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BATMAN

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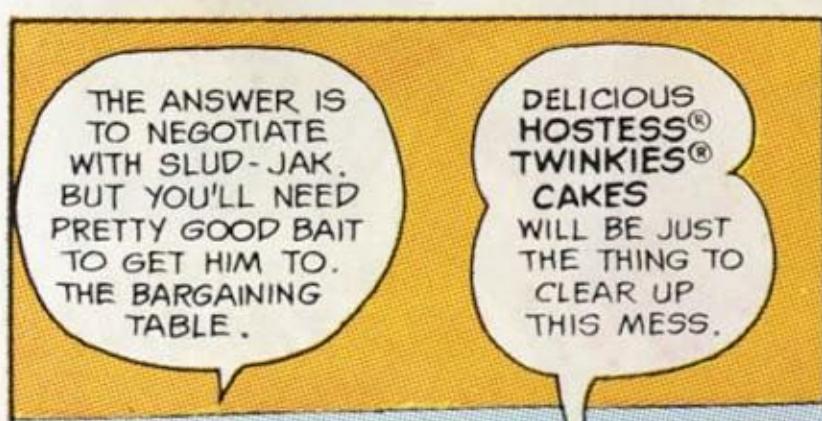
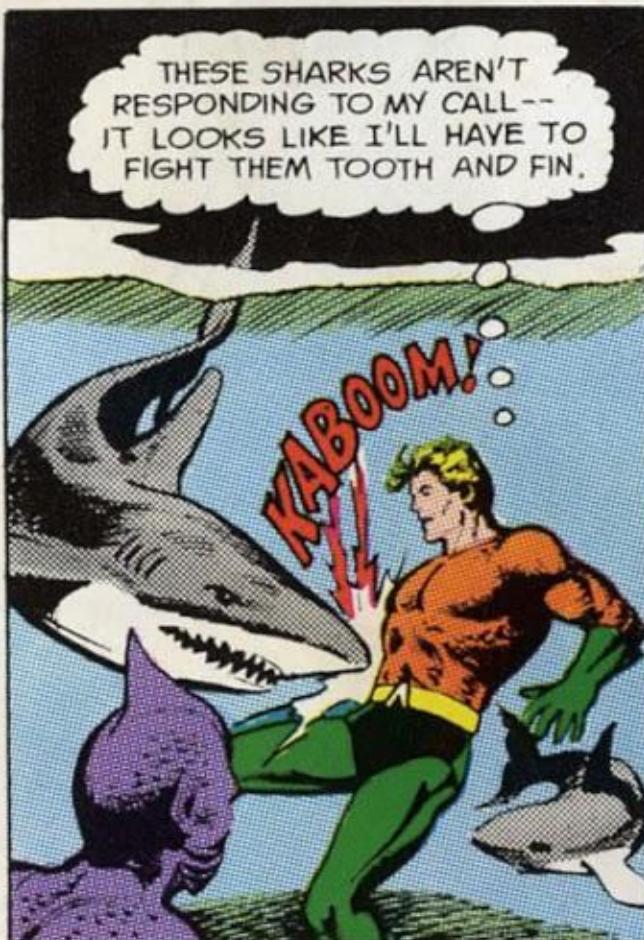
AQUAMAN I KNOW I CAN DEPEND UPON YOU TO REMOVE THIS STAIN FROM OUR BEACHES. WITHOUT YOUR HELP OUR BEACHES ARE SUNK!

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MURDERED HIS PARENTS,
BRUCE WAYNE TRAINED
HIMSELF TO WAGE
RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST
CRIME. MASQUERADE BY
DAY AS A MILLIONAIRE-MAN-
ABOUT-TOWN, HE PROWLS
THE NIGHT TO PREY ON
THE VERMIN OF THE
UNDERWORLD
AS THE DREAD...

BATMAN

WITH THAT WHIRLING, PSYCHEDELIC
LIGHT BOUNCING AROUND, HOW CAN I
TELL THE REAL JOKER FROM HIS
REFLECTIONS -- BEFORE HE PULLS
THAT TRIGGER?

"The JOKER'S PLAYGROUND of PERIL!"

STORY: DENNY O'NEIL (ASSISTED BY JULIE SCHWARTZ & E. NELSON BRIDWELL) ART: IRV NOVICK & BOB WIACEK

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NIGHT, DARKEST NIGHT...ON A LONELY ROAD
SOMEWHERE NORTH OF GOTHAM CITY--

AS YOUR PSYCHIATRIST, JOKER,
I MUST SAY I WAS IMPRESSED
BY THE WAY YOU EFFECTED YOUR
ESCAPE!

TAKING ME AS A
HOSTAGE... AND
HAVING YOUR
HENCHMEN LEAVE
THIS ICE CREAM
WAGON AS AN
ESCAPE VEHICLE!
VERY AMUSING!

THEN WHY AREN'T YOU
LAUGHING, DR. TUGWELL?
YOU NEVER LAUGH AT MY
JOKES! I EVEN TOLD
YOU ALL MY PLANS--
WITHOUT GETTING A
TITTER!

PULL OVER AND
GET OUT-- I'M
SICK OF YOUR
COMPANY!

OH, THANK YOU--
I MUST GET HOME
AND 'ULG!' WHAT
IS THIS--?

THIS IS A
JOKE YOU'LL
DEFINITELY LAUGH
AT, DOC! YOU'RE
A SHRINK--

--SO YOU'RE
GETTING
SHRUNK!
HA, HA, HA,
HA!

HA, HA, HA
HA, HA, HA--
SOMETHING
-- HA, HA--
MAKING
ME LAUGH
-- HA, HA,
HA!

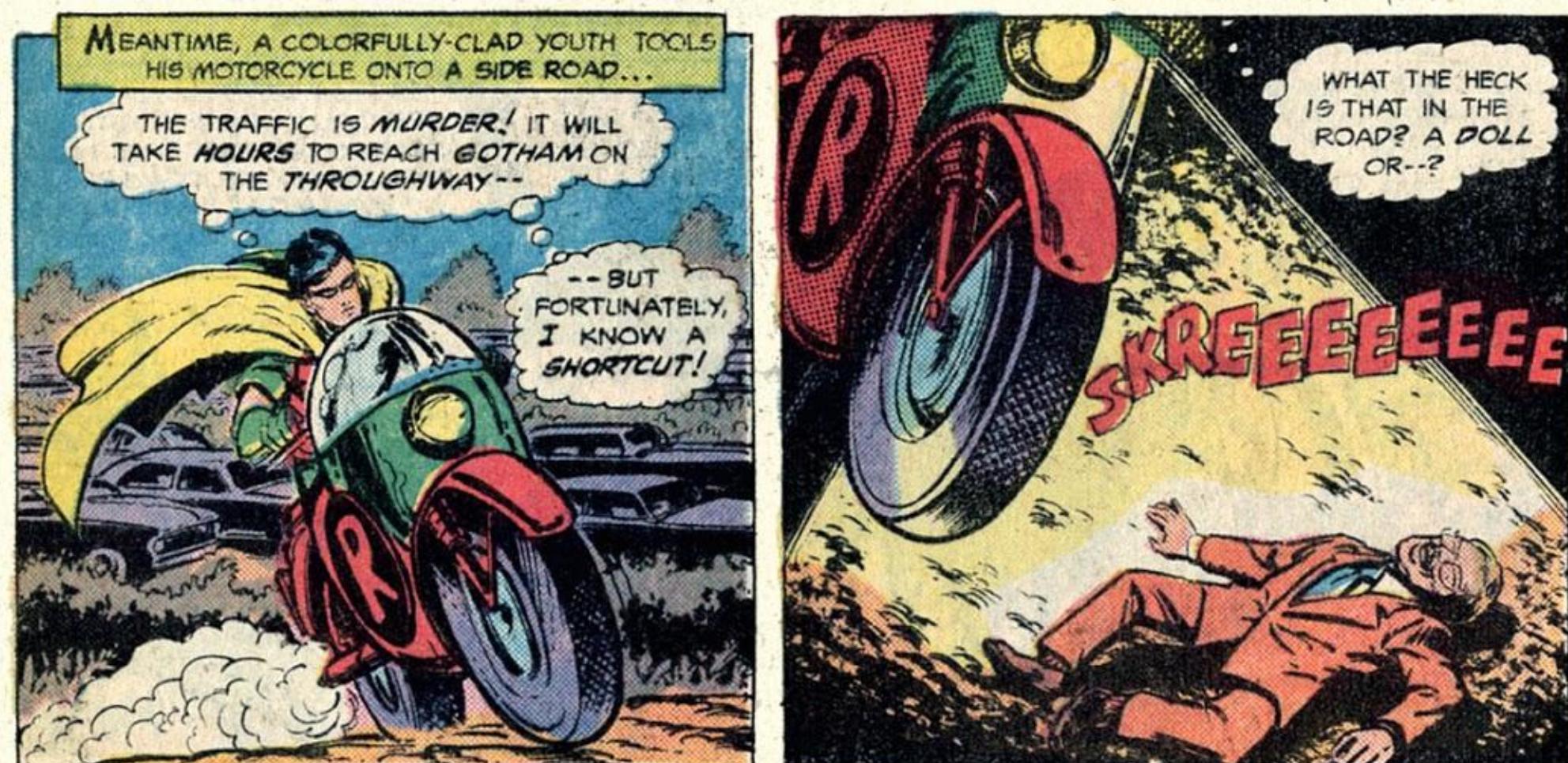
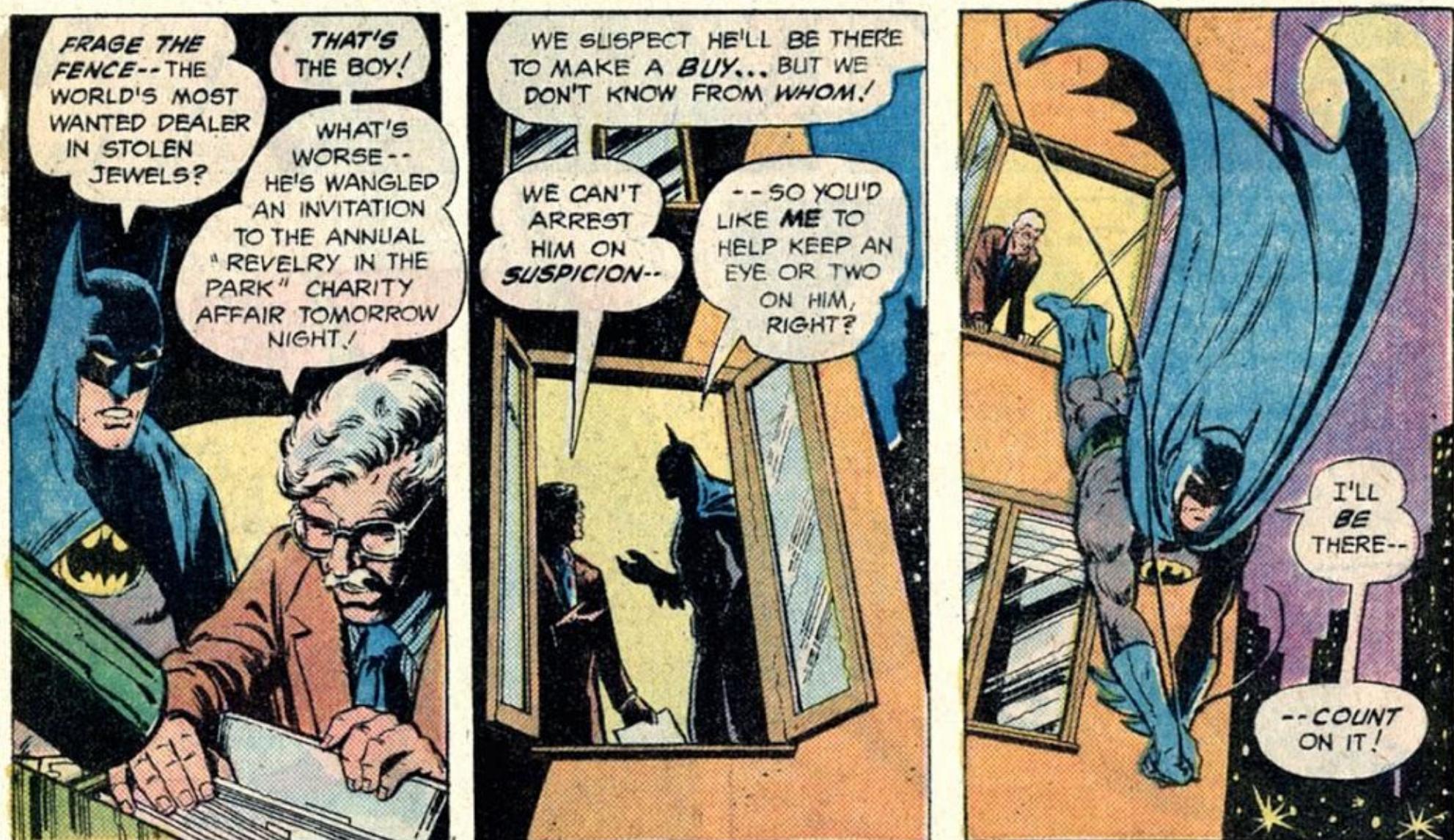
A MAN, NO LARGER THAN A CHILD'S DOLL,
DOOMED TO A HORRIBLE DEATH IN THE WAKE
OF THE TRUCK AS IT ROARS AWAY TO THE
SOUND OF SAVAGE LAUGHTER--

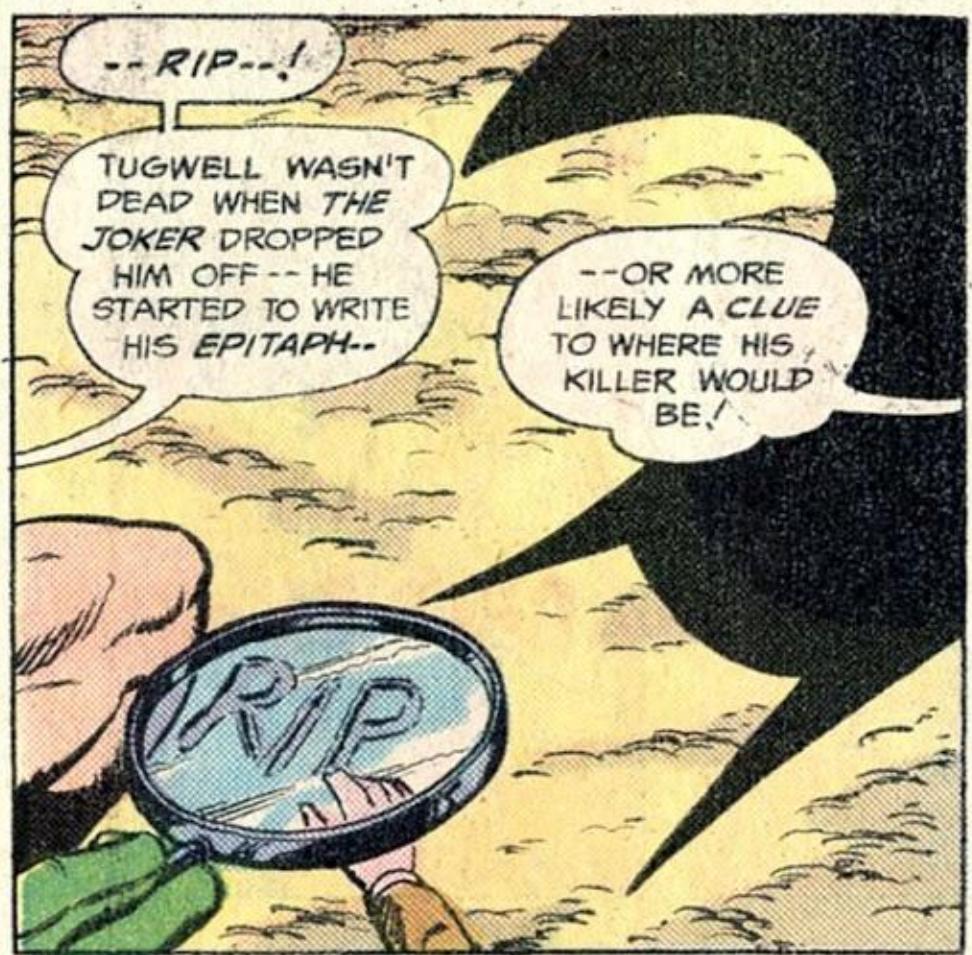
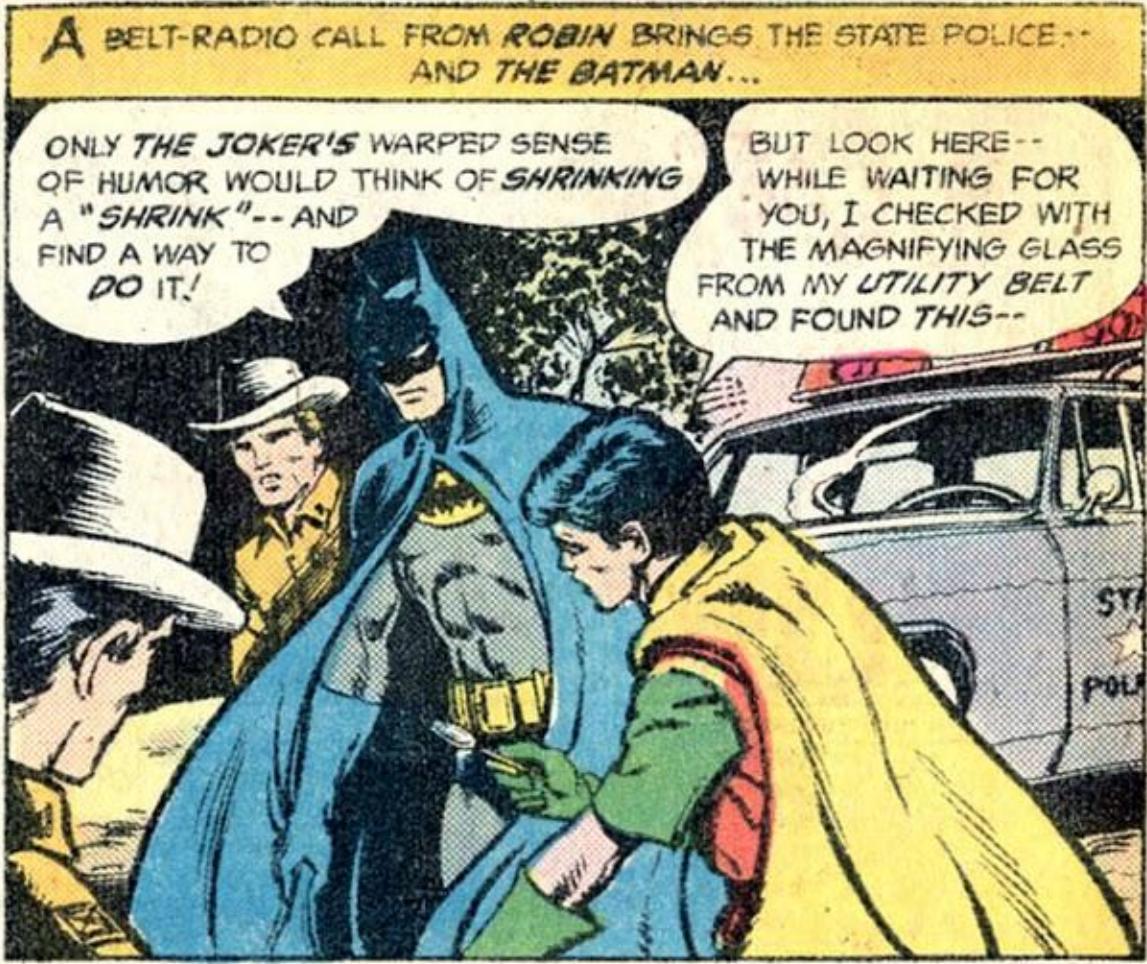
HAHAHAHAH

--POURING FROM THE THROAT OF THE MANIACAL DRIVER!

HAHAHAH

WHAT FURTHER TERRIFYING
CONSEQUENCES WILL
RESULT FROM THE
JOKER'S LATEST
BREAK-OUT FROM
THE ARKHAM ASYLUM
FOR THE CRIMINALLY
INSANE, AS HE ROLLS
ALONG IN THE
DECEPTIVELY COLORFUL
VEHICLE?





*THE OTHER HALF OF THE "DYNAMITE DUO"--BARBARA (BATT'L) GORDON! --JULIE

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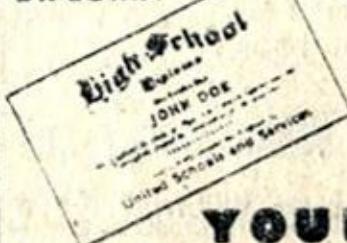
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THE SITE OF A
COSTUME CHARITY
CARNIVAL...

I WISH THEY'D
CHOSEN A DIFFERENT
KIND OF AFFAIR TO
RAISE MONEY!

ALL THESE MASKS
AND COSTUMES ONLY
MAKE OUR JOB HARDER!

ROBIN!
THAT MAN
OVER BY THE
TUNNEL OF
LOVE...DRESSED
AS THE
JOKER!
I WONDER--?

AW, COME
ON--HE WOULDN'T
DARE--!

HE MIGHT!
COMING DRESSED
AS HIMSELF IS
EXACTLY THE SORT
OF STUNT THAT WOULD
APPEAL TO HIS
WARPED SENSE
OF HUMOR!

STAY PUT...
I'LL CHECK
HIM OUT!

HE'S SPOTTED ME...
AND HE'S RUNNING!

NO
INNOCENT
PERSON HAS
ANY REASON
TO FEAR
ME--!

EH--? SOME CHAP
DRESSED AS THE BATMAN
---CHASING A JOKER!
PART OF THE ENTERTAIN-
MENT, NO DOUBT!

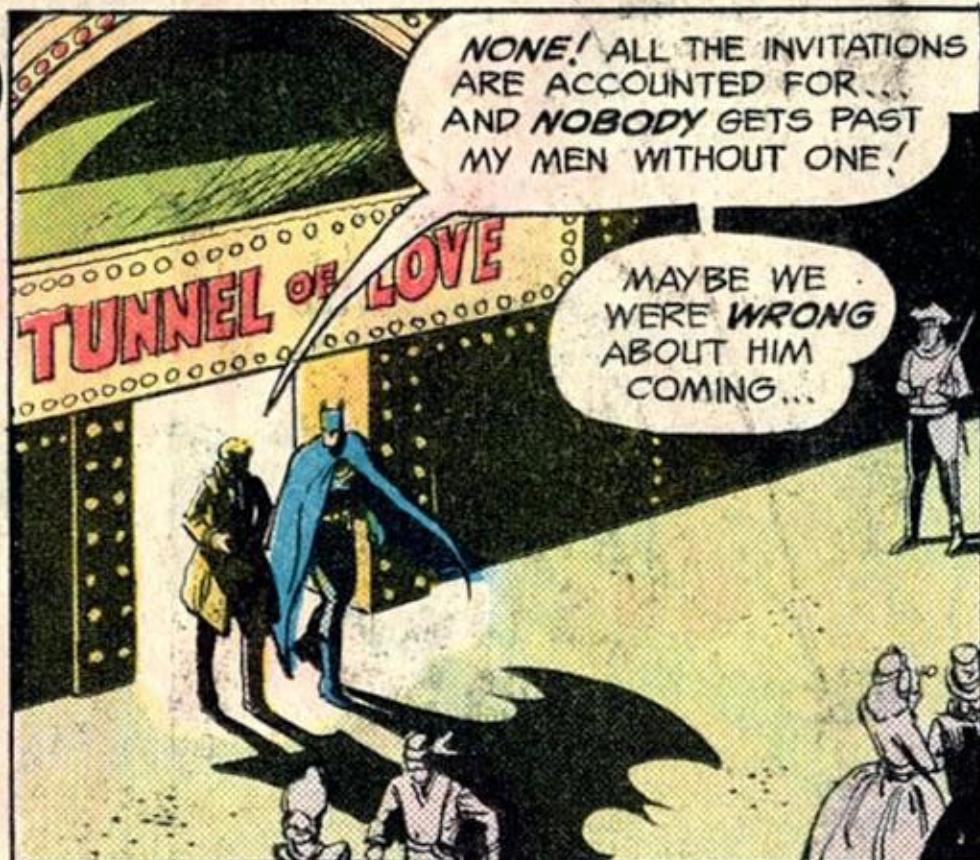
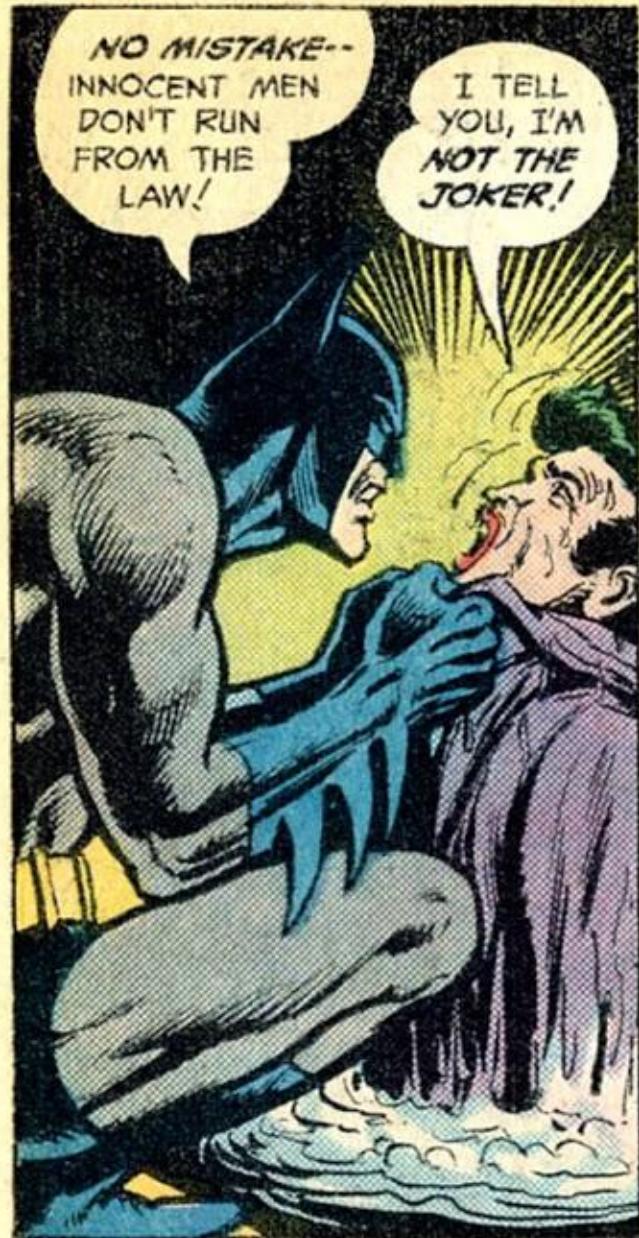
OH, I HOPE
NOT! I'D MUCH
RATHER THEY
WERE GENUINE!
REAL LIFE IS
SO MUCH MORE
EXCITING!

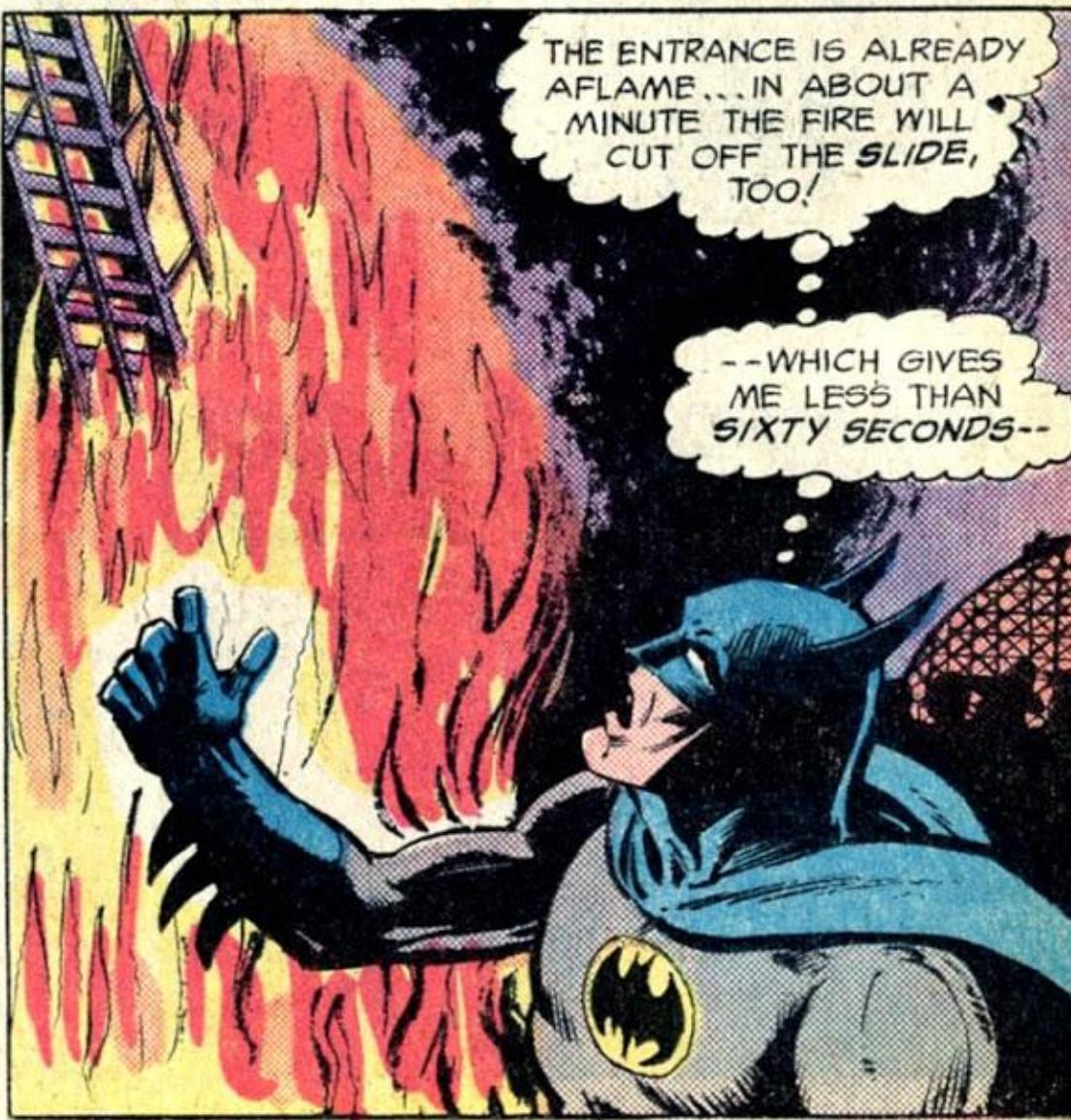
OUTA MY
WAY, BLAST
YOU!

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BIG IDEA...

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TUNNEL, HE'LL
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POSITION FOR
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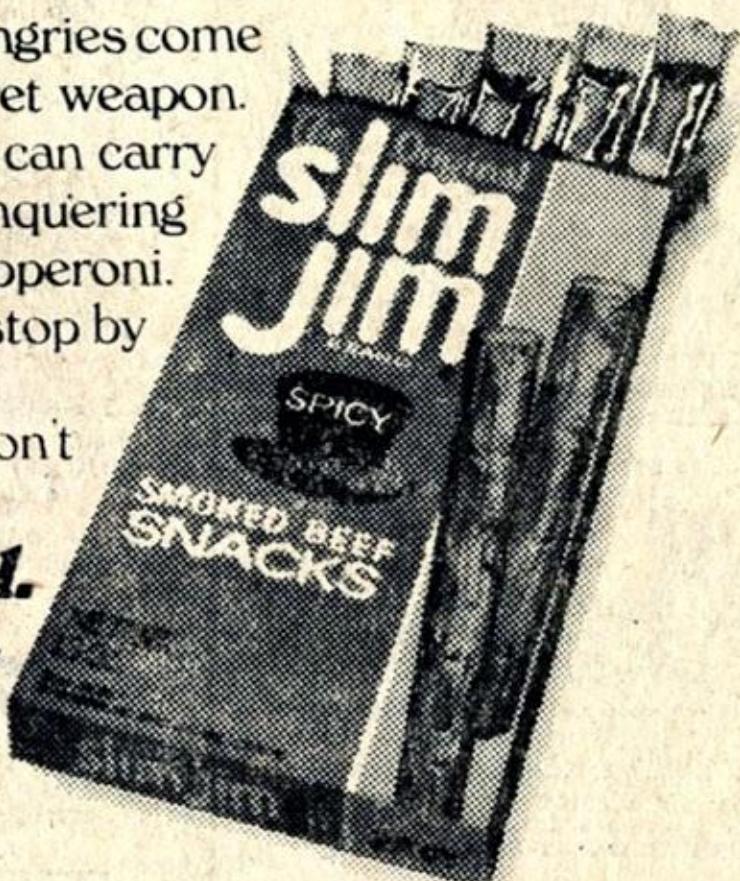
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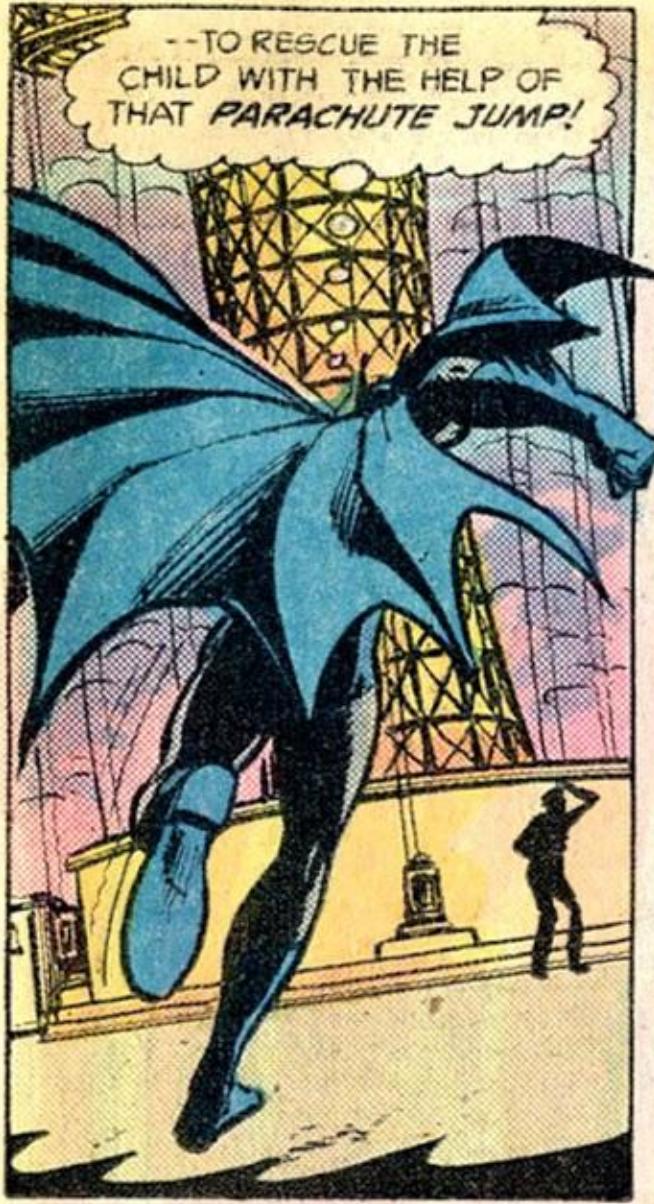
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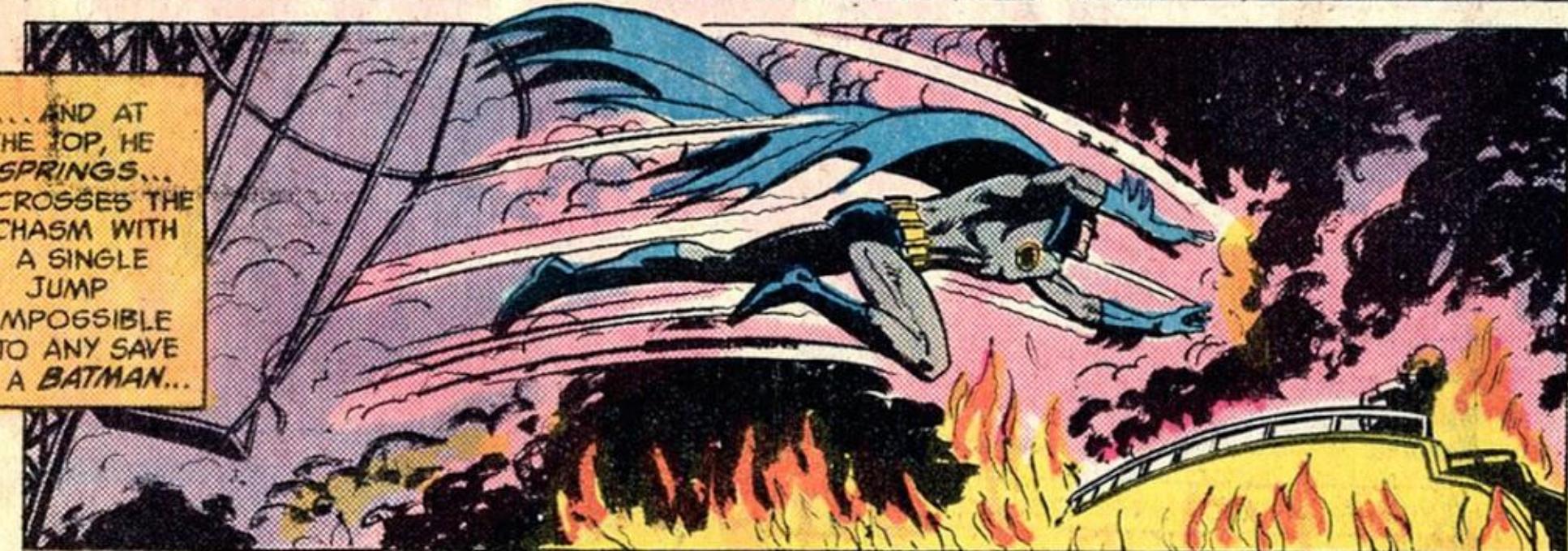
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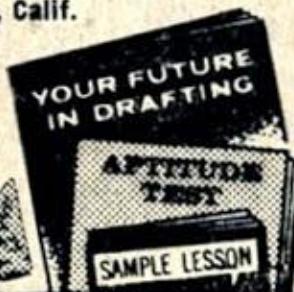
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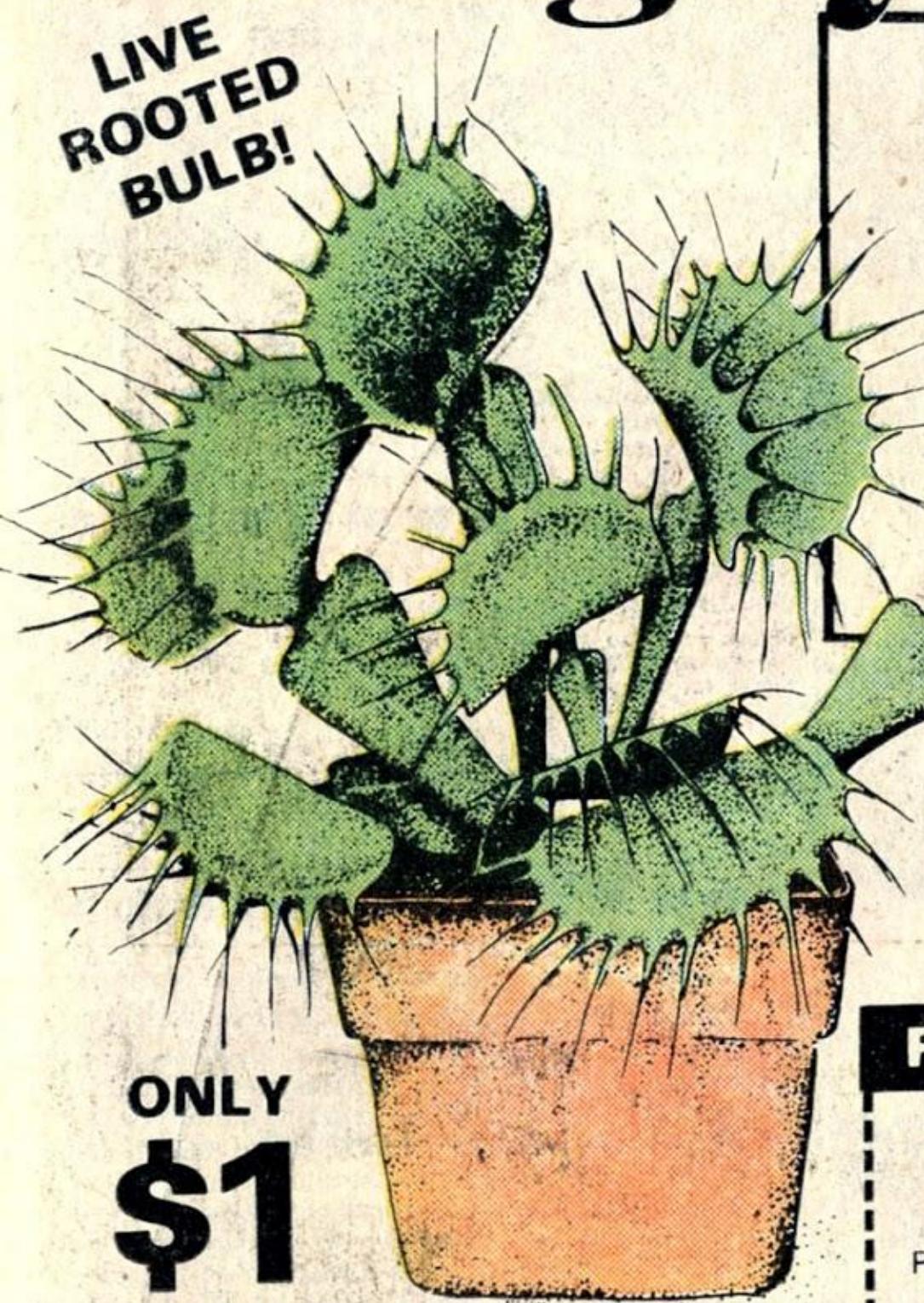
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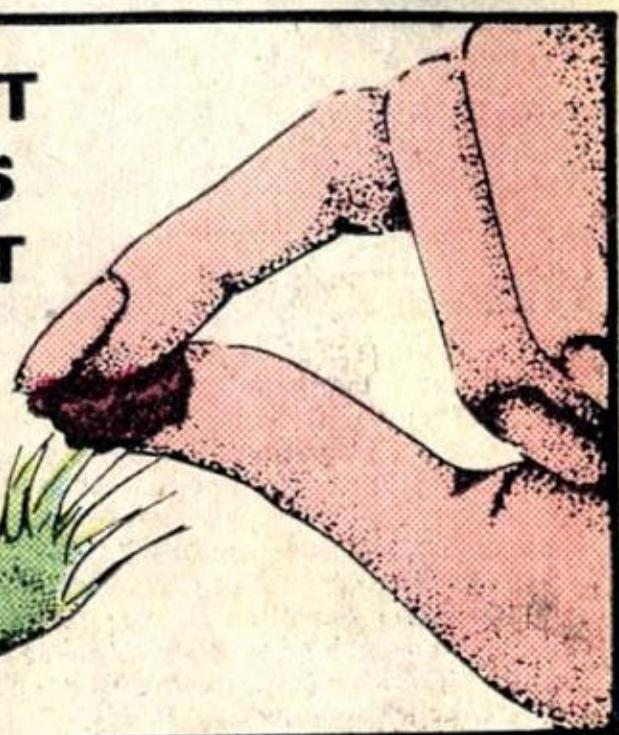


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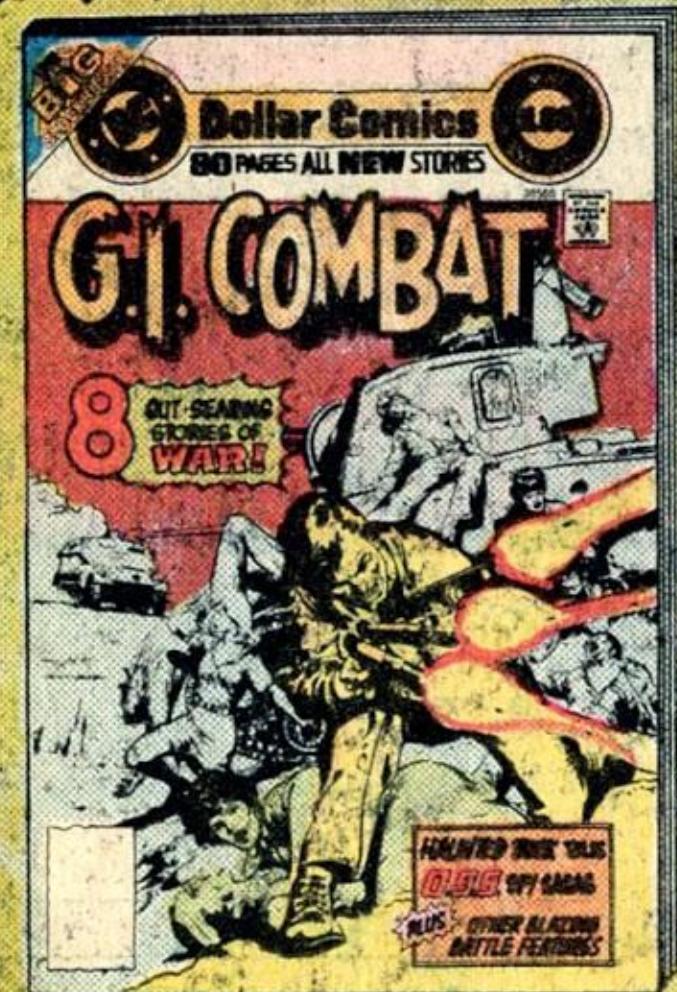
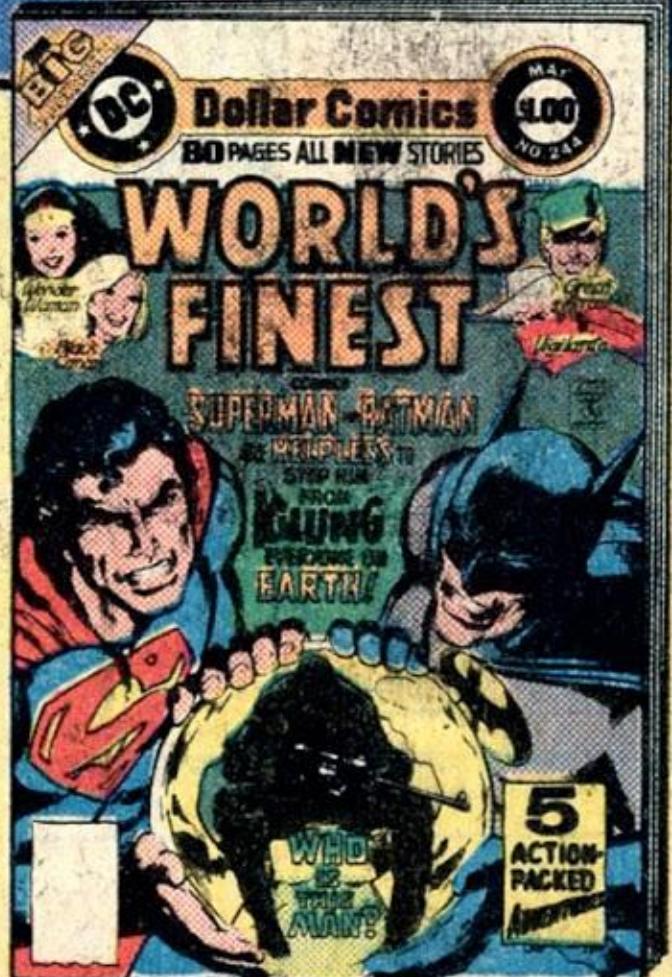
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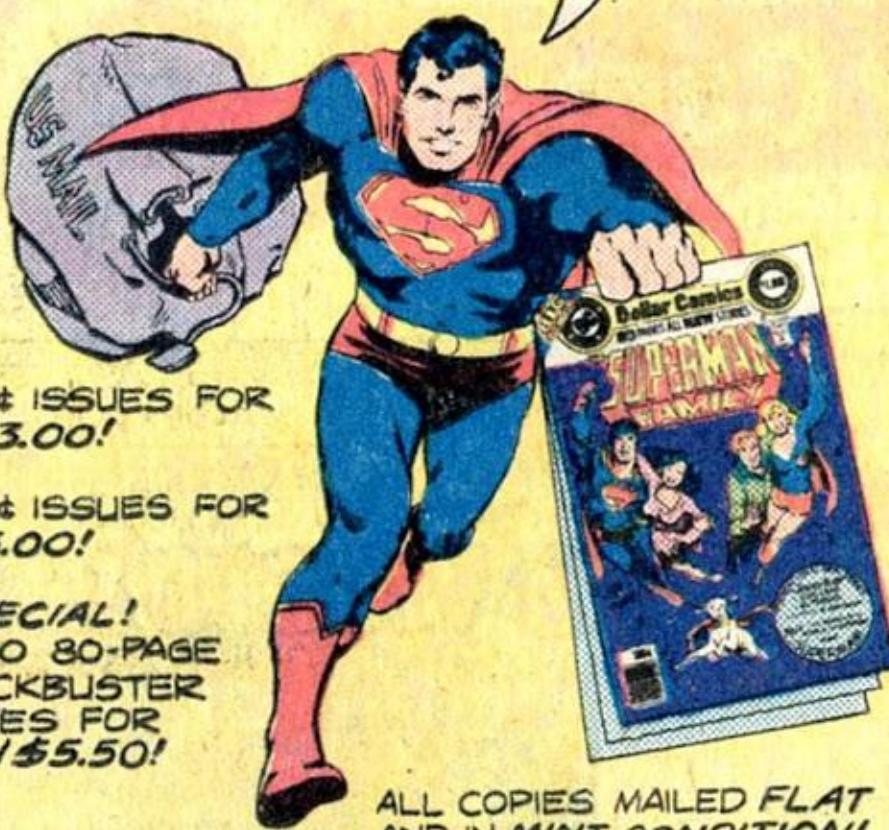
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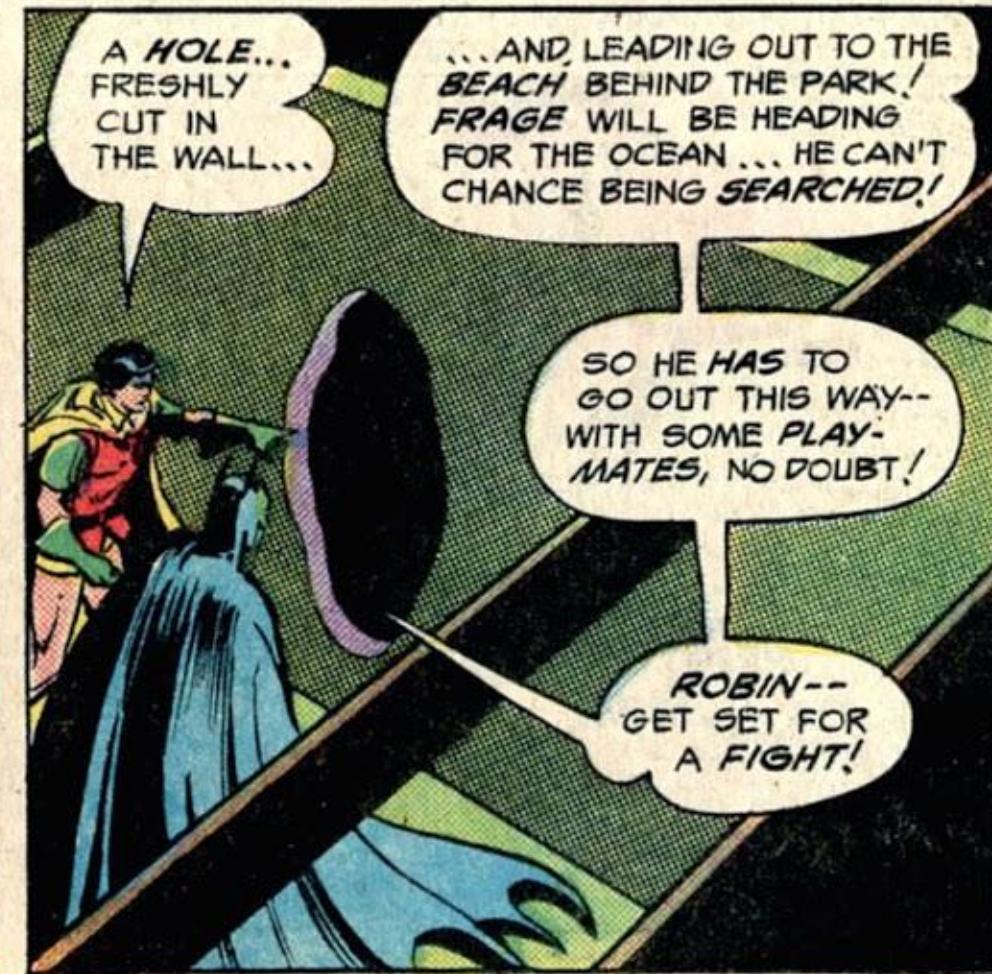
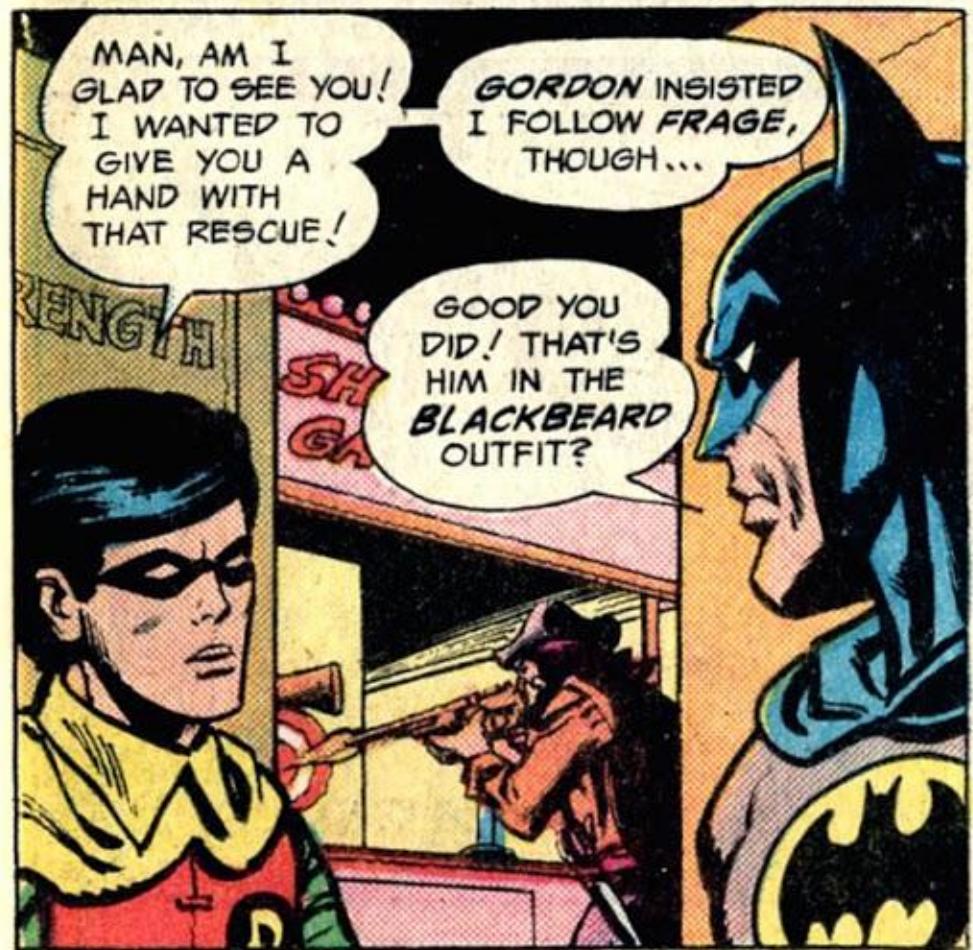
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O.K. Here we go. When you saw all those ads this month for **Dollar Comics**, you said:

A. "Boy, this is the greatest thing in comics since Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster gave Krypton the old heave-ho and created Superman."

B. "Rip-off! Rip-off! Rip-off! No comic is worth a buck."

Oh, those of you who saw the light and answered A—all of you, Crusaders, caped and uncaped in the cause of comicdom, DC takes you to its heart.

Did you answer B? Be not ashamed. DC embraces you too. Your response is forgiveable, oh unenlightened ones. But harken to these following words and learn. The truth shall set you free.

Many years ago, there were books of such verve and imagination that historians later called that time Comics' Golden Age. The name was truly justified. These comics were **64 pages** long. And to millions of people who bought them, they were worth their weight in gold—or silver anyway, because comics cost a dime. And so did **Time Magazine** and **Life Magazine**. In fact, the **best** newsstand publications of the day all cost about ten cents and many cost less. Find a newsdealer who's been around for thirty or forty years and ask him yourself. He'll tell you. He was thrilled to carry comics. Every **Superman** he sold (and he sold plenty) meant as much profit to him as the sale of one copy of **Life**. But that was years ago. How about today?

Fellow comic reader, things are bleak. Check it out yourself.

How many newsdealers can you find who are really happy to carry comics? In fact, how many newsdealers can you find who carry comics at all?

What, you rightfully ask, has gone wrong? For the answer, let us contemplate two facts of life.

1. Since 1938, the price of living has gone up. A lot. The best things in life like movies cost fourteen times more today than they did thirty years ago.
2. If you've been in business since 1938 and you haven't raised your prices by now, then you were out of business twenty years ago.

Reasonable, huh? All right. Now try to find somewhere, somehow even the smallest semblance of a logical explanation for this second set of facts:

1938-1948: All magazines raise their prices. **Comics stay at 10 cents.**

1948-1958: Another Decade. Another whopping ten years of higher printing rates and soaring printing costs. All non-comic magazines—doing what they have to do—raise their price. **Comics remain at 10 cents.**

It took comics four more years to make the truly daring move. In 1962, we leapt boldly with both feet from a measly dime to a mind-boggling 12 cents. A 20 percent increase! What courage! What hindsight! No one seemed to notice that all the magazines with which we'd once been so proudly displayed were now selling at 3.4 and 5 times their original price.

You know the rest. How we went up from 12 cents to 15 to 20 to 25 and finally, this past year, to 30. It's not hard to read the future.

The problem is clear. Price-wise, comics are still 25 years behind the times. Even with a 30-cents cover price, there are still fewer newsdealers who **want** to carry us. And who can blame them?

And, meanwhile what's happened to all of us guys who love comics? We're getting the short-end of the stick. Each year we're paying more money for comics with fewer pages and more reprints.

How can we put a stop to it all? How can we get back to those halcyon days of **64 pages** of all new stories, **64 pages** of all new art?

How can we make sure that you, our loyal fans, get a fair shake? How can we get those thousands of turned-off dealers turned-on again?

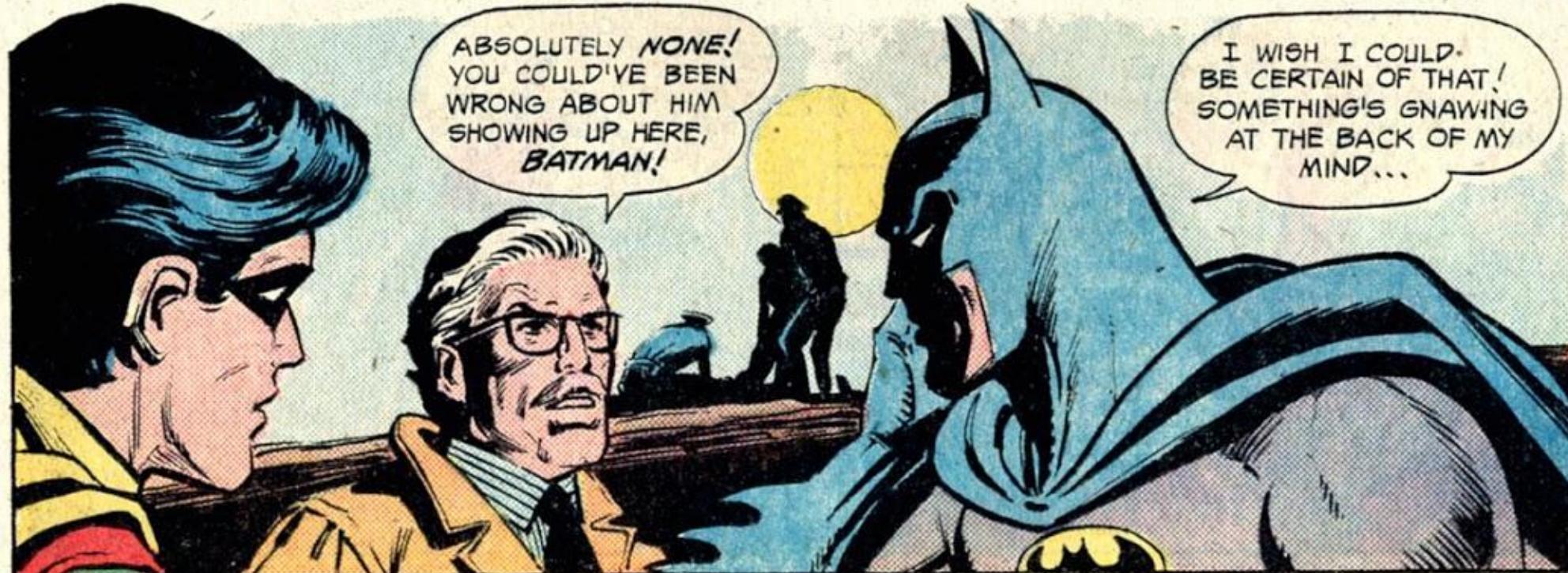
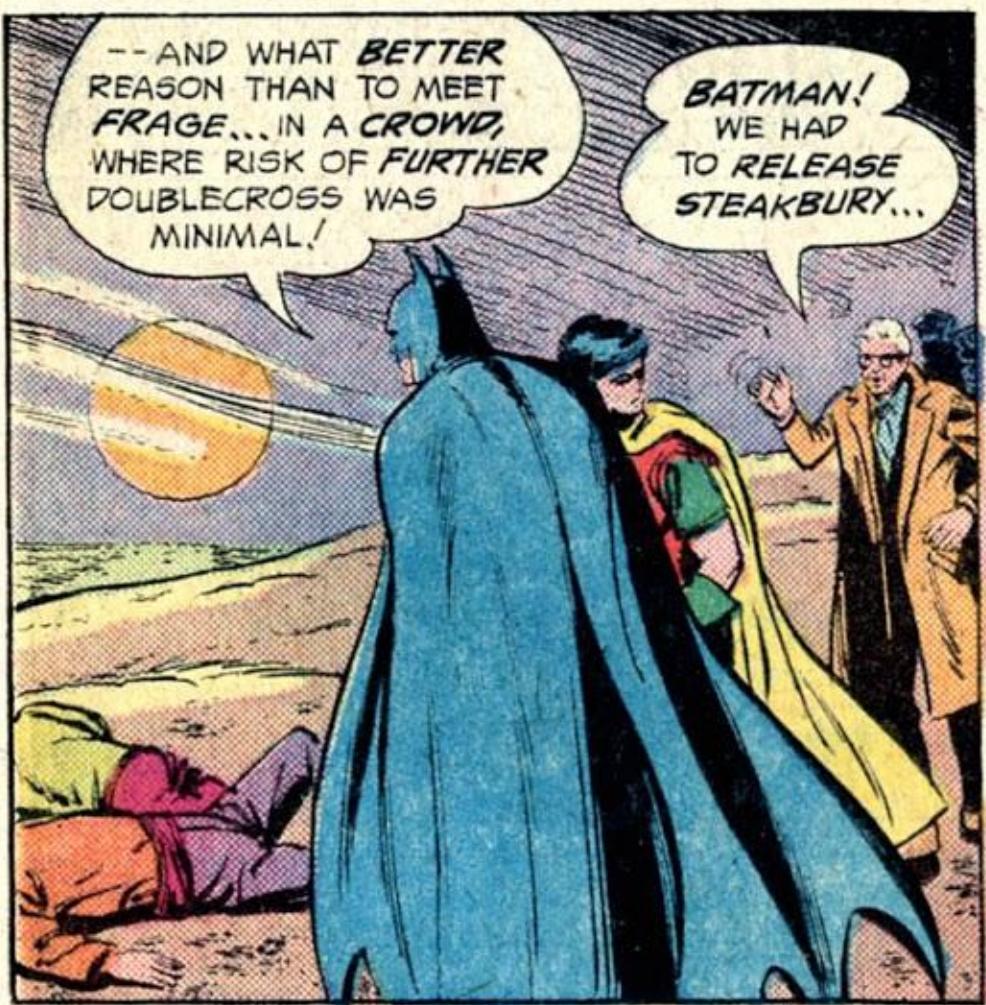
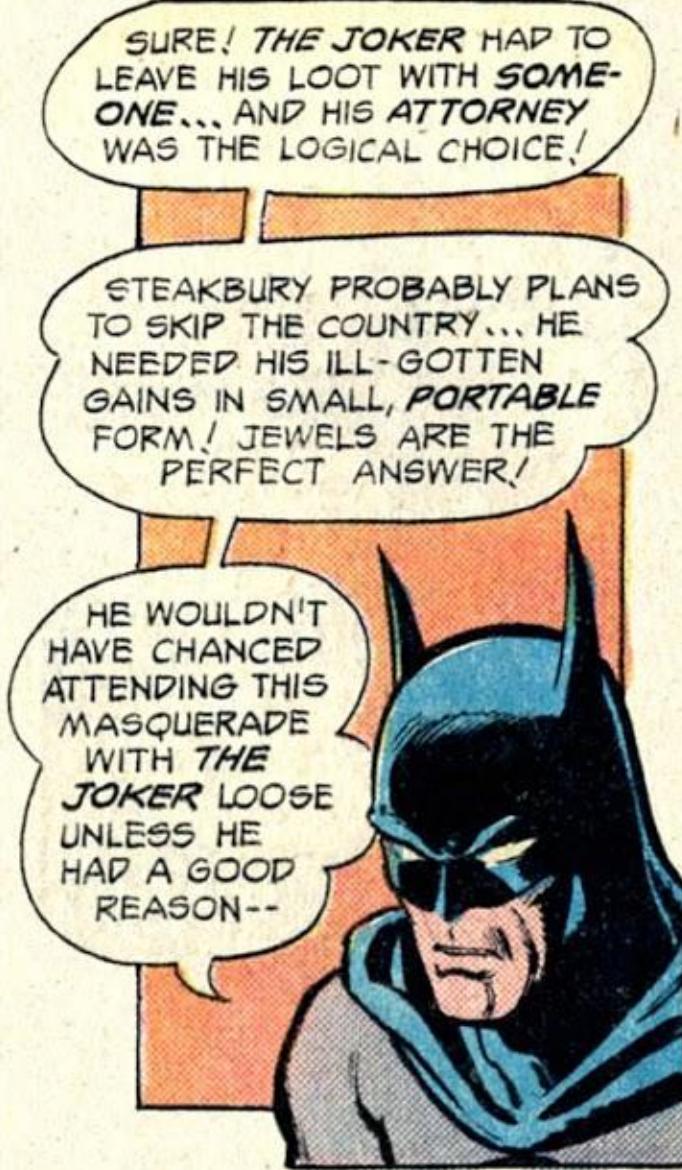
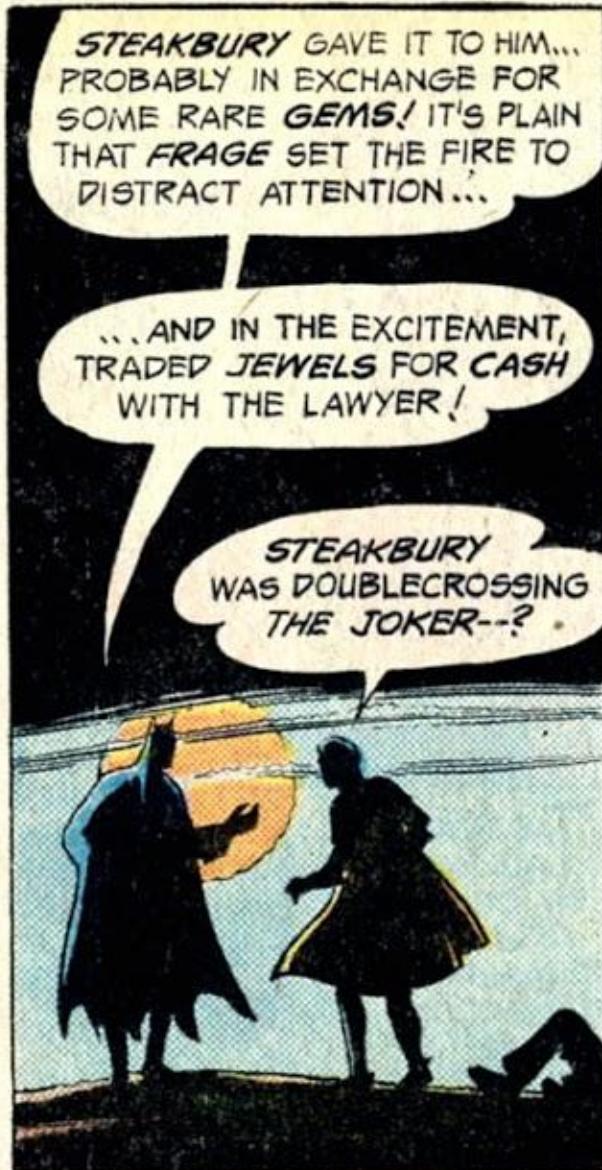
With DC's brand new **Dollar Comics!**

Listen to this brighter picture:

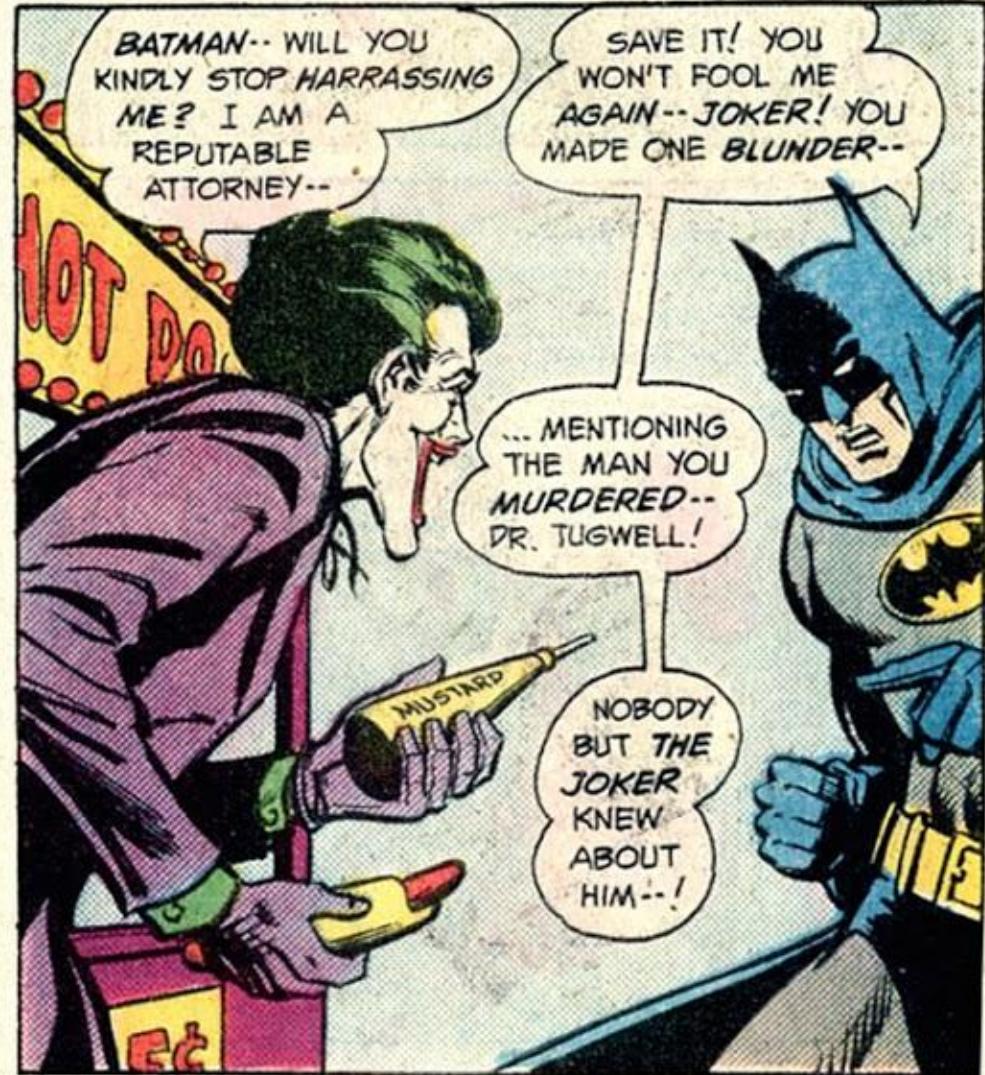
- Newsdealers are already preparing a little nest for us on their magazine racks. For the first time in history, they can make more money selling **World's Finest** than they can selling **Time**.
- You will be getting **80 page comics** with **all new stories and all new art**.
- Your Bowmar Brain will reveal that DC's **Dollar Comics** give you nearly 4 regular comics for the price of 3. They are clearly comics' best buy.

We believe that our **Dollar Comics** are the comics of the future. After all, what could be better than getting more all new stories for your money?

All of you out there—take care.









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WHEN THE WHIRLING LIGHT POINTS IN THIS DIRECTION... ALL THE JOKERS BLINK! WHICH GIVES ME--

--THE CLUE I NEED TO THE REAL CLOWN!

CONFFOUND YOU--!

I'LL NOT RETURN TO THAT PADDED CELL!

I'LL SQUEEZE THE BREATH FROM YOU FIRST--MUCH AS I LOATHES SUCH UNIMAGINATIVE MURDER METHODS!

ZAP!

BEAUTIFUL, BATMAN! THE NEATEST PUNCH YOU'VE EVER THROWN!

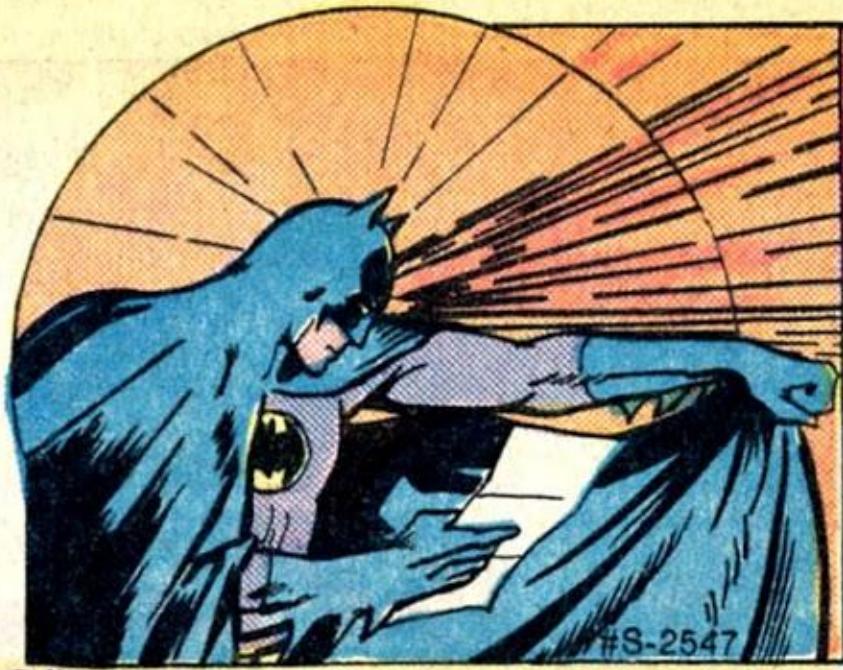
AND, AS USUAL, YOU'VE PROVEN YOURSELF A BRILLIANT DETECTIVE!

NOT REALLY, COMMISSIONER! I SHOULD'VE KNOWN THE JOKER WAS DISGUISED AS AN ATTENDANT...

...AS SOON AS YOU SAID THE INVITATIONS WERE ALL ACCOUNTED FOR!

HOW ELSE COULD HE HAVE GOTTEN PAST YOUR MEN?

NOW... WHERE WAS I WHEN THE BAT-SIGNAL INTERRUPTED MY PATROL LAST NIGHT?



LETTERS to the **BATMAN**
c/o DC COMICS, INC.
75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

in this one and not enough characterization and advancement of plot.

FRED G. HEMBECK

48 Custer St., Buffalo, NY 14214

(Batman goes from Hungary to Burundi, nearly gets killed in both places and ends up being shot in the head while flying the Bat-plane and you say there's no plot advancement? What more do you want—a guest appearance by The Joker?—BR)

Dear Bob,

You fellows on the **BATMAN** team are really hopping. For the second issue in a row, this reader has been stunned, impressed, amazed and perplexed.

Never has Ernie Chua's artwork been so exciting. And Mr. Reed has been doing a splendid job displaying the multi-talented **Batman**. #281 had mystery, international intrigue and action a-plenty, yet #282 has managed to keep up the suspense and outdo the first installment! And at this rate, **BATMAN** #283 will undoubtedly be the Bat-blockbuster to end all Bat-blockbusters!

CHRISTOPHER JURICICH

2116 Hillside Dr., Burlingame, CA

(And now, the absolutely, positively final installment of the "Who is David V. Reed?" game!—BR)

Dear Editor:

Is David V. Reed really Orson Bean? Orson Bean can be spelled by using the letter from Mr. Reed's two pen names and Mr. Bean does write for television, even if most of it is comedy!

S. HOLMES

No Address Given

... Bjorne Aslefssen? Right?

DAVID BURD

95 Brookwood Rd., Cliffon, NJ 07012

... David V. Reed, alias David Vern, alias R. Bretnor?

HARRIS LENTZ III

3925 Appling Rd., Memphis, TN 38128

(No, Dave is not Orson Bean nor Bjorne Aslefssen nor science-fiction writer R. Bretnor. For your perusal, we present the following two letters, without further editorial comment!—Bob Rozakis)

Dear Batmen,

In **BATMAN** #282 you said that you used David V. Reed's real name in an issue of **STRANGE SPORTS STORIES**! I looked in the only issue I have, #4, and came up with David Levine!

CHRIS DOYLE

120 Andover Lane, Williamsville, NY

... Who? Me?

DAVID V. REED

Brooklyn, NY

COMING BAT-TRACTIONS: No, we're not going to tell you—but you can find out what's coming by calling the DC Direct Currents Hotline toll-free at 800-223-7760 from anywhere in the 48 connected states, except New York, where the number is 800-442-8108. Each week one of our writers, artists or editors will be on the line with news of the Line of Super-Stars!

FROM THE META-ZONE TO EARTH!
STEVE DITKO'S
COMING FROM DC MARCH 8TH!

SHADE THE
CHANGING
MAN!

DINOSAURS INVADE 1977!

CAPTAIN COMET & TOMMY

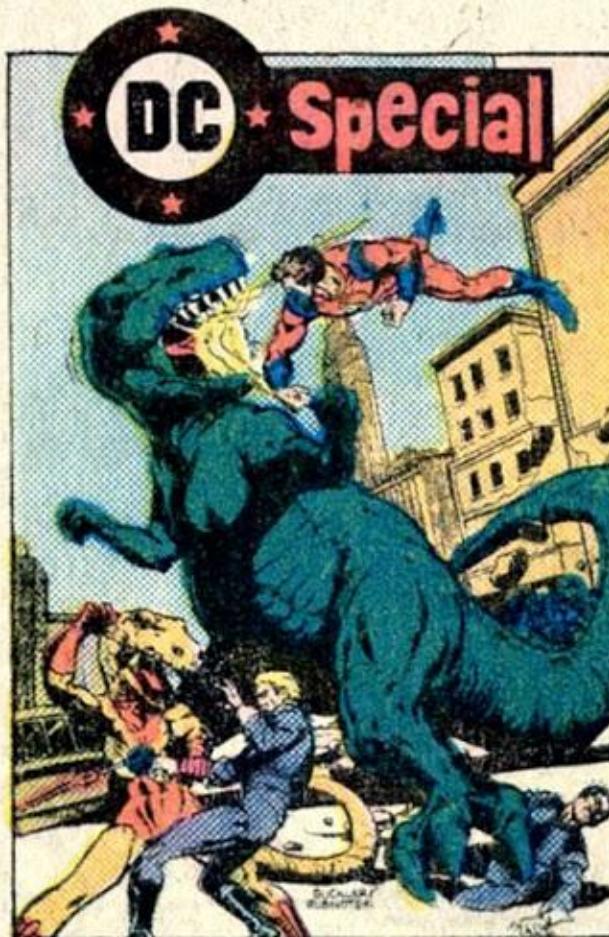
TOMORROW SPEARHEAD

BATTLE TO SAVE EARTH

(JLA Headquarters)—A strange comet has ripped through the very fabric of time and left in its wake a tunnel through which dinosaurs have invaded 1977. Spearheading the war against the monstrous creatures as they appear all across the globe is *Captain Comet*—and his "helpers" are none other than the members of the *Justice League of America*.

And while the dinosaur war takes place in the present, *Tommy Tomorrow*, ace Planeteer of 2056, has been dragged back through time to battle the comet-spawned menace of *Tyrano*—the half-man/half-dinosaur.

Who is the master villain behind this awesome menace? And what's going to happen to *Tommy* if *Captain Comet* succeeds in closing the tunnel through time? Don't dare miss the all-new 34-page super-thriller when *DC SPECIAL #27* presents *DANGER: DINOSAURS AT LARGE*. It's a Bob Rozakis/Rich Buckler/Joe Rubinstein extravaganza which goes on sale the week of January 17th!



GOVERNMENT AGENTS ARREST GREEN ARROW

(Coast City)—It was just a quiet dinner until government agents burst in and arrested *Green Arrow*—giving no explanations and fighting off all attempts at stopping them. But—enter *Green Lantern* to save the day... and then suddenly be felled by a strange space sickness.

The twists and turns of the plot will overwhelm you as the Emerald Archer discovers himself trapped in a horrifying plot and back-up *Green Lantern* transports the original to Oa, homeworld of the Guardians of the Universe. It's all in "Lure For an Assassin" by Denny O'Neil, Mike Grell and Terry Austin in *GREEN LANTERN #94*, on sale the week of January 17th.



DEADMAN JOINS BATMAN TO TRAP SMUGGLER

(Gotham City)—Years ago, Achille Lazlo murdered his boss and took over his smuggling operation. Today, Lazlo stays outside the 3-mile territorial limit of U.S. waters so that he will not be apprehended by police for his multiplicity of crimes. *Batman's* assignment: Capture Achille Lazlo!

And to do so, the Caped Crusader has decided to make Lazlo believe that his long-dead victim has come back to haunt him. And who is better for aiding in this scheme than a real dead man like *Deadman*?

It's a thrill-a-minute adventure as Bob Haney and Jim Aparo present "Another Kind of Justice" in *BRAVE & BOLD #133*, on sale the week of January 17th.

DIRECT CURRENTS

ON SALE WEEK OF JAN. 20th
HERCULES UNBOUND #10—
"Water, Water, Neverwhere" is the title as *Hercules* comes face-to-face with the Atomic Knights! A Cary Bates/Walt Simonson/Bob Layton tale.

HOUSE OF SECRETS #145—A pair of chillers: "The Shark-Man Cometh" by Michael Fleisher, Russell Carley and E.R. Cruz; and "The Operation Was Successful, But..." by Bob Kanigher and Fred Carrillo.

SUPERBOY #226—Make way for 'The Dazzling Debut of Dawnstar' by Paul Levitz, James Sherman and Jack Abel. Plus: *Brainiac 5* goes it alone in "5 Against One" by Levitz, Mike Nasser and Abel.

SUPER FRIENDS #4—The Riddler's back in action, but a new villain, *Skyrocket*, seems to be stealing his capers. What's going on? Find the answers in "Riddles and Rockets" by E. Nelson Bridwell, Ramona Fradon and Bob Smith.

UNKNOWN SOLDIER #205—Taking the title spot at last, the *Unknown Soldier* discovers that "Legends Never Die" in this Bob Haney, Dick Ayers, and Gerry Talaoc battle blockbuster. Plus: Lt. Larry Rock returns in "And Then There Was One!"

AND ON SALE RIGHT NOW:
BATMAN #286 (guest-starring *The Joker*)/*G.I. COMBAT #201* (now all-new and super-sized)/*STARFIRE #5*/*SUPERMAN #310/TEEN TITANS #47*/*WORLD'S FINEST #244* (starring *Superman* & *Batman*, *Wonder Woman*, *Green Arrow*, and *Black Canary* in super-sized action)

MINI-PUZZLE #1

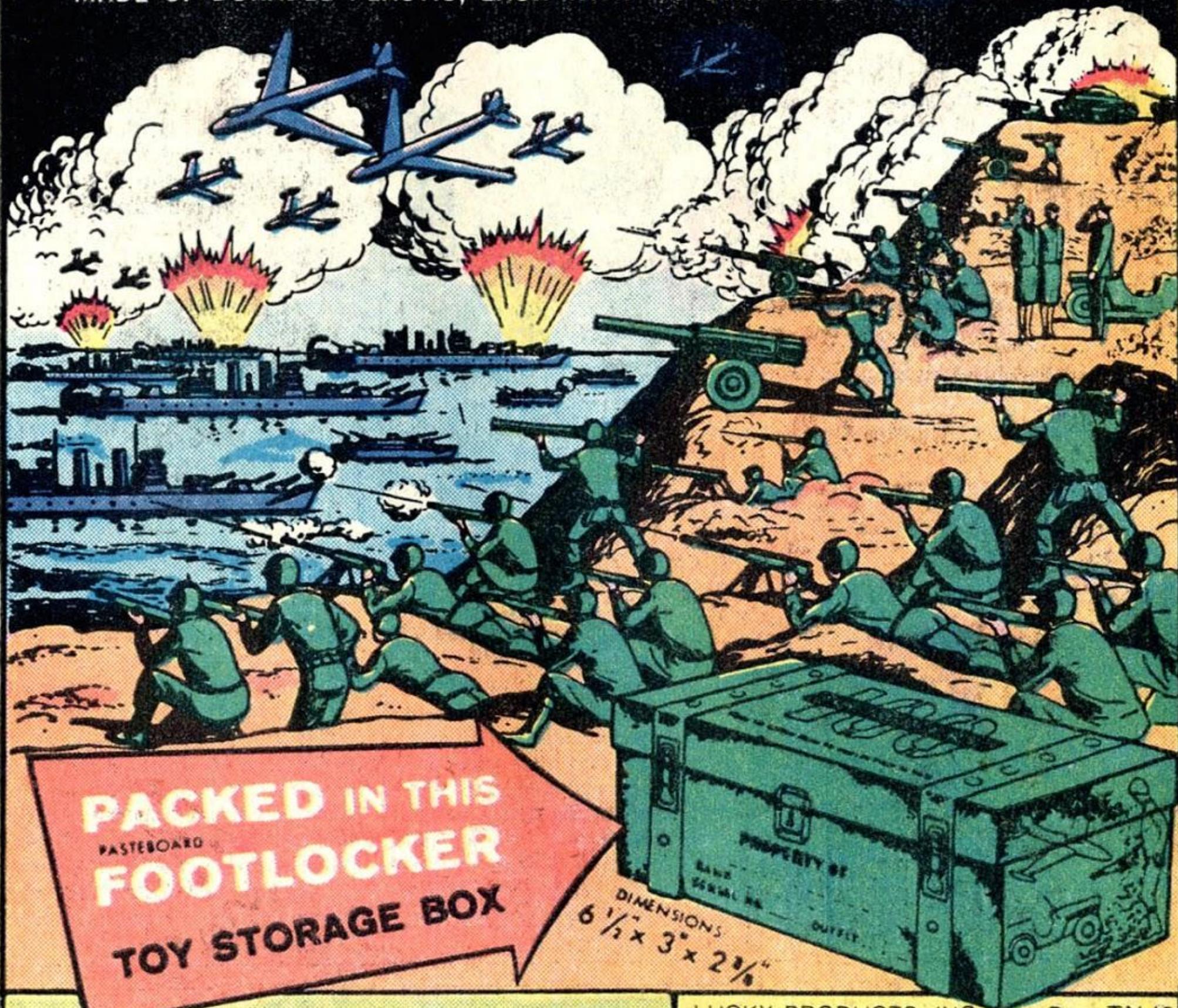
This puzzle might be called "A Tour of DC" because in it you will find the names of many people you would see in our offices. Can you find: ADLER, BOLTONOFF, BRIDWELL, COLLETTA, FEIN, HARRIS, HARRISON, KAHN, KANIGHER, KUBERT, LEVITZ, O'NEIL, ORLANDO, ROZAKIS, SCHWARTZ, SNAPINN, and SWAN in the grid? Solution in next week's PLANET!

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H L Z T R A W H C S
G T T A B P N H F N
I I I D K N A A L A
N N V L U I W R I P
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Nebraska



The Company trusted me. It was very easy to make \$6.00 profit. I can hardly wait for my next order.
Thomas Welch
South Carolina



It was fun! I'm ordering more because I had too many customers and not enough seeds.
Thomas Brophy
New York



Money does not grow on trees but money sure does by selling American Seeds.
Cindy Mayr
Pennsylvania



April Showers wouldn't have May flowers if I didn't sell American Seeds.
Patty Karlin
New York



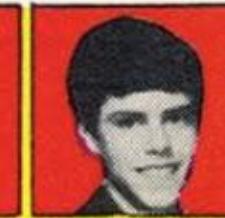
The customer received a quality product which he wanted and I got the prize of my choice, which I wanted.
Eric Ritzenthaler
Ohio



They have E.S.P. (Easy Selling Power).
Kevin Jones
Missouri



When I was in need of money, American Seeds were by my side.
Michael Donnelly
New Jersey



The link between quality and American Seeds never breaks. And so, the link between me and earning great prizes never breaks.
Andy Moisel
Kansas



INSTANT LOAD CAMERA



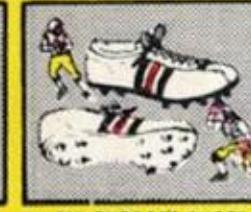
3-SPEED BIKES



MICROSCOPE SETS



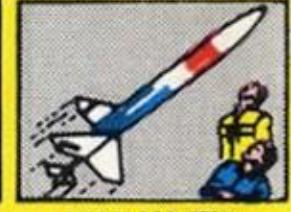
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WRIST WATCHES



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BASEBALL GLOVES



BASKETBALL & GOAL



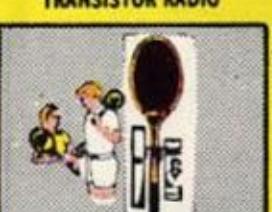
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