

DC
BATMAN

20c

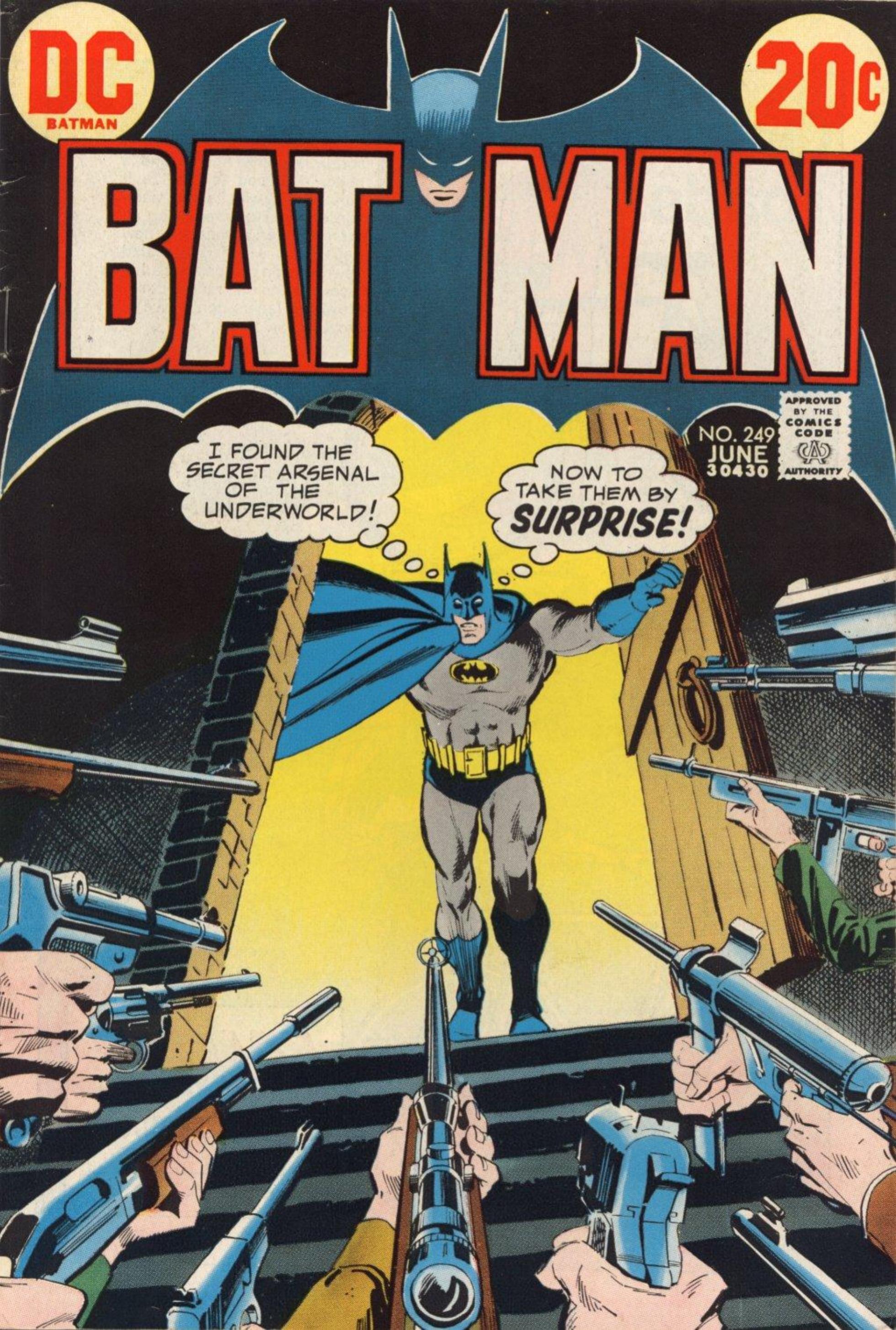
BATMAN

I FOUND THE
SECRET ARSENAL
OF THE
UNDERWORLD!

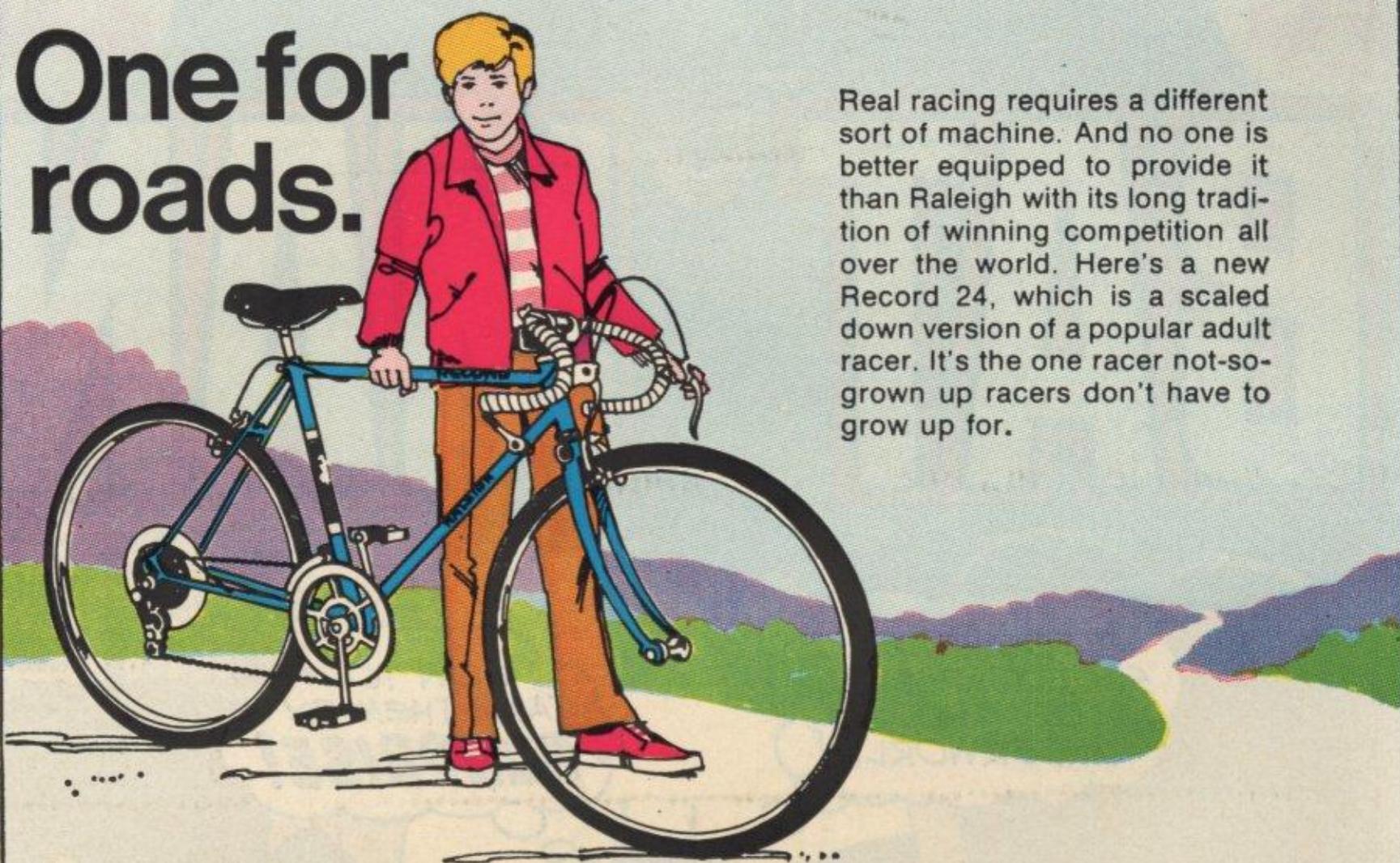
NOW TO
TAKE THEM BY
SURPRISE!

NO. 249
JUNE
30430

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
C.C.
AUTHORITY

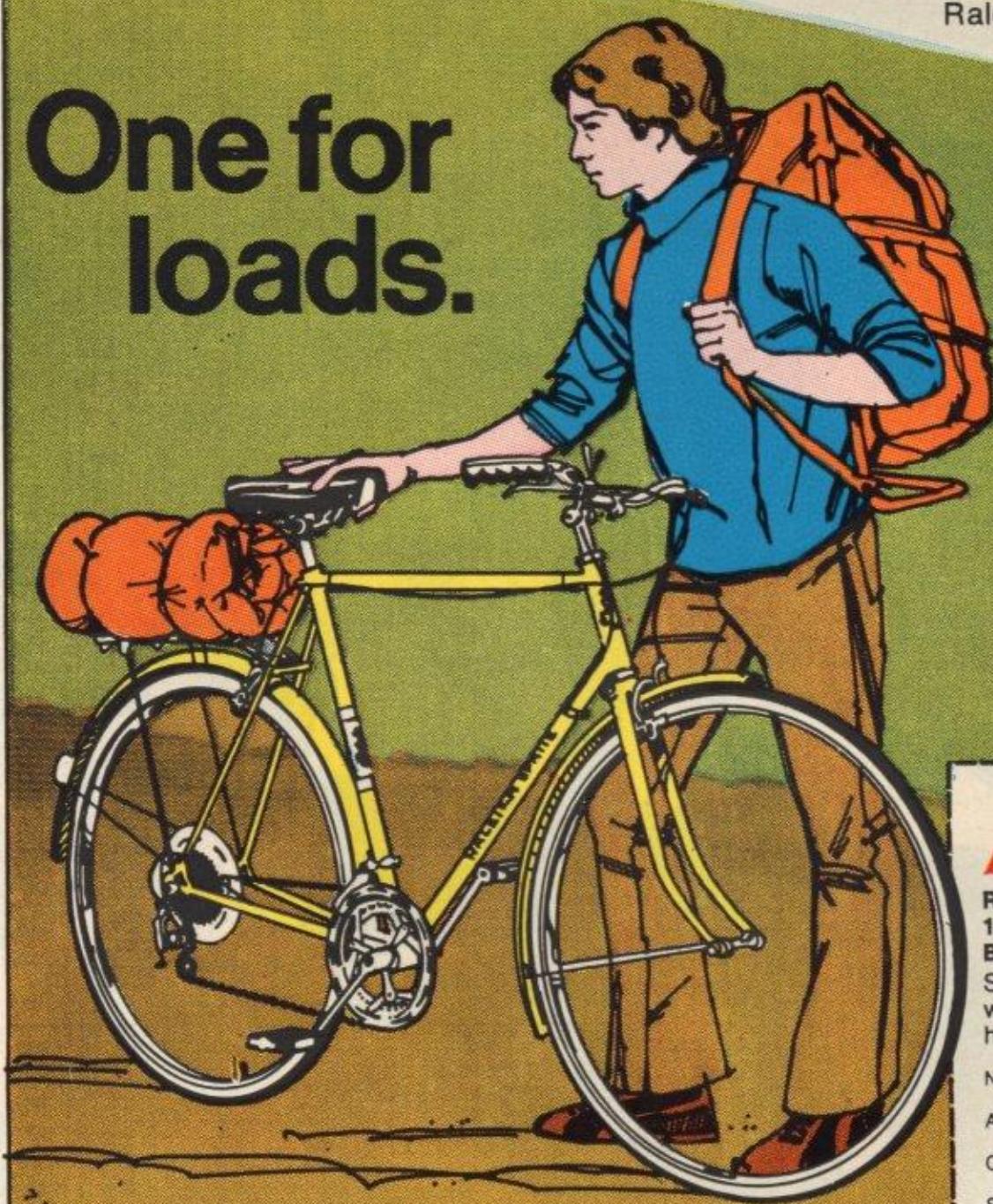


One for roads.



Real racing requires a different sort of machine. And no one is better equipped to provide it than Raleigh with its long tradition of winning competition all over the world. Here's a new Record 24, which is a scaled down version of a popular adult racer. It's the one racer not-so-grown up racers don't have to grow up for.

One for loads.



The Sprite — one of the spirited Raleigh touring bicycles — is built for effortless bicycling. Rugged enough to take back-packing trips or a sack of daily papers without straining. Choice of 5 or 10 speeds, the Sprite comes equipped with rear carrier and comfortable spring mattress saddle, plus self-adjusting brakes. Your Raleigh dealer has lots of other possibilities. See him and the 73 Raleigh cycles. If you'd like to see a preview, send 25¢ for our new catalog.

RALEIGH

Raleigh Industries of America
1168 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Mass. 02134

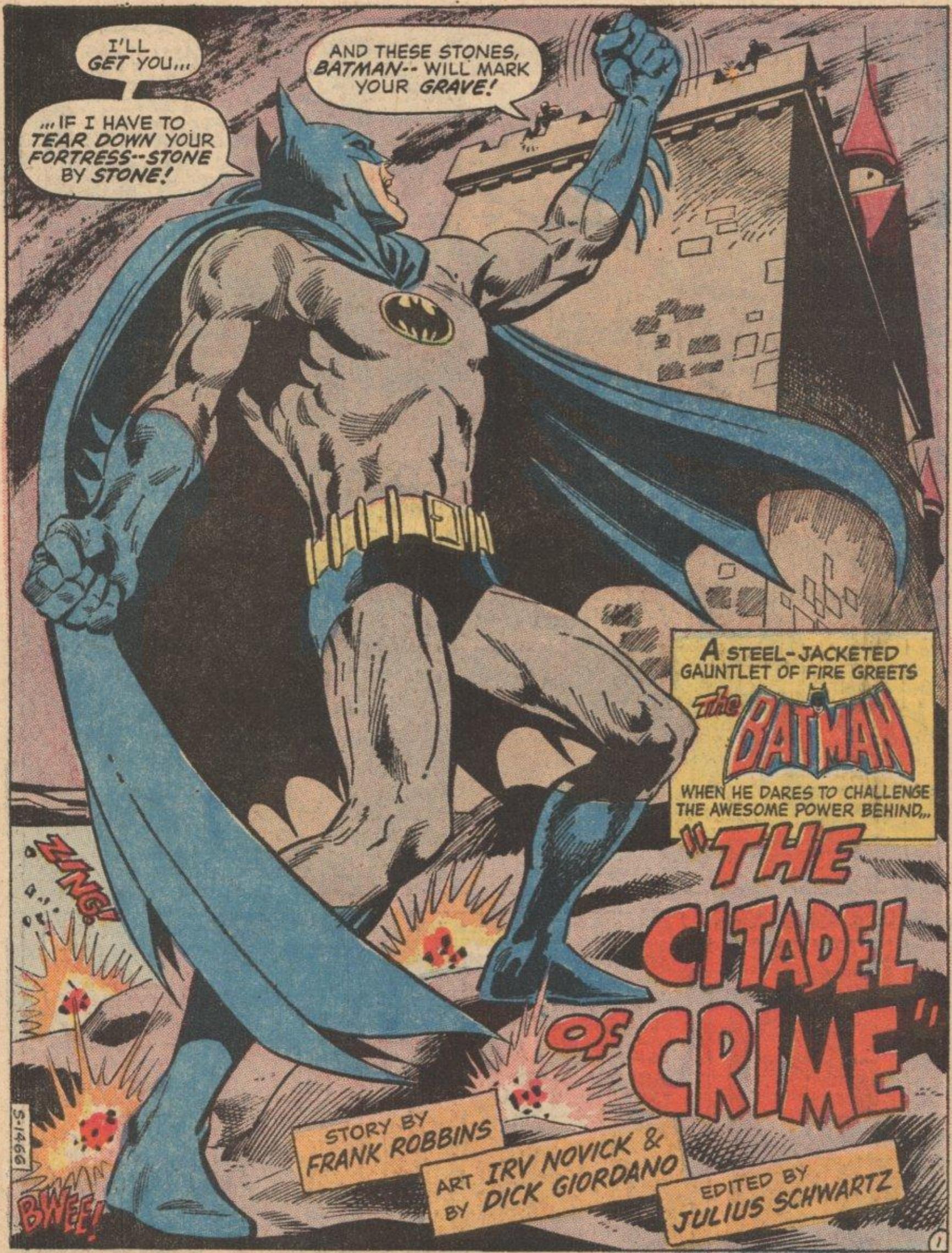
Sure, I'd like your new catalog. Who wouldn't? Enclosed is 25¢ to cover handling.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____



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FAR UP-RIVER FROM THE GLITTERING LIGHTS OF GOTHAM, THE BATMAN MAINTAINS A LONELY VIGIL...

NOTHING STIRRING OUT THERE!

COULD MY MYSTERY TIPSTER HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN?

YET THAT "CASTLE" HAS BEEN BOARDED UP FOR YEARS... WHICH COULD MAKE IT AN IDEAL GUN-SUPPLY "DEPOT" FOR THE UNDERWORLD!



SUDDENLY, THE DEEP THROB OF POWERFUL ENGINES... AND A FAST LAUNCH STREAKS OUT OF HIDING...

RIGHT UNDER MY NOSE... THEY'VE LOADED UP AND TAKEN OFF!



THIS ISN'T THE FIRST ARMS-CACHE I'VE TRACKED DOWN...

...BUT TO RAID IT NOW WOULD ONLY CLOSE DOWN THIS OPERATION WITHOUT NABBING THE MASTERMIND BEHIND IT!

MAKING HIS WAY BACK TO HIS PENTHOUSE "COVER"...

TIP VERIFIED, ALFRED! AN ARMS SHIPMENT WAS PULLED OFF TONIGHT!

...WITH ANOTHER SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME TIME NEXT WEEK!

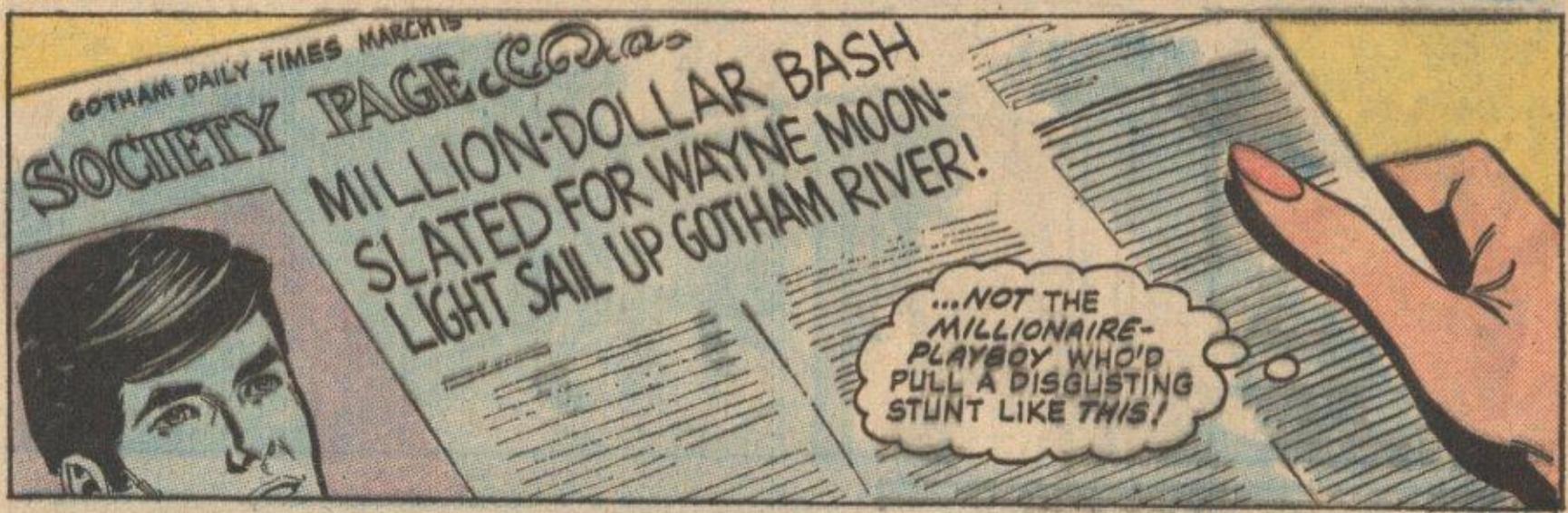
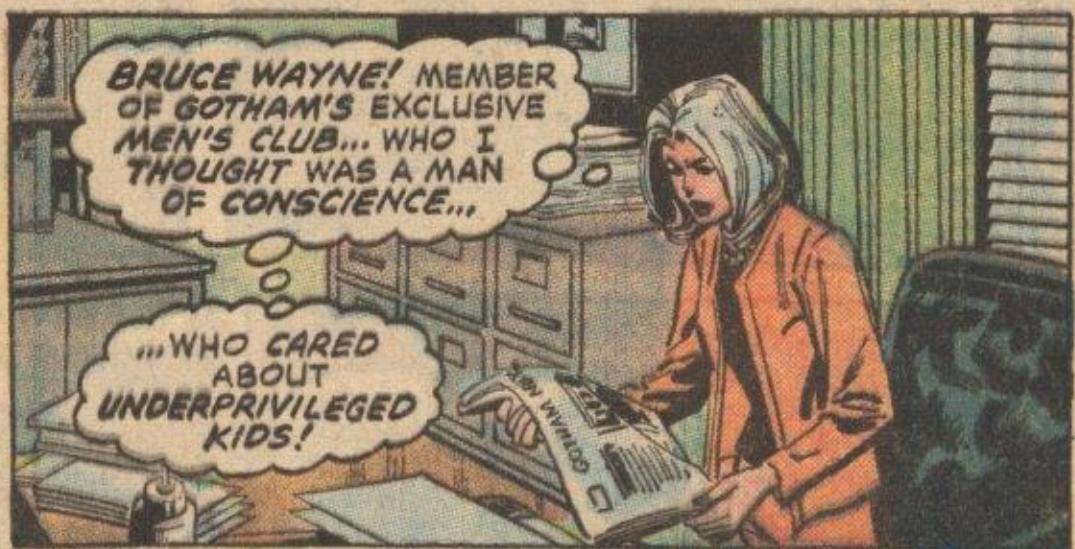
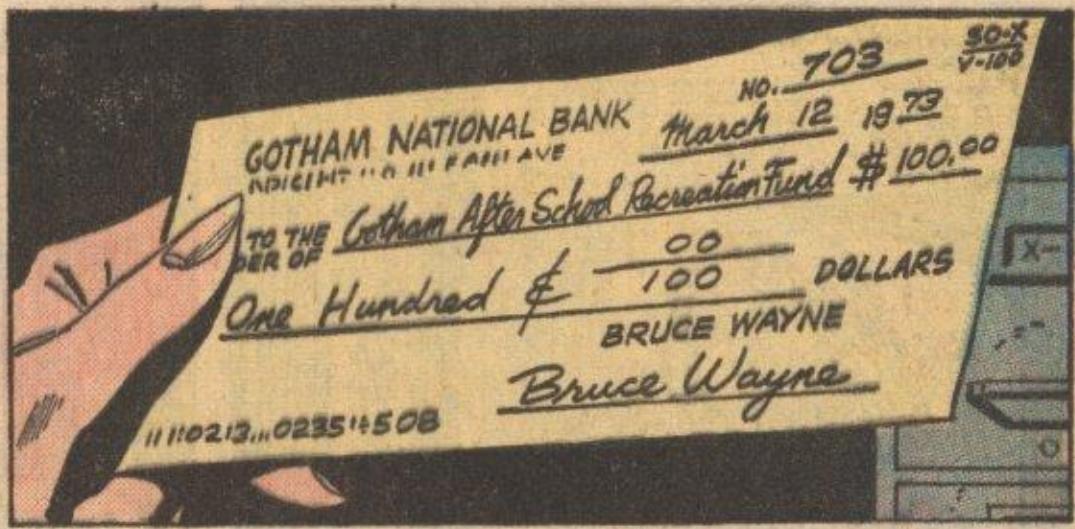
CAME OVER THE HOT-LINE, SIR-- RELAYED FROM POLICE H.Q.-- FROM THE SAME TIPSTER!

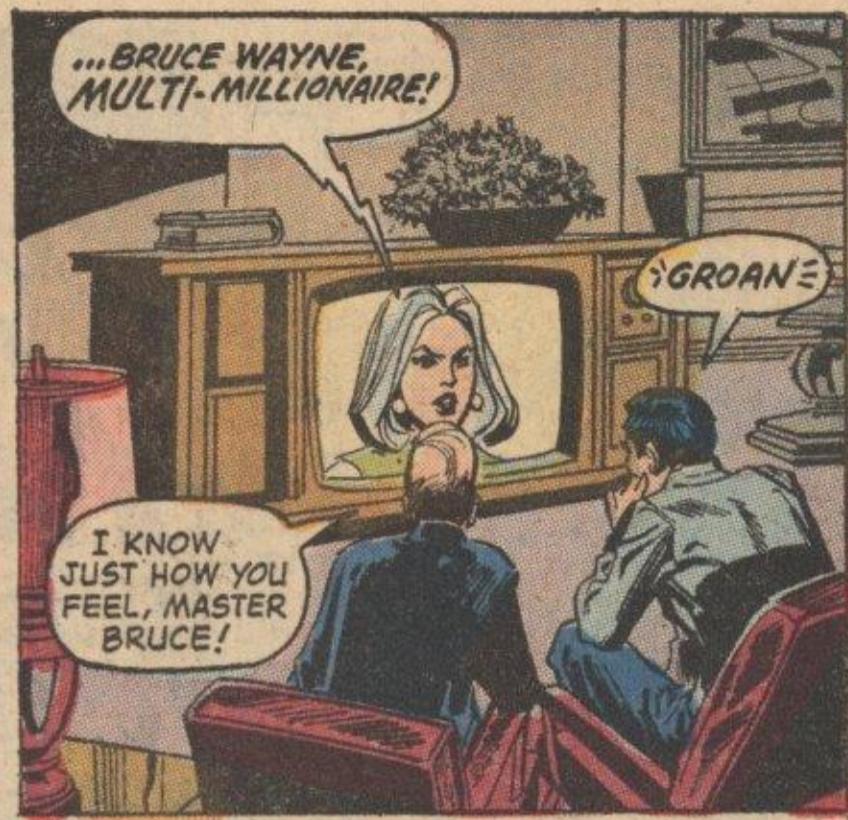
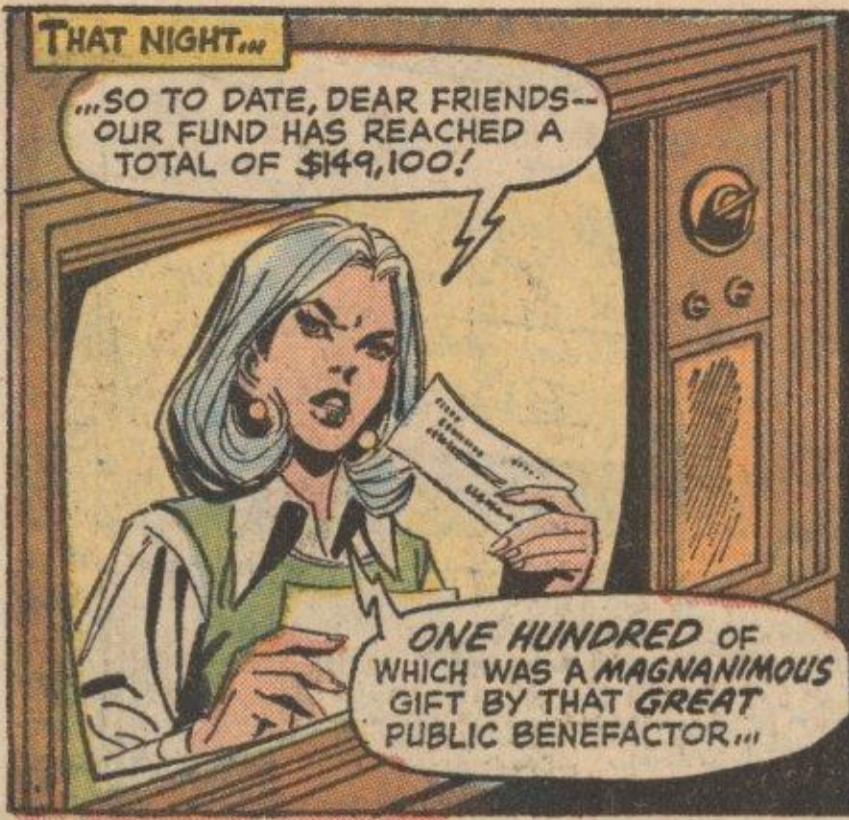
SHE ALSO ADDED THAT THE CITADEL OWNER IS A MEMBER OF THE GOTHAM MEN'S CLUB!

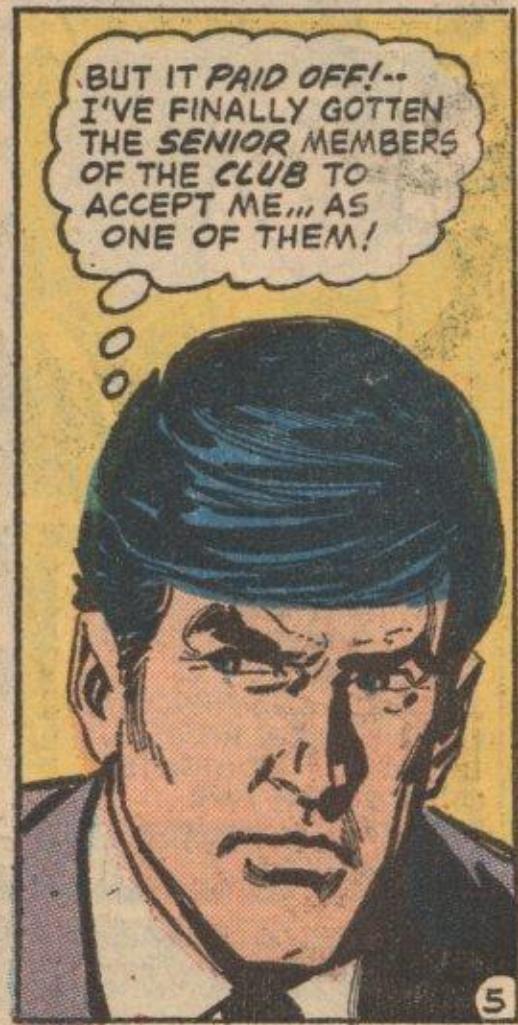
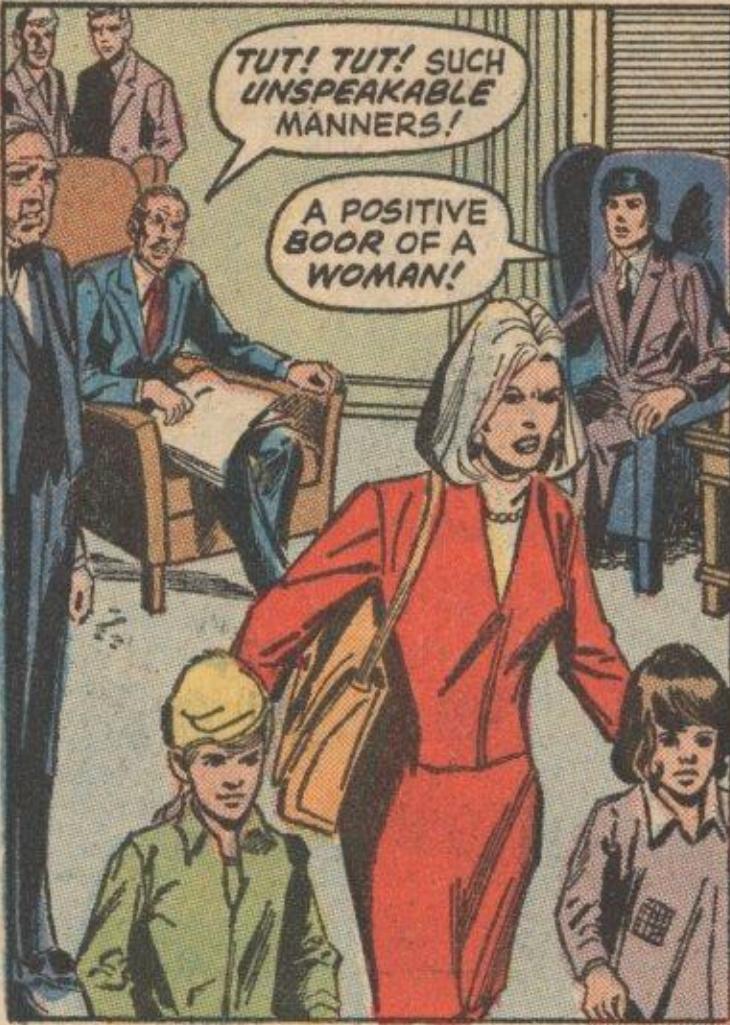


DAYS LATER, IN THE OFFICE OF MARLA MANNING, CRUSADING NEWSPAPER-COLUMNIST...

THE NERVE! THE OUTRIGHT GALL OF THAT "MAN"... SENDING CHICKEN-FEED LIKE THIS!







THE NIGHT OF
THE "BASH"...
AS HOST
BRUCE WAYNE
GREETS GUESTS
ABOARD HIS
YACHT MOORED
AT GOTHAM'S
PRIVATE
MARINA...

HOW UTERLY
FAR-OUT, BRUCE, DEAR!
TRANSFORMING YOUR
YACHT INTO A
FLOATING CABARET!



A TRIUMPH OF TASTE
AND CREATIVITY
ONLY TRUE PATRICIANS
CAN APPRECIATE!

OUTSTANDING,
WAYNE...

AND WHAT HIDDEN
DELIGHTS DOES THAT
BLACKED-OUT BARGE
POSSESS?



AH, STANFORD,
OLD BOY-- THAT
WILL REMAIN
HIDDEN TILL THE
APPROPRIATE
MOMENT!

HIS LIST OF INVITED GUESTS COMPLETE,
THE GANGPLANK IS HAULED IN...

THE TRAP
IS LAID!
BUT WILL IT
NET THE "FISH"
I WANT?



TO THE LILTING SOUNDS
OF CHAMPAGNE MUSIC
AND JOYOUS LAUGHTER,
THE CARNIVAL-LIT
ASSEMBLAGE PROCEEDS
UP THE DARK RIVER...
LEAVING THE LIGHTS
OF GOTHAM FAR
BEHIND...

ALL OF THEM ARE
VERY PROPER MEMBERS
OF THE "MEN'S CLUB"..."
THEIR WIVES AND
FAMILIES..."

...YET ONE OF THOSE MEN
IS JUST AS BIG A PHONY
AS BRUCE WAYNE!

Start a great new life of service and adventure in Conservation Country!



These patches represent outdoor careers for which the National School trains you; not the official patches of any State, Federal or private conservation service.

We'll train you in your spare time for an exciting Outdoor Career

Thousands of jobs will be opening up in wildlife management, parks and outdoor recreation, forestry, etc.

Why spend the best days of your life punching a time clock in an office, store or factory — when you may be able to qualify for one of the thousands of new jobs that are coming up in the great outdoors because of concern for conservation and ecology.

Imagine getting paid for work you'll enjoy.

Don't settle for only occasional hunting, fishing and boating trips. Live and work right next to nature — in real man country — all year round. Every year there are new openings in State and National Parks, the forest industry, game refuges and preserves, private hunting and fishing clubs and recreational facilities.

Here's how you can qualify... Start now!

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Good Pay... Job Security... Low Living Costs — a great combination!

You can earn a good living, with advancement

possibilities and raises based on seniority and performance. As a bonus, some jobs include uniform allowances, hospital insurance, pension plans, vacations with pay... and your paychecks come through regularly — good times or bad.

You only live once... make it a life of adventure

The man who wears the insignia of a forestry, conservation, wildlife or park agency is a man of action called upon to rescue people in danger... to enforce our laws and protect our wildlife... to direct citizens in time of emergencies... even lead fire fighting crews. What's more, the conservationist has the satisfaction of knowing that he is serving his country... safeguarding her forests, parks, ranges and wildlife. Future generations will be grateful to him for preserving the natural beauty of our American heritage.

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— George E. Wood, Illinois.

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★ CAREER GUIDEBOOK

Handsomely illustrated book packed with facts about how to start your new life in the great outdoors.

★ FIELD TRAINING INFORMATION AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

Describing National School's field training camp which you may attend if you choose.

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Complete details on how you can pay for your education through the GI Bill.

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National School of Conservation,

Dept. 42365

1129 20th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

Without cost or obligation, please rush me the complete CONSERVATION CAREER KIT — FREE! This kit includes complete details on how I can qualify at home, in my spare time for an exciting career in the great outdoors. No salesman will visit.

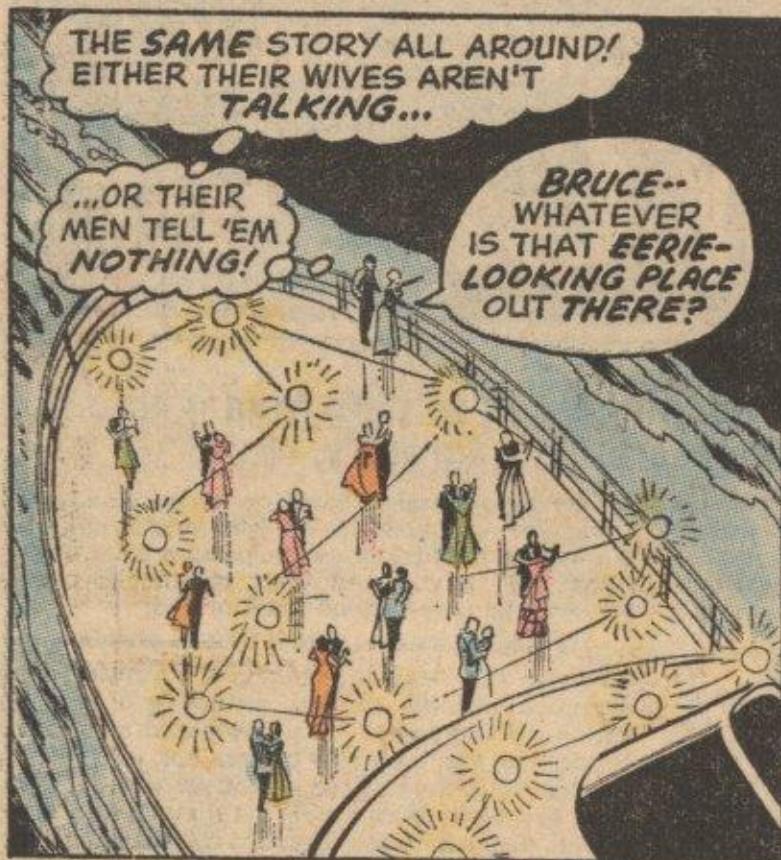
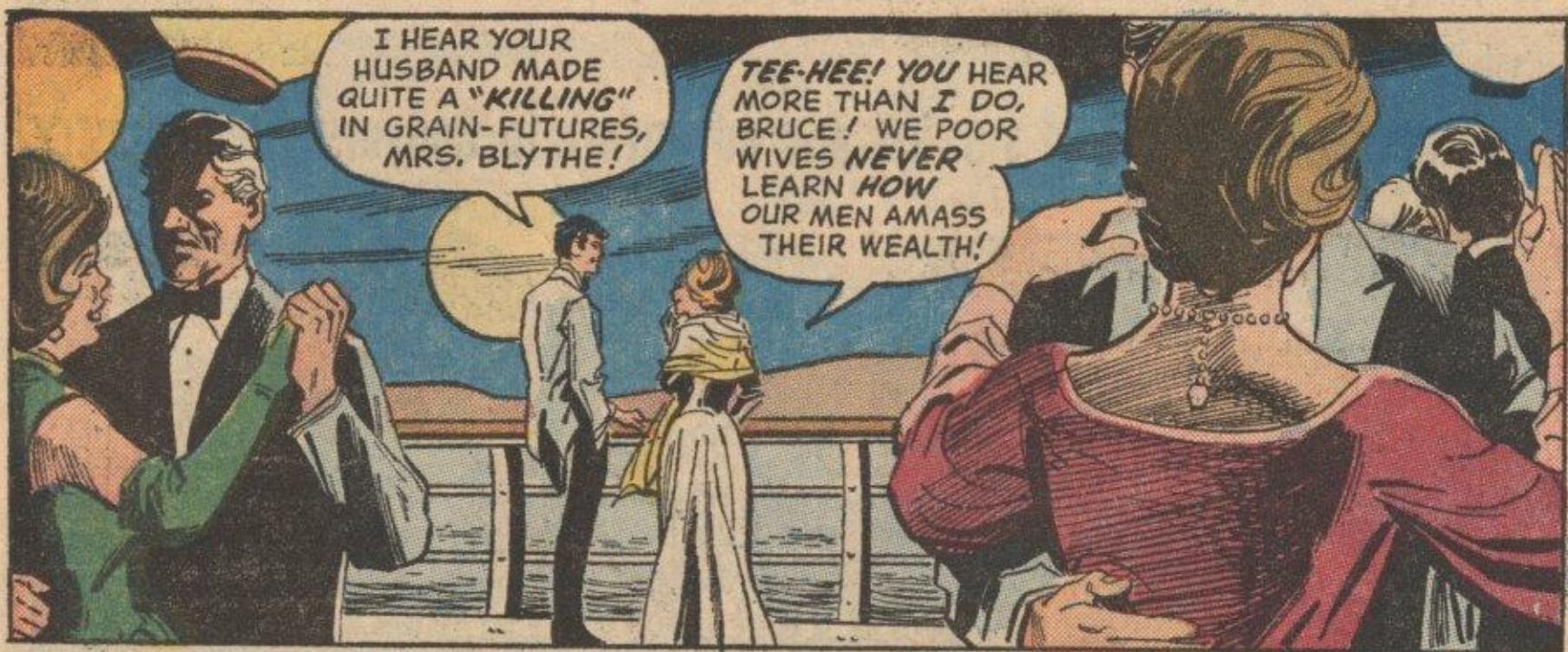
Print Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____





JUST BEFORE
MIDNIGHT, AS
THE ENTOURAGE
NEARS "FOSTER'S
FOLLY"...

ATTENTION, FOLKS! NOW--
FOR YOUR DELECTATION AND
AMUSEMENT...

...WAYNE'S
BIGGEST BASH!
KEEP YOUR EYES
ON THE BARGE!

AS A REMOTE-SWITCH
ELECTRONICALLY IGNITES
THE BARGE'S CARGO,
THE ENTIRE RIVER
LIGHTS UP!...

BLAM! VOOSH!
WHROOSH!

FIREWORKS!!

OOOH!

AH-H!

NOW-- IF
MY TIMING
IS RIGHT...

...THIS AERIAL
DISPLAY SHOULD
REVEAL WHO WILL
BE LOOKING
ELSEWHERE...

STANFORD!
STARING... LIKE
HE'S SEEN A
GHOST!

GUN-LOADING
FROM THE
CITADEL-ARSENAL...

...WHICH I'VE
DEPRIVED OF
ITS CLOAK OF
DARKNESS!

CONTINUED ON 2nd PAGE FOLLOWING

Super

BODYBUILDING COURSE —

INTRODUCING

THE BODYBUILDING SYSTEM THAT GUARANTEES —

YOU'LL PUT ON INCHES OF POWERFUL MUSCLES ON YOUR BODY!

At last, NEW bodybuilding secrets are now available for your use. Finally, after years of experimenting we have come up with the fastest muscle building system in the world. Our course really works — thousands have taken our course and have obtained fantastic results. Right in the privacy of your own bedroom, you can completely transform your body.

SEE YOUR MUSCLES GROW DAY BY DAY!

You can have POWERFUL MUSCLES FAST . . . not by years and years of hard work . . . but by simply following our fascinating system . . . a system that works so fast you can see results from day to day! Isn't that the kind of course you want? We absolutely guarantee results.

HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE LETTERS WE HAVE RECEIVED

"Wow! I'm making fantastic gains, following your new method of muscle building. I never knew it could be so easy to build muscles." J. Johnson

"In just 3 weeks I have gained 1½" on my arms and 4" on my chest. I have also lost 4" off my waist. Your course is just great!" D. Roberts

"I was a skinny weakling when I enrolled, now I've gained 30 pounds in just 45 days. I am truly amazed. I'm going to be dynamite on the beach." B. Abbott

"I'm transforming all the fat off my body and changing it into rock-hard muscle. It's amazing — I have lost 8" off my waist. I can actually see my muscles growing from day to day." P. Williams

"I have gained 20 pounds in just 30 days and I have gained over 6 inches on my chest. I find that my power has doubled. In sports I am a winner in everything I do." B. Daniels

"I have gained 5" on my arms and 12" on my chest, while losing 3" off my waist. I have tripled my power and speed. Thanks for what you have done for me!" M. Robinson



MORRIE MITCHELL GAINED 65 POUNDS OF MUSCLE WHILE FOLLOWING OUR 'REVOLUTIONARY NEW METHODS' ON BODYBUILDING.

TAKE YOUR CHOICE! You Can Do This...

- ★ **DOUBLE OR TRIPLE YOUR STRENGTH** in record time! It wouldn't take long before you can perform feats of strength.
- ★ **BUILD HUGE — GIANT SIZE** muscles — fast. You'll have bulging muscles before you know it.
- ★ **TRIM YOUR WAIST** by following ultra-modern methods. It won't take long before your waist shows washboard abdominal muscles.
- ★ **GAIN WEIGHT** — You can actually gain up to 50 pounds of rock-hard muscle.
- ★ **LOSE FAT** — You'll find it easy to get rid of excess fat and replace it with muscle.
- ★ **FEEL 100% BETTER** — You can't help but feel great once you own a muscular body.

UNIVERSAL BODYBUILDING
Box 485, Dept. S
Dearborn, Mich. 48121

FREE!

Shoot the 'works' to me free! Rush me all that free muscle-building information, so that I can add inches of powerful muscles — all in the privacy of my home. I am sending 25¢ to help cover postage and handling costs. I am under no obligation. (Please print)

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

MAIL TODAY



AS THE GUESTS GAZE UP AT THE DAZZLING DISPLAY, OBLIVIOUS TO THE TENSE DRAMA BEING ENACTED ON DECK...

STANFORD'S
MAKING HIS
MOVE... AND
SO AM I!

PLANNING ON
CUTTING LOOSE
THAT FIREWORKS-
BARGE, STANFORD?

B-BATMAN?!

--SO YOUR GANG
CAN HAVE THE
BLACKOUT
THEY NEED?

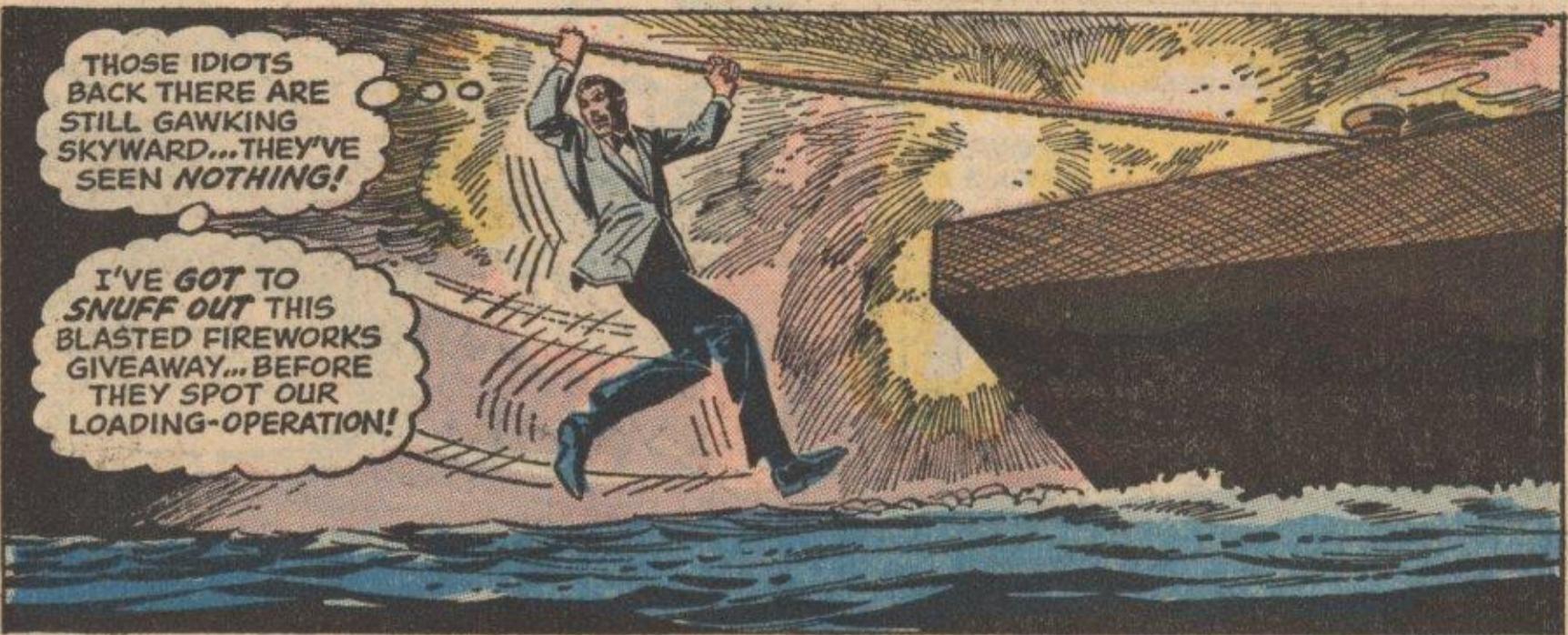
I'M NOT AS
SLOW AS I LOOK,
BATMAN!

I MAKE IT MY BUSINESS
TO KEEP MY ENEMIES
OFF-BALANCE--

--AND MAKING
SURE--

--THEY NEVER
TROUBLE ME
AGAIN!

THUNK!



GROPING HIS WAY ASTERN,
THE ARMAMENTS
KING FINDS
A CONVENIENT
ESCAPE-
ROUTE...

BLASTED BATMAN! HE'S RUINED
MY WHOLE OPERATION IN ONE
BLUNDERING MOMENT!



IN MOMENTS—
ON THE LOADING
PIER OF THE
CRIME-CITADEL...

HOLD IT!
WHO'S THAT...?

ME---YOU FOOL!
YOUR BOSS--
STANFORD!

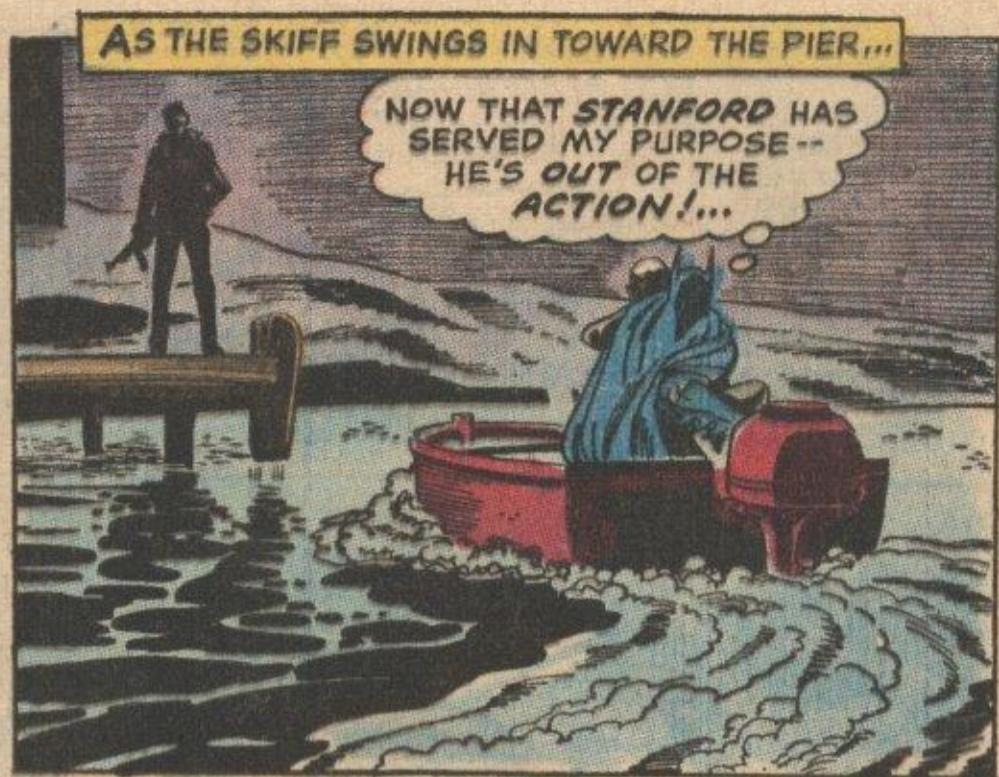


IT'S OKAY, BOYS! JUST
THE BOSS COMING TO
INSPECT THE OPERATION—
PERSONAL!

BUT IN THE MASKING DARKNESS...

ONE FURTHER PEEP OUT
OF YOU, STANFORD-- AND
I'LL SNAP YOUR NECK LIKE
A TOOTHPICK!







CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

Any 15 records for only \$1.97

If you join the Columbia Record Club and agree to buy 11 records (at regular Club prices) in the next 2 years

225326* **POCO**
A Good Feelin' To Know

223990-223991 **HEAVY CREAM**
Counts as Two
WHITE ROOM
POLYDOR SUNSHINE OF YOUR LOVE

222846 **ANDY WILLIAMS**
COLUMBIA ALONE AGAIN (NATURALLY)

222372* **GILBERT O'SULLIVAN**
MAM HIMSELF

207324 **ORIGINAL CAST**
BELL GODSPELL

216093 **SONNY & CHER**
KAPP ALL I EVER NEED IS YOU

224766* **YES**
ATLANTIC CLOSE TO THE EDGE

216341 **THREE DOG NIGHT**
ABC/UNIVERSAL Seven Separate Fools

196246 **Sly & The Family Stone**
EPIC GREATEST HITS

221424 **CHICAGO V**
COLUMBIA Saturday in the Park
State of the Union

218289 **SAMMY DAVIS, JR.**
FROM NOW

225094* **WEST, BRUCE & LAING**
EMI/MCA WHY DONTCHA

216663-216664 **OSMONDS "LIVE"**
Counts as Two
MGM

211565 **NEIL DIAMOND**
UNI GOLD

206573 **ROD STEWART**
Mercury Every Picture Tells A Story

218669* **PROCOL HARUM**
LIVE IN CONCERT WITH THE
EDMONTON SYMP. ORCH.

185843 **HERB ALPERT & THE**
TIJUANA BRASS
GREATEST HITS

207456* **RAY STEVENS GREATEST HITS**
RCA Everything Is Beautiful

213538 **PAUL SIMON**
COLUMBIA Me and Julio Down by
The Schoolyard

220061 **DON McLEAN**
L.A. BELL American Pie

216864* **BOBBY SHERMAN**
METROMEDIA Greatest Hits

223826 **SANTANA**
COLUMBIA CARAVANSERAI

221689 **T. REX**
REPRISE THE SLIDER

224758* **LYNN ANDERSON'S**
COLUMBIA GREATEST HITS

223651* **THE OSMONDS**
MGM CRAZY HORSES

218446-218447 **JANIS JOPLIN**
Counts as Two
COLUMBIA IN CONCERT

221176 **ELTON JOHN**
UNI HONKY CHATEAU

222190* **O'JAYS**
COLUMBIA BACK STABBERS

220335* **CHUCK BERRY**
CHESS THE LONDON SESSIONS

219477 **SIMON & GARFUNKEL'S**
COLUMBIA GREATEST HITS

220418* **LOOKING GLASS**
BELL Brandy

214850 **BLOOD, SWEAT & TEARS**
COLUMBIA GREATEST HITS

214403 **NEIL YOUNG**
REPRISE HARVEST

210179 **ARETHA FRANKLIN'S**
ATLANTIC GREATEST HITS

215251 **BREAD**
ELEKTRA Baby I'm-A Want You

211755-211756 **JESUS CHRIST**
Counts as Two
DECCA SUPERSTAR
A ROCK OPERA

222265* **HERALD MELVIN**
EMI/LONDON INTERNATIONAL & THE BLUE NOTES

218297* **BILL WITHERS**
SURREY STILL BILL

167692 **2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY**
COLUMBIA Ornandy-Phil. Orch.
Bernstein-N.Y. Phil.

215111* **AL GREEN**
MCA LET'S STAY TOGETHER

209726 **CHICAGO**
COLUMBIA AT CARNEGIE HALL, VOL. 3 & 4

216418 **THE PARTRIDGE FAMILY**
BELL SHOPPING BAG

222018 **THE 5TH DIMENSION**
BELL Greatest Hits On Earth

222380* **CHEECH AND CHONG**
ODE Big Bambu

222653 **JOHNNY MATHIS**
COLUMBIA SONG SUNG BLUE

224469* **MELANIE**
KODAKSTONE Stoneground Words

220400 **RAY PRICE**
COLUMBIA The Lonesome Lonesome

220988 **CARLOS SANTANA**
COLUMBIA & BUDDY MILES
LIVE

222117* **EMERSON, LAKE & PALMER**
COLUMBIA TRILOGY

222406* **MAC DAVIS**
COLUMBIA BABY DON'T GET
HOOKED ON ME

221630 **DONNY OSMOND**
MGM TOO YOUNG

223560* **JAMES GANG**
ABC PASSIN THROUGH

203539 **CAROLE KING**
Ode Tapestry

223784* **CHER SUPERPACK**
LA The Impossible Dream

186809 **SIMON & GARFUNKEL**
COLUMBIA Bridge Over Troubled Water

223123* **LIZA MINNELLI**
COLUMBIA Liza with a "Z"

201780 **3 DOG NIGHT**
COLUMBIA Golden Biscuits

218701 **ALICE COOPER**
MCA SCHOOL'S OUT

182583* **ROBERTA FLACK**
ATLANTIC FIRST TAKE

224006-224007 **ERIC CLAPTON**
Counts as Two
POLYDOR Clapton At His Best

225318* **KRIS KRISTOFFERSON**
MONUMENT JESUS WAS A CAPRICORN

209973 **CAT STEVENS**
MCA Teaser and the Firecat • * more

223438* **TEN YEARS AFTER**
COLUMBIA ROCK & ROLL MUSIC
OF THE WORLD

* Selections marked with a star are not available in reel tapes

or Any 11 tapes for \$1.97

if you join the Columbia Tape Club and agree to buy 8 tapes (at regular Club prices) in the next 2 years

223222 * CAT STEVENS
CATCH BULL AT FOUR

222125 ROD STEWART
Never A Dull Moment

218479 CARPENTERS
A SONG FOR YOU

220723 FOXY LADY
CHER

224030 * AL GREEN
I'M STILL IN LOVE
WITH YOU

225284 * FOUR TOPS
KEEPER OF THE CASTLE

223834 CAROLE KING
RHYMES & REASONS

223412 * Blood Sweat & Tears
NEW BLOOD

220982 NEIL DIAMOND
MOODS

225102 * JOHNNY NASH
I Can See You Clearly

222000 THE PARTRIDGE FAMILY
AT HOME WITH
THEIR GREATEST HITS

222745 IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY
LIVE at CARNEGIE HALL

221994 * DAVID CASSIDY
ROCK ME BABY

223420 BARBRA STREISAND
Live Concert At The Forum

222679 * INSIDE THE MIND
OF BILL COSBY

222703 Tammy Wynette
My Man

223644 MOODY BLUES
Days of Future Passed

225227-
225228 * RICHIE HAVENS
ON STAGE

ALL SELECTIONS SHOWN ARE AVAILABLE ON



12" stereo
records



8-track
cartridges



tape
cassettes



7" reel-to-reel
tapes

COLUMBIA HOUSE, Terre Haute, Indiana 47808

I am enclosing check or money order for \$1.97, as payment for the 15 records indicated below. Please accept my membership application for the Columbia Record Club. I agree to buy eleven records (at regular Club prices) in the coming two years — and may cancel membership at any time after doing so.

RECORDS

MY MAIN MUSICAL INTEREST IS (check one box only)

Easy Listening Teen Hits Classical
 Broadway & Hollywood Country Jazz

(C4-Z) 50F

I am enclosing my check or money order for \$1.97, as payment for the 11 tapes indicated below. Please accept my membership application for the Columbia Tape Club. I agree to buy eight tapes (at regular Club prices) in the next two years — and may cancel membership any time after doing so.

SEND ME THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF TAPES (check one box only)

Cartridges (K5-W) Cassettes (K6-X) Reel Tapes (K7-Y) 50F

OR TAPES

MY MAIN MUSICAL INTEREST IS (check one box only)

Easy Listening Teen Hits Country Classical

Whichever Club I've joined, all selections will be described in advance in the Club magazine, sent every four weeks. If I do not wish any selection, I'll mail the card provided by the date specified, or use the card to order any selection I do want. If I want only the regular selection for my musical interest, I need do nothing — it will be shipped automatically. Occasionally, I'll be offered special selections which I may accept or reject by using the dated form provided.

Mr.
 Mrs.
 Miss.
(Please Print) First Name Initial Last Name

Address.....

City..... State..... & Zip.....

Do You Have A Telephone? (check one) YES..... NO
APO, FPO addressees: write for special offer

D78/S73

BUT THE CAPE CRIME-FIGHTER'S DIVERSIONARY TACTIC BRINGS UNEXPECTED RESULTS, WHEN...

HUH?

G-GUH! LAY OFF, BATMAN! L-LOOK WHERE WE'RE HEADED!

JUMP!

TOO LATE TO STOP...



SHORTLY...

WELCOME BACK ABOARD, STANFORD OLD BOY...

...BUT NOT BACK TO OUR "CLUB"!

THE BATMAN TELLS ME YOU'VE DISGRACED US!

LATER, BACK IN GOTHAM...

EVERYTHING CAME OFF AS PLANNED,
ALFRED! WELL--
ALMOST!

THE SURPRISE
"KICKER" CAME
ON THE TRIP
BACK-- WHEN
MRS. STANFORD
REVEALED TO
ME...

...THAT SHE WAS THE
BATMAN'S ANONYMOUS
TIPSTER! SEEMS SHE
RECENTLY DISCOVERED
HER HUSBAND'S SECRET
SOURCE OF WEALTH...

...AND COULDN'T
STOMACH IT! JUST
CRACKED HER
STIFF UPPERCUST-
WIDE OPEN!

THEN THERE'S ONLY
ONE BIT OF UNFINISHED
BUSINESS LEFT, SIR...

THE NEXT
DAY... IN
MARLA
MANNING'S
MAIL...

WELL, I NEVER...! AT
LEAST THERE'S ONE
PUBLIC-MINDED CITIZEN
IN GOTHAM...

...UNLIKE THAT
CHEAPSKEATE,
MILLIONAIRE
BRUCE WAYNE!

BANK OF GOTHAM NO. 250
March 15, 1925
PAY TO Gotham After School Reciting Fund #100000.00
One Hundred Thousand & 00 Dollars
The Batman

15

End

The
SHADOW
KNOWS!

HA HA HA

HA HA

COMING SOON!! WATCH FOR IT!

H. Ad. #162

If you're sick of the same old glop . . . run down to your newsstand and buy some PLOP!



S-1481

Dear Editor:

Shades of Halloween! A mysterious, eerie, MACABRE Batman story—"How Many Ways Can a Robin Die?"

Finally (with #246) the magazine that bears our hero's name has gotten back on the track. This is *The Batman* we want to see. The roof-prowling, agile-limbed master detective that strikes fear into his enemies' hearts.

No longer are we dealing with *The Batman* who first exchanges compliments and niceties with his adversaries, and then spews out a long line of melodramatic threats. This is *The Batman* who travels alone . . . unhindered by "boy wonders" or armies of supporting characters he has enlisted in his aid.

The story (a 23-pager!) was a comprehensible, enjoyable one. We were not once again bombarded by the supernatural, or an international band of evil-doers, but a good, intriguing mystery.

This is the type of detection-mystery story I think myself and other readers want. Not some slow-paced "Can you spot the clue that solved the murder?" type story, but one in which the character is required to do some thinking and show some ingenuity.

Frank Robbins fooled me. All the way through the story I suspected the villain would be *Two-Face*, the *Joker*, or some other super-villain. Boy, was I wrong! I couldn't believe my eyes—a real criminal, a psychopathic murderer! And an axe murderer! What's happened? All the time I thought comix were only peopled with murderers who killed for wrath or power.

Mr. Robbins' story was a real beauty. My only hope is that we will see *The Batman* depending less and less on Bat-lasers and such. These devices serve to remind us of the (shudder!) camp *Batman*.

—MARK IVERSON, Ocean Springs, Miss.

(Speaking of (shudder) camp, give a listen to what the next (shudder) camp-minded correspondent makes a plea for!—JS)



Dear Editor:

Usually, when one tries to write a letter to DC he tries to subtly (or not so subtly) gimmick it so as to capture ye editor's attention. Well, I simply have no such gimmick for *Batman* 246, but I DO have several comments.

The cover was not up to par with the recent issues; but considering the fantastic covers appearing on issues of *Batman* since #242, that statement is really a compliment.

As usual, the story was 100% entertainment. But I seemed to enjoy it even more for the nostalgia of *Batman* and *Robin* being together once again. The mystery and suspense of the old *Batman-TV* show, the rejuvenation of the *Bat-signal*, and *Robin's* extremely poor camp humor at the end all were the highlights which made for a very agreeable story out of "How Many Ways Can a Robin Die?" But I especially was very happy not to be troubled by the

LETTERS to the BATMAN

theme of relevance which is quite out of place in comix.

Please bring back the camp, corny, irrelevant, enjoyable, and entertaining comix stories of yesteryear when comix were a haven away from the troubled world.

—JIM BALKO, Holden, Ma.



Dear Editor:

"How Many Ways Can a Robin Die?" simply did not hang together. Obviously the story was episodic in nature, as dictated by the requirements of the plot. But the explanation of the killings seemed contrived; the lines of *Batman's* reasoning tenuous; and the ending was corny beyond belief.

It is usually a pleasure reading a Frank Robbins story (when it is not bogged down by Frank Robbins artwork). This time, however, the pleasure was limited by the aforementioned complaints. To Mr. Robbins' credit, though, the premise of the story was a fine one indeed. The idea of destroying *Batman* by mental anguish, reducing him to a gibbering idiot, appeals to me (in the sense of a ten best ways to get-the-Batman list). The idea is especially original; *Superman* has always justified his relationship with *Lois Lane* with just that contention—that criminals and other assorted forces of evil would get at him through her.

The uniqueness of the situation with *Batman* lies in the fact that whereas *Superman* is invulnerable, *The Batman* is very definitely not. Evil forces would not have to strike at *Batman* mentally; he can be destroyed by a well-placed bullet. Undoubtedly he would crack far sooner under psychological stress than if he were alone in a room with 700 trained assassins, for all his training would find its culmination in disarming all 700 in one fell swoop. He does not expect psychological warfare, however, and therefore cannot deal with it as effectively. This was the value of the story—it pointed out that *The Batman*, despite his incredible physical prowess, his uncanny luck, his unsurpassed detective skills, is at the base of it all, a mere mortal.

—SUSAN BREGMAN, Providence, R.I.



Dear Editor:

"How Many Ways Can a Robin Die" (#246) prompted me to write my first letter to DC. Frank Robbins certainly turned in one of his finest scripts yet. Although everyone knows you wouldn't kill off *Robin*, the story still managed to keep one on the edge of his seat with suspense: wondering if *Batman* could have saved *Robin* if the dummies had been real.

What was truly interesting and captivating was witnessing *The Batman's* reactions and thoughts to each "death". The thought balloons were used effectively and undoubtedly brought us "closer" to *The Batman* by manifesting his anxieties, perplexities, amazements, and mind-rendering deductions. I commend Robbins for giving us an emotional, human *Batman* instead of the usual, reserved *Batman*.

—JOHN ALBAUGH, Columbus, Ohio



Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATMAN, National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

QUIETLY LANDING ON THE ROOF OF MRS. HIGGINS' BOARDING HOUSE IS THE
TEEN WONDER...

ROBIN

... WHO LIVES HERE IN HIS
IDENTITY OF HUDSON
UNIVERSITY STUDENT
DICK GRAYSON... NOT
KNOWING THAT WITHIN
MOMENTS HE WILL BECOME
INVOLVED IN THE ...

"CASE of the KIDNAPED CRUSADER!"

IT'S LATE! I
DON'T WANT TO
MISS THAT GUEST
LECTURE BY
TOM CARSON--

--THE CONSUMER
ADVOCATE WHO'S
GOTTEN THE
GOVERNMENT
TO PASS NEW
SAFETY LAWS
FOR CARS!

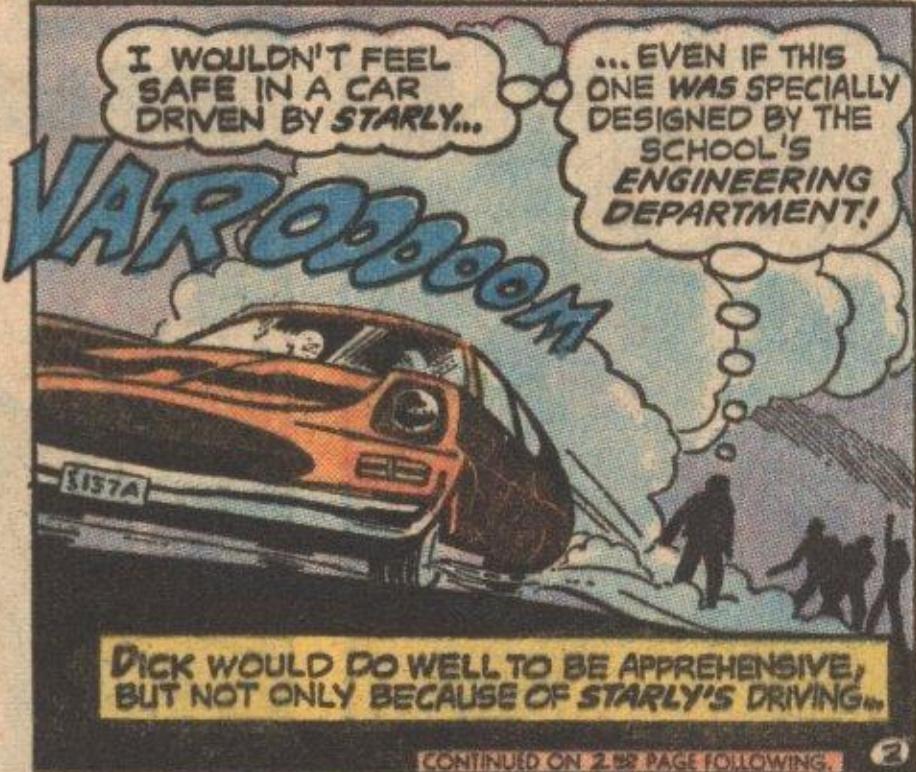
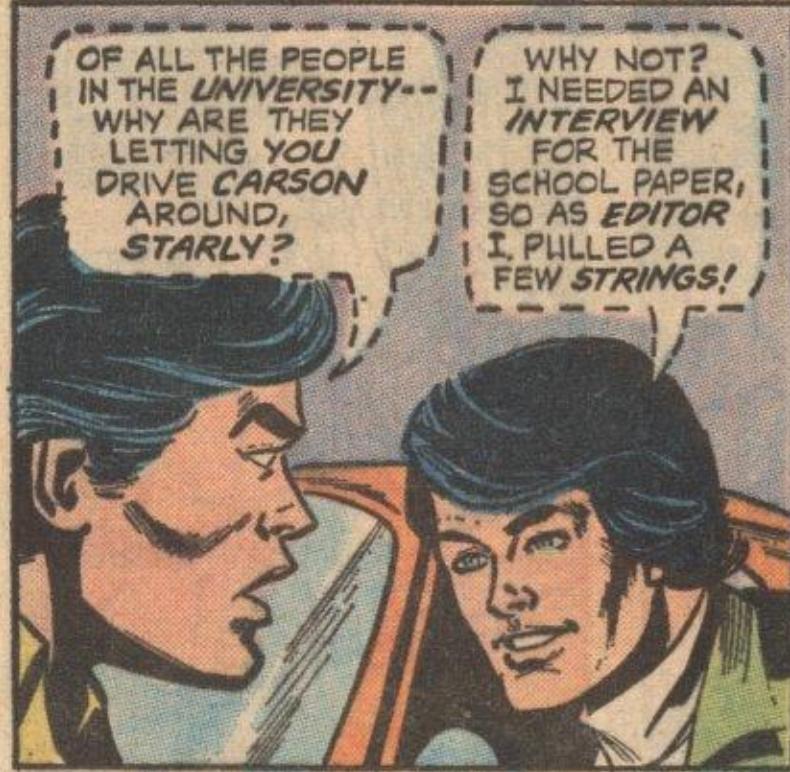
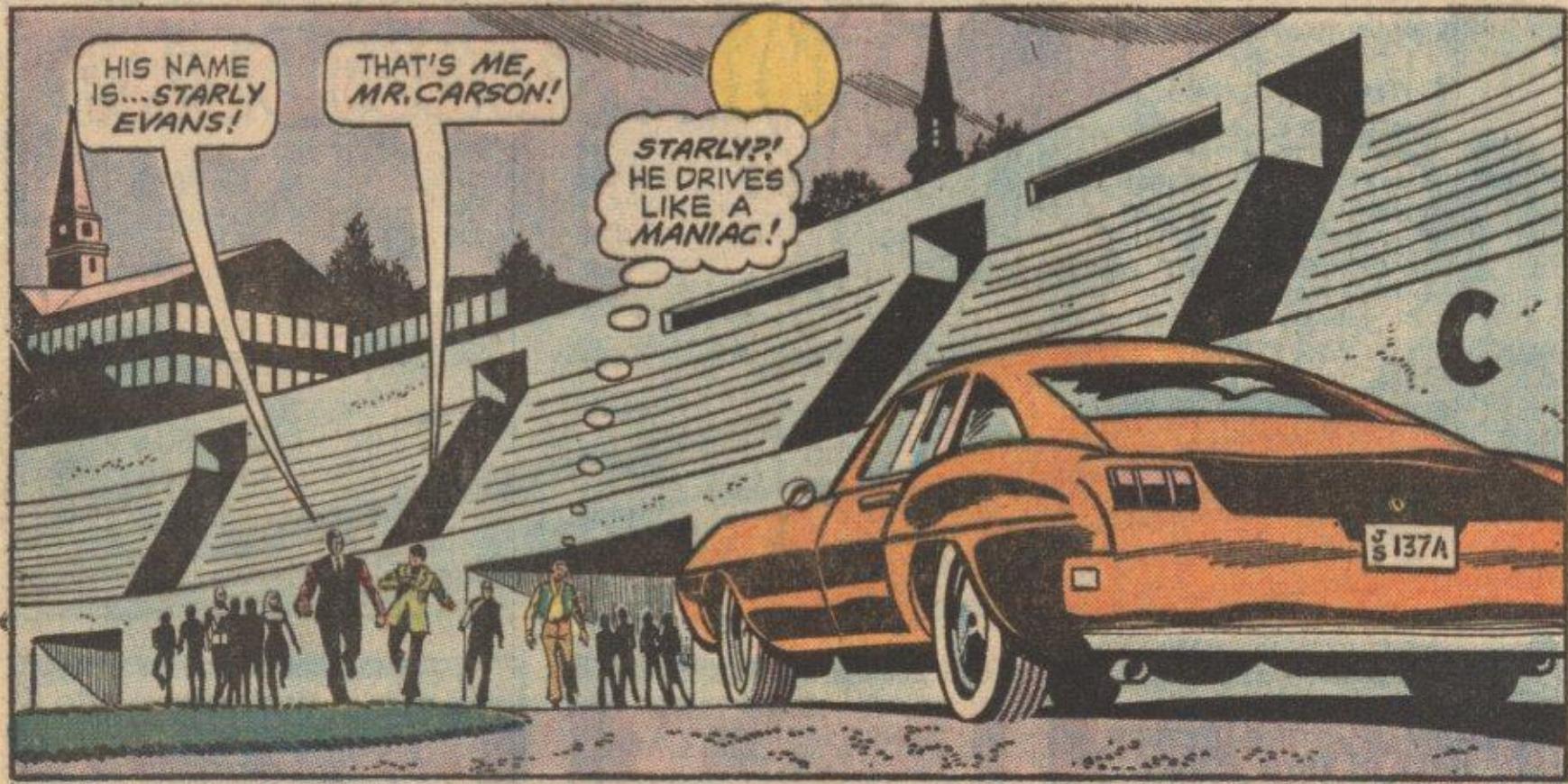
ART: BOB BROWN &
FRANK McLAUGHLIN
STORY: ELLIOT MAGGIN

S-1421

IT'S A CINCH I CAN'T
SHOW UP AT THE LECTURE
HALL IN THIS GETUP,
THOUGH!

HMM... CLARK KENT
THINKS HE HAS
PROBLEMS WITH
ONLY THOSE GLASSES
TO DISGUISE HIS
FACE...

... BUT IF DICK GRAYSON'S
FACE BREAKS OUT AT THE
SAME TIME AS ROBIN'S,
MY SECRET IDENTITY
IS BLOWN!



CONTINUED ON 2nd PAGE FOLLOWING



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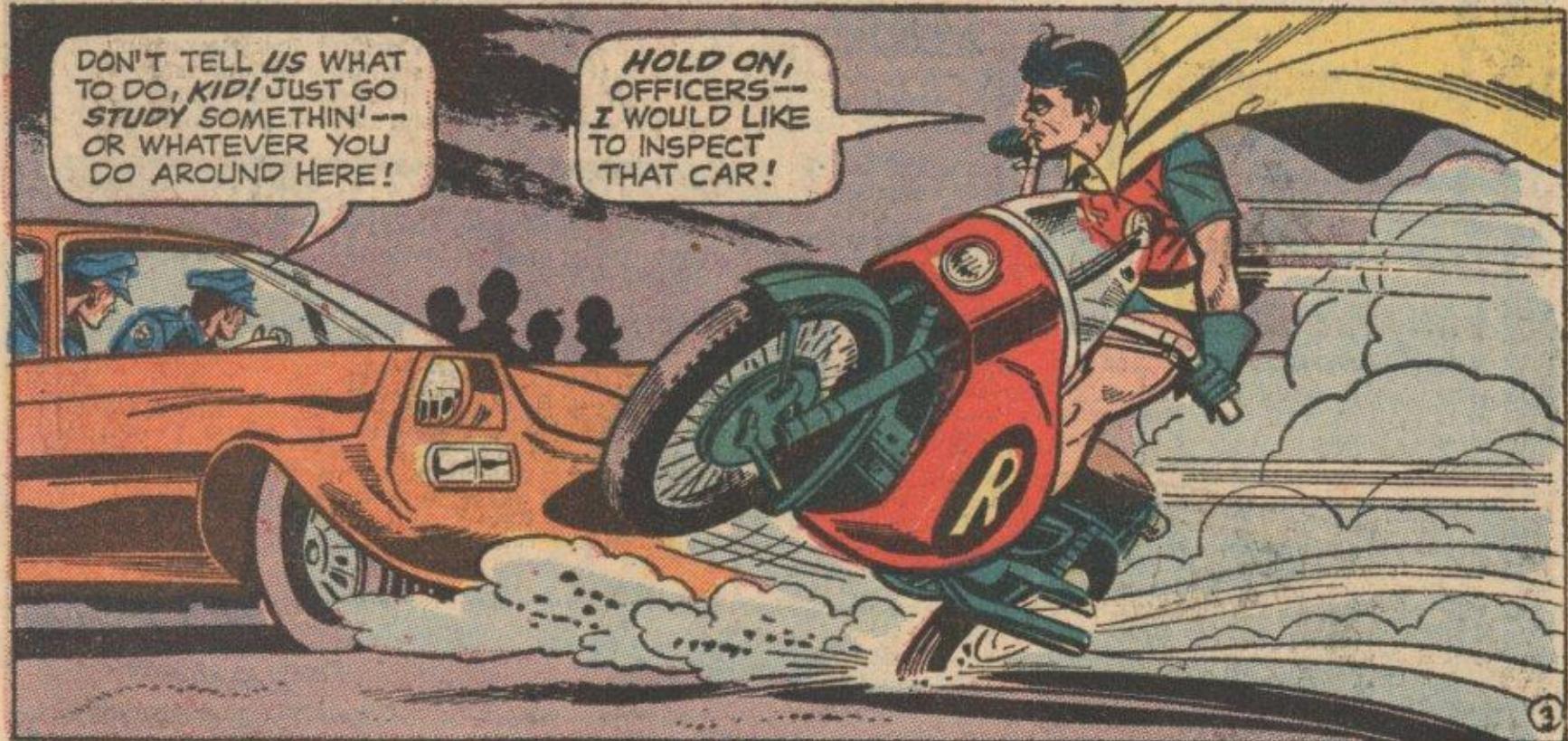
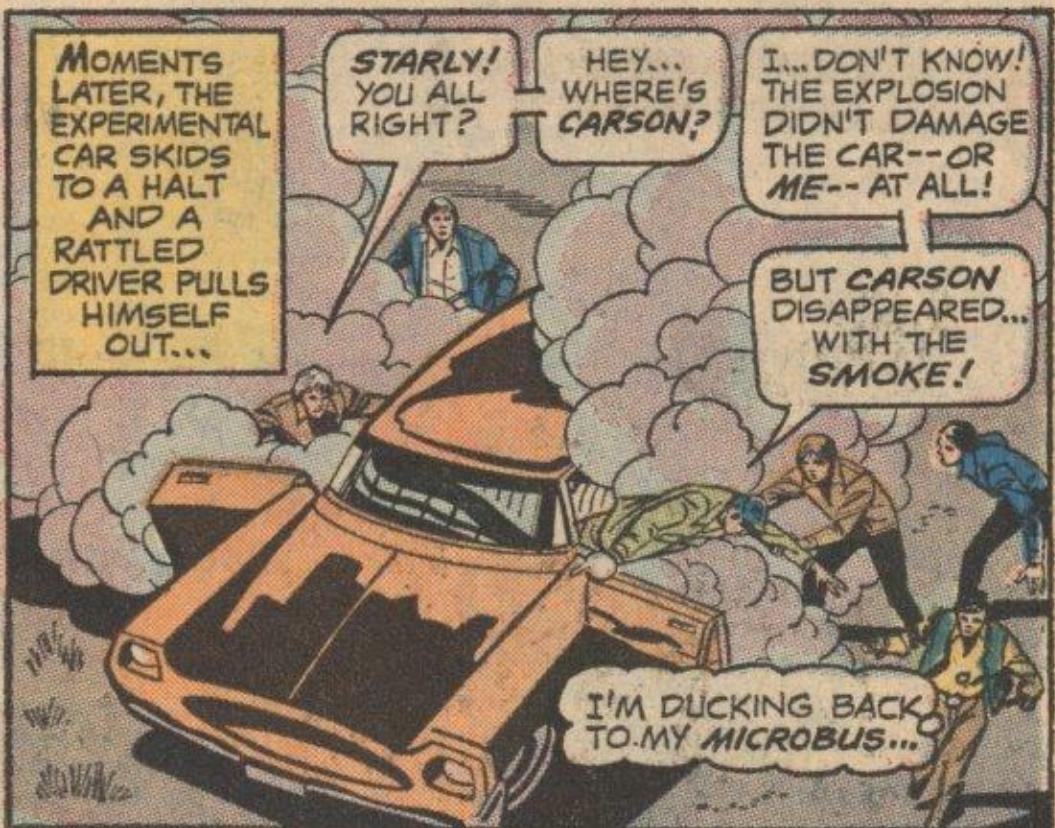
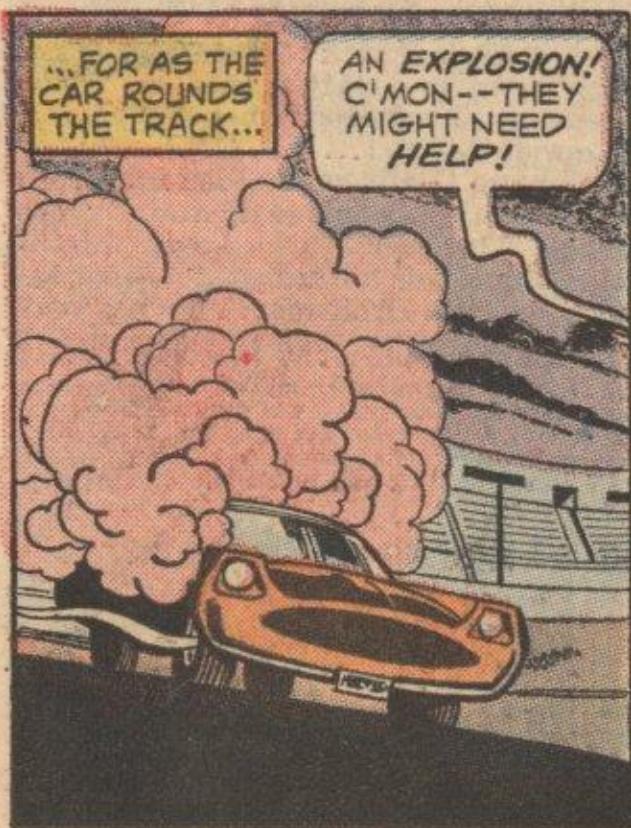
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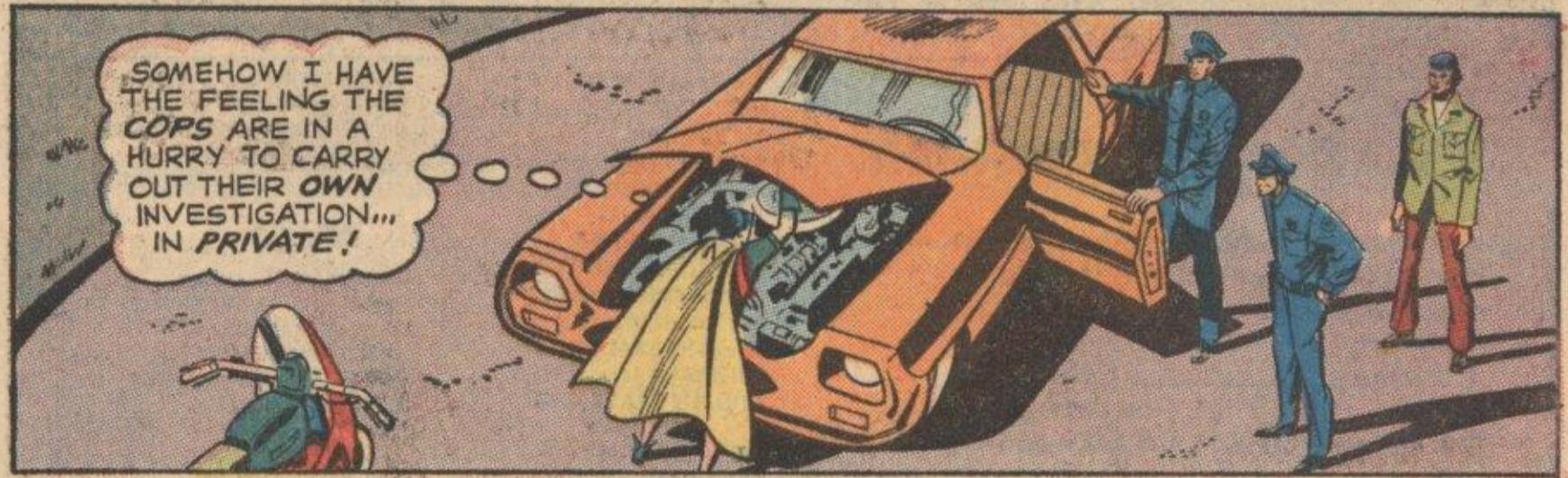
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is coming... but you don't
know what **PLOP** is?
Is that what's troubling
you, boy?



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UNKNOWN
- 81 STRANGE ADVENTURES

AND AS THE TWO POLICEMEN DRIVE OFF...

HEY, I HOPE THOSE COPS DON'T SUSPECT ME! ALL I DID WAS KEEP MY HANDS ON THE WHEEL--

HOLD ON! THAT'S IT--!

SECTION B

THOSE TWO GUYS WEREN'T POLICE AT ALL!

WHAT'S THAT YOU SAID, ROBIN? CAN'T HEAR YOU OVER ALL THE NOISE!



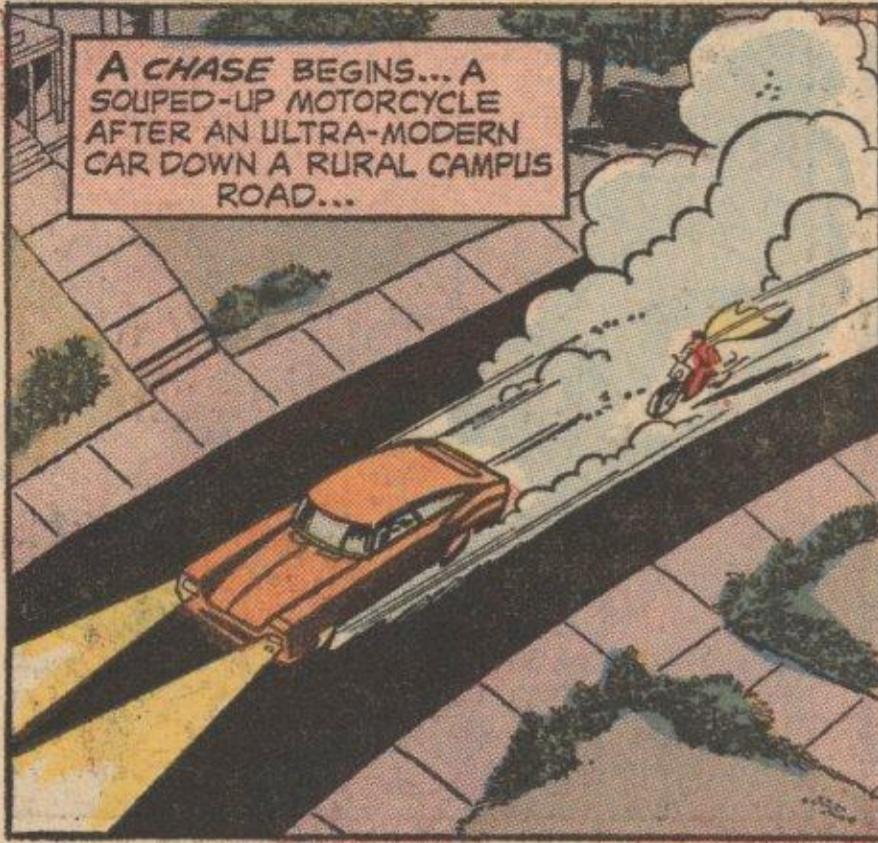
GOOD LUCK, ROBIN-- WHATEVER YOU'RE UP TO!

AS THE TEEN WONDER ROARS OFF IN PURSUIT OF THE EXPERIMENTAL CAR, WHAT MAKES HIM SO SURE THE CAR IS NOT BEING DRIVEN BY TWO POLICEMEN?

Y'SEE, SAM, WE HADDA LET THE KID LOOK THROUGH THE CAR... OR HE WOULD'A BEEN SUSPICIOUS!

WELL, IF YOU THINK WE THREW HIM OFF, PAL --





As ROBIN PULLS AHEAD
OF THE PAIR...

THEY'RE DESPERATE...

...AND THE ONLY
WAY TO STOP
DESPERATE MEN...

...IS TO BE
DESPERATE
YOURSELF!

HE-- HE'S
STOPPING
SHORT...
RIGHT IN
FRONT OF
US!

THIS CAR'S SUPER-SAFE,
REMEMBER?

I'LL GRIND
HIM INTO
THE DIRT!

BUT A SPLIT-SECOND
BEFORE THE CAR
RAMS INTO THE CYCLE,
THE TEEN TITAN
LEAPS INTO THE AIR
AND...

NO CAR IS GOING TO
BE "SUPER-SAFE"
UNLESS YOU PUT ON
YOUR SAFETY BELT!

THEY'LL BE OUT LONG
ENOUGH FOR ME TO
CHECK THE TRUNK
COMPARTMENT...

... AGAIN!

THERE MUST BE
A SECRET
LATCH--

AH! HELLO
THERE--

IT'S TOM CARSON!
UNCONSCIOUS IN THE
TRUNK COMPARTMENT
ALL ALONG!

PRESIDENTLY, AFTER REVIVING THE CONSUMER CRUSADER AND DELIVERING THE PHONY OFFICERS TO THE NEW CARTHAGE POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

...AND WHOEVER WANTED TO KIDNAP YOU, MR. CARSON, PREPARED A PHONY CAR...

"...WITH A SEAT THAT TIPS BACK INTO A HIDDEN TRUNK FILLED WITH KNOCKOUT GAS!"

PANEL IN TRUNK OPENS WHEN SEAT TILTS

HIDDEN TRUNK

FALSE PANEL

COMPRESSED AIR OPERATES PISTON TO TILT SEAT BACK INTO TRUNK

"THEY SUBSTITUTED THEIR CAR FOR THE ORIGINAL!"

I'M SURE THE POLICE WILL FIND OUT WHO'S BEHIND THIS... I'VE CAUSED TROUBLE FOR A LOT OF POWERFUL PEOPLE LATELY!

BUT, ROBIN--HOW'D YOU KNOW THE COPS WHO TOOK AWAY THE CAR WERE PHONIES?

THAT WAS SO SIMPLE I'M ALMOST EMBARRASSED TO TELL YOU, STARLY!

THE FAKE POLICEMEN TOLD YOU THAT AS THE DRIVER YOU'D BE QUESTIONED ABOUT THE DISAPPEARANCE...

I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED THAT MYSELF!

BUT SINCE THEY ARRIVED ON THE SCENE AFTER THE EXPLOSION, THEY HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING YOU WERE THE DRIVER! YOU LOOKED LIKE ANY OTHER STUDENT IN THE CROWD!

THANKS VERY MUCH, ROBIN...

SORRY I CAN'T STAY, BUT I'M LATE FOR AN APPOINTMENT IN WASHINGTON, AND STARLY'S OFFERED TO DRIVE ME TO THE AIRPORT!

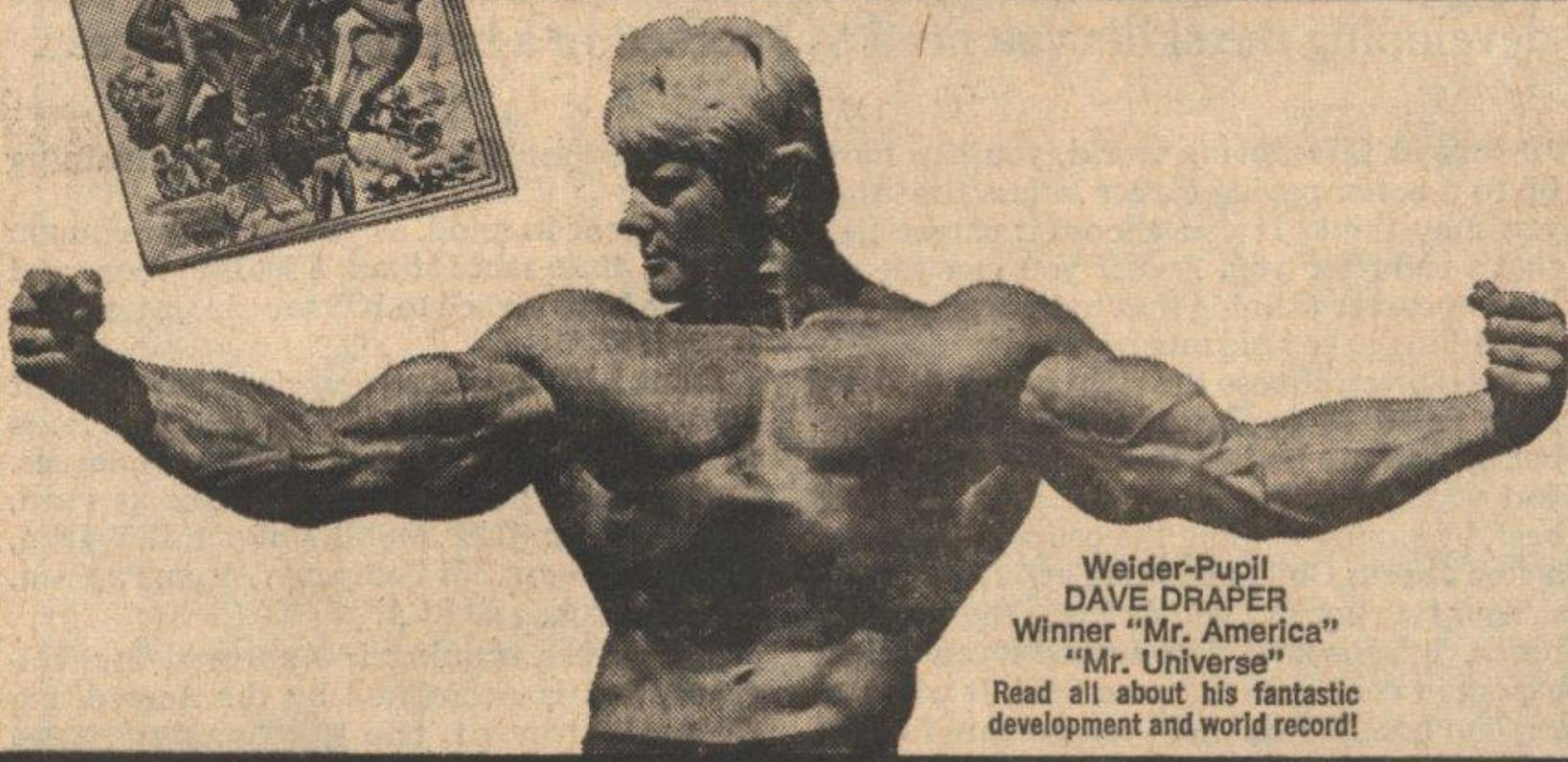
PERSONALLY, I WOULDN'T TRUST STARLY'S DRIVING AT ANY SPEED...

...BUT IT'S CARSON'S PROBLEM!

WITH ALL THE TROUBLE I'VE RUN INTO SO FAR...

...I WONDER HOW MUCH MORE I'LL GET INTO BY THE TIME I'M AS OLD AS THE BATMAN!

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- Athletic Legs
- More Weight
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- Magnetic Personality



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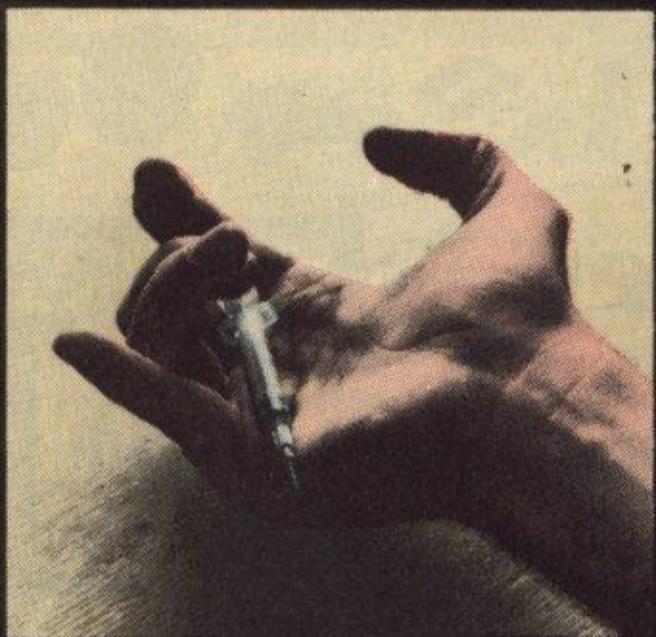
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