

BATMAN

BATMAN

25¢
NO. 264
JUNE
30430

TAG!
YOU'RE
IT,
BATMAN!

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BY THE
COMICS
CODE
 AUTHORITY



"DEATH OF A
DAREDEVIL!"



THE
WORLD'S
BRAVEST
DAREDEVIL

"DEVIL" DAYRE

EXTRA ADDED
ATTRACTION

BATMAN

A THRILLING
TALE...
OF COURAGE
AND COWARDICE...
CAREENING TO A
CRASHING
CLIMAX!

THE WORLD'S
GREATEST
CRIME-FIGHTER
AND THE WORLD'S
GREATEST
MOTORCYCLIST
FIND THEMSELVES
TIED TO
A TRAIL OF
TREACHERY
AND TERROR!
YOU WON'T SOON
FORGET--

DEATH OF A DAREDEVIL

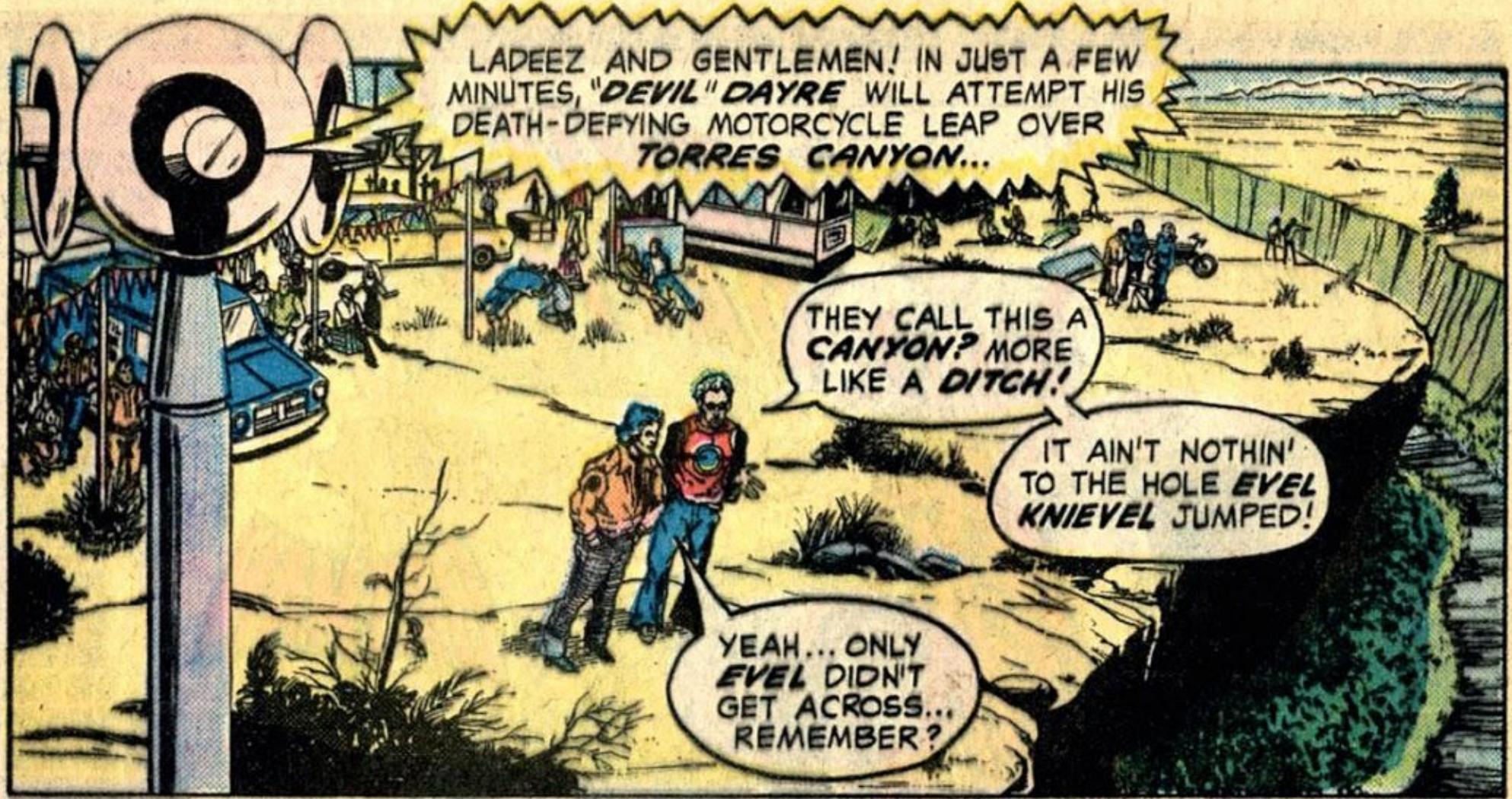
STORY by DENNY O'NEIL
ART by ERNIE CHUA &
DICK GIORDANO & CO.
EDITED by JULIUS SCHWARTZ



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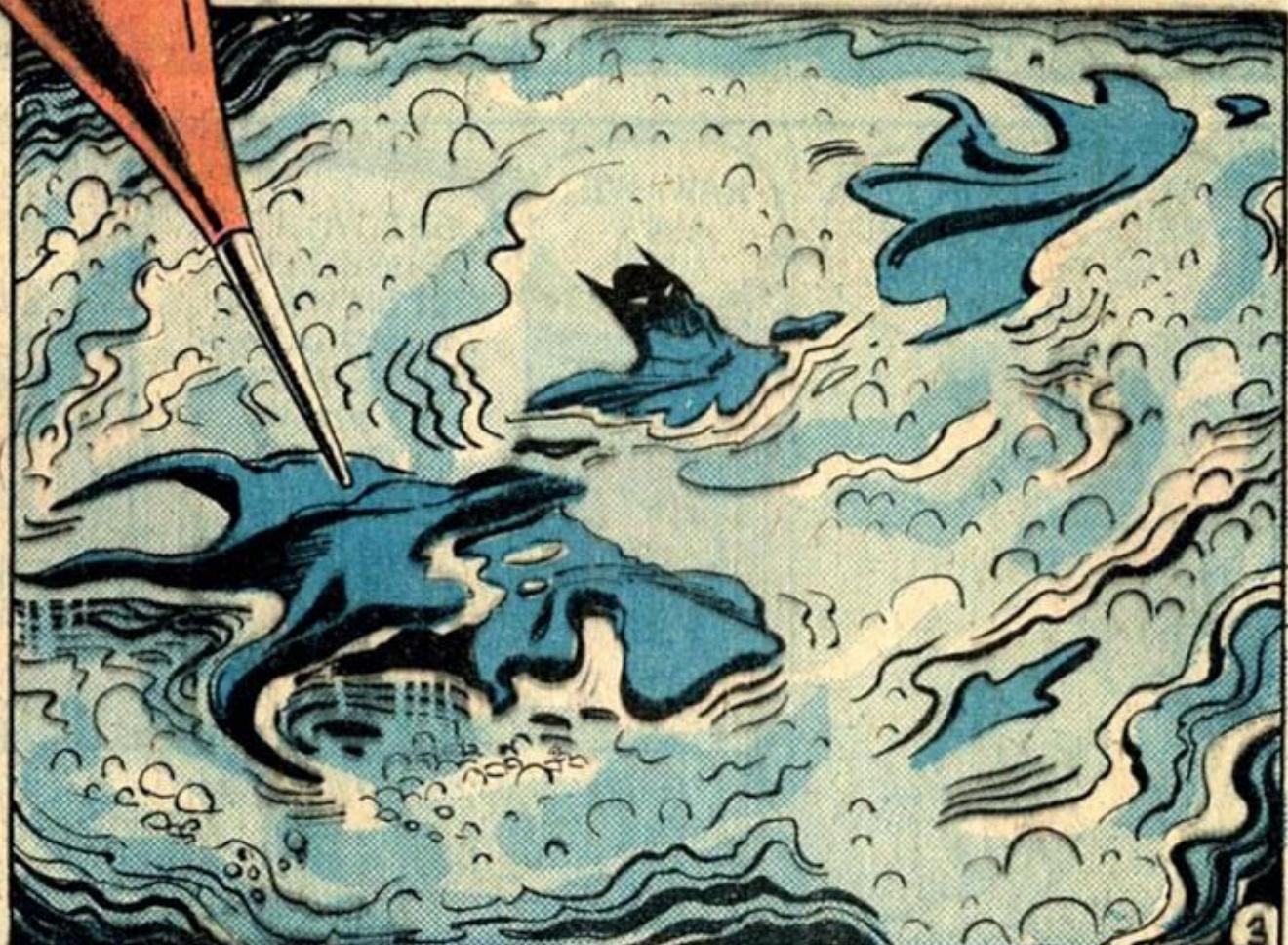


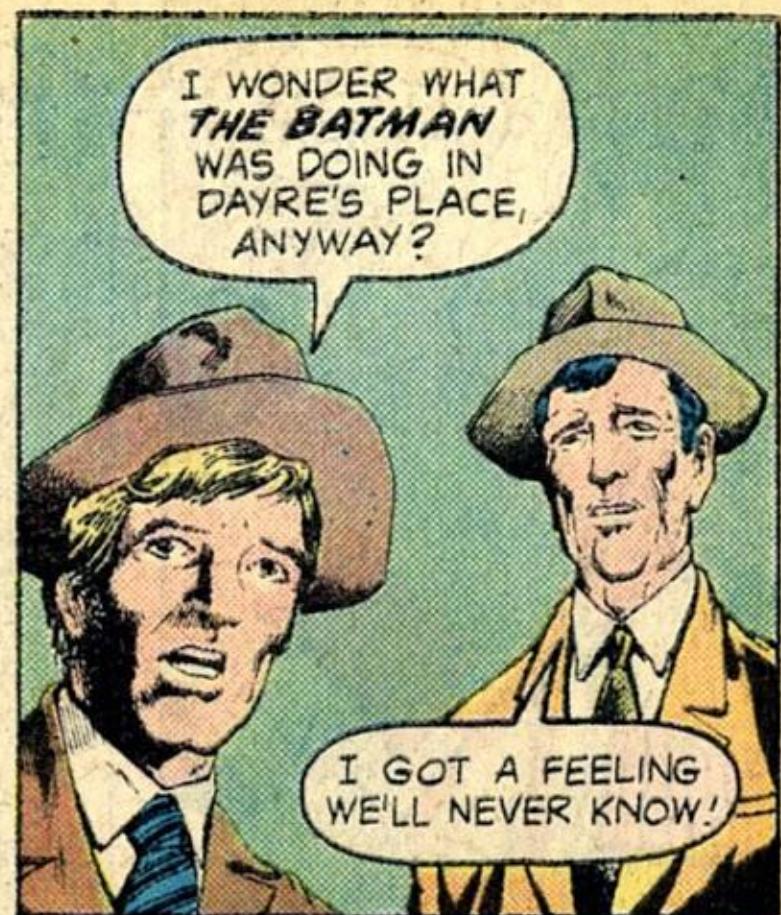
...IT'S THE
BATMAN!

AND HE'S NOT
GONNA MAKE IT!

HE'S
FALLING INTO THE
RIVER!

'L DAYRE





WHAT TO SINK YOUR TEETH INTO WHEN YOU'RE HUNGRY AND YOU'RE NOT A WEREWOLF.

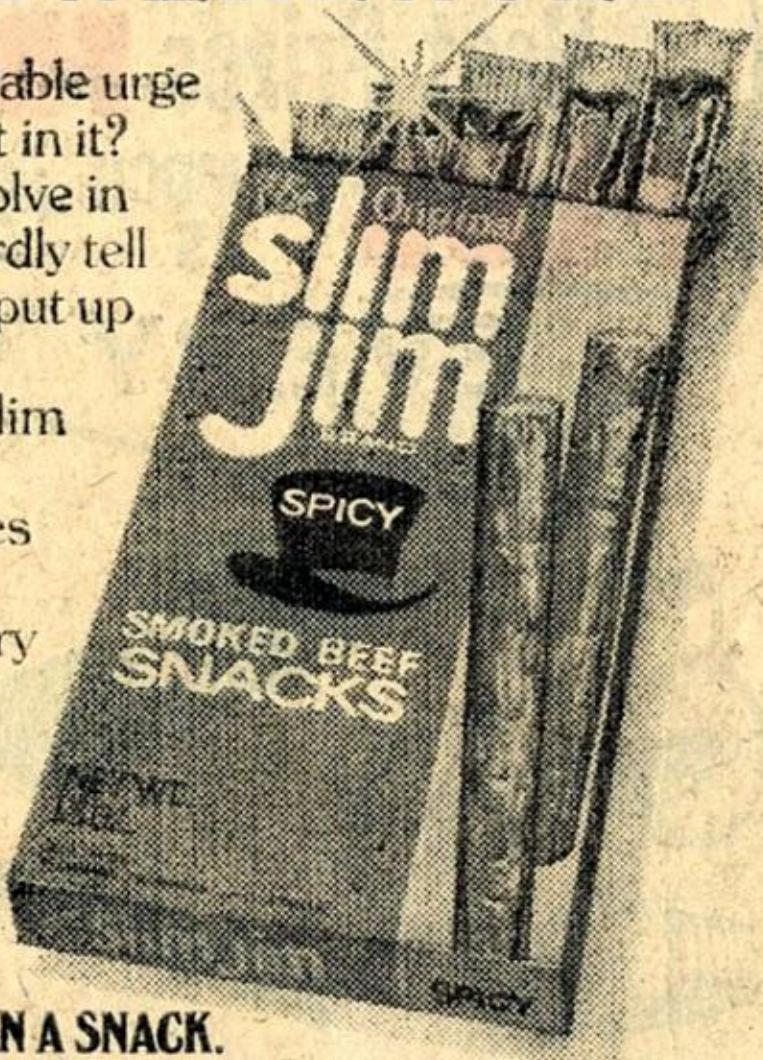
Every now and then, do you get this uncontrollable urge to bite into something that's really got some meat in it?

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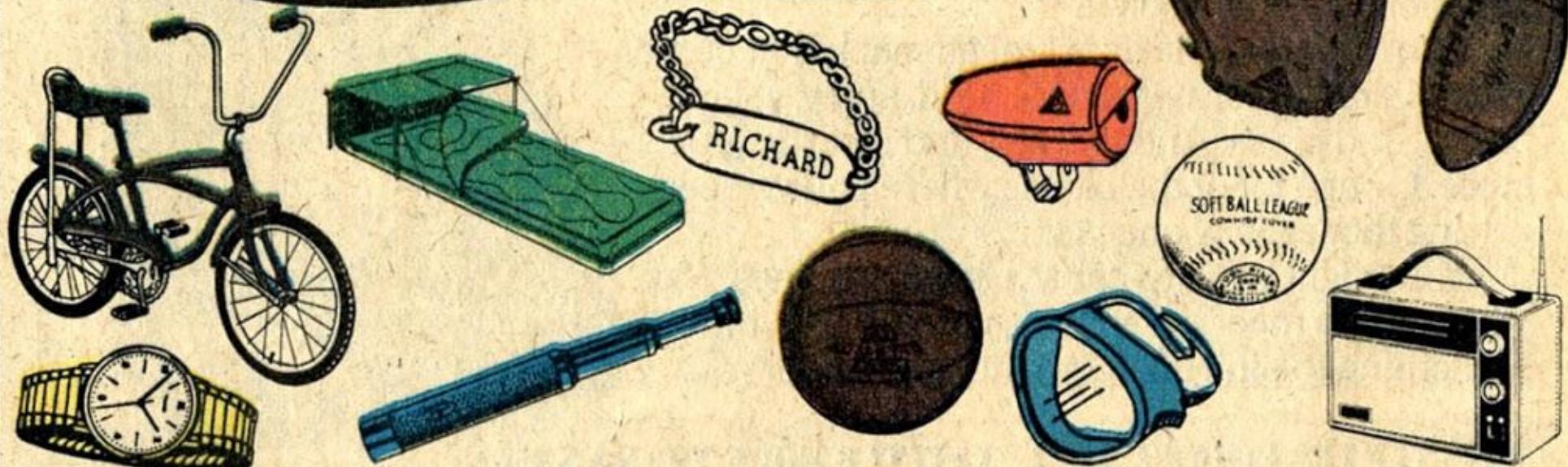
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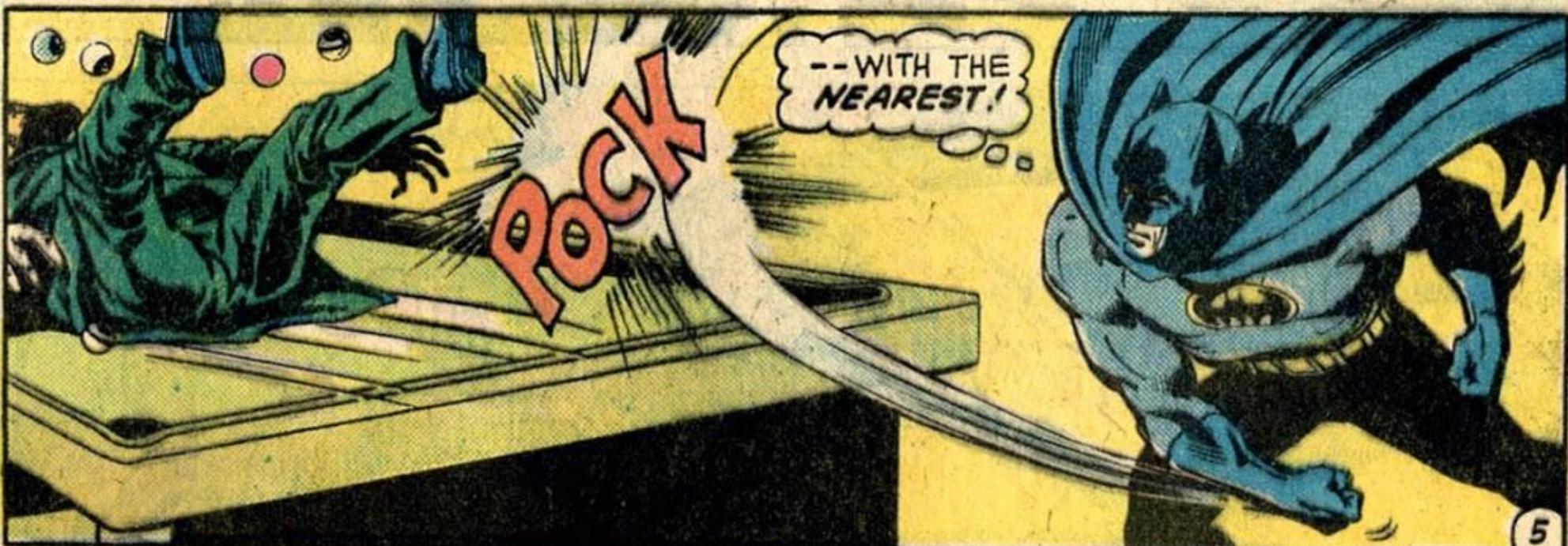
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SUDDENLY...
A HOARSE
VOICE CRIES
A COMMAND
INTO THE
SMOKY AIR.

NOBODY
MOVE!

YOU...DAYRE!
YOU'RE COMIN'
WITH US!

OKAY, YOU
GUYS--



THE OTHER GUNMEN
ARE SO BUSY TRYING
TO SHOOT DAYRE'S
MEN WITHOUT
HITTING DAYRE--

BLAM!

BLAM!

BLAM!

--THEY
HAVEN'T EVEN
NOTICED--

--ME!

CHOCK

TOCK

LET ME
GUESS!

YOU'RE GOING
TO GET A JUMBO
REP BY GUNNING
THE BATMAN--
RIGHT?

Y-YEAH!

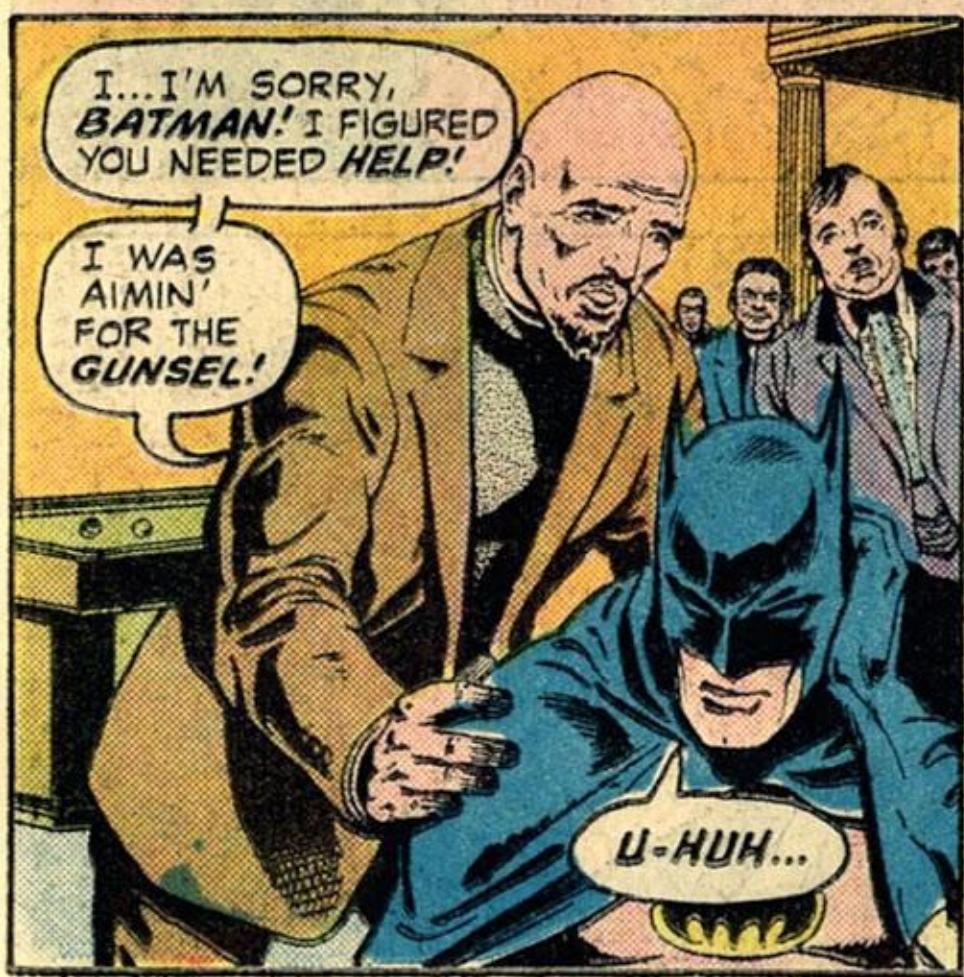
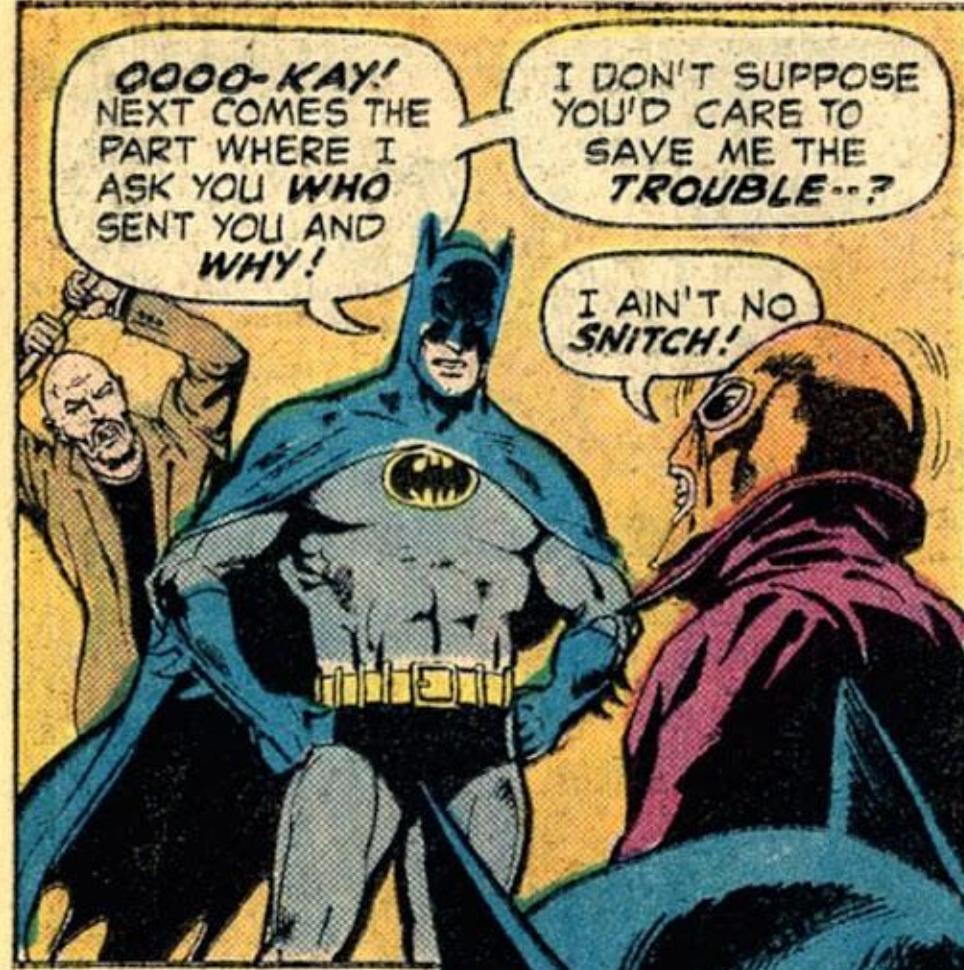
SOMETIMES I
THINK YOU GUYS'
DIALOGUE IS
WRITTEN BY AN
ECHO CHAMBER!

8

I WON'T INSULT
ANYONE'S INTELLIGENCE
BY MAKING ANY OF THE
OBVIOUS REMARKS!

OWWW!

PLOCK



AS THE CITY'S
CLOCKS TOLL
MIDNIGHT, IN
A LOW-RENT
HOTEL...



...JOHNNY'S GUESTS
TONIGHT INCLUDE
CHARO--



WHERE THE
DEVIL DID THAT
COME FROM--?

FROM ME!



I OWE YOU
FOR THE CRACK
ON THE SKULL!

IT... IT
WAS AN
ACCIDENT,
BATMAN!

SURE...
SO WAS THE
BOMBING OF
PEARL HARBOR!



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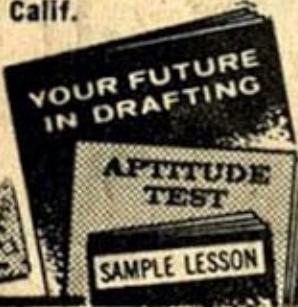


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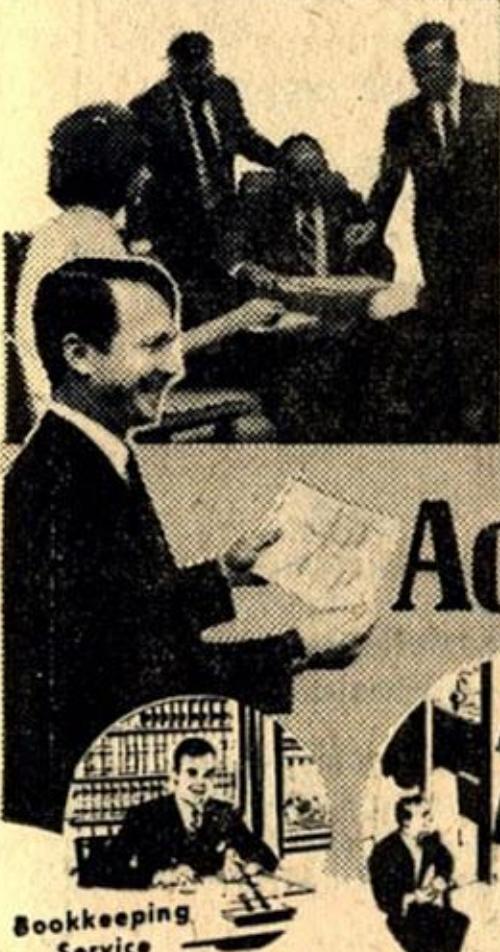
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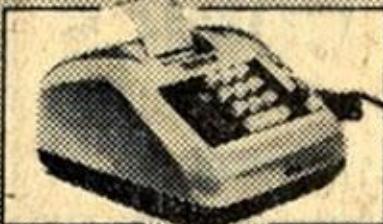


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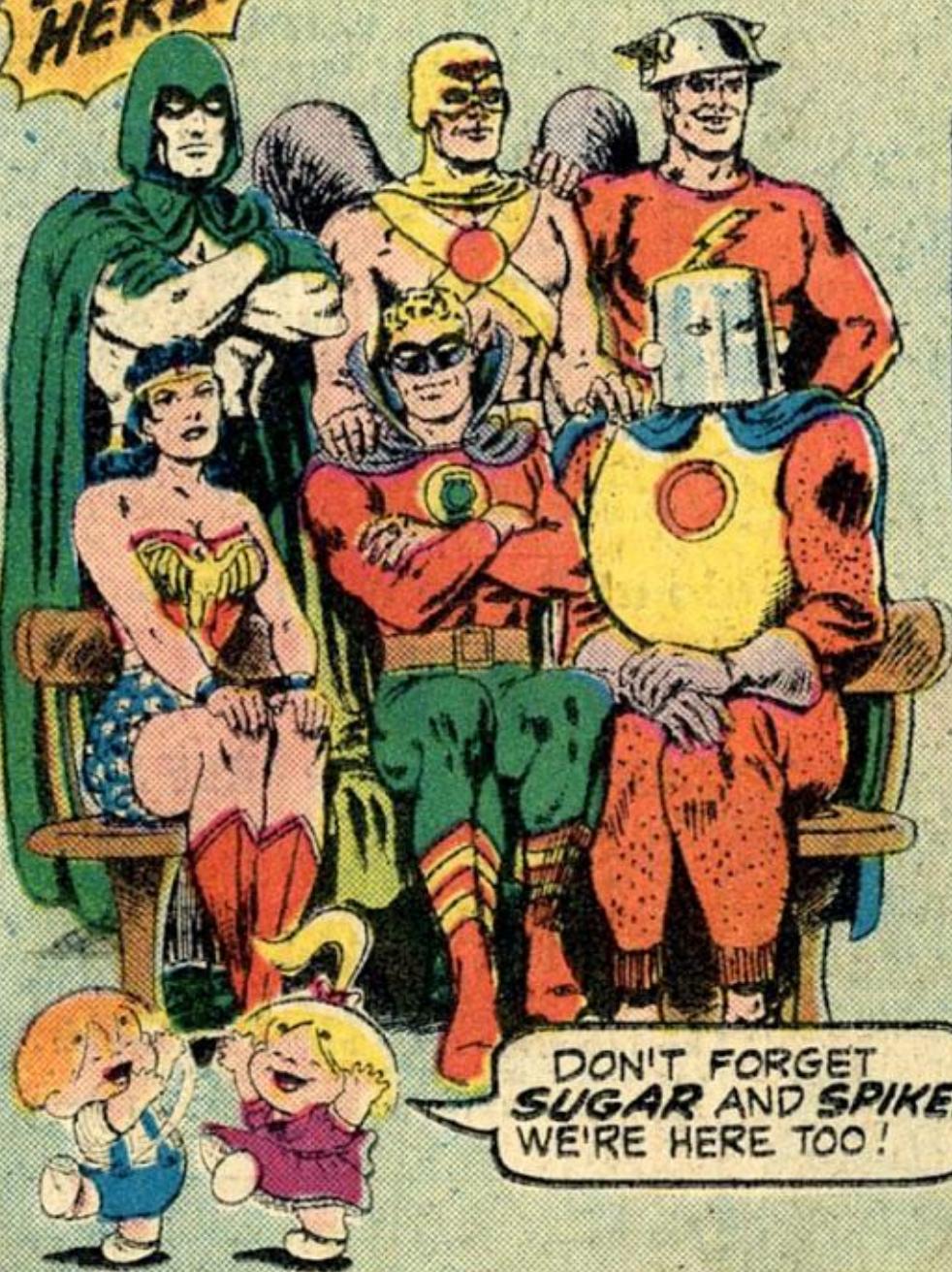
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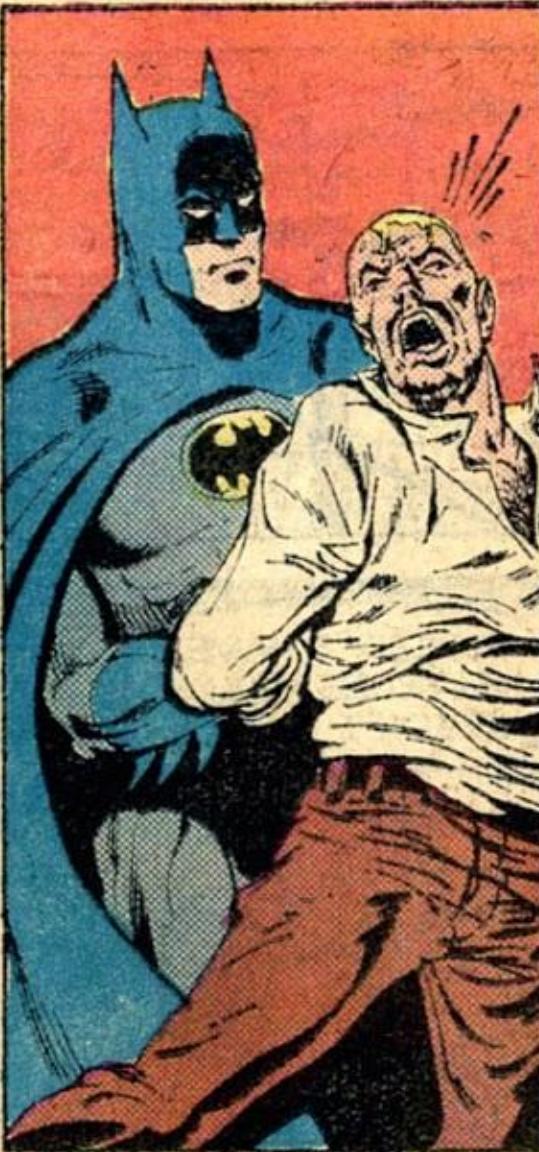
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TO THE GOTHAM RIVER...
AND TO THE EXCLUSIVE
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AH, CHARLES... I
DO ENJOY THESE
EARLY MORNING
EXERCISES!

ONE

AS DO I,
MASON!
HAVE YOU
CHECKED OUR...
AH--BUSINESS
INTERESTS
YET?

INDEED I HAVE,
CHARLES! YOU
NEEDN'T WORRY--

--EVERYTHING
IS QUITE...
HUH?

DON'T LET ME
INTERRUPT,
BRAZIL --

THE
BATMAN!

I SUGGEST WE
EJECT HIM FROM
THE CRAFT-- FEET
FIRST, PERHAPS!

YEAH!

AND HERE COME
OUR THREE SNATCH
ARTISTS! I LAST
SAW YOU AT THE
BILLIARD CLUB...
WAVING GUNS!

FEELING
LUCKY TODAY,
GUYS?

"Look who's smiling now!"

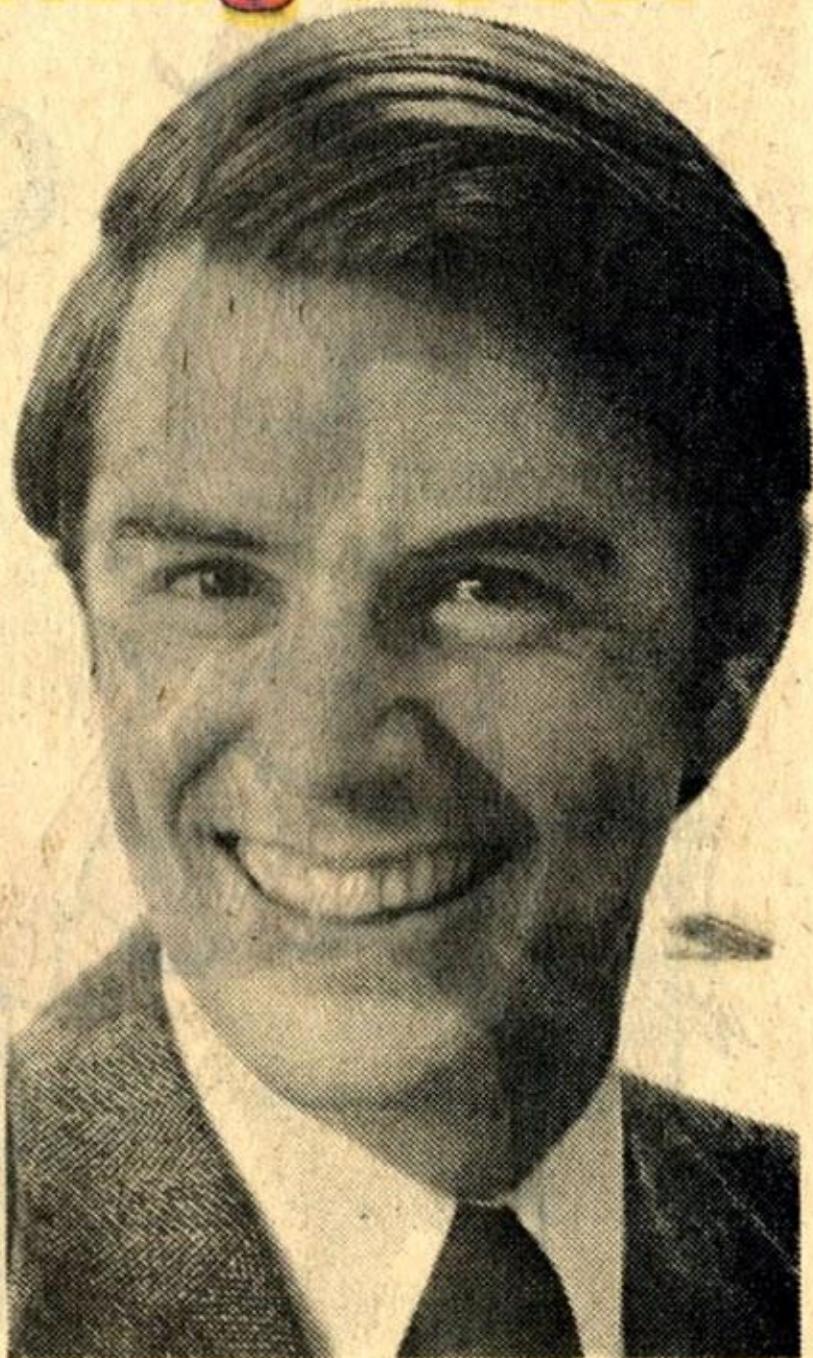
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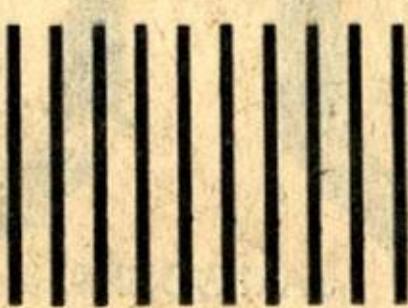
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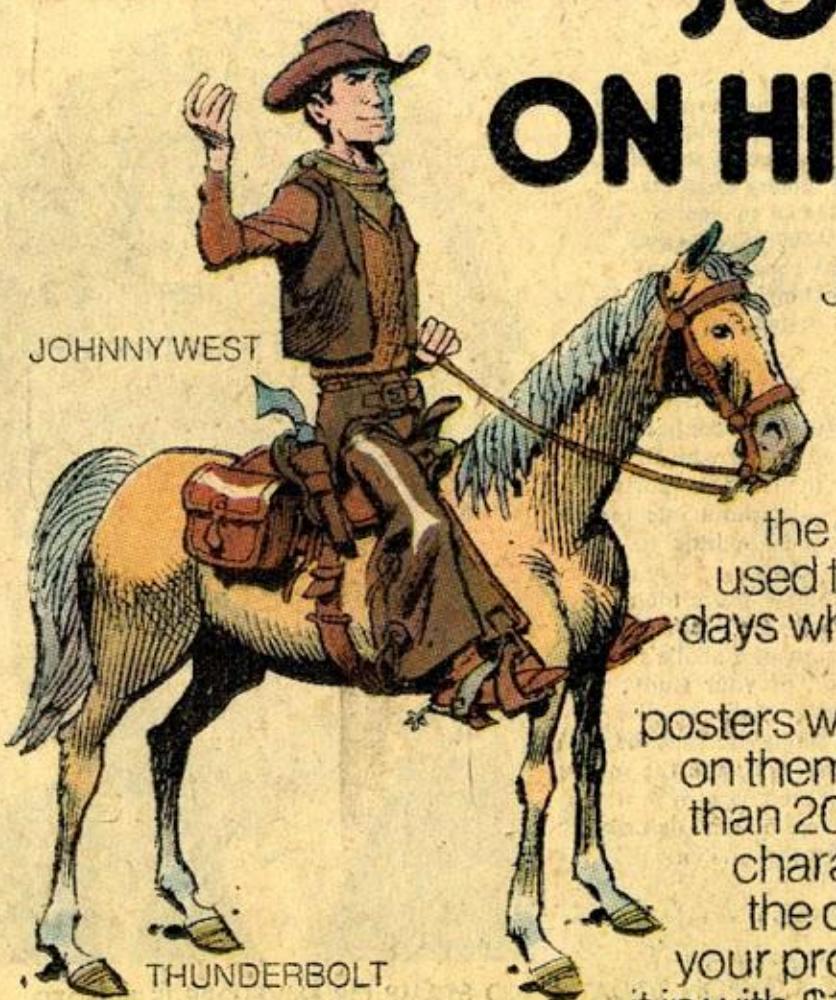
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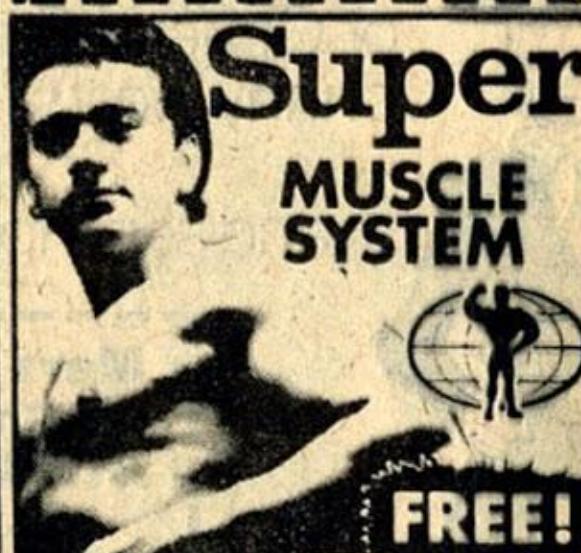
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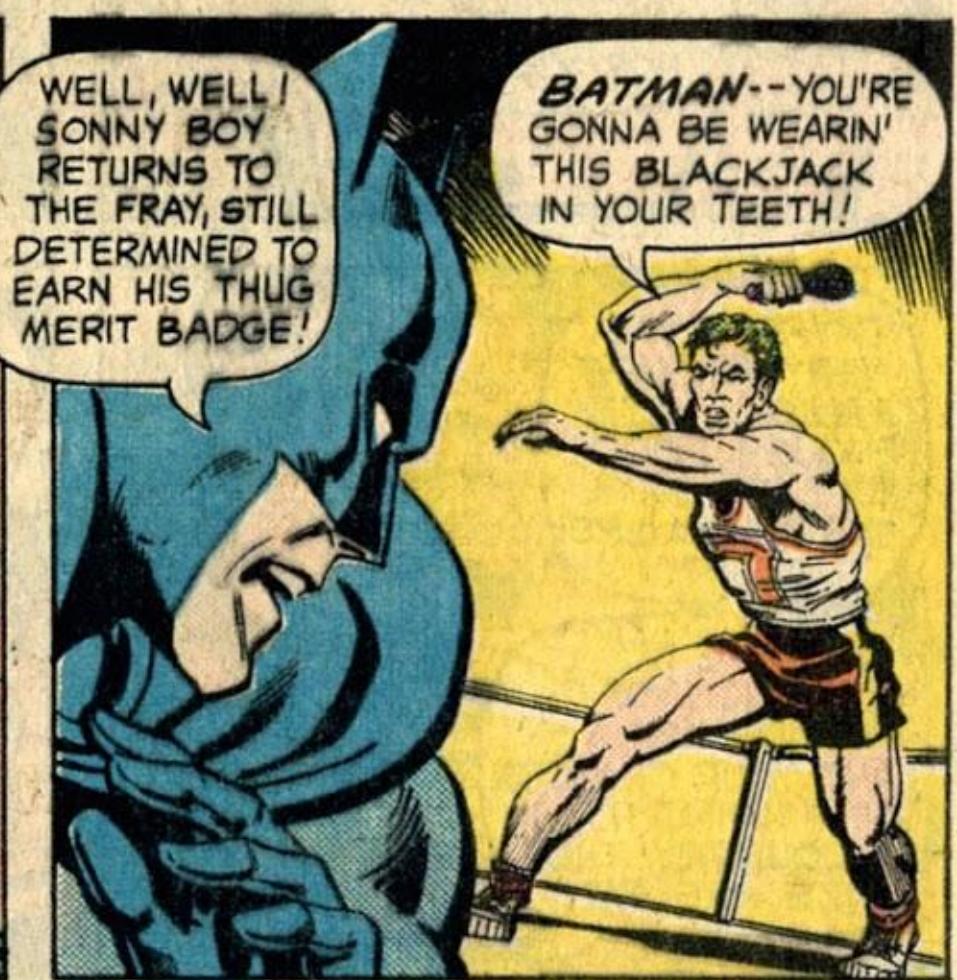
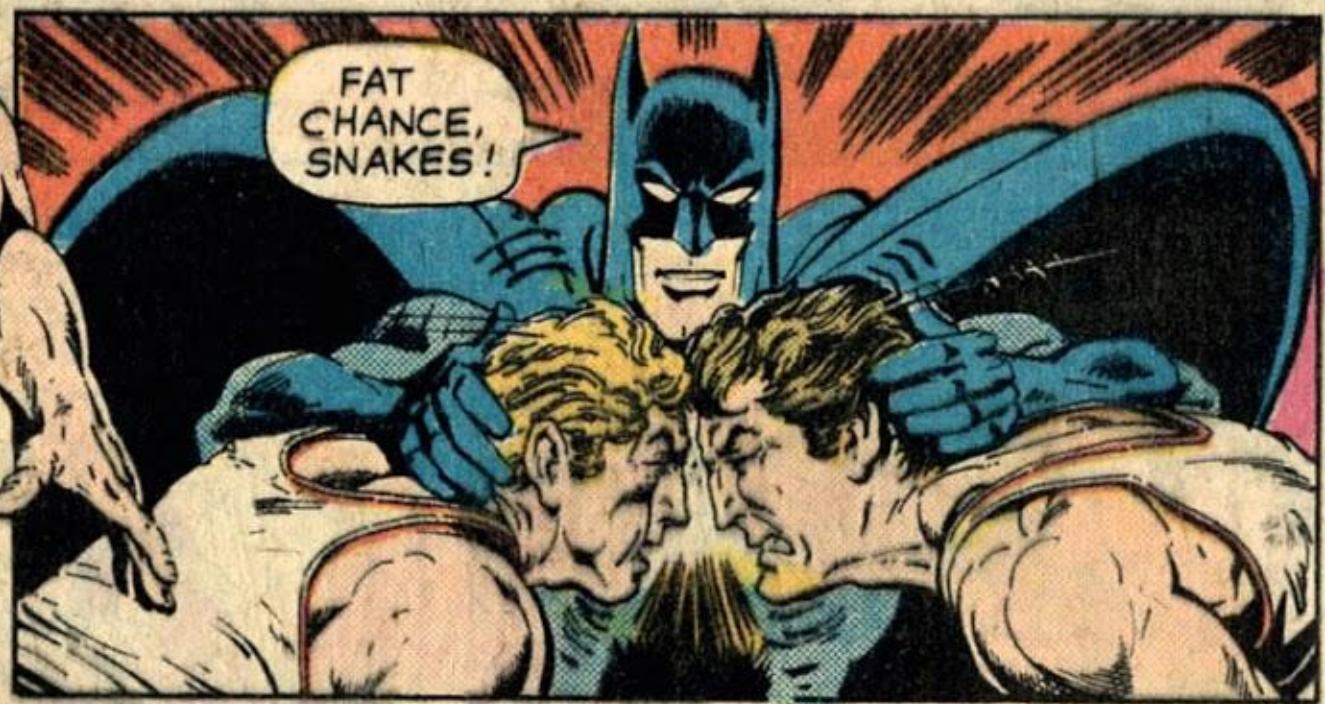
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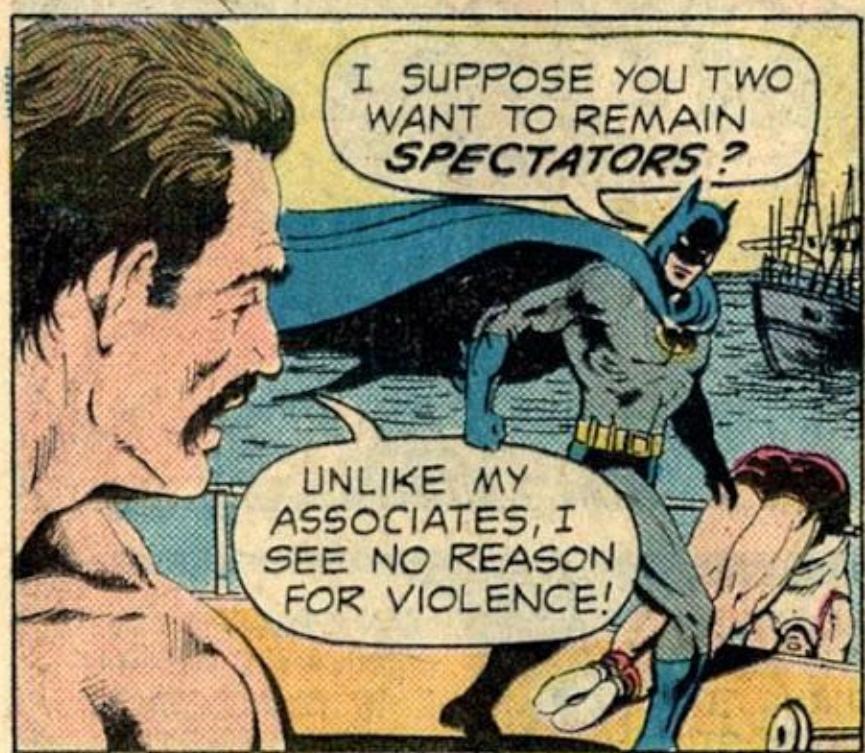
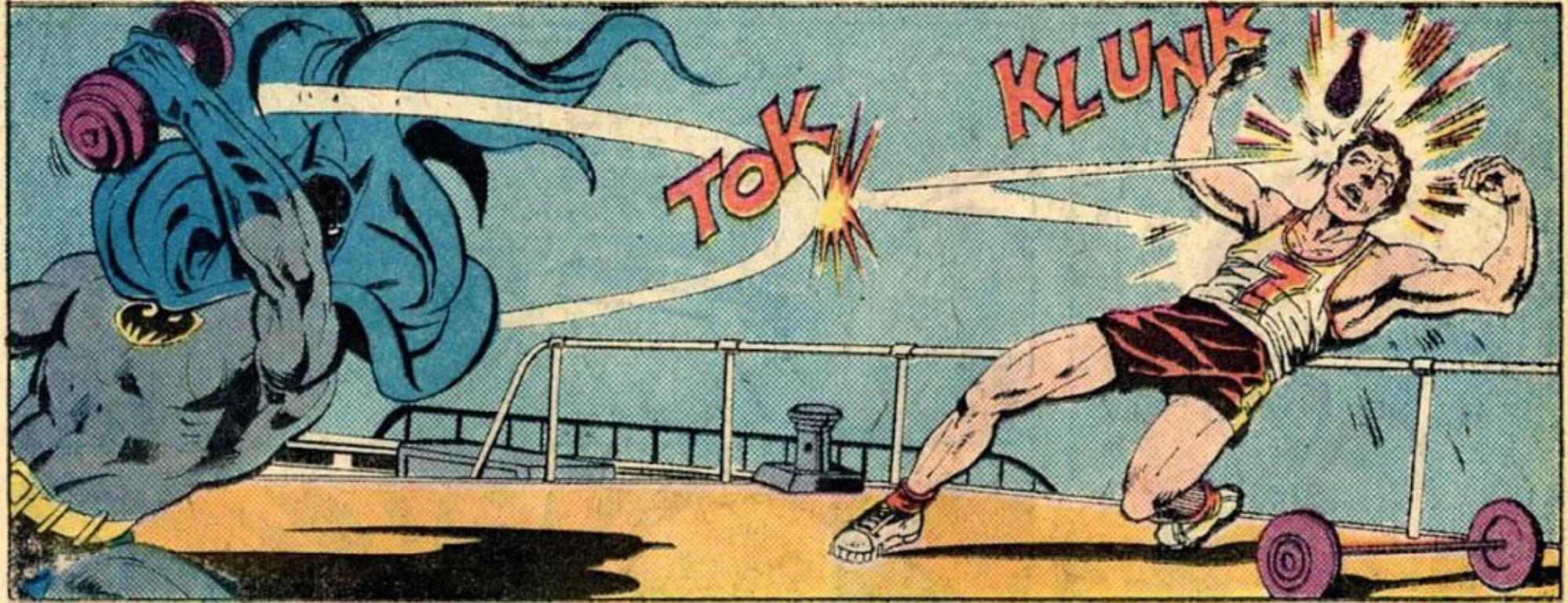
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LATER, AT BRUCE WAYNE'S PENTHOUSE WHERE ALFRED CHANGES BATMAN'S SKULL BANDAGE...

IN MY OPINION, MASTER BRUCE, YOU HAVE TWO CHOICES: PAY THE RANSOM OR PERMIT "DEVIL DAYRE" TO PERISH!

THERE'S A THIRD POSSIBILITY, ALFRED--

--RISKY, BUT I'D PAY HEAVY DUES TO WIPE THE SMIRK FROM BRAZIL'S FACE!

THE MOTORCYCLE JUMP WILL OCCUR...

...AND I'LL DO THE JUMPING!

THUS IT HAPPENED AS WE HAVE SEEN...WITH TRAGIC RESULTS--?

R.RRROOAR

NO! FOR THE INSTANT THE CYCLE HITS THE WATER...

WHOOOSHHH

...THE BATMAN SHEDS HIS OUTER GARMENTS TO REVEAL A WET SUIT BENEATH...

THEN, HE EMERGES WITH THE RESCUE DIVERS...

--AND, IN THE CONFUSION, RACES TO A DENSE THICKET AT THE FOOT OF THE CANYON WALL ...



SPOT 'EM, ALFRED?



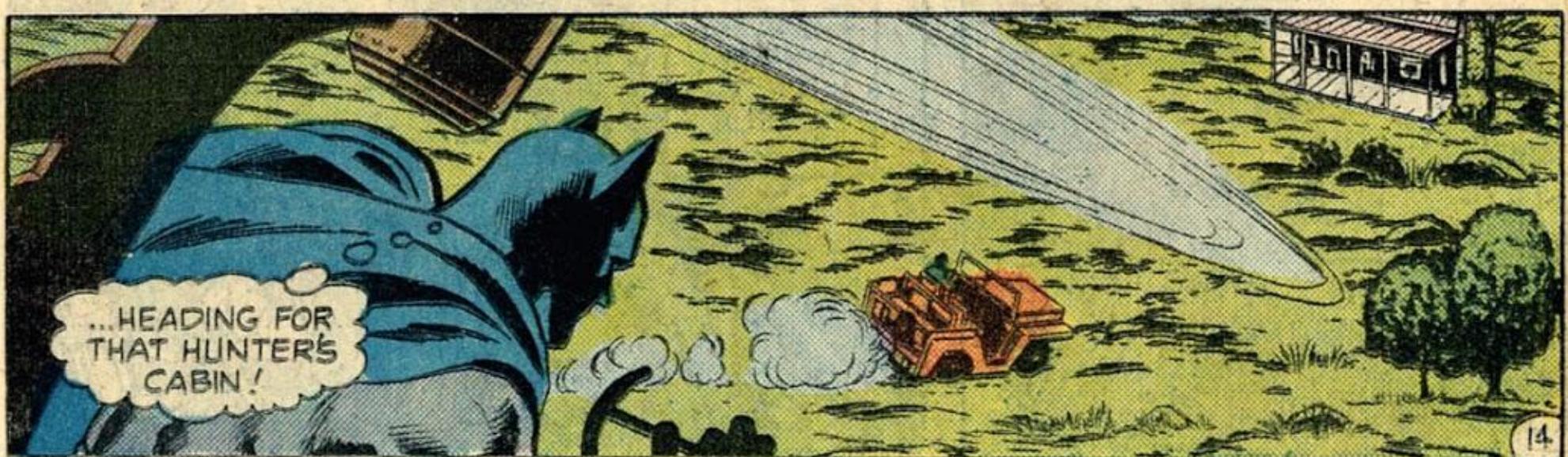
YOU SHOULD EXPERIENCE NO DIFFICULTY OBSERVING HIM FROM THE AIR!

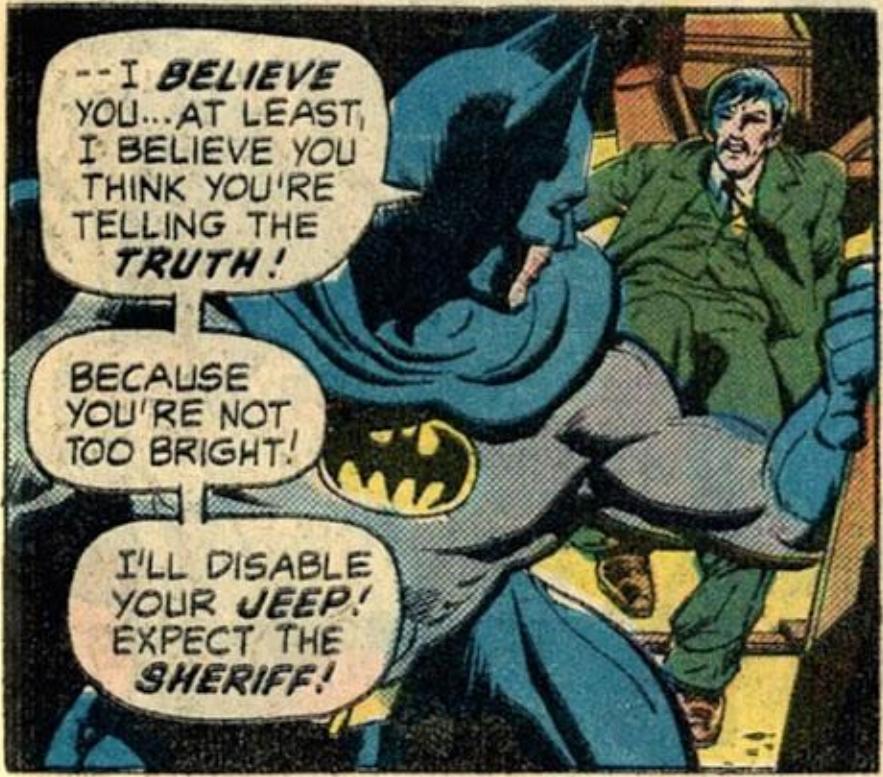
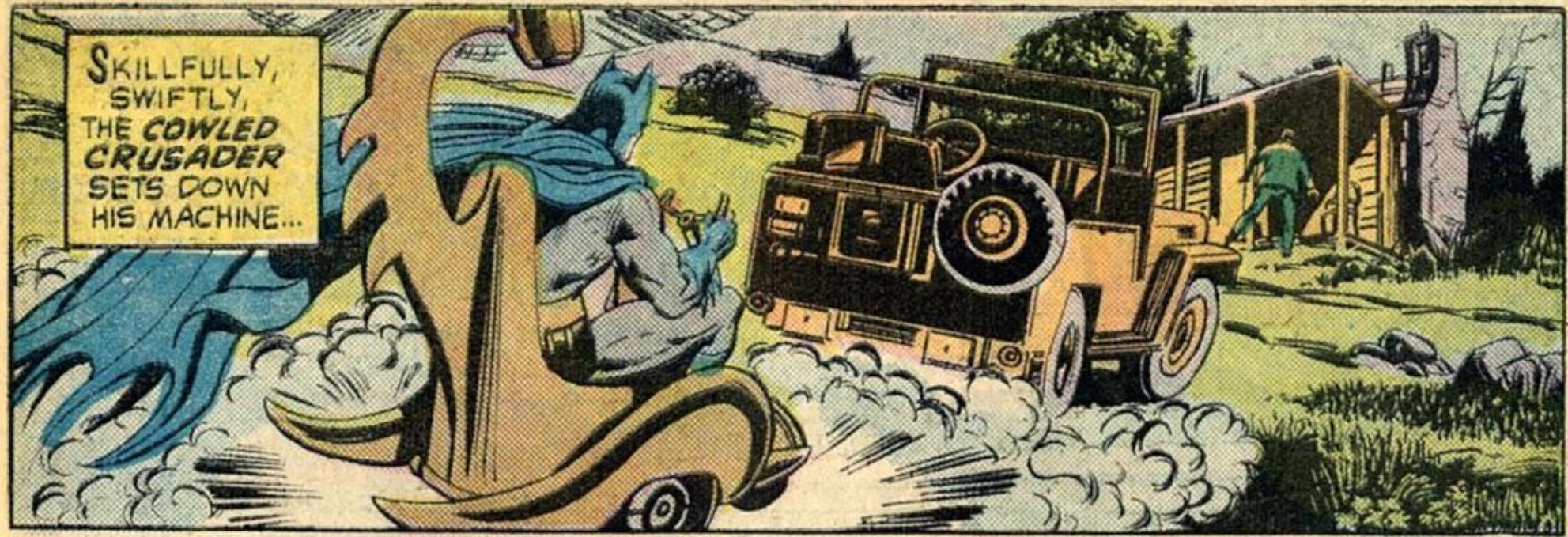
GOOD WORK! ALERT THE LAW--

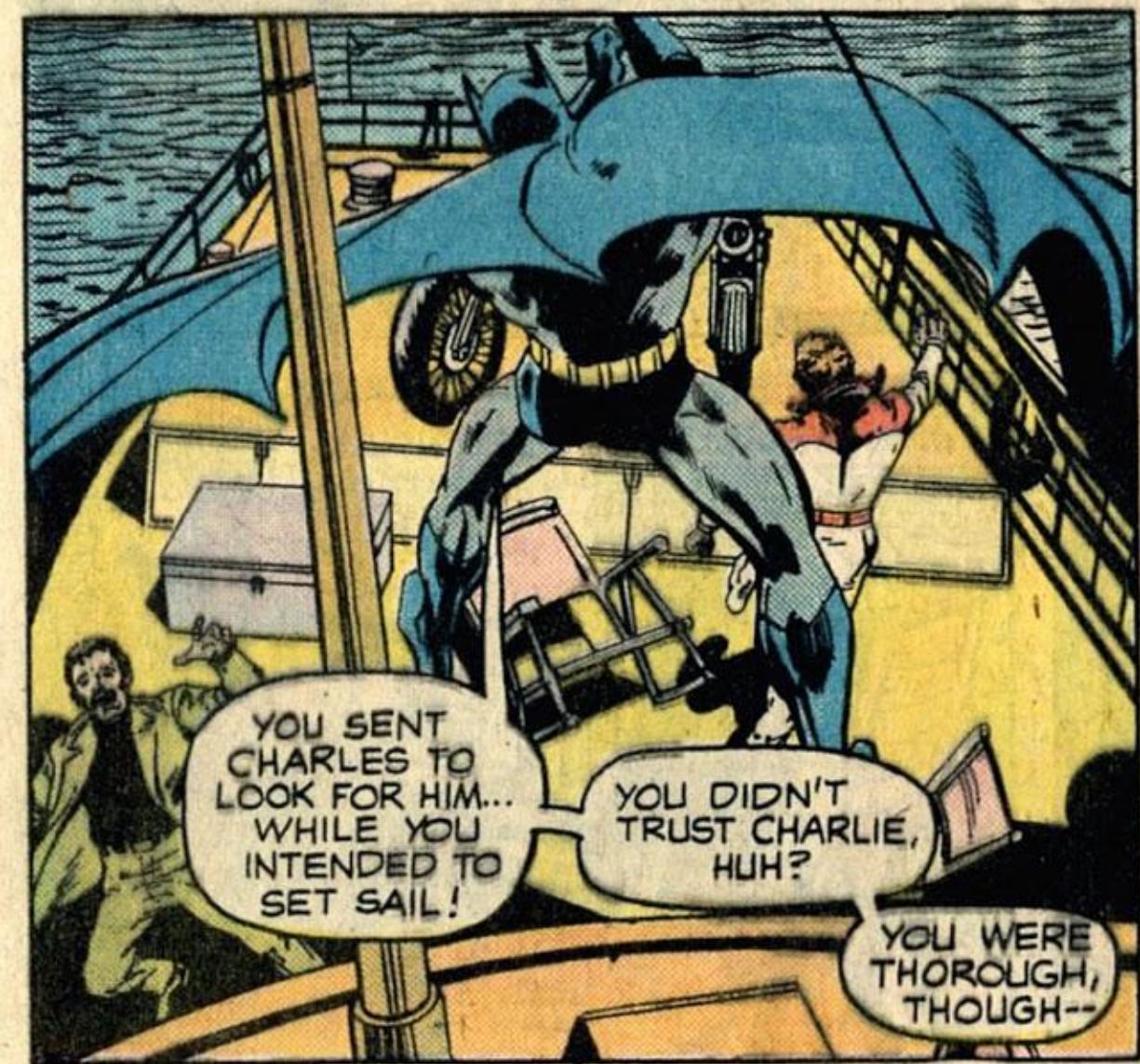
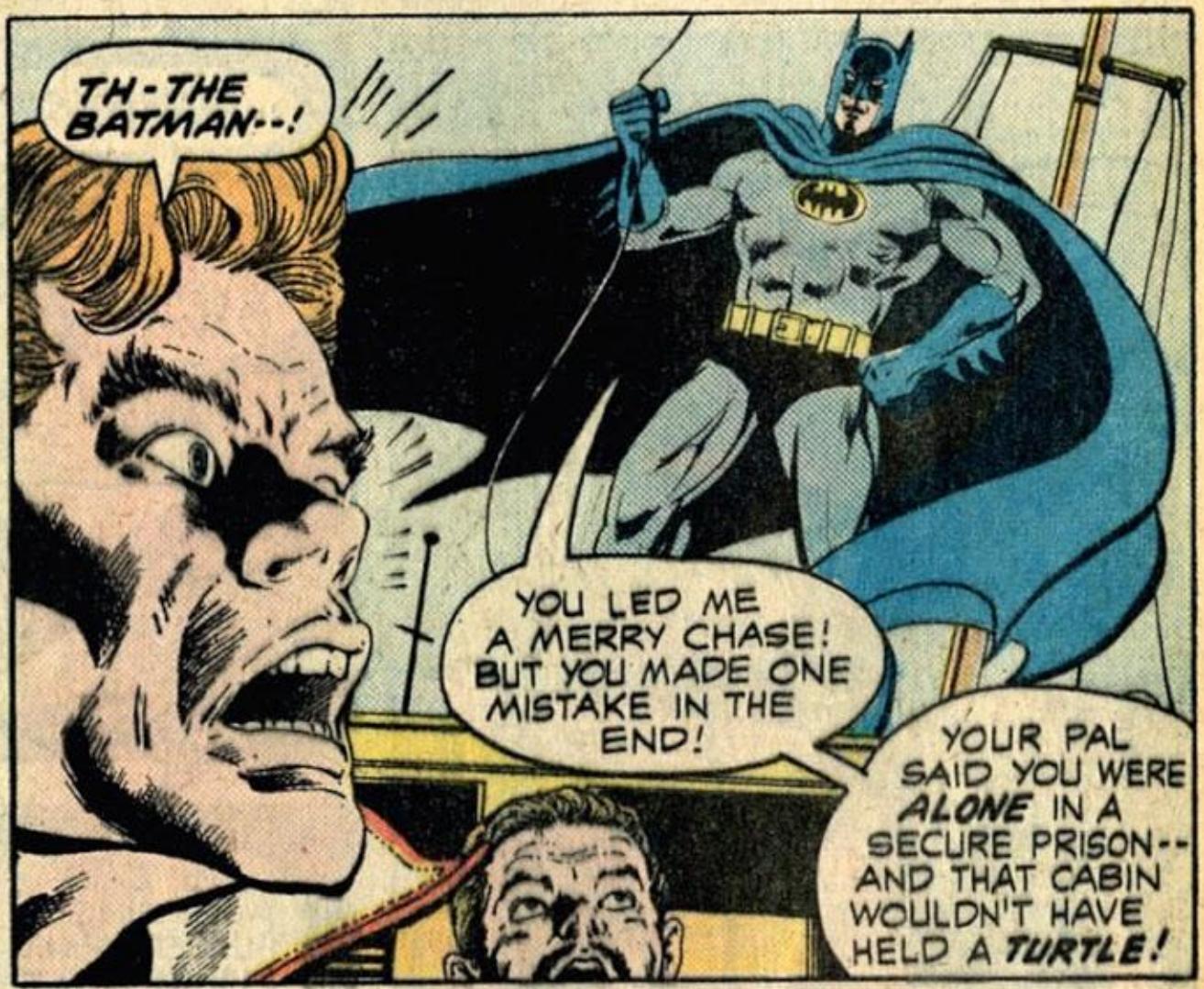
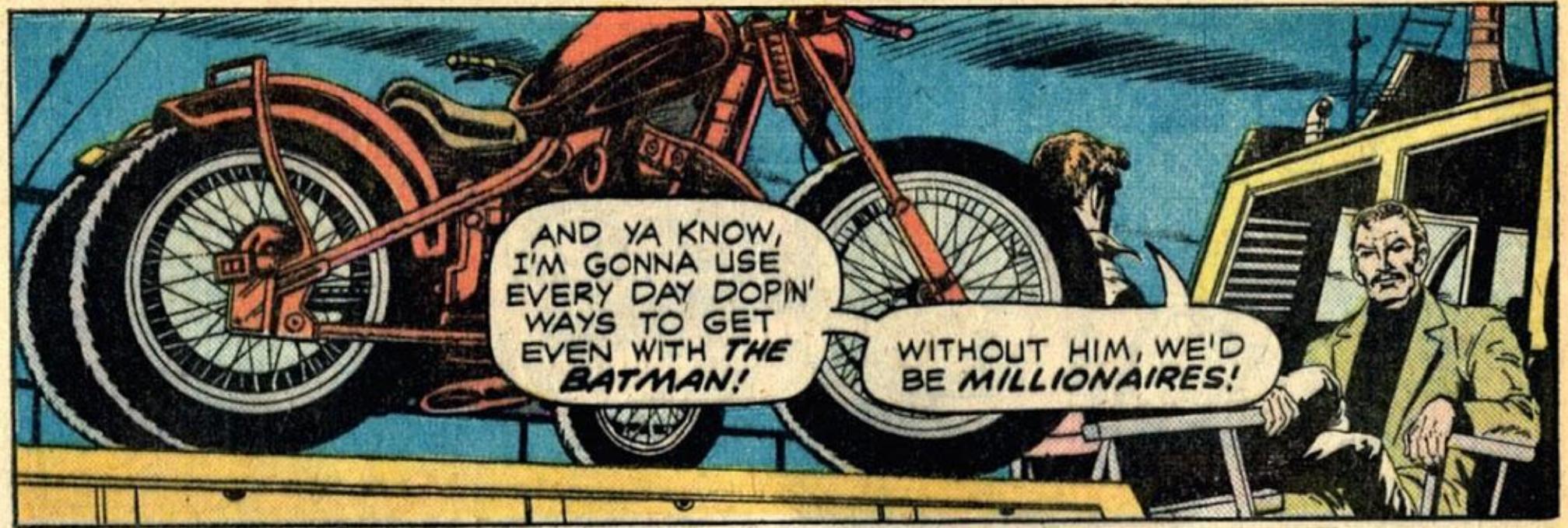


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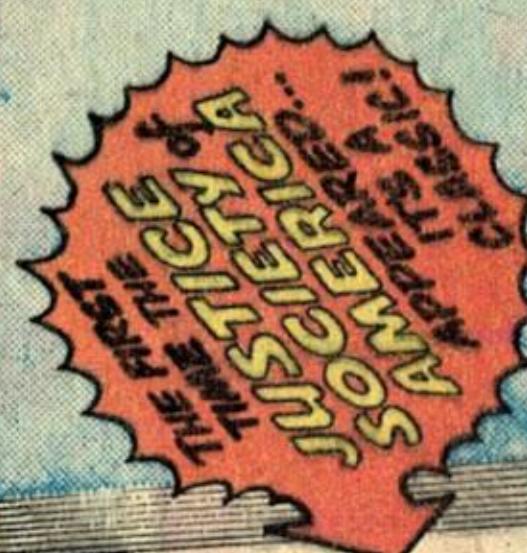
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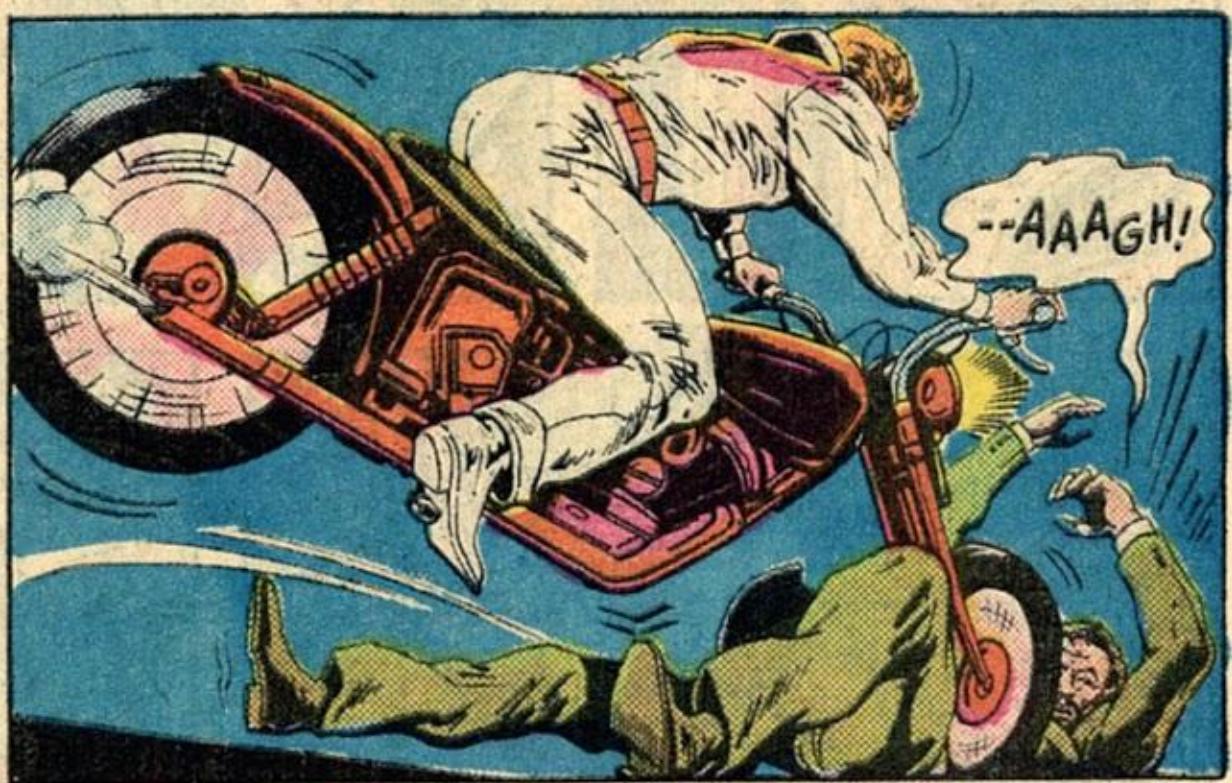
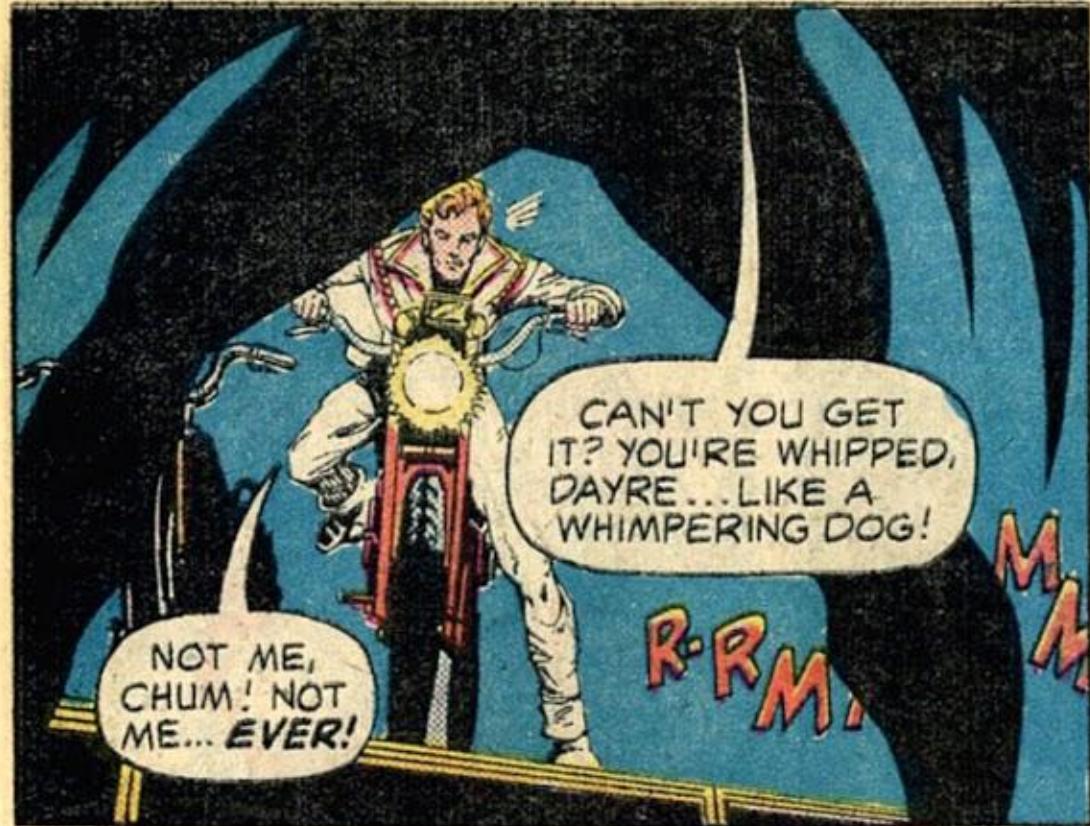
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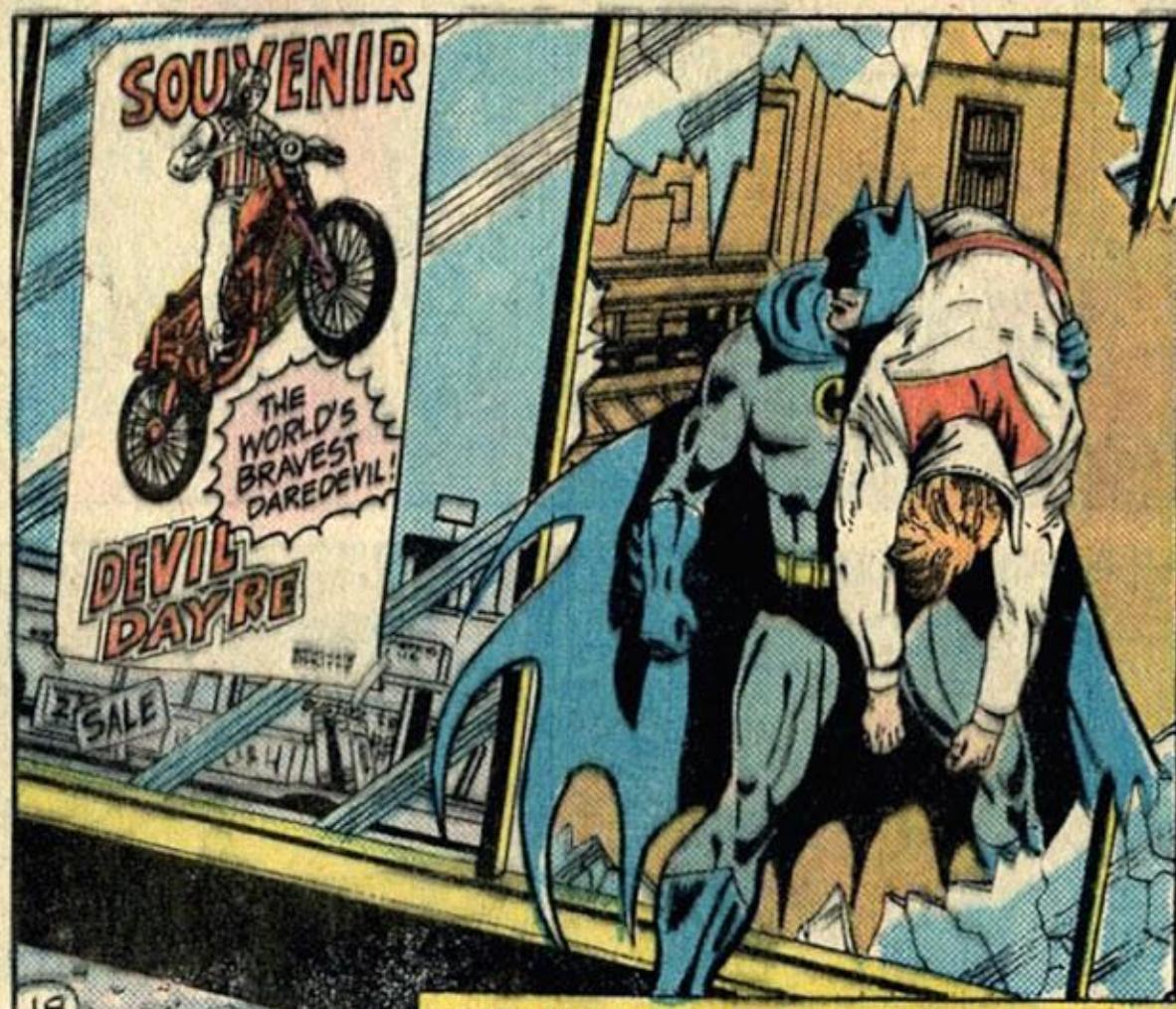
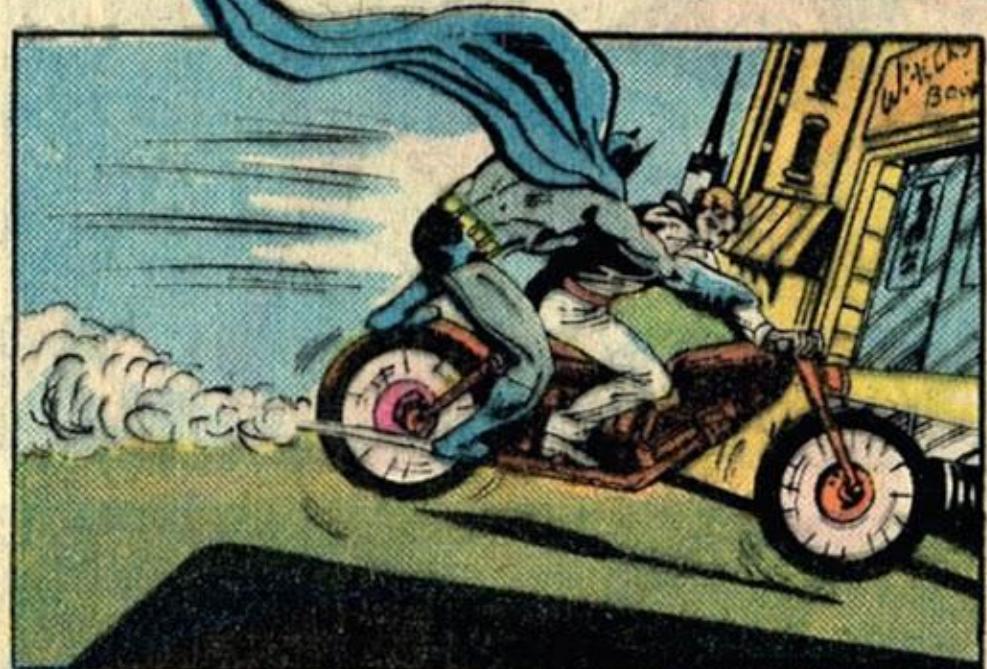
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LETTERS to the BATMAN

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Dear Editor:

Boy, you should congratulate that "Youngman, Henny" O'Neil on a fine attempt at a **Batman-Joker** clash. (By the way, is he a part-time flute salesman? I can see him saying, "Take my FIFE, please!") "This One'll Kill You, Batman" was a great "gag" story . . . Boy, did I gag! . . . But as a **Batman** story I could have done "wit"-out it! The **Caped Crusader** is an avenging creature of the night, not a **Bombastic Buffoon** as he was portrayed in the tale. Please don't turn **Batman** into "jest" another "comic" hero.

KEN WOLF, Yorktown, N.Y.

(And now it's time for "The Quiet Voice of Reason"!—BR)

• • • •

Dear Editor:

Every so often, a story goes beyond the limits of acceptable improbability and one hears The Quiet Voice of Reason. So it was with "This One'll Kill You, Batman!" Here I sat watching the great, grim **Batman** hysterically laughing himself to death, faced with the mind-boggling peril of the **Joker**'s hackneyed witticisms. I heard The Voice, small but forceful, saying, "This is totally ridiculous!"

Lest we forget, **Batman** is a stern, somber figure of vengeance. He can make jokes, but he must never lose his dignity. The idea behind the **Joker** is that his clownish appearance makes a ghastly contrast with his murderous activity. We should've seen the **Joker** dragging **Batman** into this contrast with the **Caped Crusader** acted the perfect fool on the outside, realizing full well that his life was being torn from him. Our sense of his enormous danger and of his valiant efforts to struggle against it would maintain the character's dignity and turn the stuff of the farce—a laughing death—into that of horror.

Just to have **Batman** say he's dying and rush around under a deadline isn't enough! We've seen this before! We have to feel he's dying, be aware of each new level of pain, weakness, fear and frustration he reaches. As it is, we merely see the absurd outward symptoms, the laughing fits, while **Batman** strives against his doom with no more determination than on any other case. Since the underlying horrors are not sufficiently dramatized, the laughter and the jokes work against any serious intentions the story may have.

PETER SANDERSON, Milton, Mass.

(Just enough space to tell you that the Clown Prince of Crime meets Willie the Weeper in THE JOKER #2, on sale—you guessed it—April Fool's Day!—Bob Rozakis)

Dear Editor:

When I first heard of The Joker's latest return in #260, I figured he would just pop up with no explanation of how he had escaped. But I didn't reckon with the enterprising brain of Denny O'Neil! The jailbreak turned out to be the most important factor of "This One'll Kill You, Batman!" The giggling guards, **Batman**'s downfall (or is that fall down?), and the intervention of Two-Face were all handled smoothly. And though the drugged coffee and its effects were just the slightest bit far out, it didn't spoil the story.

The art was a bit jerky looking in spots, but it was still fine. And by the way, I take it the other Justice Leaguers knew Dr. Hamish since Clark Kent and Oliver Queen were at his funeral. Correct?

SCOTT R. TAYLOR, Portland, Tex.

(Your reasoning's as sure as Death and Taxes, er, Taxes, Scott, but our next correspondent offers another explanation!—BR)

• • • •

Dear Editor:

Why was Oliver (Green Arrow) Queen in the funeral scene of "This One'll Kill You, Batman"? Was it because the **Caped Crusader** was "quivering" with laughter . . . or am I being "arrow-neous"?

KURT FOWLER, Jacksonville, Fla.

• • • •

Dear Editor:

My reaction to "This One'll Kill You, Batman": Terrific! Denny O'Neil whipped up another classic. The **Joker** was terrifying and The **Batman**'s plight was sometimes funny, sometimes frightening and always interesting. I didn't think there was any new twist you could give a **Batman-Joker** story, but for the third time in two years, you have proved me wrong.

As for the Novick-Giordano art, it was superb—their best job so far. I don't care if Neal Adams Never does another **Batman** story Irv and Dick are terrific!

BOB RODI, Oak Brook, Ill.

(From this Rodi-rave, let's move on to a Wolf who cries "Boo"!—BR)

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