probably a lot of internal turmoil, but to be confined to bed for that reason.... Nah!

The author of this yarn was John Broome because of the human interest angle (strangely overdone) and the lack of puns.

Next we move to the Robin solo. "Menace of the Motorcycle Marauders" was also just fair. For one thing, there was too much action and not enough plot. As a matter of fact, the closest thing to plot I found was wondering if Dick would make it back to school in time for his speech.

You know something? Figuring out authors of stories really isn't much fun now. The fad should soon be dying out because it's getting too easy. The author of this one was Gardner Fox because he did the other Robin solos and because of the array of puns that were spurted by Robin. (Now I bet both my writer deductions are wrong!) — Joe Rusnak, Montville, N.J.

(You hit the Daily Double — wrong on both accounts! Gardner Fox did the cover story; Mike Friedrich the Robin yarn! As you indicated, the author-guessing fad has run its course; from now on we're giving author (and artists) credit along with each story. — Ed)

* * * * * * * * * * *
Dear Editor: Congrats! Batman 202 was a really solid issue. Solid? Yep, solid is the best way to describe a mag that balances the scale of good art and story.

Concentrating on the story-content, both were well-written and thoroughly enjoyable. "Gateway to Death" contained some of the elements we mystery fans have been clamoring for, and the tie-in with Alfred proves once again what a vital and integral part he plays in the lives of Batman and Robin.

"Menace of the Motorcycle Marauders" was also good, and this is surprising to me, for solo Robin adventures usually turned me off (for the simple reason that they were obviously meant for the younger readers.) However, the idea which made the story was the insight (at last!) to the personal life of Dick Grayson, whom ye editor is forgetting is a teenager like the rest of us. The ending

was symbolic of a new image for Dick that I'd like to see — a small sense of sorrow that his crime-fighting is cutting into his social life. — Dennis Palumbo, Pittsburgh, Pa.

(The wind-up of the Robin tale wound up quite a few readers — so let's unreel a couple more reactions. — Ed.)

* * * * *

Dear Editor: Well, there was a lot of biff-pow-zock to Batman 202, but except for two panels in the second story, it could very easily be read and completely forgotten by even the most enthusiastic of Batman fans.

Those two panels.... the last panels of Mike Friedrich's Robin story (which, if it doesn't live in history for these panels, will doubtless be famous simply because it was the first story Mike ever sold to the comics). This small scene is surely the most tragic ever written about boy crime-fighters. As a young kid full of desire for revenge and excitement, Robin got trapped into the same self-sacrificing life that Batman chose deliberately, knowing exactly what is entailed. Now, he is faced with the need for sacrifice — a sacrifice to Batman's awesomely austere dedication. He'll follow his leader to the death, of course, but has Batman the right to ask so much of him? — Irene Vartanoff, Lake Forest, Ill.

Dear Editor: What disturbed me most about the Robin story was the ending. Here was a fellow who had taken the most exquisite pains ever devised by misanthropic minds (boy, these camp stories must be affecting my mind) crying like a baby over losing a school election. I realize that you wanted us to see how disappointed Dick was, but I never thought that you would dare insult the male sex in such objectionable manner. For Shame! — Lee Salem, Brooklyn, N.Y.

* * * * * * * * * * *
Dear Editor: You turned out a real winner in Batman 202. Both stories, as well as the cover, were masterpieces. It seems you are trying to make amends with those tried-and-true fans who stuck with you during the camp era.

Gardner Fox really gave us a humdinger of a tale in "Gateway to Death." Ah, this is Batman at his best! Fighting crooks with no far-out costumes or powers, but with a few brains and talents within the realm of human capabilities! Using logical (and useful) utility belts gimmicks instead of Bat-springs, Bat-analyzers, and a lot of other Bat-junk. The battle-problem situation is one at which Fox excels, and the fact that B&R got hit to force their mouths open, and didn't trip or run into each other added realism. I'm also glad that it wasn't revealed whether or not Norman actually possessed "mind over matter" powers. Although it was hinted at that he did not, at least B&R didn't go into a long speech about how the villain really committed those robberies. — V.O. Speights, Neneveh, Texas

THE NEXT NIGHT, THE GOTHAM GRAND BALLROOM IS HOST TO A TESTIMONIAL DINNER...

...NO OTHER CITY CAN CLAIM... INDEED... BOAST OF THE DISTINCTION OF HAVING AS ITS CHAMPIONS OF LAW AND ORDER, THAT POWERFUL PAIR...

--OF PHONIES! BOTH OF THEM!!

AND AS THE DISTINGUISHED ASSEMBLAGE TURNS IN SHOCKED SURPRISE...

YE-AH...

YOU HEARD ME RIGHT! A COUPLE OF... PARASITIC CREEPS!



ALRIGHT, YOU MAY SPEAK! BUT, I WARN YOU... IF YOU COMMIT PUBLIC SLANDER OF THESE UNREWARDED PUBLIC-MINDED...



STOP HURLING VAGUE GENERALITIES, MAN... PRECISELY WHAT ARE YOU CLAIMING?

THAT EVERY TIME YOUR BRILLIANT BUDDIES LEFT THE SCENE OF A CRIME TO CHECK THE CLUES AT THEIR SECRET BATCAVE... THEY STOPPED OFF FIRST AT MY CRIME-LAB! I SOLVED THESE UNSOLVABLE CRIMES FOR THEM!"BRAIN-FOR-HIRE" THEY HUMOROUSLY REFERRED TO ME...

HAI HA! A BITTER JOKE AT MY EXPENSE... EVEN THOUGH THEY PAID HANDSOMELY! THESE TWO MUST HAVE AT THEIR DISPOSAL... UNLIMITED FUNDS!

THAT LAST UNWITTING BARB... HAS STRUCK HOME! BATMAN SITS SHAKEN AND SPEECHLESS...

WHO IS HE? CAN HE POSSIBLY KNOW THAT I'M REALLY BRUCE WAYNE... MONEYED PHILANTHROPIST?

THESE ARE SHOCKING... AND DASTARDLY... ACCUSATIONS! SPEAK UP IN ANSWER, BATMAN... WE'RE ALL WITH YOU!

WITH A SENSITIVITY BORN OF LONG ASSOCIATION, ROBIN COVERS FOR HIS GUARDIAN... AND FRIEND!

I-I THINK THAT BATMAN... LIKE ANY HONEST, UPRIGHT CITIZEN... IS SHOCKED BEYOND WORDS BY THESE WILD, UNFOUNDED CLAIMS!

JUST WHO IS THIS UN-NAMED ACCUSER? WHAT IS HIS BACK-GROUND TO CLAIM SUCH CRIME-FIGHTING KNOWLEDGE..?

I'M NOT AFRAID TO TELL... EVEN IF YOU ARE! I'M E.G. NEVER... PRIVATE INSURANCE-CLAIM INVESTIGATOR! WITH A LONG HISTORY OF IN-THE-FIELD TRAINING IN CRIMINOLOGY!

CHECK WITH MY EMPLOYERS... IF YOU DARE! I'M FED UP WITH KEEPING MY BACK-GROUND... IN THE BACK-GROUND!

EVEN IF TRUE, MR. NEVER... IT DOES NOT PROVE ANY SUCH RELATION TO BATMAN, AS YOU CLAIM! JUST WHAT DO YOU WANT HERE?

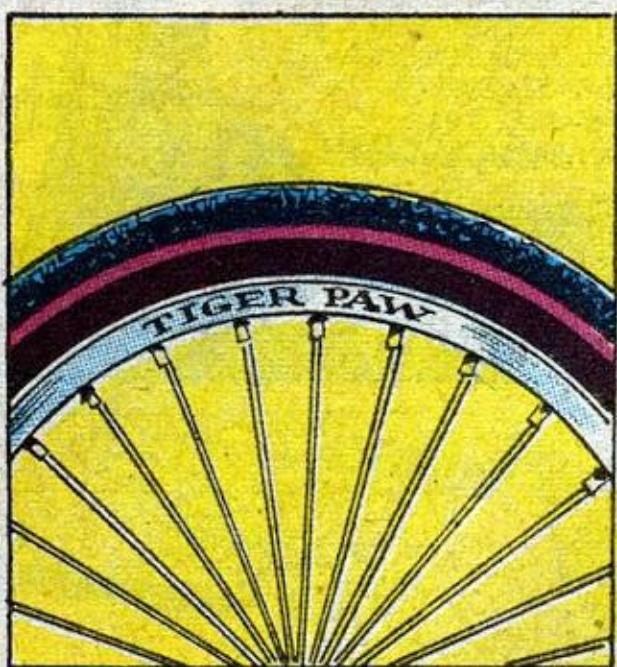
A CHANCE TO PROVE I AM THE BRAINS BEHIND BATMAN! I PUBLICLY CHALLENGE HIM... TO A DUEL!

THE ADVENTURES OF TIGER BOY

A boy wearing a white helmet and blue shorts is riding a bicycle. The bicycle has large, prominent tiger-striped tires. The background shows a road with motion lines and a small crowd of spectators.

AND HIS REAL TIGER PAWS™

KO
UNIROYAL



REMEMBER RED STRIPES ALONE DON'T MAKE TIGER PAWS. REAL TIGER PAWS SAY TIGER PAW RIGHT ON THE TIRE.

A DUEL... OF WITS,
COMMISSIONER!
PUT BATMAN AND
ME ON THE NEXT
BIG CASE... SEE
IF HE CAN PERFORM
WITHOUT USING
MY BRAIN!

BATMAN
HONORED CITY
DYNAMIC

LET BATMAN HAVE
FIRST CRACK AT
ANY CLUES! IF HE
CAN'T SOLVE 'EM...
TURN THE CASE OVER
TO ME!

SOUNDS FAIR ENOUGH,
BATMAN! I CAN TAKE
YOUR SILENCE... AS
ACCEPTANCE?

MIDNIGHT... AT THE AUTO-GRAVEYARD WHERE
THE PLANNER HOLDS COURT...

CHOMP AND STOMP--
I'VE SUMMONED YOU TWO
FROM OUT-OF-TOWN FOR
A VERY SPECIAL JOB!
YOUR METHOD OF OPERATION
IS NOT KNOWN HERE IN
GOTHAM... AND IF YOU
FOLLOW MY PLAN
PRECISELY...

I GIVE YOU THE DETAILS
OF THE HEIST... THE
PROCEDURE... AND
WHERE TO MEET ME
TO SPLIT THE TAKE!
BUT, HEAR THIS...
NO CLUES LEFT
AT THE SCENE!

GOTHAM
AUTO
WRECKING

WE DON'T AIM
TO GET CAUGHT!
YOU CALL IT...
WE PLAY IT--
YOUR WAY!

AND AFTER THE THUGS LEAVE...

HOW CAN I LOSE
AGAINST BATMAN...
WHEN I PLAN THE
CRIMES! HE GETS
"SHOT DOWN"...
AND I CALL THE
SHOTS!

THE NEXT NIGHT...IN
AN AFTER-HOURS
CHECK-CASHING
SERVICE...

...FIRST THIS CANNISTER COMES
ROLLING INTO THE OFFICE...THEN
PFH-POWIE!...IT EXPLODES!
CH-CHOKING ∞ GASP ∞ GAS! WE
ALL BLACKED OUT...

...AND WHEN YOU CAME TO--
ALL THE CASH WAS GONE!
MM...NO EYEWITNESS--
IDENTIFICATION POSSIBLE...
NO FINGERPRINTS...
NO NOTHING!

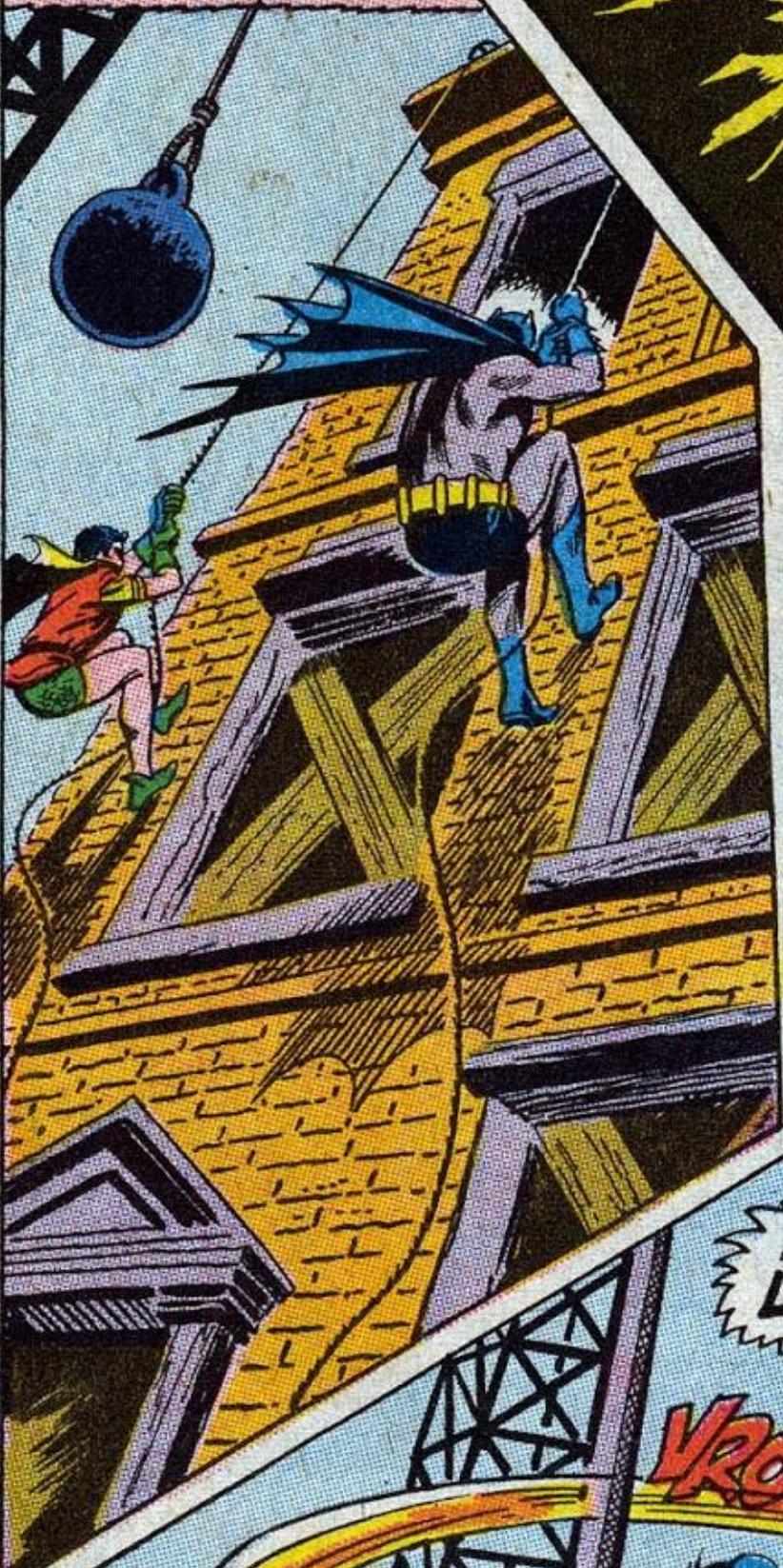




TOSING BATHOOK
ROPES ONTO THE
ROOF-EDGE, THE
DYNAMIC DUO
SCALES THE HOUSE-FRONT...

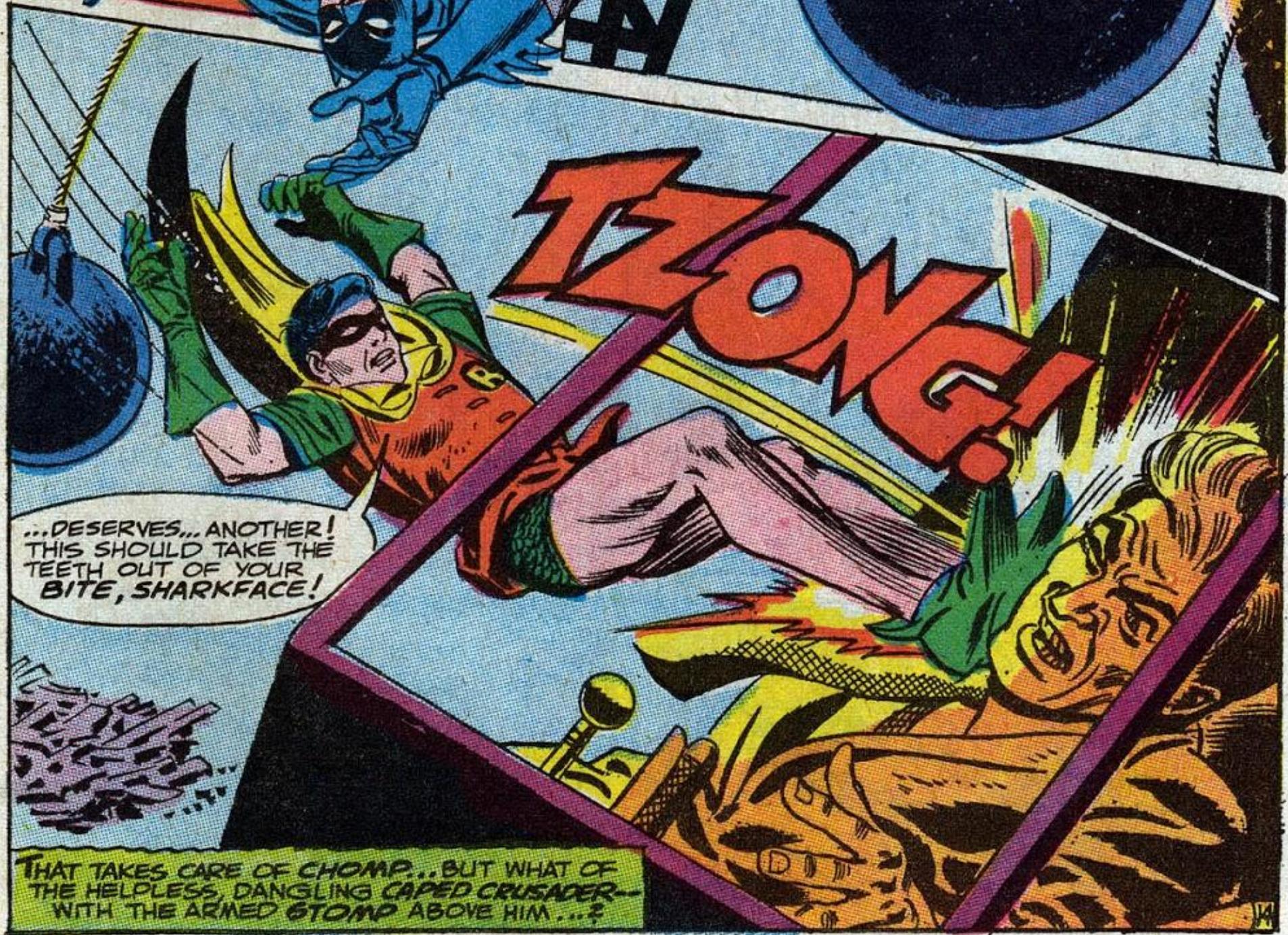
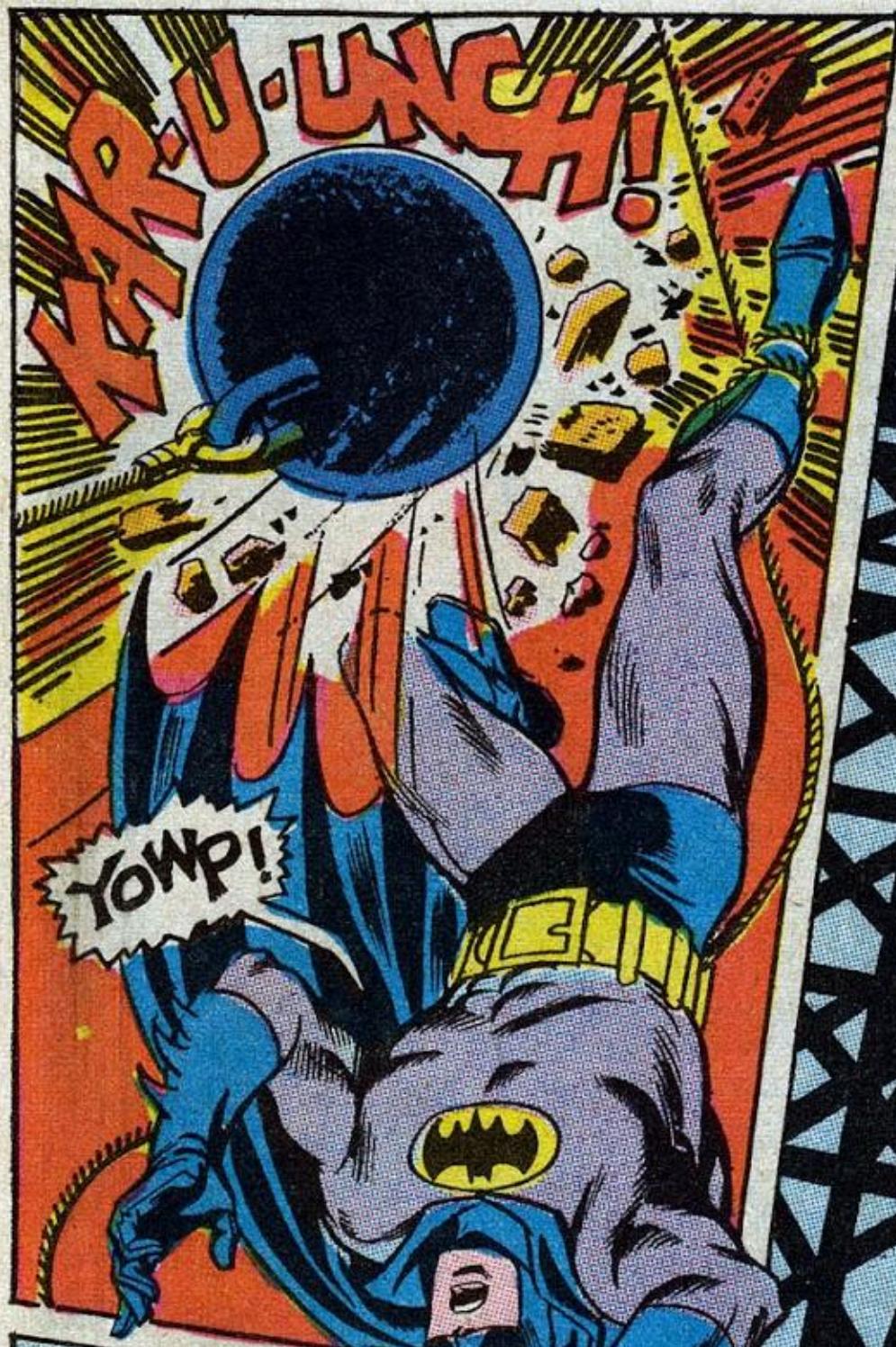
WHILE INSIDE, LOOKING DOWN TO THE SIDE...

ARE WE EVER GONNA
HAVE A BALL WITH THOSE
CLIMBIN' CREEPERS!
THEN WE KIN LIGHT OUT...
FREE AN' CLEAR!



AT THE
WHIRR OF
SPINNING
GEARS,
ROBIN
TURNS
JUST IN
TIME TO
SEE...

WHIRR



THAT TAKES CARE OF CHOMP... BUT WHAT OF
THE HELPLESS, DANGLING CAPED CRUSADER—
WITH THE ARMED STOMP ABOVE HIM...?



LATER THAT NIGHT, THE PLANNER--ALIAS E.G. NEVER--SETS UP THE SECOND ROUND "FIX" FOR THE BAFFLED CRIME FIGHTERS!...

YOUR OBJECTIVE, CAT-CROOK...THE LANGSTON DIAMONDS! I'VE GIVEN YOU A DETAILED GROUND PLAN OF THE MANSION... AND THE TIMING!

NOW, AS A GUARANTEED CLEAR GETAWAY... I WANT YOU TO PLANT THIS FALSE CLUE!

LOOKS LIKE A... T.V. ALIGNMENT TOOL! WHAT'S THE GIG, PLANNER?

WHAT DEVILISH DEVICE HAS THE MASTER OF MACHINATION COME UP WITH NOW? WE SHALL SEE...AFTER AN EXASPERATING 2-PAGE BREAK!

16

DC
NATIONAL COMICS

BROTHER POWER
THE
GEEK

BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

DC NO. 2

12c

HERE IS THE BEGINNING... NOW IT GETS EXCITING! AFTER... 'A VISIT FROM THE DEEP!' A HUMAN THAT LIVES AND FIGHTS FOR ITS SOUL



A MAGAZINE ABOUT TODAY.

MAKE THE SCENE WITH
THE
GEEK

HE'S COMING YOUR WAY!!
ON SALE SEPT. 5TH

LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE--EXTRA

Dear Editor:

Holy girl problems, golly gee! Why, may I ask you, doesn't the *Boy Wonder* have a chick? The poor guy has to live such a boring life with dead old Aunt Harriet and trustworthy Alfred the butler and, of course, Bruce Wayne himself (obviously, this is when he isn't in his *Robin* getup and isn't fighting crime). Gee gosh, if I had to lead a life like that I'd go off my nut! So have a heart and give master Richard Grayson a love. I and other fans would like it very much to see the *Boy Wonder* kiss a girl and not back off and show embarrassment. Let him enjoy it! In the old mags, at least, you would give him an occasional girl friend—but not any more! What's the matter—are you too tight with your girls or does *Bat-guy* get 'em all??!

—Rick Marsh, Denver, Colo.

(And yet other readers have yolkingly told us that stories depicting young *Robin* with a chick would lay an egg!—Editor)

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

Although your *Batman* stories are good, I think you show the *Caped Crusader* as being too unbeatable. In my opinion, *Batman* should have a limit to his powers. Give *Batman* and *Robin* real mysteries to solve and for Pete's sake, without any of those intolerable utility belt gadgets. Have *Batman* battle a foe that would be a match—or more than match—for him; both physically and mentally.

No, I'm not through yet. I recommend that you have a *Batman* story continued in a follow-up issue. *Robin* should be "in" on more of the adventures—and should also have a girl friend. I hope you will consider doing some of the things I have recommended.

—Ida Taylor, Salisbury, N.C.

(As openers, how about the two-parter—a *Batman* first!—we dealt you in issues 204–205?—Editor)

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

I've been a *Batman* fan for twenty years. After two decades, I have a complaint and an urgent plea.

Please—PLEASE—give *Batman* back his old looks. He used to look like Robert Goulet; now he looks too much like *Superman*. I liked *Batman's* eyes and chin so much that I married a man with the very same eyes and chin.

So I beg of you—plead with you. Give *Batman* back his Robert Goulet eyes and chin!

—Donna R.M., Waterloo, Iowa.

(And if we gave *Batman* Robert Goulet's eyes and chin—where would that leave Mr. Goulet—to say nothing of Carol Lawrence?—Editor)

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

In the "New Look" *Batman* you have presented us with several types of stories: excellent, good, bad, and pass-me-the-aspirin-please. The last category is composed of "camp" stories, so I won't dwell on them (with the hopeful expectation that "camp" is now out). The "uncamp" stories are the basis for this contribution to your worthwhile EXTRA department.

Excellent: stories with human villains, human plot, human situations. Let's have more vill—no, not villains, but crooks. Ordinarily, I expect to see wild, wacky, just barely believable, super-powered villains. In *Batman*, it's different. Maybe I've been spoiled, but I feel that there must be more of the likes of Doc Hastings, Ira Radon, Johnny Witts, Matt Whitson, even the unknown criminal in "Batman's Baffling Turnabout." The only thing wrong with these crooks is that they are one-time villains (with the exception of Johnny Witts). The only two costumed villains I place in this category are *Two-Face* and the *Joker*. The former because he seems to be the only man who can really "strike fear into *Batman*" (take that *Scarecrow*—and that—and THAT!), the *Joker* because of the intense hatred each has for the other. The *Hooded Hangman* was also good, but only merited one appearance.

Good: *Riddler*, *Penguin*, *Catwoman*, etc., etc., ETC.! I think I've made my point. They're all too unbelievable (I'll not accept the fact that half the people of *Gotham City* are raving lunatics, which these must be). However, look into their private lives and origins with a little more depth, and they could just climb up a notch or two.

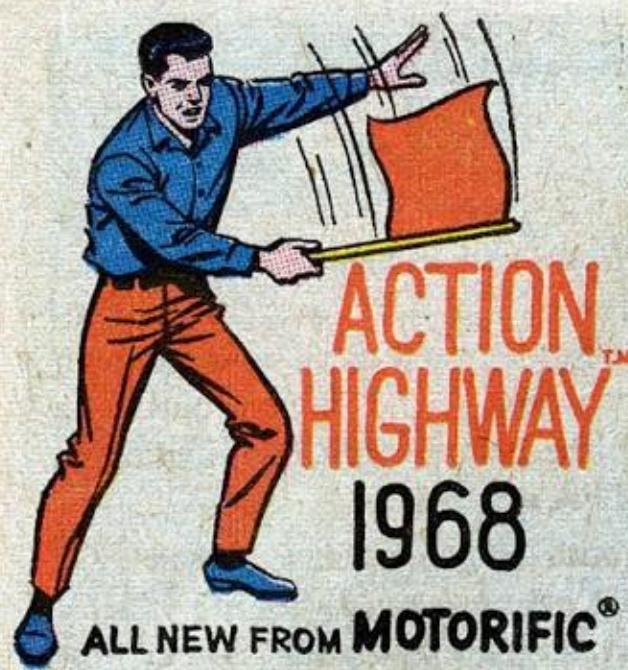
Bad: *Scarecrow* is the only "uncamp" villain here. His "fear chemicals" are utterly unbelievable, and they only accomplish what *Two-Face*, *Joker*, and *Blockbuster* do without any type of science-fiction gadgets.

Blockbuster! How could I have left out one of the most interesting characters in comics! The only thing I dislike about him is the way he always seems to be back to "normal" at the end of each of his adventures. I hope you bring him back soon—and this time get him involved with *Two-Face*. They're made for each other! This time, I hope the *Titanic Throwback* is given a full-length novel to develop and display not only hate, but also other primitive emotions, such as fear of fire, blind obedience to people he believes to be his friends, wolfing down his food, etc. At the end of his next adventure, have him still undecided as to whether *Batman* is his friend, whether he wants to try and adapt to his life, or to try and destroy those who are only trying to help.

I started off this letter about *stories* and wind up talking about *villains*. This means I think that a story is good only if the hero and villain are *both* good.

—V.O. Speights, Nineveh, Tex.

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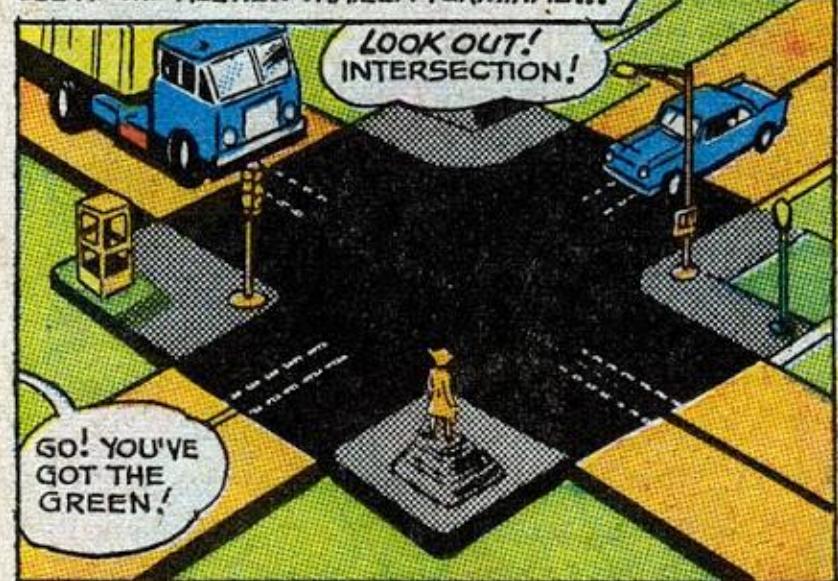
PETE'S NEW TRACTOR-TRAILER WITH EXCLUSIVE FORWARD AND REVERSE FEATURE IS HAULING HOT CARGO ALONG ACTION HIGHWAY...



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MOTORIFIC...IT'S TERRIFIC!

IT'S

IDEAL

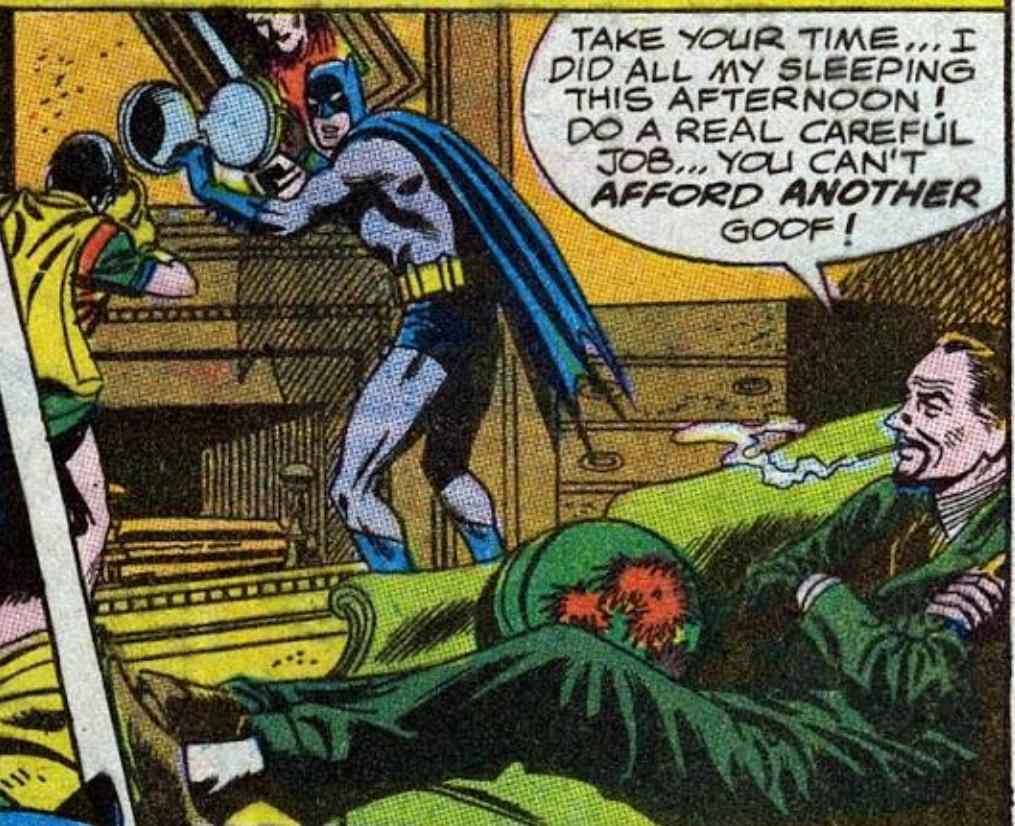
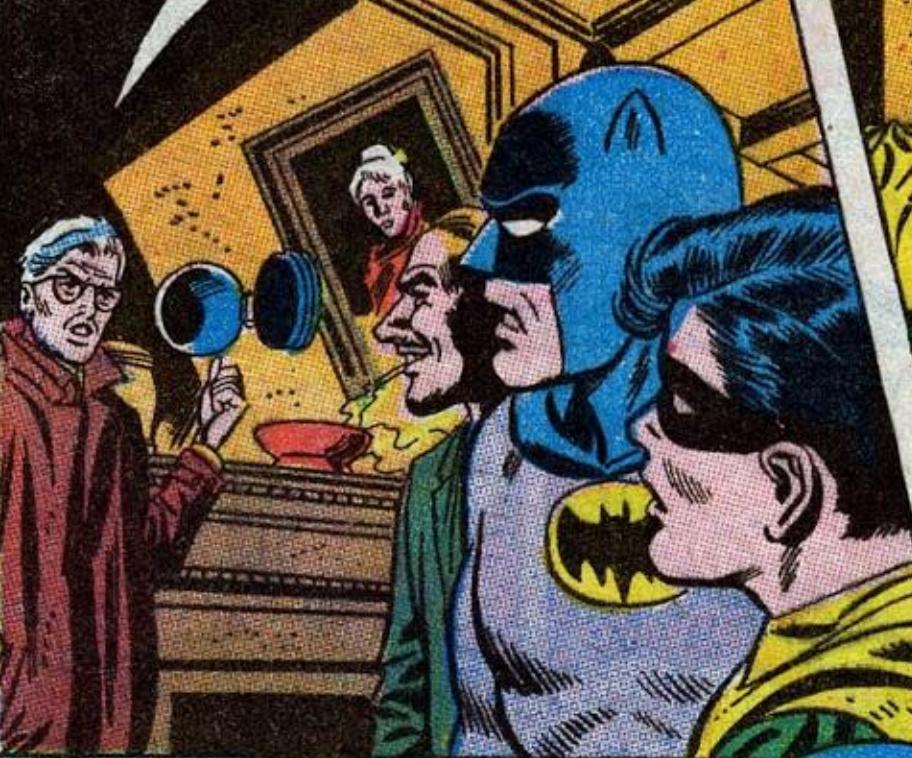
THE FOLLOWING NIGHT... THE LANGSTON MANSION...

ACCORDING TO COMMISSIONER GORDON'S CALL, BATMAN... SOUNDS LIKE ANOTHER CAT-CROOK CAPER!

YEP, ROBIN... ALMOST TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE! ESPECIALLY SINCE WE GET FIRST CRACK AT TRACKING HIM DOWN!

IT'S ALL YOURS, GENTLEMEN! LOOKS LIKE A CLEAN... PRO... CAPER! WITH A HALF-MILLION IN DIAMONDS NEATLY LIFTED!

DETERMINED NOT TO BE OUTCLASSED BY THE SMUG MASTER OF MAYHEM, THE DYNAMIC DUO OF DETECTION FEVERISHLY STARTS ITS HUNT...



AFTER AN EXHAUSTING SEARCH FOR CLUES... SUDDENLY!...

BATMAN... LOOK HERE...!



I WAS RIGHT! KNEW THAT "CAT-CROOK THEORY" WAS TOO PAT... TOO SIMPLE! C'MON, ROBIN... WE'VE GOT A STRONG LEAD THIS TIME!

YEAH! HOOKED... AND PRACTICALLY LANDED!



WHY YES, SIR... HE CAME THIS AFTERNOON TO REPAIR THE T.V.! SAID HE'D RECEIVED A CALL... THE MADAM WAS OUT, SO I GUessed SHE'D CALLED!

YOU... GUessed? THEN YOU CAN'T BE SURE THAT SOMEONE PHONED FROM HERE!

AN OLD DEVICE TO ENTER AND... CASE THE JOINT! BUT AT LEAST HE LEFT HIS... CALLING CARD!

ON THE SPOT REPAIRS...
CALL:
A.N. TENNA
43 ARBOR DRIVE

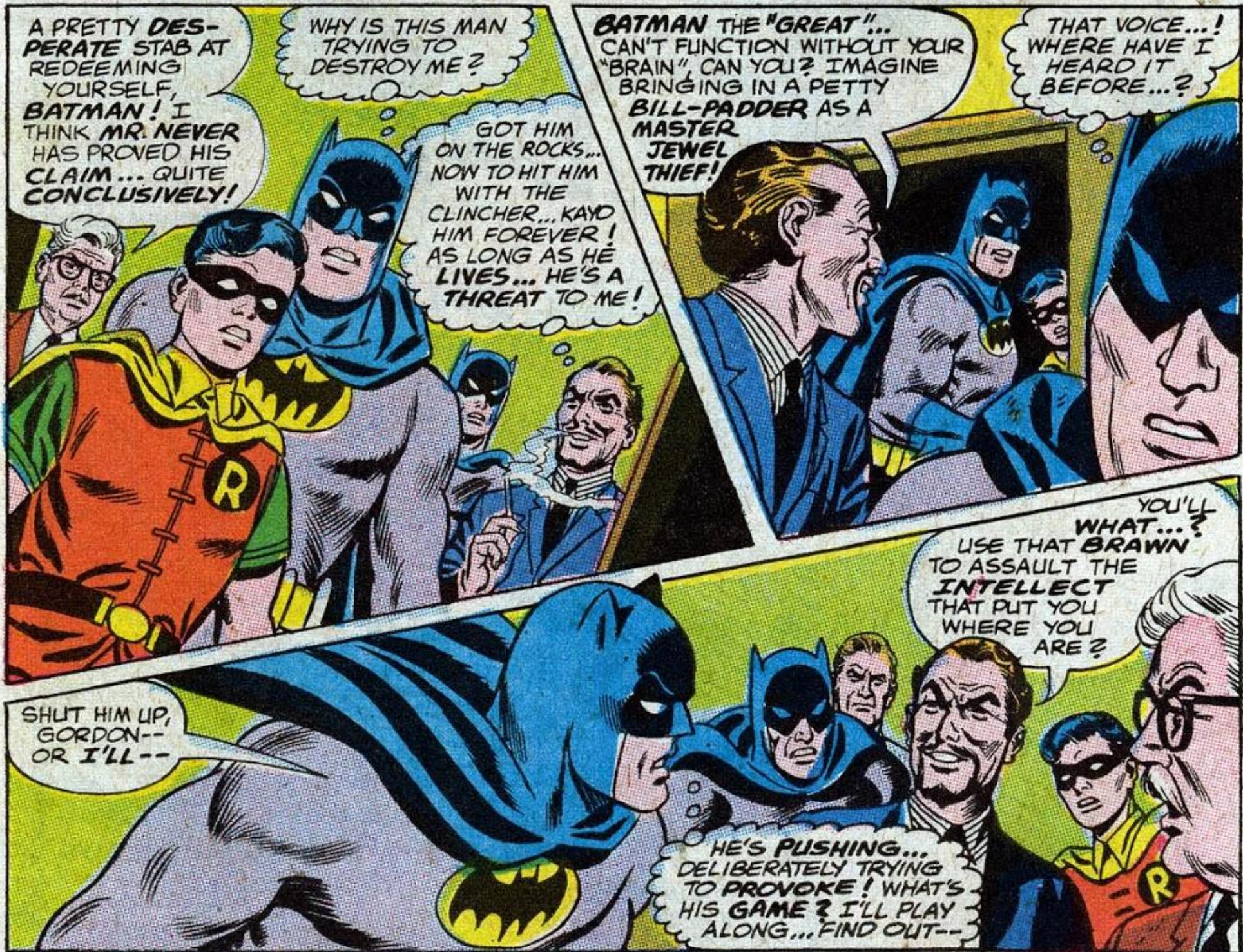


GOOD GRIEF, ROBIN! IN OUR HASTE, WE FORGOT THAT ONE ESSENTIAL DETAIL...

AND... MUCH MORE! ACTING ON THE BRILLIANT DETECTION OF MR. NEVER... WE'VE ALREADY APPREHENDED THE REAL CRIMINAL!

SEND THE CULPRIT IN...



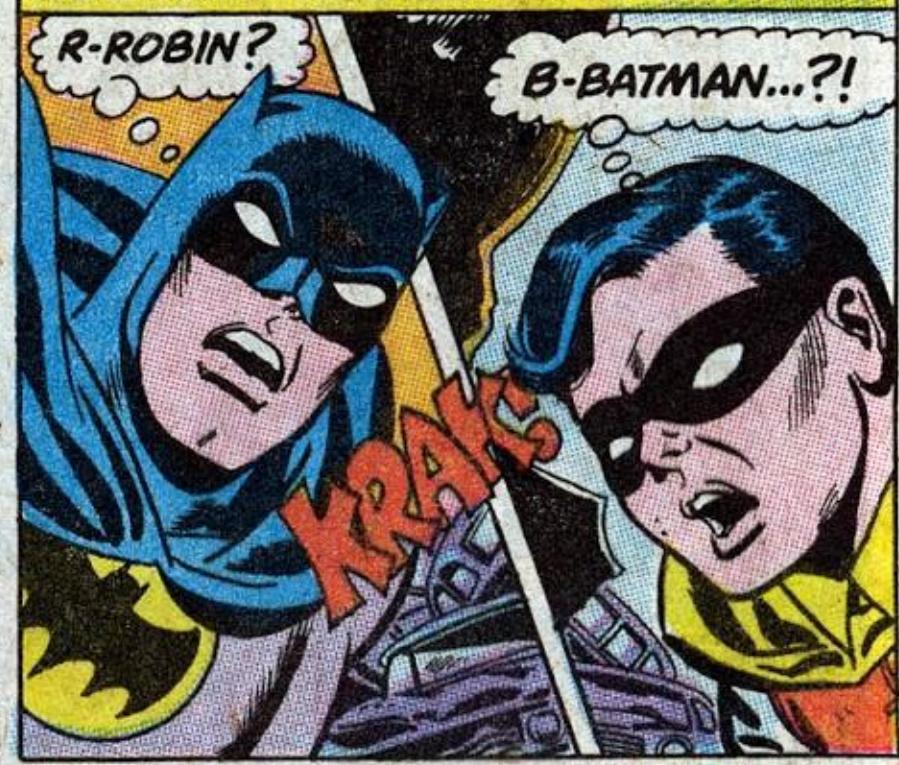




AFTER MOMENTS OF TENSE...PATIENT...WAITING...



AND IN TWO DIFFERENT SECTORS OF THE WRECK-
ING YARD...AS THE SHOT BLASTS THE NIGHT...



AS THE CAPE CRUSADER
REACHES THE CRIME-SCENE
FIRST...

THE
CAT-CROOK...?!

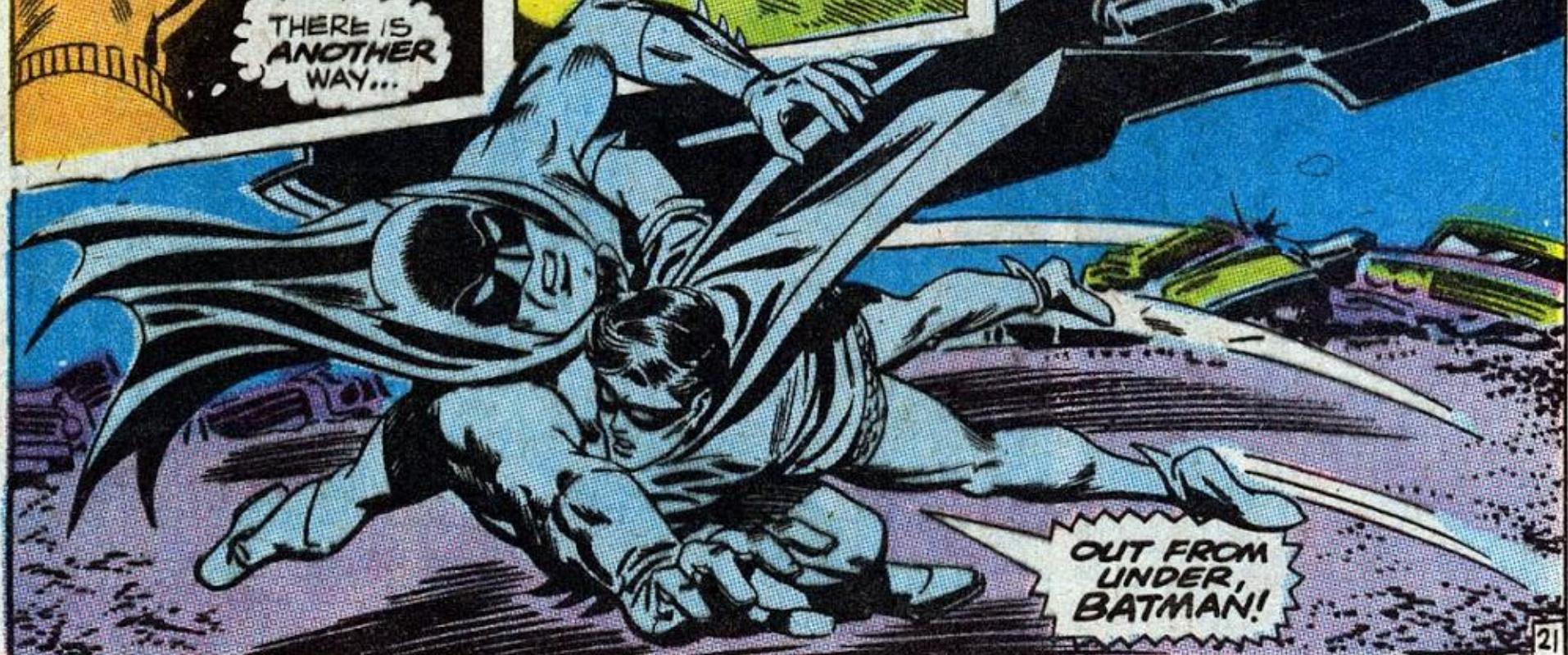
UNARMED...
GUNNED DOWN
IN COLD
BLOOD!



SOMEONE LEFT THE
ELECTROMAGNETIC
CURRENT ON! ALL I
HAVE TO DO... IS
SWITCH IT OFF,
AND...



BUT EVEN AS THE DEADLY
CAR-CORPSE HURLES DOWN...
FROM OUT OF NOWHERE...!



HIS WIND KNOCKED OUT, ROBIN LIES MOMENTARILY STUNNED... AS BATMAN FALLS INTO THE CAR-CRUSHER PIT AFTER STRIKING HIS HEAD AGAINST THE EDGE! ...

HA! NOW I HAVE THEM!... FIRST I'LL CRUSH THE CAPED CRUSADER INTO AN UNRECOGNIZABLE PULP --

ON
OFF

AND AS THE PLANNER THROWS THE REMOTE-CONTROL LEVER...

SEIZING A MASSIVE CONSTRUCTION BEAM, THE DESPERATE BOY WONDER WEDGES IT INTO THE NARROWING GAP, BUT...!

IT... BENT UP LIKE A GIANT PRETZEL! ONLY ONE... FAR-OUT... CHANCE LEFT!

GNRRRRRRRRRRR-

RR

NO TIME... TO GET BATMAN OUT! GOT TO STOP IT... SOMEHOW!

A FAR-OUT LONG-SHOT THAT... SCORES! BATARANG!

KACHUNG!

AAR-KGH!

AND THROWS THE LEVER... JUST IN TIME!

?PHEW!: STOPPED THOSE... MANGLING-MOLARS!

GNRR-RR!

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ON SALE DC SEPT 24th



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AQUAMAN
THE FLASH
GREEN
LANTERN
Wonder
Woman
MARTIAN
MANHUNTER

THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE GRIND SLOW... BUT FINE... AS...

...BALLISTIC TESTS PROVE THE FATAL BULLET WAS FIRED FROM THE DEFENDANT'S GUN !

...THAT'S THE CAT ALRIGHT-- THE PLANNER!

..HE SURE "PLANNED" IT! OUR... HA! HA!... PERFECT CRIME!

...YEAH, IT WAS HIS VOICE WHAT ORDERED THE T.V. REPAIR AT THE LANGSTON MANSION !

...IT MAY HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN IDENTITY.. BUT IT WAS PRE-MEDITATED MURDER !



AND SO THE MASTER OF MALICIOUS MAYHEM FACES A HIGHER "PLANNER".

...YOU SHALL BE TAKEN FROM THENCE TO A PLACE OF EXECUTION... WHERE 20,000 VOLTS OF ELECTRICITY SHALL BE PASSED THROUGH YOUR BODY...

...TILL YOU ARE DEAD!

LATER... ON DEATH-ROW...

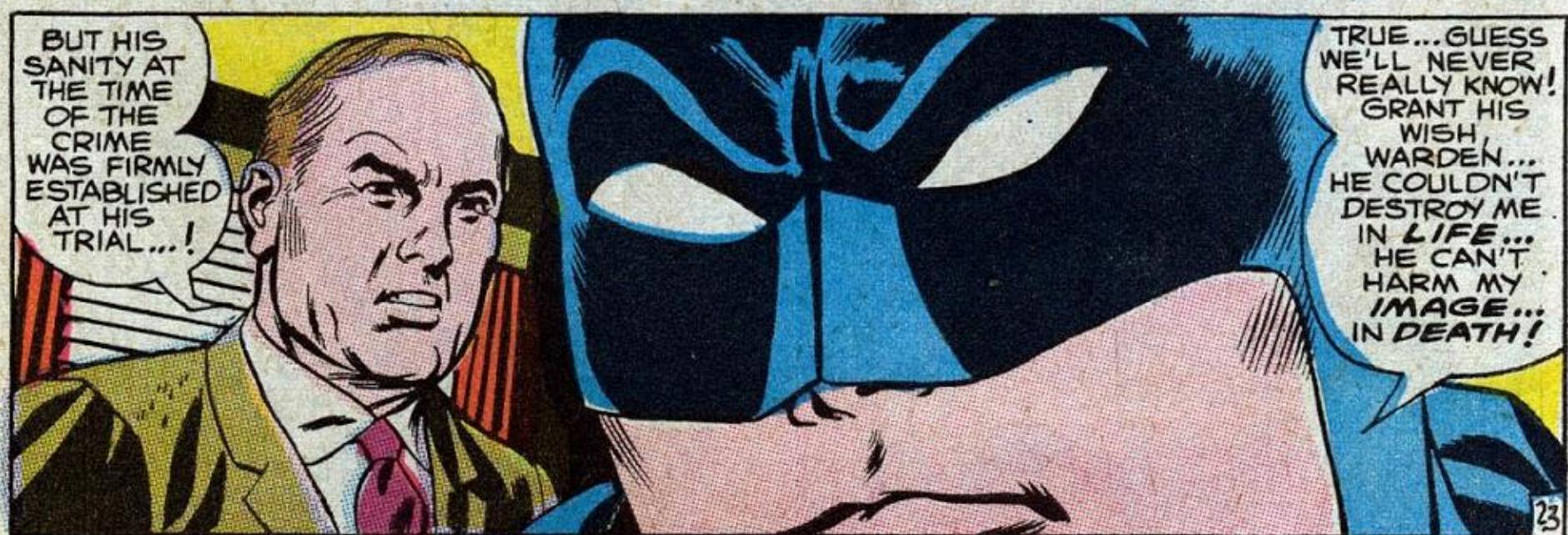
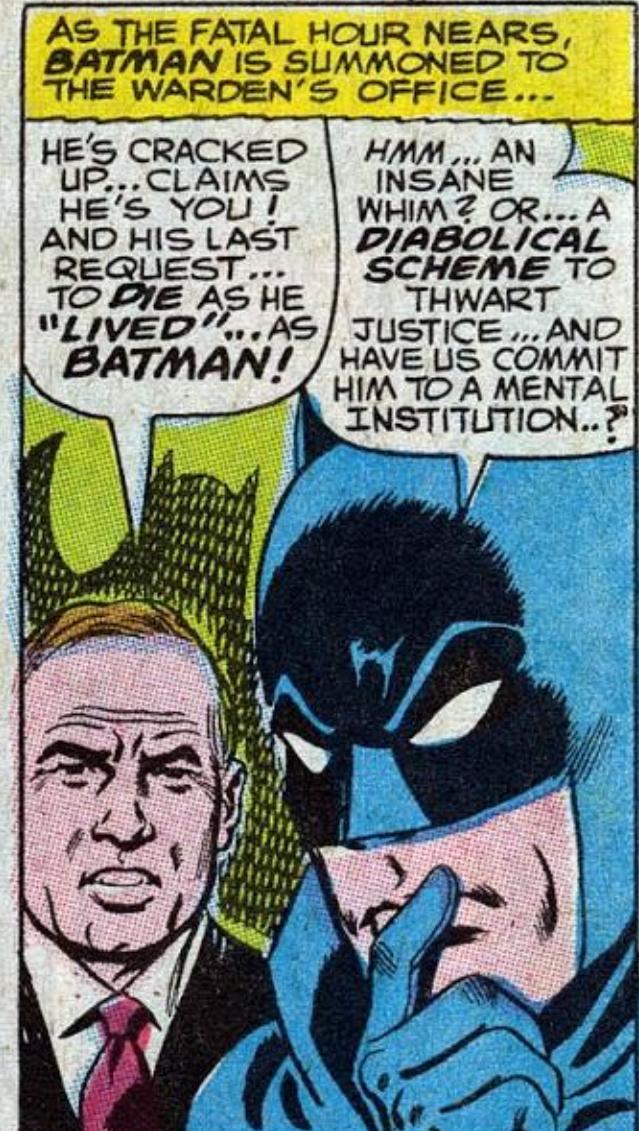
HE'S GONE OFF HIS ROCKER!

FOOLS! IDIOTS! CRETINS! I'M BATMAN'S "BRAIN"... I AM BATMAN!

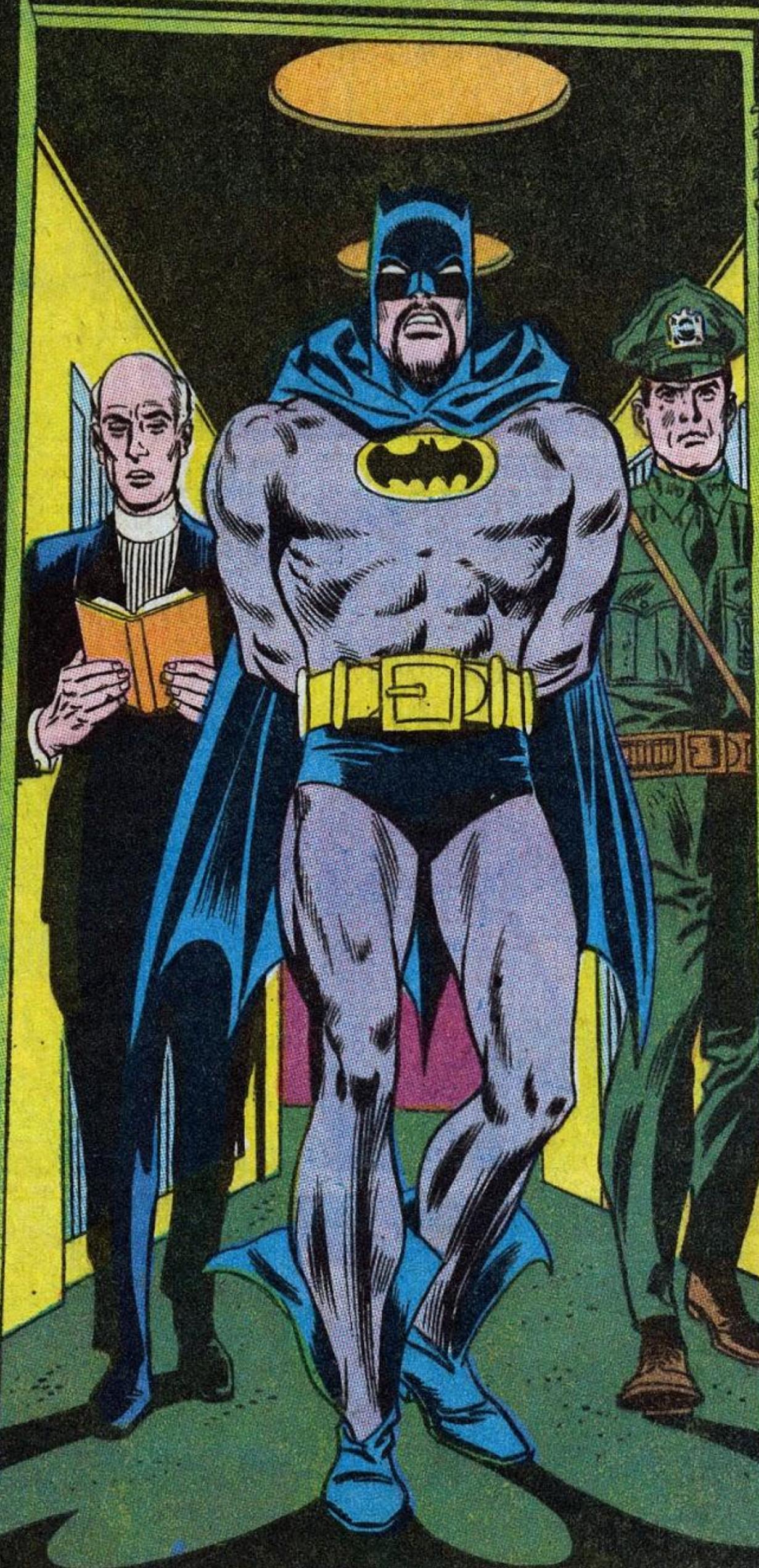
AS THE FATAL HOUR NEARS, BATMAN IS SUMMONED TO THE WARDEN'S OFFICE...

HE'S CRACKED UP... CLAIMS HE'S YOU! AND HIS LAST REQUEST... TO DIE AS HE "LIVED"... AS BATMAN!

HMM... AN INSANE WHIM? OR... A DIABOLICAL SCHEME TO THWART JUSTICE... AND HAVE US COMMIT HIM TO A MENTAL INSTITUTION..?



AND SO THE CONDEMNED MAN'S LAST WISH IS FULFILLED AS HE COMPLETES THAT GRIM "LAST MILE" LEADING TO...



THE
END

Hey, FOOTBALL FANS!

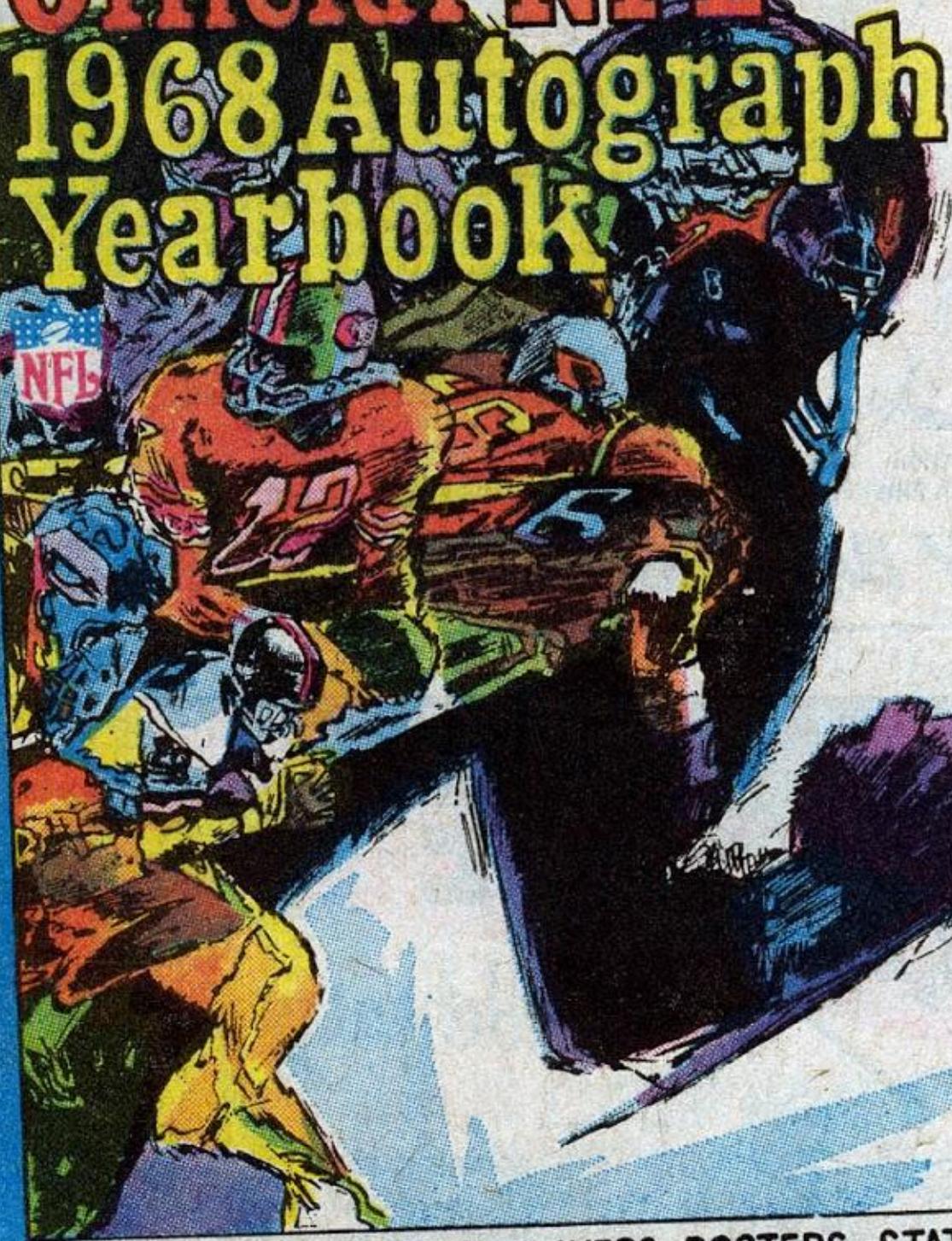
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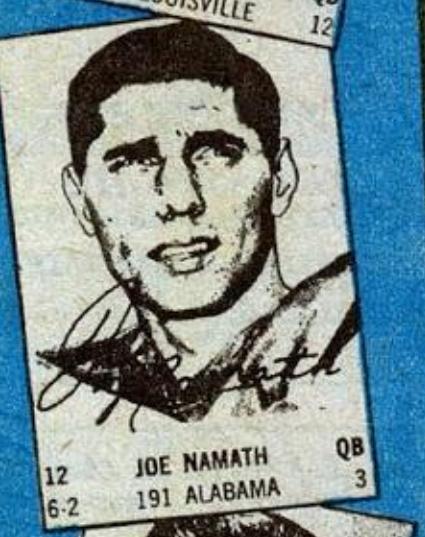
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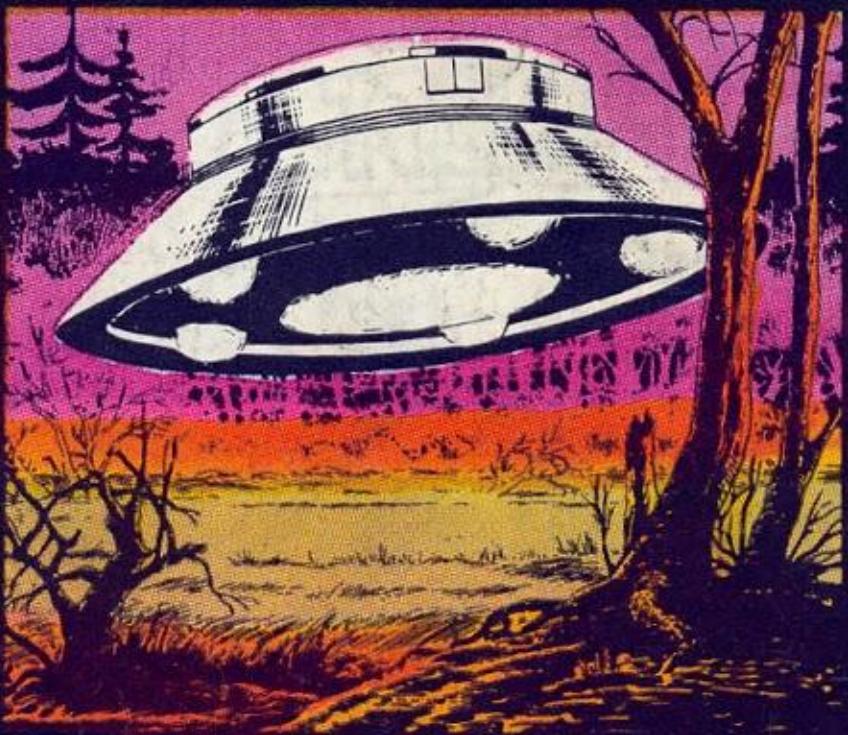


AND Clark (SUPERMAN) Kent IS LURED INTO A TRAP THAT'S GUARANTEED TO EXPOSE HIS SECRET IDENTITY... WHETHER HE ESCAPES OR NOT!!!

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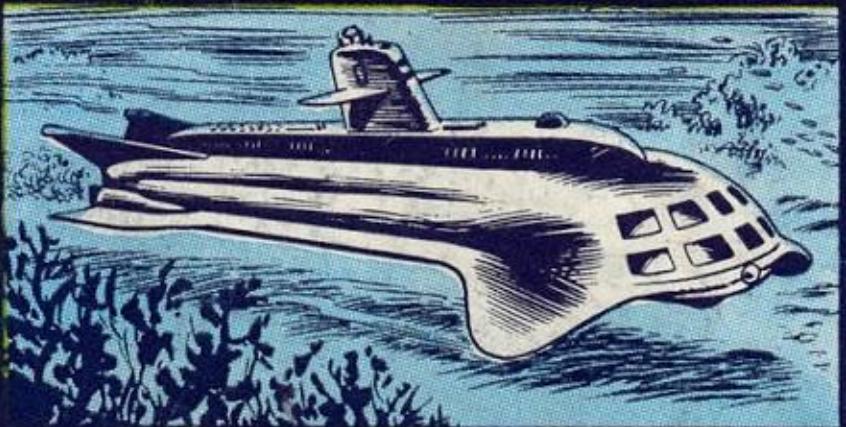
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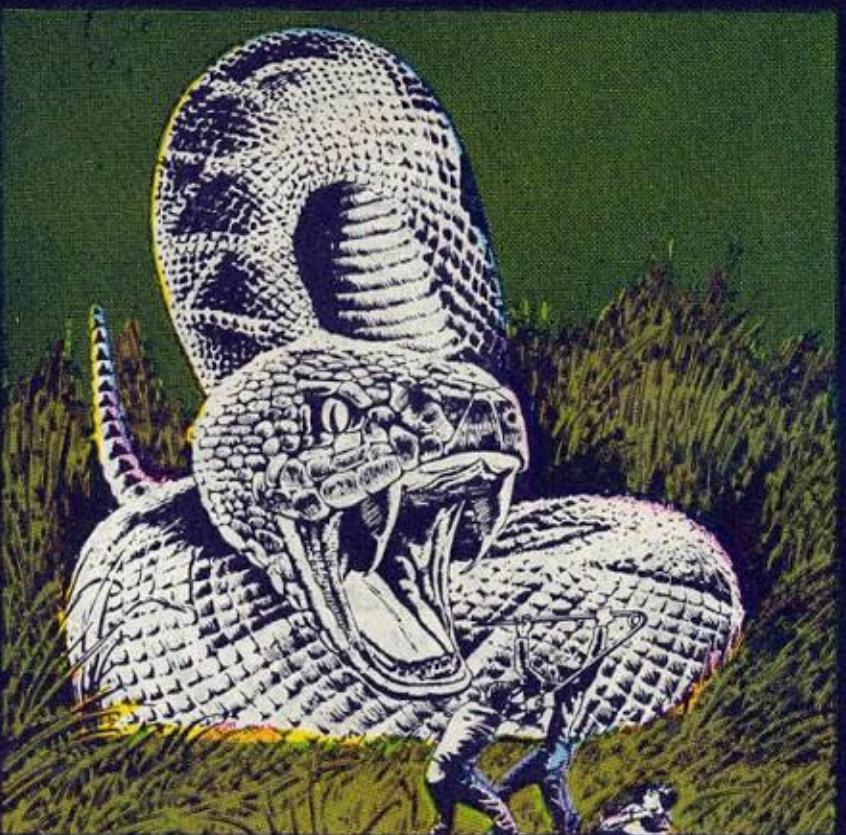
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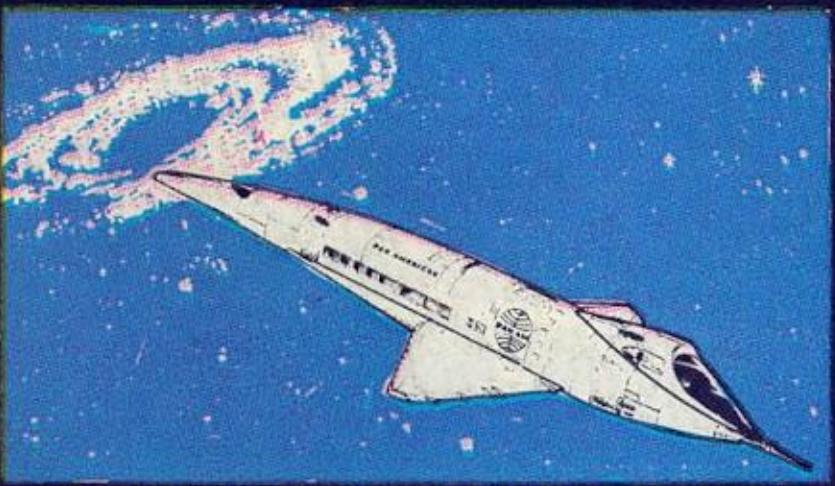
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