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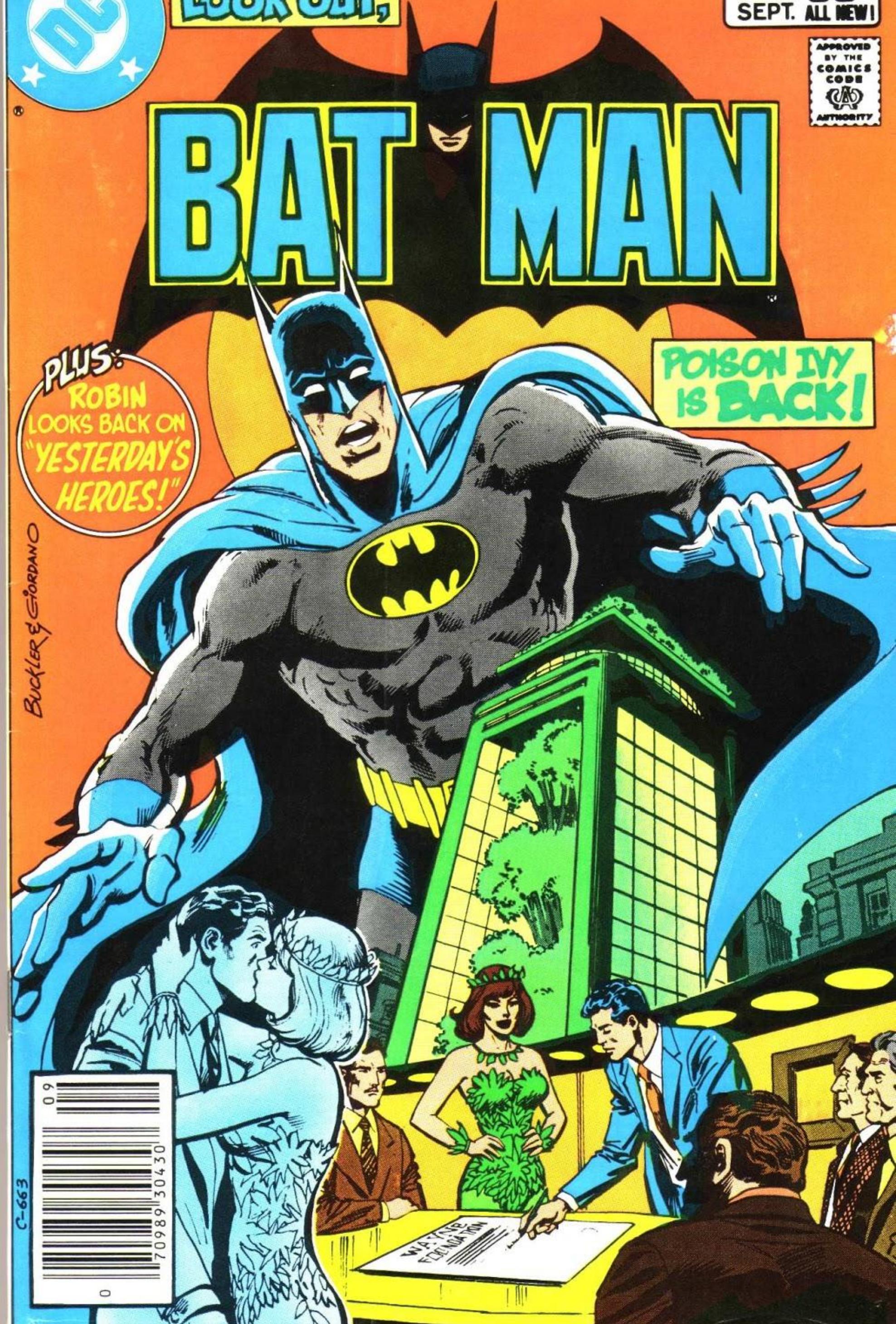
BATMAN

PLUS:

ROBIN
LOOKS BACK ON
"YESTERDAY'S
HEROES!"

POISON IVY
IS BACK!

BUCKLER & GIORDANO



C-663

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Unleash a Darda Demon.TM

And leave the others in the dust.

Wind up Darda's powerful Mega MotorTM with a push. Unleash. The car takes off with startling speed. Zipping. Zooming. Careening recklessly. Outperforming any car in its class. On or off the track.

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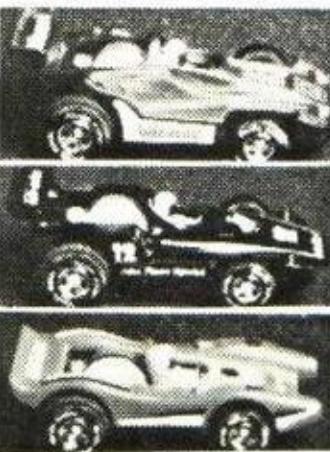
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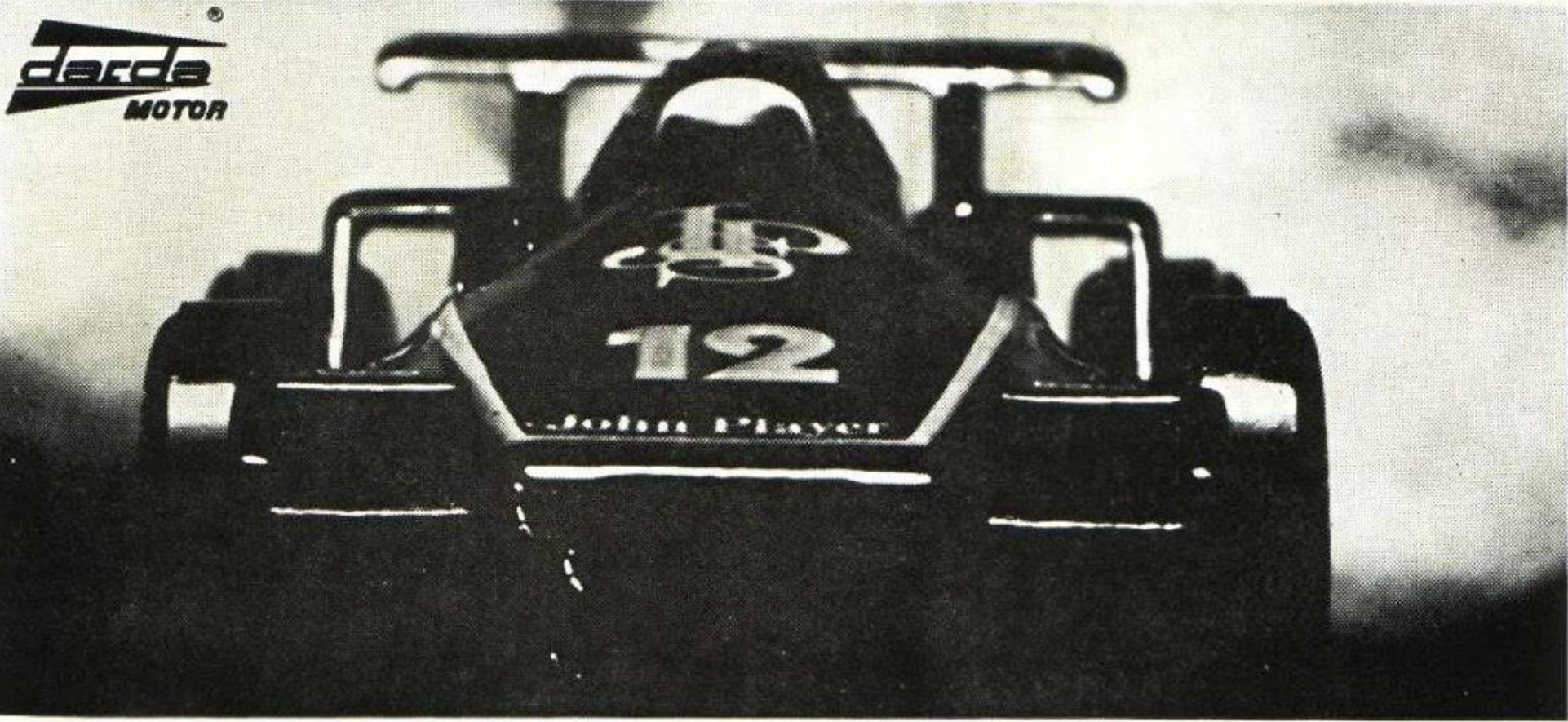
Try one. Like the Darda Demon Daredevil Leap.TM Watch it climb. Leap. Fly upside down, defying gravity, to land right side up.

Race a Darda Demon on the track or across the floor. Either way, you'll leave the others in the dust.



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Darda Demon	Quantity	Price Each	Total
Stunt Strip 0120		\$11.00	
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Send check or charge (check one)

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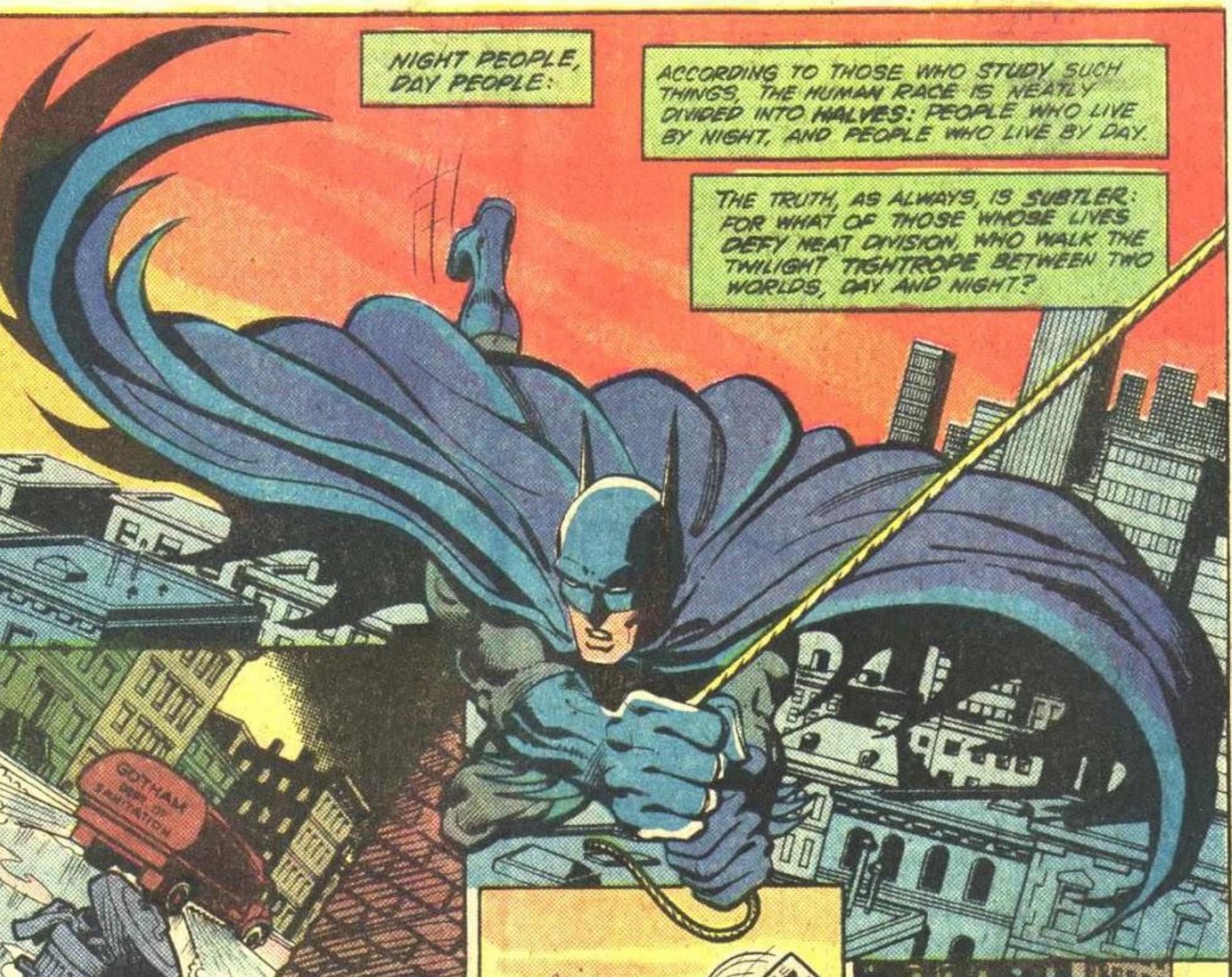
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Darda Toy Company, 19 Lexington Avenue, East Brunswick, NJ 08816

NIGHT PEOPLE,
DAY PEOPLE:

ACCORDING TO THOSE WHO STUDY SUCH THINGS, THE HUMAN RACE IS NEATLY DIVIDED INTO HALVES: PEOPLE WHO LIVE BY NIGHT, AND PEOPLE WHO LIVE BY DAY.

THE TRUTH, AS ALWAYS, IS SUSTLER: FOR WHAT OF THOSE WHOSE LIVES DEFY NEAT DIVISION, WHO WALK THE TWILIGHT TIGHTROPE BETWEEN TWO WORLDS, DAY AND NIGHT?



ONE SUCH WALKER OF
TIGHTROPE IS THE
DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE
KNOWN AS...

BATMAN

CREATED BY
Bob Kane

"A SWEET KISS OF POISON!"

GERRY CONWAY • IRY NOVICK & STEVE MITCHELL
writer artists

BEN ODA
letterer • ADRIENNE ROY
colorist

DICK GIORDANO
editor

BATMAN, (USPS 045-340), Vol. 42, No. 339, September, 1981. Published monthly by DC COMICS INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Second Class Postage paid at New York, N.Y. and Additional Mailing Offices. Copyright © 1981 by DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

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SUBSCRIPTION DEPT.: DC COMICS INC., 14 Vanderventer Ave., Port Washington, N.Y. 11050. Annual subscription rate \$6.00. Outside U.S.A. \$7.00
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to DC COMICS INC., 14 Vanderventer Ave., Port Washington, N.Y. 11050.

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ANOTHER LONG NIGHT
ILLED WITH FRUSTRATIONS.

I KNOW SOMETHING'S
ABOUT TO HAPPEN IN
GOTHAM -- THERE ARE
RUMORS OF A MAJOR
CRIME IN
PREPARATION--

--BUT NO MATTER
HOW MANY OF MY
STOOLIE STRING I
ROUST, I CAN'T PIN
DOWN ANYTHING
DEFINITE.

I'LL BE
GLAD TO
GET HOME.

WHAT I NEED
IS A HOT
SHOWER,
AND -- EH?

REFLECTED
SUNLIGHT--
BLINDING
ME!

MY GOD,
I'M GOING TO
MISS THE
ROOF!

THAT
WAS
CLOSE--

--CLOSER THAN
I'VE BEEN IN
A LONG TIME!

ALFRED,
DID YOU
SEE--?

HE HAS BARELY A
SECOND TO REACT.

HE ALMOST
DOESN'T
MAKE IT.

THWACK

I DID,
SIR.

IF I MAY VENTURE AN OPINION, SIR--

--YOU'VE BEEN WORKING YOURSELF TOO HARD. EVER SINCE YOU RETURNED FROM ALASKA,* YOU'VE BEEN SPENDING YOUR NIGHTS CANVASSING THE STREETS AS THE BATMAN--

--AND YOUR DAYS TRYING TO CATCH UP WITH FOUNDATION BUSINESS AS BRUCE WAYNE!

YOU THINK I'VE BEEN "BURNING FROM BOTH ENDS," ALFRED?

THERE IS THE OLD SAYING ABOUT THE CANDLE TO CONSIDER, SIR.



*SEE LAST MONTH'S DETECTIVE FOR DETAILS. --DICK

WELL, PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT. THE THOUGHT'S CROSSED MY MIND, TOO.

STILL-- WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?

BRUCE WAYNE IS A PROMINENT BUSINESS LEADER. THE DAYS WHEN I COULD HIDE BEHIND MY REPUTATION AS A NE'ER-DO-WELL PLAYBOY MAY BE GONE FOREVER.

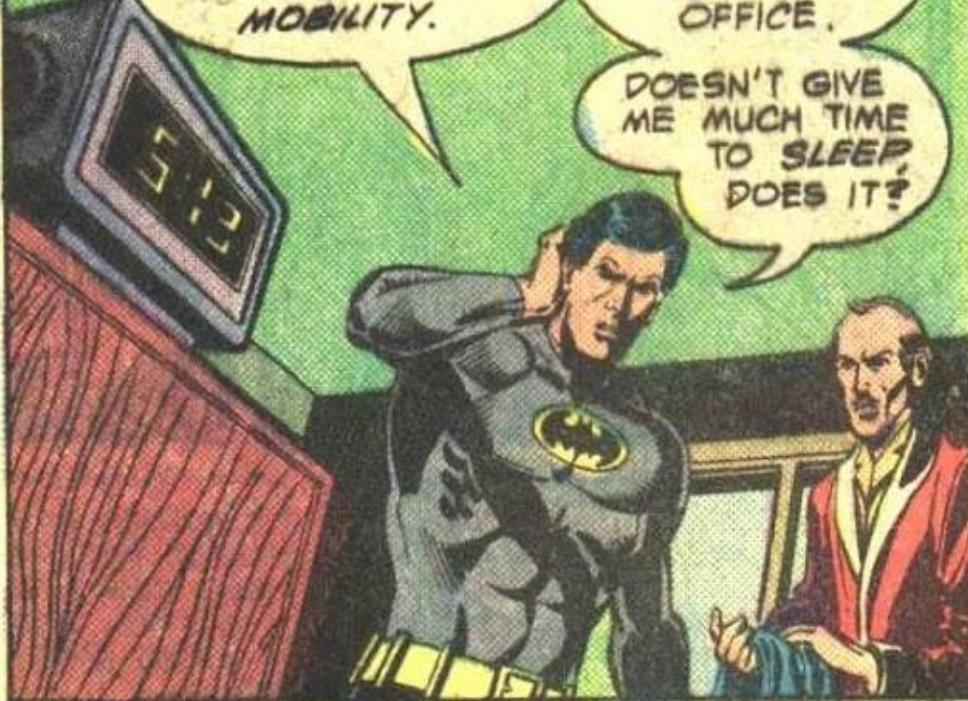


SOMETIMES I THINK IT WAS A MISTAKE TO CHANGE MY IMAGE AS BRUCE WAYNE.

I'VE GAINED RESPECT ... BUT I'VE LOST MOBILITY.

LORD, LOOK AT THE TIME. I HAVE A 9:00 O'CLOCK BOARD MEETING DOWNSTAIRS IN THE WAYNE FOUNDATION OFFICE.

DOESN'T GIVE ME MUCH TIME TO SLEEP, DOES IT?



I'LL CALL YOU AT 8:45, MASTER BRUCE.

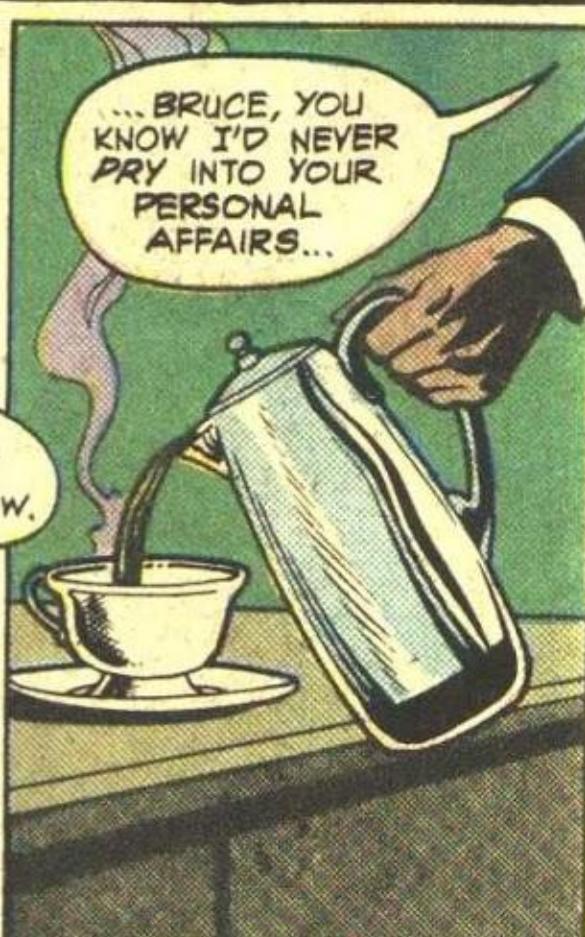
THERE, THERE, PENNYWORTH, BUCKLE UP.

YAWN! BUT WHO SHALL WAKE THE WAKER?

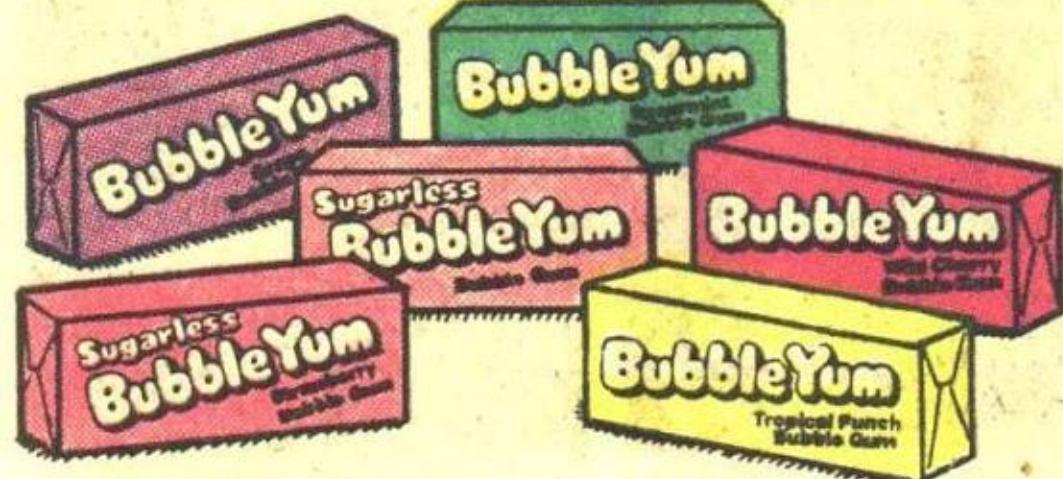
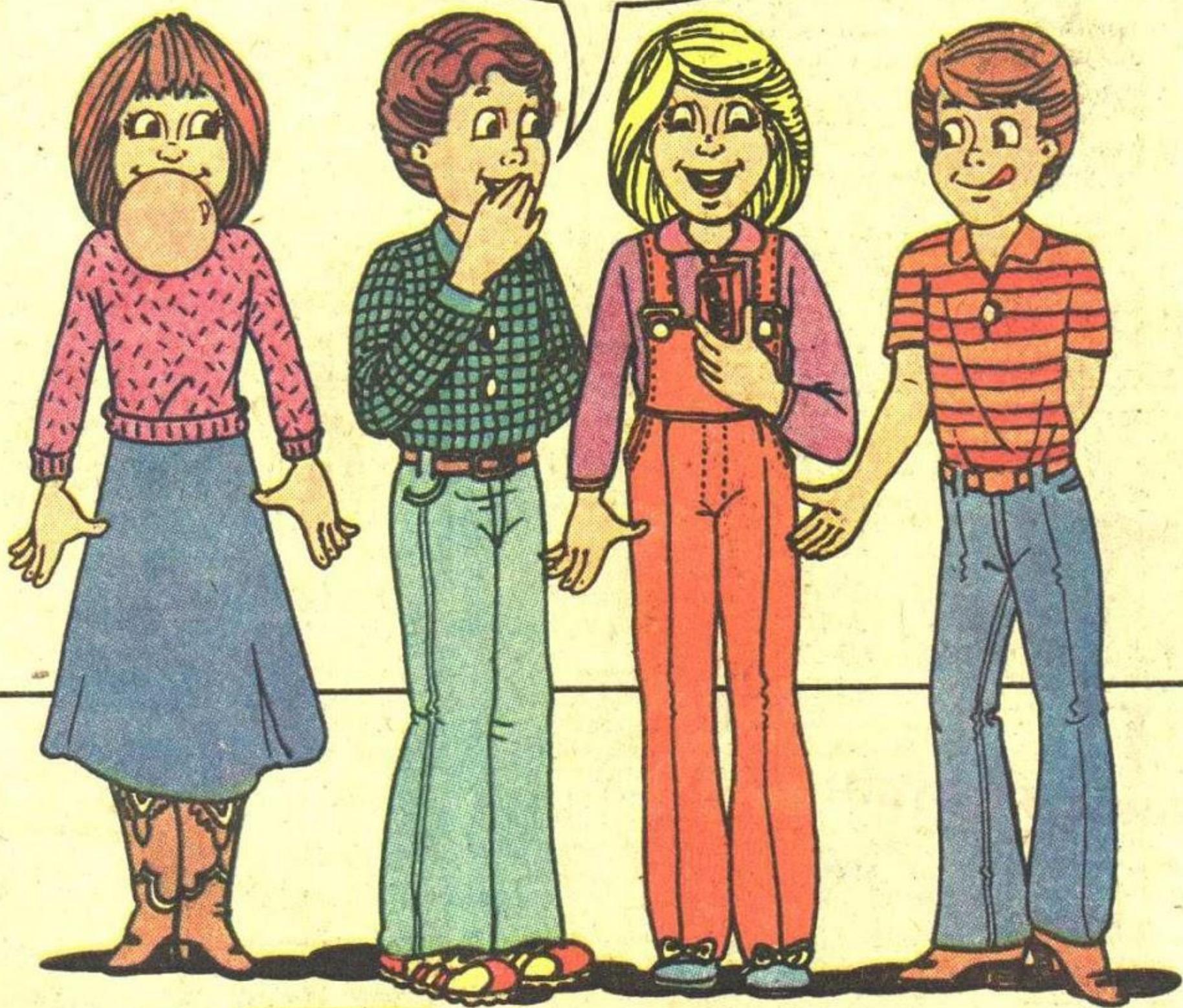


IF HE CAN LIVE THIS WAY... YAWN!... THEN JOLLY- WELL, SO CAN YOU!





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the great taste of Bubble Yum®.
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the flavor lasts a long, long,
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TEEN
TITANS
BY
GEORGE PEREZ

MENTION
THIS AD.

ONE PER PERSON
OFFER GOOD
UNTIL SEPT. 15, 1981

WE ALSO BUY!

MISSSED AN ISSUE ON THE STANDS? ALL OF THESE STORES STOCK OLD COMICS
AND JUST MAY HAVE THAT ELUSIVE ISSUE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.

THE EMPIRE CLUB: AN EXCLUSIVE PRIVATE ESTABLISHMENT WHOSE MEMBERS INCLUDE THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST OF GOTHAM'S CITIZENS--

--CHOOSEN NOT SO MUCH FOR THEIR WEALTH, AS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY...



"MAYBE SO," SAYS BRUCE WAYNE. "BUT STILL, IT MAKES YOU WONDER..."

DID EVERYTHING GO ACCORDING TO PLAN, MISTRESS?

NATURALLY, EVAN.

BRUCE WAYNE NEVER SUSPECTED A THING. IN FACT, THE FOOL SEEMED FLATTERED.

NEXT STOP?

THE NEXT NAME ON MY LIST, OF COURSE!



... AND WHEN WE'RE DONE, POISON IVY WILL HAVE MADE CRIME HISTORY IN GOTHAM CITY!

AND THE REALLY CHARMING THING ABOUT IT IS--

--ONLY FOURTEEN PEOPLE WILL EVER KNOW IT'S HAPPENED!



TIME TO CHANGE FOR MY NEXT APPOINTMENT.

EYES FRONT, EVAN,

YES, MA'AM!

NIGHT ON
THE GOTHAM
WATERFRONT...

AN INFORMER
TOLD ME ABOUT
A SMUGGLING
DROP DUE TO
TAKE PLACE
HERE TONIGHT.

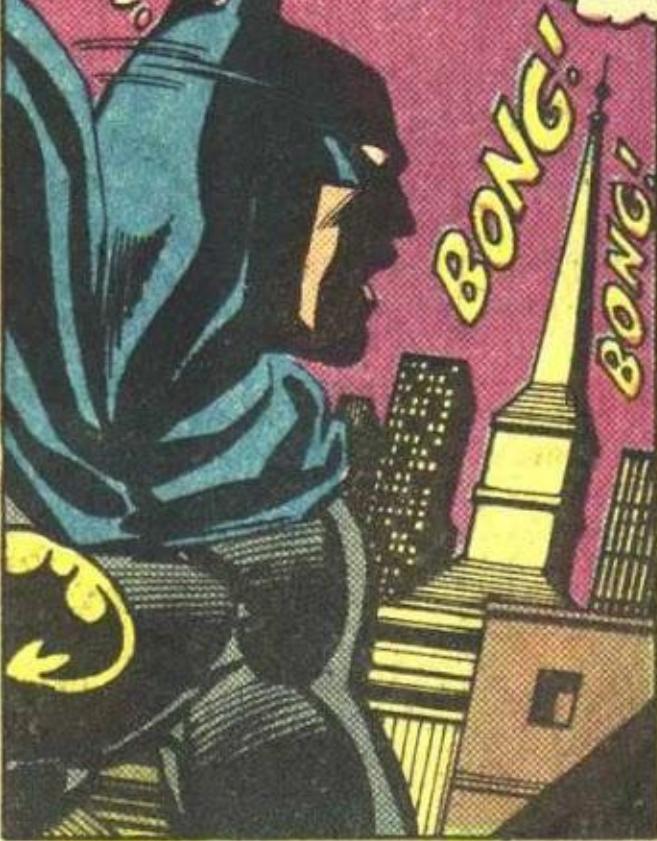
IT'S NOT THE
MAJOR CRIME
I'VE BEEN
LOOKING FOR...

--BUT I'VE
LEARNED NEVER
TO LOOK AWAY
FROM ANY
POTENTIAL
RIP-OFF.

THIS COULD
LEAD TO--
EH?

THE BELL
TOWER AT
TRINITY
CHURCH--
CHIMING
EIGHT
O'CLOCK!

AS THE LAST CHIME
SOUNDS, A STRANGE
TRANSFORMATION
COMES OVER THE
DARKKNIGHT DETECTIVE;
WITH SCARCELY A
GLANCE TOWARD THE
APPROACHING SMUG-
GLER'S MOTORBOAT, HE
RISES INTO FULL VIEW...





Wonder Woman

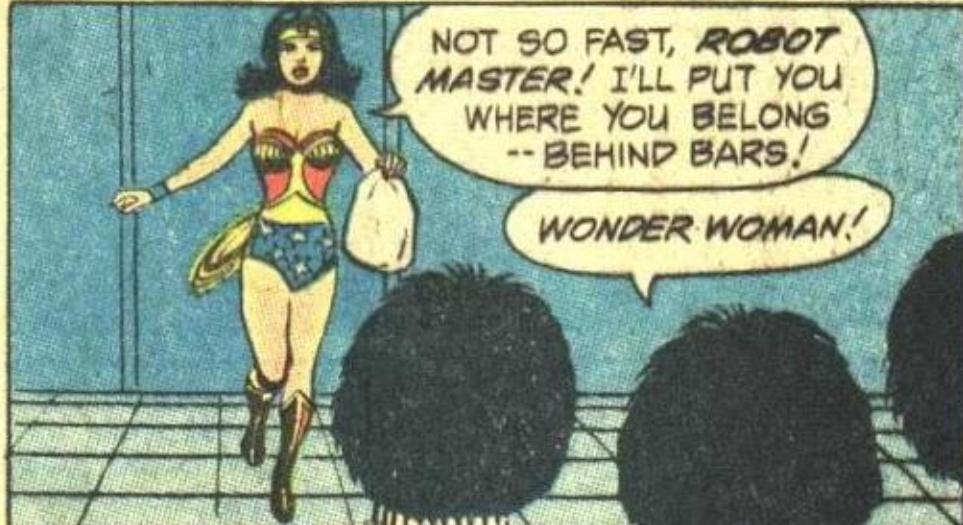
VERSUS

The ROBOT MASTER

WE WALK AND TALK ALIKE! WE'RE IDENTICAL IN EVERY WAY!

I'LL COMMIT THE CRIMES OF THE CENTURY!

HA, HA! WITH THESE FOUR ROBOT DUPLICATES OF MYSELF, NO ONE WILL FIND THE REAL ME!



YOU CAN ONLY CATCH ONE OF US -- AND I'LL BET IT'S THE WRONG ONE!

OH? TRY CATCHING THESE!



I MUST TELL THE TRUTH... DELICIOUS, GOLDEN SPONGE CAKE! THE CREAMED FILLING! YUM!

YOU GAVE YOURSELF AWAY, ROBOT MASTER -- YOUR ROBOTS DON'T HAVE TO EAT!

TOO BAD FOR THEM -- THAT MEANS MORE TWINKIES CAKES FOR ME!

PERHAPS WE CAN BE RE-PROGRAMMED TO ENJOY HOSTESS TWINKIES CAKES, TOO!



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

ON HE WALKS, LEAVING THE NEON-LIT MAIN AVENUE TO TURN DOWN A CROSS-STREET...

THERE, AT LAST, HE HESITATES, SLOWING HIS STRIDE BY AN EFFORT OF WILL...

...AND STARING AHEAD AT THE GROUP OF BEWILDERED-LOOKING MEN GATHERED UNDER A DARKENED THEATER MARQUEE...

HE KNOWS THESE MEN; ONLY A FEW HOURS EARLIER, THEY SAT WITH HIM AROUND A CONFERENCE TABLE IN THE WAYNE FOUNDATION BOARD ROOM...

MUSTN'T...LET THEM SEE ME...DRESSED LIKE THIS!

ONLY CONNECTION...BETWEEN US ALL...IS WAYNE FOUNDATION...

UNNH...TERRIBLE COMPULSION TO JOIN THEM!

BUT I MUST FIGHT IT...EVEN THOUGH EVERY IMPULSE DRIVES ME TOWARD-THEATER ENTRANCE!

DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME--FEEL LIKE A ZOMBIE!

THE COMPULSION THAT BROUGHT ME HERE IS IRRESISTIBLE!

STAGE DOOR
BY PROCESS...OF ELIMINATION...THEY WOULD GUESS...I'M WAYNE!

HAVE TO CHANGE CLOTHES...QUICKLY!

MOMENT LATER...

WHAT'S GOING ON, BRUCE?

ENDICOTT, I'M IN THE DARK AS MUCH AS YOU ARE.

I WAS OUT JOGGING WHEN SUDDENLY--I HAD TO COME TO THIS THEATER!

I WAS HAVING DINNER!

LOOK, THERE'S WAYNE! WHATEVER FORCED ALL OF US TO COME HERE MUST HAVE AFFECTED HIM, TOO!

AND I WAS HALF-WAY ACROSS THE BRIDGE TO NEW JERSEY!

OBVIOUSLY, EACH OF US WAS
AFFECTED IN THE
SAME WAY.

BUT HOW--
AND WHY?

IF YOU WANT
ANSWERS,
GENTLEMEN,
STEP
INSIDE!

THE THEATER DOOR'S
OPENING-BY ITSELF!

...I WON'T BITE
YOU--TWICE!

ALL YOU HAVE TO
DO IS SIGN THIS
LITTLE PIECE OF
PAPER, AND YOU
CAN GO HOME
WITHOUT A FUSS.

AND NONE
BUT US WILL
BE THE
WISER!

STEP UP TO THE
STAGE, BOYS! DON'T
BE SHY...

YOU RECOGNIZE
ME, MISTER
WAYNE -- BUT YOU
DIDN'T THIS
AFTERNOON WHEN
WE MET AT THE
EMPIRE CLUB!

NONE
OF YOU
RECOGNIZED
ME, WHEN I
APPROACHED
EACH OF
YOU TODAY--
AND
"ACCIDENTALLY"
KISSED YOU
-- WHILE I
WAS WEARING
THIS!



...AND IT IS
OUR LITTLE
SECRET, ISN'T
IT, DARLING?

YOU KNOW WHAT
THEY SAY ABOUT
POISON IVY.
DON'T YOU
MY SWEETS?



"ONCE YOU'VE BEEN
TOUCHED BY POISON
IVY, YOU CAN NEVER
GET RID OF HER!"

NEVER,
NEVER,
NEVER!

MY GOD, IT'S HER
LIPSTICK! SOME
KIND OF HYPNOTIC
AGENT--A DRUG--MIXED
INTO HER LIPSTICK!





EVEN TRY TO
TELL SOMEONE
ABOUT OUR
ARRANGEMENT--

--AND THE
WORDS WILL
CHOKE IN
YOUR
THROAT!

NOW
LEAVE.

I'LL BE IN
TOUCH ABOUT
COLLECTING MY
MILLIONS...
SOMEDAY SOON!

TWELVE MEN LEAVE...
BUT ONE MAN RETURNS...

WITH THAT DOCUMENT, SHE
CAN LOOT THE WAYNE
FOUNDATION AT WILL--AND
LEGALLY, I'D BE HELPLESS
TO STOP HER!

THAT'S WHY I CAN'T
LET HER KEEP THAT
PAPER!

BRUCE WAYNE
IS IN DEEP
TROUBLE --

--AND IT'S UP
TO THE BATMAN
TO PULL WAYNE'S
FAT OUT OF THE
FIRE!

LUCKILY, IVY
DOESN'T KNOW
THAT THE BATMAN
IS ALSO UNDER HER
"SPELL" --

OTHERWISE,
THIS FIGHT
WOULD BE
OVER BEFORE
IT COULD
BEGIN!

SUDDENLY,
ON THE STAGE
BELOW, THE
WOMAN
KNOWN AS
POISON IVY
COCKS HER
HEAD, TURNING
--AN EYEBROW
LIFTING AS
SHE GLANCES
TOWARD THE
SHADDED
PRIVATE
BOXES
ABOVE...

EVAN! I SWEAR I
JUST HEARD SOMETHING
FROM ONE OF THE BOXES
OVERLOOKING STAGE LEFT!

HIT THE
SPOTS!

IN THE
CONTROL
BOOTH AT
THE REAR
OF THE
THEATER--

--EVAN, THE SOMETIME
TAXI DRIVER, COMPLIES:

A BEAM OF
BRIGHT BLUE
LIGHT
THRUSTS THE
DARKNESS
ASIDE--

MISTRESS,
LOOK OUT!
IT'S--

THE
BATMAN!

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Life Savers Premium, P.O. BOX 7680, Stratmar Station, Bridgeport, Conn. 06650.

Offer available in USA except where taxed, prohibited, or otherwise restricted. *All prices include postage and handling. Allow 8 weeks for delivery. Offer good through December 31, 1981. Do not send cash.

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Please send me the following items. I have enclosed 1 Life Savers Roll Candy wrapper or 3 Life Savers Lollipop wrappers for each item ordered.

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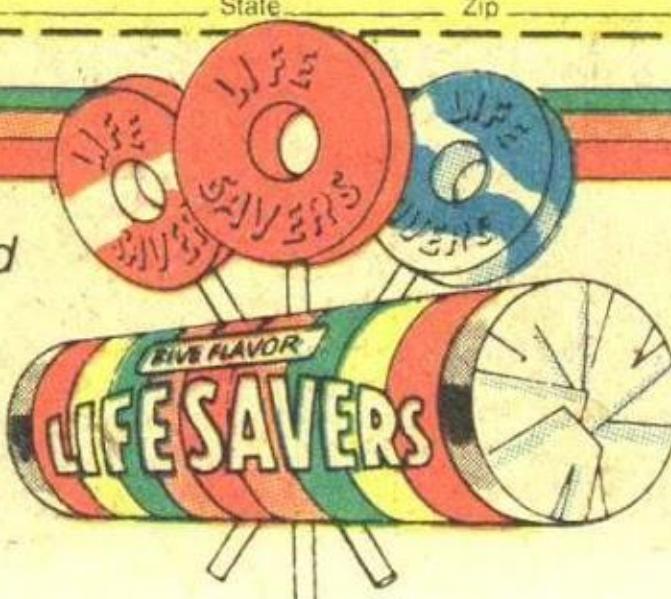
Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Life Savers Roll Candy and
Lollipops.

Lots of flavors for you,
and lots of fun things
to do!





BUT I'VE NEVER
KILLED ANYONE YET,
AND I DON'T PLAN
TO START NOW.

GIVE US A KISS, BATMAN, AND
I'LL TAKE THE NASTY VINES AWAY.

NO?

THEN, TO HADES WITH
YOU, BATMAN.

I'M NOT THE CLINGING
TYPE. I KNOW WHEN I'M
NOT WANTED.

GET RID OF
THAT CHOKER
YOURSELF...

--IF
YOU
CAN!

HA
HA HA

SCRASH



AHHHH... FEEL
LIKE I'VE JUST
BEEN HANGED!

BUT I'M ALIVE...
AND FREE--

--AND "FREE"
IS MORE THAN
POISON IVY
IS GOING TO
BE, ONCE I
CLOSE IN
ON HER!

WHAT?

THE
STAGE IS
EMPTY!?

NO SIGN
OF IVY
OR HER
ACCOMPlice
IN THE
CONTROL
BOOTH--

--EXCEPT
FOR THAT
OPEN
DOOR!

I DON'T KNOW
WHY I'M
RUNNING!

IN MY
HEART, I'VE
GOT A SICK
FEELING...

...THAT I'M
TOO LATE!
IVY IS GONE...
AND IT'S A
SAFE BET SHE'S
COVERED HER
TRACKS!

SHE'S PLAYING FOR HIGH
STAKES... THE ENTIRE WAYNE
FOUNDATION!

SHE ISN'T
ABOUT TO MAKE A
STUPID ERROR THAT
MIGHT LEAD ME
TO HER NOW!

...AND WHEN DAWN
LIGHTENS THE SKY
OVER THE WAYNE
BUILDING...

...HE RETURNS TO THE BATCAVE BENEATH, A GRIM BUT
UNDISCOURAGED MAN SEEKING PSYCHIC REFUGE...

I HAD TO RETRIEVE THE BATMOBILE
FROM WHERE I'D LEFT IT ON THE
WATERFRONT.

FINDING THAT
SMUGGLERS'
BOAT AND
CARGO
ABANDONED
WAS AN
UNEXPECTED
BONUS.



THE SMUGGLERS MUST
HAVE SEEN ME--AND FLED,
THINKING I WAS ABOUT TO
CAPTURE THEM!

JIM GORDON
IS AN EARLY
RISER--I'LL
USE THE
HOTLINE
TO REACH
HIM AT
HOME.

COMMISSIONER?
THIS IS THE
BATMAN.
I'VE GOT A
PRESENT
FOR YOU.

BUT THEN...

SOMETHING ELSE
OCCURRED TONIGHT,
COMMISSIONER.

IT INVOLVES
P--ARRKK!

SOMETIMES MY
REPUTATION SURPRISES
EVEN ME.

I BETTER CALL COMMISSIONER
GORDON--TELL HIM WHAT
HAPPENED.

THE WORDS ARE
CHOKING IN MY
THROAT!

IT'S THE HYPNOTIC
DRUG--IT'S PREVENTING
ME FROM TELLING GORDON
WHAT HAPPENED WITH
POISON IVY AND THE
WAYNE FOUNDATION!

BUT--IF I CAN'T
TELL GORDON--HOW
CAN I STOP HER?

MY GOD! CAN
I STOP
HER?

ONLY TIME WILL
TELL BATMAN!
ONLY TIME WILL
TELL!

NEXT:
THE
MOLE!

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over 100,000 in stock
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3 Pcs \$2.95 16 Per
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Thick, fantastic color smoke!
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Made to look like M-80's! Light
one and out comes thick
COLORED smoke than PUFF! The
smoke changes color 2 more
times!
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AT THE HILL CIRCUS, THE BIG ATTRACTION IS CLEVELAND BRAND, BROTHER OF BOSTON BRAND, THE ORIGINAL DEADMAN...

CLEVE SPRAINED HIS ARM A FEW DAYS AGO.. WHICH IS WHERE I COME IN...

THEY'RE PLAYIN' THE TUNE, LORNA.

TIME FOR THE KID TO SHOW HIS STUFF.

YOU COMIN'?

I WOULDN'T MISS IT!

CLEVE'S SPRAIN GAVE ME MY CHANCE.

I'VE BEEN HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT MY CAREER AS ROBIN, AND PARTICULARLY MY RELATIONSHIP WITH BATMAN.

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I WANTED TO KNOW IF I COULD MAKE IT AS MYSELF, WITHOUT ROBIN...

... DICK GRAYSON, OF THE FLYING GRAYSONS!

... OUR NEWEST AERIAL SENSATION...

THAT'S WHY I WAS
HERE, AT THE CIRCUS.

I NEEDED TO FIND MY
ROOTS... TO GO BACK TO
MY BEGINNINGS...

THIS BRAVE YOUNG
MAN WILL ATTEMPT
THE DEATH-DEFYING
TRIPLE FLIP...

...AND IF THAT MEANT
REJECTING ROBIN
AND EVERYTHING THAT
I'D BECOME SINCE I
LEFT THE CIRCUS
YEARS AGO...

...A STUNT THAT IS
THE MOST DANGEROUS
KNOWN TO THE
AERIALIST'S ART...

...THEN THAT'S WHAT
I WOULD DO.

...AND HE WILL
PERFORM THIS
DARING TRIPLE
FLIP...

I HAD TO KNOW:
COULD I MAKE IT
AS DICK GRAYSON,
WITHOUT ROBIN
OR THE BATMAN?

...WITHOUT
THE BENEFIT
OF A NET!



IN A WAY, I GUESS, WHAT
I WAS DOING WITH MY LIFE
WAS JUST LIKE WHAT I WAS
DOING ON THE TRAPEZE...



I WAS RISKING
MY LIFE WITHOUT
A NET.

I'D BROKEN OFF WITH
BRUCE WAYNE--THE
BATMAN-- AND I'D LEFT
THE COMFORT AND SECURITY
OF COLLEGE LIFE AT
HUDSON UNIVERSITY.

I WAS FLYING HIGH,
WITHOUT A NET.

ONLY
LITTLE
KIDS
NEED
NETS.



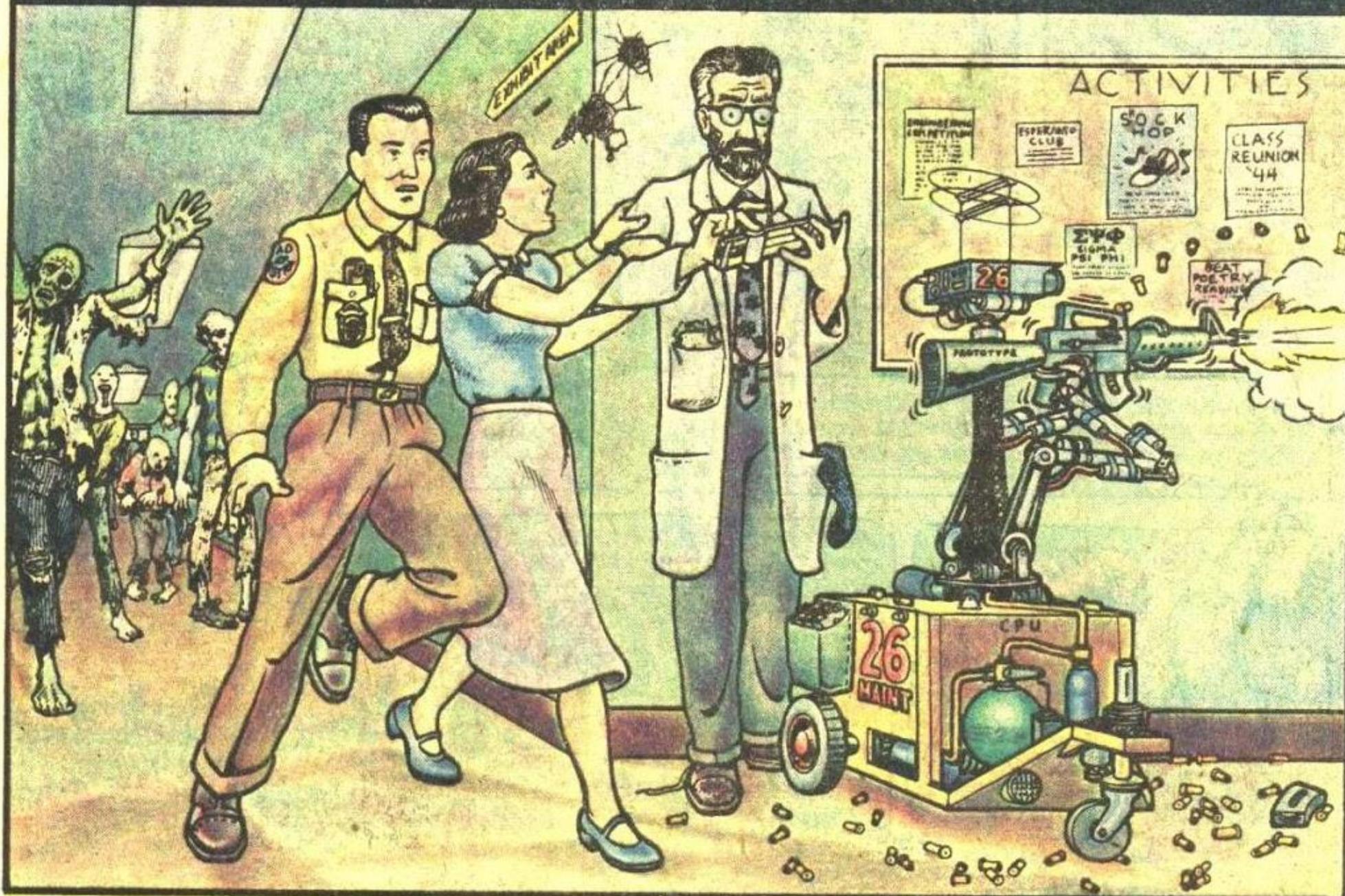
ONLY LITTLE KIDS...

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RICHARD...





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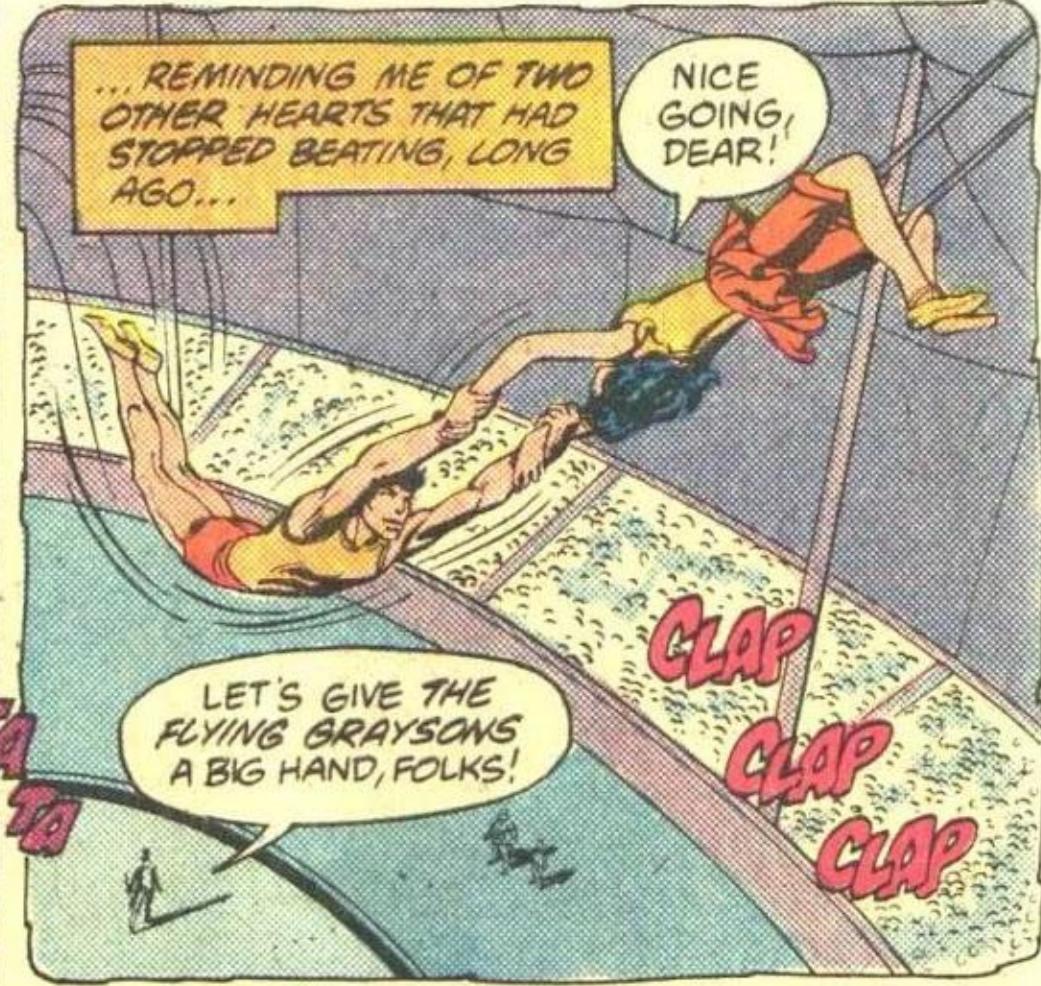
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IF THAT'S TRUE,
HE WAS WRONG.

HE MAY HAVE WANTED
ME TO GROW UP TO BE
LIKE HIM, LIKE
THE BATMAN...

...BUT I DIDN'T.

I'M NOT OBSESSED
WITH CRIME
THE WAY HE IS.

HE GREW
UP WITHOUT
REAL PARENTS--
BUT I DIDN'T--
I ALWAYS HAD
HIM!

HE BECAME MY
FATHER... FROM THAT VERY
FIRST DAY, WHEN HE
BROUGHT ME TO THE
BATCAVE... AND REVEALED
HIS SECRET IDENTITY!

STRETCHING FOR THE
BAR, I COULD HEAR
MY FATHER TELLING
ME TO KNOW MY
LIMITATIONS...

...AND I HEARD
ANOTHER VOICE,
JOINING THAT OF
MY MOTHER...

I'M GOING TO
TRAIN YOU TO
BE A CRIME-
FIGHTER. IT'S
GOING TO STRETCH
YOUR ABILITIES
TO THEIR
FULLEST
POTENTIAL!

YOU
HAVE TO
KNOW
YOURSELF,
DICK.

IT WAS AS THOUGH MY
MOTHER WERE THERE, IN
THE BATCAVE, ENCOURAG-
ING ME... PRAISING ME...
CHIDING
ME...

I WANTED TO DO BETTER,
TO PLEASE HER-- AND TO
PLEASE THE BATMAN, WHO
WAS GIVING ME A CHANCE
TO CATCH MY PARENTS'
KILLERS.

AND AT THE SAME TIME,
MY FATHER WAS THERE,
AS WELL...



...WARNING ME TO BE
CAREFUL, NOT TO OVER-
REACH MYSELF... AND
YET, ALWAYS TO DO MY
BEST!

THESE LAST
FEW WEEKS'
HAVE BEEN
CRUCIAL,
DICK.

YOU'VE
LEARNED
EVERYTHING
I COULD TEACH
YOU.

NOW IT'S TIME
FOR THE ROBIN
TO FLY!

WE CAUGHT MY
PARENTS' KILLER...

...AND WE
WENT ON TO
BECOME A
TEAM...

...FIGHTING
TOGETHER TO
DEFEAT A FACE-
LESS ENEMY THAT
SEEMED TO BE
EVERWHERE!

AND IN THE
END...

...WE STARTED
FIGHTING
BETWEEN
OURSELVES.

DICK--YOU'RE
NOT LEAVING?
I HAVE
TO, BRUCE.
I'LL
BE
IN--

I NEED TIME TO
THINK.

--TOUCH!
CAN'T
TOUCH THE
TRAPEZE
BAR! I
REACHED
TOO FAR!

AND
THIS
TIME--

--I'M
FALLING
WITHOUT
A NET!

SUDDENLY... THE
WORLD SEEMED
TO SLOW DOWN
AND STOP.

INSTEAD OF FALLING,
I WAS DRIFTING--
AND I REALIZED THAT
HE WAS THERE.

NOT PHYSICALLY,
NOT PSYCHICALLY...

...BUT IN A STRANGE,
ALMOST SPIRITUAL
SENSE.

AND
HE WASN'T
ALONE.

I BECAME
VERY
CALM.
AND I
KNEW
EXACTLY
WHAT TO
DO.

WILL YOU LOOK
AT THAT?

HE CAUGHT
ONE OF THE
TENT
ROPES--

--AND HE'S
SPINNING
DOWN IT
LIKE A
WHIRLI-
GIG!



I COULD HAVE
TOLD THEM IT
WASN'T AN
ACT.

A SECOND AGO,
I WAS AS CLOSE
TO DYING AS I
EVER WANT TO
GET.

SOMETHING
HAD HAP-
PENED TO
ME, IN THAT
INSTANT...



... AND AS THE CIRCUS CROWD
BURST INTO WAVES OF
THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE, I
THOUGHT I KNEW WHAT IT
WAS THAT HAD COME OVER ME...

CLAP

I'D BEEN LOOKING
FOR MY ROOTS--
TRYING TO FIND
MYSELF BY RETURN-
ING TO MY PAST,
SEARCHING FOR
YESTERDAY'S
HEROES...

CLAP CLAP

THOSE HEROES, I NOW KNOW, ARE
NOT IN THE PAST-- THEY ARE IN THE
PRESENT-- AND THEY ARE PART
OF ME!



I AM DICK GRAYSON, WHO IS
THE SON OF THE FLYING
GRAYSONS... AND THE WARD OF
THE BATMAN.

THEY HAD MADE ME
WHAT I AM...

...BUT I AM MORE THAN
WHAT EACH OF THEM HAD
WANTED ME TO BE:

I AM MYSELF!





Dear Paul:

Concerning Batman #334, or perhaps more importantly, the Diary of Al Talmun. I take it that there was such a historian, and this is not a creation of your staff? By using the quotations of a 17th century man, Marv has succeeded in adding to the already awesome legend of Ra's Al Ghul, "the Demon's Head". Ra's immortal status has always been something that puzzled the reader. We knew he could die, then be resurrected by the famed Lazarus Pit. Yet Talia, or so I assumed anyways, was always thought of as being totally mortal. Ra's, I thought, would never let the curse of immortality and power touch his beloved child. I don't know why, but I always figured that Ra's would take someone as his bride every fifty years or so, and then go out with his plans of conquest with the offspring of that marriage. To say the least, it disturbed me that Talia was shown as an immortal who requires a mystic potion or such. Because of this, any hopes of her and Batman being truly intimate have been put to waste. For Batman could never become involved with someone who requires a narcotic, not to mention is at least six times as old as he. If it were up to me, I'd show that all of this involving Talia was only a trick by Ra's to win Batman over.

The story itself was very good. So far each part of this four parter has been a story on its own, not just a continuation of

the original tale. Very well done on your parts.

Novick and McLaughlin have done extremely well on the artwork, handling each chapter with a different mood or flavour as it required.

Some thoughts and questions on my behalf: Was the Roy Thomas who became one of the more famous JSA fans this same one whose work has appeared in comics for so long? When will Robin's solo strip begin? Who will be assigned the writing and artistic chores? Finally, something I've noticed, why has there been an over-abundance of bondage covers on Batman? As was pointed out to me a month ago, the number of these covers to appear has been steadily increased year by year since about 1976. A few I don't mind, but when it gets to the point when you wonder if the creators of these comix are sadomasochists, I begin to get disturbed. Maybe you've just never noticed the frequency with which they're appearing, so I thought I'd let you know, no more chains for awhile, OK?

Dave Lauder

Kingston, Ont. Canada

Al Talmun was created by Marv...and a neat touch, too, if you ask me.

As for Talia...she is made immortal by her father's touch, not a mystic potion and since Ra's Al Ghul is gone forever (?), Talia is now mortal.

Quick answers to your other questions: 1 - JSA fan Thomas and pro writer Thomas are one and the same. 2 - Robin's solo strip begins with issue #337. Gerry Conway scripts; Don Newton and Irv Novik will share the drawing assignments. 3 - I hadn't noticed the over-use of "chained" covers. After checking...I still didn't consider it overdone! It was a few...and I'm glad you don't mind!

This might be a good time to mention to all you letter writers out there that your letter is more likely to be considered for inclusion in this column if: A) it is typed or printed legibly B) it is reasonably brief and C) a specific point is made or a question raised. Obviously, we can't print all your letters even if you follow these tips, but it would help.

Thank you and good afternoon--DG

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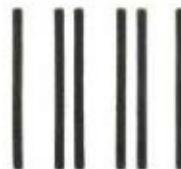
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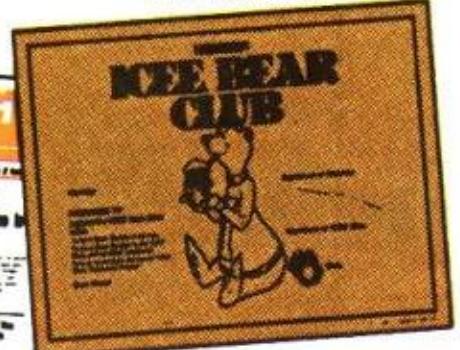
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