



THE GRIM AVENGER OF THE NIGHT!

35¢
NO. 288
JUNE
30430

BATMAN

“WAKK! WAKK!
I ALWAYS SAID
YOU WERE FOR
THE **BIRDS**,
BATMAN!”

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BY THE
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AUTHORITY



ADVERTISEMENT



ORPHANED AS A CHILD
WHEN A GUNMAN
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

ONCE AGAIN, THE
IMPERIOUS PENGUIN
TANGLES WITH HIS
TIME-HONORED
NEMESIS--THE BATMAN--
BRINGING INTO FOWL
PLAY HIS ABUNDANT
ARSENAL OF MURDEROUS
ARTIFICE...AS HE
PREPARES HIS ARTISTIC
MASTERPIECE!

I'M GIVING YOU THE
BIRD, BATMAN--A TERATORNIS
VULTURE THAT'S BEEN EXTINCT
FOR OVER 10,000 YEARS!

BETTER PRAY--
BEFORE YOU'RE
PREYED ON!
=WAKKE=WAKKE
=WAKKE=

STORY:
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ART:
MIKE GRELL
*
BOB WIACEK
COLORING:
JERRY SERPE

THE LITTLE MEN'S HALL OF FAME!

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THE ANATOMY OF A CRIME

A DOOR-GUARDED BOTH OUTSIDE AND HERE IN THE BUILDING LOBBY-OPENS WITHOUT A SOUND...

A GUNMAN STEALTHILY STEPS THROUGH...

A SINGLE SWIFT MOVE...THE LOBBY GUARD FALLS--

THE GUNMAN RETURNS TO THE DOOR...WHISPERS HOARSELY--

UNNGH!

ALL CLEAR-- NO ALARM!



BUT--NEXT
INSTANT--



SOUNDS GREAT,
PENGY--BUT HOW
CAN YOU BE SO
COCKEYED SURE
BATTY WILL BE
THERE?



BECAUSE,
THANKS TO HIS
CONSUMMATE
SKILL IN
DECIPHERING
MY INORDINATELY
BRILLIANT CLUES,
HE UNDERSTANDS
MY M.O. INSIDE
OUT!

AT THE LIBRARY, HE
FOUND MY SOURCE
BOOK--"BIG SMALL
MEN OF HISTORY"--
CONTAINING THE
DESIGNATED ORDER
OF OUR CAPERS!



THIS NEXT ONE IS IN HONOR
OF **CHARLES PROTEUS**
STEINMETZ--THE LITTLE
GIANT OF ELECTRICAL
ENGINEERING--WHO DIED
IN 1923!

NOW
TRANSPOSING
THOSE DIGITS
ON THE 24:00
HOUR CLOCK,
1923 BECOMES
7:23 P.M.--THE
MOMENT WE
STRIKE!

FURTHER, BY
ASSOCIATING
STEINMETZ
WITH AN
ADDRESS
RICH IN
PROMISE
FOR A HEFTY
HAUL, I FOUND
A WHOPPER
AT 1923
WATT
STREET!

AIN'T WE GONNA USE
EXTINCT BIRDS--LIKE
WE DID BEFORE?



PPFAH!
A SYMBOLIC
DEVICE NO LONGER
NEEDED--EXCEPT
FOR A FINAL AND
MOST IMPORTANT
FUNCTION--

--TO DELIVER
THE COUP DE
GRACE TO THE
BATMAN IN THE
MOST EXCRUCIATING
MANNER
IMAGINABLE!

AND NOW,
SCORPIO--
SCULPT AWAY!



THE TIME FAST APPROACHES
WHEN MY OWN SUBLIME STATUE
JOINS THESE OTHER DIMINUTIVE
LUMINARIES IN MAJESTIC ARRAY!

LEON

ALARIC

MACHIAVELLI

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SKY HERO TO THE RESCUE.
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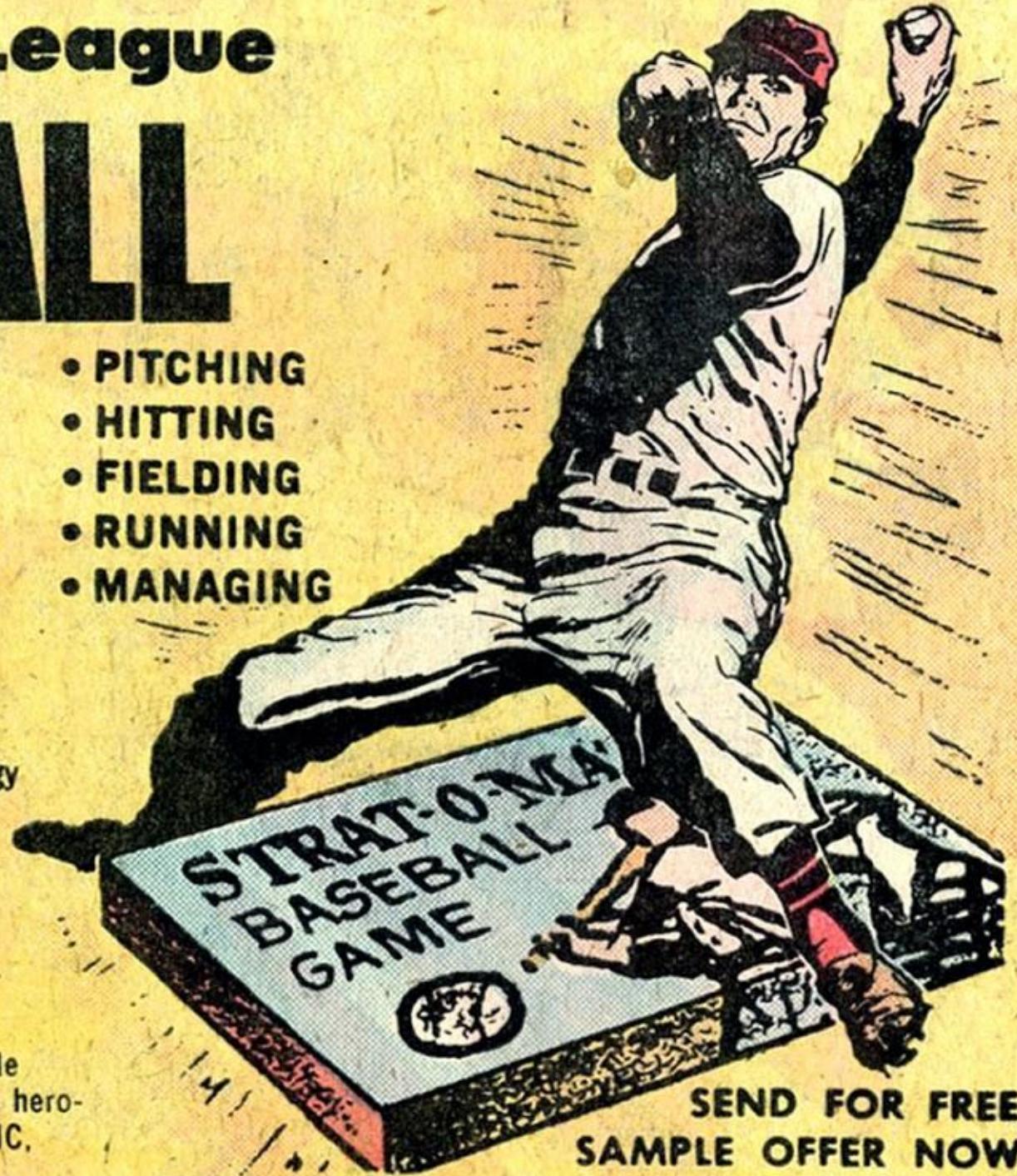
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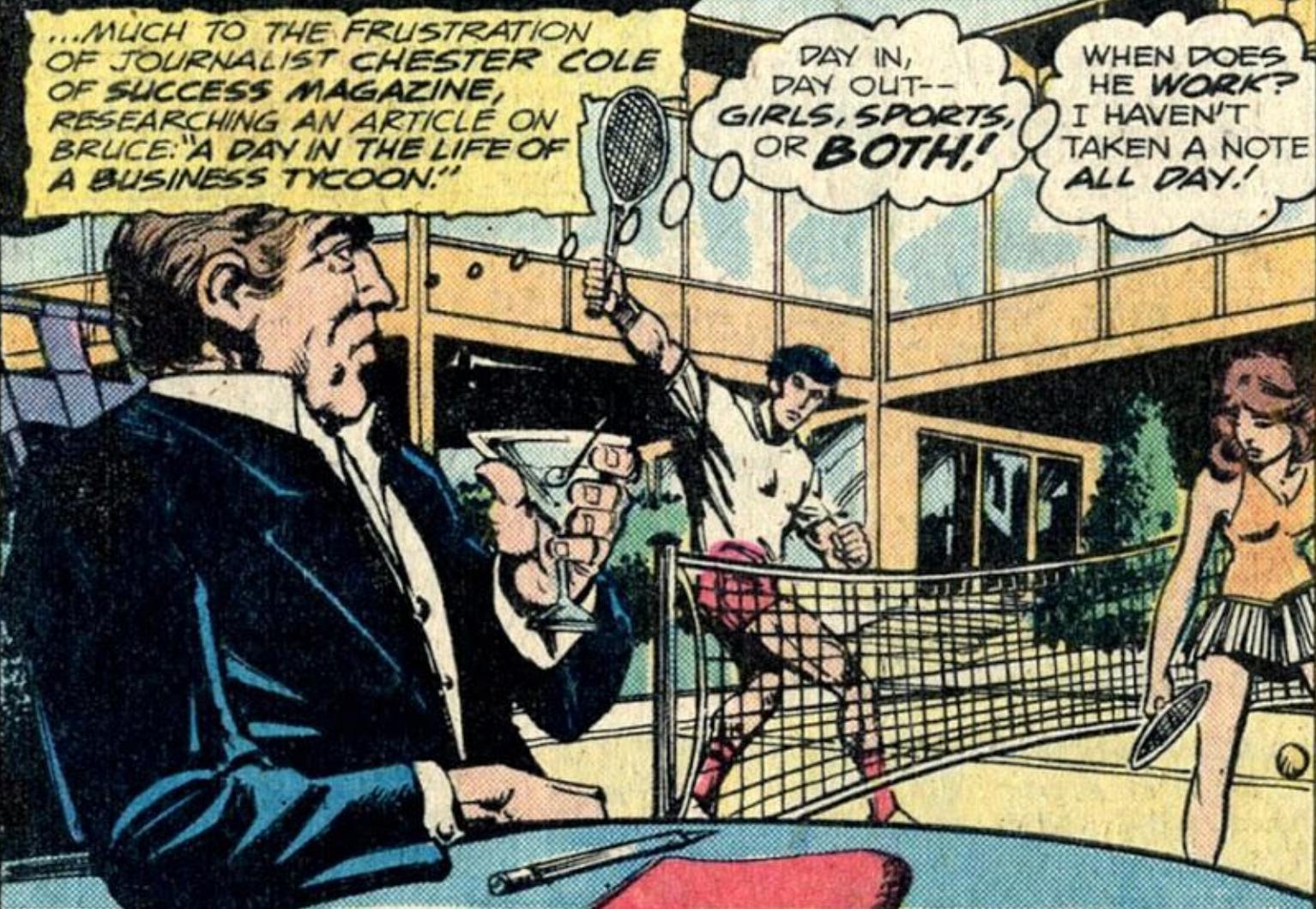
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THE SCENE: 1923
WATT STREET... THE
SITE OF ROYCE
CHEMICAL CORPO-
RATION IN THE NORTH
RIVER INDUSTRIAL
AREA OF GOTHAM
CITY... QUIET AND
DESERTED AT THIS
HOUR...

ROYCE CHE

MICALS

THE TIME: 7:23 P.M.

AT THAT EXACT
MOMENT--AT A
SIDE ENTRANCE...



THEN--

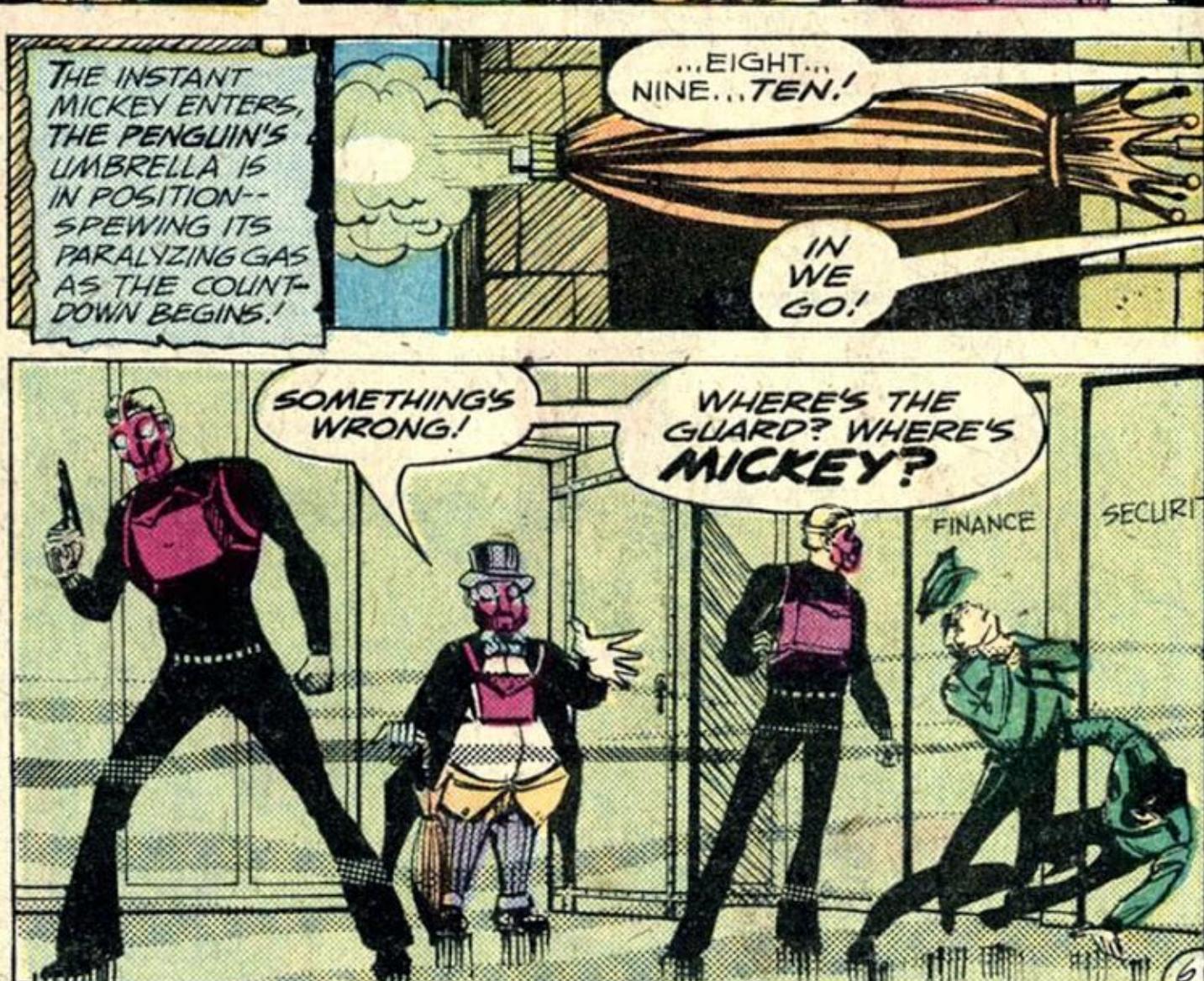


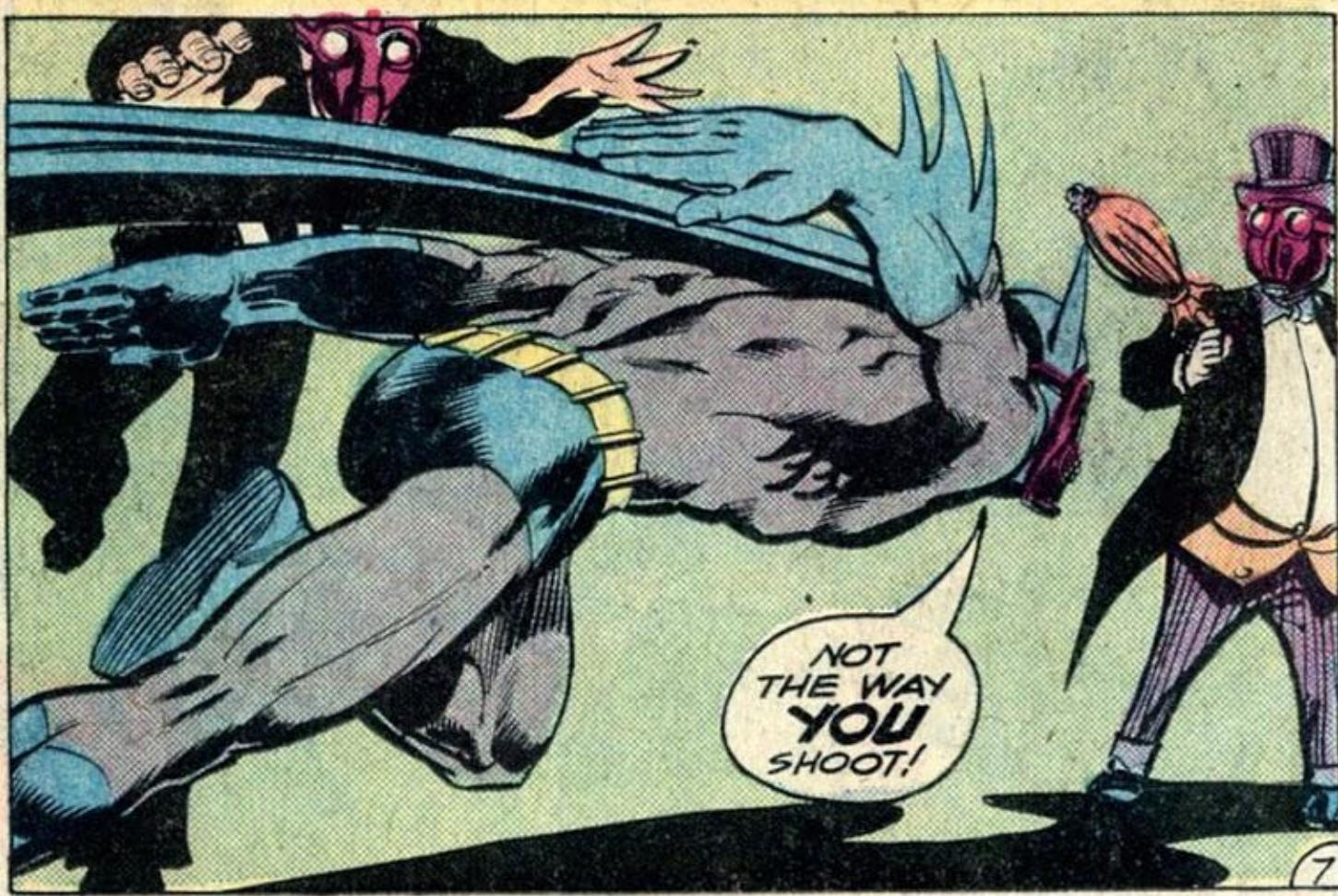
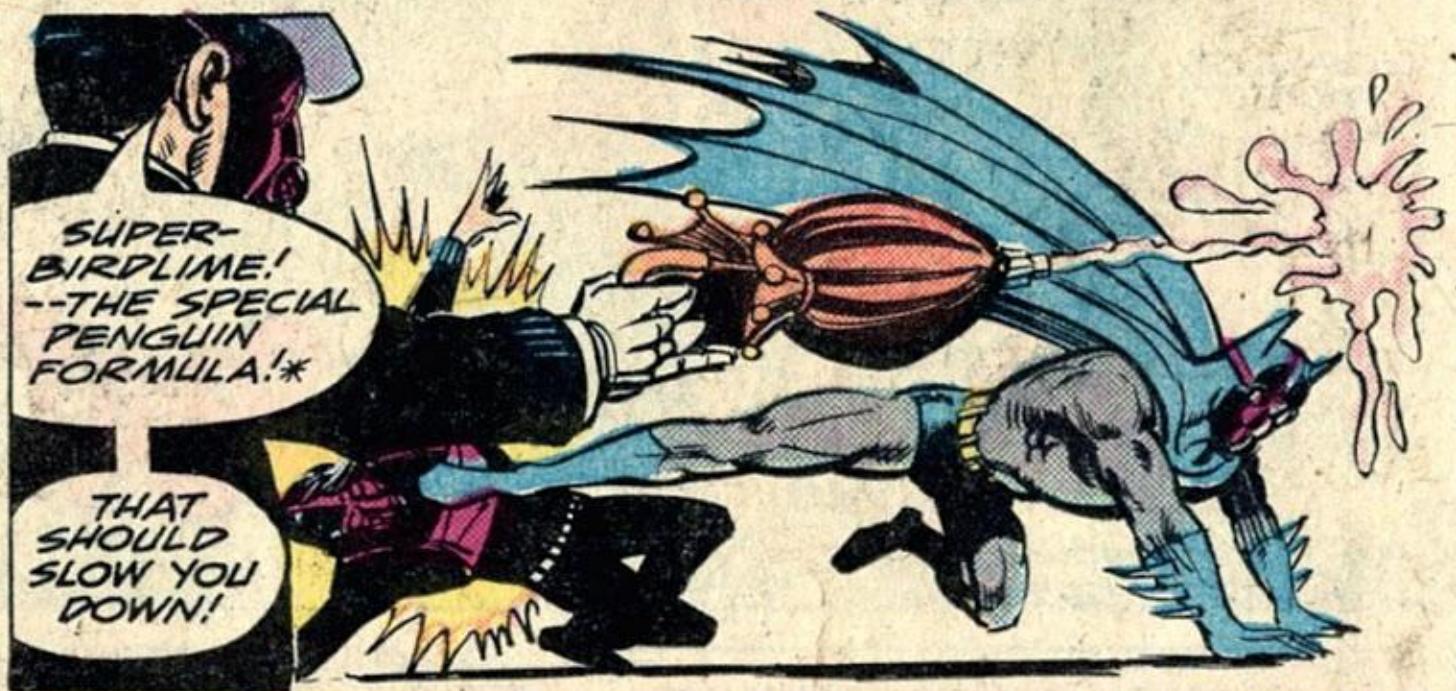
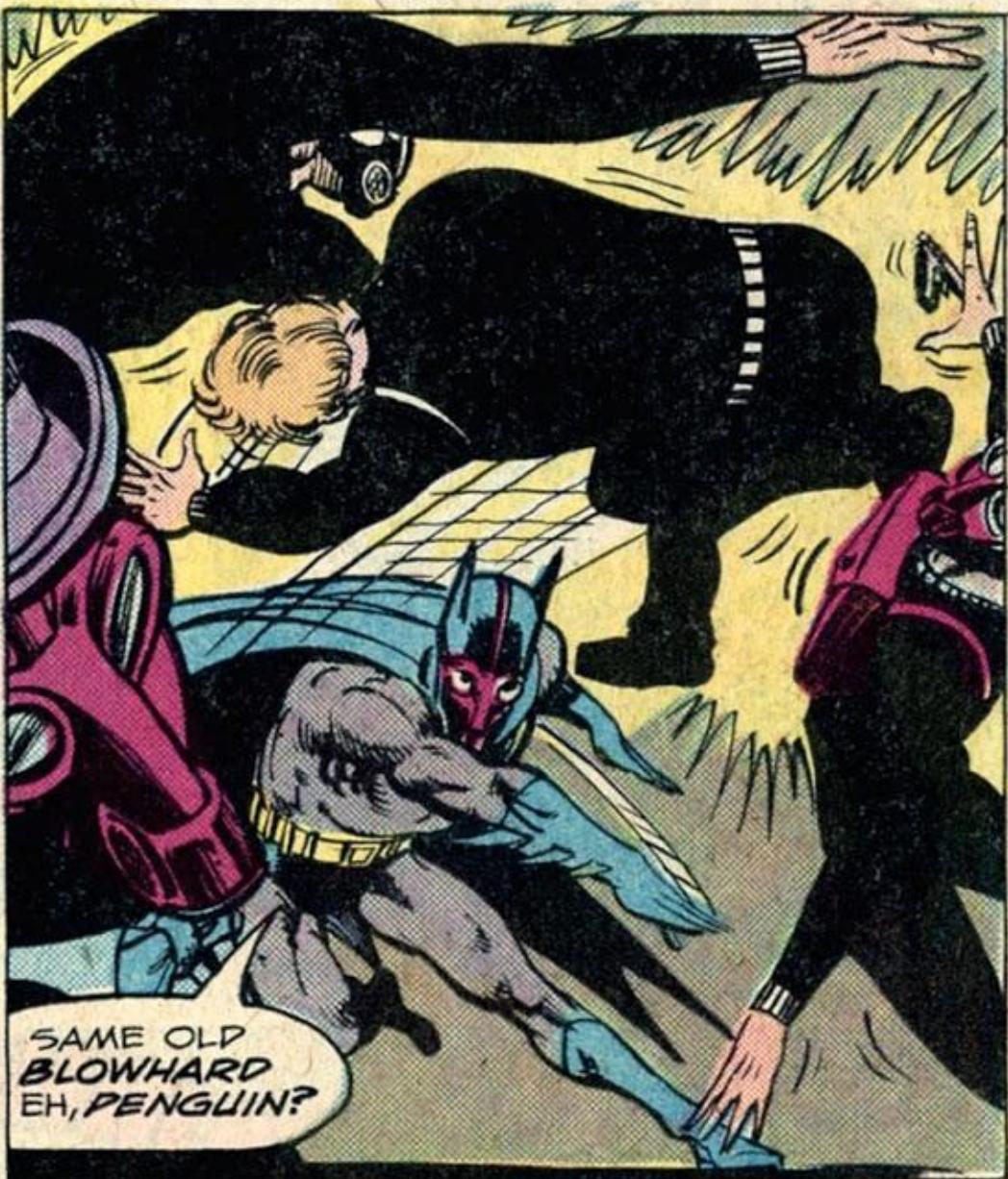
THE DOOR'S
UNLOCKED--SO
THE ALARM
IS OFF!

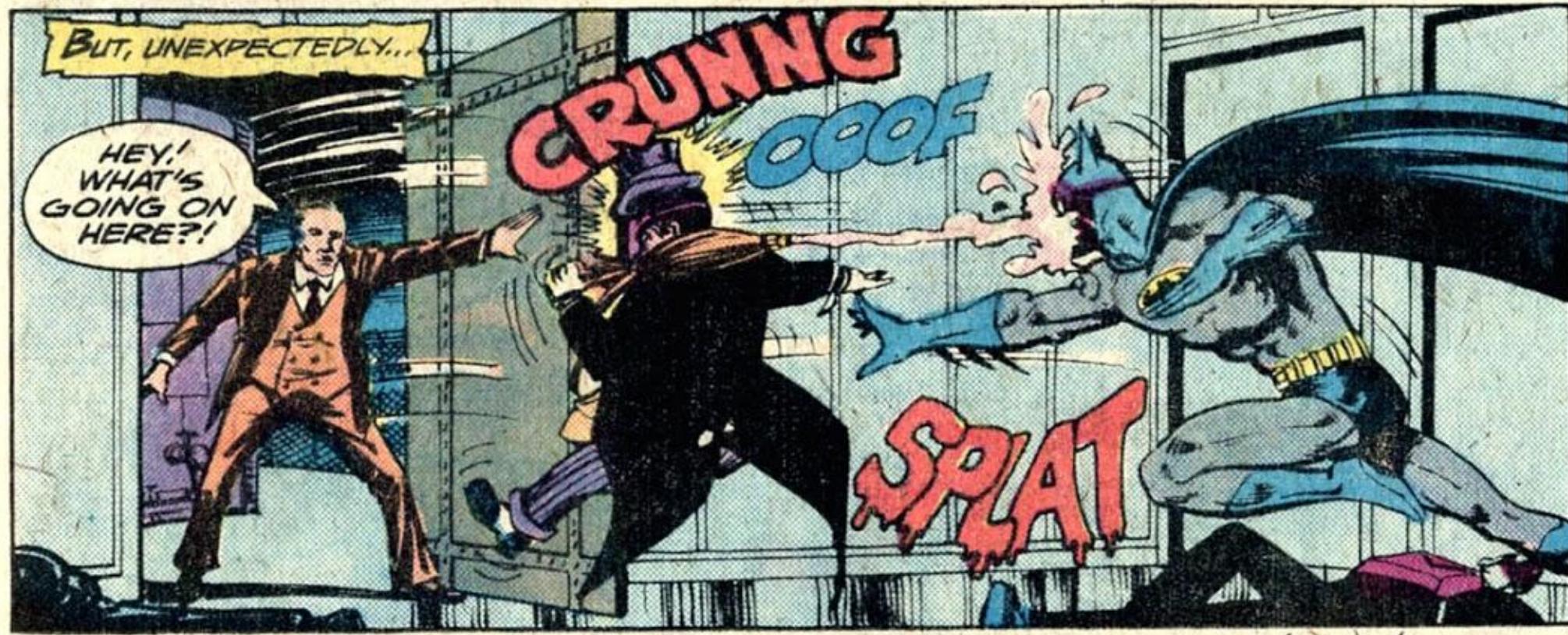
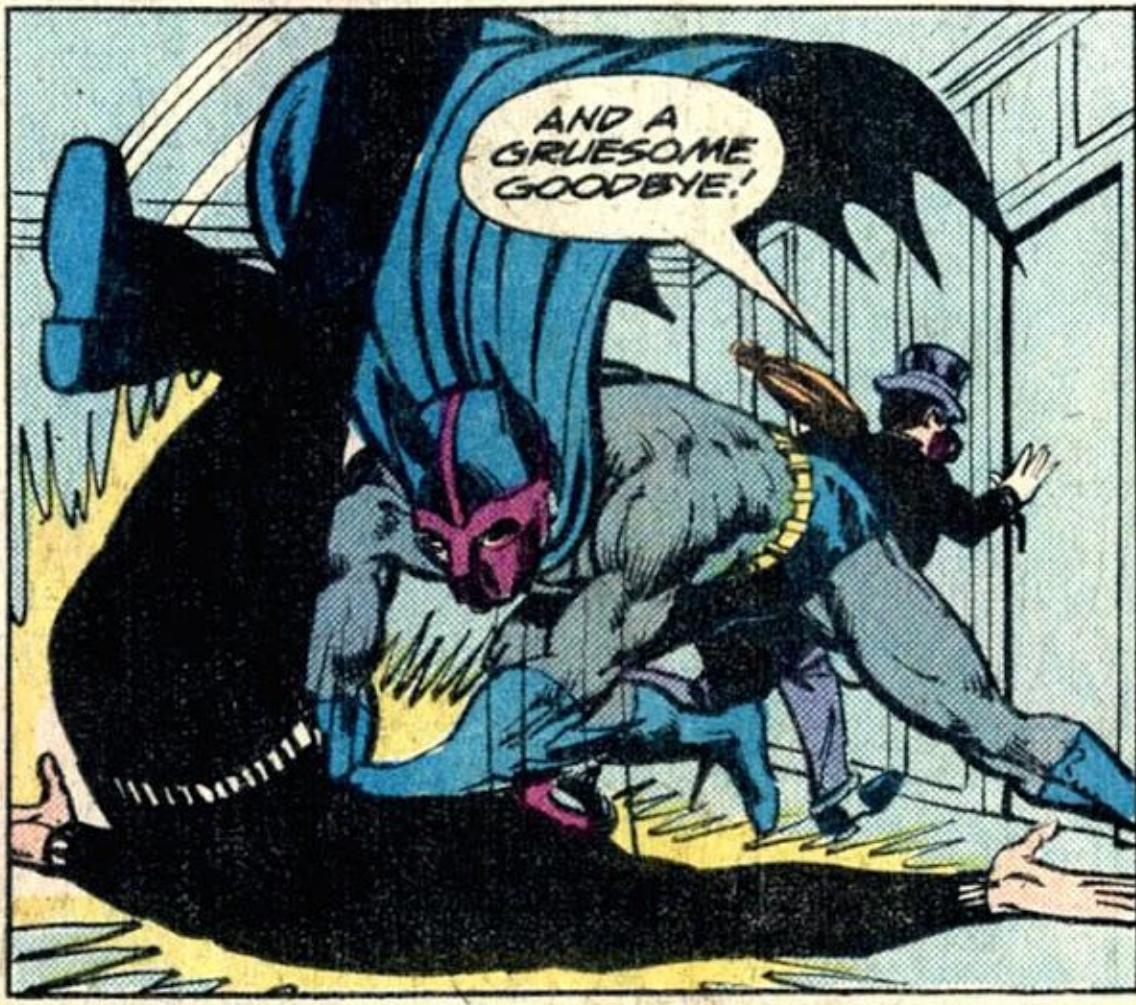
THE INSTANT
MICKEY ENTERS,
THE PENGUIN'S
UMBRELLA IS
IN POSITION--
SPEWING ITS
PARALYZING GAS
AS THE COUNT-
DOWN BEGINS!

...EIGHT...
NINE... TEN!

IN
WE
GO!







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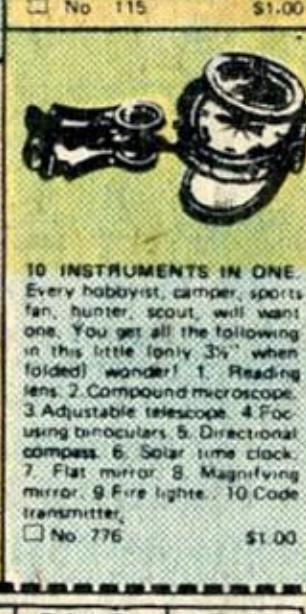
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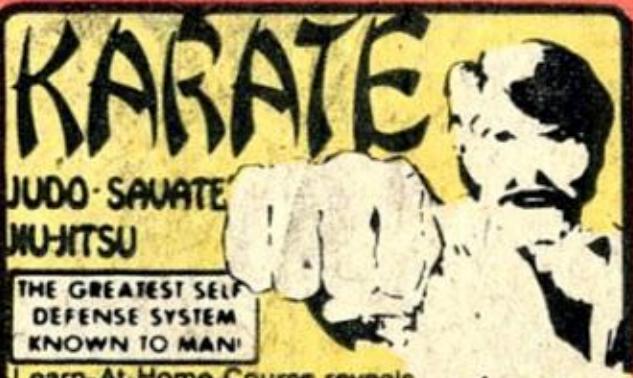
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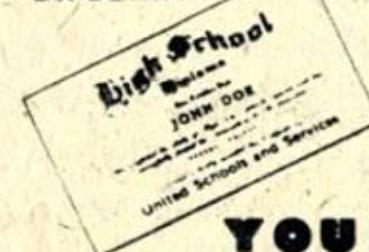
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AN INDETERMINATE TIME HAS PASSED... SLOWLY, CONSCIOUSNESS RETURNS TO THE MASKED MANHUNTER... HIS EYES OPEN...

HE RISES... FINDS HIS MINIBEAM. IT KNIFES THROUGH THE STYGIAN GLOOM...

--AND CHESTER COLE IS WITH ME!

...HE IS IN COMPLETE DARKNESS... LYING ON A STEEL FLOOR...

I'M AT THE BOTTOM OF AN EMPTY CHEMICAL TANK--

--FORTY FEET TO A CLOSED TOP--

QUICKLY, THE BATMAN BRINGS COLE TO! SAVE FOR A SCALP WOUND, THE JOURNALIST IS INTACT-- AND PANIC-STRICKEN!

THE BATMAN!
YES... I SAW YOU THERE!
I WAS LOOKING FOR BRUCE WAYNE!

SHH!
I HEAR SOMETHING!

A BLUR OF MOVEMENT ABOVE--
THE LIGHT SUDDENLY SHUT OFF A MOMENT--
AND AS SUDDENLY RESTORED--

WHERE ARE WE?... HOW--?

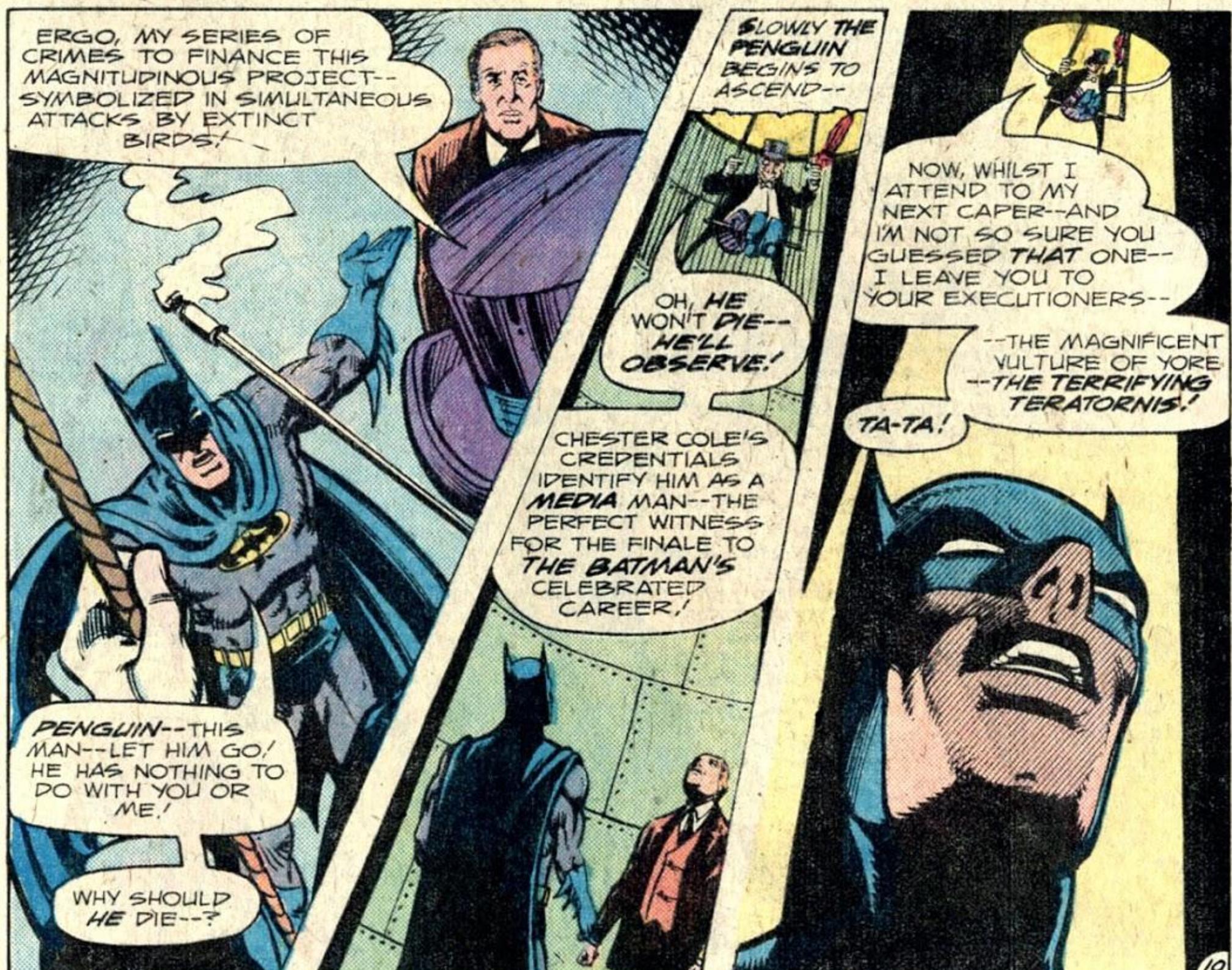
FRIENDS, WE ARE GATHERED TOGETHER TO HEAR A EUOLGY AND A DEDICATION-- BOTH OF THEM FOR MYSELF!

A THUD--A STEELY ECHO-- AND A CYLINDER OF LIGHT DESCENDS AS THE DOME OF THE TANK OPENS!

IF ONLY I STILL HAD MY BAT-ROPE
...BUT THEY EMPTIED MY UTILITY BELT OF EVERYTHING I MIGHT HAVE USED TO ESCAPE!

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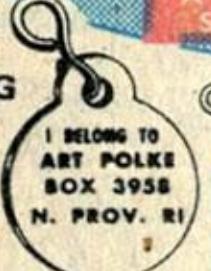
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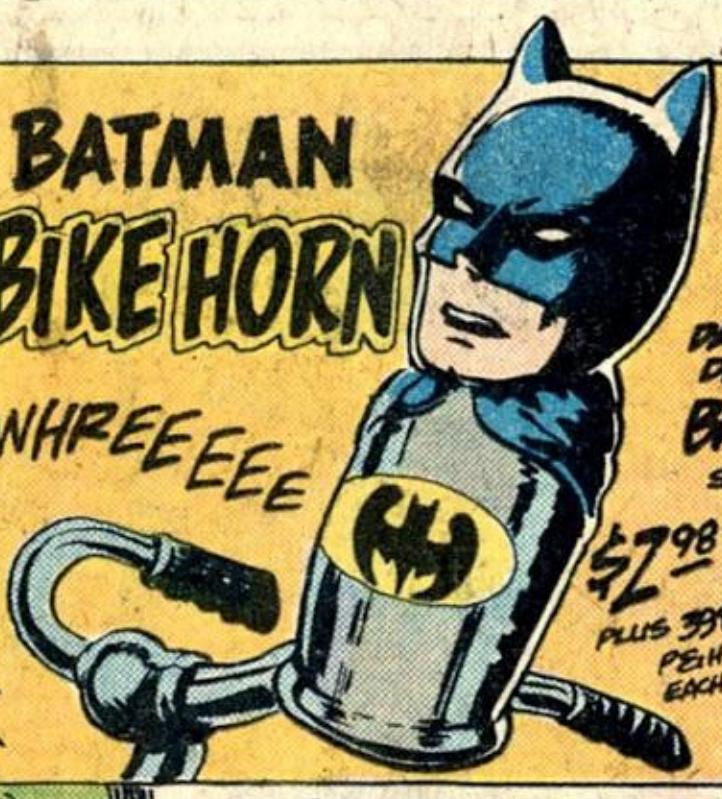
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A NEW KIND
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COMING
YOUR WAY
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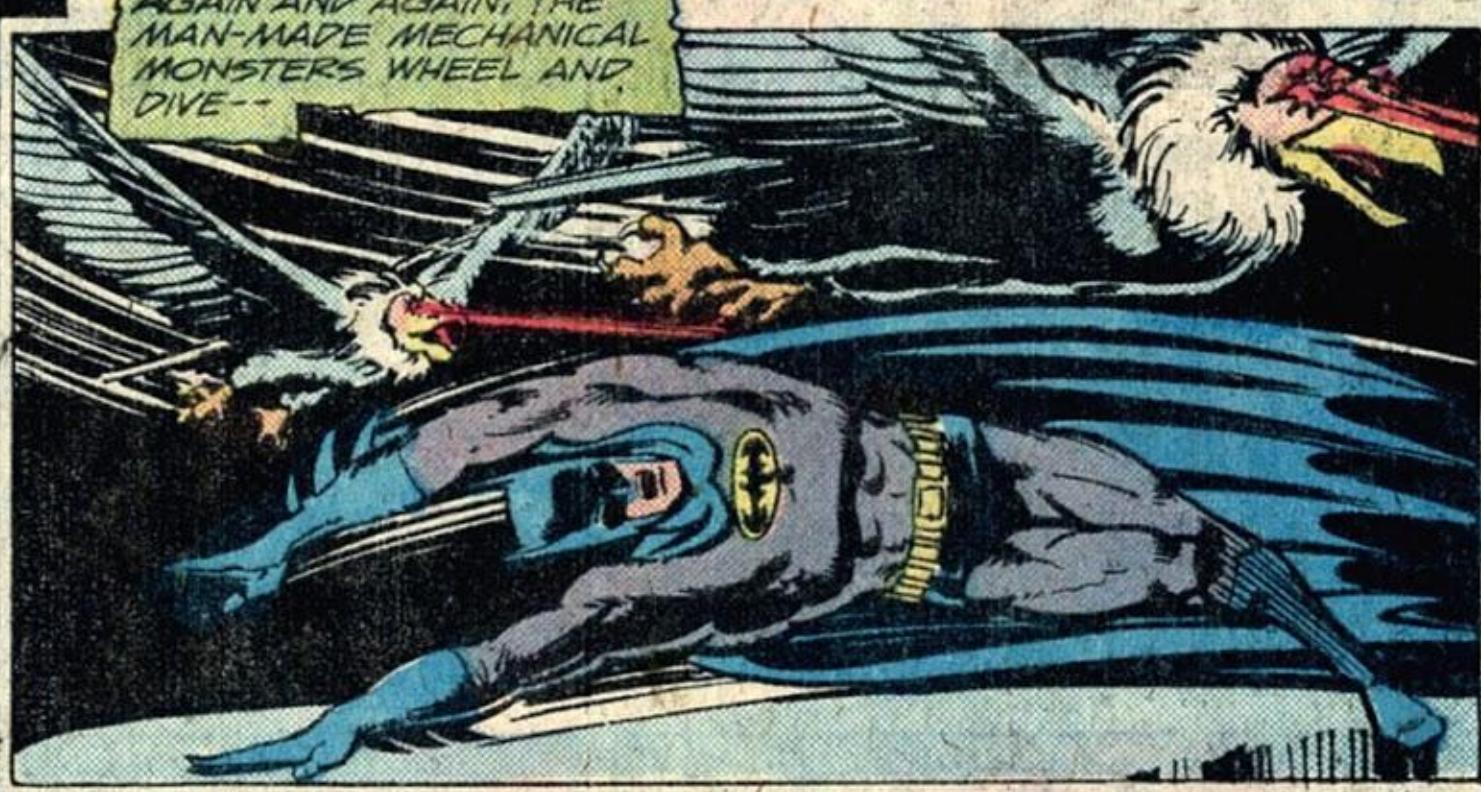
THE MASTER
OF FOWL PLAY
VANISHES... AND
SECONDS
LATER--

GASP! THE KILLER
BIRDS!

THE PENGUIN
PROGRAMMED THOSE
VULTURES FOR
ME, COLE!
SO STAND
ASIDE!

THEN--WITH A FEARFUL
FLUTTER OF METALLIC
WINGS AND HORRENDOUS
SHRIEKS--DOWN THEY
COME!

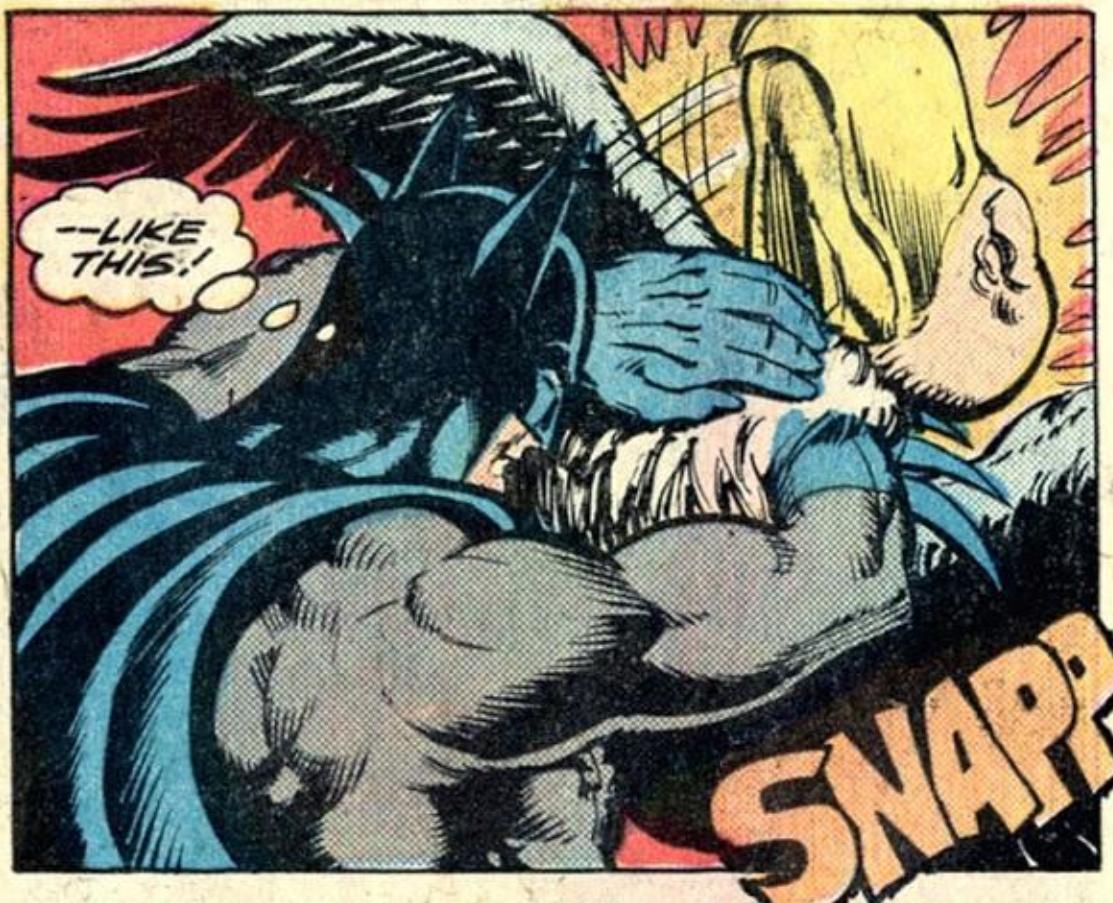
AGAIN AND AGAIN, THE
MAN-MADE MECHANICAL
MONSTERS WHEEL AND
DIVE--



--THEIR HELLISH BEAKS
AND CLAWS PRIMED
FOR MURDER--



--AGAINST THE BATMAN'S
SUPERBLY-TRAINED
MUSCLES...



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STAR-BLAZING IMMORTALS STALK THE EARTH AGAIN!



GERRY CONWAY, DON NEWTON & DAN ADKINS

PRESENT

RETURN OF THE NEW GODS

ON
SALE APRIL 21ST

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GOT INTO THIS--BUT I'M GOING TO GET US BOTH OUT!"

SWIFTLY, DEXTEROUSLY, THE BATMAN'S POWERFUL HANDS TEAR AND TWIST--SHAPE AND MOLD...

THE WINGS ALL CAME THROUGH UNDAMAGED--

--AND SO DID BOTH MOTORS! THEY HAVE A LOT MORE LIFTING POWER THAN ANY REAL BIRD COULD MUSTER!

THEY'LL SURELY BURN OUT--BUT THERE'S JUST A CHANCE--WITH A SINGLE BURST OF FULL POWER!

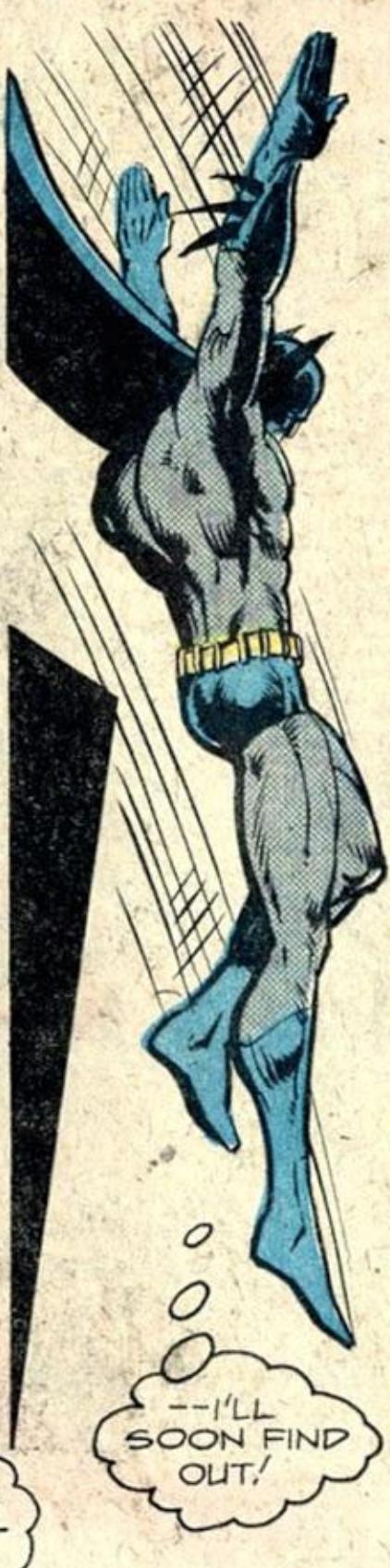
FINALLY--SUSPENSEFUL MINUTES LATER...

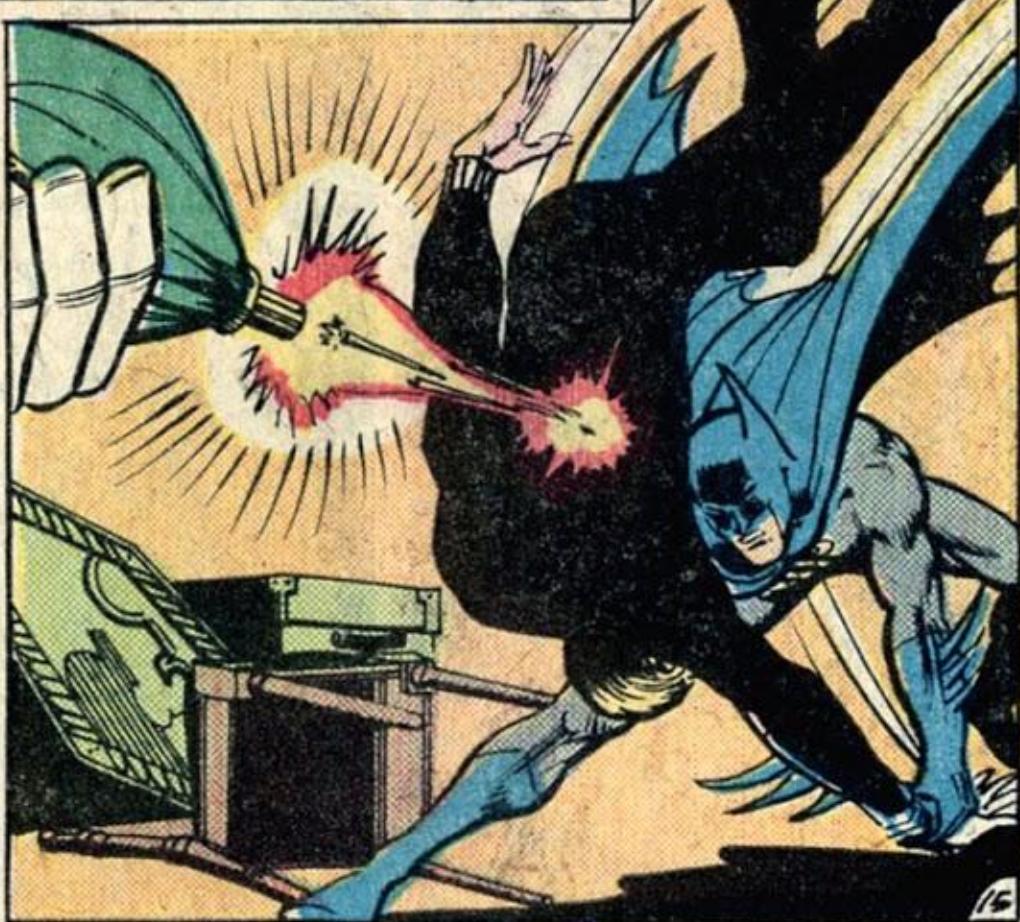
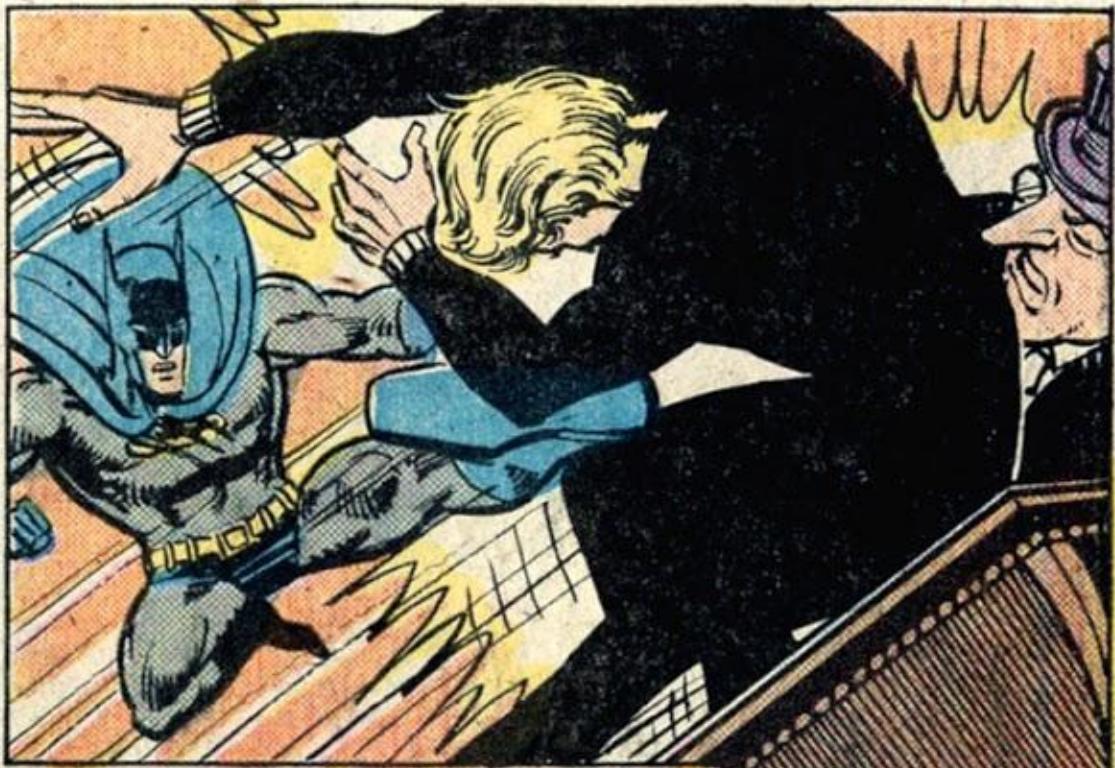
"READY--?"

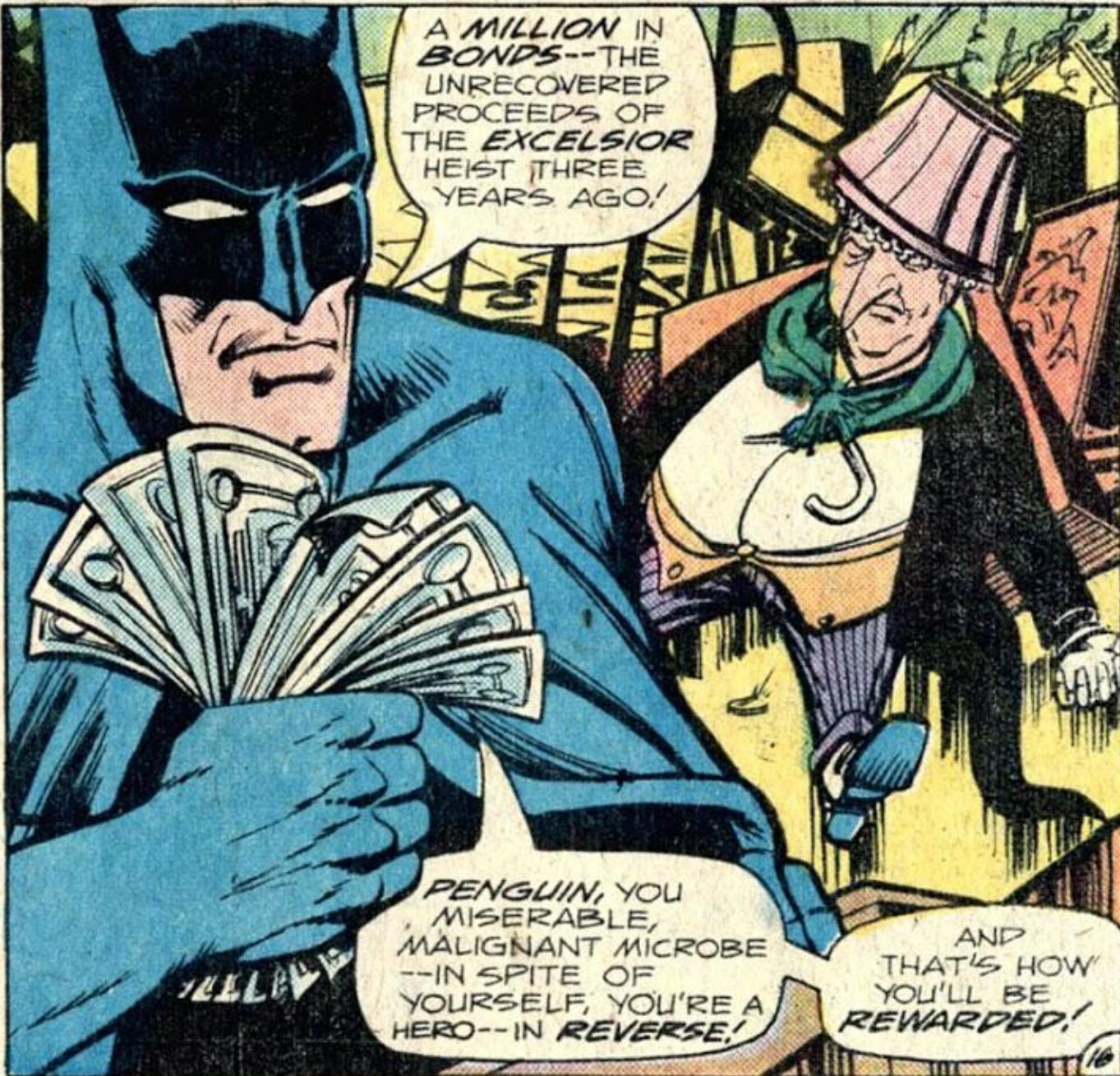
A LOW, OMINOUS HUM FILLS THE METAL CHAMBER--RISING ABRUPTLY TO A BRAIN-NUMBING SCREECH--AND...

"IT'S WORKING! UP WE GO!"

"R-R-READY!"







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My name is Brad Mitchell. For many years I have helped thousands of people lose weight. And I believe I can help you!

I realize that today, there are so many weight loss products and programs on the market, that you are probably thoroughly confused as to which one is truly effective.

Everyone, both young and old is striving for that slim, sleek, youthful and energetic figure. The problem is how to achieve such a shape without damage to your health and at the same time keep your energy level high in order to cope with the tensions and rapid pace of today's world.

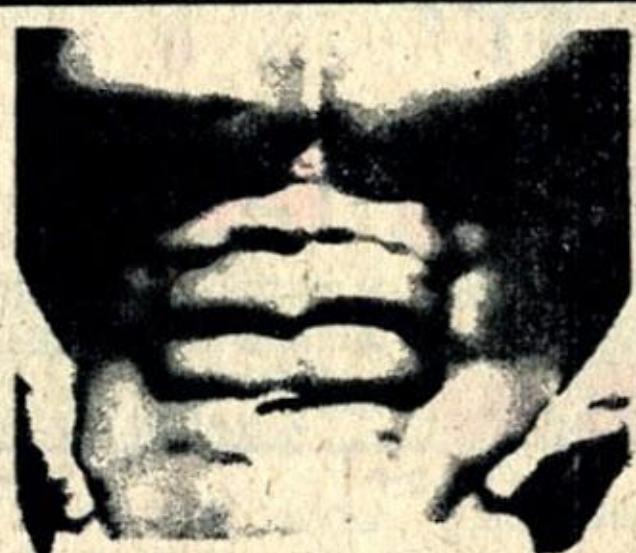
I have developed such a system!

I firmly believe that this Amazing Fat Burning System is the most effective system ever. I should know, just take a look at my before and after pictures. I lost 18 pounds of ugly fat, in only 15 days.

And, believe it or not, I kept my stomach full of food (no hunger pains).

And, my wife lost 40 pounds in only 30 days!

Since then, I have been continuously researching areas of nutrition, bodybuilding, and diet programs, in order to help thousands achieve that slim attractive shape desired by everyone. In fact everyone I put on this Amazing Fat Burning System, reported that they made fantastic weight losses--fast and easily!



FREE WAIST COURSE!!

Order your Fat-Burning System today and we'll send you FREE our fantastic ABDOMINAL COURSE. This big book will show you how to have a trim, muscular waist in the fastest time possible! Get rid of that pot-belly and have a sexy, trim waist. You'll look and feel like a new man!

IS IT THE WORLDS FASTEST, MOST EFFECTIVE FAT BURNING SYSTEM EVER?

I sincerely think it is! Why? Because many of the principles and methods used are the same as those used by top physique champions to eliminate all excess fat.

In fact, many physique champions reduce their body fat to the extreme, so that the skin becomes almost paper thin. Certainly you don't want to become extremely thin. But, it's nice to know that the Fat Burning System can accomplish

almost any weight reduction you desire. And isn't that what you want?

This system is so unique and effective (because it really works)--so much so, that we have had the system copyrighted with the US Government, so that the secrets cannot be copied and stolen!

MAN OR WOMAN--YOUNG OR NOT SO YOUNG--THIS SYSTEM IS FOR YOU!

Everyone can use this system, regardless whether you're young or not so young. It doesn't matter whether you're 10 or 100 pounds overweight, or how many times you have tried to get into shape. With this new system you'll lose weight faster than ever before. In fact you'll have more energy, strength and endurance so that you will feel younger and enjoy a fuller more active life.

I HAVE A SUPER EXERCISE FOR YOU! MORE EFFECTIVE THAN JOGGING!

To help you loose that fat even faster, I've developed a program for a Fun exercise that is more effective than jogging (in the same amount of time), yet it can be done in the privacy of your own bedroom. It takes only several minutes, three times a week to perform this unique exercise! This exercise is done by top athletes and even astronauts. You won't believe how fast your energy level will rise (and how fast you'll get back into shape).

THIS AMAZING SYSTEM REQUIRES ONLY A MINIMAL AMOUNT OF YOUR TIME!

This system requires a small amount of your time (and some effort), but the results will be nothing short of miraculous! Our program offers you plenty of food to eat, plus supplements that will also help burn off the excess fat.

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO BE TRIM AND SLIM...AND WITHIN DAYS BEGIN TO SEE A REAL DIFFERENCE

IN YOUR APPEARANCE--THEN THIS SYSTEM IS FOR YOU!

Remember, it doesn't matter how many times you have tried to lose weight, your time has finally come, with the Amazing Fat Burning System!

A healthy slim, trim and energetic figure is our goal--make it yours!

SEE DRAMATIC RESULTS IN JUST DAYS...OR RETURN EVERYTHING FOR A FULL REFUND!

You have nothing to lose except fat. Try the Amazing Fat Burning System for a couple of weeks--if you don't feel that the results are fantastic in every way, you can return the system to us, and you'll get a full refund. Just like that! No questions asked.

Give it a try today.

Brad Mitchell
27313 Plymouth Rd., Dept SUP-1
Detroit, Michigan 48239

Okay, Brad, I accept your offer! But I've got to feel that the Amazing Fat Burning System is the greatest and that the results will be nothing short of miraculous. Otherwise I'll send everything back for a full refund! I enclose \$9.95. (cash, check or money order)

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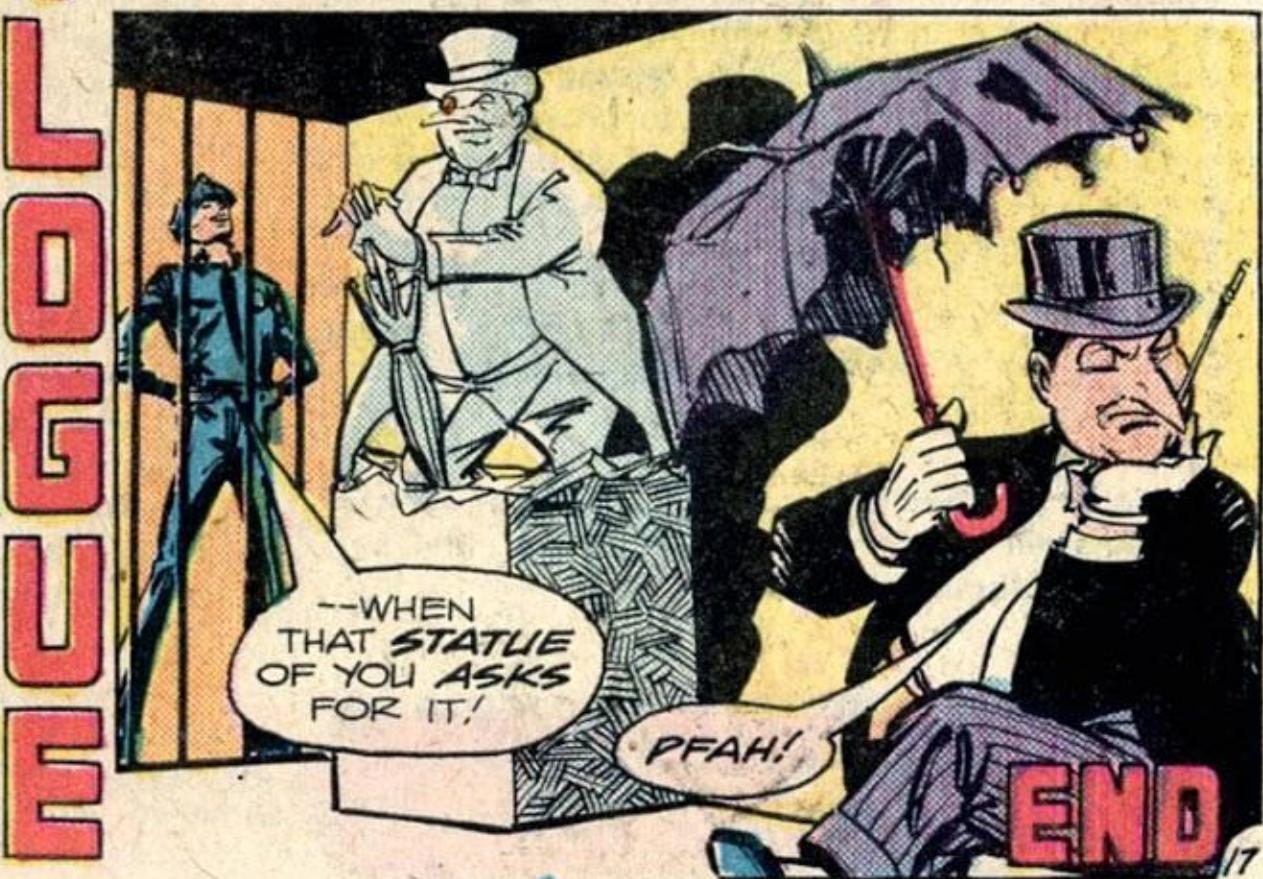
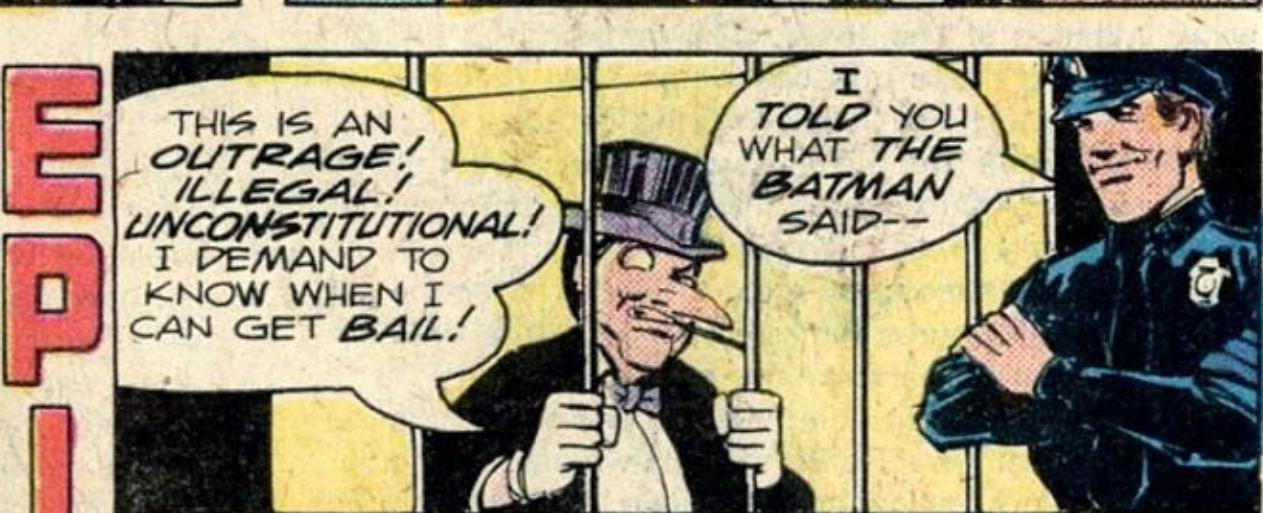
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NEXT ISSUE ON SALE THE SECOND WEEK IN APRIL!



LETTERS to the BATMAN

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S-2591

Dear Editor:

I greeted the advance publicity marking the return of **Dr. Tzin-Tzin** in **BATMAN #284** with some trepidation. The doctor is certainly one of **Batman's** less-utilized foes and one of those born during the "camp" craze of the '60's, wherein all one needed to qualify as a bad guy was a goofy costume. While **Tzin-Tzin** always had great potential, his past appearances have generally stereotyped him as a typical oriental menace, complete with Fu Manchu mustache and brimming with various fortune-cookie-type sayings.

I was somewhat pleased to note that in "If There Were No Batman, I Would Have To Invent Him", David V. Reed has nicely sidestepped these trappings and transformed the doctor into something of a spectral menace with powers far beyond mortal comprehension. And having been thus endowed, **Tzin-Tzin** could do nothing so mundane as resort to petty crime—that would offend the dignity of his awesome powers. Instead, **Dr. Tzin-Tzin** is content to engage in a battle—or more specifically, a duel—with someone he considers a worthy opponent. This is the perfect way to utilize this villain—in fact, it is the only way he could continue to serve as an antagonist for **The Batman**. Portrayed in any other light, he would quickly become a weak imitation of **The Joker**, **Catwoman** or the **Riddler**—and lacking those qualities which have made these three survive for over a quarter of a century.

Art? Beautiful! Nothing starts off a comic better than a cover by Jim Aparo. Inside, Romeo Tanghalls pencils are wonderfully imaginative, capturing the mood of the tale very well, yet not allowing it to interfere with the action. Tanghalls figures remind me a great deal of Frank Robbins' work—a compliment indeed.

The only remaining point in need of comment is the introduction of your latest **Batman**-hater, Inspector Maddox. Many police officers have passed through these pages disliking the Caped Crusader for one reason or another, none of them legitimate. All of those characters have been completely lacking in dimension and Maddox gives no evidence to prove he will be otherwise. The hero/cop conflict is fast becoming old hat anyway—I much prefer Commissioner Gordon's breezy relationship with **Batman**.

SCOTT GIBSON
2711 S. Pinehurst
Evergreen, CO 80439

(We're glad you liked the issue, Scott, because our next correspondent didn't—and take a look at who he's complaining about it to!— BR)

Dear Penguin,

I just read in **BATMAN #284** that you are finally making a return. Best wishes! I certainly hope your return will be better than the terrible one that the "diabolical" **Dr. Tzin-Tzin** just made.

Since everyone knows of your superior intelligence, it is taken for granted that you did not make the mistake of reading it. Alas, it seems that David V. Reed is finally running dry. His stories are becoming more and more unrealistic, as well as being totally withdrawn from the night-like, mysterious nature which the Caped Crusader has redeveloped. I'm just sorry to hear that you are now in Dave's hands, **Pengy**. Is nothing sacred?

By the way, if you should see a clown named Chief Inspector P.J. Maddox, do us all a favor and shoot him or something! And if perchance you did read that **Tzin-Tzin** story (we all do make mistakes, you know), don't believe that stealing New Gotham Stadium would ever be more spectacular than anything you've done in the past. First of all, **Tzin-Tzin** would have looked a little conspicuous (and dumb) carrying around a stadium and second, it's not the kind of thing you can fence very easily. I mean, really—what could **Tzin-Tzin** have possibly done with that stadium? Held it for ransom?

Hey, stop laughing so hard, **Pengy**, or you'll choke and then Mr. Reed won't get a chance to redeem himself. Surely he deserves that much.

LARRY BROWN JR.
226 Chapmans Ave.
Warwick, RI 02886

(We just want to know who you intend to write to if you don't like the *Penguin* story!—BR)

Dear Editor:

"If There Were No Batman . . ." was just what **Batman** needed: a good change-of-pace story. After seven "normal" crime stories, **#284** provided a sorely needed break by being loaded with elements other than natural.

I had never heard of **Dr. Tzin-Tzin**, but he seems to be a rarity in **Batman's** foes. In fact he has no claims about expressing his admiration for **Bats**. This is highly irregular because most super-villains attribute **Batman's** crime-fighting abilities to luck rather than skill. The only thing that turned me off about **Tzin-Tzin** was his motive . . . or lack of it. Besides trying to humiliate **Batman** for the profit of his ego, there were no attempts to make any financial profits. That is, unless he was going to auction off Gotham Stadium.

MIKE WHITE
207 West Fast
Mackinaw, IL 61755

(Hey—here's a great idea! Now that we're done figuring out who David V. Reed is, let's all try and figure out what **Dr. Tzin-Tzin** would have done with New Gotham Stadium if he had gotten away with it! Send in your ideas, readers, and we'll print the best and most original ones in an upcoming issue!—Bob Rozakis)

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VOLUME 77 ISSUE 10

WEEK OF MARCH 7, 1977

BOB ROZAKIS: EDITOR

ANTHONY TOLLIN: PRODUCTION

IS SUPERMAN A MURDERER?

J'ONN J'ONZZ ATTACKS THE MAN OF STEEL

(Metropolis) J'onn J'onzz, the *Martian Manhunter*, is back on Earth—searching for the man who murdered his best friend. The trail has led from Mars II to Earth and has brought him into conflict with *Supergirl* and *Hawkman*. Now the *Martian Manhunter* is convinced—his real quarry is *Superman!* The battle breaks open in **WORLD'S FINEST #244** in a Bob Haney/Curt Swan/Murphy Anderson thriller.

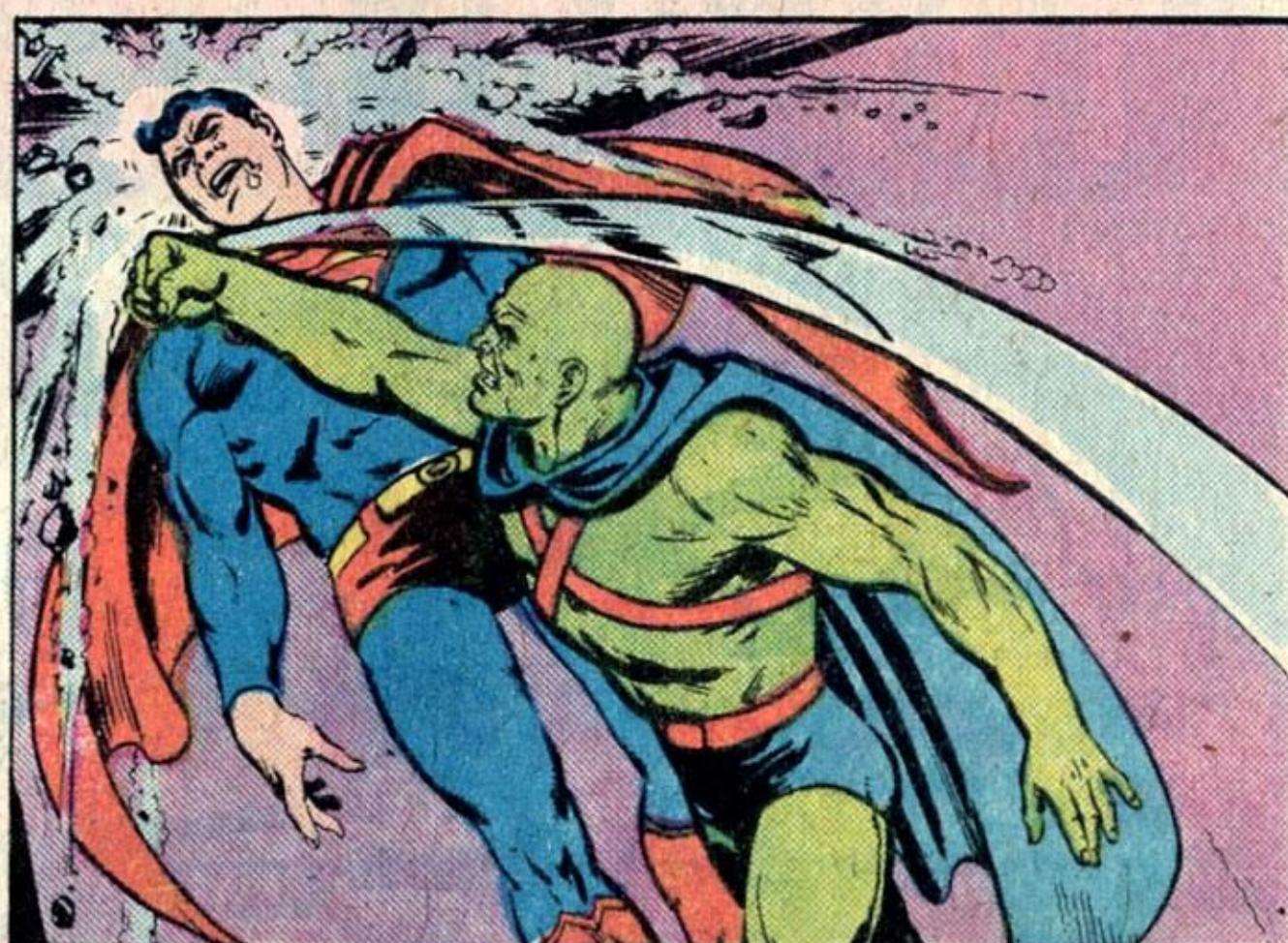
But that's not all that's in this blockbuster issue! *Green Arrow* finds himself snared as "The Man Bear Stalks at Midnight" and *Black Canary* checks into a "Hospital of Fear", both compliments of Gerry Conway, Mike Nasser and Terry Austin. Bill Kunkel and Gray Morrow join forces as the Vigilante takes on "The Plague Makers" and *Wonder Woman* fights World War II in a Conway/Jim Sherman/Vince Colletta adventure.

So WF #245 will be a real winner—and well worth the \$1 price—when it goes on sale the week of March 14th. Don't get there too late or you'll miss it!

PLANET MINI-PUZZLE #5

Hidden in the puzzle grid are the names of 16 old and new DC features. Can you find: *FLASH*, *GI COMBAT*, *ISIS*, *KAMANDI*, *METAL MEN*, *OMAC*, *RAGMAN*, *SHADE*, *SHADOW*, *SHAZAM*, *SUPER-STARS*, *SWAMP THING*, *TEEN TITANS*, *UNEXPECTED*, *WARLORD*, and *WEIRD (War)*? If not, check out the answers in next week's *PLANET!*

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D E T C E P X E N U
T M K A M A N D I P
A E E D A H S O D E
B T W O D A H S R R
M A E F I C A M O S
O L I L Y S Z W L T
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DIRECT CURRENTS

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G.I. COMBAT #202—Three Haunted Tank sagas headline this battle blockbuster: "Walking Wounded Don't Cry" (by Bob Kanigher and Sam Glanzman); "Heroes on the Hoof" (by Wesley Marsh and Glanzman); and "River of Blood" (Kanigher and Glanzman). Also: an O.S.S. Tale, "This Mission Must Fall" (by Bart Regan and E.R. Cruz); "War—For Men Only" (Regan and Fred Carrillo); "AWOL . . . Until Doomsday" (Regan and Romeo Tanghal); "The GI Who Didn't Want to Be a Hero" (Evan Douglas and George Evans); and lots of special features.

HOUSE OF SECRETS #146—A pair of chillers: "Snake's Alive" by E. Nelson Bridwell, Michael Pellowski and Buddy Gernale; and "Snow Ghost" with art by Bill Draut.

PLASTIC MAN #78—More wild and whacky adventures of comics' original stretcher by John Albano, Ramona Fradon and Bob Smith.

HERCULES DONS NEW GARB

(North America) Hercules has discovered new allies and as a result, he's donned a new outfit to combat the menaces of post-World War III Earth. With the aid of the *Atomic Knights* (and help from Cary Bates and Walt Simonson), the man-god sets out on a quest to set the world aright again—and you can have a front row seat by picking up *HERCULES UNBOUND #11*, when it goes on sale the week of March 14th. It's a world we hope we never have to live in, but if we do, we'll be glad Hercules is on our side!

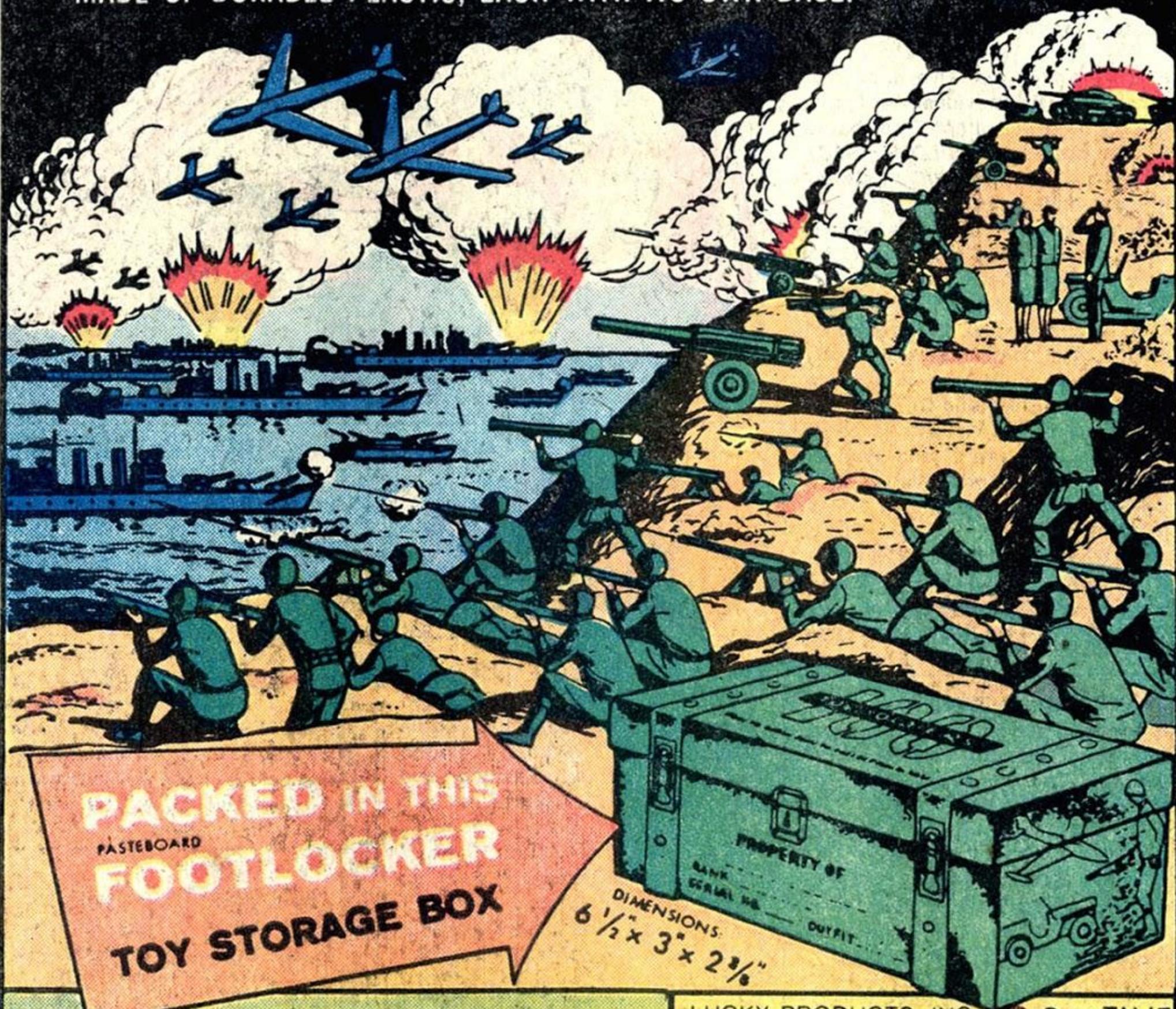


AND ON SALE RIGHT NOW:
BATMAN #288 (The Penguin)/DC SPECIAL #28 (The Legion, Aquaman, and Batman in EARTH SHATTERING DISASTER STORIES!)/SHADE, THE CHANGING MAN #1/STARFIRE #6/SUPERMAN #312 (guest-starring The Flash and Supergirl)/TEEN TITANS #48 (Two-Face!)

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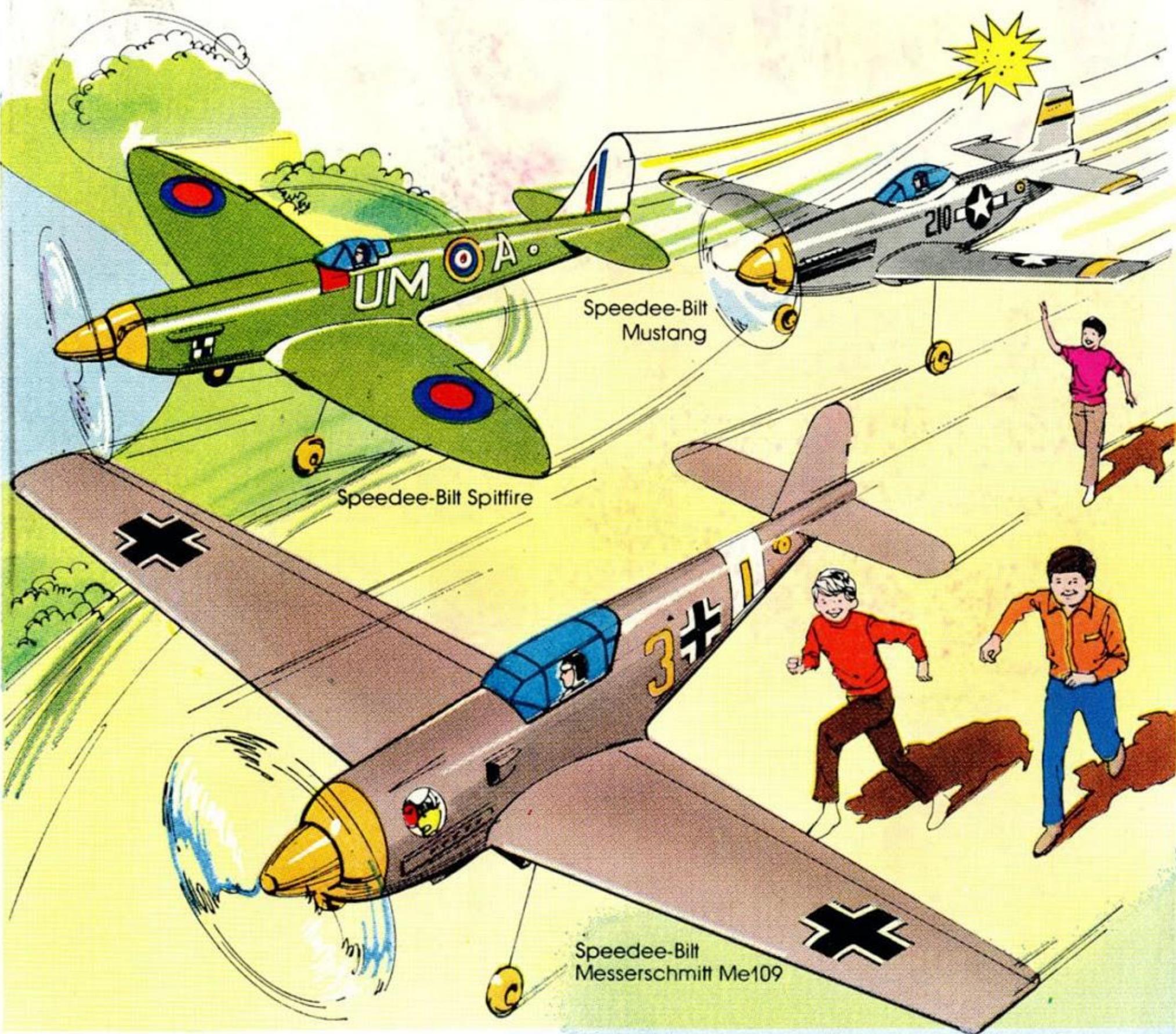
and smooth landings.

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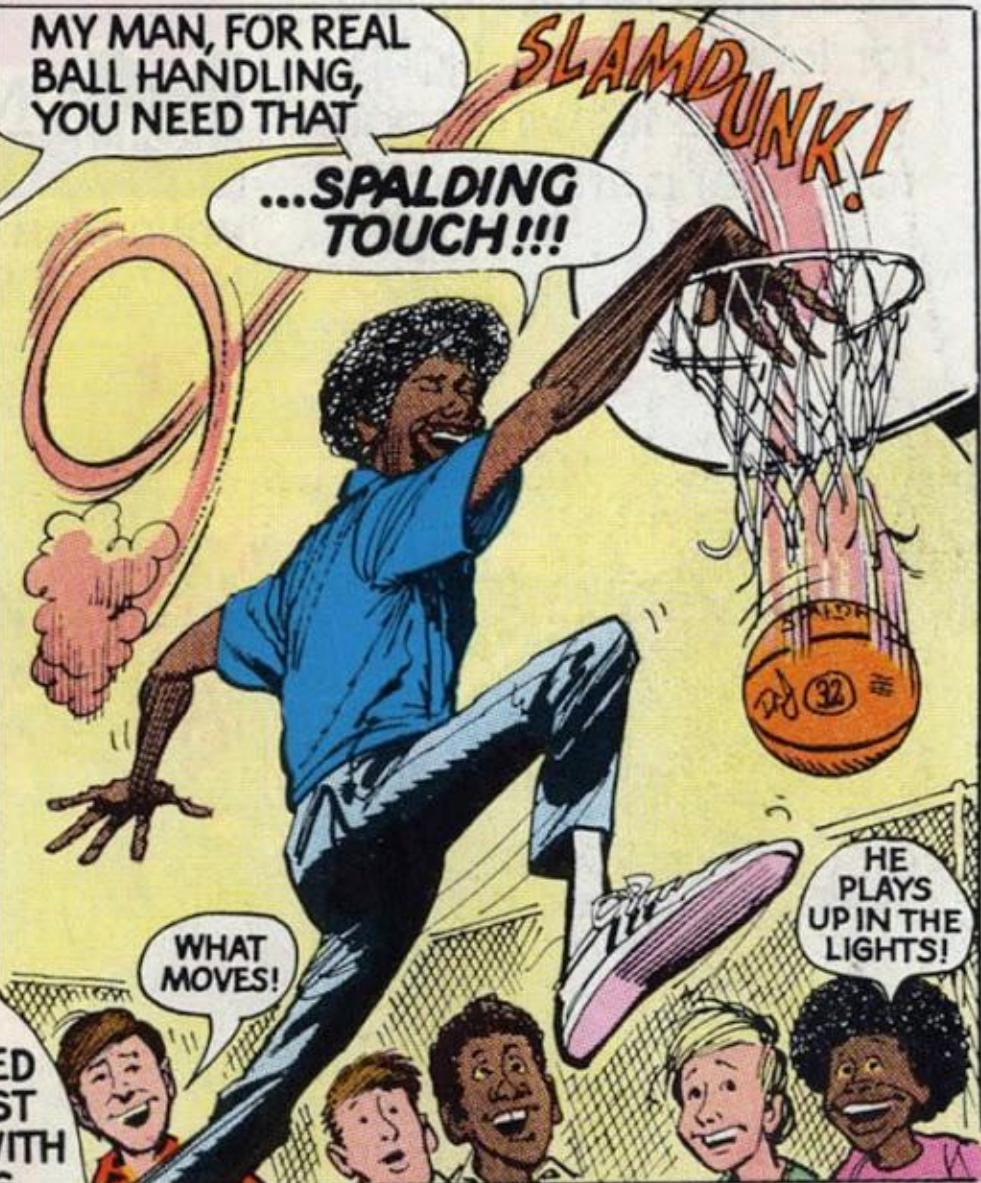
SPALDING.

PRESENTS

STREET BALL

WITH
RICK BARRY
AND
DR. J.!

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