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BATMAN

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
CAGE
SAFETY
AUTHORITY

JUNE
NO. 192

JUST AS I SUSPECTED!
THE CRYSTAL BALL
REVEALS ONE OF MY
FEARSOME FOURLSOME
GANG IS BATMAN
IN DISGUISE!

NOW THAT I'VE
EXPOSED BATMAN--
I'LL KILL HIM!



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UNDER ORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES, THE FACT THAT A NEW CRIMINAL MASTERMIND HAD BEGUN OPERATING IN GOTHAM CITY WOULD NOT BE UNDULY ALARMING TO BATMAN-- SO FAR, HE HAD SUCCEEDED IN DEPOSITING THEM ALL BEHIND BARS!

BUT THIS LATEST ONE--THE SWAMI--PRESENTED THE GREATEST--AND MOST DANGEROUS--CHALLENGE OF THEM ALL! HE HAD THE POWER TO FORESEE WHEN--AND HOW--THE CAPED CRUSADER WOULD TRY TO CAPTURE HIM!

BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

THE CRYSTAL BALL THAT BETRAYED BATMAN!

MY CRYSTAL BALL HAS EXPOSED AN IMPOSTOR IN OUR MIDST--BATMAN!

MY BODY'S GLUED TO THIS SEAT--CAN'T PROTECT MYSELF AGAINST THE SWAMI'S MUSCLE-MEN!

I AM BATMAN

BOB
KANE

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A WAILFUL SOB PIERCES THE NIGHT AIR OF GOTHAM CITY'S CHINATOWN...

THAT'S LISAN, THE WIFE OF CHEN KU--THE WEALTHY TEA MERCHANT HERE IN CHINATOWN!

:SOB:

:SOB:

NOT ALL TASKS THAT FACE BATMAN AND ROBIN ON A NIGHTTIME PATROL INVOLVE CRIME AND CRIMINALS...

LISAN-- WHAT'S WRONG?

BATMAN KNOWS LISAN AS BRUCE WAYNE!

ON THESE OCCASIONS WHEN HE IS CALLED UPON TO MEND BROKEN HEARTS, THE CAPED CRUSADER IS MOST SYMPATHETIC...

ALL DAY

THAT ISN'T LIKE CHEN KU!

I'LL DROP BY AND FIND OUT

WHAT'S SO

FASCINATING ABOUT THAT

WHITE JADE STATUE!

BATMAN--
YOU MUST
HAVE MORE
IMPORTANT
THINGS TO BOTHER
ABOUT THAN ME!
IT'S JUST M-MY.
HUSBAND--HE
DOESN'T L-LOVE
ME ANY MORE!

WITHIN MINUTES,
THE DYNAMIC DUO IS ENTER-
ING THE TEA MERCHANT'S OFFICE BUILDING, WHERE...

CHEN KU--
IN TROUBLE--

--MULTIPLIED
BY FOUR!

BATMAN AND ROBIN--YOU'RE NO SURPRISE TO US!

WE WERE WARNED YOU TWO DO-GOODERS WOULD SHOW UP ONE OF THESE NIGHTS!

BUT YOU'RE JUST WASTING YOUR TIME!
THE SWAMI TOLD US WE'RE GOING TO GET AWAY SAFELY!

THE SWAMI!--THE MYSTERIOUS CRIME-BOSS
WHO'S POPPED UP RECENTLY IN GOTHAM
CITY!

DO YOUR BEST--OR WORST,
BATMAN! YOU CAN'T STOP US!



THE SWAMI IS NEVER
WRONG! HIS CRYSTAL
BALL SEES ALL,
KNOWS ALL!

HE'S SUPPOSED TO
BE ABLE TO FORESEE
THE FUTURE--PULL OFF
ONLY THOSE CRIMES
HIS CRYSTAL BALL
REVEALS WILL BE
SUCCESSFUL!

ROBIN AND I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO
CATCH UP TO HIM--AND NOW THAT
WE'VE SUCCEEDED, HIS GANG'S NOT
GETTING AWAY, NO MATTER WHAT
PREDICTION THE SWAMI MADE!



I DON'T MIND TANGLING
WITH YOU, ROBIN--
LONG AS I KNOW I'LL
BE GETTING CLEAR
AWAY!

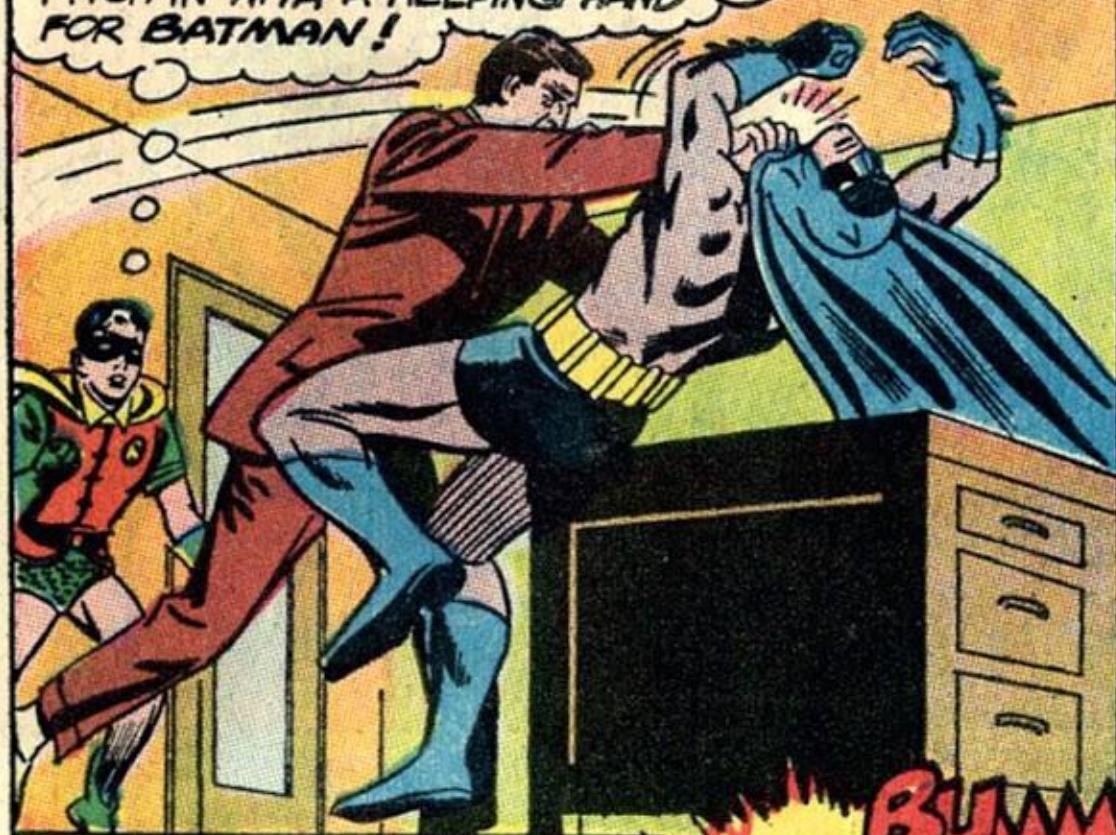
THE ONLY
FUTURE
IN STORE
FOR YOU--



--IS A CELL IN
THE STATE PEN!

ONE MUSCULAR MOBSTER ALONE REMAINS! IN SILENT RAGE, HE HURLS HIMSELF AT THE CAPED CRUSADER...

MY JOB'S DONE--I'LL PITCH IN WITH A HELPING HAND FOR BATMAN!



TWO HEFTY HANDS REACH OUT--TIGHTEN ON TWO UNIFORMS...

THIS GUY'S STRONG AS A GORILLA!

BRACE YOURSELF, ROBIN! HE'S GOING TO...



BELTED BACKWARDS, KNOCKED KNEE-LESS AS THEIR LEGS GIVE WAY, THE DYNAMIC DUO CLINGS TO THOSE MIGHTY ARMS...

ROBIN-- THE DOUBLE SHOULDER JUDO THROW!

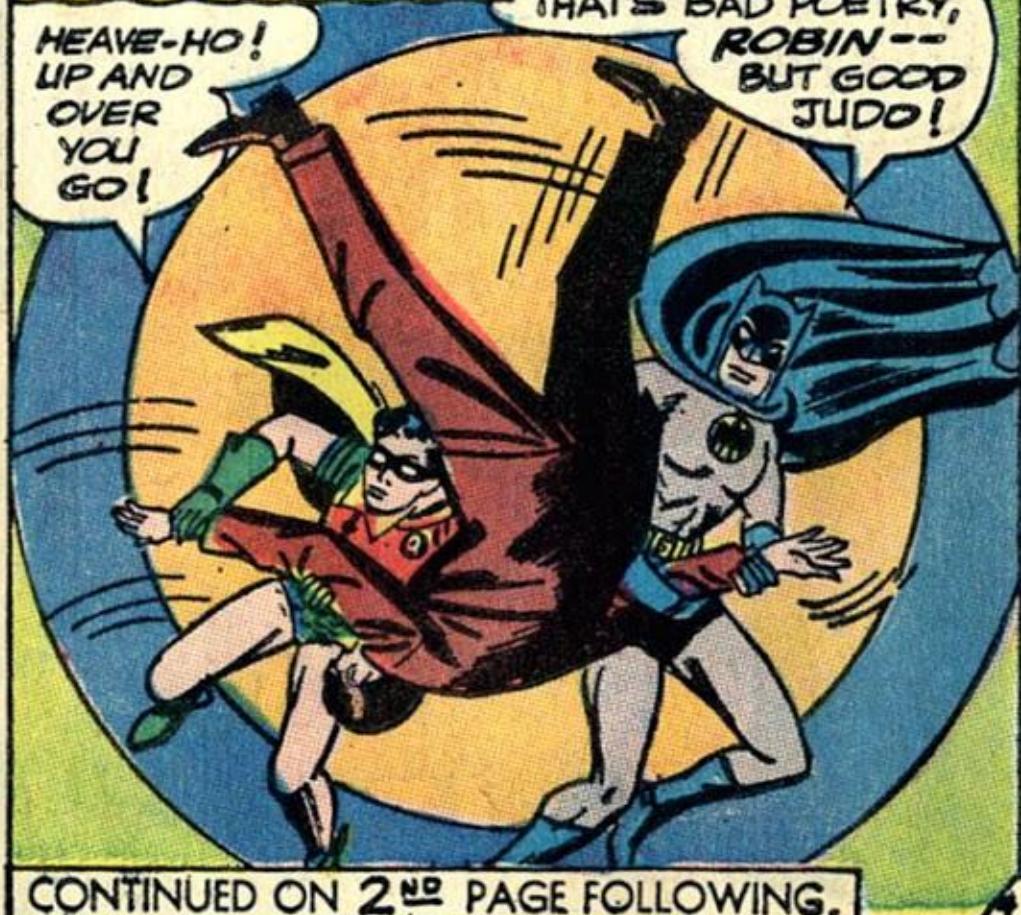
ONE DOUBLE IPPON SEOI NAGE COMING UP!



HANDS LIKE STEEL-GRIPS FASTEN ON THOSE ARMS! TWO PERFECT BODIES UNCOIL LIKE GIGANTIC SPRINGS...

THAT'S BAD POETRY, ROBIN-- BUT GOOD JUDO!

HEAVE-HO!
UP AND
OVER
YOU GO!



CONTINUED ON 2nd PAGE FOLLOWING.

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underwater
world of
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HERE'S WHERE I LET MY FINGERS DO THE TALKING ...

YOU'D BETTER USE THOSE FINGERS AS A FIST, ROBIN!



WHEN THE TWO CRIME-FIGHTERS RISE TO THEIR FEET AND TURN ...

HUH? THOSE BIRDS DID A FAST RECOVERY JOB-- AND FLEW THE COOP!

THE SWAMI SEEMS TO HAVE CORRECTLY FORETOLD THE FUTURE FOR THEM! BUT NOT FOR THE ONE WE CAPTURED! LET'S SEE HOW CHEN KU IS DOING!

YOU TOOK A HARD BLOW, CHEN KU-- NO-NO! BUT YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT! LET'S TRY AND WALK IT OFF...

THE-- WHITE-- LOTUS...



...IS GONE! IT WILL COST OUR VERY LIVES!

WHY? WHAT COULD BE SO VALUABLE ABOUT THAT STATUE--?



I DARE NOT EXPLAIN! THE SAFETY OF THAT JADE STATUE MEANS ALL THE WORLD TO ME!

THEN WE'LL HAVE TO GET IT BACK... BY GOING AFTER THE SWAMI! YOUR LOVELY WIFE WILL TAKE YOU HOME -- LEAVE THE REST TO US!

LOOK--SILENT STAN'S DRIVER'S LICENSE! WE'RE PLAYING IN LUCK, ROBIN! IT GIVES HIS ADDRESS!

AW, WHAT SELF-RESPECTING CROOK WOULD GIVE HIS REAL ADDRESS ON A DRIVER'S LICENSE--?



MOMENTS LATER, WHEN BATMAN BRINGS HIS MAKE-UP CASE FROM THE BATMOBILE...

I'M GOING TO DISGUISE MYSELF TO LOOK JUST LIKE HIM! IF I GET A BREAK, I'LL GET TO MEET THE SWAMI IN PERSON!

YOU'VE ALREADY GOT ONE BREAK! SINCE THIS GUY CAN'T SPEAK, YOU WON'T SAY ANYTHING TO GIVE YOURSELF AWAY!

SWIFTLY AND SURELY THE TRAINED FINGERS OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE DISPLAY THEIR ARTISTIC TALENT WITH WAX AND DYE...

ORDINARILY, WE'D GO THERE AS BATMAN AND ROBIN TO CAPTURE THE SWAMI AND HIS GANG...

BUT THE SWAMI WOULD CLAM UP-- AND WE'D NEVER GET TO KNOW HOW HE FORESEES WHAT CRIMES TO COMMIT!



AFTER DROPPING THE MUTE MOBSTER OFF AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND DONNING HIS CLOTHES, THE DISGUISED BATMAN SPEEDS ACROSS TOWN, UNTIL--

I'LL GO THE REST OF THE WAY ON FOOT! YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO...

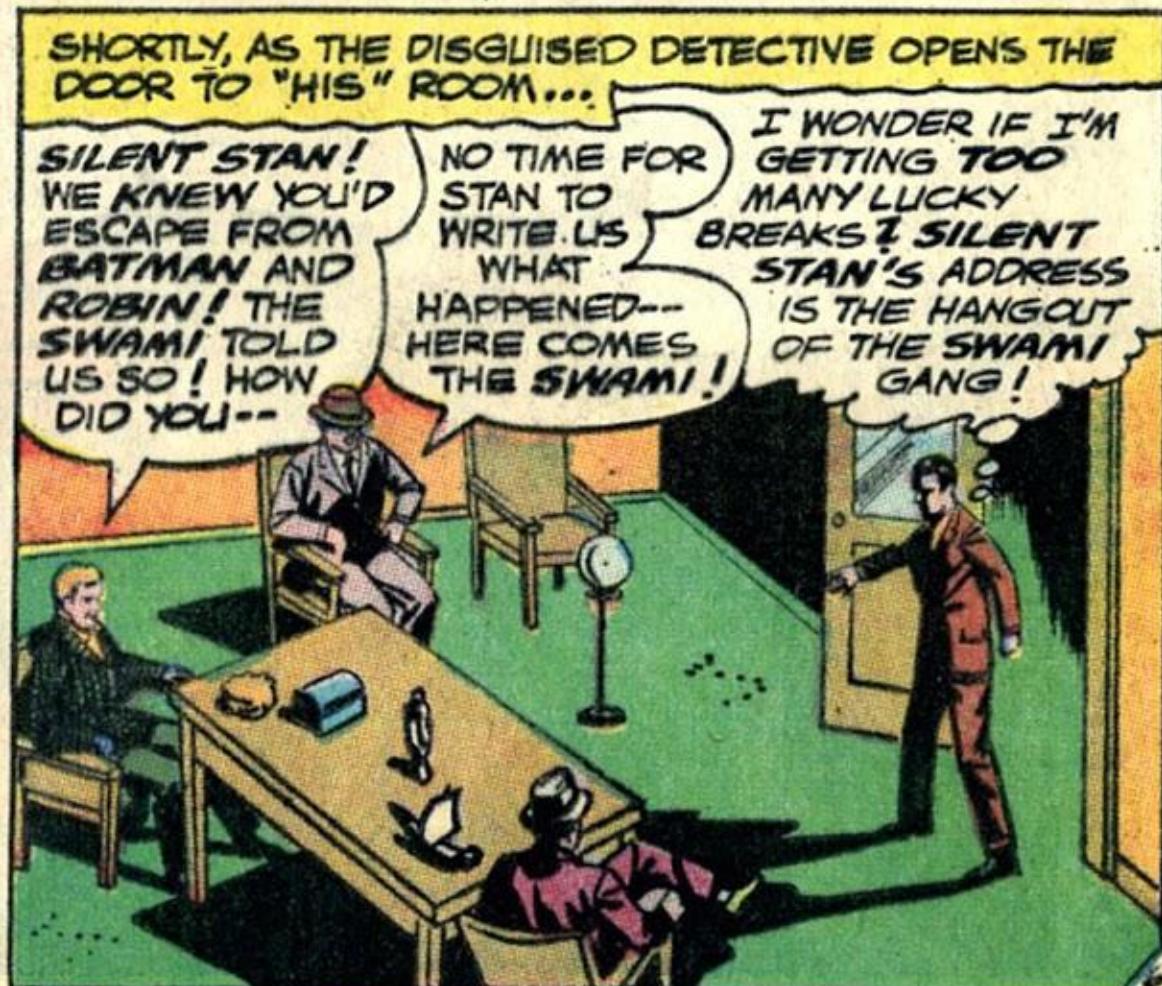
I STAY CLOSE BY, KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THAT MINIATURE COMMUNICATOR YOU HAVE ON YOU!

SHORTLY, AS THE DISGUISED DETECTIVE OPENS THE DOOR TO "HIS" ROOM...

SILENT STAN! WE KNEW YOU'D ESCAPE FROM BATMAN AND ROBIN! THE SWAMI TOLD US SO! HOW DID YOU--

NO TIME FOR STAN TO WRITE US WHAT HAPPENED-- HERE COMES THE SWAMI!

I WONDER IF I'M GETTING TOO MANY LUCKY BREAKS? SILENT STAN'S ADDRESS IS THE HANGOUT OF THE SWAMI GANG!



AH! MY FEARSOME
FOURSOME!
JUDGING BY THE
LOOT ON THE
TABLE, I SEE
OUR LATEST
VENTURE WAS
A SUCCESS--
AS I FORETOLD!
NOW LET US
SEE WHAT
THE CRYSTAL
BALL HAS IN
STORE FOR
US NEXT...

SOMETHING VAGUELY
FAMILIAR ABOUT
THAT SWAMI!

AS I SUMMON UP MY
PSYCHIC POWERS, THE
CRYSTAL WILL SHOW US
THE SCENE OF OUR NEXT
ROBBERY! OH--WHAT'S
THIS? THE BALL DOES
NOT RESPOND! THE
PSYCHIC EMANATIONS
ARE BEING INTER-
FERED WITH..

..AND THAT INTERFERENCE
COMES FROM--YES!
BEHOLD... A FACE IS
TAKING SHAPE--THE
FACE OF OUR MORTAL
FOE--BATMAN!

YOU ARE NOT THE
FEARSOME
FOURSOME I
SENT OUT TO ROB
CHEN KU! ONE
OF YOU IS AN
IMPOSTOR--
BATMAN
HIMSELF!

INCREDIBLE!
HOW COULD THE
BALL HAVE
KNOWN I'D
COME HERE?
EVEN WORSE--
WILL IT SINGLE
ME OUT?!

WELL, I
KNOW I
AIN'T
BATMAN--
SO IT MUST
BE ONE OF
YOU!

NO ONE'S
GONNA
ACCUSE
ME OF
BEIN'
THAT
CAPED
CRUSADER!

WHAT ABOUT
SILENT STANZ?
HE AIN'T TALKIN'--
ULP! HE CAN'T!

STOP! STOP!
THERE IS NO
NEED FOR
GUESS-
WORK!

I SHALL COMMAND
THE CRYSTAL BALL TO
REVEAL BATMAN!
GLOW, BALL! BY YOUR
PSYCHIC LIGHT EXPOSE
THE ENEMY OF EVIL--
THE FOE OF
FELONS--

SUDDENLY--UNDER THE CRYSTAL BALL'S GLOW...

WOW! LOOK AT THE LETTERS
FORMING ON SILENT STAN'S
JACKET! "I AM
BATMAN"!

CAUGHT--!



THERE SITS YOUR FOE! STRIKE
HIM DOWN! BY THE MYSTIC
POWERS I POSSESS, I SHALL
KEEP HIM GLUED TO HIS
SEAT--SO HE CAN'T
FIGHT BACK!

KEEP ME
GLUED TO
MY SEAT?
WE'LL SEE
ABOUT THAT!



I C-CAN'T MOVE THE
PARTS OF MY BODY
TOUCHING THE CHAIR!

MAN, THIS IS ONE
OPPORTUNITY I
WON'T MISS
OUT ON!



LIKE PILEDRIVERS, THREE FISTS CRASH INTO
BATMAN'S UNGUARDED FACE...



WHO IS THIS
TURBANED SEER?
WHENCE COMES
THE EERIE
ABILITIES HE
DISPLAYS?
IS HE REALLY A
MASTER OF THE
FUTURE?
DOES HE POSSESS
CLAIRVOYANT
POWERS BEYOND
THOSE OF
OTHER HUMAN
BEINGS?

LATER, WHEN BATMAN SWIMS BACK FROM THE DEPTHS OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS AND OPENS HIS EYES...

I--I'M WEARING
A BATMAN
UNIFORM?!

WITH MY COMPLIMENTS,
BATMAN! IT ISN'T FITTING FOR YOU TO DIE
IN DISGUISE! WHEN YOU'RE FOUND, THE
WHOLE WORLD MUST KNOW YOU DIED AS
BATMAN--THE VICTIM OF THE ONE
MAN WHO OUTWITTED YOU!



NOW YOU KNOW WHO THE SWAMI
REALLY IS--JOHNNY WITTS--THE
CRIMINAL WHO IS ALWAYS ONE STEP
AHEAD OF YOU ! AFTER YOU CAUGHT
ME--PUT ME IN JAIL-- I VOWED
TO ESCAPE AND MATCH WITS WITH
YOU AGAIN !

I GATHERED A QUARTET OF
FIERCE FIGHTERS ABOUT ME--THE
**FEARSOME
FOURSOME**--
WHEN I DE-
CIDED TO BECOME
THE SWAMI, SO
AS NOT TO ALERT
YOU THAT IT WAS
JOHNNY WITTS
WHO WAS OUT-
THINKING YOU !
I SET THEM
LOOSE ON **GOTHAM
CITY** WITH
CAREFULLY PRE-
PARED CRIMES...

I KNEW THAT SOONER OR LATER YOU
WOULD APPEAR TO BATTLE THEM,
SO **SILENT STAN** HAD STANDING
ORDERS TO LET HIMSELF BE CAP-
TURED ! I ANTICIPATED YOUR EVERY
MOVEMENT--THAT YOU'D SEARCH
HIM--FIND HIS DRIVER'S LICENSE--
DISGUISE YOURSELF AS HIM--EVEN
TO WEARING HIS "DOCTORED"
CLOTHING !

MY FORESIGHTEDNESS ACCOUNTS FOR
THE GLOWING LETTERS THAT BE-
TRYED YOU --AS WELL AS THE
GIMMICKED-UP CHAIR WHICH WAS
BOLTED TO THE FLOOR ! AND TO SHOW
YOU HOW I'M ALWAYS ONE STEP
AHEAD OF YOU, **BATMAN**, I SEARCHED
YOUR CLOTHES AND FOUND HIDDEN IN
THE TIE-CLASP YOU WERE
WEARING--

With that, JOHNNY WITTS HOLDS UP A TIE-CLASP...

YOU HEAR ME, **ROBIN?** PRETTY SLICK OF
YOU TO LISTEN IN VIA THIS MINIATURIZED
RADIO-SENDING SET ! A MOMENT OR SO
AGO...AS YOU RACED UP TO THE FRONT
DOOR..TO HELP THE
TRAPPED **BATMAN**...

"YOUR FEET PRESSSED DOWN ON
A SPECIAL FLAGSTONE AND..."

OHHHH ! THE GROUND--
GIVING WAY UNDER
ME !

"YOU FELL INTO A SOUND-PROOF CHAMBER
BENEATH IT--WHERE YOU SHALL LIE--
AND DIE..."



AS ROBIN PERISHES THERE--
SO BATMAN WILL DIE HERE--
IN THE BLAZING INCANDESCENCE
OF THIS LENSOLATOR WHICH
WILL FIRST STEAL THE WITS HE
DARED TO MATCH AGAINST
MINE --AND THEN
KILL HIM!

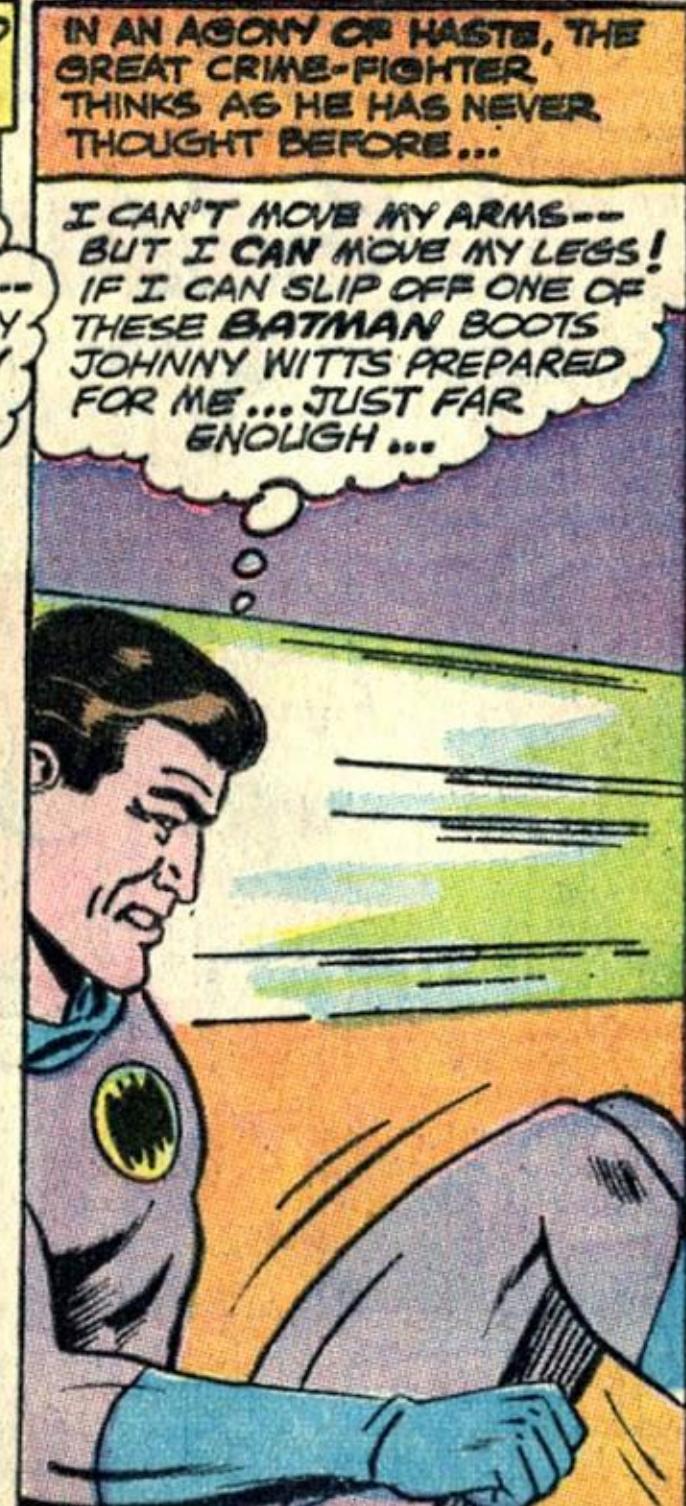
SEARING RAYS OF LIGHT AND
COLOR BATHE THE HELPLESS,
MASKED MANHUNTER!
DEEP INTO HIS BRAIN THEY
STAB--PIERCING, SLASHING,
CUTTING...

IN AN AGONY OF HASTE, THE
GREAT CRIME-FIGHTER
THINKS AS HE HAS NEVER
THOUGHT BEFORE...

SO LONG,
BATMAN!
I'LL LEAVE
YOU AT
YOUR
WITS'
END!
HA, HA,
HA!

I'VE GOT TO--
DO SOMETHING--
BUT WITHOUT MY
REAL UTILITY
BELT-- UNABLE
TO MOVE MY
ARMS OR THE
CHAIR THAT'S
BOLTED DOWN...

I CAN'T MOVE MY ARMS--
BUT I CAN MOVE MY LEGS!
IF I CAN SLIP OFF ONE OF
THESE BATMAN BOOTS
JOHNNY WITTS PREPARED
FOR ME... JUST FAR
ENOUGH...



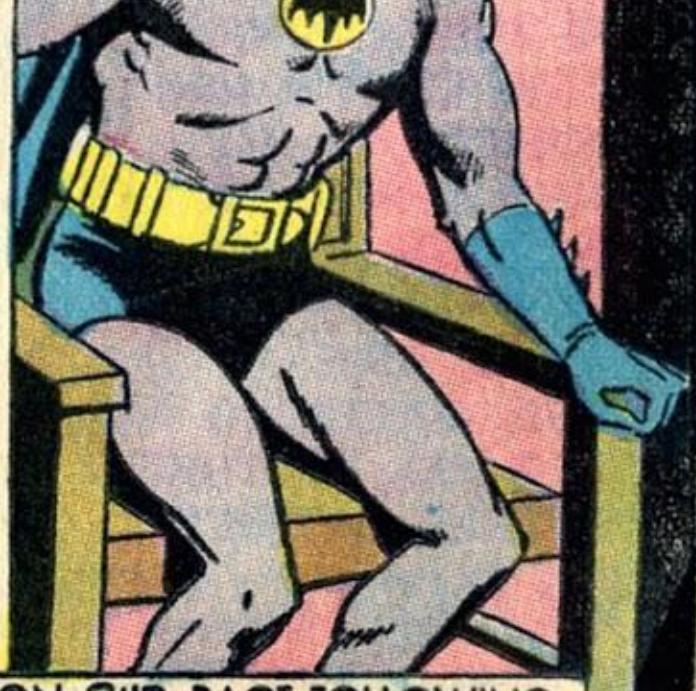
...I CAN SEND IT FLYING AT THAT LENS! OHH!
I MISSED! I'VE GOT ONE MORE BOOT--AND
I BETTER NOT "BOOT" IT...

NEXT MOMENT...

AND BY SMASHING THE
LENSOLATOR AT THE
SAME TIME--I'VE SHUT
OFF THE POWER THAT
KEPT ME GLUED TO
THIS CHAIR!



THIS TIME I DIDN'T MISS... I
COULDN'T AFFORD TO! I
SMASHED THE GADGET!



CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

PRESENTING the MAN of the HOUR— **CLARK KENT!**

I'LL BE WITH YOU AS CLARK IN A MOMENT... BUT ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT SUPERMAN?

NO...WE WANT YOU... CLARK KENT!

DID YOU OR DID YOU NOT ACT AS THE HEROIC "FIREMAN OF STEEL"?

WELL, YES!

ISN'T IT TRUE THAT YOU ONCE HAD A SHOWDOWN WITH GANG LEADER AL CAPONE?

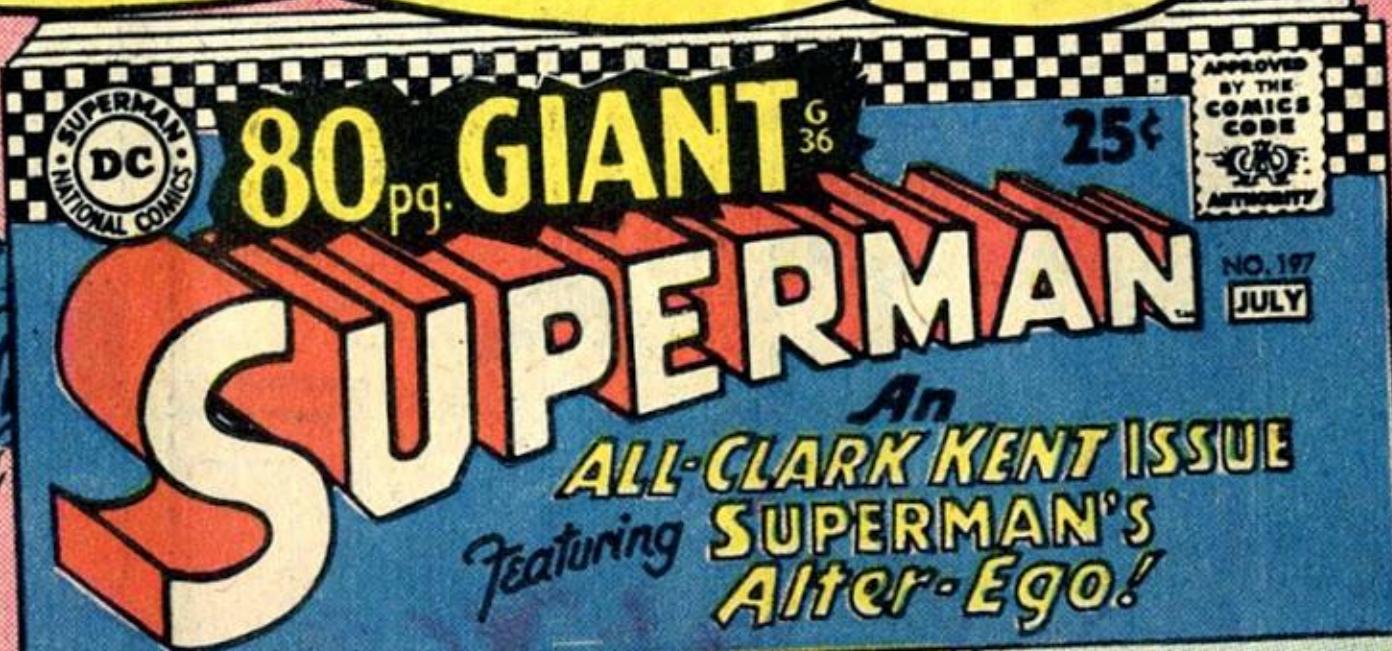
ER... IT IS!

AREN'T YOU THE STAR OF "CAVEMAN CLARK KENT," "THE TRUTH MIRROR," "CLARK KENT'S NEW PARENTS," AND OTHER SUPER-STORIES?

AND AREN'T THESE EXCITING TALES ALL FEATURED IN THIS LATEST **80 PAGE GIANT?**

OF COURSE...

RIGHT! AND IT'S **ON SALE APR. 11TH!**



BATMAN'S NEXT MOVE--TO RESCUE ROBIN...

BATMAN!
WHO WOULD I NEVER EXPECTED TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

WE HAVE NO TIME TO WASTE! WE'VE GOT TO GO AFTER JOHNNY WITTS AND HIS "TERRIFIC THREESOME"! THEY'RE OUT ROBBING A PRIVATE ART MUSEUM!

AFTER BATMAN HAS REMOVED HIS DISGUISE AND FILLED ROBIN IN ON WHAT HAS HAPPENED...

BUT HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY KNOW WHERE WITTS IS ROBBING?

EASY! HIS CRYSTAL BALL TOLD ME!

WHEN THE "SWAMI" FIRST ENTERED THE ROOM, HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO SHOW HIS MEN THE NEXT PLACE THEY WERE TO ROB! HE HAD THE CRYSTAL BALL PREPARED TO DO JUST THAT--AFTER SHOWING MY PICTURE IN IT!

I GET IT! WHEN YOU ESCAPED, YOU SWITCHED ON THE BALL--AND SAW THE PLACE TO BE ROBBED!

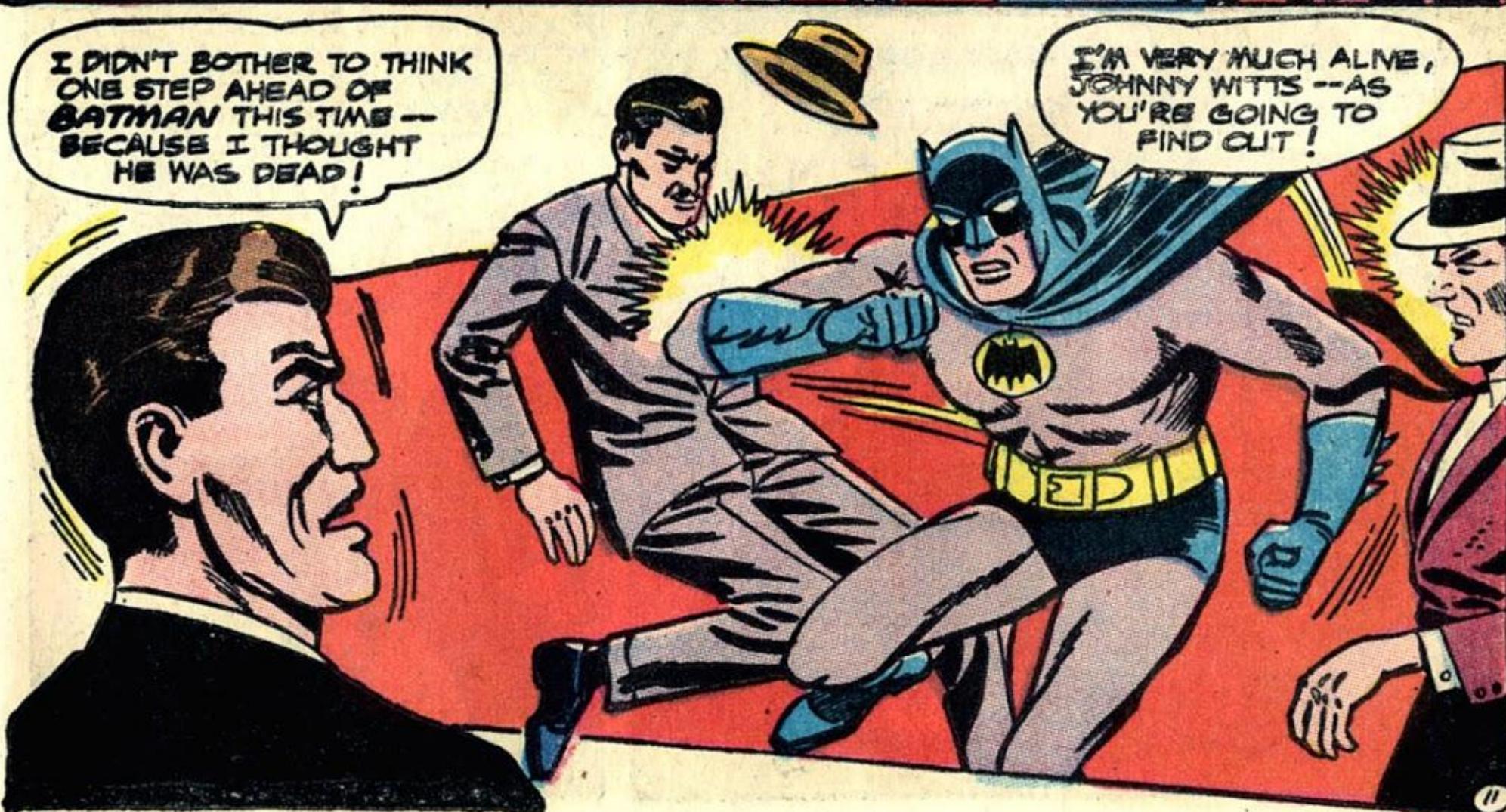


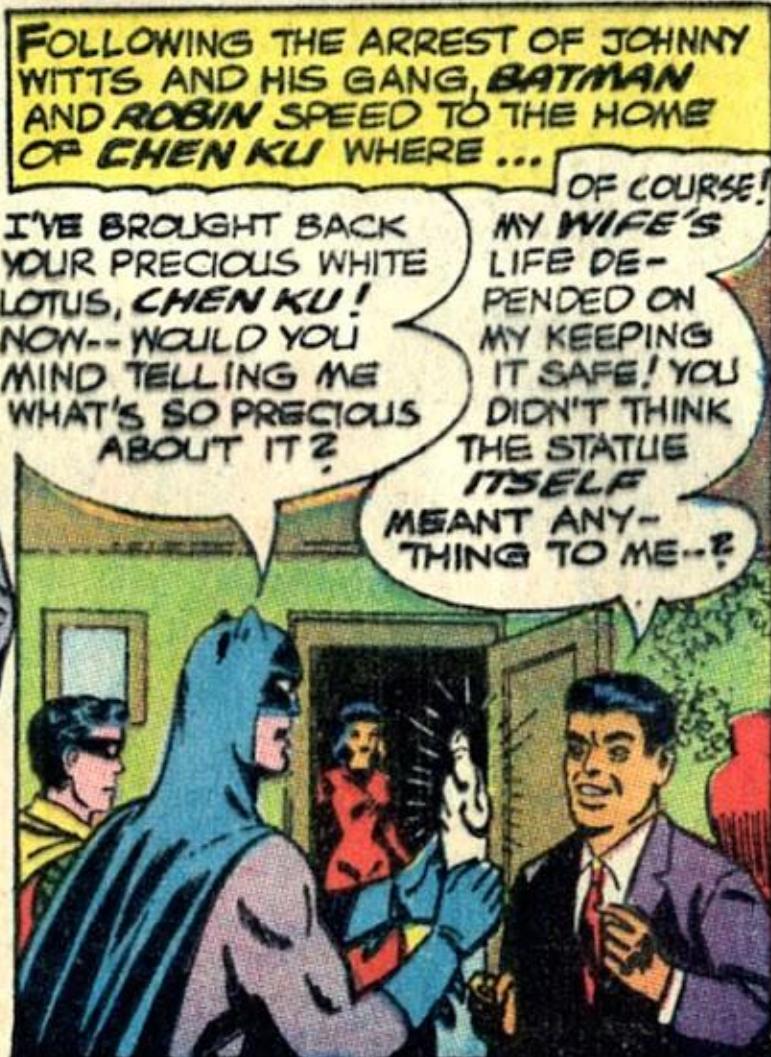
Shortly, at the private art museum...



I DIDN'T BOTHER TO THINK ONE STEP AHEAD OF BATMAN THIS TIME -- BECAUSE I THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD!

YOU!!! I C-CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THIS IS SO--CONFUSING!





CRYING OUT IN JOY, LISAN FLINGS HER ARMS AROUND HER HUSBAND...

YOU'VE MADE ME SO HAPPY! I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T LOVE ME ANY MORE...

ON THE CONTRARY, I LOVED YOU SO MUCH THAT WHEN A TONG LEADER GAVE ME THE WHITE LOTUS FOR SAFEKEEPING -- WARNING ME NOT TO TELL ANYONE ABOUT IT -- AND THREATENING TO KILL YOU AND ME IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO IT -- I NEVER TOOK MY EYES OFF IT!

I WAS TO SAFEGUARD IT FOR A WEEK! THE WEEK IS UP THIS MORNING! I WILL BE MOST HAPPY TO RETURN IT TO THE TONG LEADER WITHOUT ASKING QUESTIONS WHY HE SELECTED ME TO WATCH OVER IT!



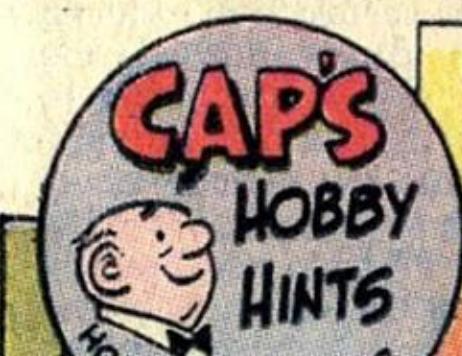
SINCE CHEN KU HAS NOT EATEN FOR MANY DAYS, AND SINCE THEIR NIGHT'S ACTIVITIES HAVE GIVEN THE DYNAMIC DUO A RAVENOUS APPETITE...

EAT HEARTY, MY FRIENDS! I HAVE ORDERED THE SPECIALTY OF THE HOUSE!

THIS IS ONE TIME I'M NOT GOING TO BE HUNGRY AN HOUR AFTER EATING!



THE END



THANKS TO -
WILLIAM DUPONT
PLAQUEMINE, LA.

KIDS! MAIL IN YOUR HOBBY HINTS TO: CAP'S, NATIONAL COMICS.
575 LEXINGTON AVE. NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022
IF PUBLISHED, YOU WILL RECEIVE \$5 AND THE ORIGINAL ART.

I SEE YOU'RE USING PAINT ON YOUR MODEL, SON. LET ME SHOW YOU A GOOD TIP!

DROP A SMALL BALL BEARING INTO THE PAINT BOTTLE.



CUT OUT FOR YOUR SCRAPBOOK

LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE

Dear Editor:

"Fright of the Scarecrow was certainly worth the full-length space it was given in the February *Batman*. By injecting the most feared emotion (that of fear itself) into *Batman* and *Robin*, the Scarecrow proved to be a worthy opponent of the talented twosome.

Your cover was one of your most chilling introductions to a story yet, although the actual scene was not inside. (This is not always necessary as long as the general theme is indicated, and the "Holy Cliff-Hanger" humor was priceless.)

The prologue was most unusual and interesting, giving a good background to the origin of *Scarecrow*. Nice to know that even professors can get off the track occasionally! Of course, the very best part (implied) was that the *Scarecrow*—in trying to inject fear into others—was only revealing the fear he had of owning up to his own shortcomings. "Fright of the Scarecrow" then must be a classic. Surely you did not receive more than a handful of letters from dissenters, but if you did, I'd be interested in knowing what they possibly could have disliked about the issue.

—Frank Tower, Eustace, Tex.
(You asked for it, Frank—here comes the follow-up letter of dissent.—Editor)

Dear Editor:

After reading the February *Batman*, I have made an assumption. I assume that you are testing a new idea in guest-star villains by doing the following:

Pluck a villain out of the Golden Age of Comics (which in this case attracts readers from 1941, not me). Then, without so much as modernizing his costume, throw in an explanatory prologue before the actual story, then use one old, dusty plot that went out with black-and-white movies, stick in your villain as the star, and there, before you, is an entirely new concept in *Batman*-reading.

What is my opinion? Glad you asked! Don't—repeat DON'T! First of all, *Scarecrow* is old hat (get the pun?) and looks it. How can a puny psychology teacher throw a paper bag over his head and see, breathe, and talk at the same time?

Second, *Scarecrow* is out of place on boats and with jungle cats. If you like cats, bring *Catwoman* back, and let *Scarecrow* stick to haystack-hideouts. (Not only would *B&R* have to fight *Scarecrow*, but hay fever as well!)

Lastly, if you want a really scary villain, get that stupid machinery out of the story! A truly terrifying nemesis doesn't need a super-sonic scare machine to stop the *Dynamic Duo*. *Batman* may be courageous, but even he can be shaken up once in a while.

Nice try, guys, but no dice with me. Golden Age villains with space-age style don't give *Batman* the quality he stands for—realism!

—M.J. Darcourt, Glendale, Cal.

Dear Editor:

The cover of *Batman* 189 was the best in a year, in fact one of the best *Batman* covers I can remember for many past years. The subject matter, handled to artistic perfection by Infantino and Giella,

symbolizes the very spirit and element of *Batman*. It pitted a weird, fantastic villain against the world's greatest detective set into an eerie background. By his very nature, *Batman* is a creature of the night; as one writer expressed it, he's "Dracula with a halo," and it's about time the covers began showing him in his most comfortable background again.

Unfortunately, the art inside was many notches below that on the cover. It struck me as being unusually drab and lifeless. Another point which I feel is worth noting is that the artist inside failed to give the *Scarecrow* facial expression such as was evident on the cover, and this alone detracted quite a bit from the appeal of an otherwise excellent villain.

Your origin for the *Scarecrow* was very well done, but I for one am tired of seeing college professors, scientists and inventors being made the prime villain in so many comic stories these days. It almost seems as though your writers have declared a subtle psychological war against intellectuals, implying in their stories that such people are potential criminals and madmen. This certainly is a tendency which ought to be discouraged, considering its complete lack of factual foundation. Whatever happened to realistic criminals? My newspaper is filled with newsstories and outraged editorials about extortionists, blackmailers, hijackers, thieves, embezzlers, grafters and big city mobsters. But I have yet to see mention of a renegade scientist. Surely something could be done to help *Batman* cases approximate reality a little more closely.

Despite a rather poor story, the *Scarecrow* emerged as an outstanding villain. It seems to me though that for a villain who seeks to utilize and create the element of fear, the *Scarecrow* does a second-rate job of it. Asking readers to believe that an automatically controlled submarine can actually shoot a fear-spray onto two running super-heroes is going way too far. The episode in the ship was handled better, but still did not allow the villain to create or to nurse latent fear into his victims. It was merely a case of tossing in a more or less ordinary (ordinary to *Batman*, anyway) menace at our hero, and stand back to watch the action.

Plotwise, I was disappointed to see you slipping back into the old one, two, three story line. One—*Batman* and villain meet, *Batman* is defeated and the villain escapes with the goodies. Two—*Batman* and villain meet, and though the villain escapes, *Batman* saves the loot. Three—*Batman* lures and/or stumbles across the villain using an idiotic bit of planning and manages to capture the baddie and recover the hidden treasures. This old formula has been done to death and I'm a little ashamed to see my favorite editor resorting to such a shopworn cliche.

Despite all this, the villain was very good, and I'm sure that with a little more development he will emerge as one of *Batman*'s more original opponents. After all, he's been out of practice since 1941, and even the *Scarecrow* must be a little rusty after 26 years.

—Robert Jennings, DMO Nurnberg, MCC.

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

BATMAN

Starring
ROBIN
THE
Boy WONDER

"WHEW! I'VE NEVER RUN INTO ANYBODY AS STRONG AS THIS GUY IS!"

"I'M FOR THE GOOD GUYS, ROBIN! RIGHT NOW-- YOU'RE A BAD GUY TO ME!"

HIS FACE WAS MASKED-- BUT NOTHING COULD DISGUISE THE ALMOST IN-HUMAN STRENGTH OF HIS BODY! WHY DID HE FIRST COME TO THE AID OF DICK GRAYSON-- THEN DO A TURNABOUT AND BATTLE AGAINST ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER?

**DICK GRAYSON'S
SECRET
GUARDIAN!**

BOB KANE

WHEN GOTHAM HIGH SCHOOL LETS OUT AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF THE FALL TERM AND SOME STUDENTS HEAD FOR BUSES TO RETURN THEM TO THEIR HOME NEIGHBORHOODS...

THE NAME'S FRANK REYNOLDS, DICK!

I'M GLAD YOU'RE COMING OUT FOR BASKETBALL, FRANK! WITH YOUR HEIGHT YOU'LL MAKE A GOOD CENTER!

DICK (ROBIN) GRAYSON IS ALWAYS ON THE LOOKOUT FOR NEW BASKETBALL MATERIAL...

SAY, THERE'S ANOTHER OF YOU BUSSSED-IN STUDENTS WHO LOOKS THE BASKETBALL-TYPE! I'LL SOUND HIM OUT!

THAT'S TOUGHY LOOMIS! I--er--DON'T THINK HE'LL BE INTERESTED!

BUT BEFORE DICK CAN TAKE A STEP TOWARD THE NEW-COMER TO GOTHAM HIGH SCHOOL...

SO YOU'RE THE RICH KID I KEEP HEARIN' ABOUT! DICK GRAYSON--WARD OF THAT MILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE!

WELL, DON'T HOLD THAT AGAINST ME, TOUGHY! IN GOTHAM HIGH WE'RE ALL FRIENDS!

WE WANT TO MAKE YOU NEW BUSSSED-IN STUDENTS WELCOME HERE.

OH YEAH? I MAY BE A BUSSSED STUDENT--BUT YOU'RE A BUST! YOU GOT MONEY.. BUT I GOT MUSCLES! I HATE RICH KIDS! WANNA FIGHT, RICH BOY?

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE THAT CHIP OFF YOUR SHOULDER? NOBODY WANTS TO FIGHT YOU! HOW ABOUT TRYING OUT FOR THE BASKETBALL TEAM, TOUGHY?

WHAT, ME PLAY BASKETBALL? NAH, NONE OF THAT SPORTS STUFF FOR ME! I GOT BETTER THINGS TO DO WITH MY TIME!

HAW, HAW, HAW! GO HOME AN' TELL YER GUARDIAN TO GUARD YA! I'LL BE SEEIN' YA, KID--SO WATCH OUT!

I DON'T LIKE THIS! I'VE SEEN TOUGHY ACT THIS WAY WITH OTHER KIDS--AND I KNOW WHAT HE'S PLANNING FOR DICK!



SOME NIGHTS LATER, AFTER BASKETBALL PRACTICE--AS DICK HEADS THROUGH GOTHAM PARK ON HIS WAY TO MEET BATMAN FOR THEIR NIGHTLY PATROL...



TOUGHY LOOMIS DOESN'T KNOW THAT DICK GRAYSON IS ALSO ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER--OR HE MIGHT NOT BE SO CONFIDENT!

YOU WANNA PLAY GAMES, eh, RICH BOY? OKAY--I'M GONNA PLAY YOU'RE A DOOR AND SLAM YA ONE!

GOT TO "DUCK" FIGHT-ING HIM...

HIS REFLEXES ARE THOSE OF A CRAFTY ANIMAL AS DICK CROUCHES--HEAVES UPWARD WITH AN ELBOW AND...



I'D JUST AS
SOON NOT FIGHT
BACK--RISK
GIVING AWAY
MY ROBIN
IDENTITY!



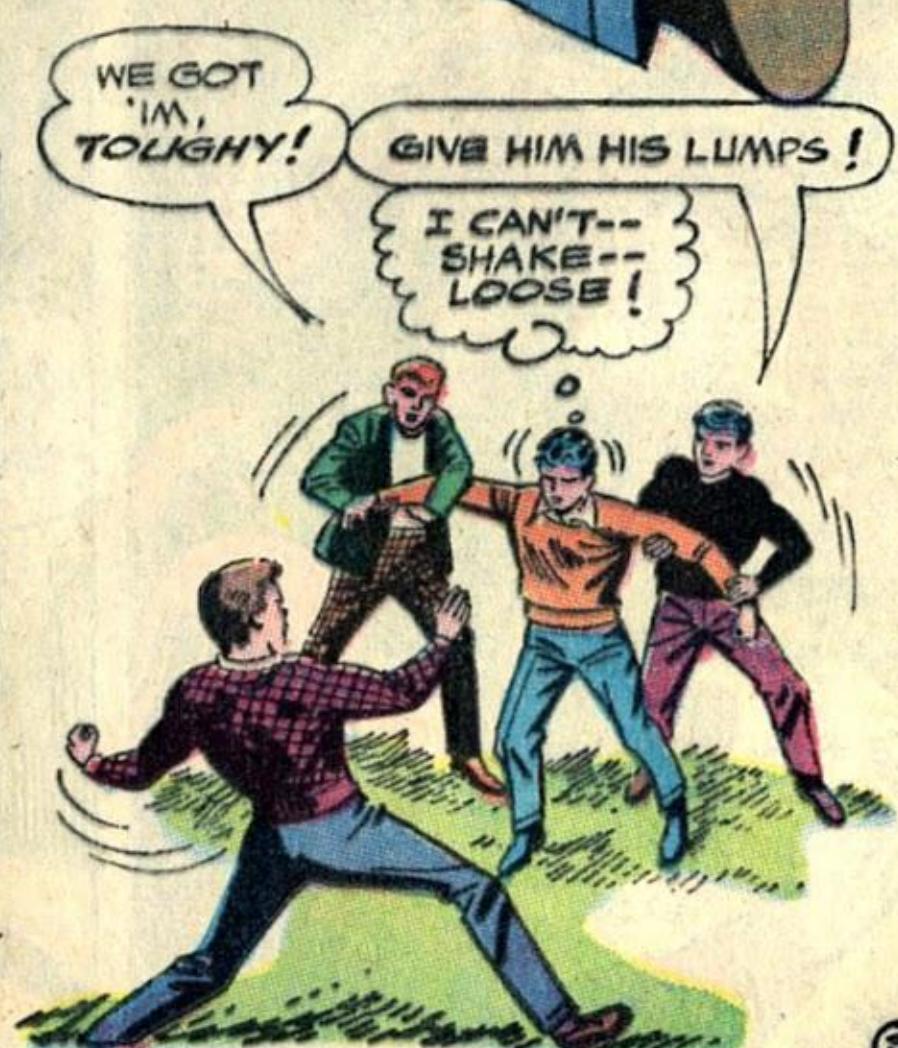
HEY--
STAND
STILL!

HE LEFT HIMSELF
WIDE OPEN FOR A
COUNTER-BLOW--IF
"ROBIN" WERE
FIGHTING...

WE GOT
'IM,
TOUGHY!

GIVE HIM HIS LUMPS!

I CAN'T--
SHAKE--
LOOSE!



OUT OF THE BLACKNESS OF
THE NIGHT TWO HANDS STAB
AND LIFT...



WITH A DISPLAY OF TITANIC
STRENGTH, THE MASKED IN-
TRUDER TOSSES CHILLS
CARMODY HIGH AND FAR...



H-HOW'D HE
DO THAT?!



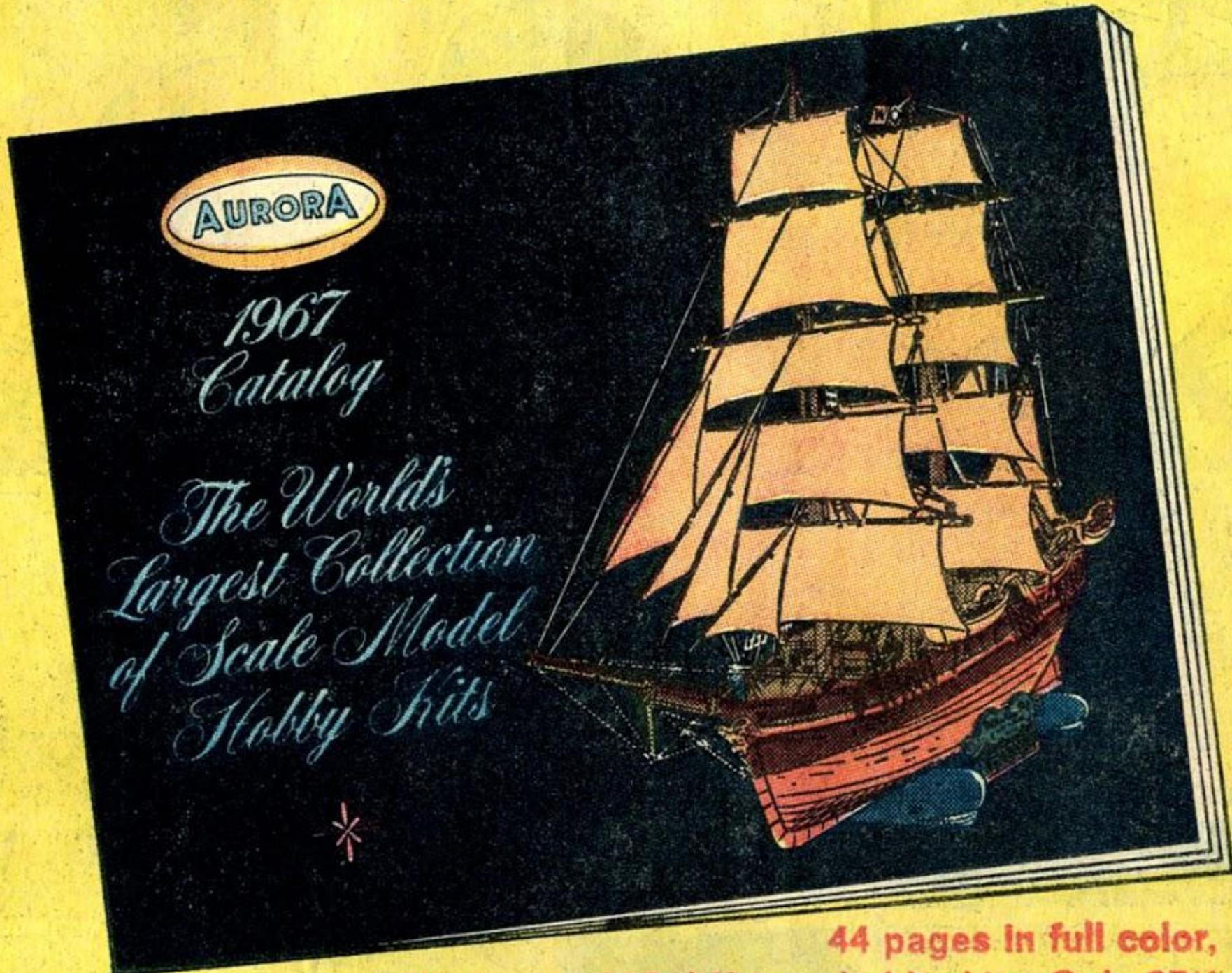
NOBODY CAN DO THAT
TO MY BUDDY--AND
GET AWAY WITH IT!



CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

CATALOG OFFER OF THE YEAR!

Send away for the really big one!

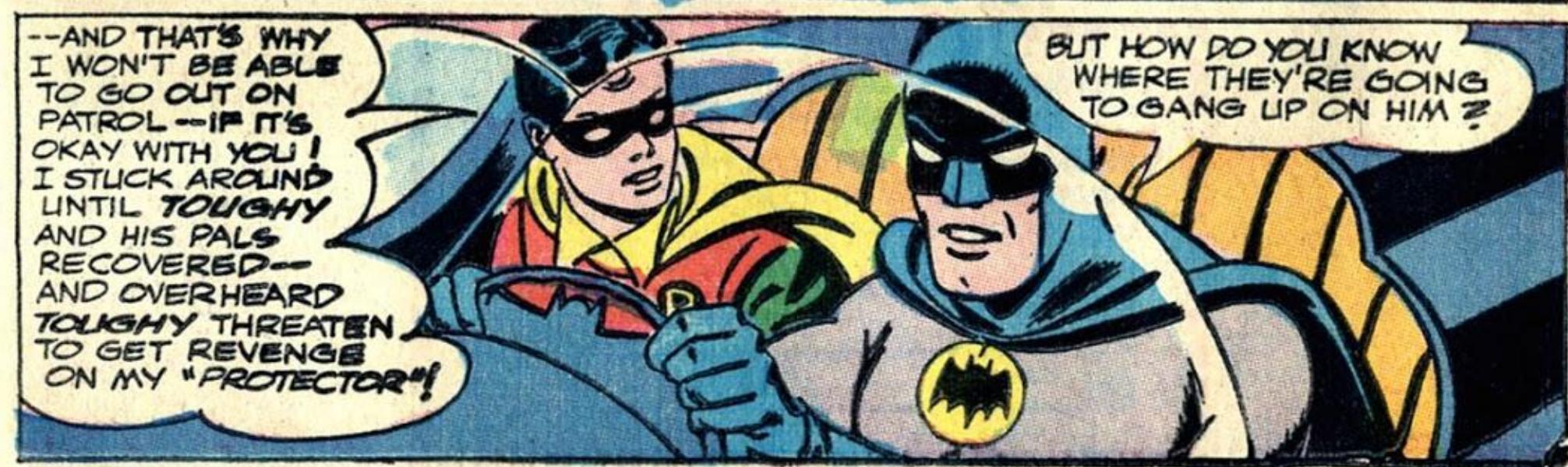
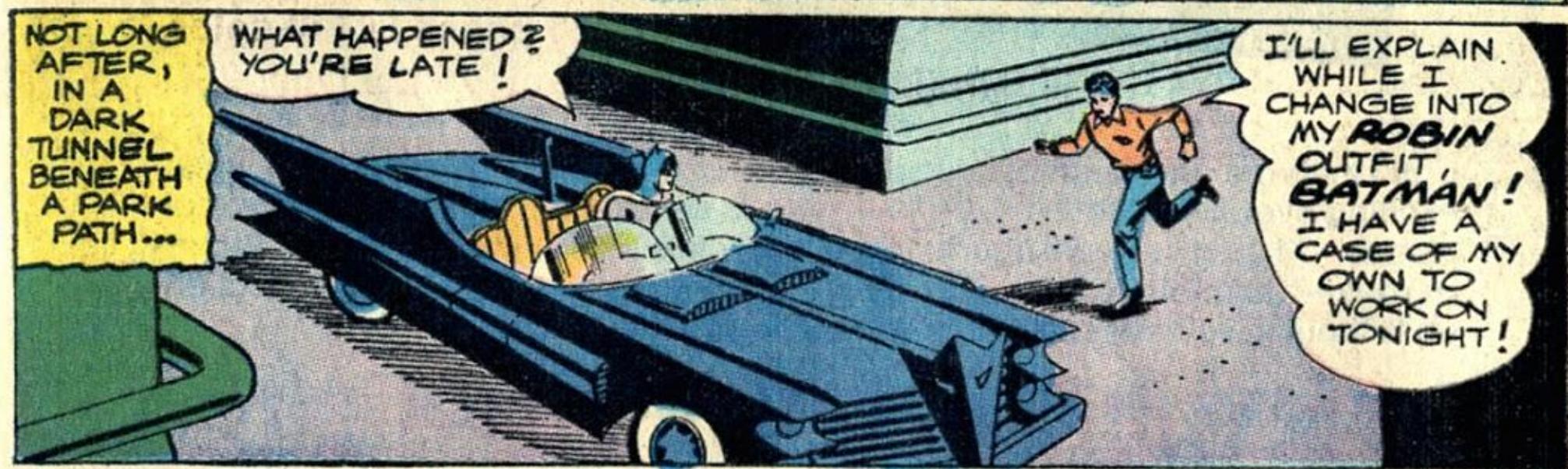


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TWO BLOCKS FROM ROBIN'S DESTINATION THE BATMOBILE SLOWS DOWN...

I HEARD THE MASKED FELLOW SPEAK JUST AS TOUGHY DID--SO I KNOW WHO HE IS, TOO! TOUGHY WILL MAKE HIS ATTACK NEAR THE FELLOW'S HOME...

GOOD LUCK,
ROBIN!
BUT RE-
MEMBER--
IF YOU
NEED ME,
YOU
KNOW
HOW TO
CONTACT
ME!

MOMENTS LATER, AS ROBIN RACES ALONG A STREET...

THERE THEY ARE--
MAKING THEIR SNEAK ATTACK ON FRANK REYNOLDS! IT'S MY TURN TO HELP HIM!



NOW--
STOMP
HIM!



ROBIN'S HERE--TO CLIP THE WINGS OF YOU FLY-BY-NIGHT BIRDS!

WHEN
THIS

MASKED FIGHTER SPEAKS, IT'S IN A DISGUISED VOICE!



TAKE
"FIVE"
CHUMP!

KRAK!





SOME DISTANCE AWAY...

GOT TO HELP THE WEAK AGAINST
THE STRONG ! THAT POOR MAN--
BEING BEAT UP !

TRY AND HOLD
ME UP, WILL
YOU ?



OH-OH ! FRANK'S HELPING THE **WRONG GUY** !
THE MAN GETTING HIT IS A **CROOK**--I'VE
SEEN HIS PICTURE IN THE
ROGUE'S GALLERY !



FRANK ! **STOP!!** YOU'RE
MAKING A TERRIBLE
MISTAKE !



YOU WANT TO
HURT THE
WEAK TOO !

NO, NO ! LISTEN TO ME ! I'M A **GOOD GUY** !
SO'S THE MAN YOU JUST HEAVED THROUGH
THE AIR ! FRANK, DON'T--

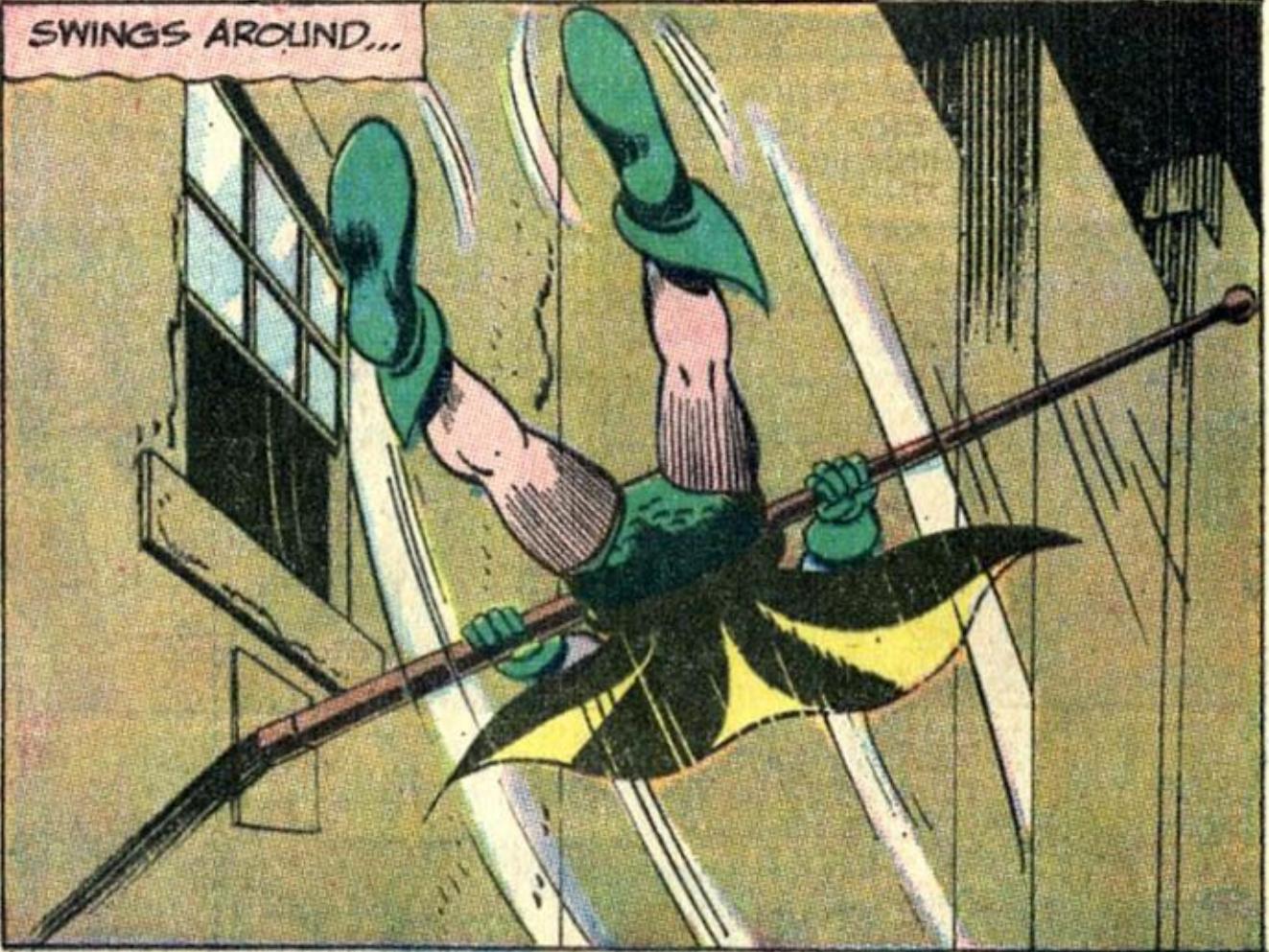


HE INTERCEPTS HIS UPWARD FLIGHT BY GRABBING A FLAGPOLE ...

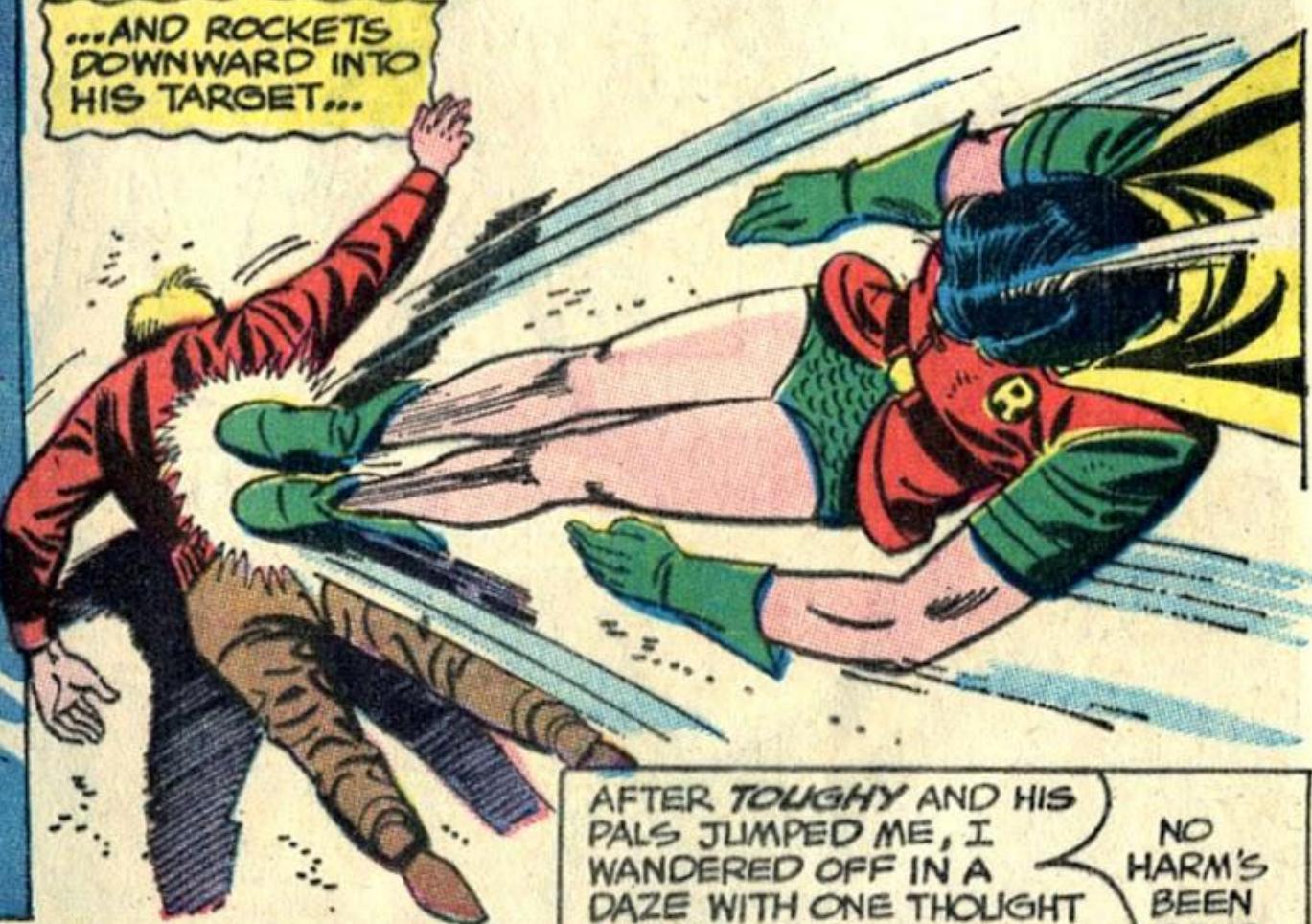
GOT TO ACT FAST BEFORE FRANK GETS AWAY AGAIN!



SWINGS AROUND...



...AND ROCKETS DOWNWARD INTO HIS TARGET...



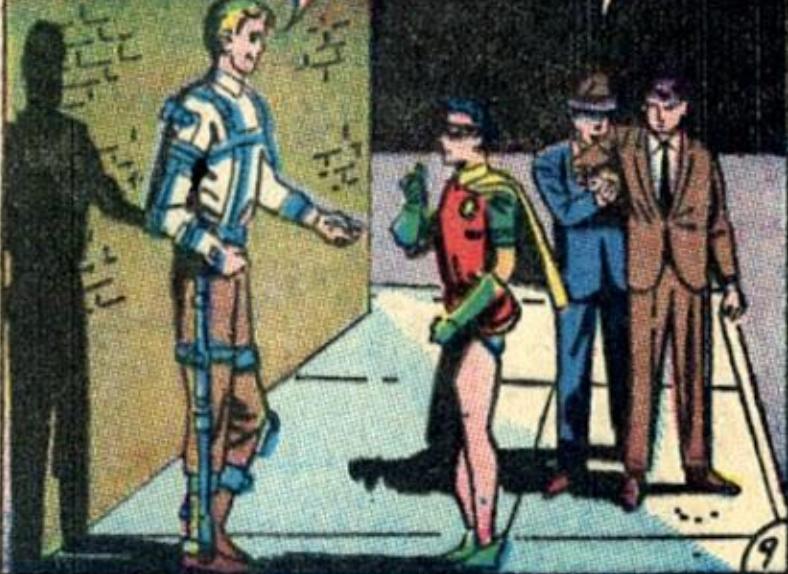
MOMENTS LATER, WHEN FRANK REYNOLDS RECOVERS AND TAKES OFF HIS SWEATER...

WHEN I REALIZED TOUGHY WAS GOING TO BEAT UP DICK GRAYSON, I BORROWED THIS MAN-AMPLIFIER GADGET FROM MY DAD--AN ENGINEER WHO'S BEEN WORKING ON IT! THE MAN-AMPLIFIER IS DESIGNED TO LIFT A LOAD OF A THOUSAND POUNDS!...

THAT'S WHY I WAS ALWAYS LIFTING--OR UPPER-CUTTING--ANYBODY I FOUGHT! A STRAIGHT PUNCH HAD NO "AMPLIFIED" STRENGTH BEHIND IT!

AFTER TOUGHY AND HIS PALS JUMPED ME, I WANDERED OFF IN A DAZE WITH ONE THOUGHT IN MIND...TO PROTECT THE WEAK! I DIDN'T KNOW THE MAN I WAS TRYING TO SAVE WAS THE ONE BEING HELD UP! WHEN YOU SLAMMED ME INTO THE WALL, IT BROUGHT ME BACK TO MY SENSES!

NO HARM'S BEEN DONE, KID! LET'S TURN THIS CROOK OVER TO THE POLICE!



LATER, IN THE BATCAVE...

I WONDER
WHAT WILL
HAPPEN TO
TOUGHY
LOOMIS
NOW?

HE'S SWORN TO TURN
OVER A NEW LEAF! I
THINK THE FACT THAT
BOTH FRANK AND I
TAUGHT HIM A LESSON
MADE HIM REALIZE HE
ISN'T SUCH A TOUGH
GUY AFTER ALL!

AS ROBIN, I
TALKED HIM INTO
GOING OUT FOR
THE BASKETBALL
TEAM I I POINTED
OUT THAT IF HE'S
A STAR PLAYER--
AS HE CAN BE--
HE'LL BECOME A
CELEBRITY
QUICKLY
ENOUGH!
AFTER ALL,
HE JUST
WANTED
FOLKS TO
THINK HE
WAS A
BIG
SHOT!

WELL, I'M
GLAD YOU
HAD AN
INTERESTING
EVENING!
I DIDN'T COME
ACROSS A
SINGLE CRIME!

IS THAT BAD?
AFTER ALL, WE'RE
BOTH HELPING
TO MAKE
GOTHAM
CITY A
BETTER
PLACE TO
LIVE IN!

The End

it's a COMEDY OF SCOOTER TERRORS

WHEN OUR GOOD GUYS BECOME
GO-GO GUINEA PIGS
IN A WEIRD EXPERIMENT BY THE
RAUNCHIEST, FINKIEST, MEANIEST,
MAD, MAD, SCIENTIST IN
COMICS HISTORY--

Professor Kootchy-Koo Caramba!!

PLUS THE KICKIEST JOY RIDE
OF 'EM ALL--

LOVE ON WHEELS!

IN THE JULY SWING WITH SCOOTER

ON SALE EVERYWHERE APRIL 20th

LUCKY TURNABOUT!
YOU HAVE BEEN DRAFTED
AS GUINEA PIGS IN THE SECRET
REVOLTING, SICKENING EXPERIMENT
IN THE ENTIRE HISTORY OF MAD
SCIENTISTS IN COMIC BOOKS!

ZIP!
CAN'T
YOU WAIT UNTIL
WE'RE OLD ENOUGH
TO VOTE!

BOYS, MEN, BUILD, DEVELOP MIGHTY MUSCLES

*Add Power and Punch to Your Arms
Become the Strongman in the Crowd!*

WATCH THOSE
MUSCLES GROW
AND BULGE!

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LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE - EXTRA

Dear Editor:

In reference to Gary Collins' letter in the February *Batman*, I'm afraid he, as well as many other *Batfans*, are dreadfully wrong. There is no question that the Batman-TV show is a fine rendition of the comic. Before one balks, let's listen to clear logic:

It seems there is some argument about the humor on the TV show, as well as the crazy and insane dialogue, stories, etc. Well, a comic is usually a system of drawings that tell an outlandish, or out-of-the-ordinary story, and usually has some pretty weird and crazy villains, plots, and main characters. Thus you have it with the *Batman-TV* show. The show has captured all these points, and, as any show must, added a bit to Bruce Wayne's and Dick Grayson's personalities. Thus you have Bruce's boyish attitude directed toward the fair sex, and "Holy Jack-in-the-box, *Batman!*" Lorenzo Semple, Jr., head writer for the show, has devised an excellent format, and decided to make the show "camp," or funny, for if the show were done seriously, it would still be funny, and a flop for that matter!

After all, putting humans in a comic mag story is next to impossible without being the smallest bit funny. If *Batman* were done "straight," they would have to cut out all the costumed villains seen in the *Batman* comic, because with them it would have been funny. Thus, you see no costumed villains on the old *Superman* show, but run-of-the-mill gangsters. All *Batman* would be then is a sorry excuse for a glorified detective show, replete with two normal men running about in *Batoutfits*. Now come on!

It would seem that we are too sophisticated to take a serious presentation of *Batman*. That is why *Batman*, *Superman*, the *Green Hornet*, serials seem sooooo stupid and funny to us . . . even "camp."

Would you, as a *Batfan*, like to see your favorite hero flop on network TV? In 1966, that is what would certainly have happened . . . if it were done seriously! The 1943 *Batman* serial is probably the most "campist," terrible thing ever seen—because it was done straight!

Now for a moment, let's take the show itself. The costumes are excellent, the villain parts superbly cast—most outstanding being Burgess Meredith as the *Penguin* (an excellent job which is quite like Bob Kane's version), the crazy-colored, gigantic sets and props, not unlike the coloring in your mag, the POWS and BIFFS (which are drawn pretty much the same as they ever were), the make-up (except the *Joker's*) and of course the wonderfully crazy cliff-hanging dangers! Now what more could one ask for in a rendition of a comic?

I hope my points are well-taken, and that the show, AND the comic, last for years to come!

—Mark Shepard, Encino, Cal.
(Points well-blunted by the next critic.—Editor)

Dear Editor:

In *Batman* 189 I most definitely agree with Gary Collins in his description of what has happened to your magazines—in other words, television. I feel that you people have an entirely abstract view of what's going on. You have forgotten what came first—the chicken or the egg. When I read your magazine I find "Holy Intimidation" or "Holy Ice Cream Cones!" This is not only disgusting to the large majority of your readers, but is turning Bat-

man into a magazine of *Mad's* calibre. After all, the TV show WAS supposed to be based on the magazine, wasn't it?

As to your "new look"—hmmm . . . remember, wasn't the original purpose of the *Bat-costume* to strike "terror" into the hearts of criminals? At least that's what *Batman* number 1 said. Personally, I think this "new look" is for the birds. Now you have the *Caped Crusader* prancing around the streets with that weird yellow shield around his *bat-insignia*. I liked the first one much better. And that outlandish *utility belt* I didn't mind when it first came into existence, but since then it's been getting larger and larger.

The TV show has just about ruined the dialogue in the stories. For instance, when I picked up a recent *Brave & Bold* I found *Green Lantern* (who was teamed up with *Batman* at the time) saying, "... but he ran into the *Caped Crusader* instead—POW-ZONK-POW!" Now when you have a character describing something like that or not, would you have anyone in his right mind saying, "POW-ZONK-POW?" YUCHHH is what I say!

And now, let's get to the final topic of my little literary work—namely, the *Batcave*. No, not the letters department, but the *real Batcave*. When this was first introduced I liked it fine. But since the TV production it has been getting out of hand in the magazine. You have already brought in the *Bat-computer* which irks me no end. It used to be *Batman* would know everything just by looking into reference books or by thinking. But now he just pops a card in a refugee from a science-fiction movie and DING—out comes the answer. BAH! Please don't bring in that crazy atomic pile and atomic powered *Batmobile* and *Batpoles* and other groupings of *Battrash*.

Well, if this letter gets any longer it will definitely not be printed, so I'll leave you with one final *Bat-thought*—"Why not go back to what you had in the early 1960's and back even further—you had a good thing going then. Why mess it up now?"

—Burton Wolder, Reading, Pa.

Dear Editor:

I think Gary Collins is only half right! I agree that the POWS and OOFs are ridiculous, but I think the new Bat-gadgets are okay. Your comics are great; keep up the good work.

—Ricky Thomas, London, Ont., Can.

Dear Editor:

I vividly disagree with Gary Collins' letter about the so-called camp style. In retaliation:

(1) Teenagers today nearly all have a language of their own, and *Robin* is no exception.

(2) You would feel *Batman's* fists POW upon your head and let out an OOF if *Robin* landed one on your tummy—if you were a crook putting up a fight. A clobbered thug doesn't pick a certain place to fall, either.

(3) Where would the police be today if they didn't come up with new, scientific gadgets to fight crime? These should definitely be kept and even more added in the future.

—Harry Land, Columbus, Ohio

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

DIRECT CURRENTS

Well, that time is here again when April showers are supposed to bring May flowers—and the newsstands blossom out with a new crop of DC mags! So I'll tell you what's up, tiger lily, and you can pick your favorites! And frankly, I'll be surprised if you pass up any of 'em!



You're in for a deck-ful of shocking surprises, eerie excitement and terrific thrills when you are dealt the pasteboard puzzle of "THE HISTORY-MAKING COSTUMES OF THE ROYAL FLUSH GANG," in the June JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, No. 54, when it goes on sale Apr. 25. With BATMAN, FLASH, WONDER WOMAN and others!

Our good guys—SCOOTER and his combo—become guinea pigs in a weirdo experiment by the raunchiest, finkiest, meaniest mad, mad scientist in the history of comics—PROFESSOR KOOTCHY-KOO CARAMBA! Plus the kickiest joy ride of 'em all—"LOVE ON WHEELS!" In the July SWING WITH SCOOTER, No. 7, on sale Apr. 20.

"PHANTOM FLASH, COSMIC TRAITOR!" That's what the SCARLET SPEEDSTER becomes when a supernatural foe turns him into a spectral menace. Who is there to combat him? No one but THE SPECTRE! It all adds up to another great DC team-up, featuring THE FLASH and THE SPECTRE, in the July THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD, No. 72, on sale Apr. 20.

Who but those unique robots, the METAL MEN, are plunged into a struggle with the latest of villains? But their battle is too great to be won on Earth! It has to be continued in outer space—with one startling surprise after another in—"MENACE OF THE METAL MODS!" July issue, No. 26, on sale Apr. 20.

What are the secret identities of SUPERMAN and BATMAN? If you said CLARK KENT and BRUCE WAYNE, you're wrong—at least, in the fantastic IMAGINARY NOVEL featured in the June issue of WORLD'S FINEST, No. 167! Besides a different SUPERMAN and a new BATMAN, you'll see SUPER-GIRL, BRAINIAC and the TOYMAN—on Apr. 25!

A-MAN, the hero with animal powers, is back again in the June STRANGE ADVENTURES, No. 201, in a fierce battle against a fantastic villain . . . "THE MOD GORILLA BOSS!" Plus a weirdie thriller, "CASE OF THE CACKLING CONJURER," guaranteed to make you do anything but laugh! On sale Apr. 27.

You don't believe in ghosts—do you? Good! Keep that in mind as you watch SUPERBOY, COSMIC BOY, PRINCESS PROJECTRA and SUN BOY face the wrath of their dead LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES pal, in "THE GHOST OF FERRO LAD!" Go on . . . get the June ADVENTURE, No. 357, on Apr. 27. You're not afraid of ghosts . . . are you?

Who is the mysterious villain who challenges BATMAN and ROBIN with riddles in the manner of the RIDDLE, with wild jokes that are the trademark of the JOKER, with impossible escapes in the fashion of the GETAWAY GENIUS? "THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE CLUE-LESS CRIMES," in the June DETECTIVE, No. 364, on sale Apr. 27!

ZHA-VAMI No, that's not the sound effect of a cargo of nitro exploding! It's the name of SUPERMAN'S latest, mightiest foe, exploding into the pages of ACTION COMICS!



He has the powers of ZEUS, HERCULES, ACHILLES, VULCAN, APOLLO and MERCURY . . . and what he does to the MAN OF STEEL! June, No. 351, on sale Apr. 27.



THE 'BATTLE THAT ROCKS' THE UNIVERSE!

FOR THE GHOSTLY GUARDIAN HAS AT LAST MET HIS MATCH IN THE SCARLET SPEEDSTER, NOW TURNED INTO A GHASTLY PHANTOM FOE!

WHO WILL COME OUT ALIVE?
THE SPECTRE OR THE FLASH?

BRAVE & BOLD

THE DEADLY ANSWER AWAITS YOU IN



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AT AMERICA'S
GREATEST
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MYSTERY OF THE MILLION-DOLLAR BRIEFCASE!

NO, TIM... SEALS ARE LAND MAMMALS, AND THAT BABY SEAL HAD TO BE TAUGHT HOW TO SWIM!

HOW'D HE KNOW THAT?



THIS GUY ED HAS BEEN DRIVING ME BATTY! HE KNOWS ALL THE ANSWERS!



"LIKE THE OTHER DAY, WHEN WE WERE LOOKING AT SOME PICTURES OF EGYPTIAN PYRAMIDS..."

IMAGINE... THE TALLEST OF THE PYRAMIDS WAS ABOUT THE SIZE OF A 50-STORY BUILDING--480 FEET... ALMOST HALF AS TALL AS THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING!



AND HE KNOWS ALL ABOUT MODEL PLANES AND OTHER THINGS! I GOTTA KEEP TAILING HIM UNTIL I FIND OUT HIS SECRET!



LATER... AH! THERE HE GOES... AND HE'S CARRYING A BRIEFCASE! I'LL BET THAT'S GOT THE KEY TO HIS SECRET!



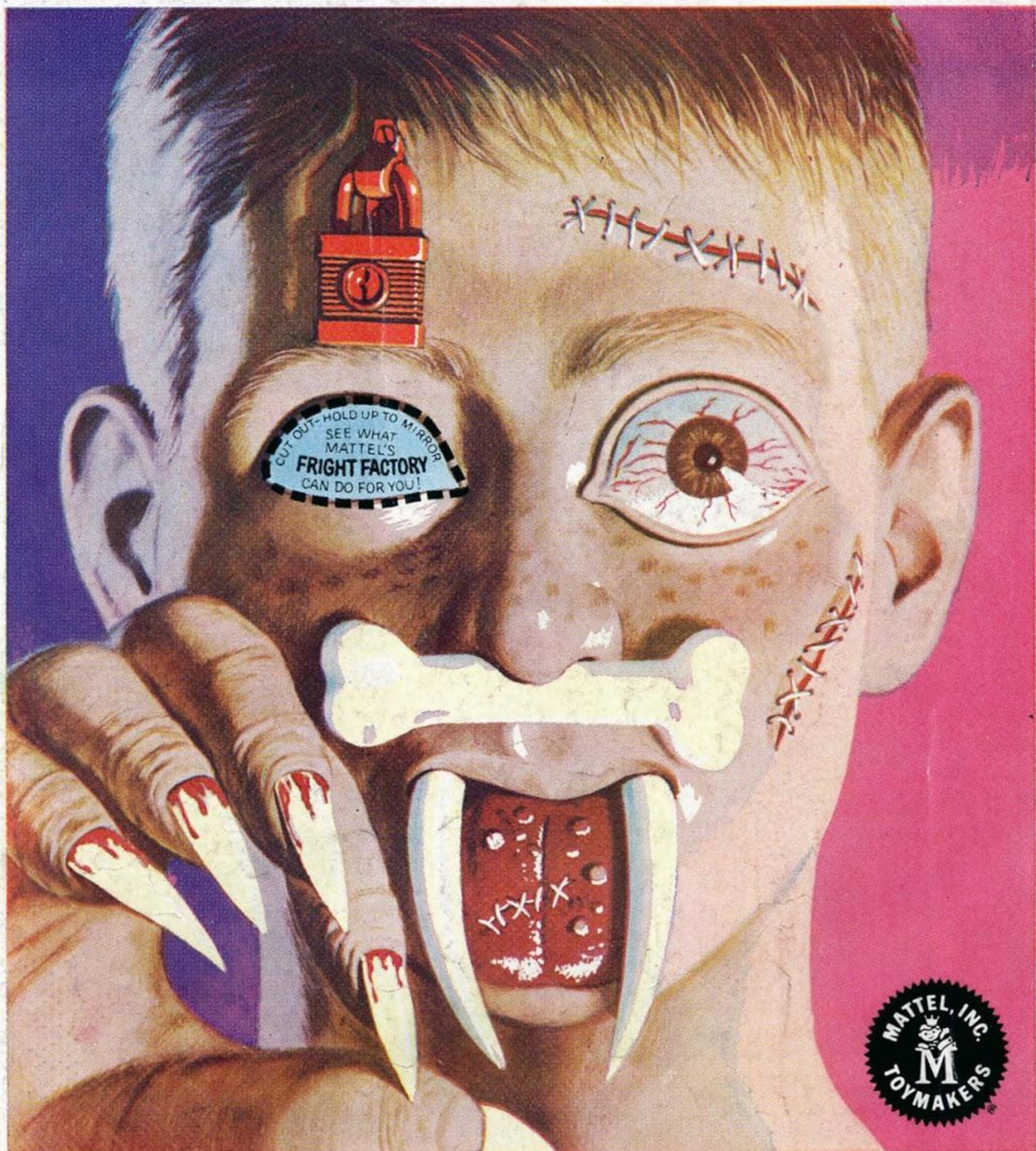
SHORTLY... HEY, WHAT GIVES, DICK? WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME?

I--I GOTTA FIND OUT WHAT'S IN THAT BRIEFCASE! IT MUST BE WORTH A FORTUNE!



IT IS!... BOOKS! AND THAT'S WHERE I GET 'EM! HUH? THE PUBLIC LIBRARY! WELL, WHADDYA KNOW!

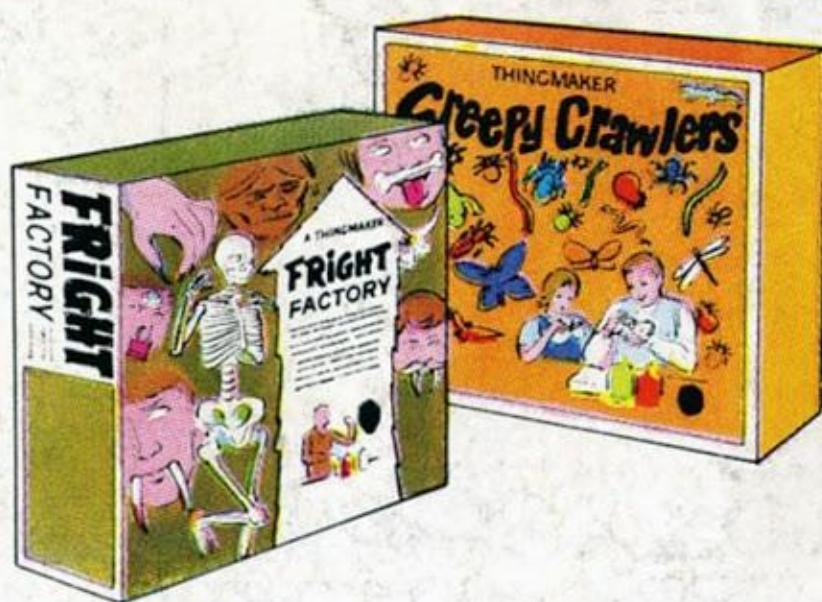




Now you can be the monster you've always wanted to be!

Make all kinds of icky, sticky things to wear... bloodshot eyeballs, scars, mustaches, drooling lips, monster fangs, and more. You make them with Mattel's new Fright Factory Thingmaker.[®] It comes with a Thingmaker, molds, 4 colors of Plastigoop[®] ... everything you need to make yourself into a new monster every day.

And while you're out scaring the neighborhood, why not fill it with slinky, creepy, ugly bugs and beetles and lizards and centipedes. The kind you make with Mattel's famous Creepy Crawlers Thingmaker.





FLATTERMANN