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BATMAN

BATMAN

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COMICS
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AUTHORITY

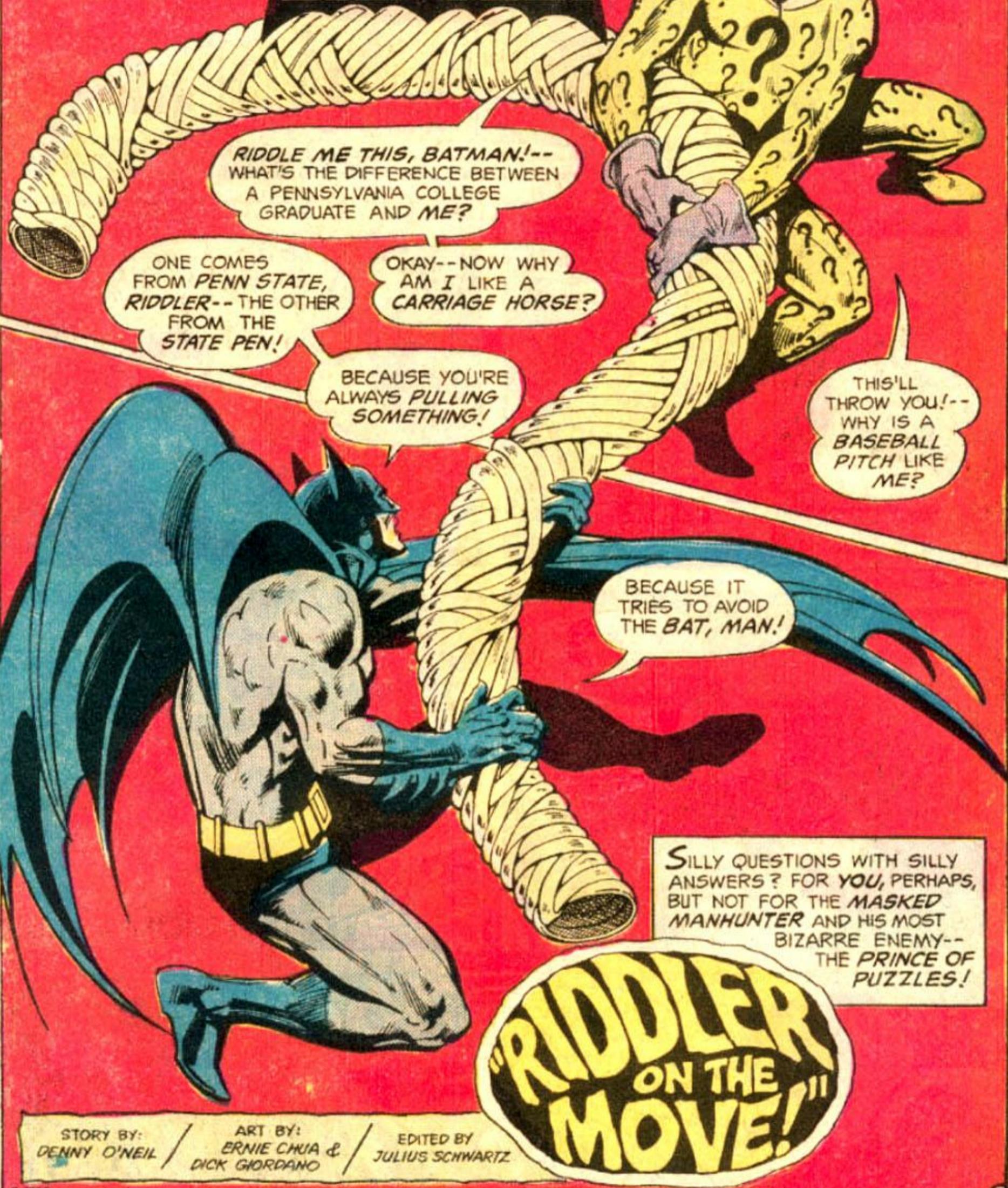
ONE MOVE,
BATMAN...

...AND
ZING!
YOU'RE
DEAD!



ACTION
LIGHT-HEARTED
AND
DEADLY-DANGEROUS
WITH ...

BATMAN



STORY BY:
DENNY O'NEIL

ART BY:
ERNIE CHUA &
DICK GIORDANO

EDITED BY
JULIUS SCHWARTZ

5-1980

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TWILIGHT IN GOTHAM'S
THEATER DISTRICT...
AND PLEASURE-BOUND
COUPLES STROLL PAST
THE CITY'S NEWEST
RESTAURANT...

...WHICH BOASTS
A TELEPHONE AT
EACH TABLE!

AT THE MOMENT,
ONE IS BEING
USED FOR A
SINISTER
CONVERSATION...

YOU'LL AGREE
TO TAKE OVER THE
OPERATION?
EXCELLENT!

I'LL EXPECT
TO HEAR FROM
YOU!

THE PHONE
RINGING--!

YEAH...
BUT NOT AN
ORDINARY
RING!

SOUNDS
KINDA...
MEAN!

R-R-RING

--I'M PLACING YOU
UNDER ARREST!

;GASP;

--THE
BATMAN!

HE'LL
DO IT,
BOSS?

YES... AND
WITH HIM IN
CHARGE, WE
CAN'T MISS!

HELLO--?

YOUR NAME
IS BLAIR
BRAMBEL!

I
MUST
INFORM
YOU--



KINDLY NOTICE
THERE'S SOMETHING
BETWEEN YOU AND
THE EXIT-- ME!

WE'LL KNOCK
DOWN THAT
SOMETHIN'--

--WITH
LEAD!

SO MUCH FOR
THAT IDEA!

OWWWWW!

...WHIRLS IT
AROUND HIS
HEAD... LETS
GO--

WAITER, WILL
YOU FIND AN
OFFICER WHILE
I FINISH THIS?

MY PLEASURE,
BATMAN!

LOOKS LIKE THAT
RUNAWAY HOOD DOESN'T
WANT TO PLAY-- AND
JUST WHEN I'M IN THE
MOOD TO MAKE LIKE
A GAUCHO--

--THE SOUTH AMERICAN
COWBOY WHO USES A
WEIGHTED LINE CALLED
A BOLO...

-- AND "HOBBLES"
ANY CREATURE...
INSTANTLY!



THE VOICE--AND
THE CHALLENGE--ARE
UNMISTAKABLE!

THE RIDDLE...
EDWARD NIGMA,
OR "E. NIGMA"! HE
HAS A MENTAL BLOCK
WHICH PREVENTS HIM
FROM COMMITTING A
MAJOR CRIME
WITHOUT FIRST
GIVING ME A
RIDDLE CLUE!

AT THAT
MOMENT--

PARDON ME, SIR... CAN
YOU TELL ME WHETHER
HEAT OR COLD MOVES
FASTER?

WHO
CARES?

THE ANSWER IS...
HEAT! BECAUSE ANYONE
CAN CATCH COLD!

NOW, I'LL
TAKE YOUR
WALLET!

Y-YES, SIR...

DON'T CALL FOR
HELP OR I'LL BE
VERY ANGRY...
AND SHOOT YOU!

WHY DO I DO
THESE THINGS?
WHY AM I DRIVEN
TO CRIME...
AND RIDDLES?

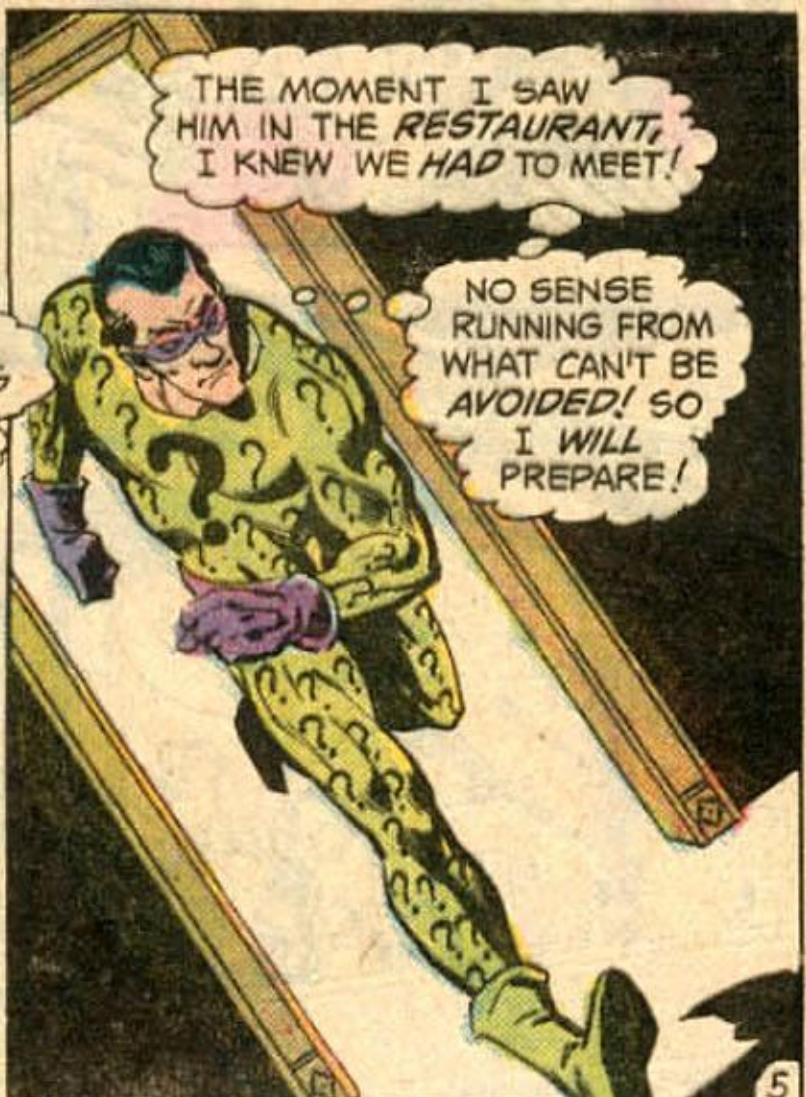
I KNOW
MY BEHAVIOR
ISN'T NORMAL
--BUT I CAN'T
HELP IT!

OH, WELL... IT'S MY
FATE AND I'M STUCK
WITH IT! ALWAYS ON
THE MOVE TO AVOID
THE LAW!

ONLY--I WISH
MY FATE DIDN'T
INCLUDE CLASHING
WITH THE
BATMAN--!

THE MOMENT I SAW
HIM IN THE RESTAURANT,
I KNEW WE HAD TO MEET!

NO SENSE
RUNNING FROM
WHAT CAN'T BE
AVOIDED! SO
I WILL
PREPARE!



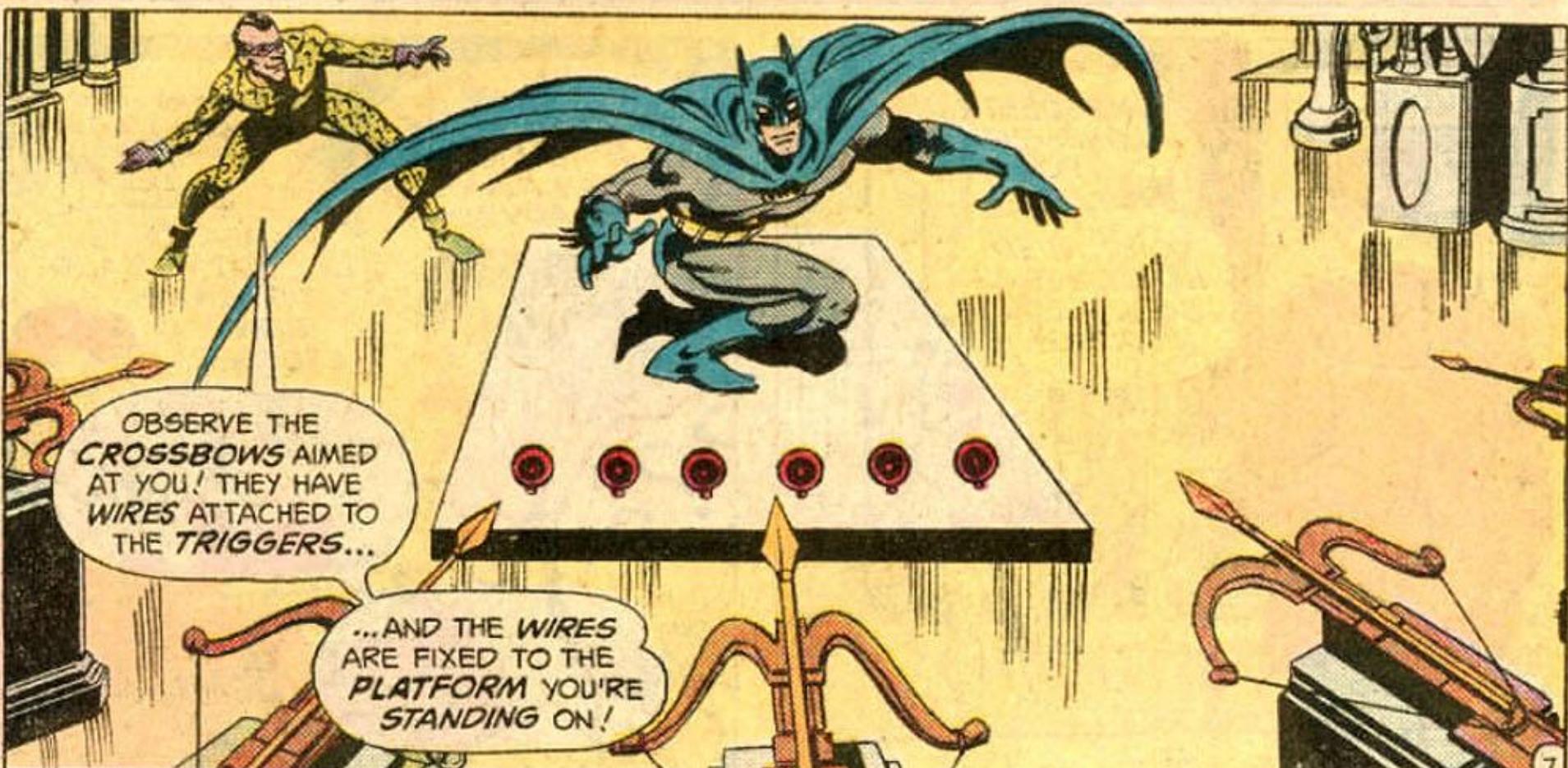
AS THE CITY'S
CLOCKS CHIME
ELEVEN, MOST
WINDOWS DARKEN!
BUT NOT THOSE
OF BRUCE WAYNE'S
PENTHOUSE...

YOU'VE DECODED
THE RIDDLER'S PUZZLE,
MASTER BRUCE?

I HAVE IT
HALF FIGURED,
ALFRED!

HE ASKED,
"WHAT
LETTERS
ARE LIKE
A ROMAN
EMPEROR?"





IF YOU STEP OFF
THE PLATFORM, THE
BOWS WILL SHOOT!

AND IF YOU DON'T,
THEY'LL SHOOT
ANYWAY, IN FIVE
MINUTES!

MY
MASTERPIECE,
YOU MUST
ADMIT--!

BUT THERE IS
AN ESCAPE?

YOU ALWAYS PLAY
FAIR-- SORT OF--
TO GIVE YOUR VICTIMS
A CHANCE!

HOW RIGHT
YOU ARE!

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO
IS GUESS THE ANSWER
TO THE RIDDLE I'VE
LEFT HERE-- IF YOU
CAN FIND IT IN TIME!



OUTSIDE...

A PEDESTRIAN...
ALONE-- EASY PICKIN'S
FOR ME!

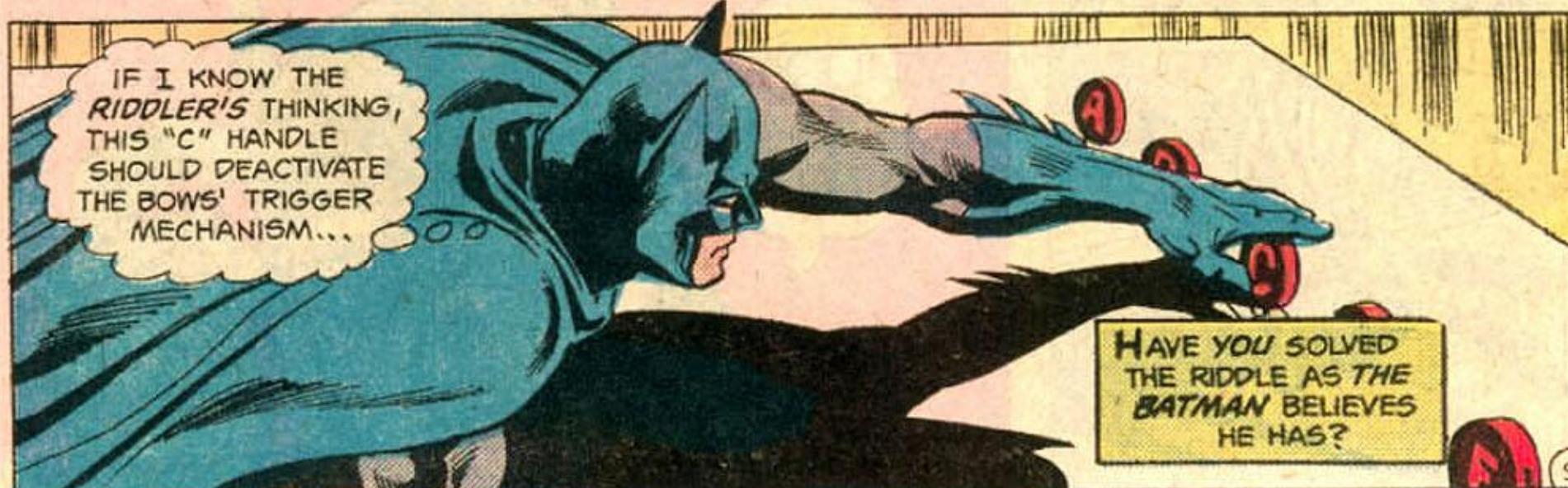
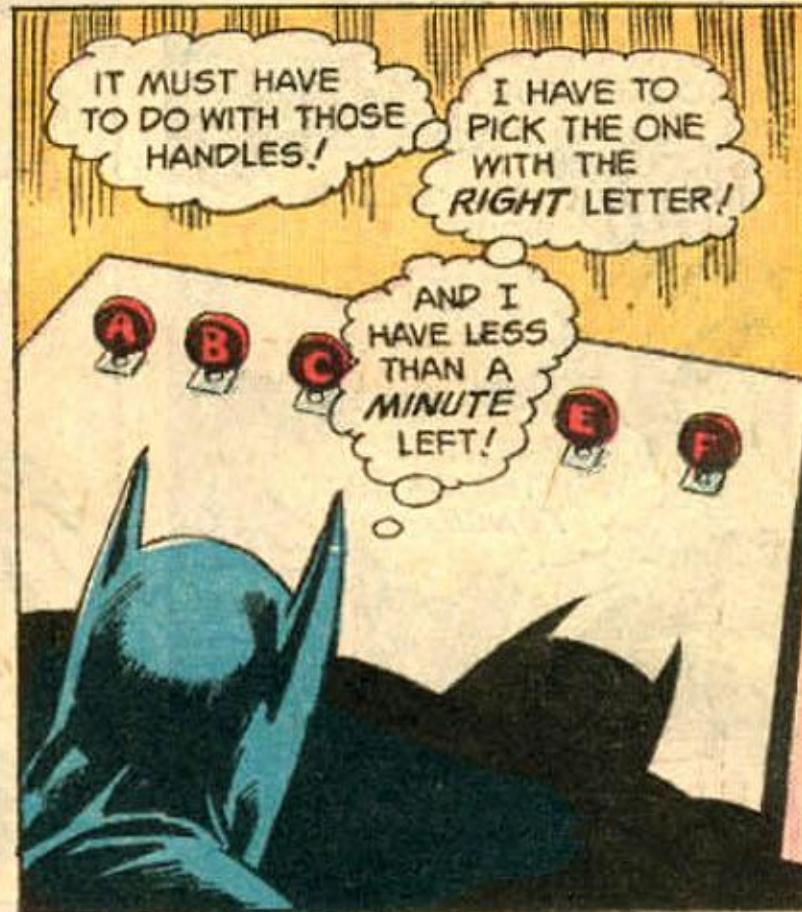
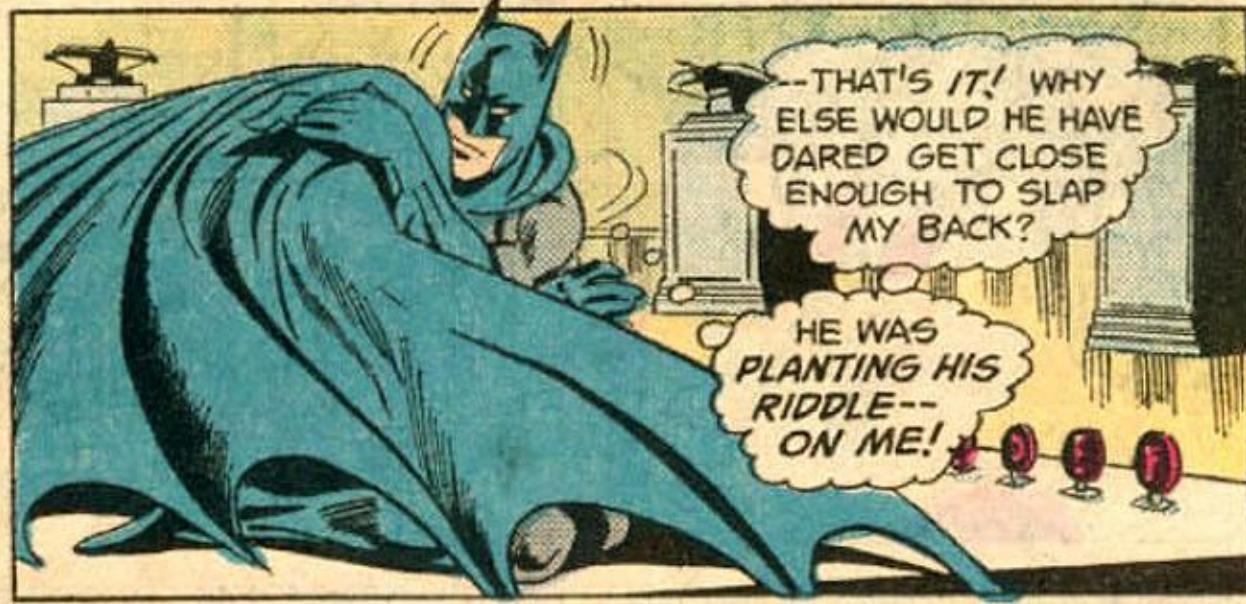
DON'T NEED
MONEY, BUT MY
SOUL NEEDS
RIDDING!

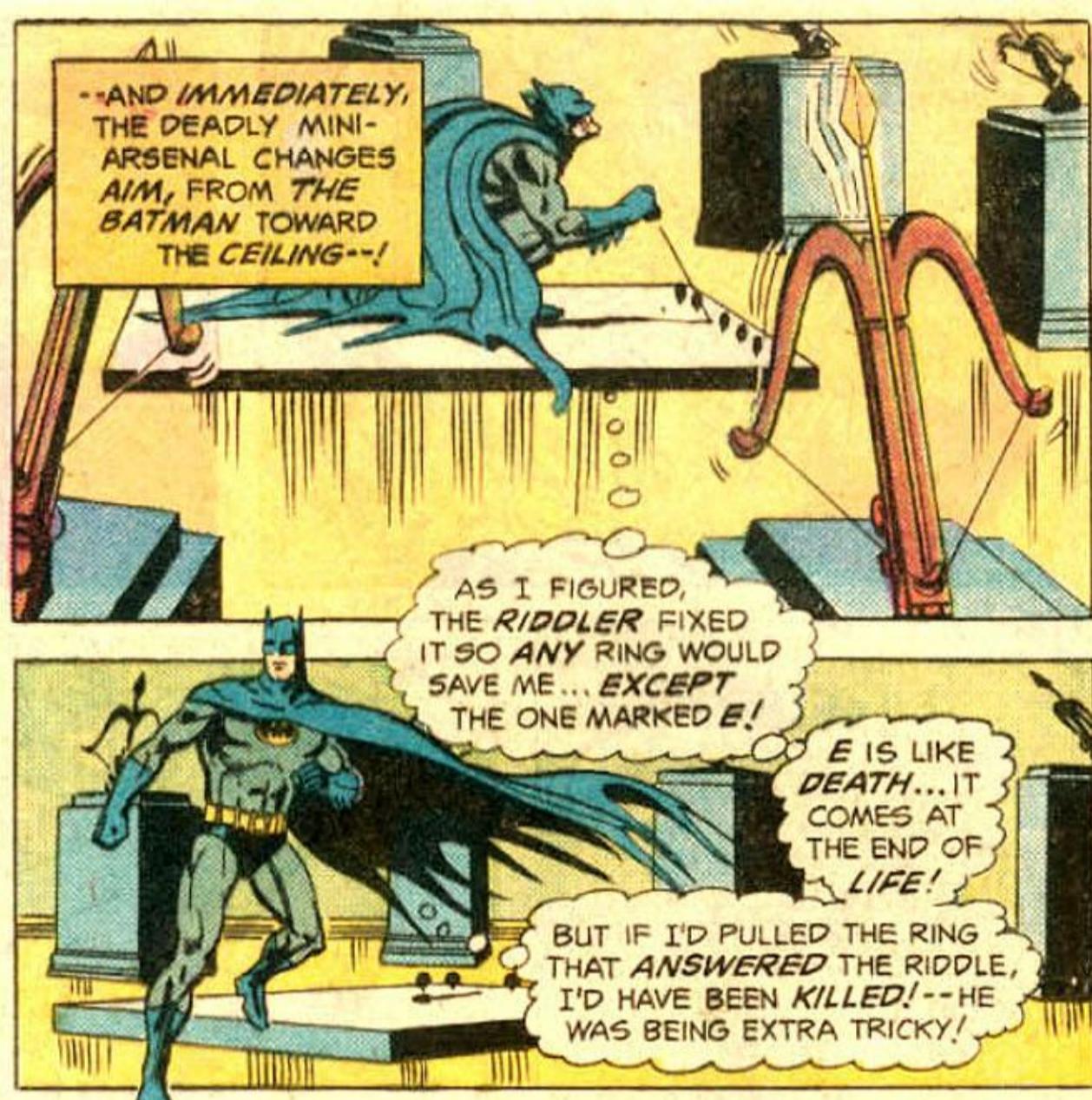
STICK 'EM UP
AND ANSWER ME
THIS: "WHY IS THE
OCEAN ALWAYS
ANGRY?"

HECK, PAL, I'LL
GO ALONG WITH
THE GAG!

THE REASON IS...
IS... GOT IT! 'CAUSE
IT'S ALWAYS
BEIN' CROSSED!







AS THE BATMAN STRIVES TO CRACK THE REVERSE RIDDLE, THE PRINCE OF PUZZLES ATTENDS A MEETING...

YOU'RE PREPARED TO ACCEPT MY LEADERSHIP AS BRAMBEL ORDERED?

NOT ME! YOUR RIDDLES ARE FOR THE BIRDS!

STRANGE YOU SHOULD SAY THAT! HERE'S A BIRD WITH A RIDDLE FOR YOU!
SPEAK, POLLY!

WHEN IS CORN LIKE A QUESTION?
;AWWRK!;

I DON'T KNOW AND I DON'T CARE!

IMAGINE! CAN'T EVEN OUT-THINK A BIRDBRAIN!

SIC 'IM, POLLY! AND TELL HIM THE ANSWER!

OW! CALL IT OFF! CALL IT OFF!

WHEN IT'S POPPED!
;AWWRK! ; WHEN IT'S POPPED!

IF THERE ARE NO OTHER WISEACRES, WE'LL GET DOWN TO BUSINESS!

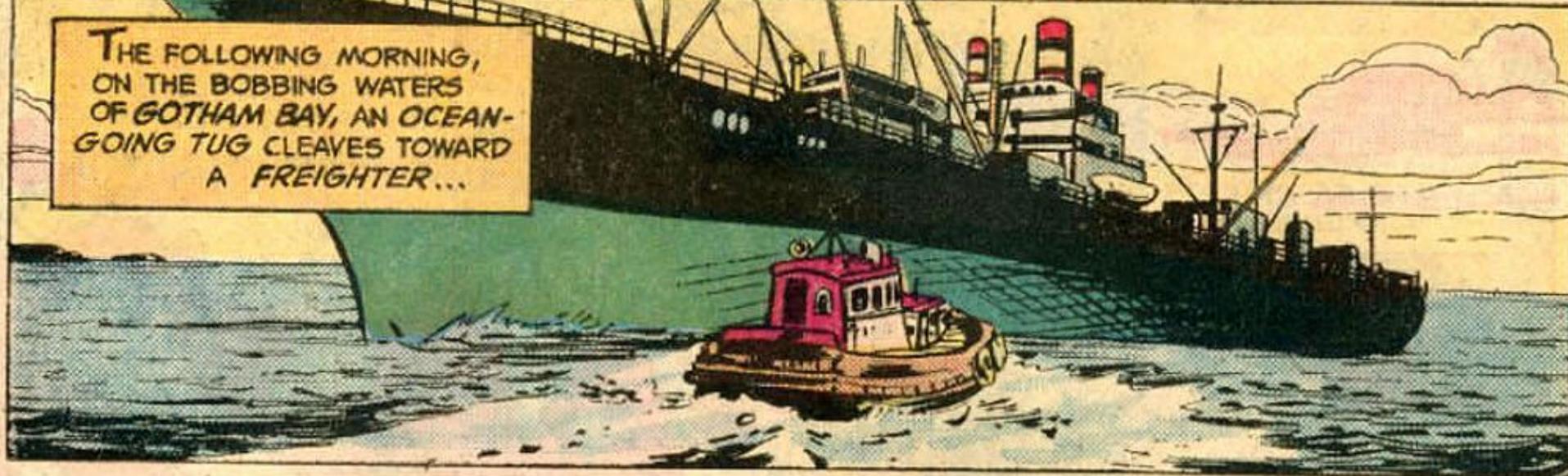
WE'RE GOING TO SET UP A NATION-WIDE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY FOR CRIMINALS, RIGHT?

CHECK!

THAT'LL TAKE MONEY... SO WE FIRST COMMIT A CRIME TO GET WORKING CAPITAL!

I HAPPEN TO HAVE A PLAN--OF GENIUS, NATURALLY! LISTEN...

THE FOLLOWING MORNING,
ON THE BOBBING WATERS
OF GOTHAM BAY, AN OCEAN-
GOING TUG CLEAVES TOWARD
A FREIGHTER...



...AS USUAL, THE
"PILOTS" FROM THE
SMALL CRAFT CLIMB
ABOARD THE LARGER
ONE! BUT--

YOU'RE NOT
THE REGULAR
MEN!

NO...

...YOU COULD CALL
US UNLOADERS!

WE'RE GONNA
UNLOAD YOUR
CARGO!

COOPERATE
AND NOBODY'LL
GET HURT!
OTHERWISE...



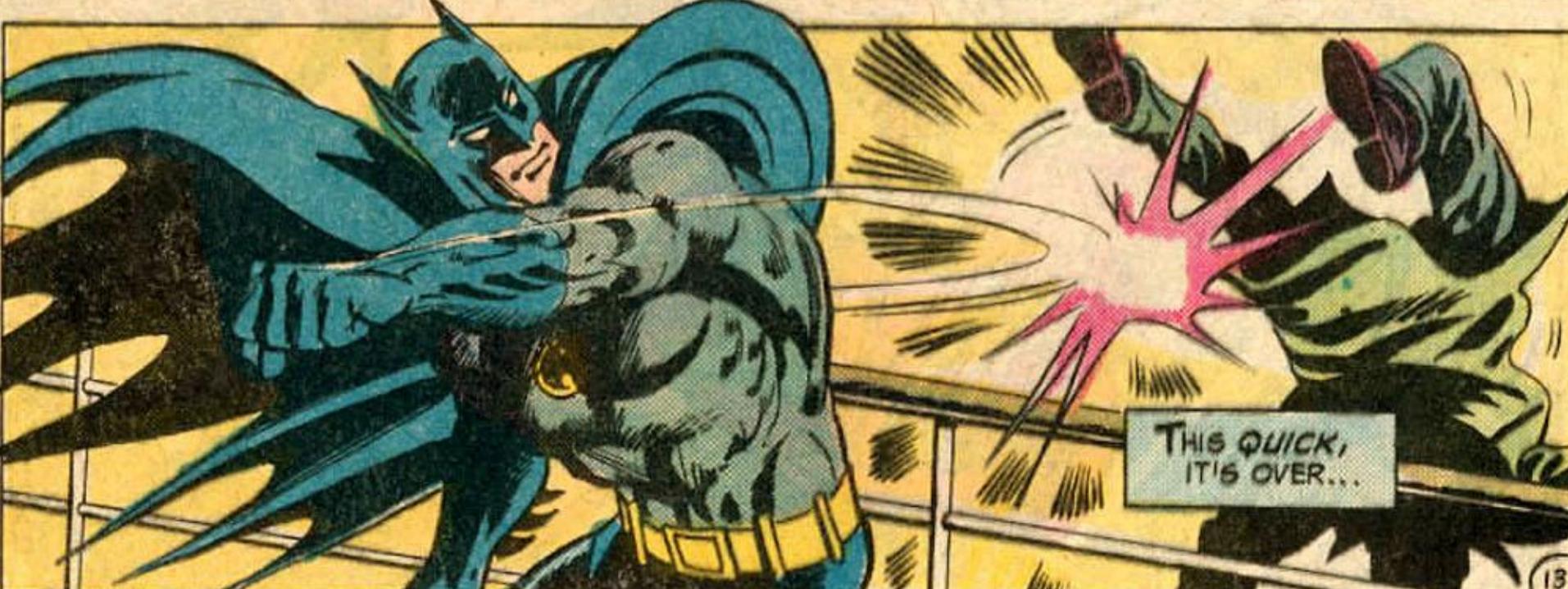
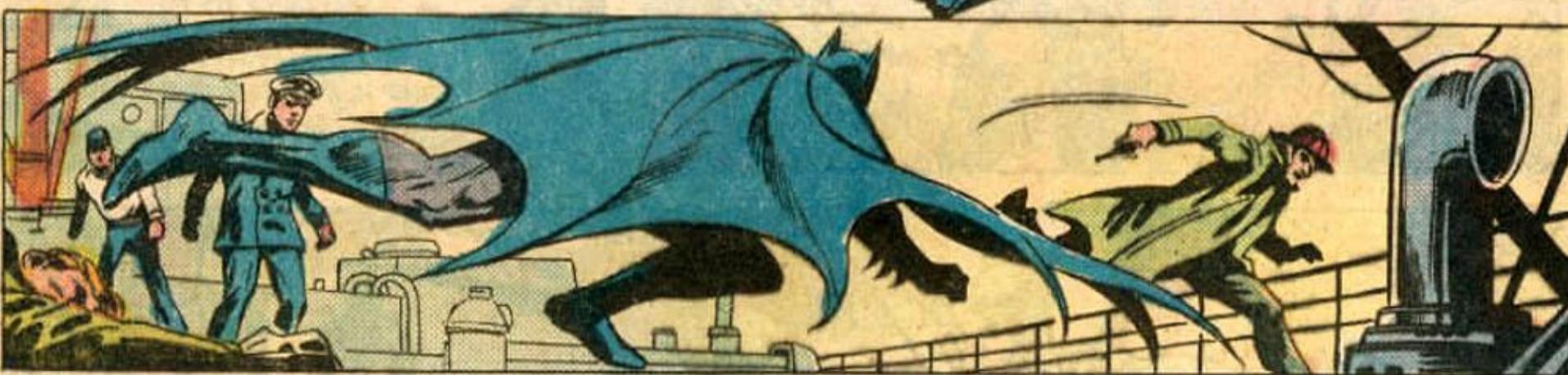
WE WANT THOSE
GIRAFFES! SO MOVE--

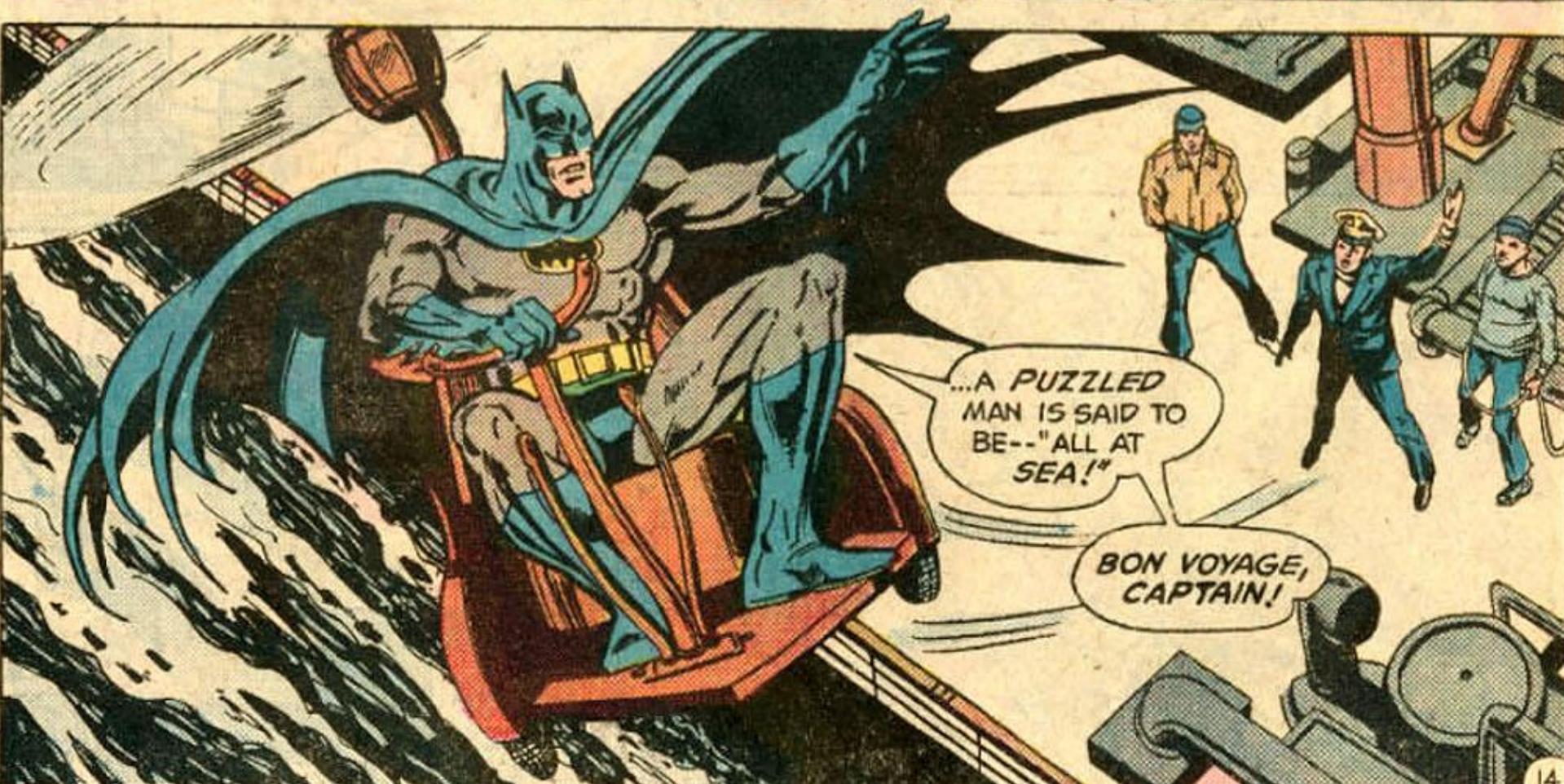
HOLD IT!
THE RIDDLER
WANTS US TO
BE CAREFUL!
GIRAFFES CAN
BE KINDA
FRAGILE!

YEAH-- WE
GOTTA GET 'EM
UP FROM THE
HOLD WITHOUT
HURTIN' 'EM!

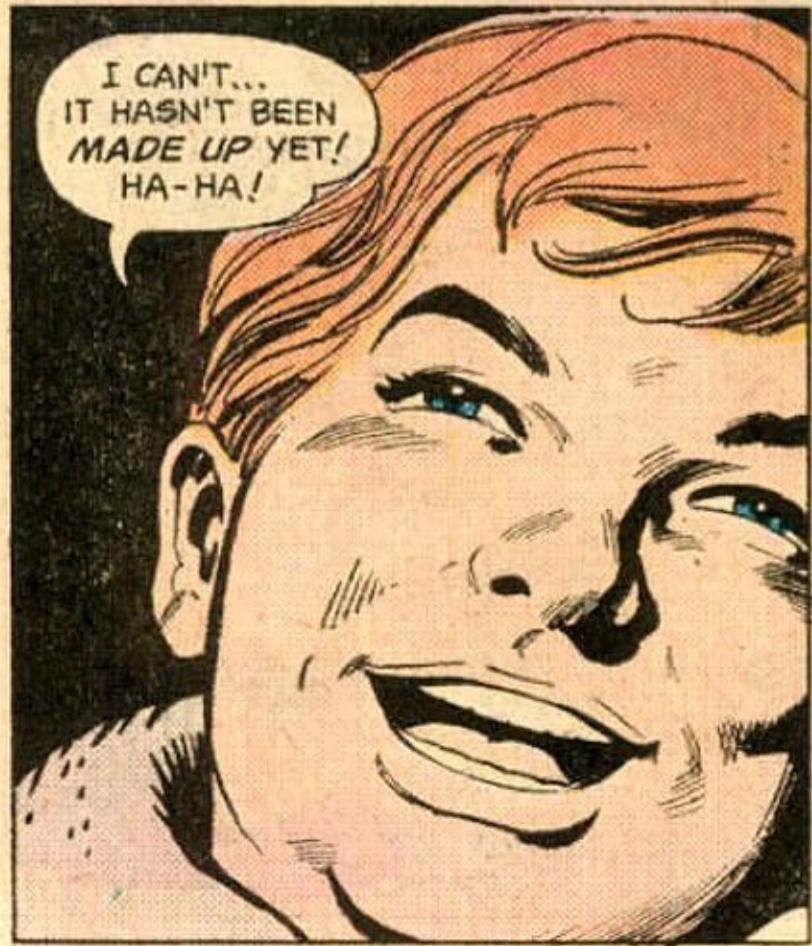
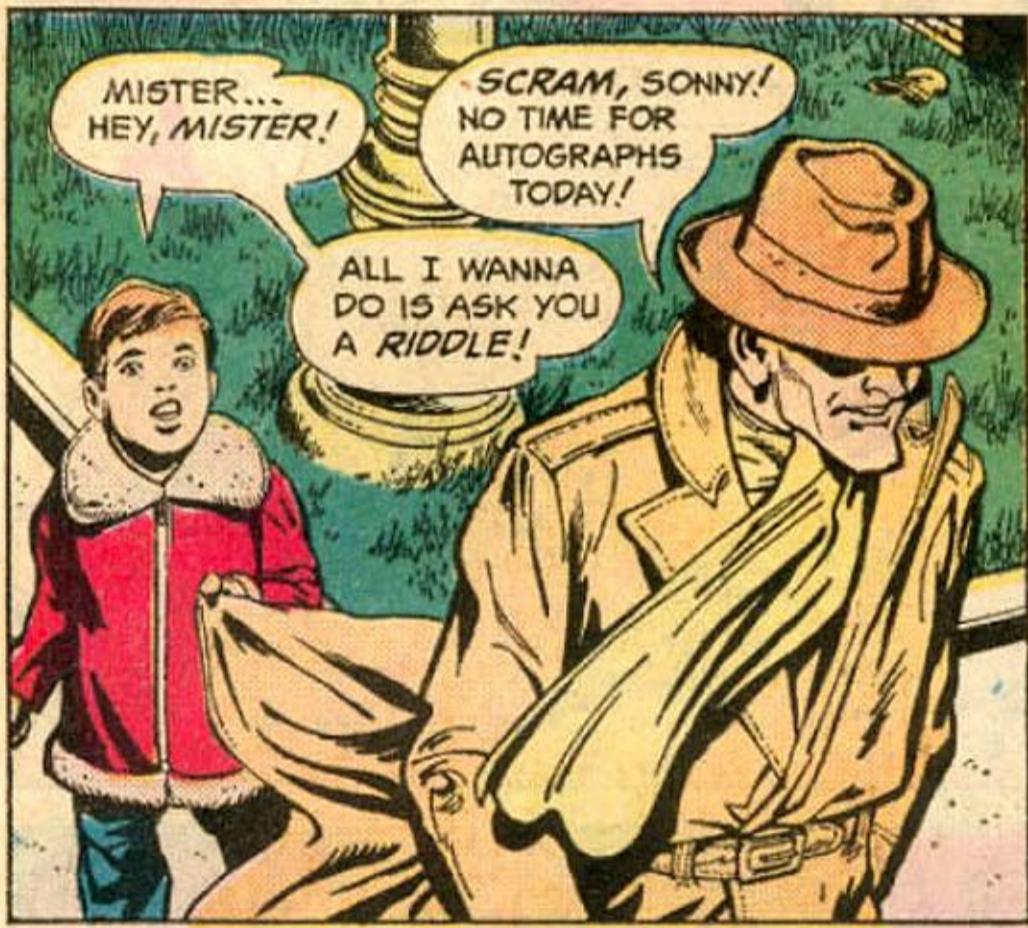
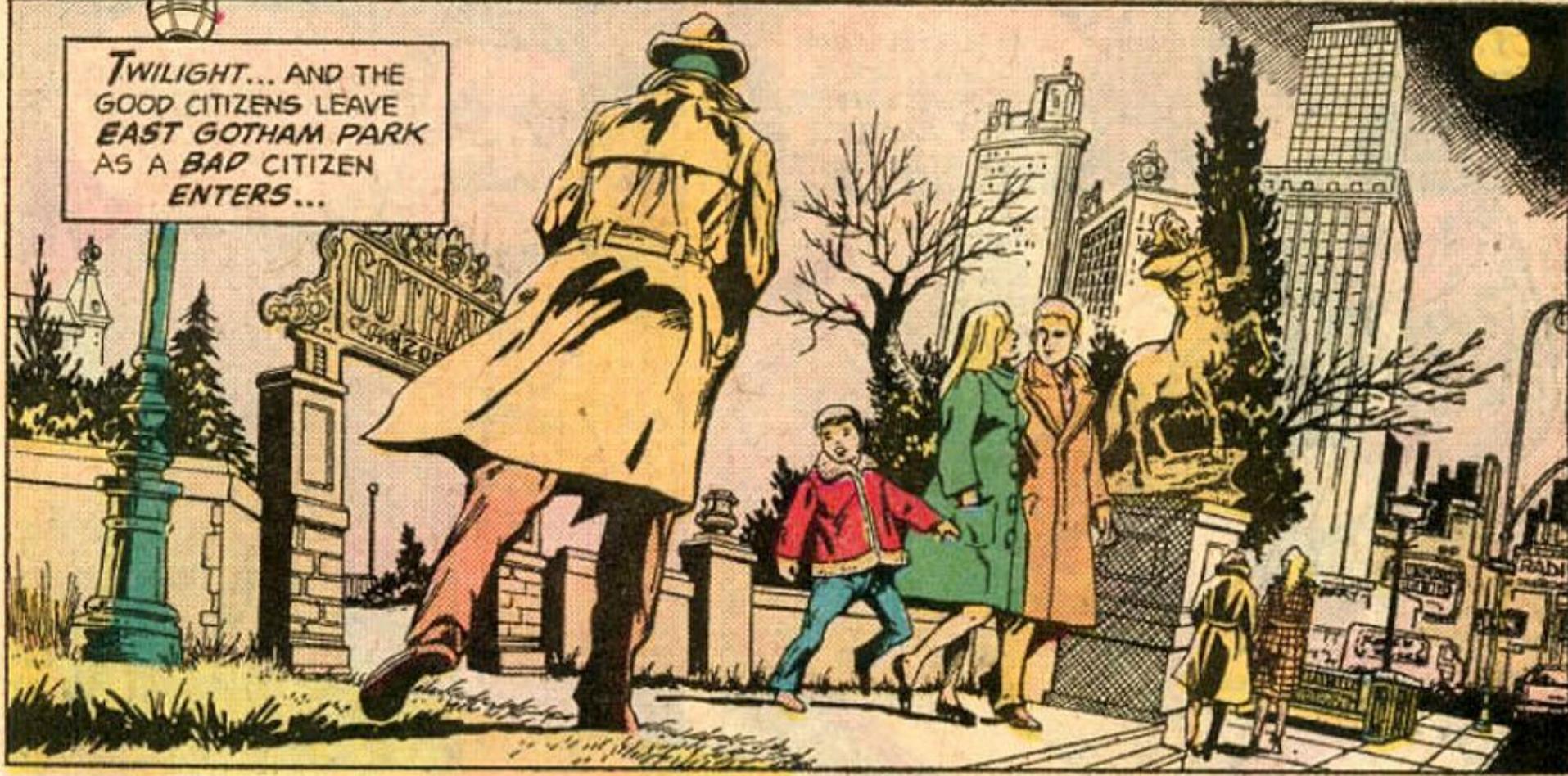
NEVER THOUGHT I'D
EVER BE LOOKIN' DOWN
AT GIRAFFES!







TWILIGHT... AND THE
GOOD CITIZENS LEAVE
EAST GOTHAM PARK
AS A BAD CITIZEN
ENTERS...



THEN...

I'VE PLAYED FAIR
WITH MY ENEMY!
HE SOLVED THE
RIDDLE ANSWER
I PAINTED ON
THE FENCE!

I'VE A
PERFECT
RIGHT
TO FLEE!

HE COULDN'T
HAVE GUESSED THE
RIDDLE'S DOUBLE
MEANING! SO I'LL
HAVE TIME...

EH--? A BAT...
WITH A NOTE TIED
TO ITS LEG!

I HAVE A
FEELING I WON'T
LIKE THE
MESSAGE!

IT'S MY ANSWER--
"A CENTIPEDE WITH
FALLEN ARCHES!"

ALONG
WITH THE
RIDDLE...

Riddle.
What's worse
than a Justice
with a sore
throat?

BLAST THAT
BATMAN! HE
FIGURED OUT THE
WHOLE THING!



YOU'VE BEEN
LAYING PUZZLERS
ON ME! NOW I
HAVE ONE FOR
YOU!

WHAT IS THE
LONGEST SENTENCE
IN THE WORLD?

I KNOW THE
ANSWER TO THAT
ONE--BUT I'M
NOT TELLING!

THEN I
WILL! THE
ANSWER
IS--

--A SENTENCE OF
LIFE IN PRISON!"

GET ME OUT OF HERE,
BATMAN! TAKE ME TO
JAIL...GET ME AWAY
FROM THESE MONKEYS!

RELAX! THE
POLICE WILL BE
HERE FOR YOU
SOON!

MEANWHILE,
BE CAREFUL--
THERE ARE LAWS
AGAINST ANNOYING
THE ZOO ANIMALS!

LETTERS to the BATMAN

Address your communications to LETTERS TO THE BATMAN, National Periodical Publications, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019.

Dear Editor:

The Batman is a creature of the night. Therefore, he needs villains that complement this image and do not detract from it the way the "camp" villains do. The use of criminals "moved by deep emotional reasons" and consumed by "inner demons" as Antone Perry describes them in **BATMAN #258** will most definitely add to the dread, nocturnal image.

Thus, villains such as **Catwoman**, **The Penguin** and **The Riddler** do not belong in the pages of **BATMAN** and **DETECTIVE**. **The Penguin**, no matter how he is handled, is a cheap, puny foe whose physical appearance itself is too whimsical to be taken seriously. **Catwoman**, even in her 1940's costume, is not a good match for **Batman** because under all her criminal antics lies her love for the man she is trying to outwit. And **The Riddler** is buried under so much camp that it isn't even worth the effort to bring him back!

Now, on to the *right* villains for **The Batman**. **The Joker** is the perfect **Batman** nemesis, but only when he is handled as an insane murderer. He can be as camp and cheap as **The Penguin** if handled otherwise. **Two-Face**, on the other hand, has never been handled incorrectly and deserves to stay in **Batman's** "Rogues' Gallery". Ditto for newcomer **Ra's al Ghul**.

But three villains do not a Rogues' Gallery make, so you are faced with a problem: Either rotate these baddies every few issues, or create some new ones.

ARLEN L. SCHUMER, Fair Lawn, N.J.

(We certainly feel that **THE SCARECROW**, who appeared last issue, fits into the category, Arlen. And our next correspondent has a suggestion for another villain-revival you'll probably approve of!—BR)

Dear Editor:

In the past year, you've featured **Catwoman**, **The Penguin**, **Two-Face** and **The Joker** in

BATMAN. The **Joker** story was the best, partly because **Robin** was out of the way, but chiefly because **The Joker** is the **Caped Crusader's** most interesting foe. On the other hand, the only one I absolutely detested was **The Penguin** yarn—the major reason being that I don't think too much of the Fiendish Fowl.

But your propensity for dusting off these old Bat-adversaries makes one thing clear...you're going to run out of villains or at least, good ones. **The Joker** is great, **Two-Face** is right behind him and **Catwoman** is all right once in a while. After those three, it really falls off. **The Joker** and **Two-Face** are really bizarre. They look weird and they act weird. Most of the others aren't really bizarre, merely gimmicky. So you've got to find some better candidates if you're going to resurrect more villains and I think I've found one.

Thanks to your **FAMOUS FIRST EDITION** of **BATMAN #1**, we recently had a chance to meet one of **Batman's** first great villains, **Professor Hugo Strange**. He may not have been too original, but he certainly does justice to his surname. I'm forced to admit I was a bit unnerved by the Professor's odd, bald head and his grotesque manner of cooing, "My dear **Batman**," while wielding his deadly hypodermic. Under the sophisticated guidance of modern comix veteran Denny O'Neil, these traits could become even more fearsome.

Perhaps we could meet **Professor Hugo Strange** again...

PAUL EMRATH, Milwaukee, Wis.

(Who knows what evil will lurk in **THE BATMAN's** life? Only time will tell. In the meantime, all of you villain-fanatics will enjoy **THE JOKER #1** which features the **CLOWN PRINCE OF CRIME** battling **TWO-FACE**! It's on sale right now!—BOB ROZAKIS)

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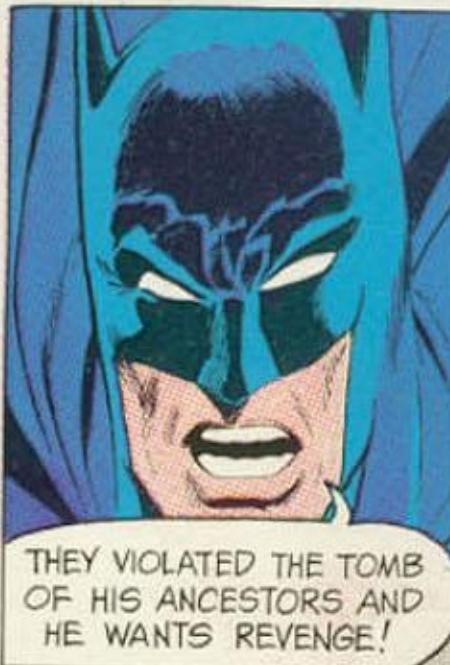
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BATMAN

AND THE MUMMY



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I'M PROMETHEVS
AND I'M HERE
TO BURN
THE JUSTICE
LEAGUE.



SEE, THE INFORMATION ON THIS DISK
CAN BE DOWNLOADED DIRECTLY INTO
MY CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM.

I HAVE THIRTY OF THE WORLD'S
GREATEST COMIC ARTS MASTERS
RIGHT HERE.

AND IN JUST A FEW SECONDS ALL
THEIR SKILLS, ALL THEIR PHYSICAL
PROWESS WILL BE MINE.

