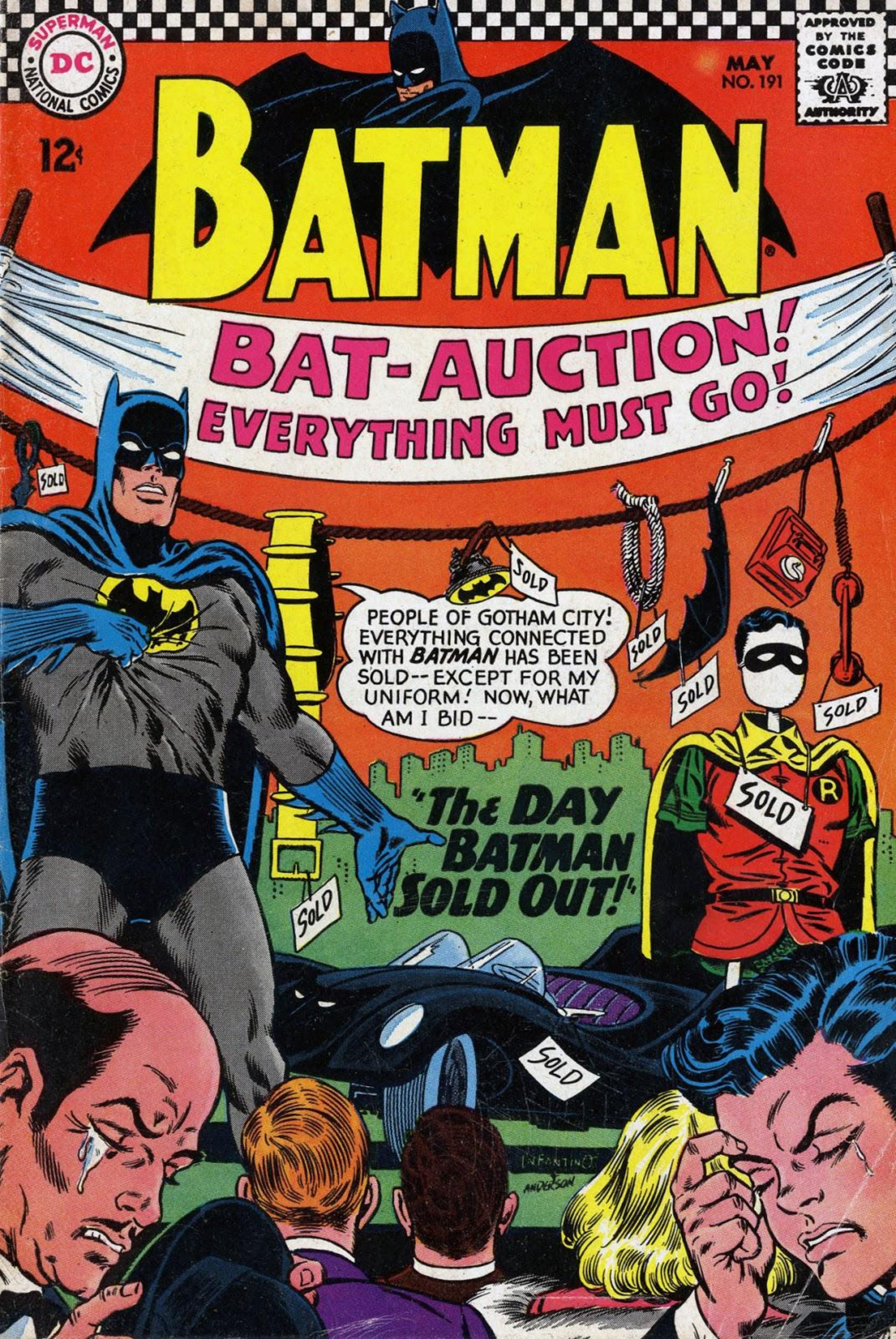
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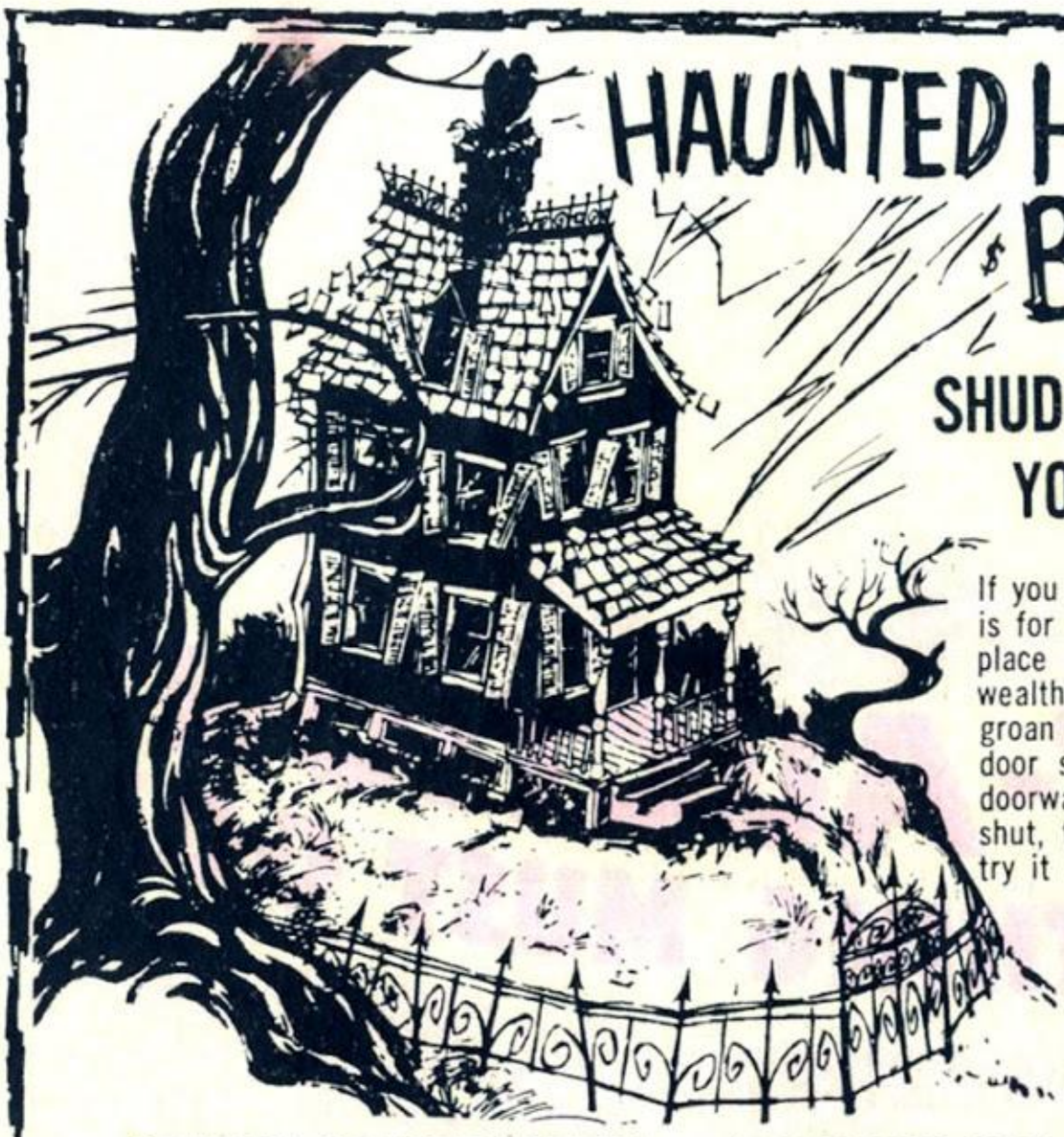
MAY
NO. 191
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BATMAN
BAT-AUCTION!
EVERYTHING MUST GO!
SOLD
PEOPLE OF GOTHAM CITY! EVERYTHING CONNECTED WITH BATMAN HAS BEEN SOLD -- EXCEPT FOR MY UNIFORM! NOW, WHAT AM I BID --
"The DAY BATMAN SOLD OUT!"
INFANTINO
ANDERSON

HAUNTED HOUSE MYSTERY BANK



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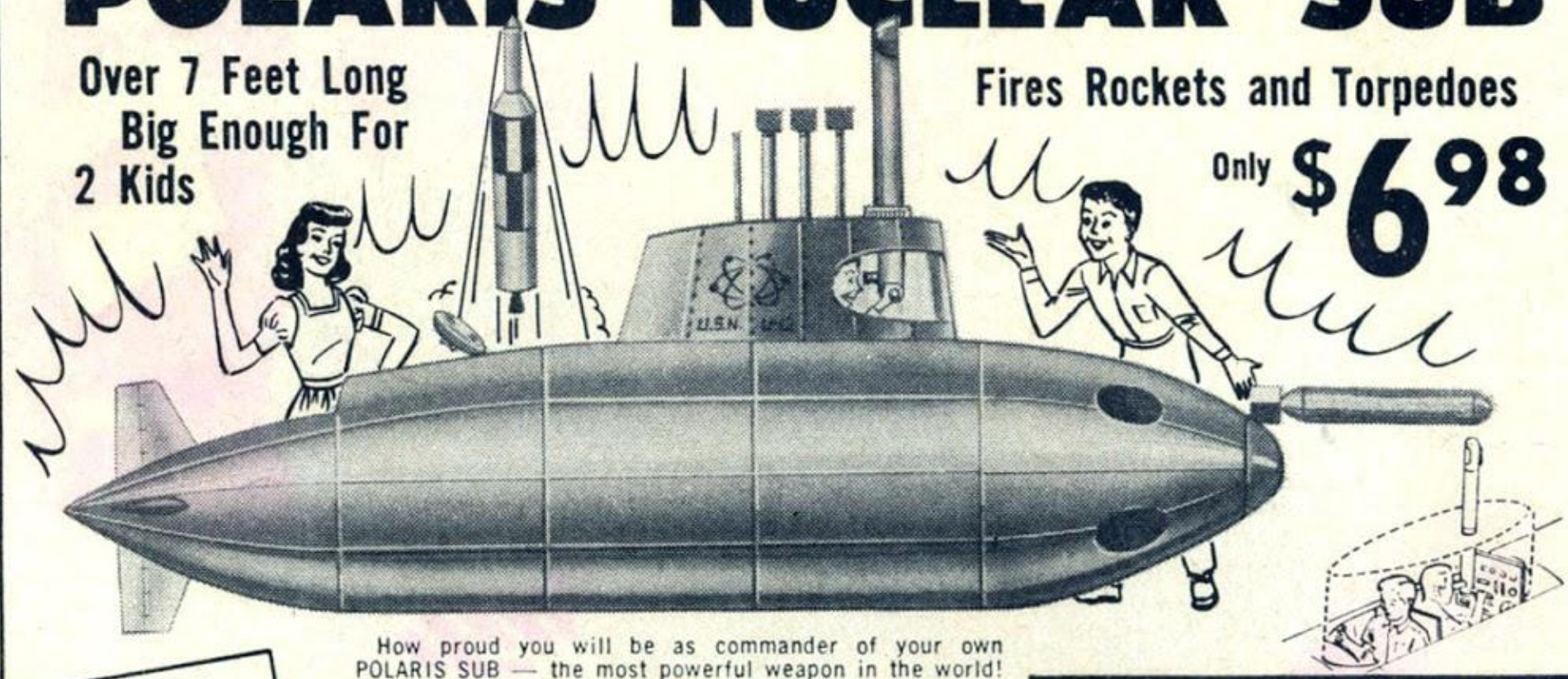

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AMID THE HUM AND CRACKLE OF A SUBTERRANEAN ATOMIC POWER REACTOR--A MAN SCREAMS SAVAGELY...

BATMAN?!

IT'S TAKEN ME A LONG TIME--BUT I'VE FINALLY CAUGHT UP TO YOU! YOUR RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPE ROBBERIES ARE OVER!

YOU'RE NOT STOPPING ME NOW--WHEN I'M ON THE VERGE OF BECOMING THE GREATEST CRIMINAL IN THE WORLD--

IN *PRISON*, IS MORE LIKE IT!

HYSTERICAL WITH FURY, IRA RADON LIFTS AND SWINGS A METAL CLAW AND ARM...

IF IT MEANS KILLING YOU--TO PROTECT ALL THE YEARS I'VE INVESTED STUDYING THE ART OF RADIOACTIVE CRIMINALITY--SO BE IT!

SWWIISH!

YOU'VE GOT TO DO BETTER THAN THAT! OR DO YOU THINK YOU CAN WRIGGLE OUT OF MY *KATA GURUMA JUDO HOLD*?

A BUNCHING OF MASSIVE MUSCLES, A WHIRLING TOSS AND...

AAAGGHH!

I NEGLECTED TO LOCK THE DOOR AND I'M FALLING INTO THE REACTOR CHAMBER! WH-WHAT'LL BECOME OF M-ME...?

AS THE *CAPED CRUSADER* LEAPS FOR THE GENERATOR SWITCH, A FRENZIED VOICE SCREECHES FROM THE GLOWING RADIATION CHAMBER...

I'LL PAY YOU BACK FOR THIS, *BATMAN!* AS YOU HAVE DONE TO ME--SO WILL I DO TO YOU! AN EYE FOR AN EYE, A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH!

I NEVER MEANT TO FLING HIM THROUGH THAT DOOR, BUT HE WOULD NEVER BELIEVE THAT!

IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOW, THE SWATHED FORM OF WHAT WAS ONCE A MASTER CRIMINAL LIES QUIETLY...

I SHALL LIVE! YET--I SHALL NEVER BE MY OLD SELF! THE RADIATION DOSE CHANGED MY METABOLISM...SO THAT IF I SHOULD EVER STEAL AGAIN, THE RADIOACTIVITY IN MY BODY--WHICH I CAN NEVER LOSE--WILL PROVE *FATAL*!

BECAUSE OF MY EXPERT KNOWLEDGE OF RADIATION--I KNOW THAT THE VERY ACT OF *STEALING* WOULD CAUSE A REACTION IN MY GLANDULAR AND NERVOUS SYSTEMS--WHICH MY BODY COULD NOT TOLERATE!

I'LL PAY *BATMAN* BACK--IN HIS OWN COIN! WHAT HE'S DONE TO ME, I'LL DO TO HIM! BECAUSE I MUST RETIRE AS A *THIEF*--I'LL FORCE HIM TO RETIRE AS A *CRIME-FIGHTER*! KILLING IS TOO GOOD FOR HIM! BUT FIRST I MUST ESCAPE--

AND SO... SOME MONTHS LATER IN THE HALL OUTSIDE POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON'S PRIVATE OFFICE...

COMMISSIONER, WHAT'S WITH THIS SPECIAL NEWS CONFERENCE *BATMAN* HAS CALLED IN YOUR OFFICE?

I KNOW NO MORE ABOUT IT THAN YOU DO!

COME IN, GENTLEMEN. I HAVE PREPARED THE MOST IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT OF MY CAREER!

TELEVISION CAMERAS--RADIO MICROPHONES--PENS AND PENCILS--WAIT EXPECTANTLY AS...

AFTER I READ MY STATEMENT, COPIES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO YOU! READY--HERE GOES! "CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE ARISEN WHICH COMPEL ME--BY THEIR GRIM NATURE--TO *GIVE UP MY CAREER AS A CRIME-FIGHTER!*"

PANDEMONIUM EXPLODES AS THE CAPED CRUSADER CONCLUDES...

"TOMORROW AT HIGH NOON IN GOTHAM SQUARE I WILL HOLD AN AUCTION TO DIVEST MYSELF OF EVERYTHING CONNECTED WITH MY CAREER!"

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

WHAT ARE THOSE GRIM CIRCUMSTANCES COMPELLING YOU TO RETIRE?

DOES ROBIN KNOW ABOUT YOUR RETIREMENT? WILL HE CARRY ON WITHOUT YOU?

IS THIS A TRICK--?

IS YOUR LIFE IN DANGER?

I WILL ANSWER NO QUESTIONS! MY STATEMENT STANDS AS READ!

BALKED BY BATMAN, THE REPORTERS TURN ON COMMISSIONER GORDON...

ARE YOU A PARTY TO THIS, COMMISSIONER?

WHAT'S YOUR REACTION TO THIS BOMBSHELL?

I'M STUNNED--OVERWHELMED!

A FEW HOURS LATER, ON HIS WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL, DICK (ROBIN) GRAYSON GETS HIS FIRST HINT OF THE TERRIBLE TRUTH...

WHY WOULD BATMAN DO SUCH A THING?

IT'S HIS SECRET--AND HE WON'T TELL!

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT BATMAN?

A BLOCK FURTHER, HIS EYES FALL ON THE HEADLINES OF AN EXTRA...

HUH? BATMAN--QUITTING? I--I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

—EXTRA—BATMAN CALLS IT QUITS! GOTHAM CITY STUNNED!

NEVER HAS HE RUN SO FAST AS NOW...

HE'D HAVE TOLD ME IF HE MEANT IT! SURE! IT'S A TRICK OF--A CLEVER PLAY TO CATCH A CROOK! IT'S GOT TO BE!

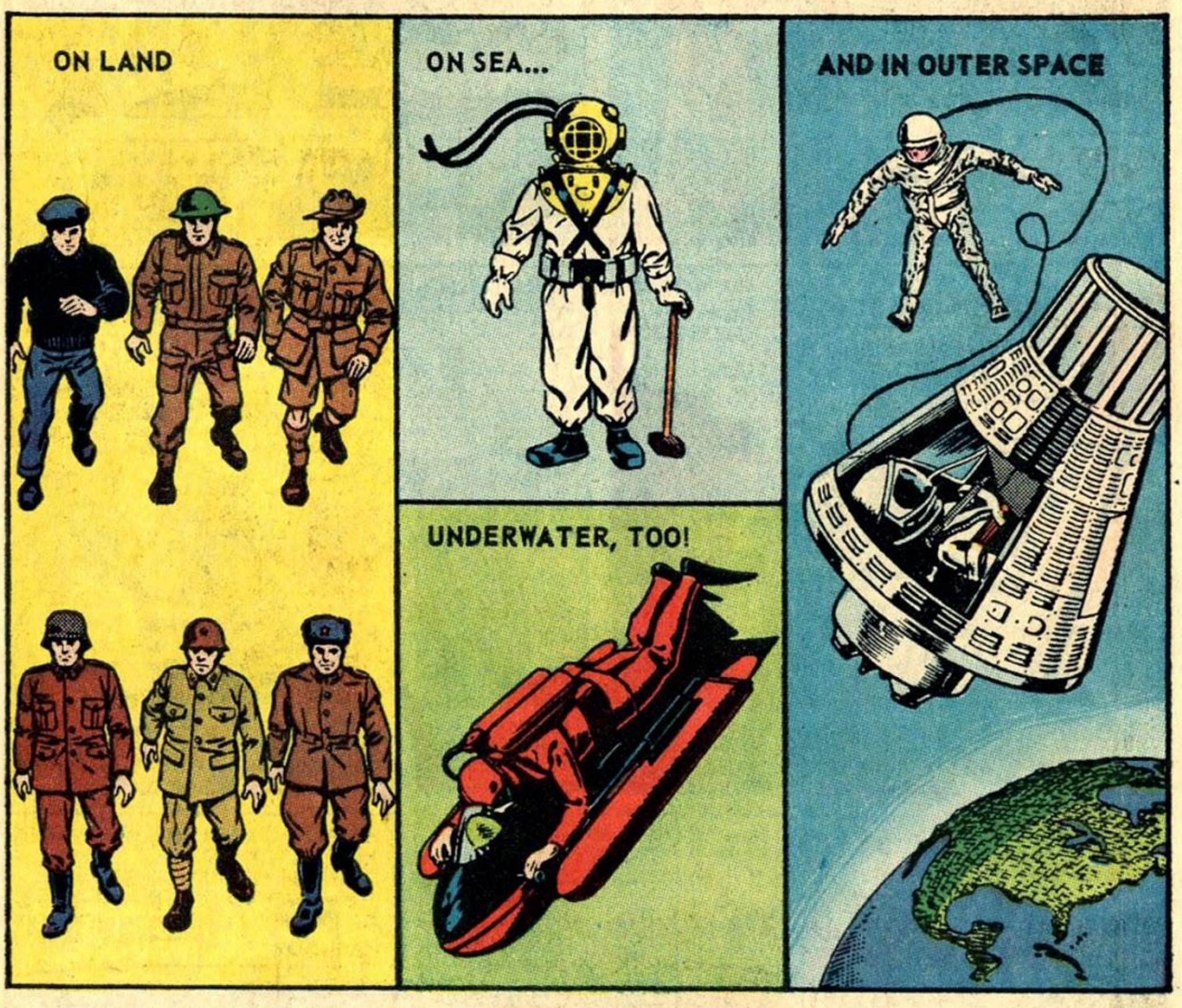
BURSTING INTO THE BOOK-LINED LIBRARY, DICK SLAMS THE DOOR SHUT AND...

BRUCE--I'M HURT! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT THIS PHONEY RETIREMENT?

MY STATEMENT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF! NOW--DICK--YOU BETTER GO TO YOUR ROOM AND STUDY!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

ACTION · FUN & PLAY FROM G.I. JOE



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STABBED TO THE QUICK BY THOSE ICY WORDS, DICK STUMBLES BLINDLY FOR THE DOOR, BUT RISKS A GLANCE BACK AT ALFRED...

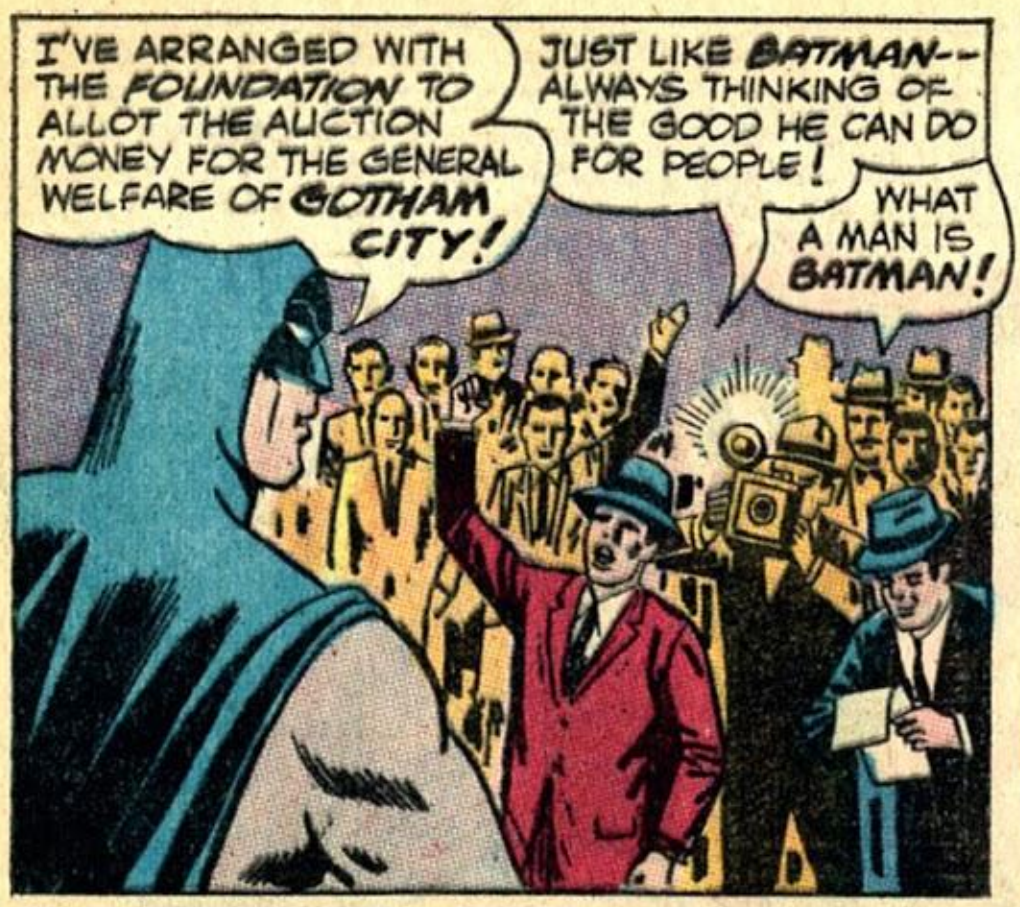
THE FOLLOWING NOON, IN GOTHAM SQUARE..
IT'S LIKE THE END OF MY WORLD! HE--HE'S EVEN P-PUTTING MY UNIFORM UP FOR SALE!
I SHALL NOW BEGIN THE AUCTION! WHAT AM I BID FOR--THE BATROPE?
AUCTION

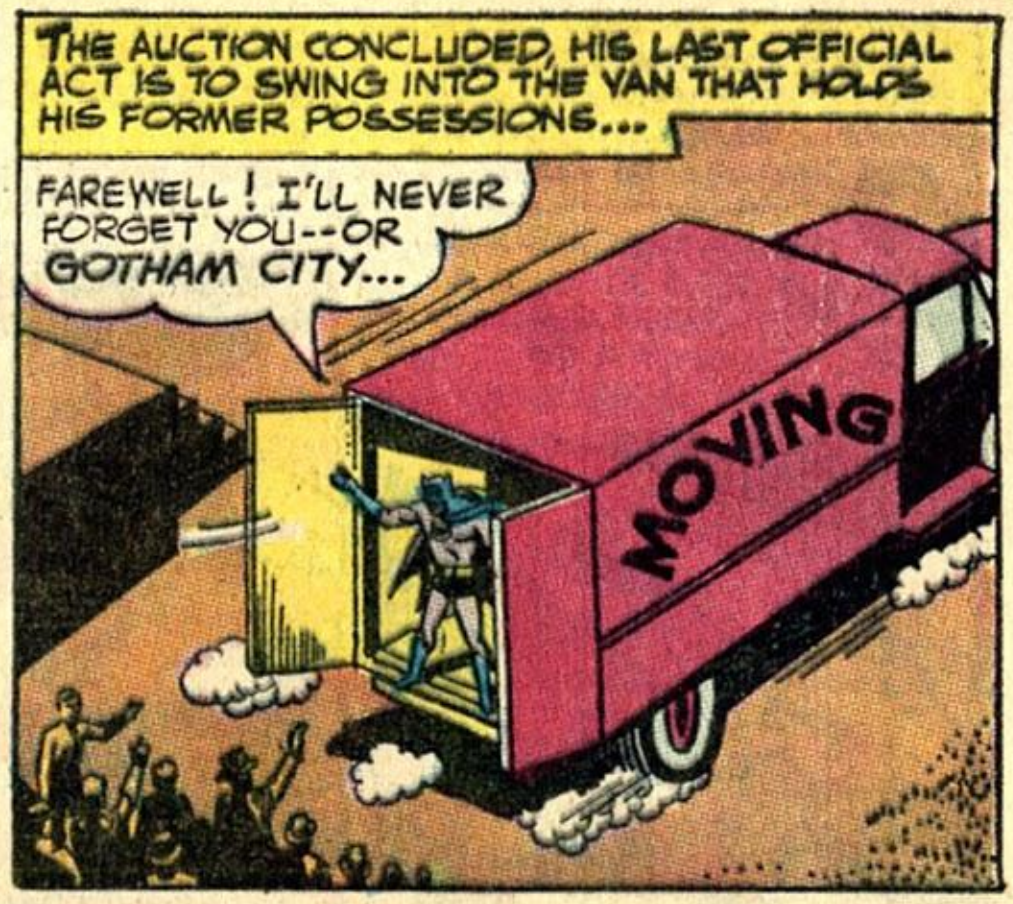
ONE BY ONE THE BAT-OBJECTS ARE KNOCKED DOWN TO THE HIGHEST BIDDERS...
SOLD--TO THAT GENTLEMAN IN THE REAR FOR $10,000--MY TRUSTED BATARANG!

EVEN THE POLICE COMMISSIONER JOINS IN THE SPIRITED BIDDING, HIS DAUGHTER BARBARA AT HIS SIDE...
I'D SURE LIKE TO HAVE THE HOT-LINE PHONE--AS A SOUVENIR OF MY MANY PLEASANT ASSOCIATIONS WITH BATMAN! I BID ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS!
WHAT WILL THIS MEAN TO ME--AS BATGIRL?

SOLD--THE HOT-LINE PHONE FOR $5000 TO THE MAN IN THE CHECKERED JACKET!
$5,000 IS TOO RICH FOR MY BLOOD! I'M ONLY THE POLICE COMMISSIONER!
AUCTION

THE FINAL MOMENT HAS COME! ONLY THE WORLD-FAMOUS GARMENT--THAT HAS STRUCK FEAR INTO THE HEARTS OF WRONGDOERS--REMAINS UNSOLD...
NOW, WHAT AM I BID FOR MY UNIFORM & IT--AS WELL AS THE OTHER ITEMS--CAN BE REDEEMED TOMORROW AT THE WAYNE FOUNDATION--BY THE AUCTION WINNERS!
AUCTION





STARING INTO TELEVISION SCREENS WITH MINGLED EMOTIONS IN THEIR HEARTS ARE A COUPLE OF BATMAN'S LONG-TIME FOES...

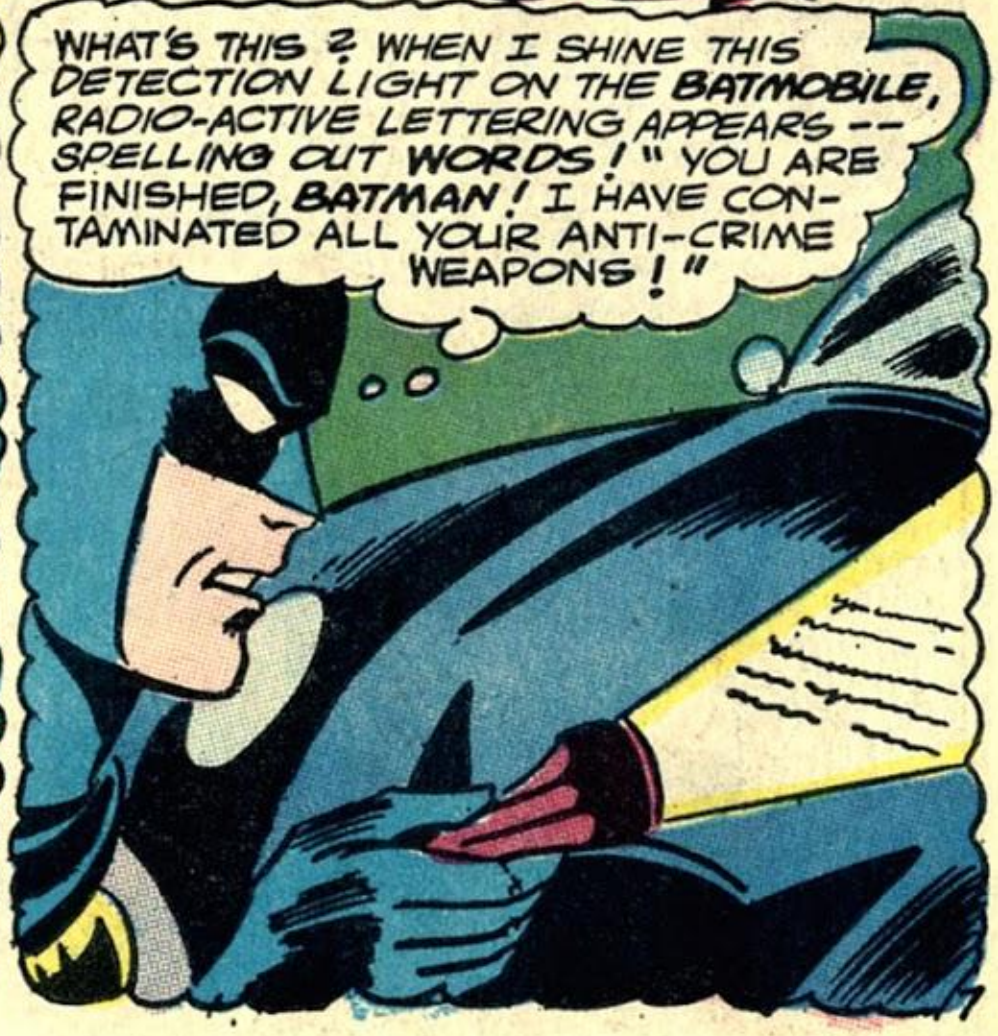
"I WAS FOLLOWING TWO JEWEL THIEVES--AND HAD JUST HURLED MY LAST BATARANG WHEN..."
IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN! ALL OF A SUDDEN A LIGHT-BEAM FLASHED ON--FORMING A SPOTLIGHT FOR MY BATARANG!

JUST AS SUDDENLY AS IT APPEARED--THE LIGHT WENT OUT! OH, WELL--AT LEAST IT DIDN'T INTERFERE WITH MY NABBING THESE CROOKS!

"LATER THAT NIGHT, IN THE BATCAVE, WHEN I WAS EXAMINING MY BAT-WEAPONS AS I USUALLY DO..."
eh? MY RADIATION-DETECTOR IS SHOWING THAT MY BATARANG IS--RADIOACTIVE! BUT HOW? DID THAT ODD LIGHT CAUSE... WAIT!!

"I REMEMBERED OTHER NIGHTS WHEN I'D BEEN OUT COMBATTING CRIME WITH MY ARSENAL OF BAT-WEAPONS. FROM TIME TO TIME, THERE WAS A FLASH OF LIGHT..."
POW!
ZOCKO!

"TO MY SHOCKED DISMAY I LEARNED THAT.."
ONLY MY BAT-OBJECTS ARE CONTAMINATED... ROBIN'S ARE "CLEAN"! I BETTER CHECK OUT THE BATMOBILE, TOO...


WHAT'S THIS? WHEN I SHINE THIS DETECTION LIGHT ON THE BATMOBILE, RADIO-ACTIVE LETTERING APPEARS--SPELLING OUT WORDS! "YOU ARE FINISHED, BATMAN! I HAVE CONTAMINATED ALL YOUR ANTI-CRIME WEAPONS!"

"BY THIS TIME YOUR BODY HAS ABSORBED JUST ENOUGH RADIOACTIVITY TO PLACE YOU IN MY POWER! BUT I DON'T WANT YOU TO DIE! I WANT YOU TO LIVE--UNABLE TO FUNCTION AS A CRIME-FIGHTER! YOU MUST SUFFER AS YOU HAVE MADE ME SUFFER!"

"AUCTION OFF YOUR BAT-POSSESSIONS IN FULL PUBLIC VIEW! ABANDON YOUR BATMAN ROLE! DO NOT TRY TO TRICK ME, OR TO FIGHT CRIME IN SOME OTHER DISGUISE! FOR JUST AS CRIMINALS HAVE A MODUS OPERANDI--SO TOO, DOES A CRIME-CRUSADER LIKE YOURSELF!"

"I WOULD RECOGNIZE YOUR METHODS ANYWHERE! SOONER OR LATER YOU WOULD BE BOUND TO BETRAY YOURSELF, NO MATTER HOW CLEVER YOU THINK YOU ARE! THE MOMENT I LEARN YOU HAVE DECEIVED ME--I SHALL INTENSIFY THE RADIATION IN YOUR BODY--AND KILL YOU!"

"I DID NOT INFECT YOUR BODY DIRECTLY WITH MY RADIOACTIVITY, FOR IT WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU--AND KILLING YOU IS TOO EASY A WAY OUT! EXPOSURE TO YOUR INFECTED BAT-WEAPONS FILLED YOUR BODY WITH JUST THE PROPER AMOUNT OF RADIATION FOR MY PURPOSE!"

"SO THE CHOICE IS YOURS! EITHER RENOUNCE YOUR CAREER AS BATMAN--OR CONTINUE ON AND BE DESTROYED WHENEVER I CHOOSE TO INTENSIFY YOUR BODY RADIATION!"

"SO ENDED THE MESSAGE--LEAVING ME LIKE A LIVING DEAD MAN..."

ONLY ONE MAN COULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS--THE RADIOACTIVE CRIMINAL, IRA RADON! BUT BATMAN DOESN'T DARE SEEK HIM OUT--WITHOUT RISKING INSTANT DEATH! THEREFORE--BATMAN MUST BOW OUT OF THE PICTURE...

INSIDE THE VAN, WHILE RECALLING THESE BITTER EVENTS, BATMAN HAS BEEN APPLYING MAKE-UP TO HIS FEATURES...

WHEN I JUMP OUT OF THIS VAN ON A LONELY STREET CORNER, I DON'T WANT ANY CHANCE PASSERBY RECOGNIZING BRUCE WAYNE!

NEXT DAY, AT THE WAYNE FOUNDATION...

HERE'S THE $10,000 I BID FOR THE BATARANG!

YES, SIR! I'LL HAVE THE BATARANG BROUGHT OUT TO YOU...

I "SOLD" THAT BATARANG TO "MYSELF" BY POINTING TO AN IMAGINARY PERSON IN THE CROWD!

IN THE HOUSE THAT HAS BEEN HIS HIDE-OUT SINCE HIS ESCAPE FROM THE PRISON HOSPITAL, IRA RADON PONDERS THOUGHTFULLY...

I WONDER WHO BOUGHT THOSE BAT-WEAPONS--AT SUCH HIGH PRICES? I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT THE NAMES OF THE BUYERS! IT'S LIKE A STRANGE COMPULSION--

GOTHAM NEWS

BATMAN QUITS

AUCTIONS OFF HIS FAMOUS BAT-WEAPONS!

SOON HIS INVESTIGATION LEADS TO THE SURPRISING DISCOVERY THAT...

INCREDIBLE! ALL BUT ONE OF THE BAT-OBJECTS WERE BOUGHT BY AGENTS FOR THE WAYNE FOUNDATION! IT WANTS TO DISPLAY THE OBJECTS IN ITS MUSEUM! THAT'S UNDERSTANDABLE--

AS NIGHT SHROUDS GOTHAM CITY...

BUT WHO IS THIS LONE INDIVIDUAL WHO PUT OUT $10,000 FOR THE BATARANG? HIS NAME IS ANDREW KUNKEL! WHY DID HE BUY IT? I MUST LEARN THE ANSWER! MY CURIOSITY IS OVERWHELMING!

THE BATARANG BUYER LIVES IN THAT HOUSE! I'LL CONFRONT HIM--DEMAND TO KNOW WHY HE BOUGHT IT--WHAT HE INTENDS TO DO WITH IT!

THOUGH I CAN STEAL NO LONGER--I'M SATISFIED ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT I'VE LEFT GOTHAM CITY WIDE OPEN FOR OTHER CRIMINALS!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

CRUNCH!

SUPERBOY DUELS DEV-EM, The KNAVE from KRYPTON!

YIP!

KRYPTO TANGLES WITH HIS ARCH-ENEMY, DESTRUCTO!

BLAM!

The GENERAL'S CRIMINAL ARMY TURNS ITS SECRET WEAPONS on SUPERBOY!

SUPERMAN • DC • NATIONAL COMICS

ALL IN THIS GREAT BATTLE ISSUE of 80 pg. GIANT SUPERBOY

ON SALE MARCH 14th

STILL ALIVE? SOMEHOW--THAT CLAY IS PROTECTING YOU! BUT ONCE I SHATTER IT WITH THIS BATARANG--ANOTHER DOSE OF RADIATION WILL FINISH YOU!

AWKWARDLY ADVANCING, THE CLAY FIGURE GRIPS IRA RADON...

THAT JUDO GRIP--THE SAME ONE USED ON ME BY--! NOW I KNOW WHO YOU ARE! I TOLD YOU YOUR MODUS OPERANDI WOULD BETRAY YOU--BATMAN!!

NOW THAT I'VE RECOGNIZED YOU--YOU'RE A DEAD MAN, BATMAN!

SWOOSH!

YOU GIVE ME NO CHOICE NOW BUT TO KILL YOU--BY INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF RADIATION IN YOUR BODY WITH MY INTENSIFIER!

OHHH--I WASTED TOO MUCH TIME TALKING! HE SMASHED THE INTENSIFIER--!

KRAAK!

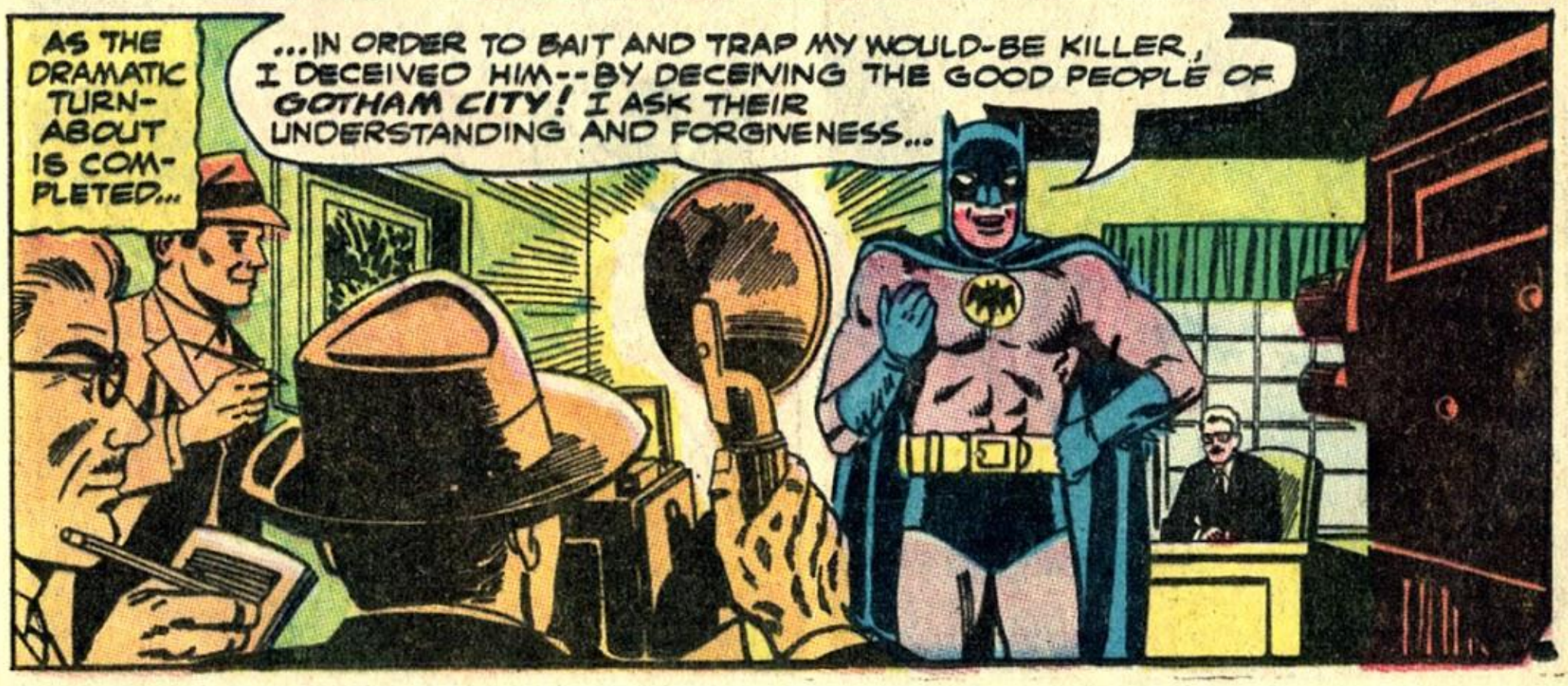
BUT I CAN STILL STOP YOU! ALL I HAVE TO DO IS CRACK THAT CLAY ARMOR YOU HAVE ON--AND SHINE MY RADIATION-BEAMER ON YOU--!

THIS IS YOUR FINAL FADEOUT, BATMAN!

DIE!
AWKWARD TO MOVE INSIDE THIS CLAY ARMOR, BUT I GOT TO GET MY BLOW IN FIRST...

THEN-- BEFORE EITHER BLOW CAN BE COMPLETED...
EEYAH...
HE--DOOMED HIM-SELF! AS HE MOVED TOWARD ME, HE INTERCEPTED THE BEAM FROM HIS RADIATION DEVICE THAT FELL ON THE TABLE! HIS BODY ABSORBED ENOUGH RADIOACTIVITY TO--KILL HIM!

REMOVING HIS CLAY ARMOR, THE DISGUISED BATMAN PHONES POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON...
COMMISSIONER, I HAVE NO TIME TO EXPLAIN NOW--BUT PLEASE CALL ANOTHER PRESS CONFERENCE FOR ME AT THE WAYNE FOUNDATION! BATMAN IS GOING TO ANNOUNCE HIS COME-BACK!
I'LL PICK UP MY AUCTIONED UNIFORM AT THE FOUNDATION!


AS THE DRAMATIC TURN-ABOUT IS COMPLETED...
...IN ORDER TO BAIT AND TRAP MY WOULD-BE KILLER, I DECEIVED HIM--BY DECEIVING THE GOOD PEOPLE OF GOTHAM CITY! I ASK THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND FORGIVENESS...

LATER, IN THE BAT-CAVE-- A HAPPY REUNION WITH ROBIN AND ALFRED...

MUCH AS I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO CONFIDE IN BOTH OF YOU, I KNEW VERY WELL THAT IF I HAD BEEN KILLED, YOU'D GO AFTER MY MURDERER! I COULDN'T RISK YOUR SUFFERING THE SAME FATE I "DID"...

I CONCEALED MYSELF IN CLAY BECAUSE CLAY--WHEN HEATED TO 2372 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT--"LOCKS IN" RADIO-ACTIVITY, WHICH IS HOW "HOT" WASTE PRODUCTS ARE DISPOSED OF. THE CLAY ACTED AS A SHIELD AGAINST RADON'S LETHAL BLAST...

I ADAPTED ELECTRONIC INSTRUMENTS DEVELOPED BY THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR BLIND PEOPLE--TO ENABLE ME TO "SEE" WITHOUT EYES...

YES, I READ ABOUT THAT IN LIFE MAGAZINE! IT'S CALLED "EARSIGHT" AND WORKS BY THE USE OF HIGH-FREQUENCY SOUND!

OF COURSE, I REMOVED THE HARMFUL RADIOACTIVITY FROM THESE BAT-OBJECTS BEFORE PUTTING THEM UP FOR AUCTION. EVENTUALLY, I'LL HAVE THE RADIATION REMOVED FROM MY BODY TOO. AND NOW, ROBIN...

HOW ABOUT GOING OUT ON OUR NIGHTLY PATROL IN THE BATMOBILE?

THOSE WORDS ARE SWEET MUSIC TO MY EARS! I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HEAR THEM AGAIN!

GOOD HUNTING, BATMAN AND ROBIN!

THE END

LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE

Dear Editor:

To paraphrase *Robin,* "How camp can you get?" I knew and appreciated the difference between the campy caricatures of *B&R* on the TV screen and the "real" *B&R* of your usually fine magazine . . . until you threw us "The Eraser who Tried to Rub Out Batman!" The story was aptly named. Any more stories like that, and it may rub out *Batman!* I don't mean to say the story was all bad. That side-play about Bruce's and *Batman*'s popularity with females is okay . . . if it isn't all campily run into the ground. The rare insight into Bruce's campus days was fine, too. In fact, the side-plot flashbacks were better than the main story. Let me itemize some of my complaints:

(A) The *"Eraser"* himself. So he had a special compound that removes clues? Neat idea! But does he have to put it in the head of a monstrously bulky headmask, topping a suit that makes him look like a pencil . . . and with clownish pointed toes yet? He actually remembers that humiliating day of the Winter Carnival, and holds it against Bruce in his mad scheme. Yet no one, not even in the narrative blurbs, said that Fiasco was insane. In fact, he is shown as reasonably sane in the story's last panel. But his actions in the tale said to me that he's nuttier than the *Joker* and *Riddler* together. Or is he just a "poor, misguided man" as Adam West is fond of intoning?

(B) I could almost wish you hadn't brought Alfred back if you're going to subject him to such silliness as wearing asbestos gloves to pick up the *Hot-Line* phone . . . !

(C) Panel 3, page 5: *B&R* ascending the side of the building *a la* TV method. When I recall how strenuous it looked in "the old days" . . . !

(D) Full-page fight scene, and oversized POWS and ZAMS. I realize that those who know the *Dynamic Duo* only from television expect this overactive adrenalin, but to me it represents capitulation to the super-hero (which *Batman* is not) image.

(E) The ending sequence on page 14 is delivered with all the solemn-faced, embarrassing mock-seriousness (as contrasted with the usual outright joking or wise-cracking) we find in TV's Commissioner Gordon.

Fortunately issue 188 also contained "The Ten Best-Dressed Corpses in Gotham City!" To show I believe in equality, I'll itemize the good points in this story:

(A) The mystery involved. The "whodunit" idea that fits *Batman* as it does no other costumed hero. The false lead half-way through was a good touch.

(B) Sid Greene's inking is going *uphill* and is closer and closer approaching the great *Batman* style of Bob Kane in his early days.

(C) The suspense was good and well-held and yet the story was speedily enough paced without being nothing but action.

(D) The denoument explanation is always essential to the detective story. It was well done here and a lot better ending than the cloying one of the first story.

(E) For once the criminal was a murderer and the tale a murder mystery, and his identity was not known until the end of the story, and yet he was always in it.

I was drawn to *Batman* because of the atmosphere and mystery. I enjoy stories featuring some costumed heroes, and action should always be there, and humor and fun are not amiss either, but I wish you'd let *Batman* be more the detective than like *Superman, Flash,* and others.

—*Stephen Harell, Kansas City, Mo.*

(At least you were fair enough to have the five bad barbs of the first *Batman* story in issue 188 blunted by the five good points of the second yarn. That's what we call giving "equal time"!—*Editor*)

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

I am one of your newer readers, so I have been around for only a year, but of all the *Batman* stories I've read I've never seen one as fantastic as "The Eraser who Tried to Rub Out Batman!" I must admit I didn't expect it to be much, but it left me flabbergasted! The plot was original and the villain was marvelous. It was a stroke of genius to have a villain who was seeking revenge on *Bruce Wayne,* and unfortunately (for himself) picked the *Caped Crusader!*

I hope I haven't elated you too much for a small letdown. There were a few points I didn't like about the story. Why must you underrate poor *Robin* or Dick Grayson as far as girls are concerned? Bruce Wayne or *Batman* is handsome all right but I think *Robin* is absolutely irresistible! I want to see more of *Robin*'s love life. Also was it really necessary to have those crooks saying Bruce Wayne didn't have any guts? Everyone has pride you know.

As for the cover, I don't think it fit in too well with what happened in the story. You show the *Eraser* rubbing out half of *Batman*'s and *Robin*'s bodies—when actually in the story the *Eraser* merely rubbed out crime-clues, not people.

—*Sheila Horne, Baltimore, Md.*

(The "rubbing out" portrayal of *Batman* and *Robin* on the cover was meant to by "symbolic" of the story's theme. But it *themes* you didn't dig it! —*Editor*)

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

I've finally done it! I found not one but *two* mistakes in *Batman* 188. In the *Eraser* story you have Alfred saying, "The *Hot-Line* has been blazing since you were out, sir! I had to put on asbestos gloves to pick it up!" Then, in the very next panel, you have Bruce Wayne pick up the phone with his *bare hands!*

On page 4 of the same story *Robin* is thinking, "It doesn't matter whether it's Bruce Wayne or *Batman*—I'm always left out in the cold!" Yet in the follow-up panel you have a girl say she was a *mind reader!* In that case, *Robin* would have unwittingly revealed to her *Batman*'s secret identity!

—*Lorelei Reinhardt, Hialeah, Fla.*

(The bit of business about Alfred wearing asbestos gloves to pick up the *Hot-Line* was a gag—camp-style. As for the girl claiming to be a "mind reader"—she meant it in the sense that she could *imagine Robin*'s thoughts about *Batman* being idolized by those gorgeous gals—and soothed his feelings with a *kiss!—Editor*)

* * * * *

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

BATMAN
With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
IT WAS A GOURMET-MEAL PREPARED FOR AN EXCLUSIVE CLUB--BUT ALFRED KNEW IT WOULD BE THE LAST SUPPER HE'D EVER SERVE--UNLESS BATMAN AND ROBIN CRASHED THE PARTY!
ALFRED'S MYSTERY MENU!
BATMAN AND ROBIN DON'T REALIZE IT--BUT BY PREVENTING THIS FOOD-STORE ROBBERY THEY ARE SIGNING THE DEATH WARRANT OF THEIR BUTLER, ALFRED!
ZOK!
POW!
BOB KANE

THROUGH THE RAIN-SPLATTERED STREETS OF GOTHAM CITY SLOSHES THE BATMOBILE ON ITS NIGHTLY PATROL...

WE'RE BATTING ZERO TONIGHT, BATMAN! NO SIGN OF CRIMINALS--OR ALFRED!

EASY, ROBIN! WE'RE BOTH WORRIED ABOUT ALFRED... AND HIS MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE--BUT THINGS'LL WORK OUT!

VAROOM!

LIKE AN EERIE EYE THAT SCANS THE BUILDINGS PAST WHICH THE CAR GLIDES WITH PURRING POWER, THE BAT-RADAR SCREEN SLOWLY REVOLVES...

IT JUST ISN'T LIKE ALFRED TO GO OFF AND NOT LEAVE OR SEND US A MESSAGE! THERE ISN'T EVEN A HINT FROM OUR UNDERWORLD GRAPEVINE CONNECTIONS ABOUT--HOLD IT! LISTEN!

CLICK! CLICK!

THE BAT-RADAR'S REVEALED SOMEONE MOVING ABOUT IN THAT FANCY FOODS STORE!

FOOD SPECIALITIES SHOPPE

HOLY APPETIZERS! DON'T TELL ME SOME CROOKS HAVE DEVELOPED AN EXPENSIVE TASTE FOR FOOD DELICACIES!

ODD THAT THEY SHOULD STEAL FOOD AND NOT CASH--EVEN SUCH EXOTIC FOOD AS THIS PLACE STOCKS!

3 for 89¢

ROB--

KWUNNG!

--IN'S THE NAME--HERE TO SATISFY THOSE HUNGERPAINS OF YOURS!

HERE COMES THE MAIN COURSE-- KNUCKLES ON A SKINNED JAW!
ZOK!

IN THE NEXT AISLE OVER...
MAY I SERVE YOU, SIR?
YEOWP!

GUN BATMAN DOWN--ULP!
PLEASE! NO SHOOTING WHILE I'M WAITING ON CUSTOMERS!
ZWAAAP!
CLONK!

YOU GUYS'LL CHECK OUT OF HERE--EMPTY-HANDED!
ZOK! ZOK!

THAT WAS OVER FAST, BATMAN! I WAS JUST STARTING TO WORK UP AN APPETITE!
WE'LL TURN THESE FOOD-THIEVES OVER TO A POLICE PROWL CAR--THEN CONTINUE OUR PATROL!

LATER, DAWN TINTS THE SKY AN ANGRY RED AS THE **BATMOBILE** STREAKS HOMEWARD...

I JUST CAN'T GET ALFRED OUT OF MY MIND, **BATMAN!** WHERE IS HE -- WHAT'S HE DOING--

HE'D GET IN TOUCH WITH US— IF HE COULD! I'M BEGINNING TO FEAR THE WORST--

...THE EYES OF ALFRED THE BUTLER ARE STARING AT THAT SAME DAWN SKY, MILES AWAY FROM THE MANSION WHERE HE SERVES AS BUTLER TO MILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE...

IT SEEMS LIKE FOREVER AND NOT JUST 20 HOURS SINCE THOSE HOODS GRABBED ME OFF THE SIDEWALK AND INTO THEIR BIG BLACK LIMOUSINE! I DIDN'T REALIZE WHAT WAS TAKING PLACE...

"UNTIL I FOUND MYSELF A PRISONER IN THIS HOUSE, FACE TO FACE WITH THEIR CHIEFTAIN..."

YA KNOW, ALFRED--I BEEN ELECTED INTO THE **MILLIONAIRE MOBSTER CLUB!** YEAH-- ME, DUKE KELSEY! I'VE FINALLY STOLEN A MILLION IRON MEN SO I'VE GOTTA GIVE AN INITIATION SPREAD, SEE?

BUT I DON'T DO THINGS HALF-HEARTED, SEE? IF I'M A MILLIONAIRE MOBSTER I GOTTA SERVE A MILLIONAIRE'S MEAL, GET IT? SO I HAD THE BOYS BRING YA HERE! YOU WORK FOR A **REAL** MILLIONAIRE, RIGHT?

SO START COOKIN' UP A MILLIONAIRE'S FEAST FOR ME AND MY CLUB MEMBERS!

INDEED I SHALL, SIR!

COOKING UP A SPECIAL MEAL FOR THIS CRIMINAL IS MY ONLY HOPE OF SAVING MYSELF FROM THE FATE THAT WILL SURELY BE MINE ONCE THAT DINNER IS SERVED!

NO CLUES WERE LEFT BY THE MEN WHO GRABBED ME BY WHICH **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** COULD POSSIBLY TRAIL ME HERE--SO IT'S UP TO **ME** TO SUPPLY THEM WITH CLUES! I'LL PREPARE A "MESSAGE MENU"--AND TRUST TO THEIR QUICK WITS TO FATHOM IT!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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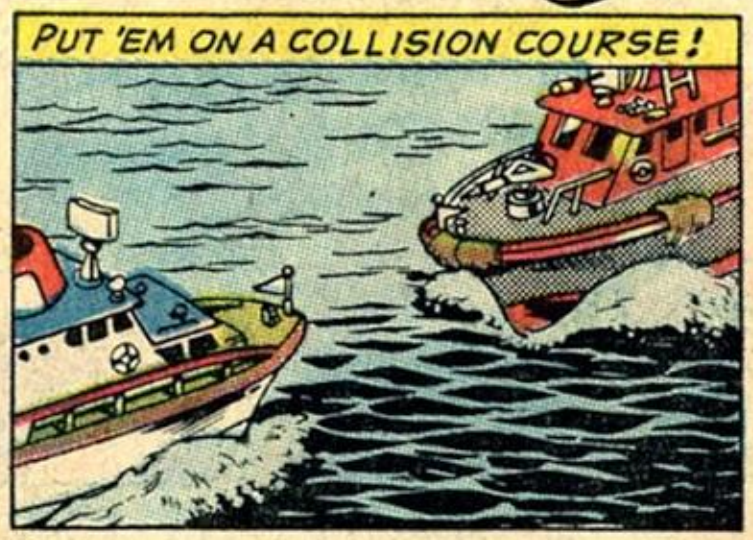

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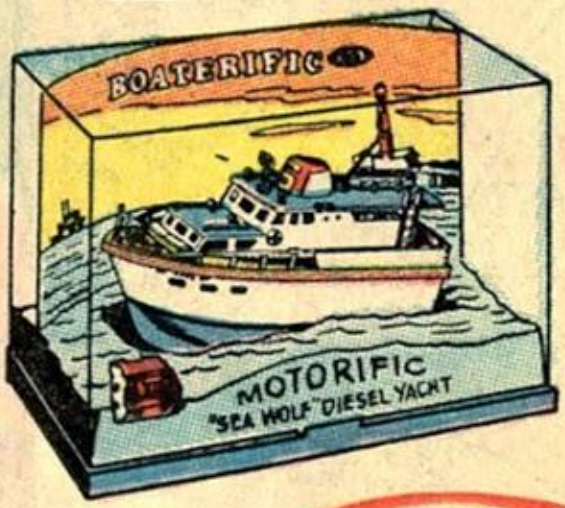

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"SO I PREPARED A CULINARY DELIGHT THAT WAS BOUND TO PLEASE DUKE KELSEY..."

THERE YOU ARE, SIR! LISTS OF INGREDIENTS I'LL NEED FOR THE DINNER!

I LIKE IT--I LIKE IT! BUT IT AIN'T MY NATURE TO **BUY** THESE THINGS! I'LL SEND MY BOYS OUT TO **STEAL** THEM!

PRECISELY AS I COUNTED ON HIM DOING!

GREAT WORK, ALFRED! YOU'LL BE WELL TAKEN CARE OF WHEN THIS IS OVER!

"TAKE CARE OF ME"--UNDERWORLD JARGON FOR **KILLING ME**! HOW WELL I KNOW THAT ONCE I'VE SEEN THE FACES OF THE MILLIONAIRE CRIMINALS I WON'T BE ALLOWED TO LIVE TO IDENTIFY THEM IN A COURT OF LAW!

THEN...

HERE IT IS, DUKE--EVERYTHING YA WANTED EXCEPT FER THAT APPETIZER STUFF!

YEAH--**BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** INTERRUPTED MONK AND HIS GORILLAS WHILE THEY WAS ROBBIN' THE SPECIALTY STORE!

THIS IS A SHOCK! WHAT MONK WAS TO STEAL FOR THE APPETIZER COURSE WAS AN INTEGRAL PART OF MY **CLUE**! WITHOUT IT, **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** WON'T BE ABLE TO FIND AND SAVE ME!

LATER THAT SAME DAY, AS DICK GRAYSON RETURNS FROM SCHOOL...

WHAT KEEPS YOU GLUED TO THE NEWSPAPER, BRUCE?

IT'S VERY ODD, DICK--BUT A NUMBER OF OTHER FOOD STORES WERE ROBBED LAST NIGHT, IN ADDITION TO THE FOOD-ROBBERY WE STOPPED!

SURE IS FUNNY HOW THE UNDERWORLD IS SO HUNGRY ALL OF A SUDDEN!

I'M A BIT HUNGRY MYSELF, AFTER READING THE VARIOUS ITEMS THAT WERE STOLEN! AND--AS I READ THEM I KEPT THINKING OF ALFRED!

THEN--THAT MEANS YOU STILL HAVEN'T HAD ANY WORD FROM ALFRED?
I'M--NOT--SURE! THAT LIST OF FANCY FOODSTUFFS THAT WERE STOLEN...YOU KNOW HOW ALFRED ALWAYS MANAGES TO SEND US SOME SORT OF MESSAGE ABOUT HIS WHEREABOUTS...

HOLY CRYPTO-GRAM! YOU MEAN...?
IT'S POSSIBLE THIS IS HIS WAY OF TELLING US WHERE HE IS--A CAPTIVE, PERHAPS? A COMMUNICATION NOT TO BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON--BUT TO BATMAN AND ROBIN!

ALFRED ALWAYS NEEDS LOTS OF FANCY FOOD TO WHIP UP HIS CULINARY CONCOCTIONS! YOU MAY BE RIGHT!
COME ALONG, THEN! WE'VE GOT A SAFE-CRACKING JOB TO DO!

IN THE HUGE KITCHEN PANTRY...
THIS IS ALFRED'S PRIVATE PROPERTY, WHERE HE KEEPS HIS RECIPES AND SPECIAL HERBS AND SPICES BEHIND LOCK AND KEY! I WANT TO CHECK HIS RECIPE FILES--AGAINST THE FOODSTUFFS THAT WERE STOLEN!

A GUILTY LOOK PASSES OVER THE MAN AND BOY AS THE DEFT FINGERS OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE TURN THE SAFE'S DIAL...
ALFRED'S ALWAYS FELT A MILLIONAIRE'S HOME IS A TARGET FOR THIEVES, WHICH IS WHY HE LOCKS UP HIS PRECIOUS POSSESSIONS IN HERE!
HE WOULDN'T MIND OUR BREAKING IN, BRUCE--ESPECIALLY SINCE WE'RE DOING IT TO HELP HIM!
CLICK
CLICK!

MOMENTS LATER AS THOSE PRIZED RECIPES ARE SPREAD OUT...
WE'LL GO OVER EVERY RECIPE THAT SEEMS TO APPLY! READ OUT THE INGREDIENTS THAT WERE STOLEN--WHILE I CHECK THEM AGAINST THESE RECIPES!
OKAY! LET'S SEE WHAT'S ON OUR MYSTERY MENU--

SOON... WE HAVE THEM! THOSE CROOKS STOLE FOOD-ITEMS NECESSARY TO MAKE TWO OF ALFRED'S MENU MASTERPIECES-- BEEF WELLINGTON AND FROZEN SOUFFLÉ WITH HOT STRAWBERRY SAUCE!

THE MAIN COURSE AND DESSERT! BUT ALFRED ALWAYS SERVES AN APPETIZER WITH HIS MEALS AND-- OHHH, NO! YOU DON'T SUPPOSE THAT..

SNAP!

I DO, DICK! IRONICALLY ENOUGH-- BATMAN AND ROBIN BROKE UP THE VERY ROBBERY THAT WAS TO HAVE FURNISHED THEM WITH CLUES BY MEANS OF THAT VERY APPETIZER!

AND WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT THE APPETIZER IS--WE CAN'T COMPLETE ALFRED'S SECRET MESSAGE! THAT IS--IF WE AREN'T JUST MAKING ALL THIS UP OUT OF THIN AIR!

WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK, ALL RIGHT! SEE HERE--INSTEAD OF THE STANDARD SHERRY WHICH COOKS USE IN PREPARING BEEF WELLINGTON-- WE HAVE MENTION OF THE VERY SPECIAL ONE ALFRED ALWAYS USES! IT'S AS IF HE SIGNED HIS NAME!

NOW WHERE DOES BEEF WELLINGTON LEAD TO, I WONDER!

BEEF WELLINGTON COULD BE A TIP-OFF TO WHERE ALFRED IS-- WELLINGTON PARK, A SUBURB NORTH OF GOTHAM CITY! WHILE THE STRAWBERRY SOUFFLÉ AS THE DESSERT...

...IS THE SPECIALITY OF THE HOUSE AT THE "22 CLUB"! THAT GIVES US THE STREET NUMBER-- 22--BUT NOT THE STREET IN WELLINGTON PARK!

MOMENTS AFTERWARD IN THE BATCAVE...

COMMISSIONER GORDON SAYS THE CROOKS WE CAUGHT LAST NIGHT WON'T TALK!

BY CATCHING THOSE CROOKS, WE MAY HAVE DOOMED ALFRED!

FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER IN THE SPECIALTY FOOD SHOPPE...

SORRY, BATMAN! THE SCATTERED CANNED GOODS HAVE ALL BEEN REPLACED! THERE'S NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT THOSE THIEVES INTENDED STEALING!

THERE GOES OUR LAST HOPE OF LEARNING THAT MISSING CLUE!

NOT SO, ROBIN!

WHAT CLUE HAS THE CAPED CRUSADER DISCOVERED?

LAST NIGHT THERE WAS SAWDUST ON THIS FLOOR!

THAT'S SO! WE COVER OUR FLOOR AT NIGHT WITH A SPECIAL SAWDUST THAT ABSORBS DIRT AND SPILLED FOODS, THEN SWEEP IT UP IN THE MORNING!

QUICKLY! WHERE ARE THOSE SWEEPINGS?

OUTSIDE THE STORE, IN A BACK ALLEY...

BUT WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

THOSE THIEVES HAD TO STEAL **VERY SPECIAL ITEMS!** THEY WOULDN'T TAKE A CHANCE ON OVER-LOOKING ANYTHING -- SO THEY MUST HAVE HAD A **SHOPPING LIST!**

SURE -- WHEN WE SEARCHED THEM LAST NIGHT THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANY SUCH LIST ON THEM -- SO YOU FIGURE IT FELL DURING THE FIGHTING AND WAS SWEPT -- **HERE IT IS!**

LET'S SEE THOSE INGREDIENTS, **ROBIN!**

IN THE **BAT-MOBILE**, SECONDS AFTER-WARD...

I DON'T NEED A RECIPE FILE TO KNOW THE INGREDIENTS FOR **OYSTERS DUCHESSE** WHEN I SEE IT! THAT'S ONE OF ALFRED'S GOURMET APPETIZERS!

VAROOOM!!

NOW IF ONLY THERE'S AN **OYSTER** OR **DUCHESS STREET** IN **WELLINGTON PARK!**

AS THE **BOY WONDER** SCANS A MAP...

WE'RE STILL ON THE BEAM, **BATMAN!** THERE'S NO **OYSTER STREET** -- BUT THERE **IS** A **DUCHESS ROAD** IN **WELLINGTON PARK! 22 DUCHESS ROAD!**

ALFRED, OLD BOY -- YOU **BETTER** BE THERE!

HALF AN HOUR LATER...

IT'S THE MASTER AND YOUNG DICK! WHY DID I EVER UNDER-ESTIMATE THEIR ABILITY TO FIND ME -- EVEN THOUGH MISSING AN ESSENTIAL CLUE?

THE FEAST IS OVER--IT'S TIME NOW FOR THE FAMINE!
TINKLE!
CLINKLE!

THIS ISN'T HOW I USUALLY SERVE THE SAUCE TO MY STRAWBERRY SOUFFLÉ -- BUT I CAN'T THINK OF A BETTER WAY OF DOING IT AT THE MOMENT!
YEOWP!! CAN'T SEE!

IF YOU COMPLAIN ABOUT AN UPSET STOMACH -- BLAME ME -- NOT ALFRED'S COOKING!
WHAKK!

HERE YOU ARE, SIR--TWO MORE CUSTOMERS FOR YOUR CRASH DIET PROGRAM!

THIS IS AN APPALLING WASTE OF FOOD-- BUT IT'S ALL IN A GOOD CAUSE!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, ALFRED! THEY'RE GETTING THEIR JUST DESSERTS!
THWUPP!
WHUNNK!

I'D BETTER PHONE THE POLICE! THEY'LL WANT TO INVESTIGATE THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THESE MALEFACTORS ACCUMULATED THEIR MILLION DOLLARS!

LOK!

KLONK!

THE FOLLOWING EVENING IN STATELY WAYNE MANSION...

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY BATMAN AND ROBIN AREN'T HERE TO CELEBRATE YOUR SAFE RETURN, ALFRED!

or--BATMAN AND ROBIN WANTED TO BE HERE, AUNT HARRIET...

...BUT URGENT CIRCUMSTANCES MUST HAVE PREVENTED THEIR JOINING US!

HOWEVER, LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE HERE--IN SPIRIT!

THE END

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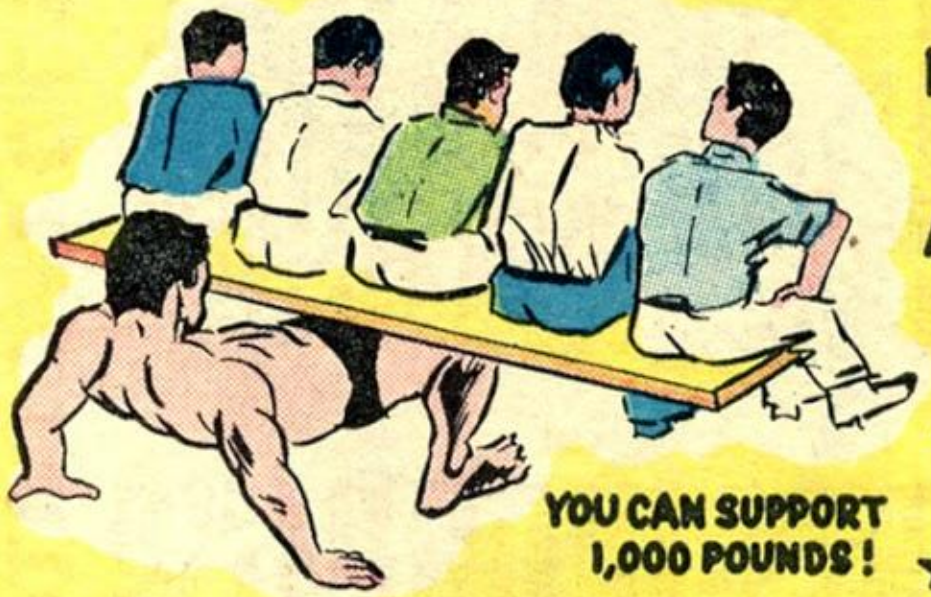

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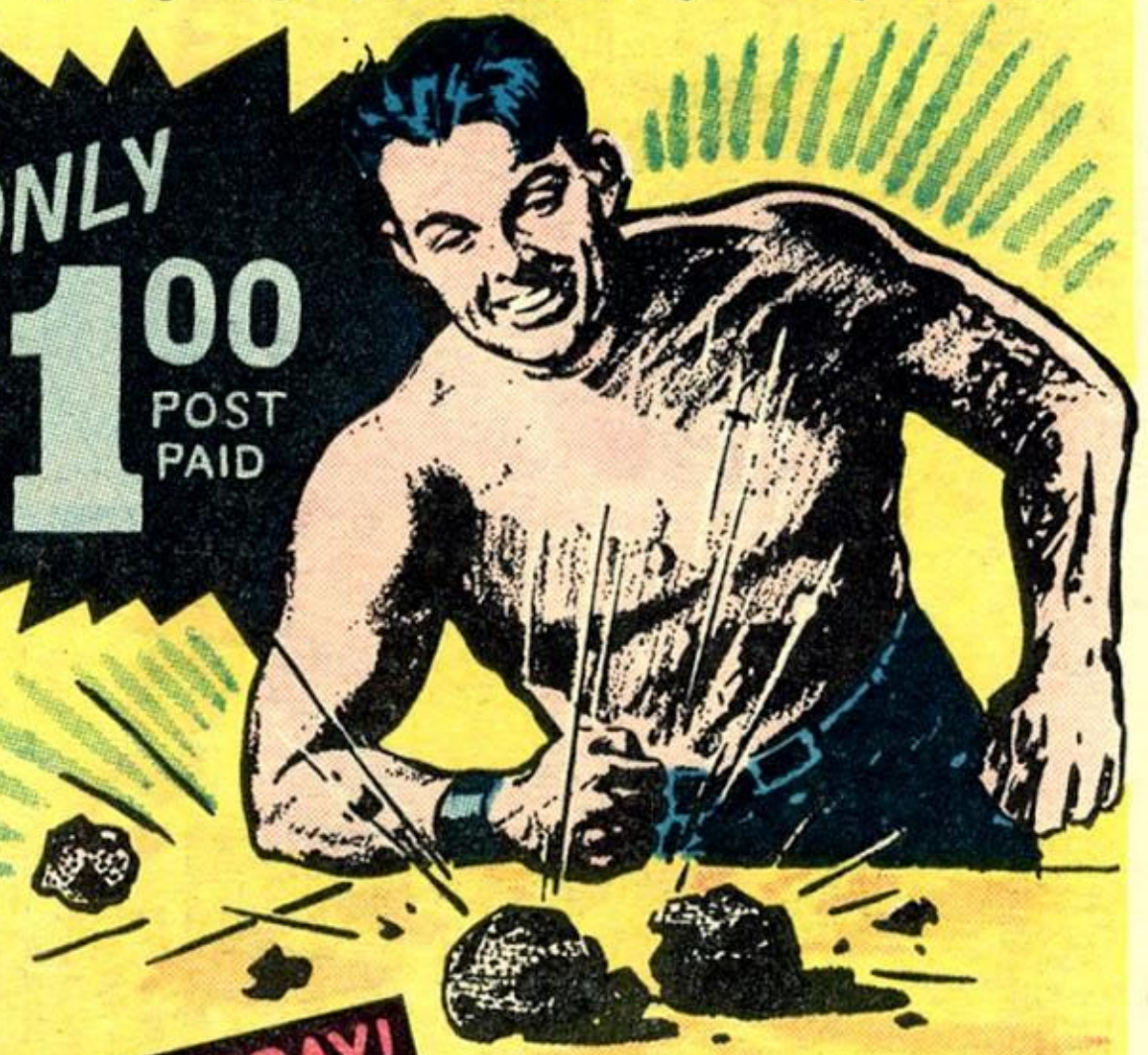

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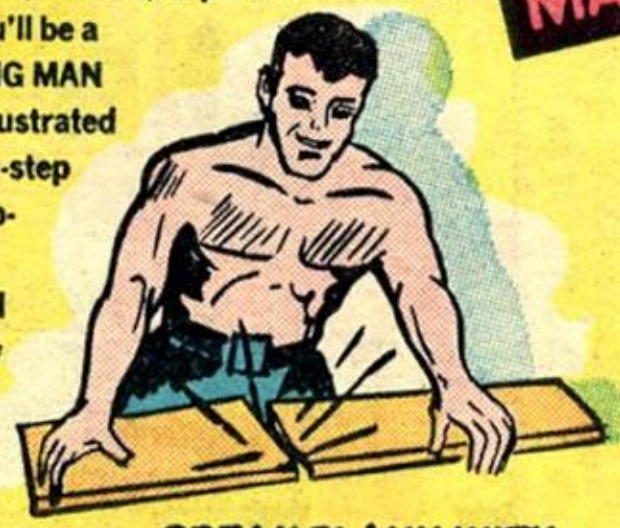

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LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE--EXTRA

Dear Editor:

The purpose of this letter is to question the present type of villain featured in *Batman*. The average *Batman* bad guy nowadays is some scientist or small-time crook who has lucked up on some "sensational" gimmick, usable for crime. He robs at random, usually looting only one place in the entire story—or two if he's lucky—being caught rather easily at the end. Come on, now! Where's the old rock 'em, sock 'em type villain who puts up a good fight to the finish? Suddenly the plot has become all important and the villain insignificant. In the "Old Look" a villain robbed at least four places by the time the story was over and always worked in a pattern. And another thing. The gimmicks these new crooks use are so phoney that these crooks never return after their initial fight. Of course there are exceptions, such as *Johnny Witts*, an incredibly good and neglected foe.

However, improvement can be made. The solution is very simple indeed. Set up a regular system of villains similar to *Flash*'s. Sure, create some new foes once in a while, but keep the oldies returning time and time again to plague *Batman*. How about *Killer Moth*, who was to crime what *Batman* was to law? Or the *Signalman*, who was constantly trying to prove himself among criminals? Here are a few others who would do well returned: *Catman, Catwoman, Dr. Tzin-Tzin, Human Firefly, Riddler, Clayface, Joker, Falseface, Penguin, Two-Face, Mirror Man, Hugo Strange*, and *Dr. Death*. Remember, sensational villains helped to make *Batman* great.

I'm sure other readers will support my opinions concerning *Batman*.

—*Bruce Burke, Cleveland, Ohio.*

(*Killer Moth* flitted back in the January *Detective Comics;* the *Riddler* popped up in the April *Detective; Johnny Witts* hits the comeback trail in the next *Batman*. In due time we expect to villain-fy you with many of the other infamous names you mention.—*Editor*)

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

As much as I like the "New Look," I still re-read the old *Alfred* tales of the future, which featured such characters as *Batman II, Robin II, Batwoman*, and *Batwoman II*. I was just wondering—who would *Batman* wed if he married *today*, not the *Batman* of yesteryear? The old *Batman* had such girl friends as Linda Page, Vicky Vale, and Kathy Kane. The likely candidates today would probably be *Poison Ivy*, if she reformed; *Batgirl* (you never can tell); and some others I can't think of right now. Personally, I think a reformed *Poison Ivy* would be an ideal wife for *Batman*. A warm friendship will probably develop between *Batman* and *Batgirl*, but DC is totally unpredictable in love and war (see *Flash* 165 and *Green Lantern* 49) and who knows—before the year is up, *Robin* may elope with *Supergirl!*

—*Elizabeth Kane, East Meadow, N.Y.*

(There's no doubt in our minds who the wife of *Batman* will be—*Mrs. Bruce Wayne!*—*Editor*)

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

Until early this year, I had never heard of *Batman*. Some of my friends told me about the *Batman* TV show. I watched it and enjoyed it. Now it is my favorite TV show. Then I started reading *Batman* Comics, and I think they are much better than the TV show!

I think that DC Comics are the best comics. The stories are always good. I enjoy reading believable *Batman* stories, rather than stories that seem to be fiction. Sometimes I don't like stories of *Batman* battling costumed villains, but I enjoy stories with the *Riddler*. I like stories better when *Batman* and *Robin* figure out clues from crimes themselves, rather than use *Bat*-anti-crime-computers. I also like the puns the *Dynamic Duo* tell when they're fighting crooks.

—*Stephen Weisenbach, Teaneck, N.J.*

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

With a "successful seventh" now history, the Rutland (Vt.) Recreation Department is already looking ahead to the "exciting eighth" and "nifty ninth" of its annual *Haloween-Batman* parade.

Halloween is always *Batman time* in Rutland and has been so for seven consecutive years. 1966 again featured *Batman* as parade marshal of a procession viewed by an estimated 6,000 persons. City streets were alive with color and music as hundreds marched in Rutland's yearly salute to All Hallows. Statewide newspaper, radio and television focused on the event.

"IT'S BATMAN TIME!" proclaimed the float of the *Batmanians*. Riding with the *Cowled Crime-Crusher* were *Batwoman, Robin, Batmite* and *Batgirl*. Shouts of recognition greeted their passing.

"Old and New," alike, played their part. Following tradition, the *Batman* parade marshal wore no yellow emblem on his uniform. But a "New Look" *Batman*, complete with yellow design, along with another *Robin*, rode in a different section of the march.

For the "New" *Batman* and companion, their vehicle was an expensive luxury convertible, outfitted with a *Bat*-head on the front and a circled "R" on the back. Pop lettering, such as POW, CRUNCH and WHAM decorated the sides of the car. All too soon it was over, but before leaving the Parade-Marshal *Batman* personally shook hands with scores of youngsters who clustered about him. One tiny fellow, who had been waiting all night to see him, broke into tears as *Batman* delivered, "Happy Halloween greetings from Commissioner Gordon!"

What are future parade plans? For '68 the parade slogan will be, "BATMAN FOR PRESIDENT." And '67 is going to be special too. *Batgirl* will really come into her own. For the *Batman* float of next year will be prominent with a huge reproduction in full color of the cover of *Detective Comics* 359, with its enticing invitation, "MEET THE NEW BATGIRL!"

As usual, Rutland invites any and all *Batman* fans to come and march when *"It's Batman time"* again!

—*Tom Fagan, Rutland, Vt.*

* * * * *

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

THEY'RE MORE DEVASTATING THAN A... Pigmy Invasion!

THEY'RE DEADLIER THAN BEING KICKED BY A.. Roasted Chicken!

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They're the MANIAKS...

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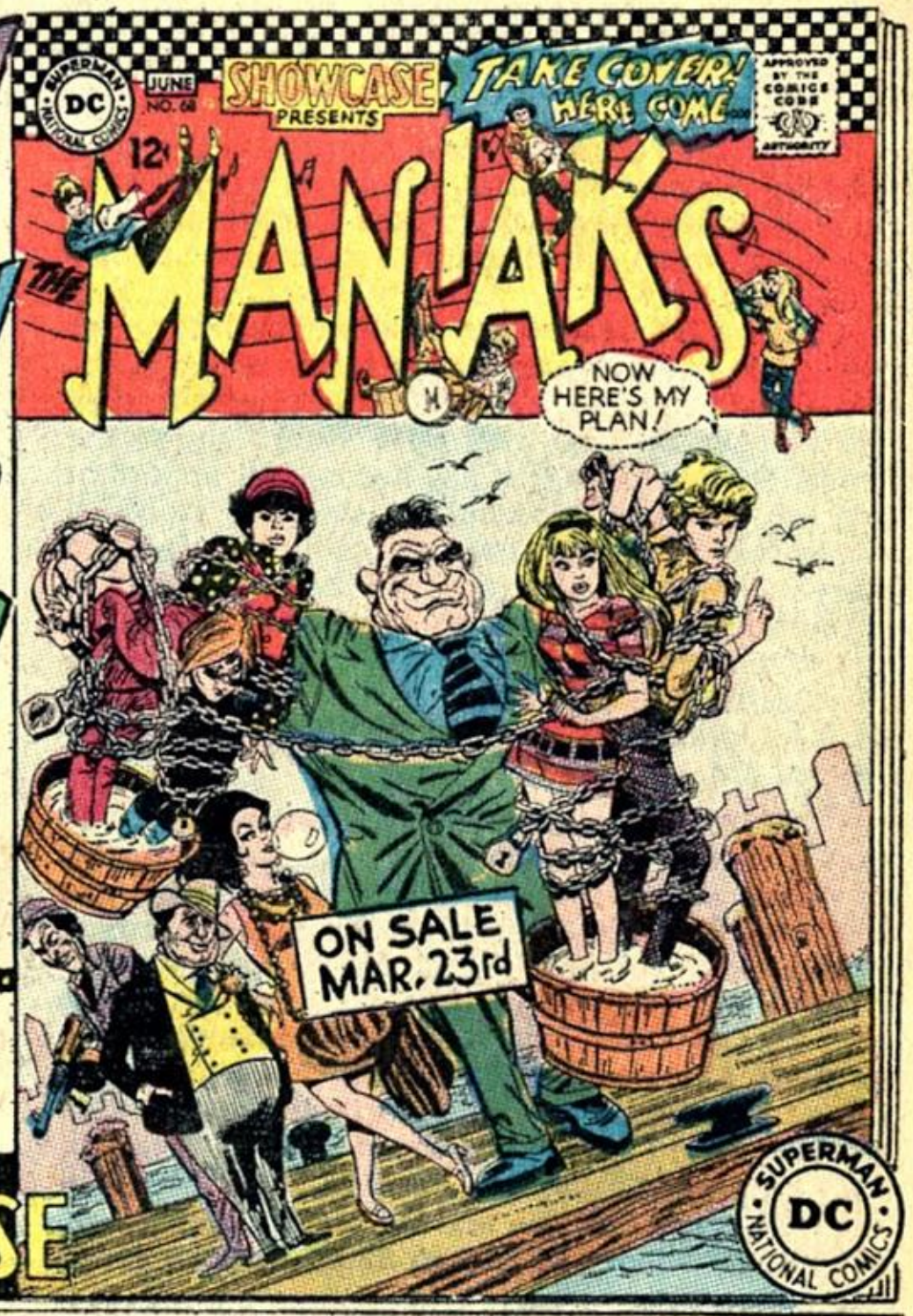

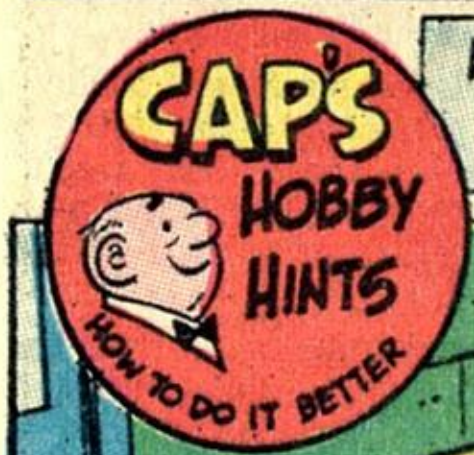

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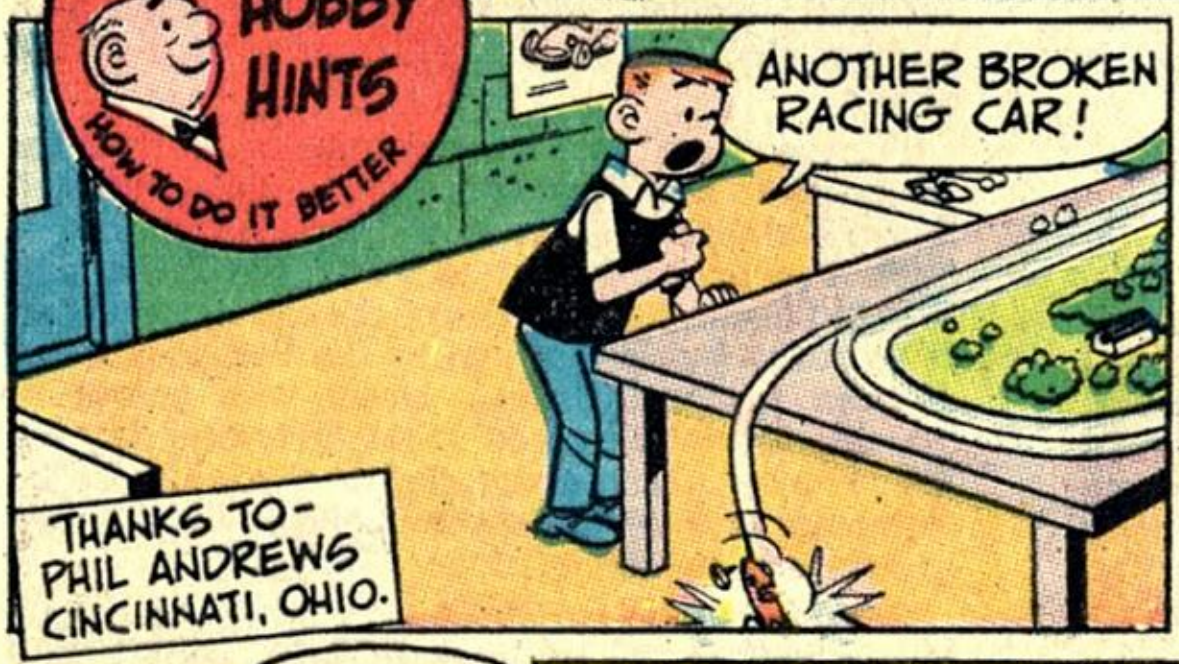

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DIRECT CURRENTS

Let's see what goodies DC has in its basket for you this month, shall we? We've been RAISIN a PEACHY crop of tasty morsels, all of which are really GRAPE stuff! So go on and read our Direct CURRANTS!

Join the NEW **BLACKHAWK** ERA as the MAGNIFICENT 7 face a do-or-die battle with the world terror organization whose mission is to wipe them out! **May, No. 232,** on sale March 9.

A FIRST—the FUTURE SUPERMAN-BATMAN TEAM faces the fantastic super-science of their arch-foes, MUTO and the FUTURE JOKER . . . in the **May WORLD'S FINEST, No. 166,** on sale March 9.

JERRY LEWIS is back at the BO-PEEP SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, but the beastly boys have their inning, too! This **100th issue (June)** also starts a series of art mess-terpieces! On sale March 9.

BATMAN'S Utility Belt—stolen! GREEN ARROW—deprived of his arrows! WONDER WOMAN'S Magic Lasso—gone! But the worst is yet to come for the **JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA! May, No. 53,** on sale March 14.

If you dig wild beach parties, you're in for a real wing-ding when the **TEEN TITANS** mix it up with the college gangs at BAXTER BEACH! "THE BIG BEACH RUMBLE," **June issue, No. 9,** on sale March 14.

SUPERBOY in action against a villainous SUPERBOY from KRYPTON . . . KRYPTO battling an evil SUPERDOG! That and more in the **June 80 PAGE GIANT, No. 138**—an ALL-WAR issue, on sale March 14.

THE INFERIOR FIVE get new headquarters, a new (used) car, a fight song, four new rivals, two new enemies, and a surprise guest star, in their **June issue, No. 2,** on the stands March 16!

Our elastic, fun-tastic **PLASTIC MAN** can twist into any shape, but even his best friends are horrified when he turns himself into a master criminal, in the **June issue, No. 4,** on the stands March 16!

The fighters who break all the rules—HUNTER'S HELLCATS—break their way INTO a prison—to pull off the surprise mission of the war! **June OUR FIGHTING FORCES, No. 107,** on sale March 16.

How can **SUPERMAN** battle SUPERMAN? It can only mean there's a super-impostor present! It's "THE THING FROM 40,000 A.D."—and it's every bit as powerful as our own MAN OF STEEL! This cataclysmic clash occurs in the **May issue, No. 196,** on sale March 21!

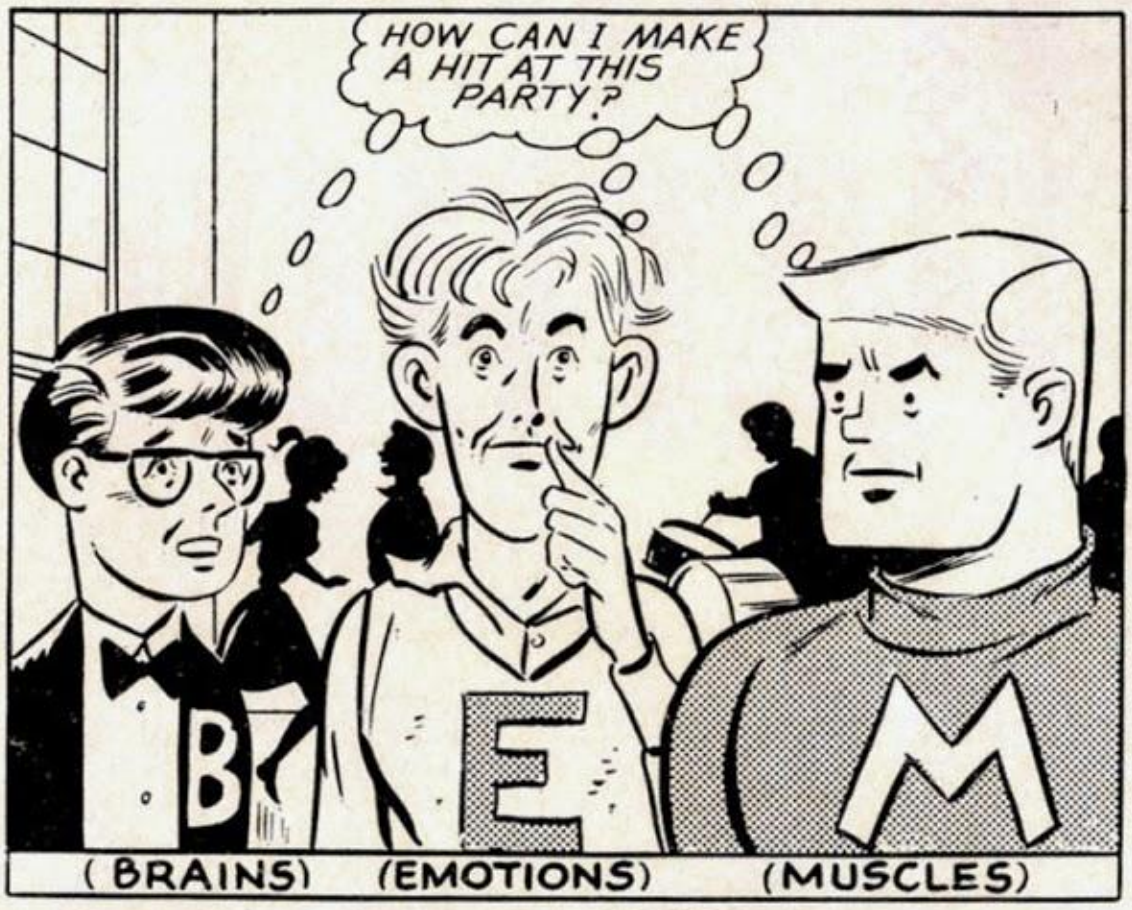
A gorilla from space transforms **WONDER WOMAN** into a gorilla to make her his queen, only to be startled himself by "WONDER WOMAN—GORILLA!" Also, the AMAZING AMAZON finds it impossible to capture a criminal already in her grip! **May, No. 170,** on sale March 21.

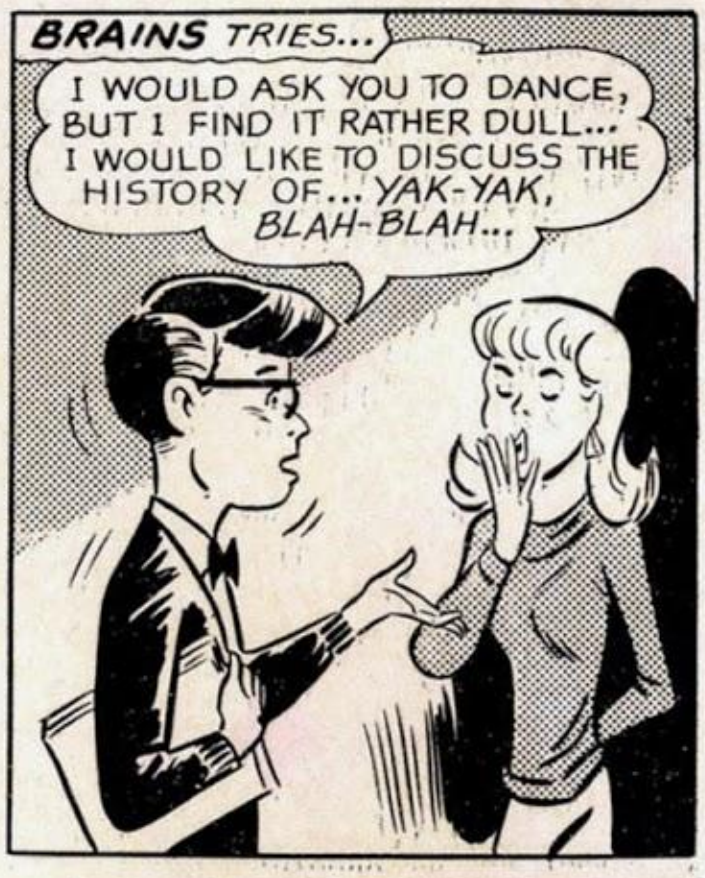
Watch out, world! Here come **THE MANIAKS,** the wildest rock-'n'-roll combo that ever missed a haircut! They're loose in PALISADES AMUSEMENT PARK, NEW JERSEY, with a gang of gunmen chasing them through the pages of the **June SHOWCASE, No. 68,** on sale March 23!

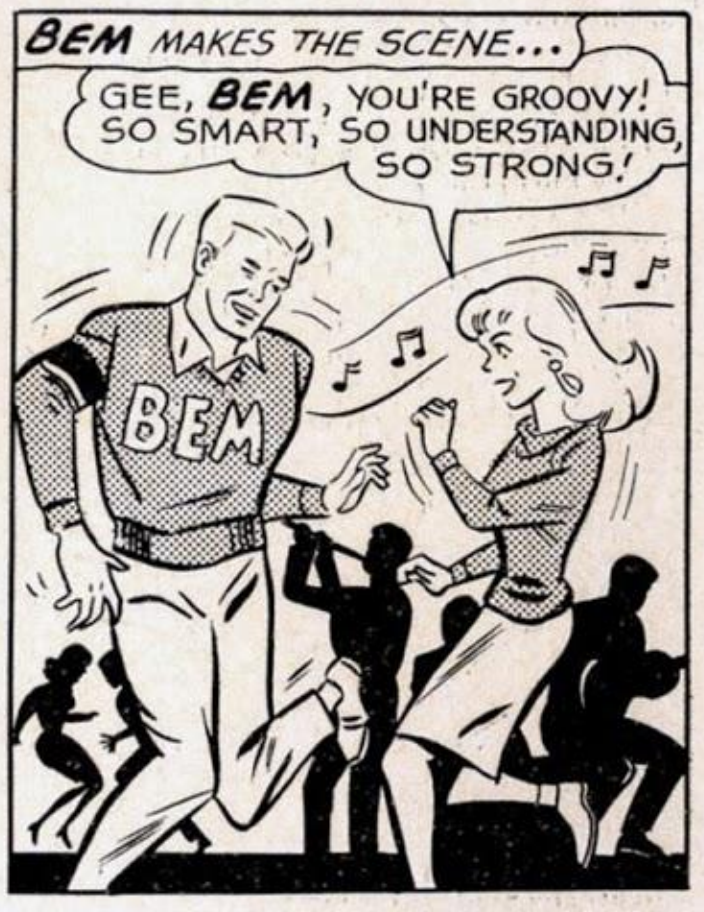
From out of space comes a handsome mystery man with uncanny powers! He bursts steel bonds . . . melts metal in his bare hands . . . walks through solid walls . . . and romances **LOIS LANE** as she's never been romanced before! In the **May issue, No. 74,** on sale March 23!

"THE NAME OF THE GAME IS DEATH!"—and the name of the mag it's in is **SEA DEVILS!** It's no exaggeration, either—because in this story, the famed scuba specialists wind up killing one of their own team! See how it all happens in the **June issue,** No. 35, on sale March 28.

BEM SHOWS UP!







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