



SPECIAL 300<sup>TH</sup> ISSUE!

NO. 300  
JUNE

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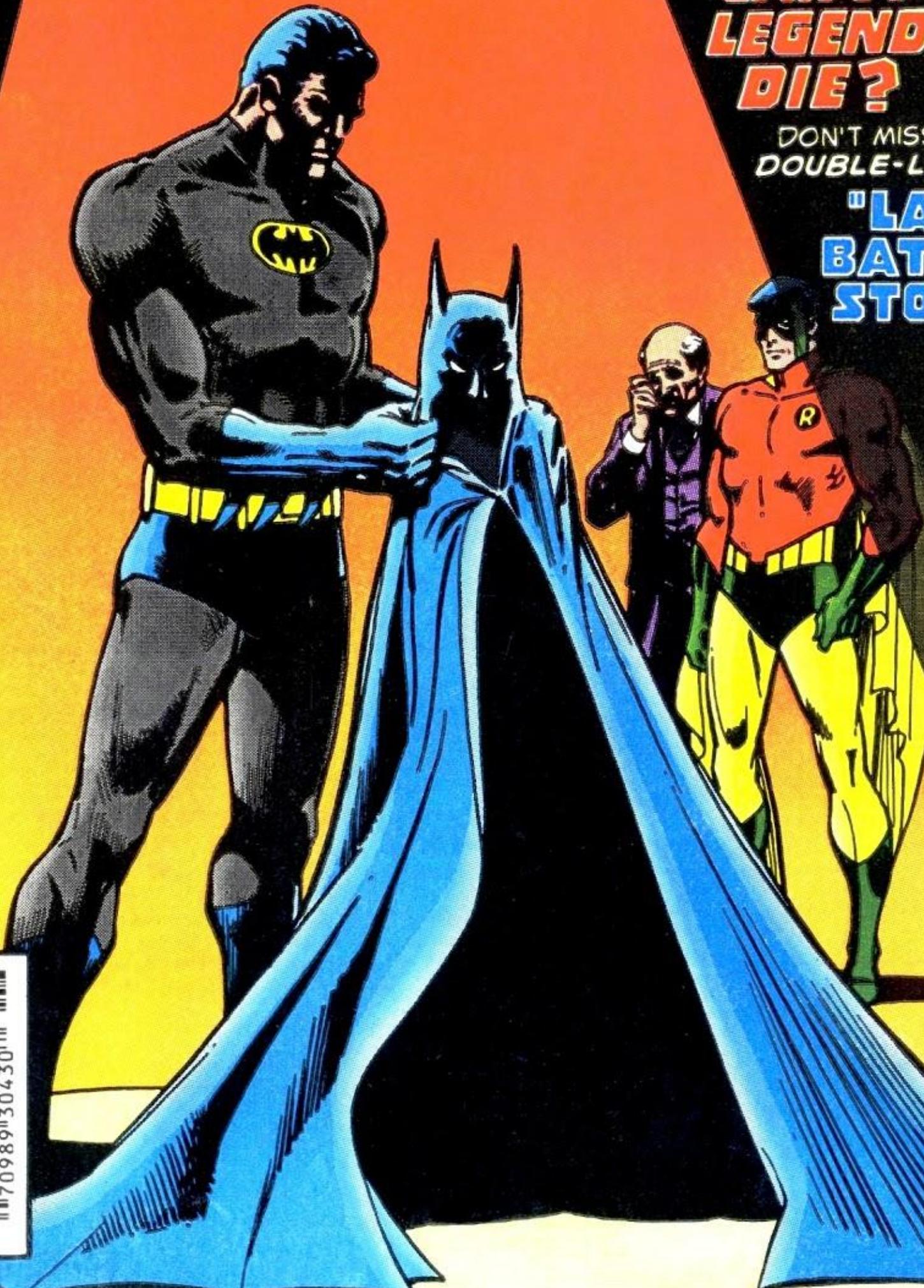
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# BATMAN

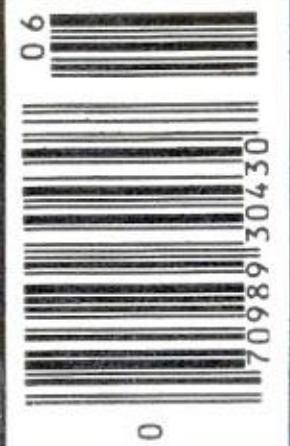
CAN A  
LEGEND  
DIE?

DON'T MISS THE  
DOUBLE-LENGTH

"LAST  
BATMAN  
STORY!"



3-2-272



# TO ALL WHO WANT POWERFUL MUSCLES FAST!

I WANT TO SEND YOU MY FREE  
MUSCLE BUILDING LESSON  
WITH MY COMPLIMENTS



FREE!  
**lesson 1**



Mac Ray	BEFORE	Killeen, Texas
NECK	13.5	Weight 128
CHEST	37.5	
WAIST	26.5	
THIGHS	19.0	
CALVES	13.0	
UPPER ARM	13.5	
FOREARM	10.7	

Mac Ray	AFTER	Killeen, Texas
NECK	15.0	Weight 158
CHEST	43.0	
WAIST	27.5	
THIGHS	22.0	
CALVES	14.7	
UPPER ARM	15.3	
FOREARM	12.0	

Yes, I will rush you (absolutely FREE) LESSON ONE of the startling new OLYMPIC MUSCLEBUILDERS home-study Body-Building Course.

If you enjoy good robust health right now, then I don't care if today you own the skinniest, flabbiest or most laughed at body — Whether you're tall or short, young or not so young, my OLYMPIC MUSCLEBUILDERS COURSE will quickly remodel you to brand new rippling muscularity that will amaze your friends.

Slowly, before your eyes, you will see handsome muscles bursting out all over you — rippling with POWER, exuding energy and fitness.

For the first time in your life others will see and admire YOUR NEW BODY. A physique that brings fame, rather than shame. A NEW YOU will be in the making!

That's right! A whole new world of Strength, Energy and Rippling MusclePower can be yours! I'll teach you the "Progressive - Power Method" which involves no special apparatus whatsoever.

No springs, gadgets, appliances or gimmicks. Prefer weights? Then you can follow our sensational "Resistance Program" also included FREE!

In simple language, I'm asking you to Put an End to your Weakness — Fill in and mail the special \$2 value coupon below.

#### READ WHAT OTHERS SAY...



"My muscles just got bigger and bigger. All due to OLYMPIC MUSCLEBUILDERS. I cannot thank you enough." Jeff Williams, Wa.

"The OLYMPIC MUSCLEBUILDERS course gave me a new life of muscles, strength and fitness. Thanks." Rick Dayton, Brooklyn, N.Y.

"Look at me now! I have a great looking body, added 4 inches to my chest, 3 inches on each arm, using the OLYMPIC MUSCLEBUILDERS resistance course." Stew Cornell, L.A., Calif.

Imaging walking through your local beach or neighborhood swimming area friends noticing your Titanic Legs, your Wide Manly Shoulders, Rock Hard Stomach Muscles, and last but not least, your full High-peaked Biceps that attract second glances from all!

Isn't this the kind of respect and admiration you want? Take advantage of this genuine, no obligation offer. Make something of yourself by grabbing this opportunity today. It's FREE. ACT NOW!

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\$2 \$2   
OLYMPIC MUSCLEBUILDERS Physical Culture House (Dept.OMDC-2)  
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Yes! Rush my FREE OLYMPIC MUSCLEBUILDERS lesson that I can use right now at home to build a handsome body. I'm enclosing 50¢ for handling and mailing charges. No obligation of course!

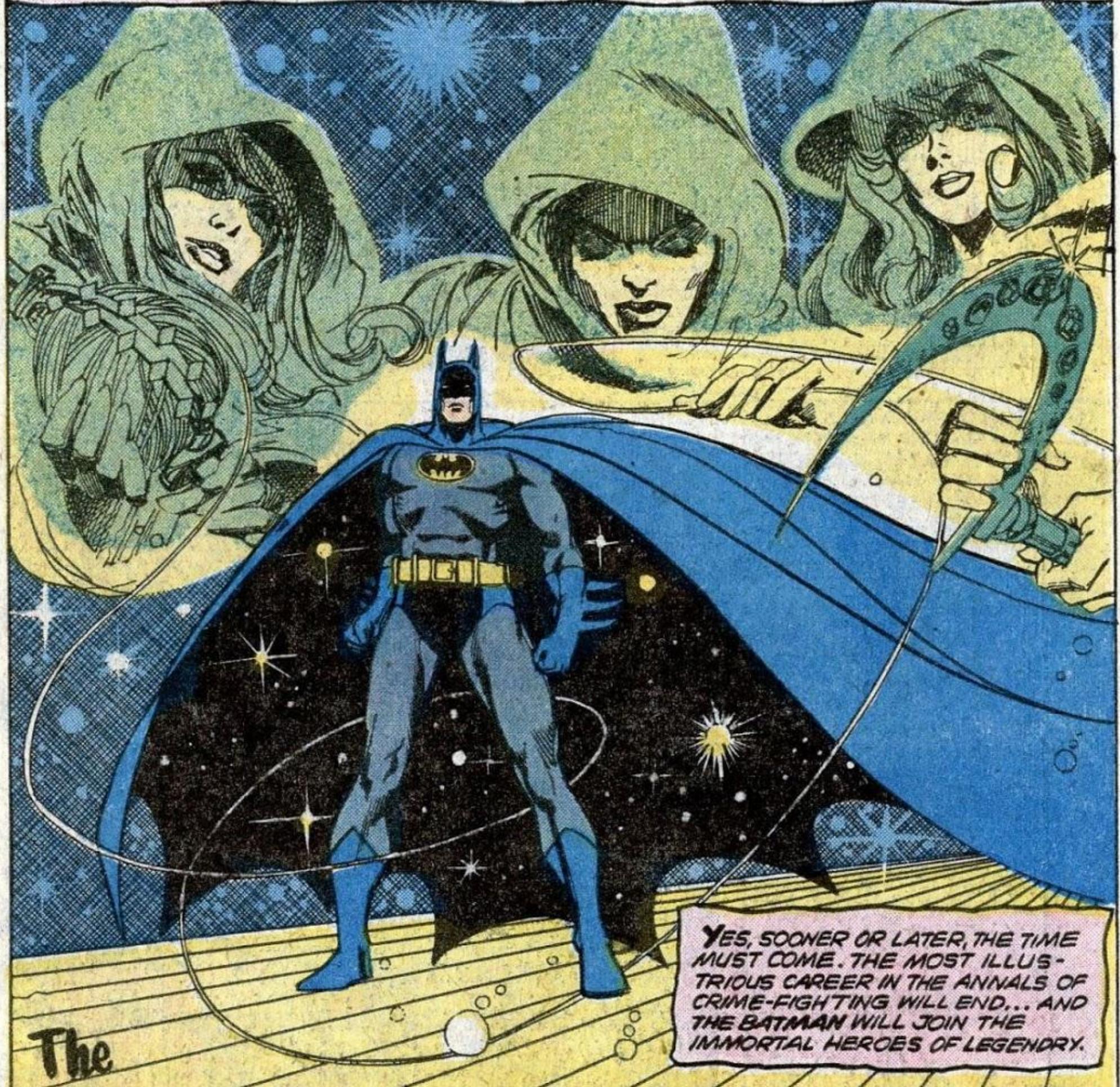
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\$2 FREE GIFT COUPON \$2

ONE DAY IN THE FUTURE, THE THREE FATES WILL MEET--CLOTHO, WHO SPINS THE THREAD OF HUMAN LIFE...LACHESIS, WHO DETERMINES ITS LENGTH...AND ATROPPOS, WHO CUTS IT OFF--AND THEY WILL DETERMINE THE DESTINY OF THE MAN WHO HAS LIVED A THOUSAND LIFETIMES IN A SINGLE MORTAL SPAN.



YES, SOONER OR LATER, THE TIME MUST COME. THE MOST ILLUSTRIOS CAREER IN THE ANNALS OF CRIME-FIGHTING WILL END... AND THE BATMAN WILL JOIN THE IMMORTAL HEROES OF LEGENDRY.

The

# Last Batman Story--?

S-2700

WRITER:  
DAVID V. REED

ARTISTS:  
WALT SIMONSON &  
DICK GIORDANO

LETTERER:  
SHELLY LEFERMAN

COLORIST:  
JERRY SERPE

EDITOR:  
JULIUS  
SCHWARTZ

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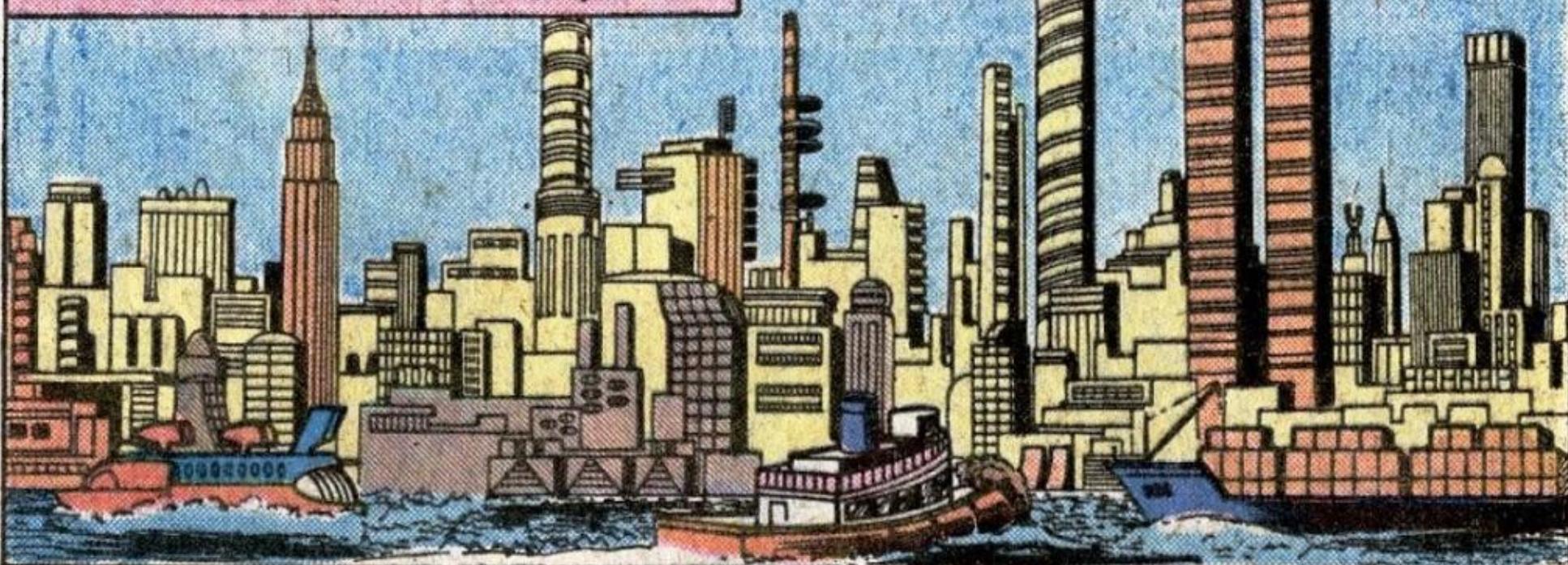
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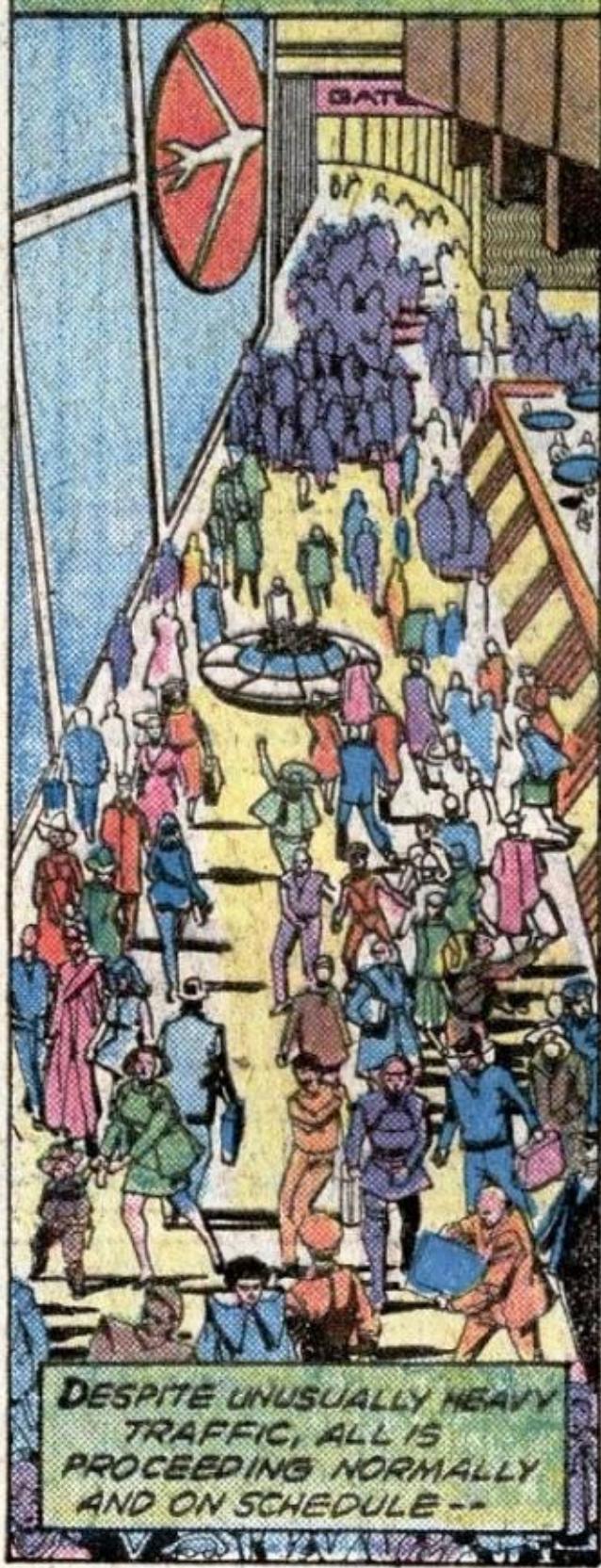
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THIS IS THE GOTHAM CITY OF THE FUTURE--HUB OF MEGALOPOLIS-EAST--THE VAST, TEEMING URBAN SPRAWL THAT REACHES FROM BOSTON THROUGH NEW YORK AND METROPOLIS TO WASHINGTON, D.C. . .



IT IS A MONDAY NIGHT, TO-MORROW THE FOUR-DAY WORK WEEK BEGINS AGAIN...AND HERE AT THE GANGSTER GOTHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, TENS OF THOUSANDS OF WEEKENDERS ARE RETURNING HOME FROM BRIEF VACATIONS ABROAD...



DESPITE UNUSUALLY HEAVY TRAFFIC, ALL IS PROCEEDING NORMALLY AND ON SCHEDULE --

-- WITH ONE NOTEWORTHY EXCEPTION--AT THE ADJOINING TERMINAL FOR COLUMBIA SPACE HOSPITAL... WHERE THE BI-WEEKLY SHUTTLE LAUNCH IS NOW 20 MINUTES LATE...



WHOEVER'S BEING SHUTTLED RATES PLENTY OF SECURITY--THERE'S THE FORCE-SHIELD SQUAD!

THIS TRANSFER PROCEDURE IS TOP MUSH AND TOP PRIORITY!

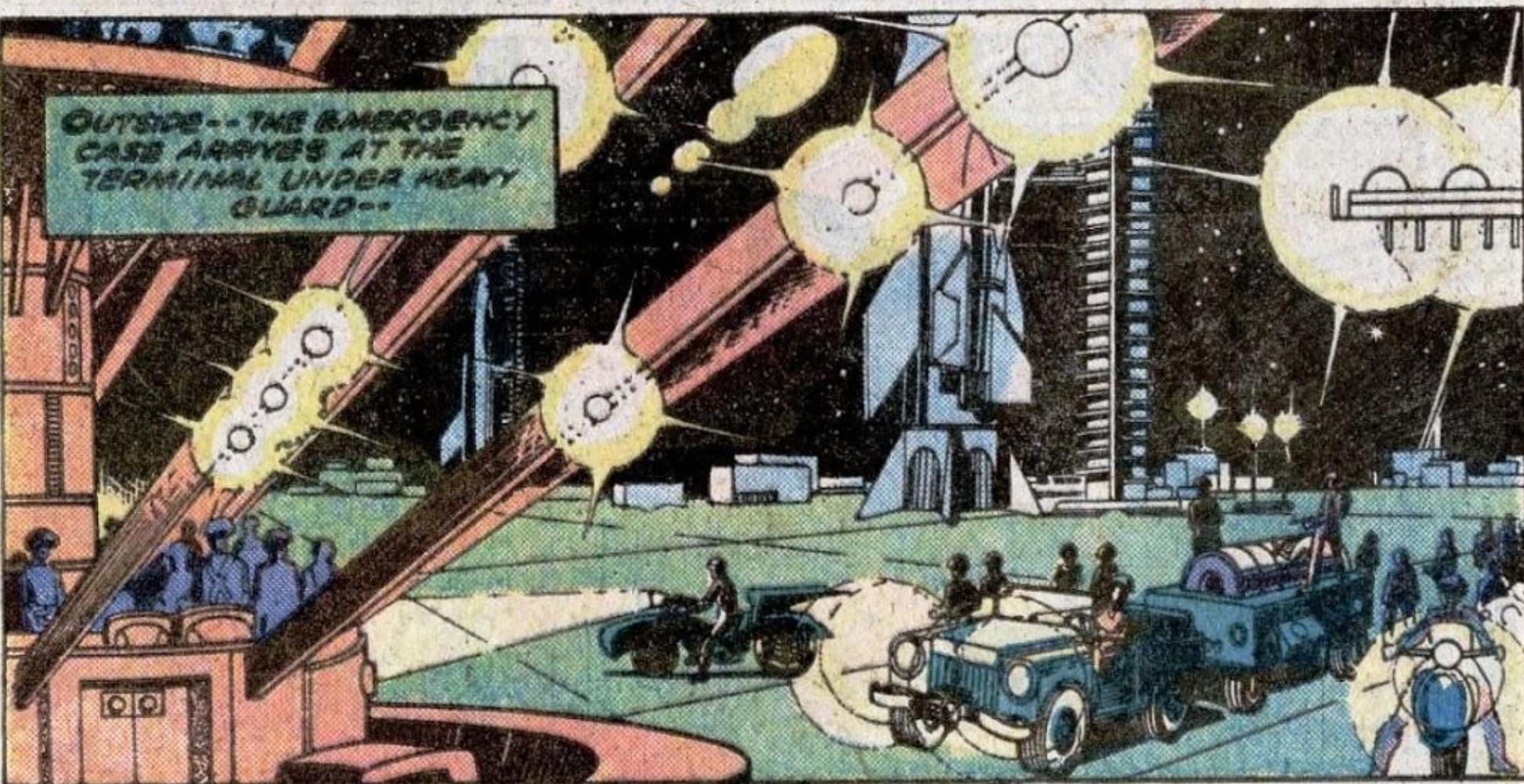
TOP PRIORITY INDEED!

LOOK WHO'S HERE--!

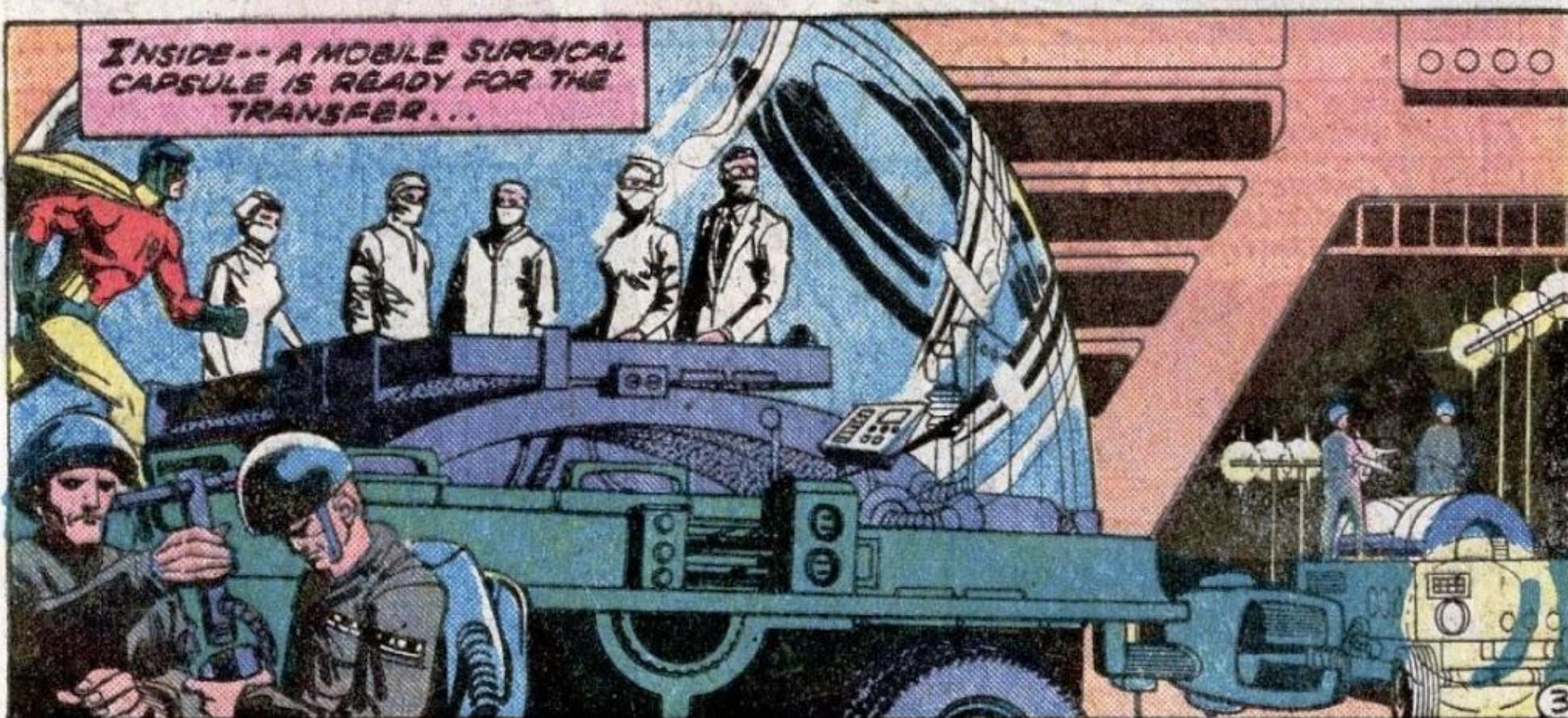
THE RENOWNED ROBIN--WHOSE LIFE HAS CHANGED CONSIDERABLY SINCE THE DAYS HE FOUGHT BESIDE THE BATMAN--

--BUT WHO, ON OCCASION, STILL PURSUES HIS CRIME-FIGHTING CAREER IN SPECIAL OPERATIONS FOR THE MEG/EAST INTERSTATE POLICE!

OUTSIDE--THE EMERGENCY CASE ARRIVES AT THE TERMINAL UNDER HEAVY GUARD--



INSIDE--A MOBILE SURGICAL CAPSULE IS READY FOR THE TRANSFER...



WITH SWIFT PRECISION, THE TRANSFER IS EFFECTED... AND THE CAPSULE READIED FOR TOWING TO THE SHUTTLE--

SHE'S BARELY ALIVE, ROBIN... RIDDLED THROUGH!

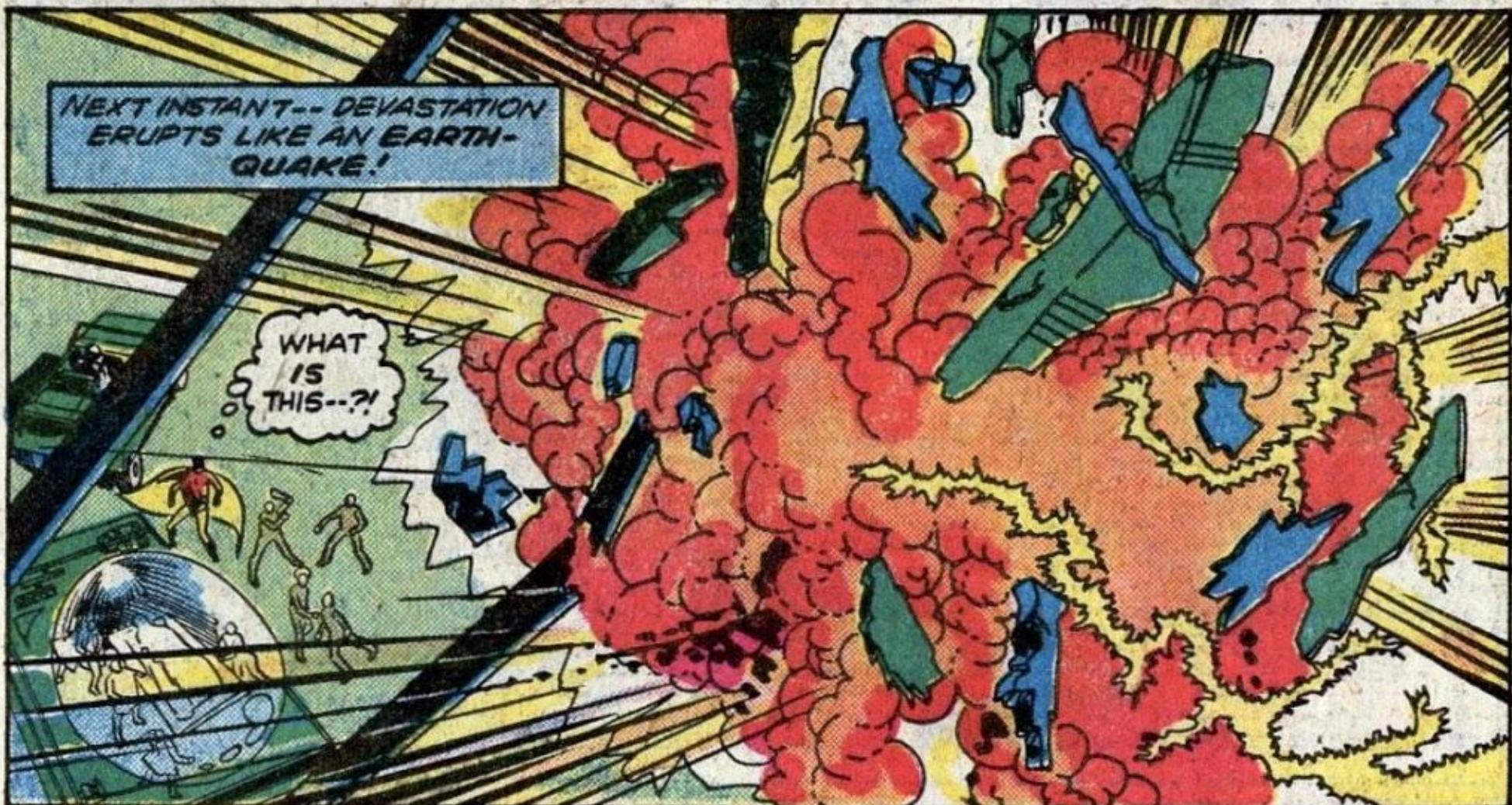


AN ANGUISHED MOMENT'S PAUSE... A SILENT, COMPASSIONATE GOOD-BYE --



NEXT INSTANT-- DEVASTATION Erupts like an EARTH-QUAKE!

WHAT IS THIS--?!



HALF A MILE ACROSS THE AIRPORT-- BELOW RADAR-SCREEN RANGE...

DIRECT HIT ON COLUMBIA TERMINAL!

KEEP ON FIRING!



THEN--AS THE MURDEROUS AVION-CANNON\* CLOSES FOR THE KILL...

LOOK OUT! SOMETHING DIVING AT US!



# Wonder makes bread the way you like it. Fresh 'n soft.

One squeeze, one taste  
will convince Mom  
that Wonder® is the bread  
kids eat up.



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LOAF OF  
WONDER BREAD.

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**Remember How Many Times You Felt Left Out**

**Because You Were BROKE!**



Places the gang was going and you weren't included. They all had money, for movies, games, hamburgers and soft drinks . . . all of them except you.

**WELL YOU'LL NEVER BE LEFT OUT AGAIN**

**Now YOU Can Make \$2, \$5, \$10 or More Week After Week**

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THIS COUPON IN AN  
ENVELOPE TODAY**

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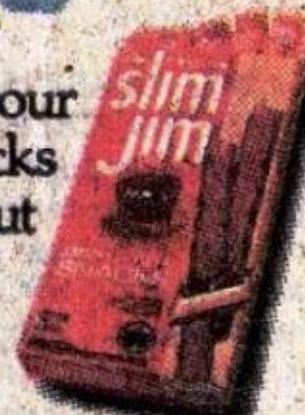


## Satisfy your meat tooth.



For those times when you get a craving for something to really sink your teeth into, sink them into Slim Jim® meat snacks. The chewy all-meat sticks that come in mild, spicy, pizza, bacon, pepperoni and salami. Just about every possible flavor you could ever want. Except, of course, garlic.

**A little less than a meal. A little more than a snack.®**



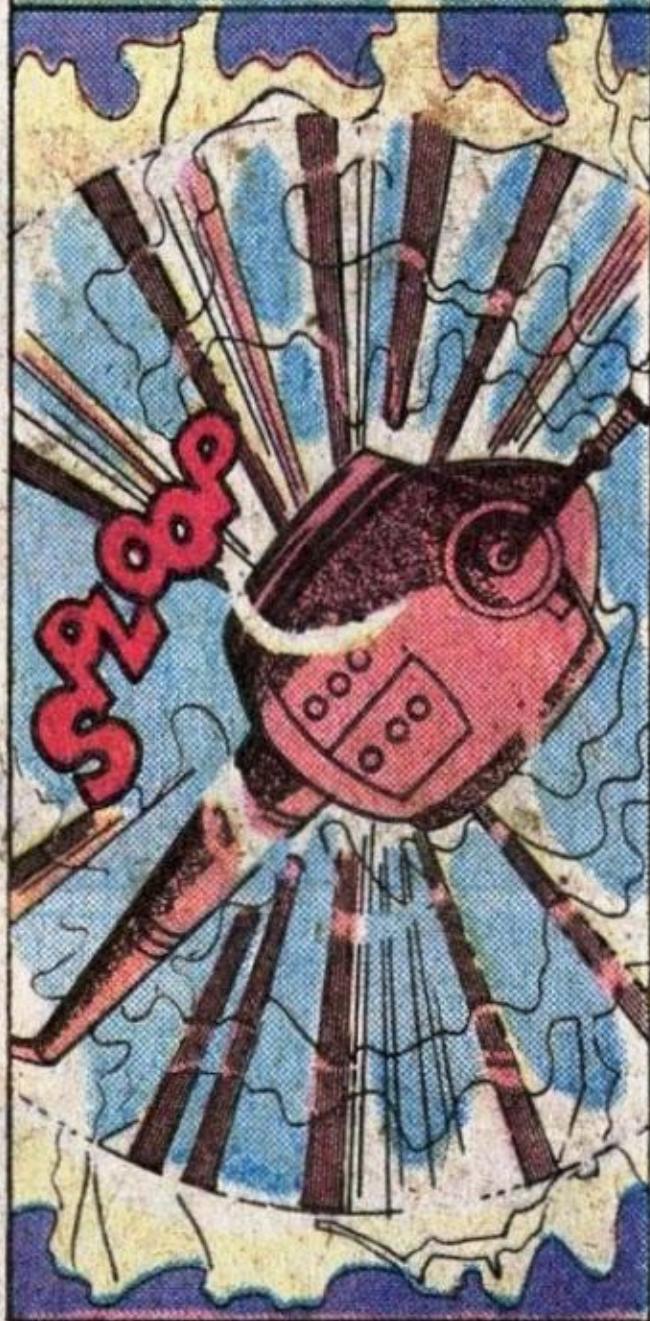
DOWN FROM THE SKY IT SWOOPS--AS BLACK AS THE NIGHT AROUND IT...



...AND AS IT ENDS ITS DIVE AND ZOOMS UPWARD AGAIN--



--TO ENMESH AND STRANGLE THE PIRATICAL CRAFT--



--A MYSTERIOUS SUBSTANCE FLUTTERS DOWN IN ITS WAKE--



--SPINNING IT DOWN TO DESTRUCTION!



BUT THE OCCUPANTS SURVIVE AND SCRAMBLE FOR SAFETY--

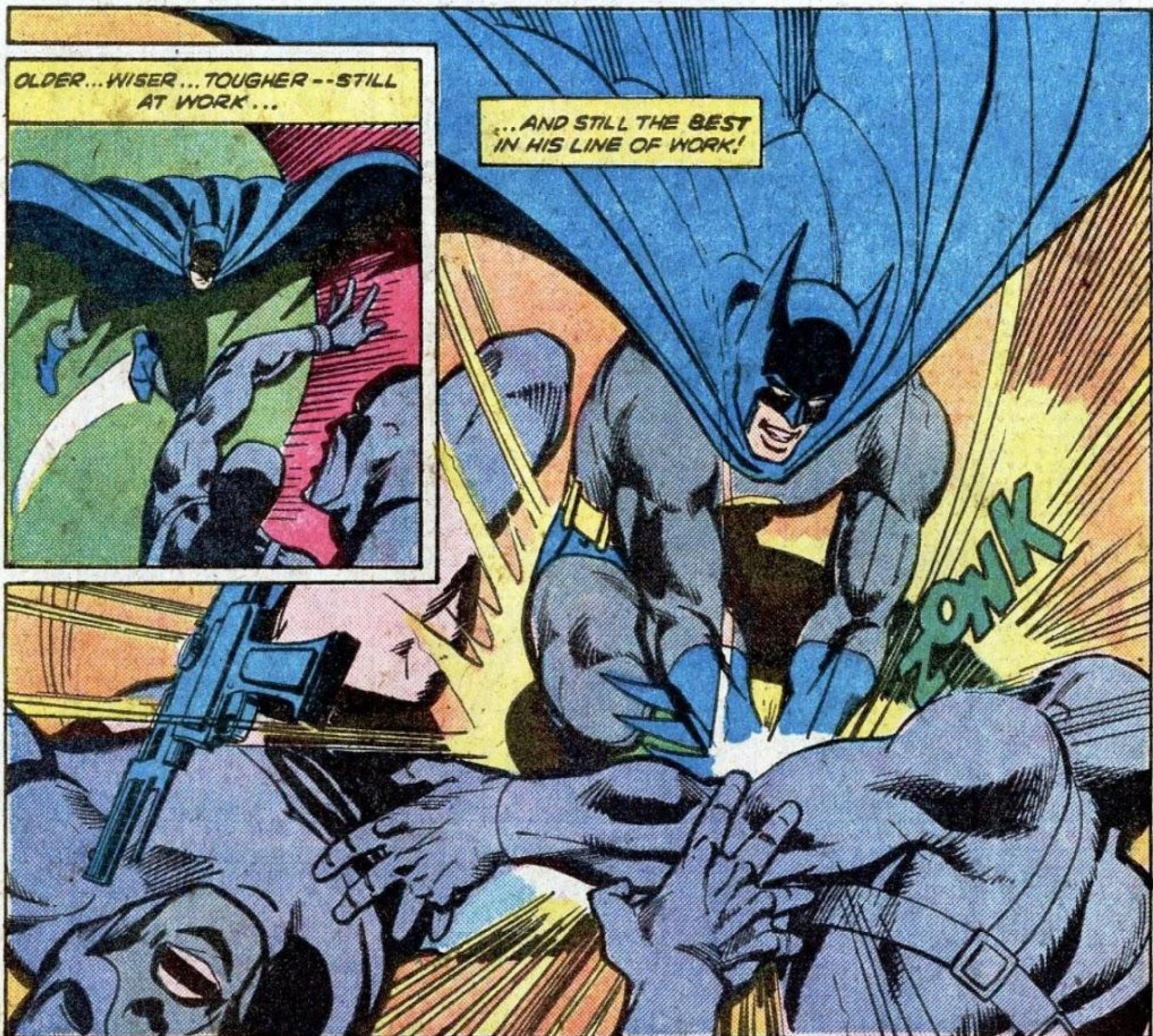
--AS THE ATTACK-CHOPPER TOUCHES DOWN AND ITS PILOT EMERGES TO REVEAL--

--THE BATMAN! THE INCOMPARABLE CAPED CRUSADER--NOW, AS THROUGHOUT THE YEARS OF HIS DEDICATED CALLING--DREAD NEMESIS OF THE WORLD OF CRIME!



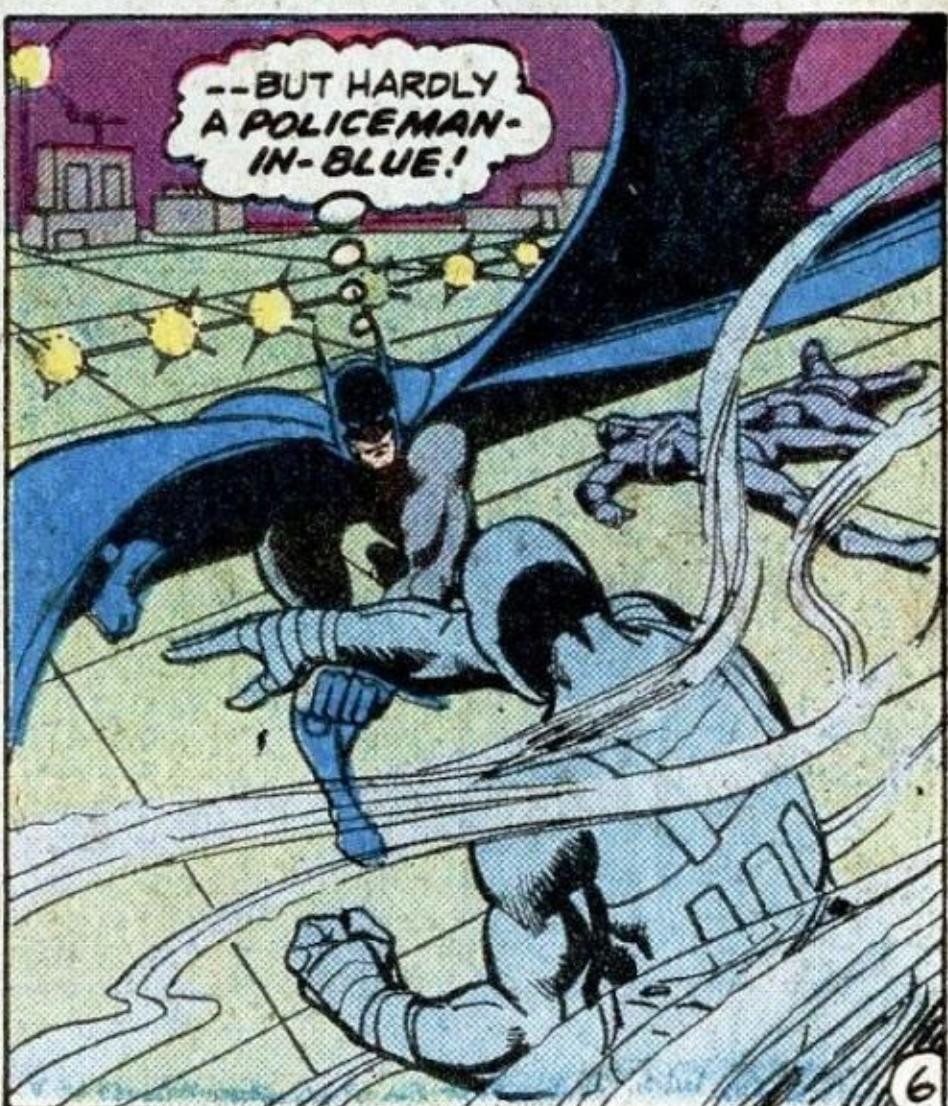
OLDER...WISER...TOUGHER--STILL  
AT WORK...

...AND STILL THE BEST  
IN HIS LINE OF WORK!



A MAN  
IN BLUE--!

--BUT HARDLY  
A POLICEMAN-  
IN-BLUE!



ABRUPTLY... INEXPICABLY...  
THE WORLD COMES TO A  
SUDDEN END FOR THE  
BLUE MAN!...

BA-ROOM!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

BATMAN,  
YOU ALL  
RIGHT---?

UH-HUH... ASIDE  
FROM BEING  
STUNNED AND  
HALF-BLINED  
BY THAT BLAST!

WHEN DID  
YOU GET  
HERE?

JUST IN TIME,  
I'D SAY! I HIT  
TOWN, GOT YOUR  
MESSAGE ON  
RELAY AND CAME  
RIGHT OVER!

ROBIN, I  
SAW A  
BLUE MAN--

THE  
ATTACKERS  
HAD AN  
ELECTRIC  
CANNON  
WHICH--

--A  
BLUE  
MAN?!?

HEAD TO FOOT  
--ALL BLUE--  
HIS CLOTHES  
AND HIS  
SKIN!

HE MUST'VE  
BEEN CARRYING  
SOME SORT OF  
EXPLOSIVE THAT  
ACCIDENTALLY  
WENT OFF...

ANYWAY--WHATEVER  
THIS IS ALL ABOUT--IS  
IT UNDER CONTROL NOW?

THERE GOES PART  
OF YOUR ANSWER--  
SOMEONE WHO HAD  
TO MAKE THIS  
LAUNCH AND DID!

LET'S GO--  
I'VE PLENTY  
TO TELL YOU!

SOON AFTER--  
AS SO MANY  
TIMES BEFORE  
IN THEIR CLOSELY-  
TWINED LIVES--  
THE BATMAN  
AND HIS FORMER  
WARD, ROBIN,  
MEET IN THE  
BATCAVE...A  
FANTASTIC COMPLEX  
OF SCIENTIFIC  
LABORATORIES  
AND COMMUNICA-  
TIONS SYSTEMS..  
AT THE LOWEST  
SUB-LEVEL OF  
THE WAYNE  
FOUNDATION  
BUILDING...

...FAR BELOW THE PENTHOUSE AND EXECUTIVE OFFICES OF THEIR  
PUBLIC PERSONAE--BRUCE WAYNE, MAN-ABOUT-TOWN AND CHAIRMAN  
OF THE BOARD OF THE ENORMOUS FINANCIAL EMPIRE OF WAYNE  
INTERNATIONAL--AND THE COMPANY'S PRESIDENT, RICHARD GRAYSON.

WHEN AND WHERE  
DID THIS START--?  
THE NIGHT OF THE  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
DINNER AT OLD  
GOTHAM HALL...

...WHERE I HAD A  
STRANGE ENCOUNTER WITH  
A MAN I'D NEVER SEEN  
BEFORE...A BIG MAN WITH  
AN OLD BULLET SCAR IN THE  
MIDDLE OF HIS FOREHEAD--  
AND A BLUNT, ABRASIVE  
MANNER!

"HE WALKED UP TO ME WITHOUT  
A WORD OF INTRODUCTION..."

GRAYSON, YOU  
HAVE SOMETHING  
I WANT--

--YOUR 1902 ONE-  
CYLINDER  
RAMBLER!

NO SALE!

BUT I ADMIRE  
YOUR TASTE--IT'S  
ONE OF THE RAREST  
ANTIQUE CARS IN MY  
COLLECTION!

I KNOW THAT, BUT  
I'M PREPARED TO  
PAY WHATEVER YOU  
ASK!

NAME  
YOUR PRICE!

A VERY INTRIGUING PROPOSITION!  
BUT I LOVE THE CAR, AND I DON'T  
NEED THE MONEY...SO THE  
ANSWER IS NO!

GRAYSON, I WANT THAT  
CAR-- AND I MEAN TO  
HAVE IT! EVERYTHING  
HAS A PRICE!

IN THAT CASE, HOW  
MUCH DO YOU WANT  
FOR PUTTING AN  
END TO THIS  
CONVERSATION?

# AQUAMAN and "THE IMPERILED SUB"

AQUAMAN AND AQUALAD ARE OUT FOR A PLEASANT GALLOP ON THE WAVES WHEN...

HOLY CATFISH, AQUAMAN, A TIDAL WAVE IS COMING FAST!! WE'LL BE THROWN ON THE ROCKS.

DIVE, YOUNGSTER, DIVE! DEEP ENOUGH, WE'LL BE OKAY.

LOOK! A MINIATURE RESEARCH SUB!

THEY'RE NOT POWERFUL ENOUGH TO OUTRUN THAT TIDAL WAVE. THEY'LL BE CRUSHED UNLESS...

AND THE LORD OF THE SEA CALLS UPON HIS TELEPATHIC POWERS TO BRING A HORDE OF FRIENDLY DOLPHINS ALONGSIDE.

THESE DOLPHINS WILL GET THE SUB TO SHORE .... FAST!!!

ONE LAST PUSH AND THE SUB WILL BE SAFE ON LAND.

SOMETIME LATER:

OUR RESCUE CALLS FOR A CELEBRATION. HAVE SOME OF OUR HOSTESS® TWINKIES® CAKES. ONE GOOD TURN DESERVES ANOTHER!

YOU'LL LIKE THE MOIST, RICH CAKE, AND DELIGHTFUL CREAMED FILLING AS MUCH AS WE DO.

I'LL RIDE A TIDAL WAVE FOR THESE DELICIOUS CAKES ANY-TIME!!!

YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN EVERY BITE OF  
HOSTESS® TWINKIES® CAKES!

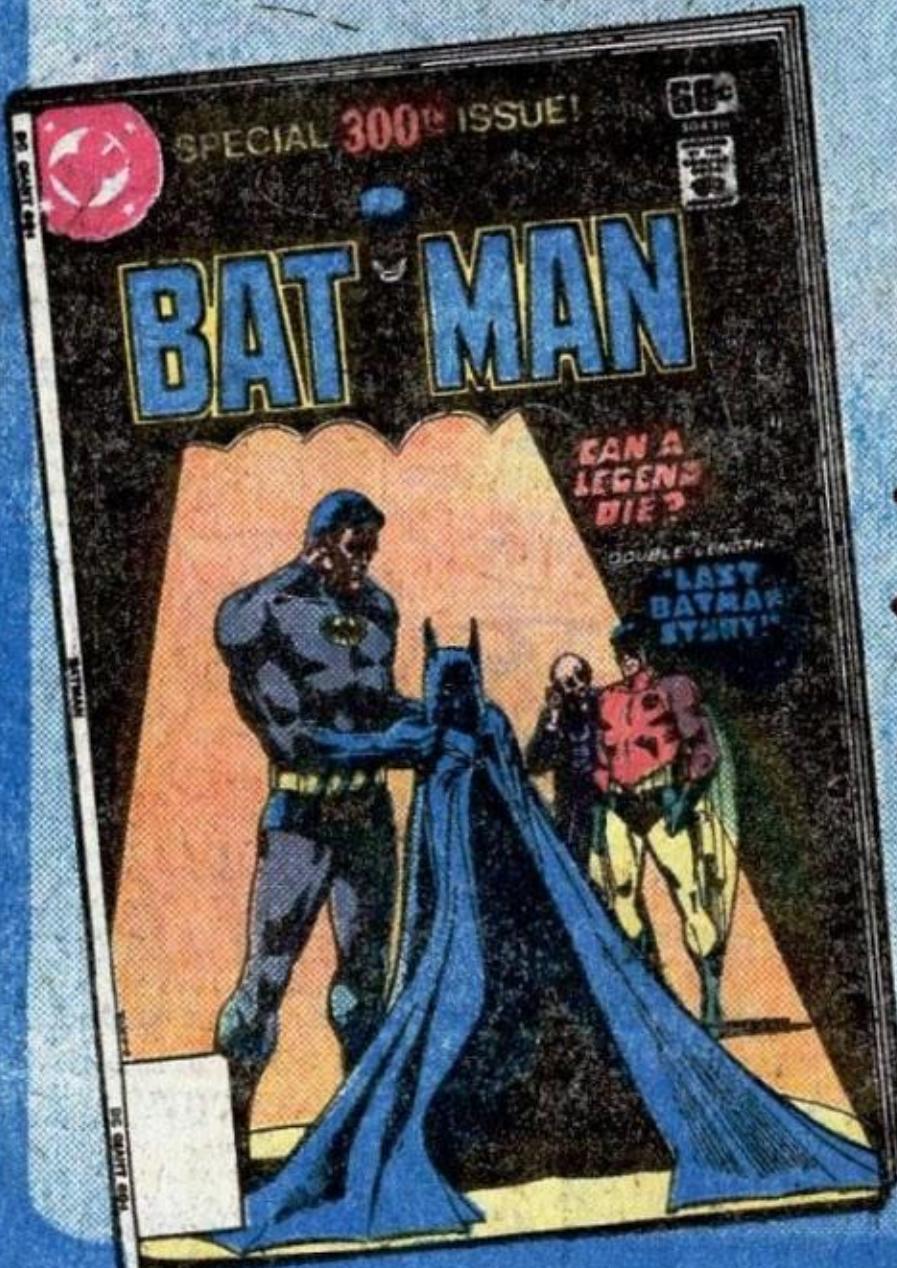
40 YEARS AGO,  
**IT ALL  
STARTED  
HERE...**

THIS YEAR  
HISTORY  
IS MADE  
ONCE AGAIN!



ON SALE  
MARCH 28<sup>th</sup>

**300 ISSUES AGO...  
A LEGACY BEGAN!**



**TODAY--  
BATMAN RETIRES!**

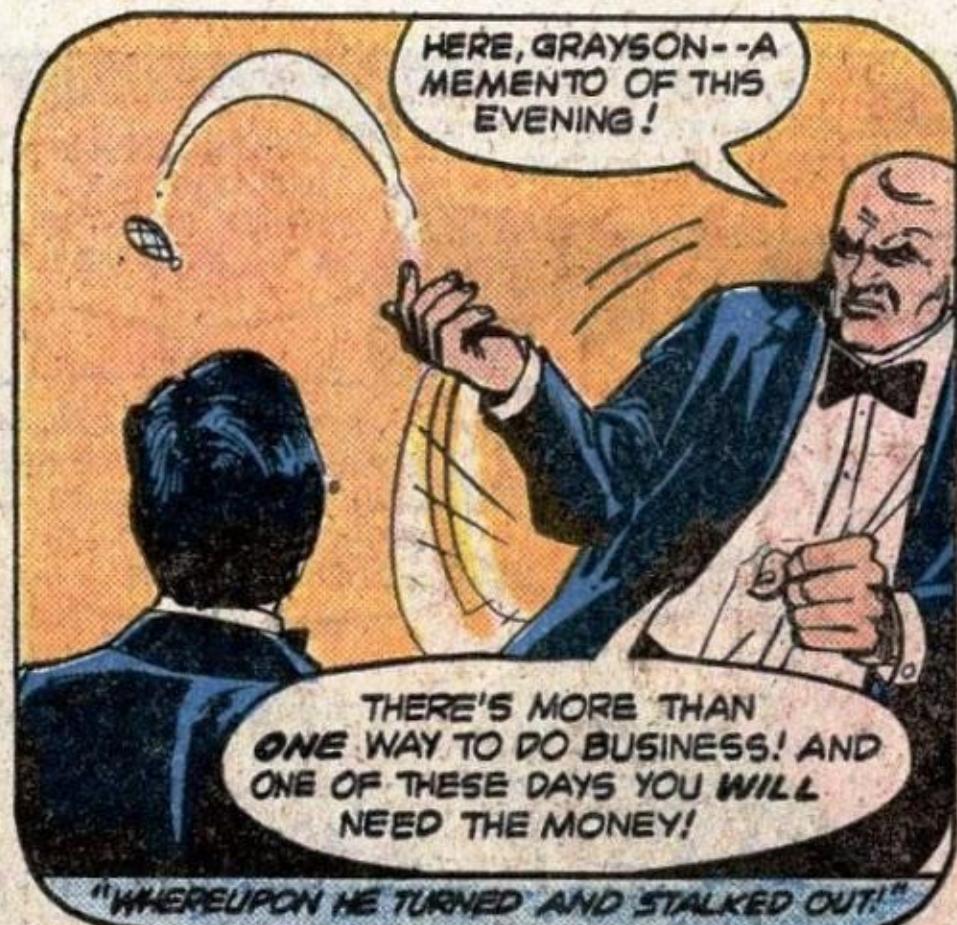
A SPECIAL DOUBLE-LENGTH  
THRILLER!

ON SALE MARCH 7<sup>th</sup>!

"HE STARED AT ME, SPEECHLESS,  
SHAKING WITH RAGE! THEN  
SUDDENLY--"



HERE, GRAYSON--A MEMENTO OF THIS EVENING!



FOUR DAYS LATER, IN MY MAIL, THERE WAS A BOX CONTAINING A SMALL PRISM!

THAT AFTERNOON, OUR SÃO PAULO STEEL MILL HAD A DISASTROUS ACCIDENT!

THEN A THIRD PRISM... AND COPPER MINE EXPLOSIONS IN ZAIRE!

NOT HEADLINE STUFF, EXCEPT IN FINANCIAL NEWS-- BUT EXTREMELY COSTLY, WIDE SPREAD DAMAGE TO WAYNE INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS!

NEXT WEEK, ANOTHER PRISM ARRIVED--THE SAME DAY OUR CANADIAN OIL SUBSIDIARY SUFFERED EXTENSIVE PIPELINE SABOTAGE!

WHY WASN'T I INFORMED OF THIS? MAYBE I HAVEN'T FOLLOWED FINANCIAL NEWS THESE PAST WEEKS, BUT I HAVEN'T RETIRED, YOU KNOW!

BRUCE, THIS WAS YOUR FIRST REAL VACATION IN YEARS!

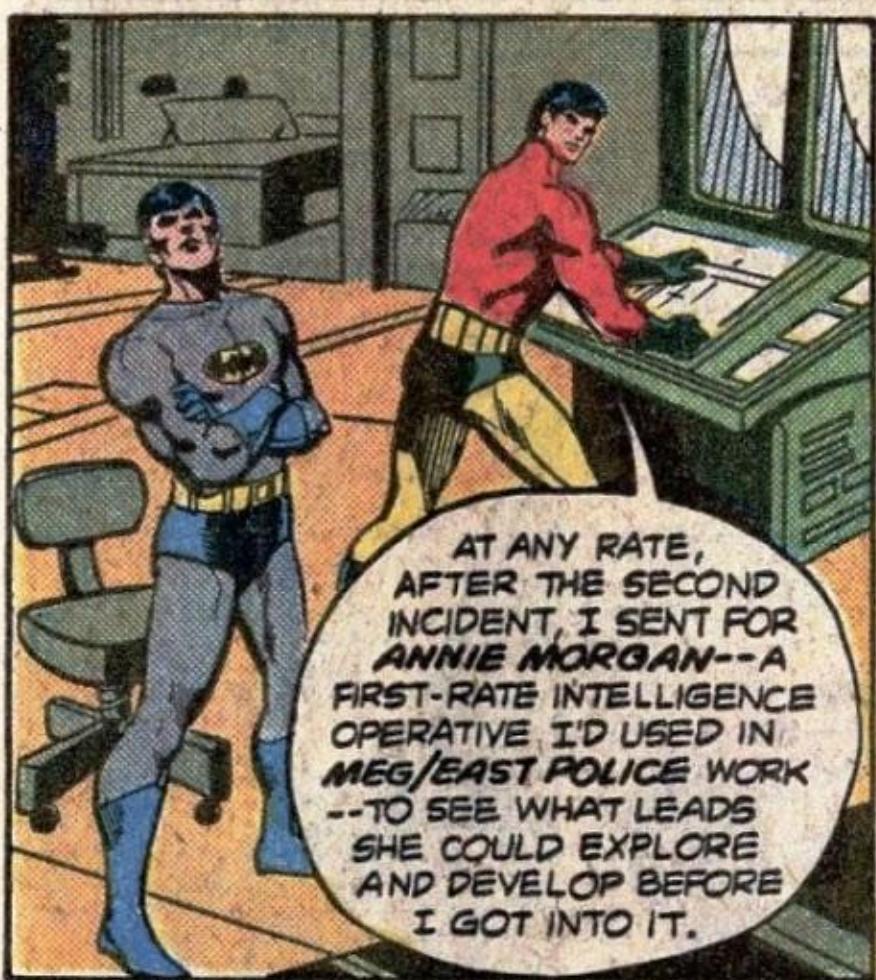
YOU WERE ENJOYING YOURSELF --AND I WOULDN'T SPOIL IT!

AT ANY RATE, AFTER THE SECOND INCIDENT, I SENT FOR ANNIE MORGAN--A FIRST-RATE INTELLIGENCE OPERATIVE I'D USED IN MEG/EAST POLICE WORK --TO SEE WHAT LEADS SHE COULD EXPLORE AND DEVELOP BEFORE I GOT INTO IT.

I BRIEFED HER--GAVE HER THE COVER NAME OF ROSE GRAY...

THAT WAS THREE WEEKS AGO... AND I DIDN'T SEE HER AGAIN UNTIL TONIGHT--

--THE PATIENT WHO HAD TO MAKE THE SHUTTLE?



RIGHT... BUT I DID HEAR FROM HER--A COUPLE OF ONE-WORD COMMUNICATIONS:

"MOONBEAM" AND "BANK" ... NEITHER MEANING A THING TO ME!

APPARENTLY SHE WAS SOMEPLACE WHERE SHE WAS HAVING GREAT DIFFICULTY GETTING ANYTHING OUT.

AT 4:30 THIS AFTERNOON, THE MIAMI POLICE FOUND HER AND FED HER COVER IDENTITY INTO THE D.C. COMPUTER--WHICH TRIGGERED MY SYSTEMS ALARM!

I IMMEDIATELY CALLED MIAMI, GOT THEIR REPORT, AND HAD THEM TELECOPY SOME 3-D'S THEY'D TAKEN.

THIS WAS THE SCENE WHEN POLICE FOUND HER... LYING ON A SHORELINE ROAD-- HURLED FROM THAT STOLEN CAR, WHICH HAD BEEN DEMOLISHED BY AN ANTI-PERSONNEL MISSILE...



MIRACULOUSLY, SHE WAS ALIVE! THE DOCTORS SAID SHE MIGHT PULL THROUGH IN A SPACE-HOSPITAL-- SO I MADE THE ARRANGEMENTS--

--THEN ACTIVATED YOUR GOTHAM RE-CALL, WITH THAT FURTHER MESSAGE ON MY RELAY!

YOU GOT IT, DIDN'T YOU? WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

JUST WHAT YOU THINK-- THE WORST! WE SEEM TO BE IN SOME SORT OF WAR... WITH AN UTTERLY WEIRD ENEMY OF EXTRAORDINARY CAPABILITY--

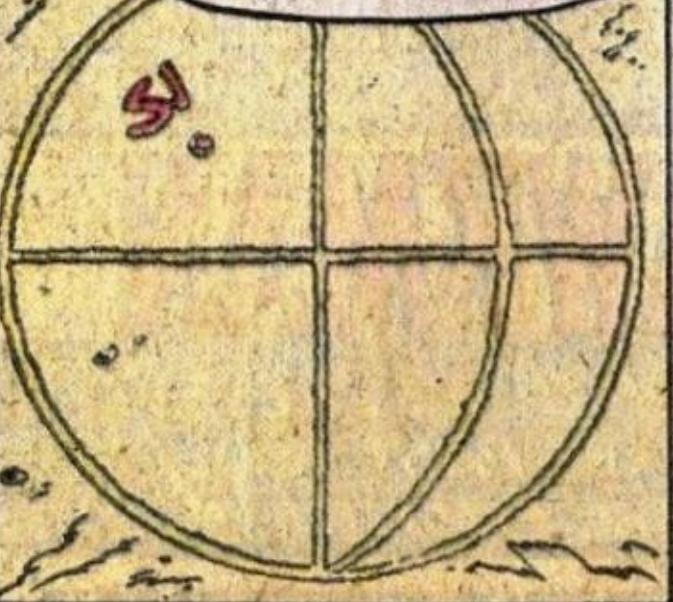
SOME MESSAGE!-- "COLUMBIA SHUTTLE SECURITY!"

WHAT'S THIS DIAGRAM--?

ANNIE EVIDENTLY DREW IT IN THE SAND BEFORE SHE PASSED OUT! I'LL CHANGE THE PERSPECTIVE AND ISOLATE IT...

I THINK THE RIGHT-HAND CRESCENT INDICATES THAT THE WHOLE CIRCLE REPRESENTS THE FACE OF THE MOON... WHICH IS SHOWN CUT INTO ITS QUADRANTS...

...WITH A POINT MARKED IN THE SECOND QUADRANT THAT IS IDENTIFIED BY THE LETTER S AND I.



--S. I. STANDING FOR SINUS IRIDIUM--A DARK PLAIN ALSO KNOWN AS THE BAY OF RAINBOWS--



--RAINBOWS!-- WHAT YOU SEE THROUGH A PRISM! MOONBEAM MUST FIT IN HERE SOMEWHERE!

LET'S TAKE IT LITERALLY-- A MOONBEAM!-- WE'LL ASK MAX TO CONSIDER EVERY POSSIBLE BEAM VARIANT WITH COMMUNICATION CAPACITY -- AND FIND THE INTERCEPT PROCEDURE FOR EACH!



THEN WE'LL HITCH IT TO THE SCANNER-- AIM AT THE BAY OF RAINBOWS--AND LET IT GO DOWN THE LIST!

TENSE MINUTES PASS... IN A SILENCE MARRED ONLY BY THE SCARCELY-AUDIBLE HUM OF THE GIANT COMPUTER. THEN --

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT--?

AN UNKNOWN SOURCE IS TRANSMITTING TO A POINT ON THE BAY OF RAINBOWS... WITH A BEAM MAX DOESN'T YET KNOW HOW TO INTERCEPT OR TRACE!

BUT THAT BEAM IS BEING RECEIVED ON THE MOON BY A MECHANISM THAT IS BOUNCING IT BACK-- CONVERTING AND RE-TRANSMITTING IT ON SEVEN DISPERSED UHF-TV BEAMS BACK TO EARTH!



WE CAN INTERCEPT TWO OF THOSE! HIT THE SWITCH!

A MOMENT LATER--

FRIENDS, WE HAVE ONLY A FEW MORE MINUTES FOR THIS TELECAST-- JUST ENOUGH FOR ONE LAST ENTRY!

WE WERE EXPECTING SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL FROM THE 475-CONNECTION... BUT UNFORTUNATELY, THEY'RE HAVING A LITTLE TROUBLE, AND THERE WILL BE NO PRESENTATION FROM THEM TONIGHT.

I THEREFORE CALL THE 500!

# Who is HAWKMAN--

THE WINGED HERO WHO SOARS  
THROUGH SPACE--HIS KEEN EYES  
ALERT--HIS MIGHTY BODY TENSED TO  
DO BATTLE WITH THE FORCES OF EVIL?

# Why does HAWKMAN

FIGHT THE MENACES OF THE PRESENT  
WITH WEAPONS OF THE PAST AND  
SCIENCE OF THE FUTURE?

# How does HAWKMAN

JOIN FORCES WITH  
FAMED STAR-TRAVELER  
**ADAM STRANGE**



For the  
surprising  
answers to  
these baffling  
questions, read  
the latest  
thrill-packed  
issue of

**SHOWCASE**

ON SALE  
MARCH 16th!

ON BEHALF OF THE 500-CONNECTION,  
I PRESENT OUR ENTRY FOR THE NOSTALGIA  
SWEEPSTAKES--IN THE ANTIQUE  
MACHINERY DIVISION!

THREE ITEMS -- A  
1928 PINBALL MACHINE!  
A 1924 ATWATER KENT RADIO!  
AND A 1916 DENTIST'S DRILL,  
POWERED BY A FOOT-TREADLE!

JUDGES--  
WHAT SAY  
YOU?

THAT AVERAGES  
OUT TO A  
SOLID ONE!

THE 500-  
CONNECTION IS  
HEREBY AWARDED  
ONE CHEVRON!

THAT'S IT, FRIENDS! OUR NEXT  
NOSTALGIA SWEEPSTAKES  
EVENING WILL FEATURE  
ENTRIES IN EXOTIC  
AMERICAN APPAREL,  
CIRCA  
1900--

--AND ORIGINAL  
DIXIELAND JAZZ  
RECORDINGS!

REMEMBER, YOU'RE INVITED  
TO JOIN US ANY TIME YOU'RE  
IN TOWN! GOOD NIGHT!

BRUCE, WE'VE HOOKED INTO AN  
ORGANIZATION SO VAST THAT  
IT TELECASTS ITS SOCIAL  
FUNCTIONS TO ITS MEMBERSHIP  
ON SEVEN BEAMS --

-THROUGH A  
SET-UP BASED  
ON THE MOON!

THE MAN FROM THE PRISMS--  
WHO WAS ANNIE MORGAN'S  
ASSIGNMENT--IS PART OF  
THIS 475-  
CONNECTION!

HE MUST'VE  
WANTED MY  
1902 RAMBLER  
AS HIS ENTRY--

HOLD IT! LET'S  
PLAY THAT SCENE  
BACK ON THE TAPE!

THERE'S SOMETHING AT THE  
VERY START--SOME PEOPLE  
WHISPERING AMONG  
THEMSELVES!

WE'LL  
ISOLATE THEM  
AND SEE IF  
WE CAN PICK  
UP WHAT  
THEY'RE  
SAYING!

CLK

THE ISOLATED  
PLAYBACK BEGINS

HAH! THE BATMAN WIPES  
OUT ONE OF THEIR UNITS--  
THE LEADER IS EXECUTED--  
AND HE CALLS IT A  
LITTLE TROUBLE!

...EXPECTING  
SOMETHING  
VERY SPECIAL  
FROM THE 475-  
CONNECTION...  
BUT UNFORTU-  
NATELY, THEY'RE  
HAVING A  
LITTLE  
TROUBLE --

475 HAS LOST A LOT OF RANK  
AND RESPECT! THIS WILL COST  
THEM AT LEAST FIVE CHEVRONS!

THEY'RE  
NOT EVEN BEING  
ALLOWED TO  
FINISH THE  
JOB!

IT'S BEEN  
ASSIGNED  
TO 760!

CLK

THAT EXPLAINS WHAT HAPPENED  
TO THE **BLUE MAN** YOU SAW!  
THE EXPLOSION WAS HIS  
**EXECUTION**--FOR FAILING  
IN THE ATTACK ON  
ANNIE MORGAN!

AND THE KILLING HAS  
BEEN TURNED OVER TO  
ANOTHER CONNECTION  
CALLED 760!

I MUST  
GET TO  
HER!

--WITHOUT  
ME?

YOU'VE GOT YOUR  
HANDS FULL HERE! WE  
STILL HAVE NO NOTION OF  
WHAT ANNIE'S  
OTHER MESSAGE  
MEANT--THE  
WORD BANK!

I WANT TO BE THERE  
IF AND WHEN SHE COMES  
TO-- AND MAKE SURE SHE  
STAYS ALIVE!

AND WHEN THE ELEVATOR DOOR OPENS...

ALFRED!  
WHAT'S  
THIS?

NEITHER OF YOU  
HAS HAD DINNER,  
SO I PREPARED  
A LITTLE SNACK,  
SIR!

...AND BY THE  
WAY, MASTER DICK,  
YOUR WIFE CALLED... SHE  
AND THE TWINS ARE STAYING  
OVERNIGHT AT THE OLD  
WAYNE MANOR!

NABISCO

# WOW!

# FREE BIKES!

# BURGERS & CANDY BARS



COMPACT  
10 SPEED

APOLLO  
RACER

A 50,000  
PRIZES A MONTH  
GIVEAWAY

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY  
DETAILS BELOW

EACH MONTH YOU  
COULD WIN ONE OF  
30 SUPER ROSS BICYCLES  
25,000 BURGER KING.  
GIFT CERTIFICATES OR  
25,000 NABISCO CANDY BARS

(THAT'S ACTUALLY 50,030 PRIZES A MONTH)

The makers of Sugar Babies®, Sugar Daddy® and Sugar Mama® are giving away over 50,000 prizes every month to lucky boys and girls all over. And you could be one of them!

To enter, just fill out and mail in the entry form. You'll find more in every package of delicious milk caramel Sugar Babies, Sugar Daddy and Sugar Mama. Remember, with all these prizes your chances of winning are greater and get even better the more times you enter.

#### 50,000 PRIZES A MONTH GIVEAWAY ENTRY FORM

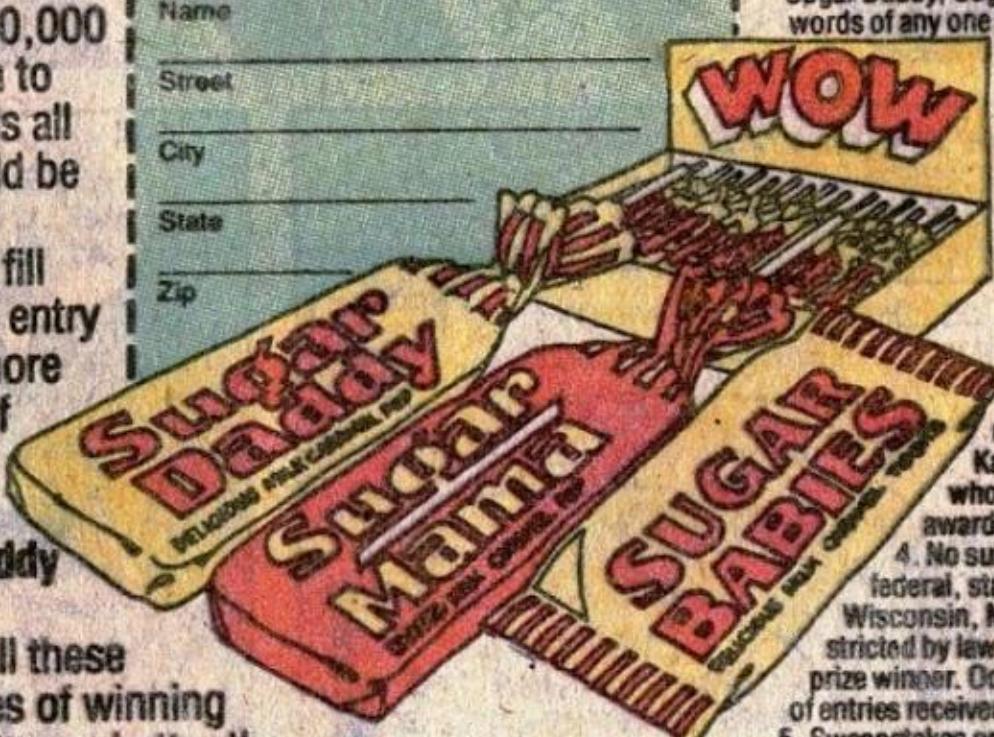
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#### Nabisco 50,000 Prizes a Month Giveaway Rules

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Nabisco 50,000 Prizes A Month Giveaway  
P.O. Box 1050  
Long Island City, N.Y. 11101

2. Enter as often as you like, there is no limit to the number of prizes you can win, but each entry must be mailed separately and received by the last day of the month in order to be eligible for that month's drawing. The final date for receipt of all mail is December 31, 1978.

3. Fifty Thousand and Thirty (50,030) prizes will be awarded in random drawings on a monthly basis starting January 1978, by Marden-Kane, Inc., an independent judging organization whose decisions are final. All 600,360 prizes will be awarded by January 31, 1979.

4. No substitutes or exchanges for prizes offered. All federal, state and local laws apply. Void in Missouri, Wisconsin, Maryland and wherever else prohibited or restricted by law. Liability for taxes is the sole responsibility of the prize winner. Odds of winning are dependent upon the number of entries received.

5. Sweepstakes open to US residents only except employees and their families of Nabisco, Inc., their affiliates, advertising and judging agencies.

## CHAPTER II

THE COLUMBIA SPACE HOSPITAL...  
ONE OF FOUR SUCH SANATORIA  
FOR INJURY AND DISEASE, WHERE  
WEIGHTLESSNESS IS VITAL TO CURE...  
IN ORBIT 2,500 MILES FROM EARTH  
AT ITS PERIGEE...

IT IS OHIO HOURS,  
MEG/EAST TIME,  
WHEN THE BATMOBILE  
EASES INTO A DOCK...

ONCE INSIDE THE AIRLOCK, THE BATMAN UNDERGOES THE STERILIZING PROCESS AND DONS METALLIC SANDALS COORDINATED WITH THE MAGNETIZED FLOOR... THEN MEETS WITH THE CHIEFS OF MEDICAL AND SECURITY SERVICES...

THE PATIENT IS STILL IN A COMA, BATMAN--

COLONEL HODGE, WHAT ABOUT THE TRAFFIC LOG?

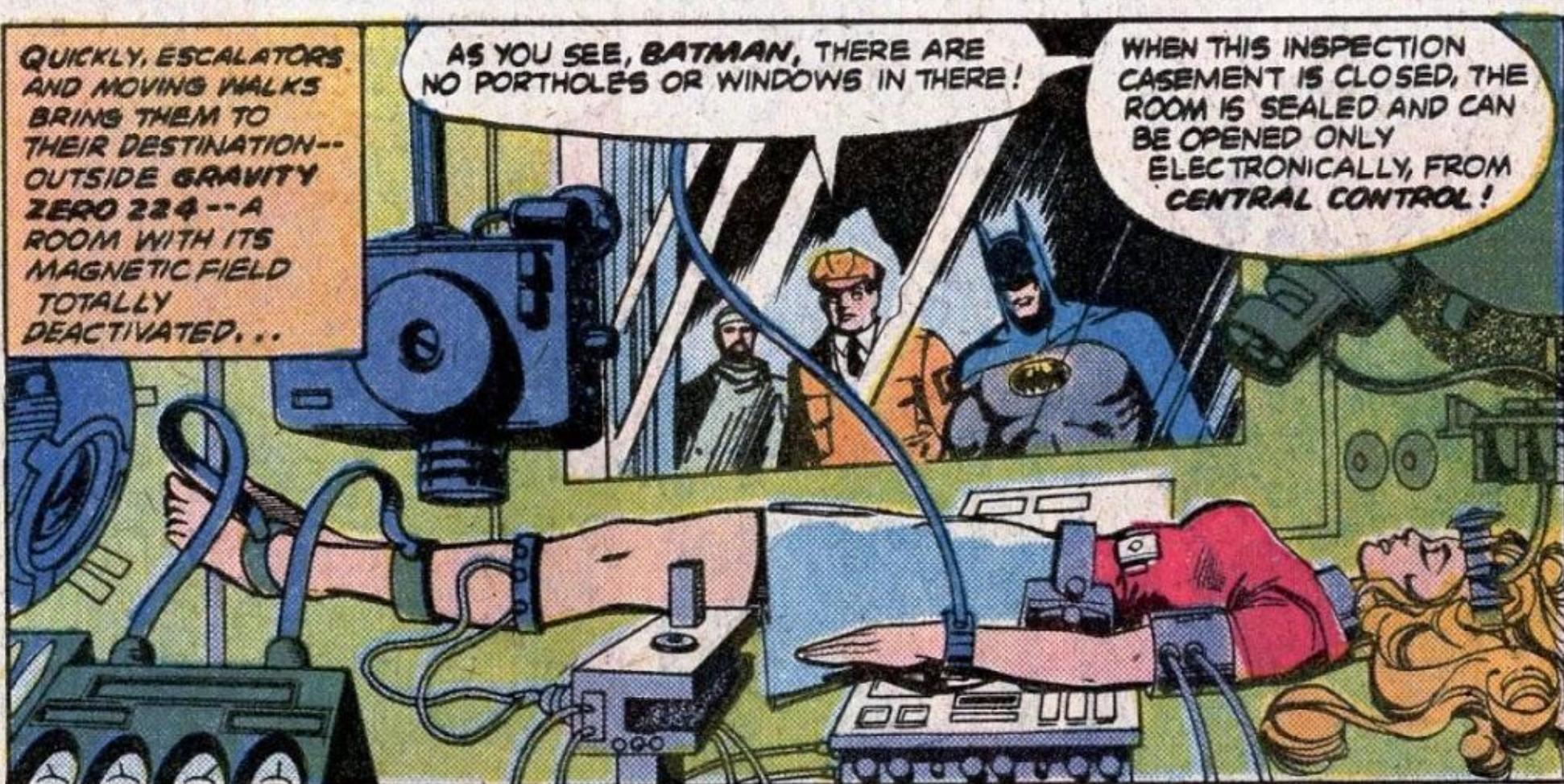
WE'VE HAD NO ARRIVALS SINCE THE MEG/EAST SHUTTLE FOUR HOURS AGO.

NOW TAKE ME TO MISS GRAY AND WE'LL HAVE A LOOK AT THE SECURITY SETUP!

QUICKLY, ESCALATORS AND MOVING WALKS BRING THEM TO THEIR DESTINATION-- OUTSIDE GRAVITY ZERO 224--A ROOM WITH ITS MAGNETIC FIELD TOTALLY DEACTIVATED...

AS YOU SEE, BATMAN, THERE ARE NO Portholes or Windows IN THERE!

WHEN THIS INSPECTION CASEMENT IS CLOSED, THE ROOM IS SEALED AND CAN BE OPENED ONLY ELECTRONICALLY, FROM CENTRAL CONTROL!



IN ADDITION TO THE GUARDS, WE HAVE CONTINUOUS TV SURVEILLANCE HERE... NOT A THING TO WORRY ABOUT!

VERY GOOD, COLONEL. NOW I'LL JUST WANDER AROUND A LITTLE...



SHORTLY AFTERWARD-- ONE FLOOR BELOW...

TH- THE BATMAN--!

SURPRISED?

WHO WOULDN'T BE?

TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR REPAIR

COLONEL, THAT MAINTENANCE SHIP DOCKED INSIDE THE BAY--WHEN DID IT GET HERE? WHY DIDN'T YOU MENTION IT?

YOU WERE ASKING ONLY ABOUT SHUTTLE-FLIGHTS! THAT SHIP CAME FROM THE BOLIVAR SPACE-HOSPITAL ABOUT AN HOUR BEFORE YOU!

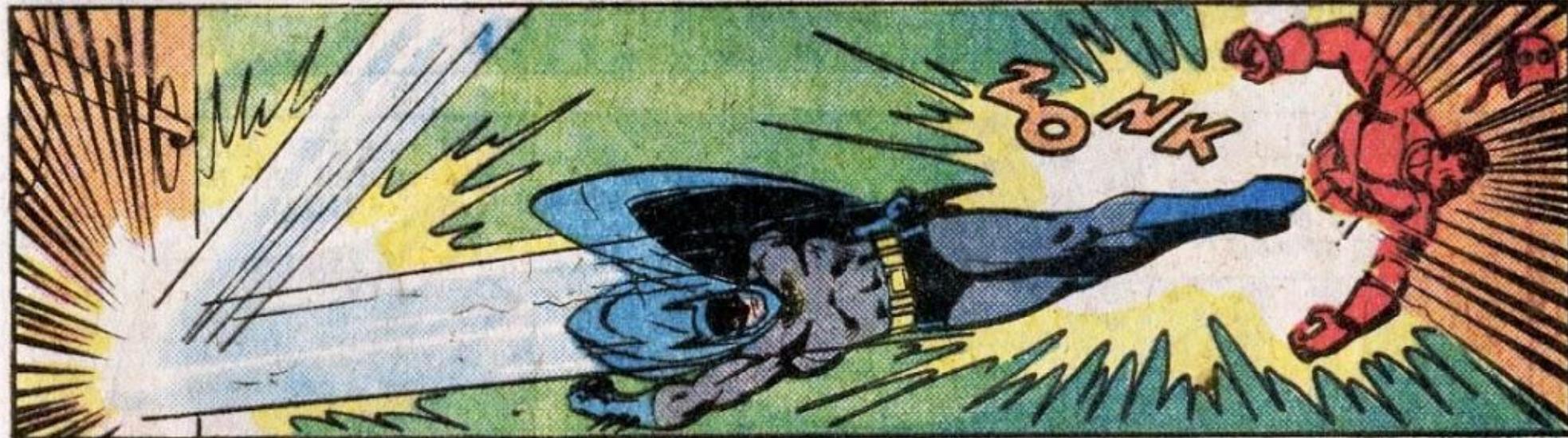
THEY'RE WORKING ON SOMETHING IN A VACANT WARD, ONE DECK BELOW MISS GRAY'S ROOM! ANYTHING ELSE?

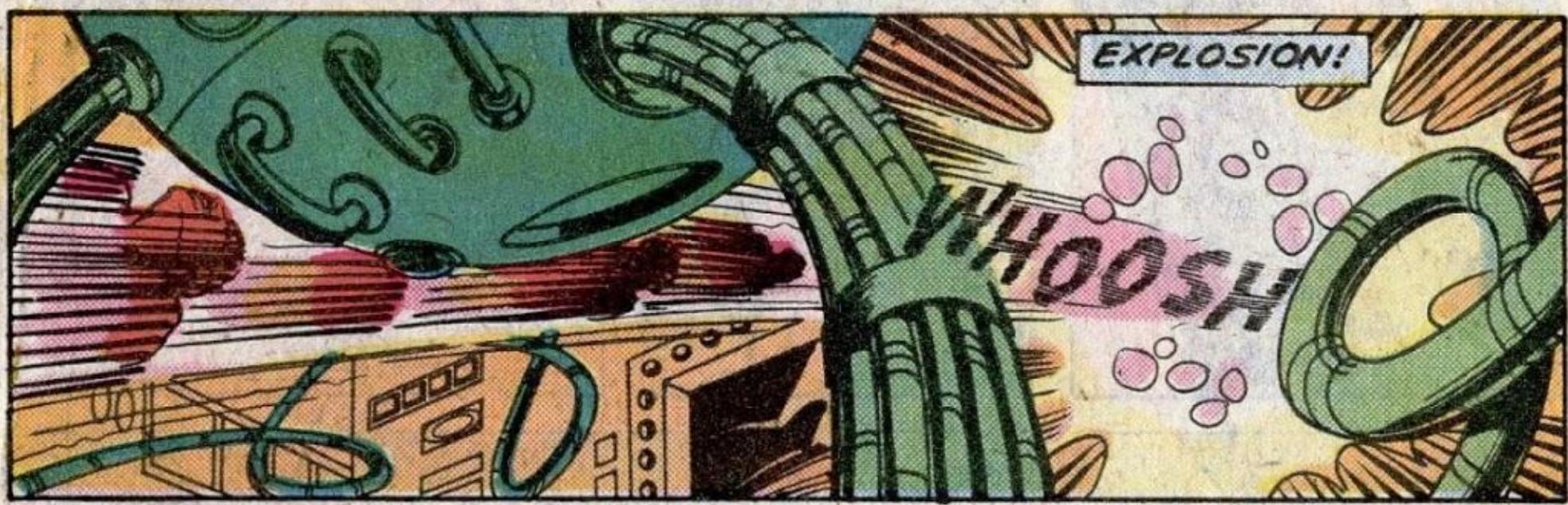
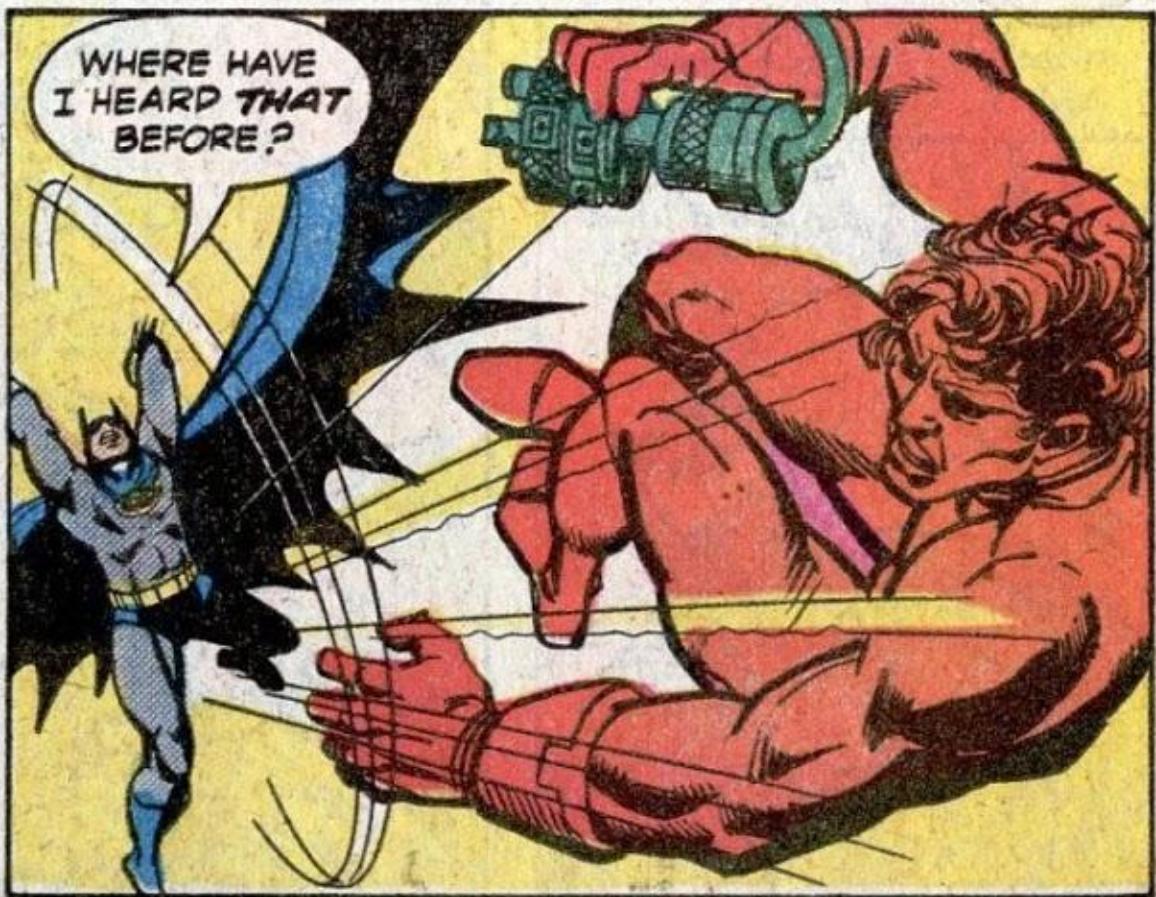




AND--IN THE TIME-HONORED  
PHRASE--THE BATMAN  
GOES INTO ACTION!

THIS HAS TO  
BE DONE LIKE  
BILLIARDS--







**IN THE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER--**

AN HOUR HAS PASSED, AND WITH IT, SOME OF THE SHOCK OF THE INCREDIBLE ATTACK...

EMERGENCY REPAIRS ARE UNDER WAY...

A STUNNED, FRAGILE CALM IS SLOWLY RETURNING THROUGHOUT THE GREAT HOSPITAL...

BATMAN,  
I'VE SEEN VILE,  
MONSTROUS KILLERS--  
BUT THIS! WHAT WAS  
THEIR PLAN?

TO UNDERMINE THE OUTSIDE WALL AND CEILING, THEN BLAST THE PORTHOLE!

THE OUTRUSH OF AIR TEARS AWAY THE WALL...AIR-PRESSURE BRINGS DOWN THE CEILING--AND EVERYTHING IN THE ROOM ABOVE GOES FLYING OFF--INTO SPACE!

BY GREAT GOOD FORTUNE, THE CEILING HADN'T YET BEEN WEAKENED SUFFICIENTLY--AND IT HELD!

AND THANKS TO YOU, MISS GRAY CAME THROUGH IT WITHOUT HARM! HER STATUS REMAINS UNCHANGED!

THEY STARTED SOONER! FIFTY MINUTES AFTER THE COLUMBIA SHUTTLE, THEY TOOK A SCHEDULED VENEZUELAN FLIGHT TO THE BOLIVAR...WHERE THEY OBVIOUSLY KNEW A MAINTENANCE SHIP WAS IN DOCK!

HOW DID THEY FOLLOW HER HERE SO QUICKLY--EVEN BEFORE YOU, BATMAN?

THEY HIJACKED IT, LOCKED UP THE CREW, AND PROCEEDED HERE AS THOUGH ON A ROUTINE TOUR!

EXCUSE ME, SIR--A CALL ON SIX--FROM ROBIN TO THE BATMAN!

ROBIN?...WHAT--?

I MUST LEAVE AT ONCE!

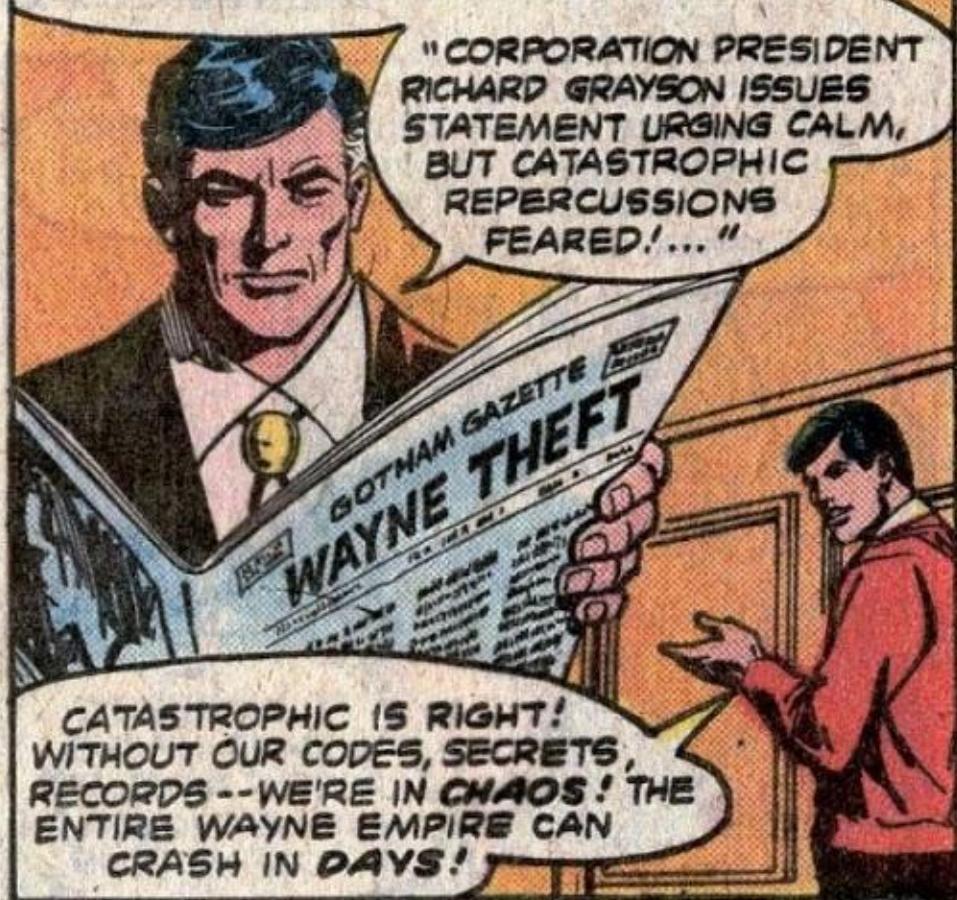
I'LL KEEP IN TOUCH ABOUT MISS GRAY! YOU'LL HAVE M.P.'S HERE SOON TO BACK UP YOUR OWN FORCES!

RIGHT AWAY!

EIGHT A.M. A LEADEN, RAINSWEEP MORNING, DARK AS THE GRIM DETAILS OF DISASTER NOW ROLLING OUT OF THE NEWSPRINT TELEPRESS IN THE EXECUTIVE OFFICES OF WAYNE INTERNATIONAL . . .



"WAYNE INTERNATIONAL'S PRIMARY COMPUTER DATA BANK STOLEN IN ASSAULT ON FORT LEE UNDERGROUND STRONGHOLD!"



"BANK"! -- IF ONLY WE'D REALIZED THAT'S WHAT MORGAN'S MESSAGE WAS TRYING TO TELL US!



THAT BAY OF RAINBOWS PARTY-- WHERE THE JOB OF KILLING MORGAN HAD BEEN TAKEN AWAY FROM THE 475- CONNECTION AND ASSIGNED TO THE 760!



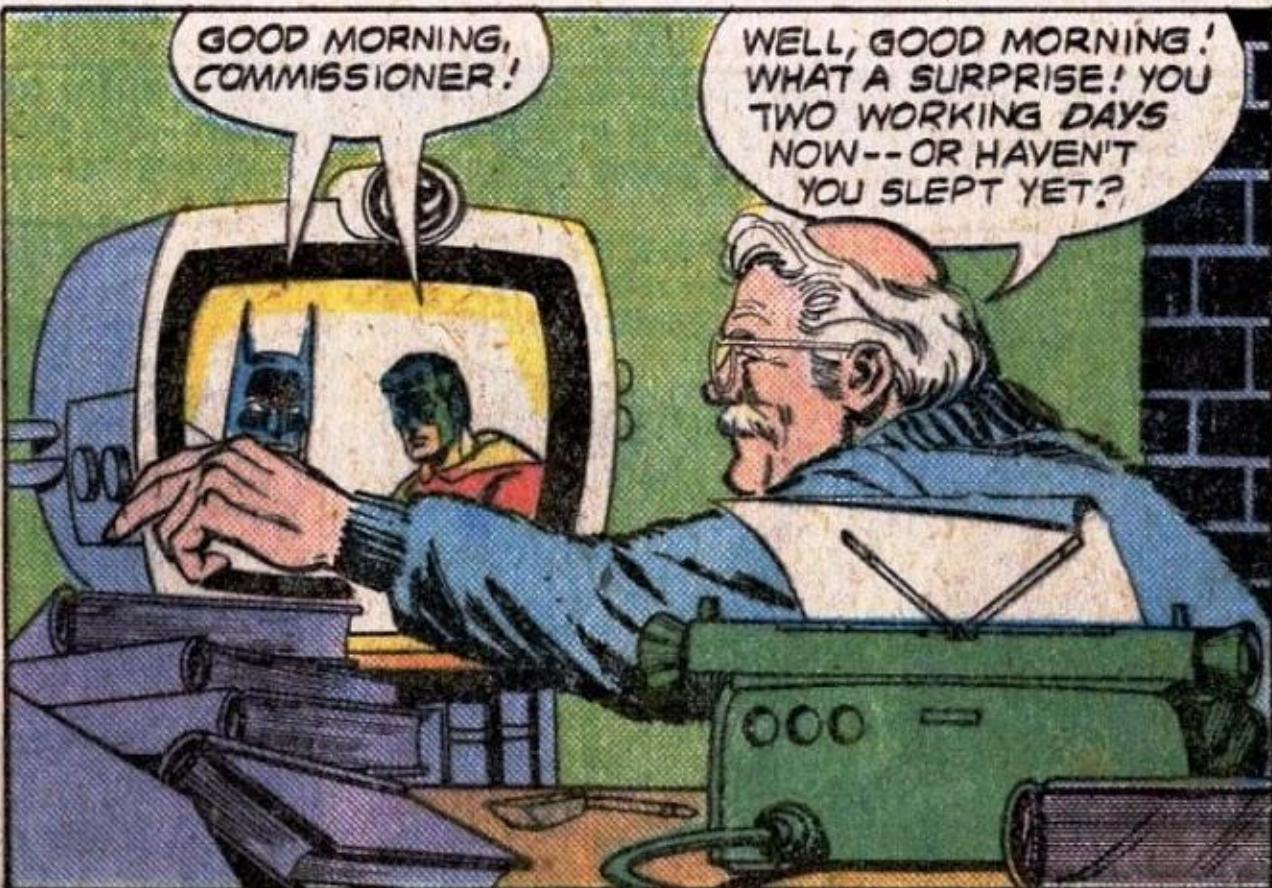
--AND 760 IS RED-- THE RED MAN AT THE HOSPITAL! RAINBOW IS THE NAME OF THEIR ORGANIZATION!

SEVEN LETTERS -- SEVEN COLORS -- SEVEN CONNECTIONS -- ON THEIR SEVEN BEAMS . . . RAINBOW!

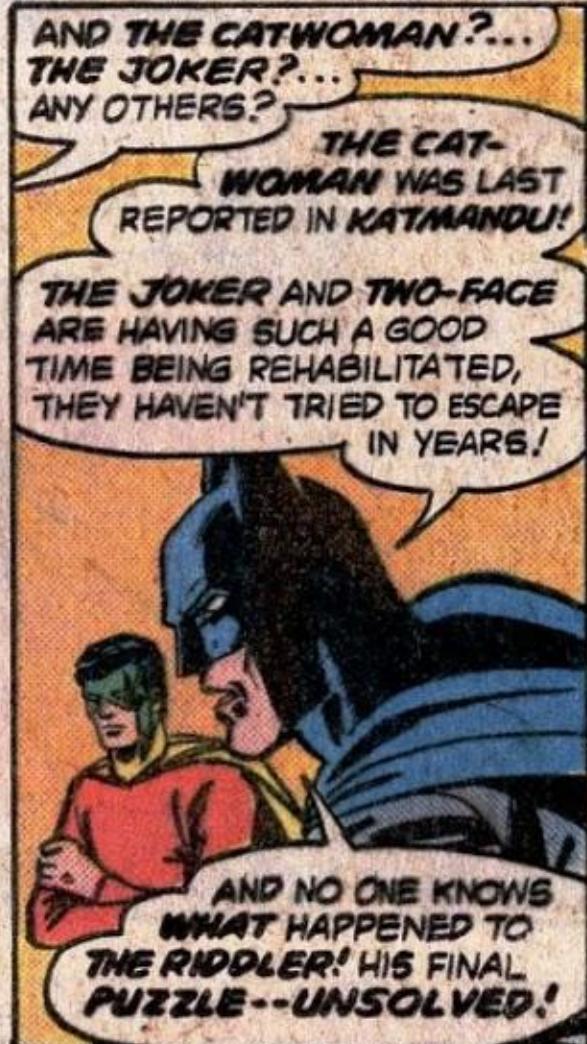


OGUNQUIT, MAINE... AT THE SEACOAST HOME OF EX-POLICE COMMISSIONER JAMES W. GORDON, NOW BUSILY ENGAGED IN WRITING HIS MEMOIRS...

THE SOUNDS OF SURF AND SEA BIRDS -- THEN, AN EARLY MORNING CALL ON THE VISIPHONE --



COMMISSIONER, AMONG THE MATERIAL I LENT YOU FOR YOUR BOOK, THERE'S A FILE ON A BIG FINANCIAL CAPER IN NEW ORLEANS, FOUR YEARS AGO.



A MYSTERIOUS CRIME-CARTEL DESTROYED THE CREDIT STRUCTURE OF THE GULF STAR SHIPPING LINE BY STEALING ITS DATA FOR ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER...

LAST I HEARD, HE WAS WITH A SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION IN ANTARCTICA, STUDYING THE KING PENGUIN.

AND NO ONE KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED TO THE RIDDLER! HIS FINAL PUZZLE--UNSOLVED!

AH, HERE IT IS-- GULF STAR!

A HYDROFOIL YACHT FIGURED IN THAT CAPER... WHAT WAS ITS NAME?

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO YOUR FAMOUS TOTAL RECALL?

THIS IS ONE TIME HE CAN'T AFFORD TO BE WRONG!

HERE ARE PICTURES OF IT... AND THE NAME ARCO IRIS--

ARCO IRIS-- THE SPANISH WORDS FOR RAINBOW!

THANK YOU, COMMISSIONER-- NOW HOLD THOSE PICTURES UP FOR OUR COPIER!

DICK, WE'VE GOT A LINE ON THEM! THAT NEW ORLEANS GROUP USED THE SAME STRATEGY AS THE RAINBOW PEOPLE--A DATA BANK!

AND THE YACHT'S NAME--ARCO IRIS--IS NO COINCIDENCE!

REMEMBER, ANNIE MORGAN WAS FOUND NEAR THE SHORE, SOAKING WET--

--AS IF SHE'D BEEN ON A BOAT--AND SWAM ASHORE --MAYBE TO ESCAPE!

IF THAT BOAT WAS THE ARCO IRIS --WE CAN TRACK IT DOWN WITH THESE PHOTOS WE GOT FROM GORDON!

DICK, WE'RE GOING ON AN ELECTRONIC MANHUNT!

HOLD IT! HOLD IT! I'VE GOT A DOZEN ASSORTED EXECUTIVES GOING CRAZY OUTSIDE THAT DOOR!

THE MARKET'S ABOUT TO OPEN AND--

OKAY--COME DOWN AND JOIN ME WHEN YOU CAN!

SOON, THE BATMAN'S BRILLIANT INTELLECT AND MATCHLESS INTUITION ARE AT WORK.. OPERATING A SUPERLATIVE ARRAY OF UNIQUE RESOURCES --



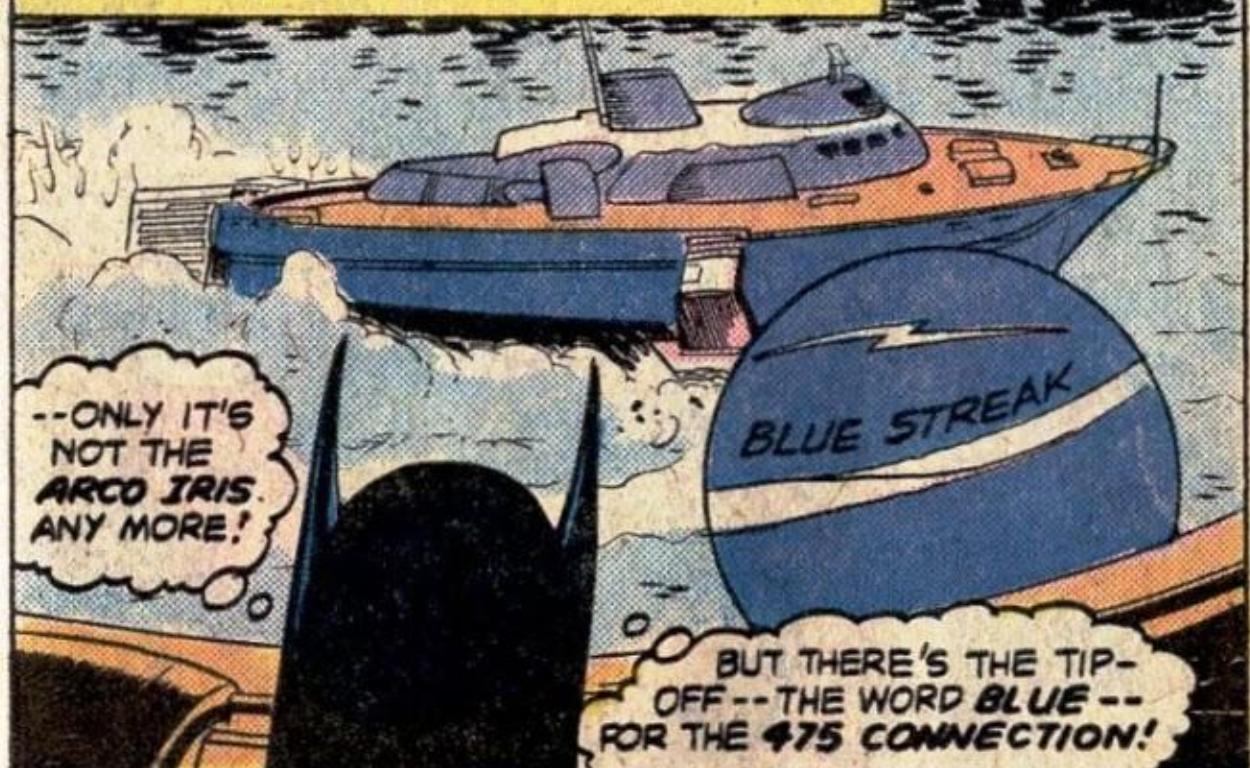
THROUGH OFFICIAL CHANNELS, HE SECURES PHOTO SEQUENCES TAKEN BY MILITARY SURVEILLANCE SATELLITES...SHOWING THE IMMEDIATE MIAMI AREA AT THE HOUR ANNIE MORGAN WAS FOUND...

DOUBLE SILHOUETTES OF MANY VESSELS ARE MATCHED AGAINST THOSE OF THE ARCO IRIS--

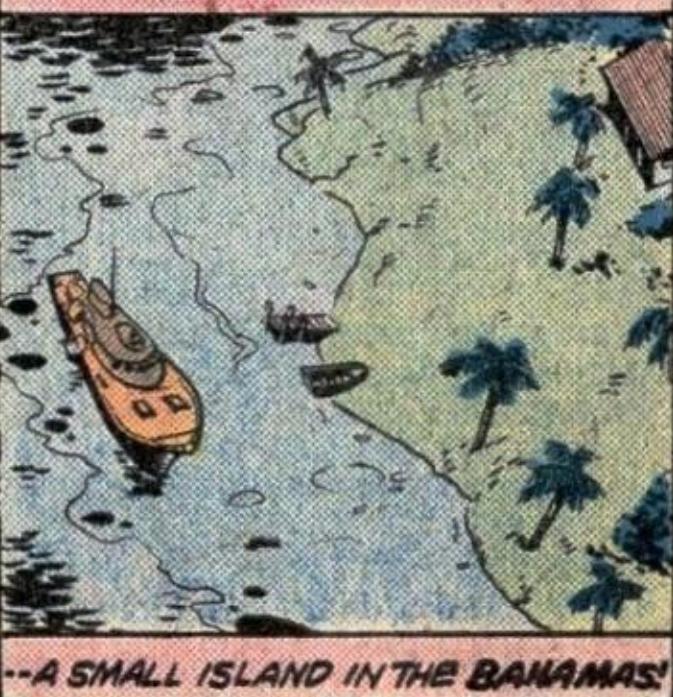
IN MINUTES --THE MAXIMAL IV COMPUTER PINPOINTS A TARGET!

BINGO! THE ARCO IRIS WAS THERE YESTERDAY-- LESS THAN ONE KILOMETER FROM WHERE ANNIE MORGAN WAS FOUND!

NOW, AUGMENTED SATELLITE PHOTOS OF THE TARGETED YACHT DELIVER CLOSE-UPS AT A 75° ANGLE--AND WHEN THE PERSPECTIVE IS ALTERED...



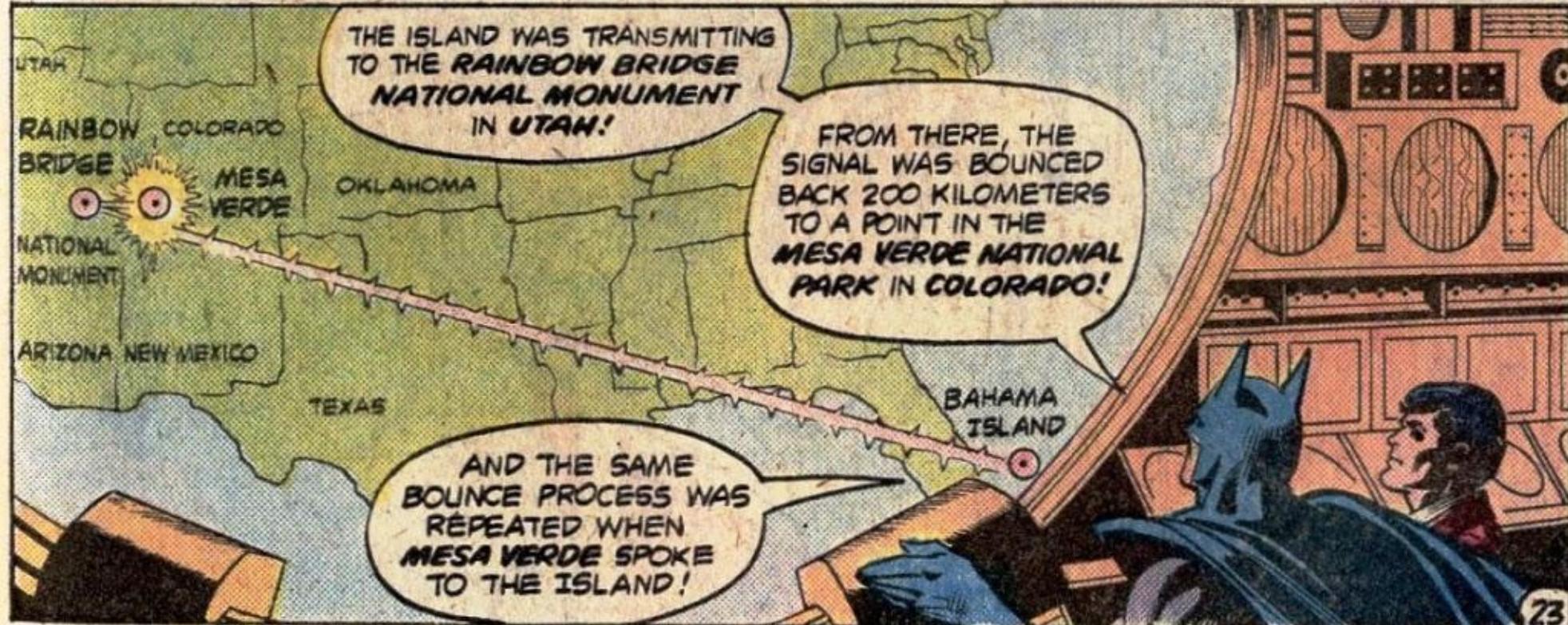
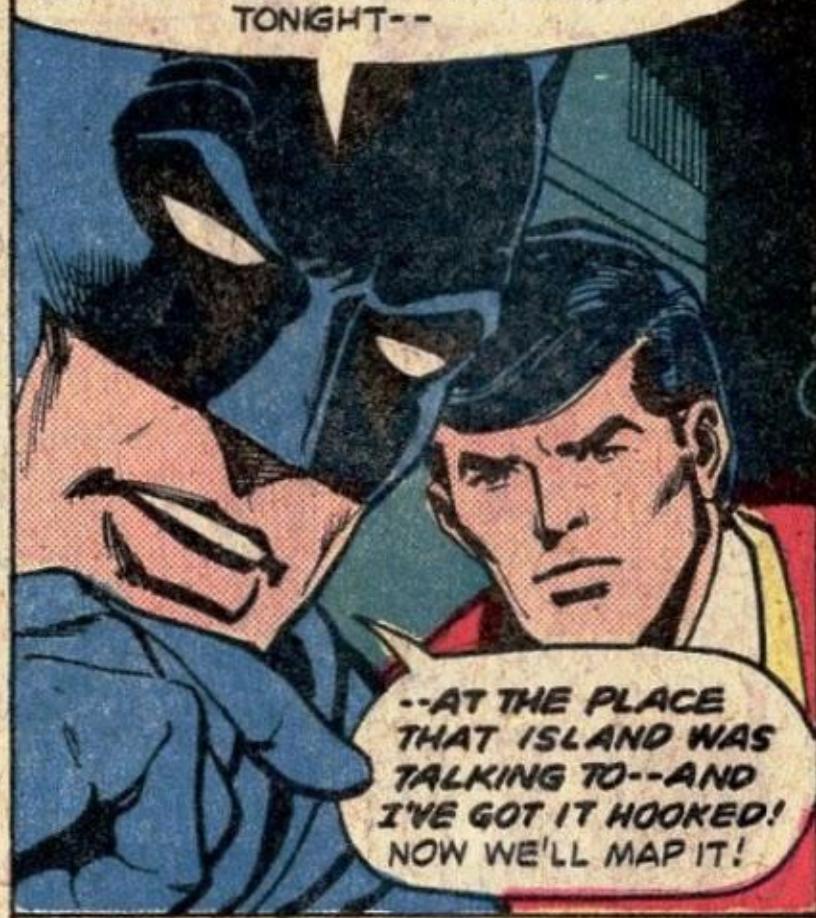
THEN THE BATMAN ACCELERATES THE TRACKING PHOTO SEQUENCES... COMPRESSING A VOYAGE OF SEVERAL HOURS TO 20 SECONDS ...TO FOLLOW THE BLUE STREAK TO AN ANCHORAGE --

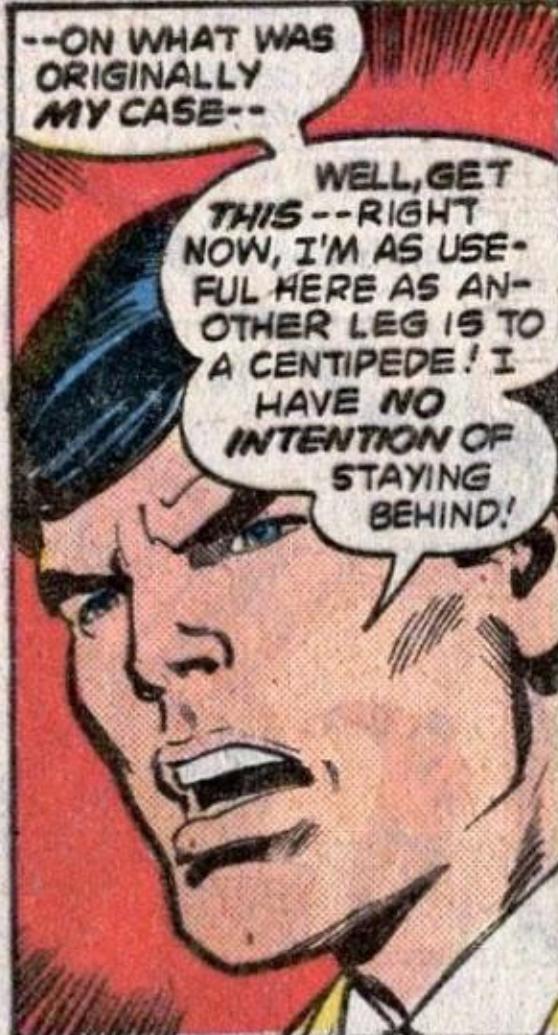
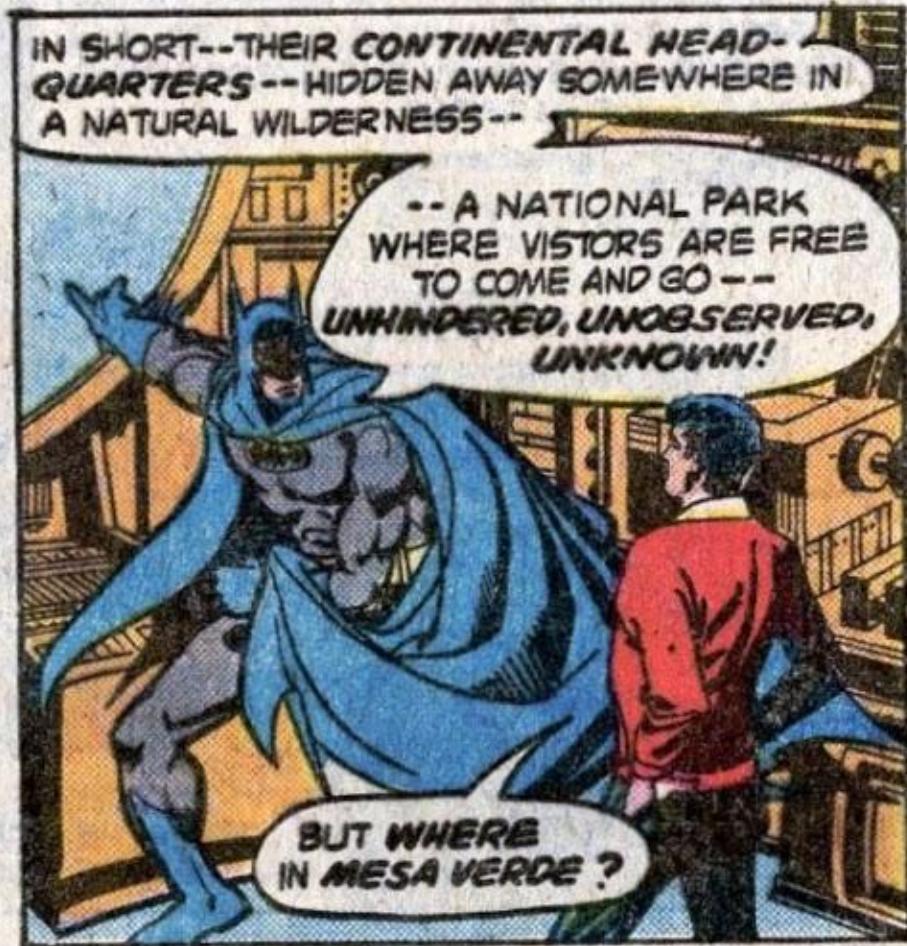
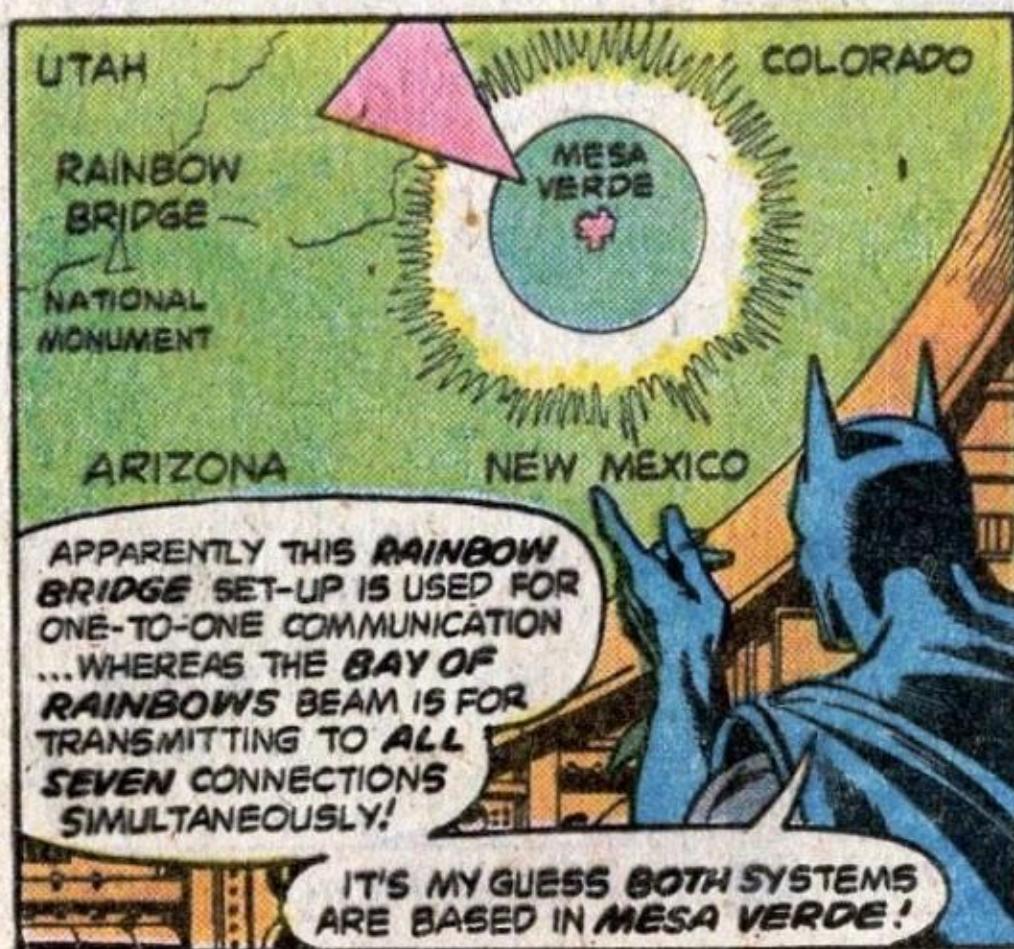


NEXT, THE MAX IV SCANNER SUBJECTS THE ISLAND AREA TO BEAM-INTERCEPT PROCEDURE --AND INSTANTLY LOCKS INTO AND UNSCRAMBLES A UHF TRANSMISSION...AT WHICH POINT--



WHOEVER RUNS THAT YACHT -- SOMEONE BIG IN THE BLUE CONNECTION HIERARCHY-- HAS BEEN CALLED TO A SUMMIT MEETING AT SIX O'CLOCK TONIGHT--





## CHAPTER III

MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK... A MAGNIFICENTLY PRESERVED HERITAGE... LITERALLY A "GREEN TABLE" 1500 FEET HIGH... FROM WHICH CANYONS LEAD DOWN TO THE PARK'S GREATEST TREASURE AND ATTRACTION--THE FANTASTIC PUEBLO CLIFF DWELLINGS, MORE THAN A THOUSAND YEARS OLD.

EARLY TWILIGHT. FOR AN HOUR NOW, THE BATMAN'S CHOPPER --IN ONE OF ITS ADAPTATIONS --HAS BEEN LAZILY CIRCLING THE PARK...

WE'VE ELIMINATED OUR FIRST GUESS-- THAT THEY'D ENTRENCHED THEMSELVES SOMEPLACE LIKE THE CLIFF PALACE BELOW, WHICH HAS OVER 200 ROOMS AND 23 Kivas--CEREMONIAL CHAMBERS...



SO THAT'S WHERE WE'LL JUMP... THE TWIN CHUTE, FROM 1500 METERS... AND LET THE CHOPPER PROCEED ON AUTOMATIC TO A HOLD PATTERN BEYOND THE PARK!

IF THEY'RE USING SONIC DETECTION, WE'LL REGISTER AS A PASSING FLIGHT!

AND IF THEY'VE GOT RADAR?

YOU WOULD  
BRING THAT UP!

NIGHTFALL  
COMES  
SWIFTLY--

--AND WITH  
IT, THE  
CHOPPER  
BEGINS ITS  
PASS...

WE'LL HAVE TO RELY  
ON HEAT-SENSORS...  
TOO DENSE AND  
TANGLED DOWN  
THERE FOR ANY-  
THING ELSE!

LIKE OLD TIMES,  
JUMPING TOGETHER,  
RIGHT?

YOU KNOW  
SOMETHING?...THAT'S  
THE TENTH TIME YOU'VE  
MENTIONED "OLD  
TIMES" SINCE WE  
SPOKE TO GORDON!

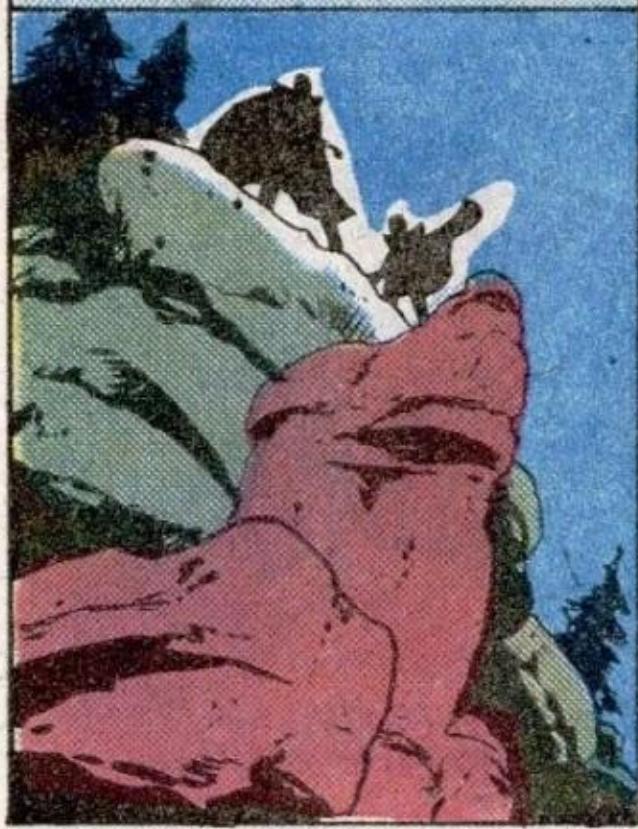


ALL SET! WE CAN PULL  
THE CHOPPER IN FROM  
ANY POINT AT UNDER  
A MINUTE--

I'VE GOT  
A READING!  
--SOUTHWEST 4.4  
...220 METERS--  
LET'S MOVE!



SOON AFTER--AT A SMALL  
CLEARING ATOP A MASSIVE  
LEDEGE IN THE CANYON'S WALL  
OF ROCK--



--ENTER THE  
DYNAMIC DUO!

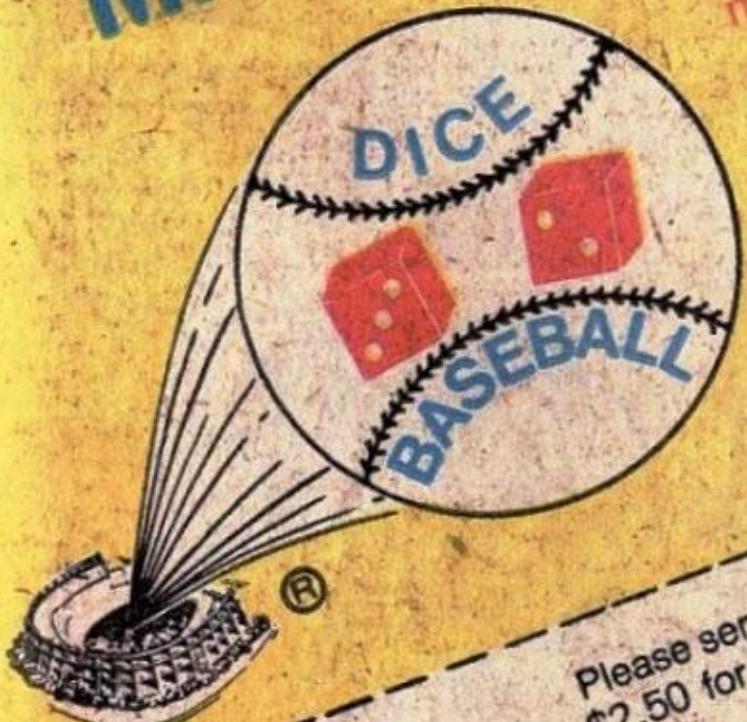




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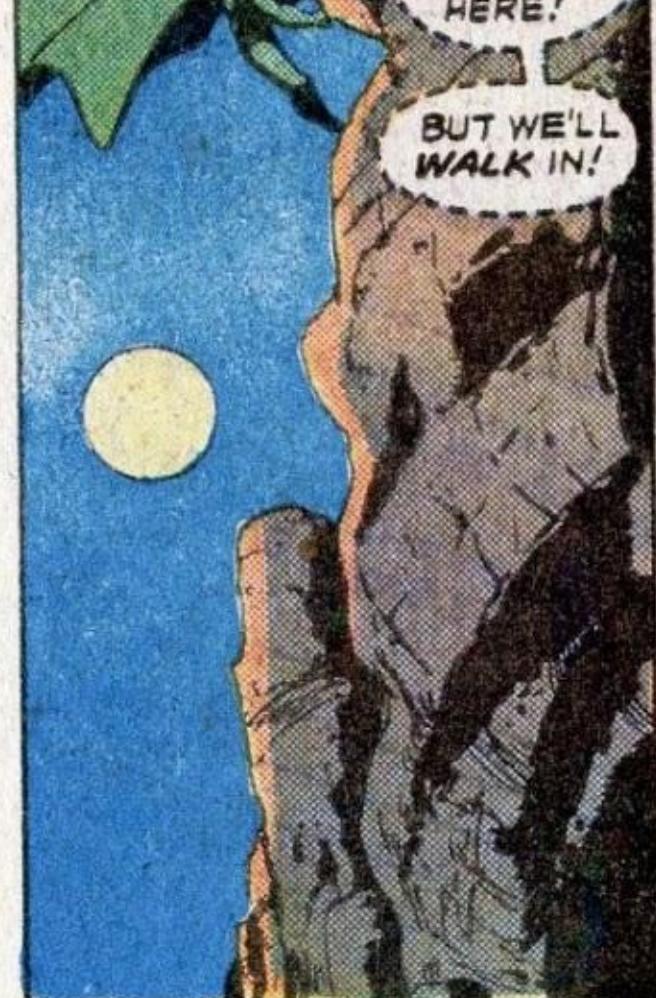
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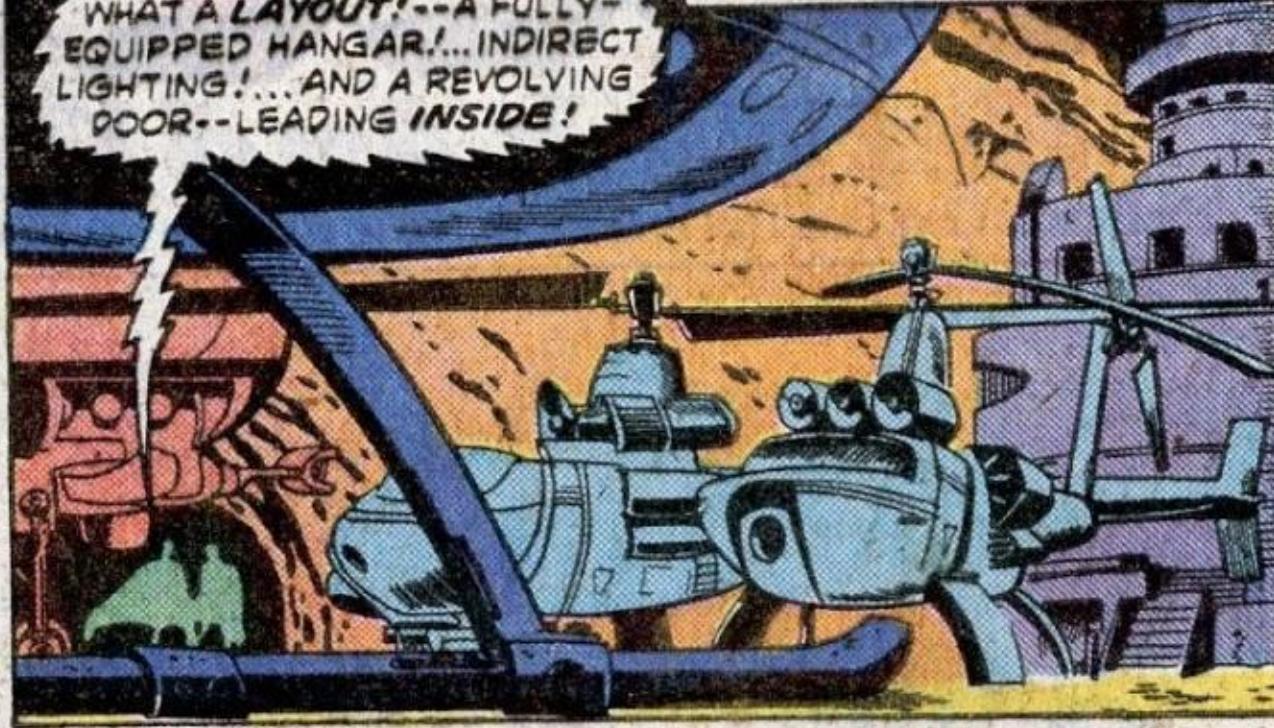
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THEN--FROM DOWN ONE SIDE OF  
THE GREAT LEDGE...



MINUTES LATER--INSIDE THE CAVERN--AN ASTONISHING SIGHT  
GREETED THE BATMAN AND ROBIN AS THEY CONVERSE IN SECRET  
ON RADIO THROAT-MIKES...



BUT NOTHING THEY HAVE YET SEEN  
PREPARES THE BATMAN AND ROBIN  
FOR WHAT AWAITS THEM INSIDE THE  
ARCHWAY DOOR...



THE ONLY POSSIBLE ANSWER WAS REVENGE -- BUT, REVENGE OR NOT, WAYNE INTERNATIONAL WAS LONG DUE OUR FULLEST ATTENTION!

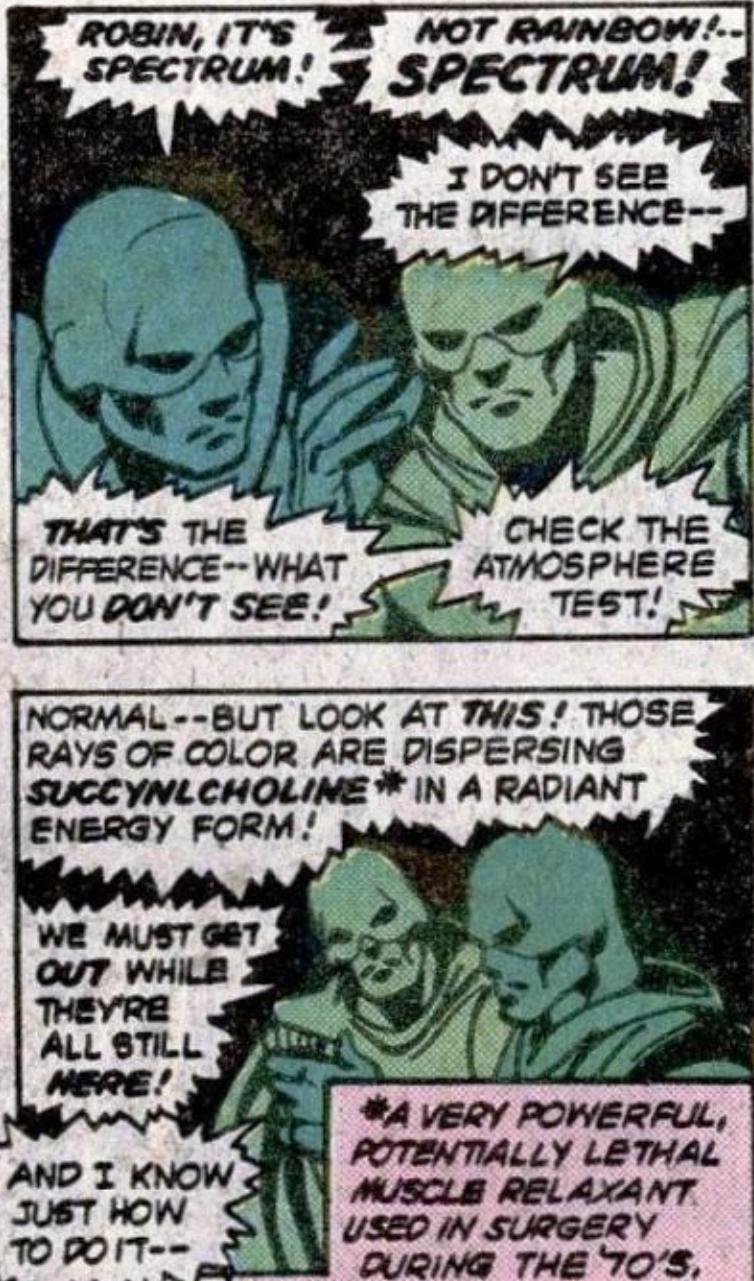


THEN--TOTAL DARKNESS--TOTAL SILENCE...

ROBIN, WITH THAT ARMOR-PLATE STEEL DOOR CLOSED... AS IT IS NOW...THIS PLACE IS AIRTIGHT!

... OCCURRED TO ME, TOO! I'M MAKING ATMOSPHERE TESTS!





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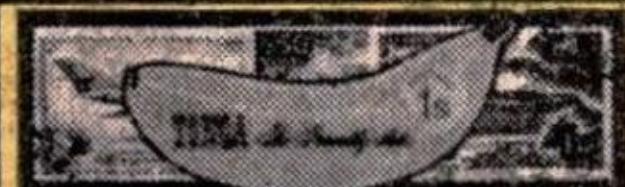
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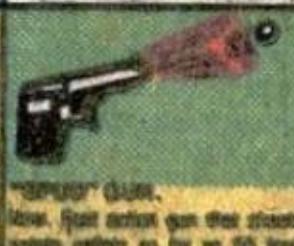
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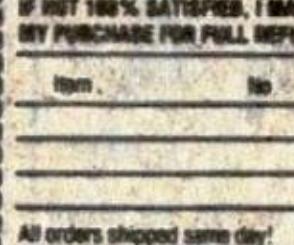


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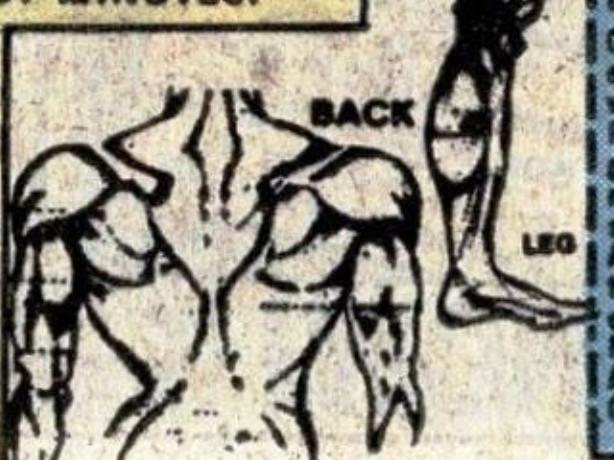
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STOP! --  
IN THE NAME  
OF SPECTRUM!

PLACE  
THEM UNDER  
ARREST!

MEEKLY, THE TWO EMBATTLED  
INSTIGATORS SURRENDER...



YOU WILL  
ANSWER LATER  
FOR THIS DISGRACE  
TO THE GREEN  
CONNECTION!

TAKE THEM OUT!  
PUT THEM IN LIMBO!

THE HUGE DOOR OPENS -- THEN  
CLANGS SHUT BEHIND THEM!



THAT WAY!



NO--  
THIS WAY!

AND THIS  
WAY!



AND NOW THAT WAY--  
THE WAY WE CAME IN!





AT THAT MOMENT, THE MAN--  
INFERARED--TURNS HIS HEAD...  
AND IN UTTER DISBELIEF MEETS  
THE GAZE OF THE BATMAN AND  
ROBIN--A NIGHTMARE COME  
TRUE!

NO! DON'T  
MOVE!  
YOU'LL KILL  
US BOTH!

--AND WITH HIS  
NEXT STOP...

BUT IN HIS PANIC, HE HEARS NOTHING--  
REMEMBERS NOTHING--AND LURCHES FORWARD...

...TO AN INEVITABLE  
CHAIN REACTION--

**BRRRAAANNNG**

SOFTLY...SLOWLY...THE  
DUST SETTLES. ALL IS  
STILL...

TOO BAD!  
I WANTED  
THOSE TWO  
RING-  
LEADERS!

NOT A TRACE  
OF THEM LEFT...  
DISINTEGRATED  
BY THEIR OWN  
PROTECTIVE  
RINGS OF  
AIR-MINES!

WHEN THEY SAT IN JOINT  
COMMAND, NEITHER ONE  
COULD MOVE OUT OF HIS OR  
HER CIRCUMSCRIBED AREA  
WITHOUT ADVANCE NOTICE  
AND AGREEMENT!

IN OTHER WORDS, A PROTECTIVE  
ARRANGEMENT...JUST IN CASE ONE  
OF THEM WAS TEMPTED TO TRY  
TAKING OVER THE WHOLE THING!

HERE'S THE SUCCINOLCHOLINE  
THEY USED FOR MIND-CONTROL  
OF THEIR SEVEN SPECTRAL  
STOOGES!

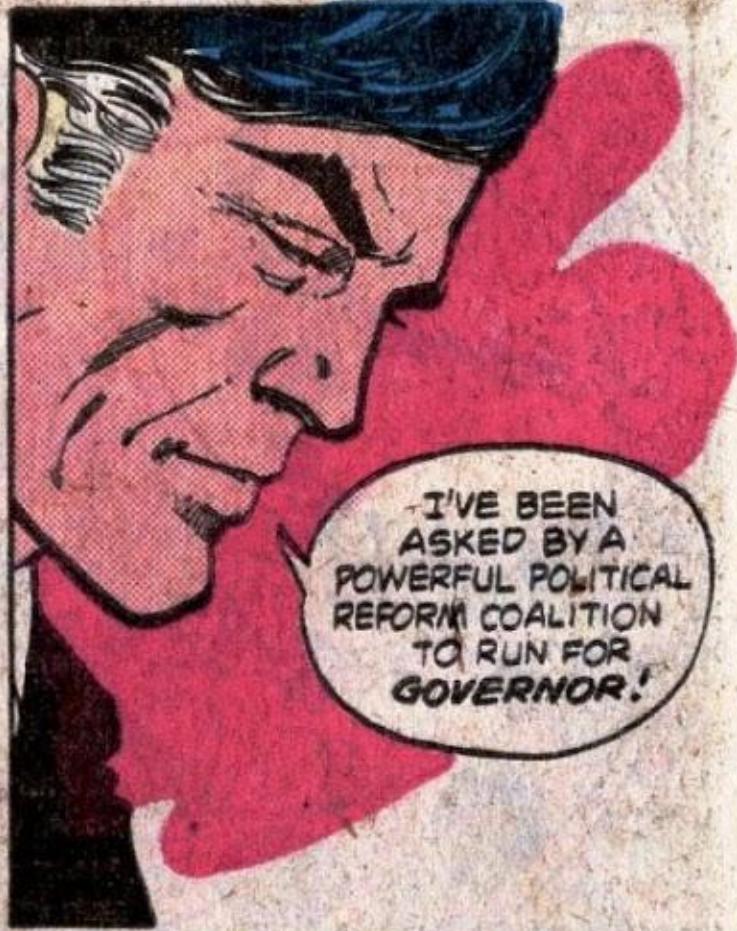
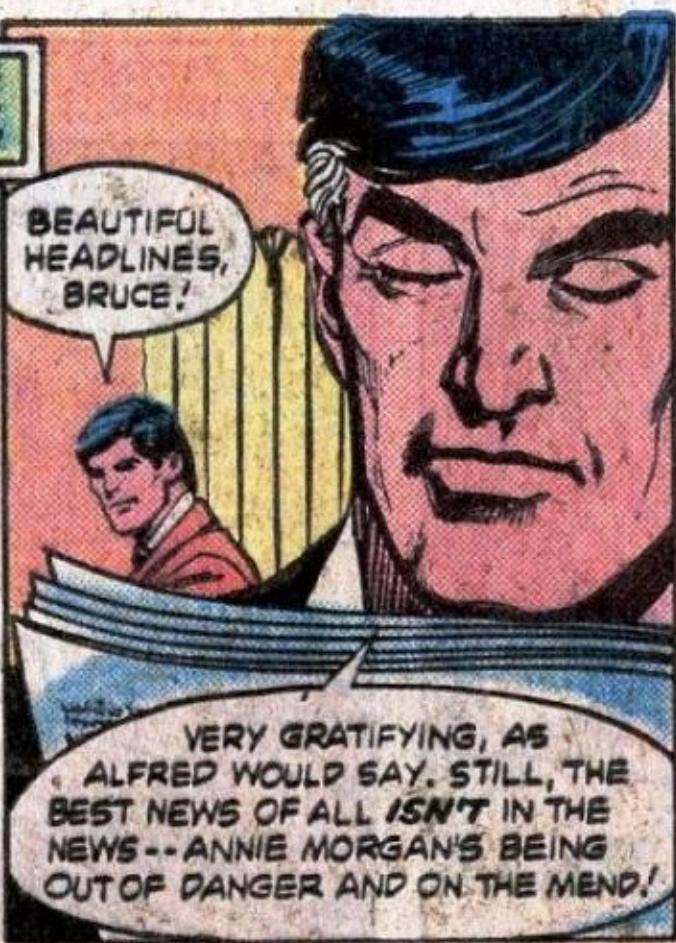
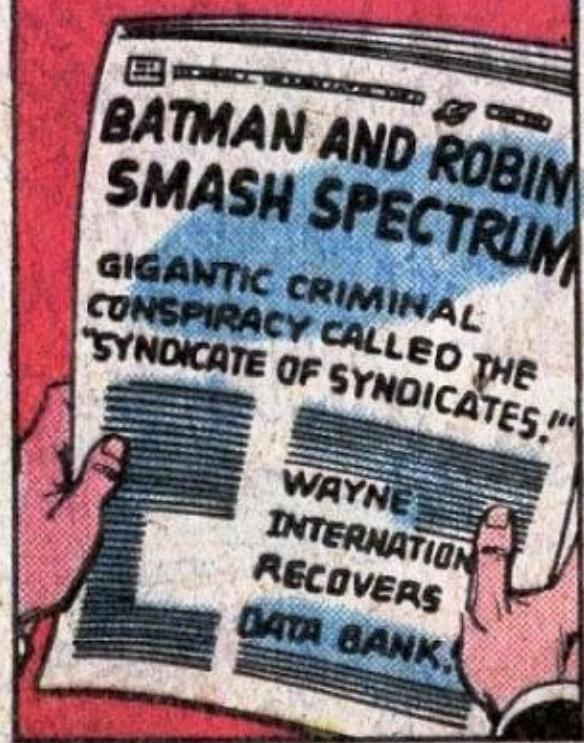
OKAY, ROBIN--BOUNCE A  
MESSAGE OFF OUR  
CHOPPER TO THE MIDWEST  
POLICE TO COME AND GET  
'EM!

IRONICALLY,  
THE ONLY SAFE-  
GUARDS THEY HAD  
HERE WERE AGAINST  
EACH OTHER!

THEIR ORDERS WERE TRANSMITTED BY VOICE! THE ACCOUSTICS  
OF THE NATURAL CAVERNS LET THEM HEAR SOUNDS THAT--IN THEIR CONTROLLED CONDITION--THEY WERE UNAWARE OF HEARING...AND WHICH WERE INAUDIBLE TO EVERYONE ELSE!

THAT'S THE LAST  
BOUNCE FOR  
SPECTRUM!

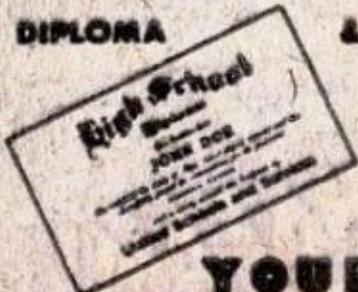
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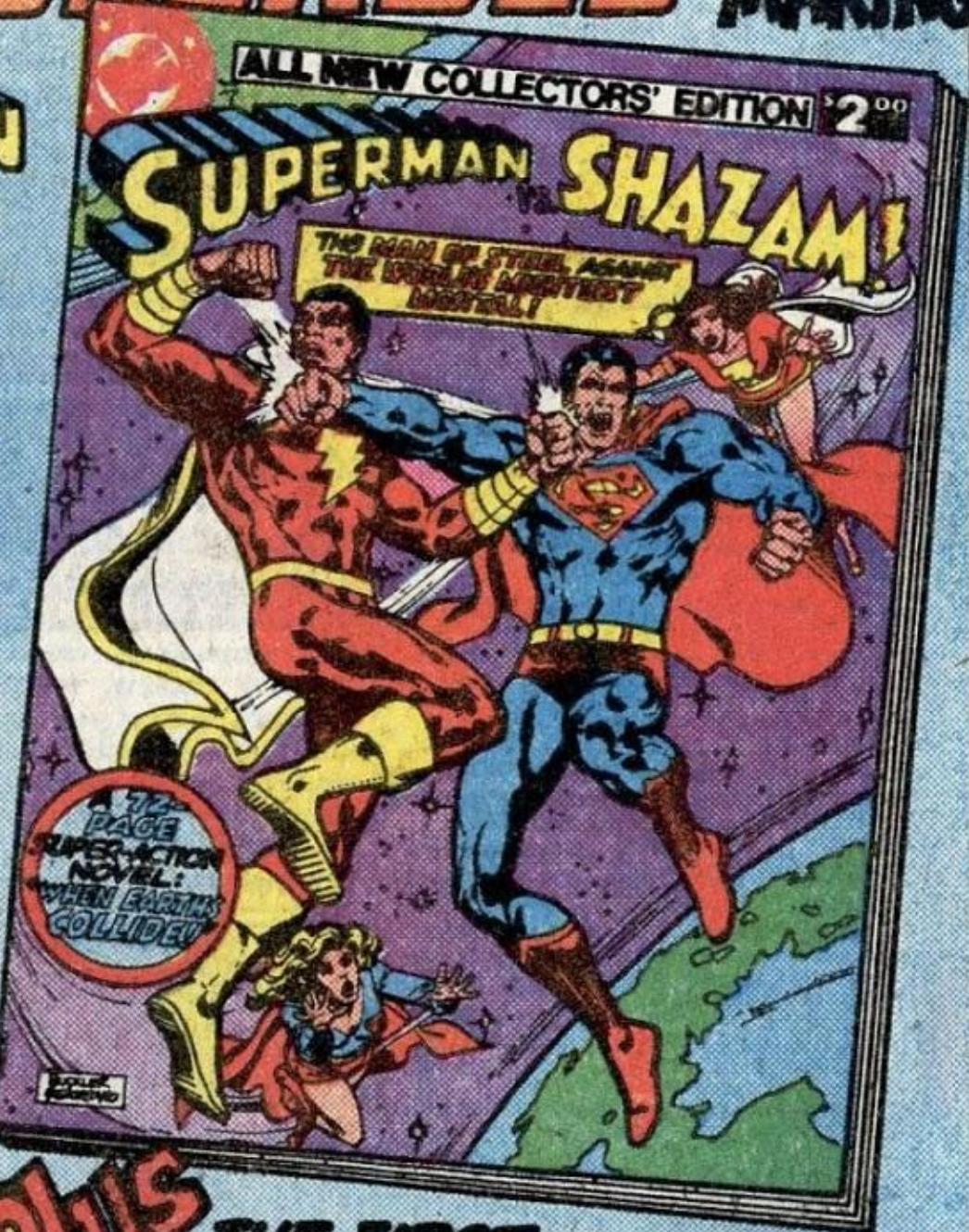
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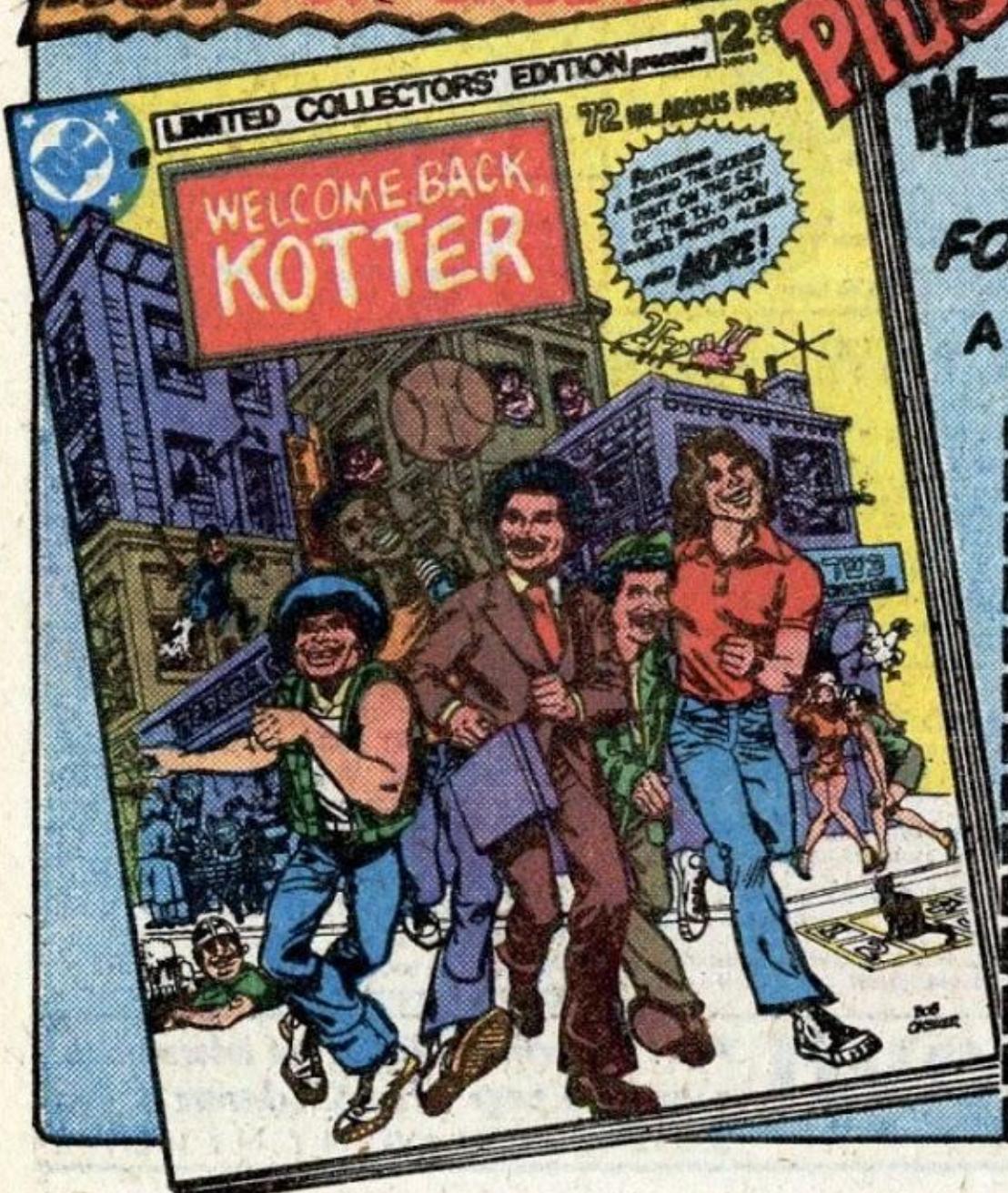
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TRUE, I'VE GAINED A MEASURE OF VENGEANCE...AND WHAT ONE MAN CAN DO, I'VE DONE!



AND THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE TO CONSIDER--THE WOMAN I LOVE, AND MARRIAGE--AND PERHAPS, CHILDREN...LIKE THOSE FINE TWIN SONS OF YOURS, BRUCE AND JAMES!



BUT NOW PERHAPS IT'S TIME --IN THIS DAY AND AGE-- AND AT MY AGE -- TO CONTINUE THE FIGHT IN ANOTHER WAY...ON ANOTHER FRONT, WITH OTHER MEANS!

SO...THE FACT IS I'VE THOUGHT THINGS OUT TO A POINT WHERE I HAVE ONLY TWO QUESTIONS:



ONE TO ASK--WILL SHE MARRY ME?

AND ONE TO ANSWER--WILL I RUN FOR GOVERNOR?

AND WHEN DO I GET THE ANSWERS?

TOMORROW!



NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE FIRST WEEK IN APRIL

# BAT-SIGNALS

#295-2283

DC COMICS, INC. 75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

Dear Julie and Bob,

Let me open my letter with my most controversial statement: I liked Sal Amendola's art on BATMAN #295! Why controversial? Because I know the taste of the fickle public and most of them won't like it. But I did! Bringing back pleasant memories of his "Night of the Stalker", Sal's art is flowing, moody, dramatic and expressive. Look at that cover he did, for pity's sake!

Now, to conform to most fans' idea of what art "should" be, Sal's pencils would have to be cleaned up and refined by something like Giordano-style inking. My only complaint would be that his shading on Batman's cowl was too realistic and not the recognized "face" of stylized shadows. On page 11, The Batman just was not scary enough!

As far as the story goes, "Sinister Straws of the Scarecrow" was my favorite David V. Reed script thus far. Any Batman-Scarecrow conflict should emphasize the aspect of a battle of fear, but this angle is all-too-often ignored (or poorly handled). This story is based on that battle and comes off very nicely indeed!

It seems to me that the strategies were very strategic, and the plot-twists were really clever, and these things don't usually impress a jaded fan like me. Finally, I'm glad they don't have those costume parades in Rutland anymore—because this is the type of Halloween story I really like to see!

BEPPE SABATINI  
515 Division St.  
East Lansing, MI 48823

Sal's art job inspired a number of interesting comments and letters—including the puzzling pair below!—BR

Dear Editor:

It was really good to see the return of a foe from the Golden Age. I mean, of course, the Scarecrow in BATMAN #295. What a way to celebrate Halloween! David V. Reed has done it again with a perfect script and is surely one of the greatest Batman writers ever.

The only thing to mar the tale was the art by Sal Amendola, though the suspense remained undisturbed nonetheless. "Sinister Straws of the Scarecrow" should be top-rated in everyone's opinion!

JOE HAMMELL  
315 North Highland  
National City, CA 92050

Dear Editor:

I bid for the return of Michael Golden! His work in BATMAN #295 was excellent and I was sorry to see him replaced in #296 by Sal Amendola. Though "Sinister Straws of the Scarecrow" was perfect story-wise (thanks to the ever-brilliant David V. Reed), Sal's art was terrible! You guys had a good combo in #295, so don't ruin it now! Get back on the track and ask (beg, plead, or otherwise entreat) Michael Golden to return. Surely he has plans to write more Bat-scripts.

JOE HAMMELL

315 N. Highland

National City, CA 92050

Are you twins, Joe? Or Dr. Joe-kyll and Mr. Hydemell? Or Two-Face in disguise? Or just confused? Mike Golden is an artist and Gerry Conway wrote #295! So which is the "good combo" you want us to bring back? —BR

Dear Gothamite:

Beginning with its menacing cover, BATMAN #295 comes closer than any previous story to realizing the Scarecrow's great potential as a character. Past Scarecrow tales have relied too heavily on gimmickry and Scarecrow himself seemed rather bland or even, in his JOKER appearance, foolish. BATMAN #295 gives us a Scarecrow whose appearance is chillingly grotesque, whose manner is self-assured and cruel, and whose plans are intricate and masterful. The "Strawmen" looked rather silly, but it was a nice touch to have them be Scarecrow's former students, whom he still lectures and bullies as in his teaching days. Scarecrow still relies on his scientific gimmicks, but the story's emphasis was shifted away from them to their effect on the victims. The page plunging us into Skibo's nightmare of being buried alive was marvelous and there was a good sense of evil in the scenes where Scarecrow cowed the terrified Skibo into doing his will. You've also found an interesting buried fear for Batman, and the way Scarecrow triggered it provided a real surprise.

David V. Reed also made us remember that The Batman himself can be a terrifying figure. The duel between Batman and Scarecrow thus becomes a competition between two masters of terror to decide who is stronger.

Is there anything at all wrong with the story? Well, I didn't believe that Scarecrow would let Skibo return the half-million in bonds. Surely, he's too greedy for that!

PETER SANDERSON  
Room 921 Johnson Hall  
Columbia Univ.  
New York, NY 10027

Maybe Scarecrow thought the bonds weren't a good investment!—BR

Dear Mr. Schwartz:

Concerning your new lettercol title, did you know that seven years ago, in BATMAN #224, Peter C. Phillips of Lancs., England, suggested "Bat-Signals" as a replacement for "Letters to the Batcave"?

PAUL BALZE

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Which only proves that Peter was seven years ahead of his time!—Bob Rozakis

# BATMAN EXTRA! BAT-SIGNALS

Dear Editor:

It is doubtful that the debate over who is the greatest Bat-writer will ever end. That it will continue is good, but I feel that making a single choice is almost impossible. Each writer has a feel for the character of **The Batman**. Each can be heightened or depressed by the choice of artist. Each writer, however, gives us a different interpretation and in recent months I have read stories of **The Batman** by four of them, each totally different. But all the writers are excellent. All of them should be used. And all of them can be improved!

First of all, we have Denny O'Neil's demonic version of **The Batman**. This one entrails the reader in its chilling atmosphere and gives the Caped Crusader a mystique which spawns interesting story-lines. There is a basic good-against-evil motif: **Batman**, whose childhood was shattered by evil, is in turn shattering evil and leaving his opponents defeated both physically and psychologically. The result is a psychologically invincible hero, one the reader cannot believe would be overcome by an evil, no matter how great. And it is the art of Neal Adams that works best with this version. When dealing with such a seemingly invincible character, the realism of Neal's art is the perfect complement.

Second, we have David V. Reed's masked detective. David has a fertile imagination and gives us brilliant, fast-paced, moving adventures. His story in **BATMAN** #269 "The Daily Death of Terry Tremaine," was the first **BATMAN** I ever bought and it had what I enjoy in all his stories; a plot which utilizes the best of detection! David and Ernie Chan were the perfect team, but with Ernie gone to other things, J.L. Garcia Lopez would be just the right artist.

Then there are Bob Rozakis' Batman tales, which are always fun to read. Bob has an excellent fount of ideas and gives **The Batman** a kind of "Bet you've never seen me do this before" atmosphere. In writing style, he is the direct antithesis of Mr. Reed. And while his stories may not be the best-composed, I always like 'em. Bob is more suited to writing stories with super-villains than the other two and I think he and John Calnan are a superb combo.

Finally, there is Steve Englehart, whose **Batman** tales took a long time to grow on me. Maybe it was the Marshall Rogers art that made me take notice, but I've found that even the pre-Rogers tales have the Englehart mark of excellence. His stories always have a ranging vision and marked scope which tie one story into another. And while plotlines are woven together, there is no tangling. His "Golden Age" style is great with Marshall's art and I love it for what it is.

Four totally different writers. (And I didn't even mention Gerry Conway and Marty Pasko!) The point I wish to make is simple: Keep them all writing. Nothing could be duller than a steady diet of one style. With this variety, they make up for each other's weaknesses, complement each other's strengths, and keep the readers interested in all points and at all turns.

Keep up the good work!

TOM MOREY

217 Edge Avenue

Valparaiso, FL 32580

Variety is the spice of DC Comics, Tom—and Bat-fans can get it! David V. Reed is our regular writer here in **BATMAN**, with Denny O'Neill (teamed with Michael Golden on art) handling the Caped Crusader over in **BATMAN FAMILY!** In **TEC**, with the departure of Steve Englehart, Len Wein has taken over with Marshall Rogers pencilling. And on the bench, ready to pinch-hit if necessary, are Gerry Conway and—Bob Rozakis

Hear me now, human, on the heroes of the planet Earth. Some as spirits dwell and mortal men tremble in awe of their powers—the powers of Death himself. Some are alien born and a Universe bears homage to their might. Some with magic fight, and some are strangely changed, plucked by fate from the ranks of normal men. But none compare to this dread figure of the night, this single man who stalks in darkness and brings fear to all who dare to challenge his name. Watch him, his mind a power so great that no man can deny it. See him, his nerves of steel prepared to snap, to move with speed beyond compare. Hear him, his flight so swift and silent that none may know his coming. He lurks among the shadows, no wrong too small for him to right, no evil too powerful for him to crush. He is brilliance, he is skill, he is the greatest of them all—that dreaded creature of the night

## THE BATMAN!

(After spending a joyful hour perusing my collection of the Caped Crusader, I just had to say something . . .)

BRUCE PARRELLO

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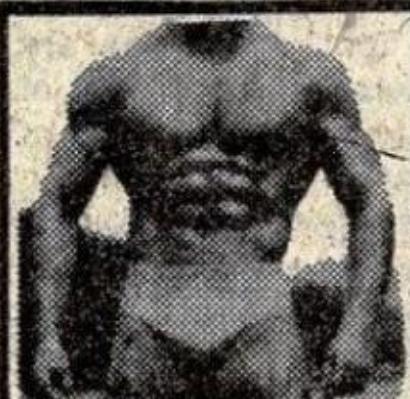


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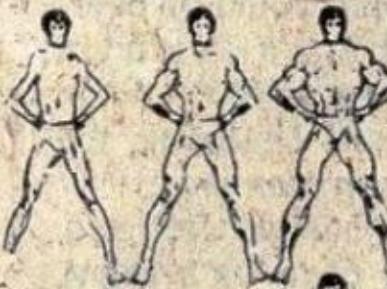
Improve your health, self-confidence and your outlook on life as you become more muscular. Regardless of your age, height or present build, we'll help you build a fabulous body. Thousands of people have taken this course with fantastic results — why not you? Whatever you look like today, we can improve on it. We guarantee it!!!

- ARMS — Develop big, powerful arms—the kind girls love to be held in! Command respect from everyone you meet!
- CHEST — Is your chest sunken and unimpressive? No more! It's easy to build a massive chest. You can measure 45, 47, or even 50 inches!
- BACK — Develop your upper back, and get that outstanding "V-Shape!" Often within one week you'll be able to see that wedge formation begin to take shape — it's a real attention-getter!

- SHOULDERS — Get rid of those puny shoulders! Instead, fill your shirts with bulging muscles!
- LEGS — Put some muscle on those spindly legs! Muscular legs will give you extra power like you've never dreamed possible!
- ABDOMEN — Trim and hard—that's the way your abs should look. Get rid of your pot-belly, improve your digestion, and get that washboard waist—all when you develop those abdominal muscles!

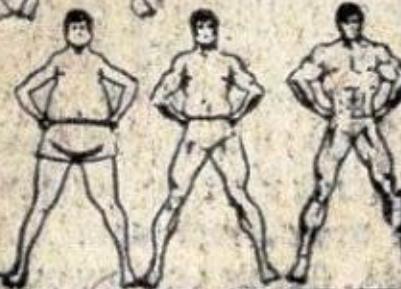
MOST MEN NEVER REALIZE THEIR FABULOUS POTENTIAL FOR MUSCULARITY. Why? Probably because they've never come across or taken advantage of a training program quite like the one we offer here at UNIVERSAL BODYBUILDING. Our program has the 'Ultimate' masterplan for total body development and strength!!

How would you like to get into shape? Really into shape. Better than you have ever been. Enough to make the girls notice you with admiration and enough to make the guys turn their heads in envy. No kidding! I don't care how much you are out of shape, regardless how much you have let yourself go, I can change your body 100%, all for the better! Face it, unless you do something about it, your body gets worse; day by day it gets uglier! Your body and your health are your most important possessions and they deserve your attention. With progressive body building you get better day by day, with results you can see and feel!!



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REPLACED BY  
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MAIL THIS COUPON TODAY



**HOT BUBBLE GUM.** Large pieces of real bubble gum but with hot pepper inside! The more they chew the hotter it gets — Great fun.  
 No. 825 5 Pieces \$1.00



**ARMY MEDALS.** Be a major, colonel or other officer! Polished metal replicas of official army insignias. Dress up your coat or shirt with these official looking gold or silver medals with pin on back.  
 No. 808 6 for \$1.00



**101 MAGIC TRICKS.** Anyone can do them! No skill or sleight-of-hand required! Do amazing tricks with cards, coins, paper, pencils, cigarettes, handkerchiefs, etc. One trick alone is worth the price of the entire book.  
 No. 170 75¢



**ATOMIC JOY BUZZER.** Wind it up and wear it like a ring. Shake hands and watch your friends J-U-M-P! Place it on a chair and they will H-I-T the ceiling when they sit on it.  
 No. 114 \$1.00



**SECRET AGENT SPY CAMERA.** Easily concealed in the palm of your hand. Takes secret or surprise pictures as well as regular candid shots. Solid all metal construction. Precision ground lenses. Speed 1/25th of a second and time exposure. Takes 10 pictures.  
 No. 109 Camera only \$1.98  
 No. 110 Pigskin Case 79¢  
 No. 112 Hi-Speed Film 2 Rolls - 20'shots \$1.00



**HOT PEPPER GUM.** Flavored with delicious mint but hidden within the mint is RED HOT PEPPER! The more the chew the hotter it gets. Not harmful but a joke they'll remember. Package of 5 sticks.  
 No. 174 2 pkgs. \$1.00



**HYPNO-COIN.** Free with 25 LESSONS IN HYPNOTISM. Do you realize the power that hypnotism will give you? With the magic power of hypnosis you can hypnotize at a glance, make people obey your commands, strengthen your memory, develop a strong personality, overcome bad habits. 25 lessons covers this and much more. Order now and receive new patented HYPNO-COIN Free.  
 No. 130 \$1.00



**1001 FREE THINGS.** Get FREE gifts, novelties, books, product samples, toys, maps, etc from companies, federal agencies, associations, etc that are anxious to send you FREE 63 page book with names and addresses to write to for your 1001 FREE things.  
 No. 748 98¢ each



"MONEY MAKER" is sensational! Insert a blank piece of paper into the machine, turn the knob and, from the opposite side, PRESTO! OUT COMES A REAL DOLLAR BILL! Insert a one dollar bill and it changes to a \$5.00 bill, or \$10.00. No skill required. Lots of fun and mystery.  
 No. 325 ONLY \$1.00



**EXPLODING FOUNTAIN PEN.** Looks like a regular fountain pen. But when they start to write — look out! It goes off with a bang like a hand grenade! Can be used over and over. Harmless.  
 No. 119 \$1.49 Each  
 X-tra Loud Ammo 25¢



**IT'S 10 INSTRUMENTS IN ONE.** Every hobbyist, camper, sports fan, hunter, scout, will want one. You get all the following in this little (only 3 1/2" when folded) wonder! 1—Reading lens. 2—Compound microscope. 3—Adjustable telescope. 4—Focusing binoculars. 5—Directional compass. 6—Solar time clock. 7—Flat mirror. 8—Magnifying mirror. 9—Fire lighter. 10—Code transmitter.  
 No. 776 \$1.00



**SNEEZING POWDER.** Place a little of this powder on your hand, blow into the air, step back and watch the fun begin. Everyone in the room will begin to sneeze without knowing why. More fun than a barrel full of monkeys.  
 No. 104 30¢ pkg. 4 pkgs. \$1.00



**SECRET SAFE.** Looks like an attractively bound book in simulated leather, but open reveals a combination lock safe to camouflage your valuable papers, money, etc. 4 x 6 x 1 1/2".  
 No. 613 \$1.98



**MAGIC BRAIN CALCULATOR.** Adds, subtracts and multiplies to 9,999,999. No knowledge needed to solve math problems. Gives homework answers fast, easy to operate and accurate 5 1/2" x 5" x 4". Fits anywhere.  
 No. 157 \$1.49



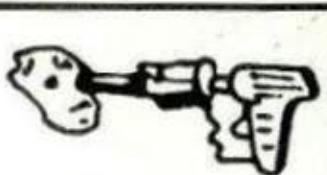
**AERIAL CAP BOMB.** Built like a real bomb! Gives a loud explosion when dropped or thrown on a hard surface. All metal with large fintail. Complete with 72 ammo rounds. Free gift and catalog with order.  
 No. 799 \$1.00 Extra Ammo 25¢



**SWITCH-BLADE COMB.** Sensational! Just touch button and combs flip out, locks automatically. Release and comb retracts into handsome aluminum and black case. Light, strong, durable. Comes in clear, vinyl carrying case. 7 1/2" overall length. 4 1/4" closed. Imported.  
 No. 821 \$1.98



**SURPRISE PACKAGE.** Are you willing to take a chance? We won't tell you what you will receive but because you're willing to gamble, we promise you much more than your money's worth.  
 No. 816 75¢



**POTATO GUN.** Here's a new fast action gun, that shoots potato pellets as far as 50 ft. with more than 300 shots from a single potato. Absolutely harmless...and you never run out of ammo.  
 No. 753 \$1.49



**X-RAY SPECS.** Slip on a pair of these X-Ray specs. This hilarious optical illusion allows you to seemingly "see" the bones of your hands. Lots of fun at parties. Your friends will think you can see right through them.  
 No. 115 \$1.49



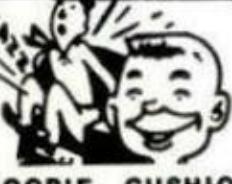
**SNOWSTORM TABLETS.** Create a miniature snowstorm indoors. Will actually cover a whole room. Watch the fun start when you place one of these almost invisible tablets on the burning end of a cigarette. Watch them run for the snow shovel.  
 No. 106 30¢ pkg. 4 pkgs. \$1.00



**MAGIC COLOR CLOUDS.** When you light one of these small grenades, huge, thick clouds of color continue to pour out. Will amaze and thrill you and your friends. Can be used for magic tricks and signaling, etc.  
 No. 817 4 for \$1.00



**SILENT DOG WHISTLE.** Special supersonic features make this whistle silent so that the human ear cannot hear it. But your dog can and will respond instantly over 1/2 mile away. Amaze everyone. With this whistle you can teach your dog tricks quickly and easily. All steel construction.  
 No. 133 \$1.29



**WHOOPIE CUSHION.** Simply place it on someone's chair or couch. When your favorite victim sits down—watch the fun and whoopie begin! Strange sound effects, better imagined than described, will fill the air much to their embarrassment.  
 No. 108 98¢



**FLESH EATING PLANTS.** Most unusual plant in the world. Eats flies, bugs, spiders, etc. Feeds itself by trapping and eating these insects. Jaws will snap shut on anything at your command. Easy to grow with special soil and full instruction included.  
 No. 760 \$1.00



**SPY-SCOPE.** No larger than a fountain pen, spots objects blocks away. Excellent for all sports, counter-spying, baseball, hikes. Power lenses optically ground to reproduce every detail. 8-power telescope, also converts into a 30-power microscope.  
 No. 134 \$1.49



**SILENT DOG WHISTLE.** Special supersonic features make this whistle silent so that the human ear cannot hear it. But your dog can and will respond instantly over 1/2 mile away. Amaze everyone. With this whistle you can teach your dog tricks quickly and easily. All steel construction.  
 No. 133 \$1.29



**AUTHENTIC MILITARY PATCHES.** First time offered! Colorful, giant size real cloth patches in bright colors. Some up to 6 inches long. Command attention! Decorate shirts, jackets, coats etc.  
 No. 826 2 for \$1.00

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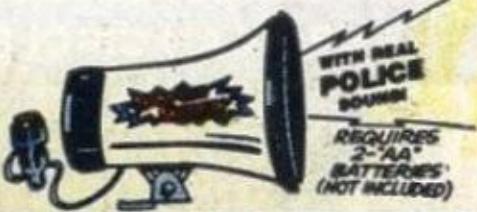
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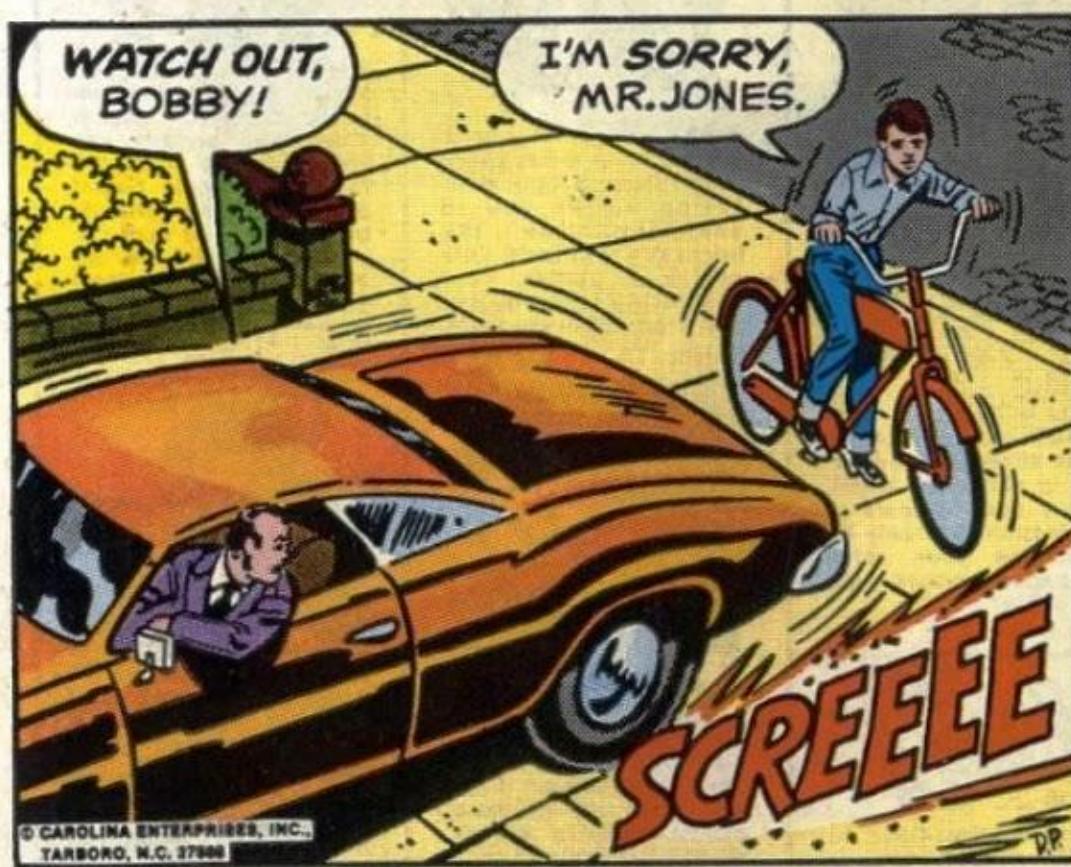
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BOBBY FEELING BADLY, IS NOW OUT WALKING AND...

BOBBY RUNS HOME WITH THE SUPER SIREN AND PUTS IT ON HIS BIKE!



HEY, MOM! LOOK WHAT I GOT FOR MY BIKE!



Yes! Please rush my order so I can be the first on my block to have a SUPER SIREN!

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