



**BONUS EXTRA!**  
ROBIN TRACKS DOWN A...  
"KILLER UNDER THE BIG TOP!"

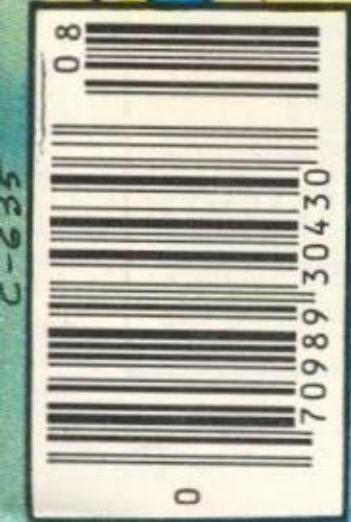
50¢  
ALL NEW!  
NO. 338  
AUG.

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
 AUTHORITY

# BATMAN

IN THIS GAME,  
BATMAN, THE  
WINNER IS  
**DEATH!**

**THIS  
SPORTING  
DEATH!**



# WE DON'T REST ON OUR LAURELS!

FOR OVER  
FOUR DECADES,  
WE'VE BEEN  
BRINGING YOU  
THE VERY BEST  
IN COMICS'  
**EXCITEMENT--**  
AND, FRIEND,  
THAT'S JUST THE  
**BEGINNING!**

AND COMING  
THIS SUMMER:  
**ALL-STAR SQUADRON**  
and  
**AN EXCITING NEW  
SWORD-AND-SORCERY  
SERIES!**  
**DON'T MISS 'EM!**



WHERE THE **ACTION** KEEPS ON COMING!

ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE MURDERED BEFORE HIS EYES, BRUCE WAYNE HAS TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME AS THE DREAD AVENGER OF THE NIGHT...

GERRY CONWAY & ROY THOMAS • Irv Novick & FRANK McLAUGHLIN • DICK GIORDANO  
script plot assist art editor  
JOHN COSTANZA, letters • ADRIENNE ROY, colors

CREATED BY  
BOB KANE

## BAT MAN

HANK KLUGMLUIN HAS WOKEN UP WITH HANGOVERS BEFORE-- THAT'S NOTHING NEW FOR "SPORT MAGAZINE'S" NUMBER ONE WRITER--

--BUT HE'S NEVER WOKEN UP WITH ONE SO BAD HE COULDN'T REMEMBER WHERE HE WAS, OR HOW HE GOT THERE.

NEVER, THAT IS, UNTIL TONIGHT.

GOTHAM STADIUM? WHAT HAPPENED TO SHELLY'S BAR?

WHAT'M I DOIN' HERE?

YOU'RE HERE TO MAKE YOUR FINAL TOUCHDOWN, KLUGMLUIN.

YOU'RE HERE TO DIE!

OH MY LORD, NO!



BATMAN, (USPS045-340), Vol. 42, No. 338, August, 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.

This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition, nor affixed to, nor as part of any advertising literary or pictorial matter whatsoever.

Advertising Representative, Sanford Schwarz & Co., 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017, (212) 391-1400

SUBSCRIPTION DEPT.: DC COMICS INC., 14 Vandeventer Ave., Port Washington, N.Y. 11050. Annual subscription rate \$6.00. Outside U.S.A. \$7.00.

Jenette Kahn, President and Publisher  
Joe Orlando, Vice Pres., Edit. Director  
Dick Giordano, Editor  
Cary Burkett, Associate Editor  
Karen Berger, Editorial Coordinator  
Jack Adler, Vice President-Production  
Paul Levitz, Mgr. of Business Affairs  
Arthur Gutowitz, Treasurer

IT'S A NICE WARM NIGHT HERE IN GOTHAM STADIUM. A GREAT NIGHT FOR A BALL GAME.

AND AT THE END OF THE LAST QUARTER, IT'S VISITORS-- ONE...

...HOME TEAM-- ZERO! PUT THAT IN YOUR WEEKLY COLUMN, KLUGMUIUN.

THE MAN IN THE MIXED-UP UNIFORM GIVES A BRITTLE LAUGH AND SKATES AWAY OVER UN-YIELDING TURF.

CHUNK

BEHIND HIM, HE LEAVES A DEAD MAN.

TWO HOURS LATER, IN THE SHADOW OF POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

A NIGHT WATCHMAN FOUND HIM IN LEFT FIELD.

AS YOU CAN SEE, HIS NECK'S BEEN BROKEN.

ANY IDEA WHAT KIND OF WEAPON WAS USED?

A STICK OR CLUB OF SOME KIND.

YOU'RE PROBABLY WONDERING WHY I CALLED YOU IN ON THIS, BATMAN.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, COMMISSIONER, I AM.

I'M INTERESTED, OF COURSE...

...BUT COULDN'T YOUR MEN HANDLE AN ORDINARY HOMICIDE AS WELL AS I COULD?

ORDINARY, YES.

BUT I HAVE A SUSPICION THAT THIS KILLING IS MORE THAN ANOTHER MUGGING.

IT FITS A PATTERN OF RECENT MURDERS... KLUGMUIUN THERE WAS A SPORTS WRITER.

I'M BEGINNING TO SEE.

TWO WEEKS AGO, BILLY ROBINS, THE HOT-HEADED MANAGER OF THE GOTHAM CHAMPS WAS FOUND SUCCOCATED TO DEATH IN THE TEAM LOCKER ROOM...

...A WEEK LATER, TOP SWIMMING STAR BRUCE SPATIS WAS FISHED OUT OF THE WEST RIVER...

...AND THREE NIGHTS AGO, JOHN CLAUDE HILLY ENDED HIS DOWNHILL SKIING CAREER PINNED TO A HOTEL ROOM WALL WITH HIS OWN SKI POLES.

NOW,  
KLUIGMULLIN,  
A SPORTS WRITER.



BATMAN, SOMEONE OUT THERE IS ACTING OUT A VENDETTA AGAINST SOME OF THIS CITY'S TOP SPORTS PERSONALITIES.

THE DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE SMILES REPROVINGLY; IT'S A QUESTION THAT NEEDN'T HAVE BEEN ASKED...

A MOMENT LATER, HE IS GONE.

HE MUST BE STOPPED.

WILL YOU--?

DAYBREAK, SIX HOURS LATER, AT THE WAYNE PENTHOUSE:

SPORTS FIGURES ARE GENERALLY ADMIRER, AFTER ALL.

DISLIKING SPORTS IS...AH... DISTINCTLY UNAMERICAN.

OUR KILLER DOESN'T JUST DISLIKE SPORTS, ALFRED.

HE HATES THEM... AND APPARENTLY, THE PEOPLE WHO PLAY AND REPORT THEM.

BUT HIS MOTIVES DON'T CONCERN ME NOW.

A STRANGE CASE, MASTER BRUCE.

WHOEVER BROUGHT KLUIGMULLIN ONTO THAT FIELD DID IT WITHOUT LEAVING ANY FOOTPRINTS.



THE ONLY PRINTS ON THAT DEWY GRASS, ACCORDING TO THE POLICE REPORTS--

--WERE KLUGMUNN'S OWN.

THAT DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE, SIR.

NO, ALFRED. IT DOESN'T.

WHICH IS WHY BRUCE WAYNE IS GOING TO VISIT GOTHAM STADIUM.

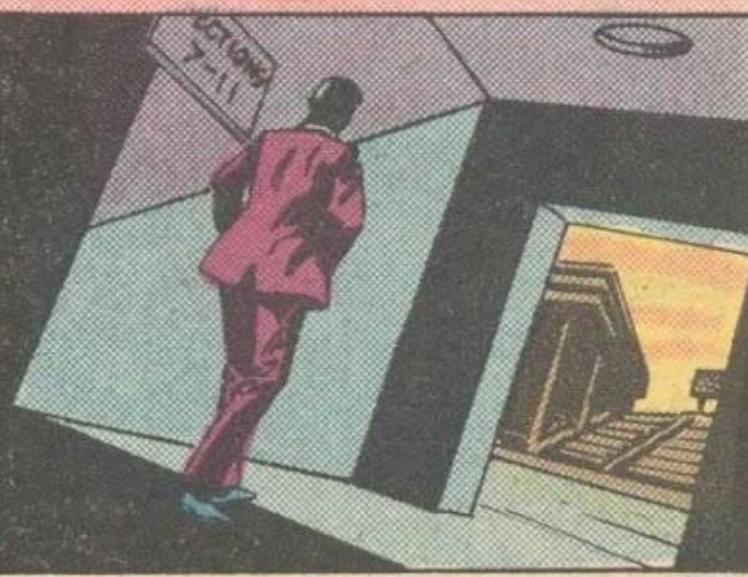
BE CAREFUL, SIR. WHOEVER HE IS--

TO INVESTIGATE A POSSIBLE INVESTMENT PROPERTY, OF COURSE.

GOTHAM STADIUM: A FEW HOURS FROM NOW, AT NOON, A CROWD OF THOUSANDS WILL GATHER FOR A SUNDAY BALL GAME...

...BUT AS BRUCE WAYNE ARRIVES, THE DAY IS BARELY AN HOUR OLD...

...AND GOTHAM STADIUM ECHOES NOT WITH THE ROAR OF THOUSANDS OF VOICES RAISED IN BLOODTHIRSTY CRY, BUT RATHER WITH THE LONELY CLATTER OF FOOTSTEPS IN A CONCRETE TUNNEL...



THIS IS WHERE KLUGMUNN WAS FOUND. THE ARTIFICIAL TURF STILL SHOWS THE DEPRESSION WHERE HE FELL.

THE ONLY FOOTPRINTS LEADING HERE ARE THOSE OF THE WATCHMAN, THE POLICE, AND MYSELF.



BUT HERE'S SOMETHING THAT WASN'T IN THE OFFICIAL REPORT COMMISSIONER GORDON TOLD ME ABOUT.

TRACKS THROUGH THE TURF. THEY WOULDN'T BE VISIBLE AT NIGHT, UNDER ARTIFICIAL LIGHT.

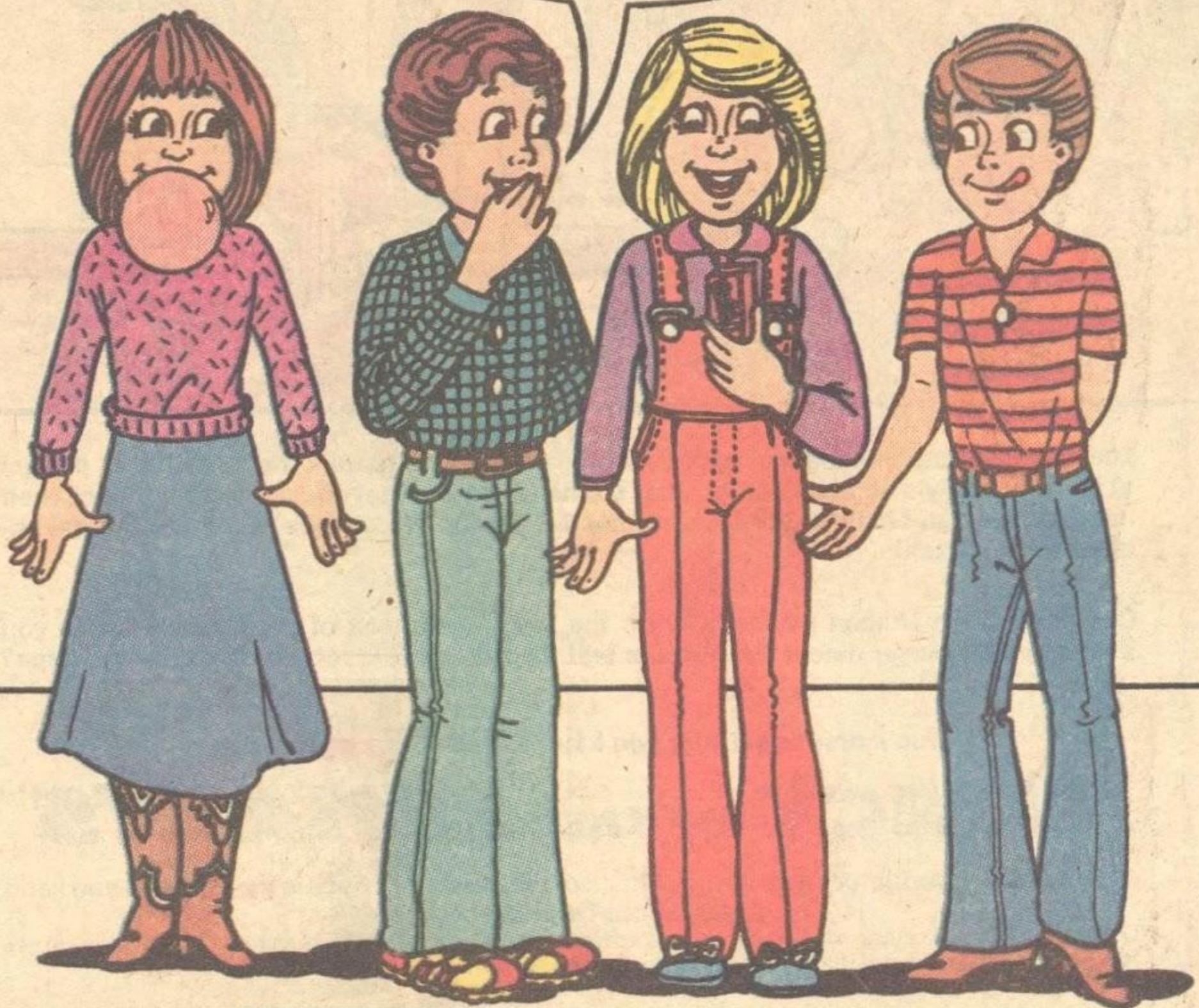
THEY LEAD DIRECTLY TO THE DUGOUT.

I WONDER WHERE THEY GO FROM THERE?



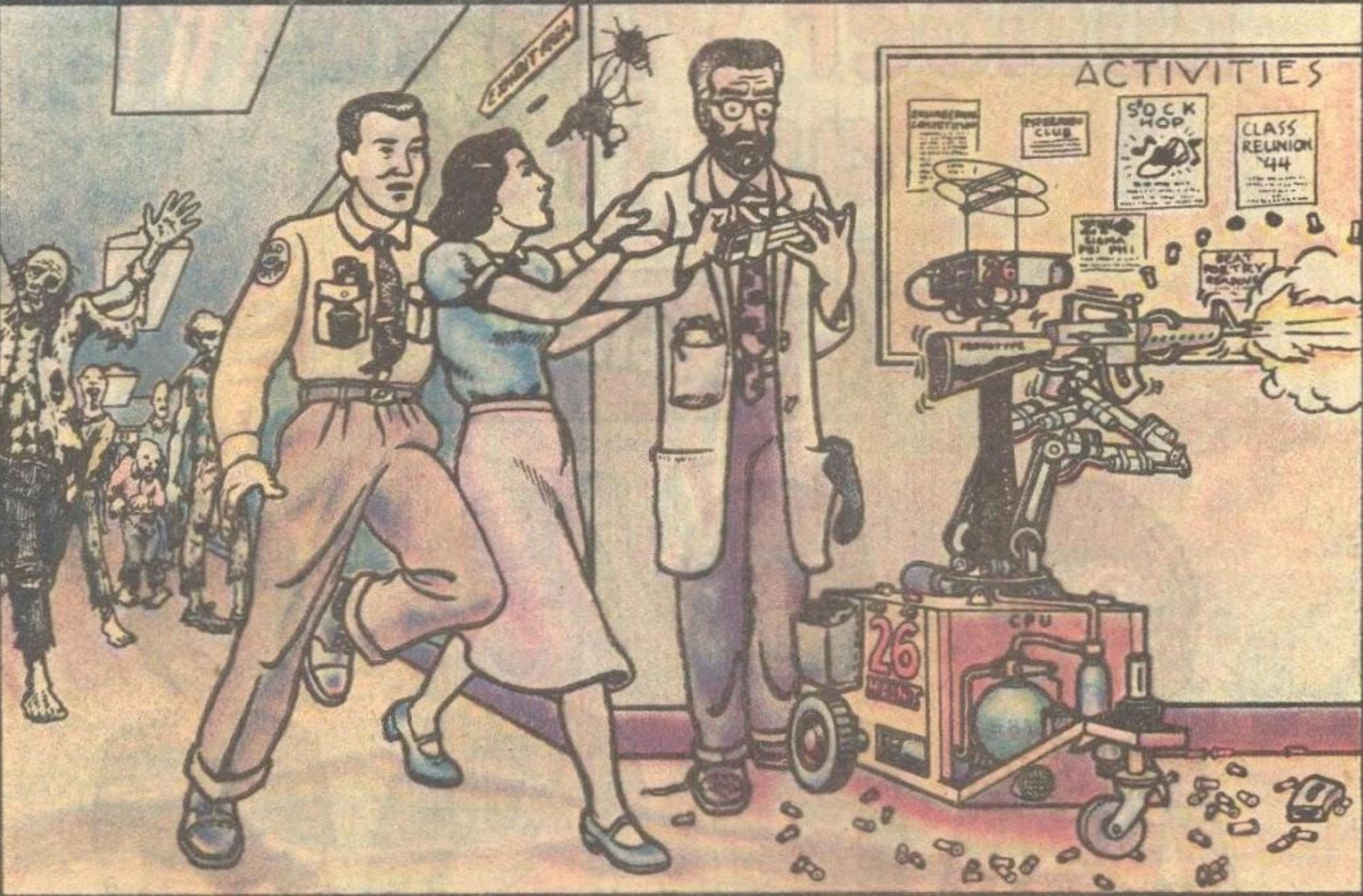
**Bubble Yum's got the  
number yum taste.  
Pass it on.**

**BubbleYum**  
TM



Everybody's talking about  
the great taste of Bubble Yum®.  
It's got great big bubbles and  
the flavor lasts a long, long,  
looong time. Pass it on!

# YOU ARE EARTH'S ONLY HOPE!



The professor and his team of experts work frantically to perfect the "Ad Astra" project at the university's science center. Just moments before they are ready to conduct their final test the outer halls of the building shatter as the radioactive mutants of a devastated Earth attack!

Can you as the Human player hold off the fearsome attack of the Mutants? Can you as the Mutant player defeat the humans and their brave little robots before they escape?

You'll only know after you have played your **FREE** copy of

## **ATTACK of the MUTANTS™**

This special introductory version of "Attack of the Mutants" is yours **FREE** when you send \$2.00 for our catalog of games.

Our beautiful full color catalog has dozens of games from science fiction, history, fantasy and war. Whether you are new to Adventure gaming or an old hand you'll find many exciting titles to select from in this beautiful catalog.

Send \$2.00 to



YAQUINTO PUBLICATIONS  
P.O. Box 24767  
Dallas, Texas 75224

### **SPECIAL *BONUS* OFFER**

Order any one of these fun and exciting games and we'll send you both the game catalog and the special version of Attack of the Mutants absolutely **FREE**.

Swashbuckler  
The Barbarians  
Beachhead

\$8.00  
\$8.00  
\$8.00

Demon's Run  
Battle  
Fast Attack Boats

\$8.00  
\$8.00  
\$8.00

Asteroid Pirates  
Time War  
Shooting Stars

\$ 8.00  
\$14.00  
\$16.00

Check or Money Order must accompany all orders. Sorry no C.O.D.'s. Allow three to four weeks for delivery.

LIKE TWIN SERPENT-TRAILS, THE TRACKS WIND SINUOUSLY THROUGH THE TURF, HERE LOOPING, THERE FORMING A FIGURE-EIGHT...

THERE IS SOMETHING PECULIARLY FAMILIAR ABOUT THE PATTERNS THE TRACKS FORM, BUT BRUCE WAYNE CAN'T QUITE PUT HIS FINGER ON WHAT IT IS...

...AND A MOMENT LATER, POSSIBLY PATTERNS HARDLY SEEM TO MATTER.

THE TRACKS LEAD RIGHT ACROSS THE DUGOUT TO THAT DOOR--



THAT EVENING, AT GOTHAM SQUARE GARDEN: IN THIS AGE OF TELEVISED SPORTS, THE DEMAND FOR MORE CONTESTS (AND MORE PROGRAMMING) HAS BROUGHT US NIGHT-TIME BASEBALL...

...MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL...

...AND SUNDAY NIGHT HOCKEY.

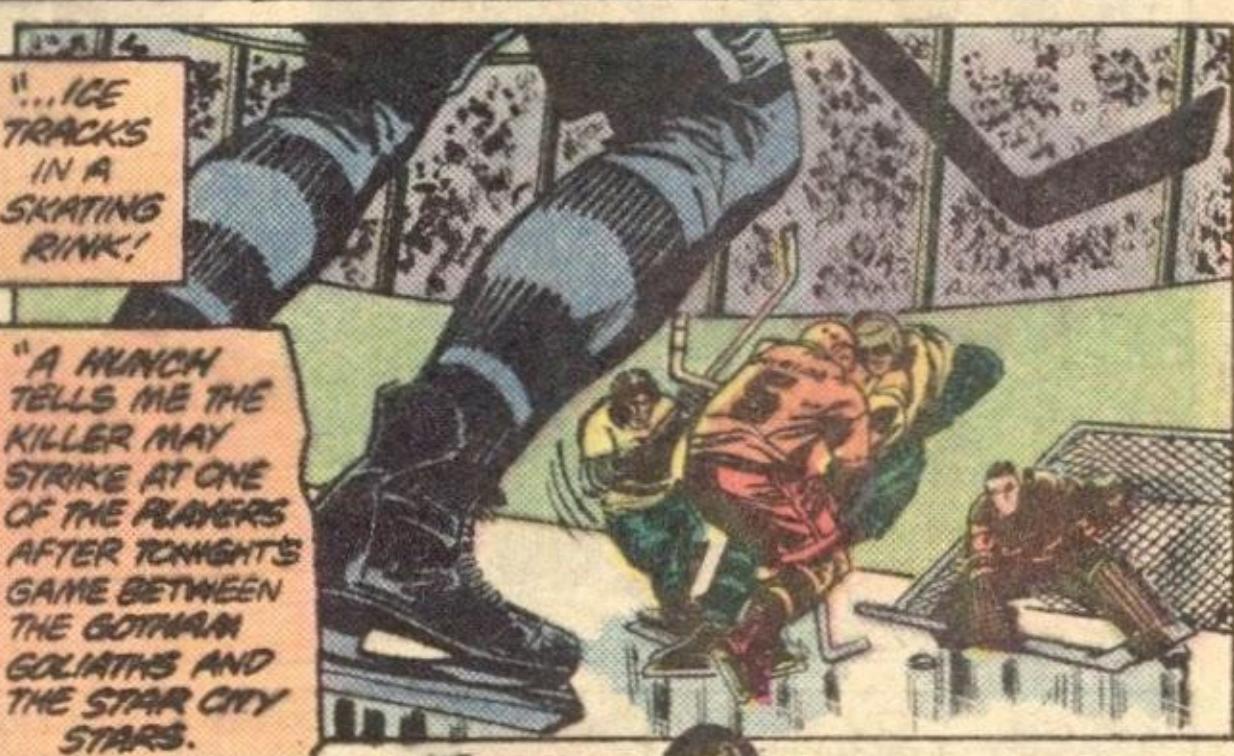
I FINALLY REMEMBERED WHAT THOSE TRACKS REMINDED ME OF...



THE ONE I CAME THROUGH-- AND THIS DOOR, USED BY STADIUM EMPLOYEES.

IT'S LOCKED.

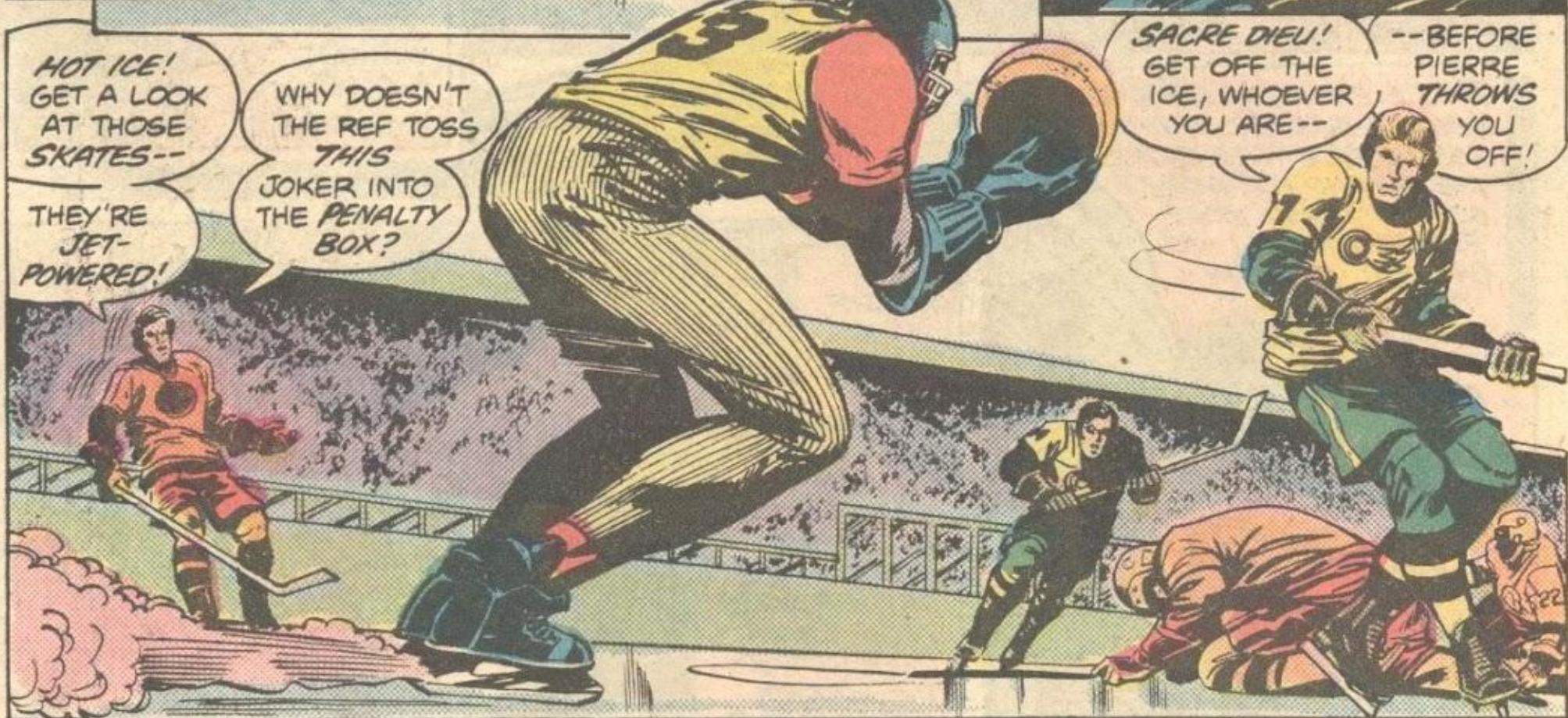
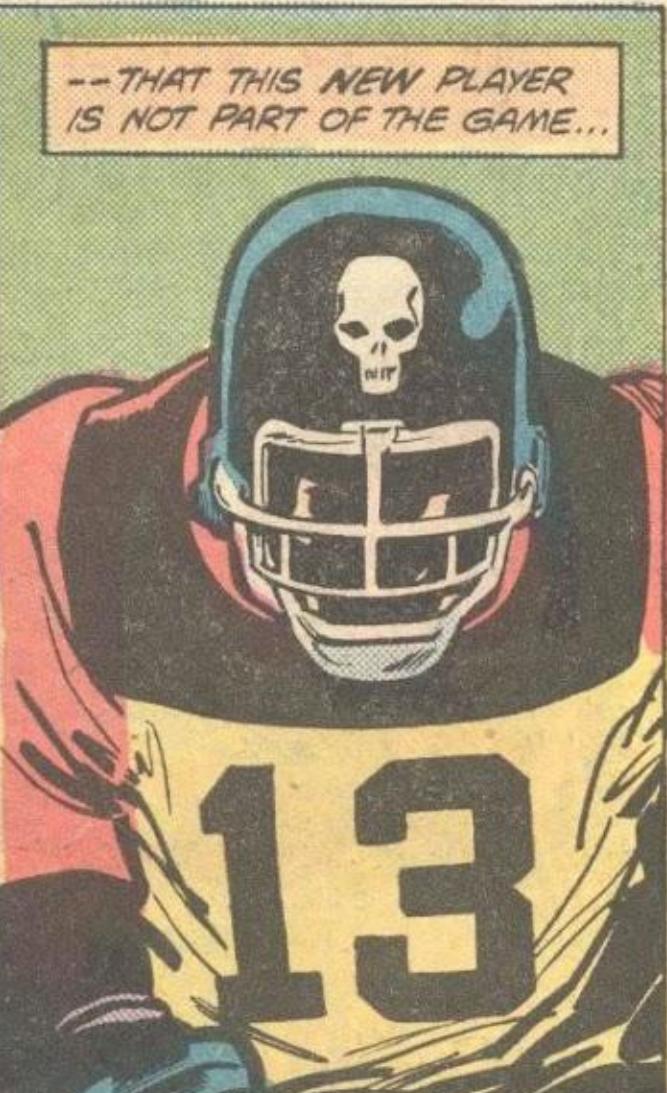
I'M BACK TO SQUARE-ONE-- WITHOUT A CLUE.



"THE MOST LIKELY TARGET IS PIERRE FOOTE, THE FRENCH CANADIAN WHO PLAYS FOR THE GOLIATHS.



--I'LL BE READY FOR HIM."





**HONK HONK HONK**

HE HAS NO  
TIME TO  
THINK--

--ONLY TO REACT.

AND AS THEY HAVE  
SO MANY TIMES BEFORE--

--REFLEXES  
AND TRAINING  
SAVE HIS LIFE!

OH  
WOW!

BRAVO, BRAVO!  
OLGA KORBUT  
COULDN'T HAVE  
DONE IT BETTER,  
BATMAN!

I'LL HAVE TO  
ADD YOU TO  
MY LIST.

YOUR "LIST"--  
SO THIS IS  
A KIND OF  
VENGEANCE.

WHY? WHAT DID  
THOSE ATHLETES  
EVER DO TO YOU?

YOU MEAN,  
PERSON-  
ALLY?

CLAP!  
CLAP!

WHY, NOT A  
THING!

LET'S JUST SAY  
I'VE GOT A GRUDGE  
AGAINST THEIR  
PARTICULAR--

--RACKET!

GOOD LORD!  
THAT TENNIS  
RACKET YOU  
PULLED FROM  
YOUR JERSEY--

IT'S A  
BUZZSAW!

ZZZZZZZ

SWISHH

ZZZZZZZ



IT'LL SLICE  
ME TO  
RIBBONS!

HAVE TO  
DODGE--!

THAT WAS A  
CLOSER SHAVE  
THAN I'D HAVE  
LIKED.

THIS SPORTSMAN CHAR-  
ACTER MOVES FASTER THAN  
ANY MAN I'VE SEEN-- EX-  
CLUDING THE  
FLASH!

WHILE I  
DODGED,  
HE DUCKED  
OUT.

THE BATCAVE,  
UNDER THE WAYNE  
BUILDING, NOT  
LONG AFTER...

A VICIOUS AND  
DEADLY DEVICE,  
MASTER BRUCE.

AND INGENIOUS,  
ALFRED. IT'S AN  
ORDINARY RACKET, WITH  
A CHAIN LOOP  
AROUND THE  
OUTSIDE AND A  
POWER SOURCE  
IN THE HANDLE.  
BUT LOOK AT  
THIS.

THE SPORTSMAN MAY BE  
A MECHANICAL GENIUS-- BUT  
HE'S NOT VERY CLEVER.

HE LEFT A STORE  
LABEL ON THE HANDLE.

THAT'S GOING  
TO COST HIM.

EVERY RELIGION HAS ITS  
HOLY PLACE AND THE  
MODERN RELIGION OF  
SPORTS IS NO EXCEPTION...

Tennis Anyone?

IN GOTHAM, ITS HOLY PLACE IS THE "SPORTS WORLD  
MALL," WHERE THE FAITHFUL MAY COME TO PURCHASE  
THE ATHLETE'S VERSION OF PRAYER BEADS-- NIKE  
RUNNING SHOES, ADIDAS SWEAT SUITS, GUCCI JOG-  
TOS, ET AL....

Bruce Wayne comes to the  
mall for another reason...

I'D LIKE TO  
RETURN THIS  
RACKET TO ITS  
OWNER.

BUT I DON'T  
HAVE HIS NAME.  
COULD YOU LOOK  
THROUGH YOUR  
SALES RECORDS?

OH NO, I COULDN'T DO THAT. OUR RECORDS ARE CONFIDENTIAL.

BUT IF YOU'D CARE TO LEAVE YOUR NAME, I MIGHT-- WAIT A MOMENT.

THAT RACKET ISN'T PART OF OUR REGULAR LINE.

EH? THAT SALESMAN-- I'VE SEEN HIS FACE BEFORE!

OF COURSE! THE CARETAKER AT GOTHAM STADIUM!

PART OF A SHIPMENT THAT CAME IN ONLY TWO DAYS AGO.

PERHAPS YOU SHOULD TALK TO OUR BUYER, MARTIN MANTLE. HE WAS OVER THERE JUST A MOMENT AGO.

SIR?

WELL, HOW RUDE!

IT'S A TEST PIECE...

IT FITS... MANTLE MUST HAVE BEEN MASQUERADE AS THE STADIUM CARETAKER AND WAS INTENDING TO WIPE OUT HIS TRACKS WHEN I ARRIVED ON THE SCENE!

I NEVER NOTICED HIM, THEN--

--HE WAS JUST PART OF THE BACK-GROUND!

I SAW HIM COME THROUGH THIS DOOR, BUT WHERE--?

CAN'T LET HIM GET NEAR ME WITH THAT HOCKEY STICK--

YAAAH!

--NOT AS BRUCE WAYNE!

MANTLE MUST BE A QUICK-CHANGE ARTIST...

...BUT I'VE HAD SOME EXPERIENCE IN THAT LINE MYSELF...

SLAM!

...AND WHAT BRUCE WAYNE SHOULDN'T BE EQUIPPED TO HANDLE--

--IS THE BATMAN'S STOCK IN TRADE!

STRANGE, I EXPECTED HIM TO BREAK DOWN THAT DOOR...

...BUT ALL I HEAR-- IS A LOT OF SILENCE!

THIS IS THE SECOND TIME I'VE MISREAD THE SPORTSMAN'S INTENTIONS.

THERE WON'T BE A THIRD TIME.

HE'S GONE!

I WAS SURE HE'D RECOGNIZED ME FROM YESTERDAY MORNING AT THE STADIUM...

...AND JUDGING BY HIS WILD ATTACK, I THOUGHT HE'D BE CERTAIN TO KEEP AFTER BRUCE WAYNE UNTIL HE KILLED ME.

I WAS WRONG... YOU CAN'T SECOND-GUESS A LUNATIC!

SHOUTS COMING FROM THE MALL-- DEAR LORD, HE'S OUT THERE!

BEDLAM ON SKATES...

ONLY A FEW MINUTES AGO, THIS MONDAY-MORNING SHOPPING CROWD WAS A BUSY, HAPPY THRONG...

NOW IT IS A TERRIFIED HOR-

KEEP AWAY FROM HIM!

HE'S CRAZY!

WATCH OUT FOR THAT STICK!

HE'S TRYIN' TO KILL US!

YOU'RE ALL NO BETTER THAN THE IDIOT JOCKS YOU ADMIRE!

WORSHIPPING MUSCLE-- KILLING YOURSELVES IN THE NAME OF GOOD HEALTH!

YOU ALL DESERVE TO DIE!

AND YOU'RE HERE TO PLAY GRIM REAPER-- IS THAT IT, SPORTSMAN?

--AS THE SPORTSMAN SLASHES THROUGH HIS MUSCLES, LIKE A LUNATIC HARVESTER SWISHING HIS SICKLE!

BATMAN! SOONER OR LATER, I KNEW WE'D FACE OFF AGAIN!

I'VE PREPARED A SURPRISE FOR YOU...

SPORTS WORLD



I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT  
YOU'D LIKE TO EXPLAIN  
YOURSELF BEFORE YOU  
KILLED ME. WHY THE  
MURDERS, SPORTSMAN?

YOU WANT  
REASONS?

HERE'S MY  
REASON,  
BATMAN...

WHY KILL  
ALL THOSE  
SPORTS  
FIGURES?

I'M  
KILLING  
THEM--  
BECAUSE  
SPORTS IS  
KILLING  
ME!

"I WASN'T A VERY ATHLETIC KID... JUST AVERAGE, I  
GUESS; BUT AVERAGE WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR MY  
FATHER. MARTIN MANTLE, SR., WASN'T ABOUT TO  
ACCEPT 'AVERAGE' FROM HIS ONLY SON..."

DAMN  
IT, BOY!

I TOLD YOU TO  
WATCH THE  
BALL!

GEE, DAD,  
I TRIED--!

I DON'T WANT YOU  
TO "TRY," YOU  
LITTLE WEAKLING...

I  
WANT  
YOU TO  
DO IT!

MARTIN!

SHAAKK!

THE CHILD'S  
DOING HIS BEST...  
HE CAN'T HELP  
IT IF HE'S NOT  
A NATURAL  
ATHLETE!

IF I EVER  
SEE YOU HIT  
HIM AGAIN--

WHAT WILL  
YOU DO,  
LOUISA?

DRAG HIM CRYING  
HOME TO YOUR  
MOTHER?

YOU'RE INHUMAN,  
MARTIN! SOME-  
TIMES I WONDER  
IF YOU'RE THE  
SAME MAN I  
MARRIED!

AND  
SOMETIMES  
I WONDER  
IF I EVER  
REALLY KNEW  
YOU AT ALL!

GO AHEAD,  
WHINE. YOU'RE  
TURNING OUR  
SON INTO A  
WHINER, JUST  
LIKE YOU!

I CAN'T BE  
BOthered WITH  
THIS-- I'VE GOT  
WORK TO DO.

"FATHER'S WORK WAS SPORTS  
MEDICINE. HE WAS ONE OF THE  
EARLY PROONENTS OF STEROIDS  
TO BUILD AN ATHLETE'S MUSCLES...

"HE HAD  
OTHER  
IDEAS,  
AS  
WELL--

# LIFESAVERS®

LOTS OF FUN AND FLAVORS!

Roll up in your very own Life Savers roll, and dream of all your favorite Life Savers flavors!



Cotton cover, polyester fiberfill. 75" x 33". \$19.95 value.

Just think of all the fun you'll have with a Life Savers slumber bag! Add your very own Life Savers knapsack and flashlight, and every day can be a new Life Savers adventure! Get one or get them all. Here's how to order:

**TO ORDER:** Write the total number of each item you want in the proper boxes on the order form. Fill in the form with your name and address and send it along with a check or money order payable to **Life Savers Premium**. Include 1 Life Savers® Roll Candy wrapper or 3 Life Savers® Lollipop wrappers for each item ordered and send to:  
**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.

TO: Life Savers Premium, P.O. Box 7680, Stratmar Station, Bridgeport, Conn. 06650.

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.

ITEM	COST*	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Slumber bag(s)	\$12.50 ea.		\$
Knapsack(s)	\$ 2.90 ea.		\$
Flashlight(s)	\$ 3.50 ea.		\$
Connecticut residents to add 7 1/2% sales tax			Total \$

Name \_\_\_\_\_

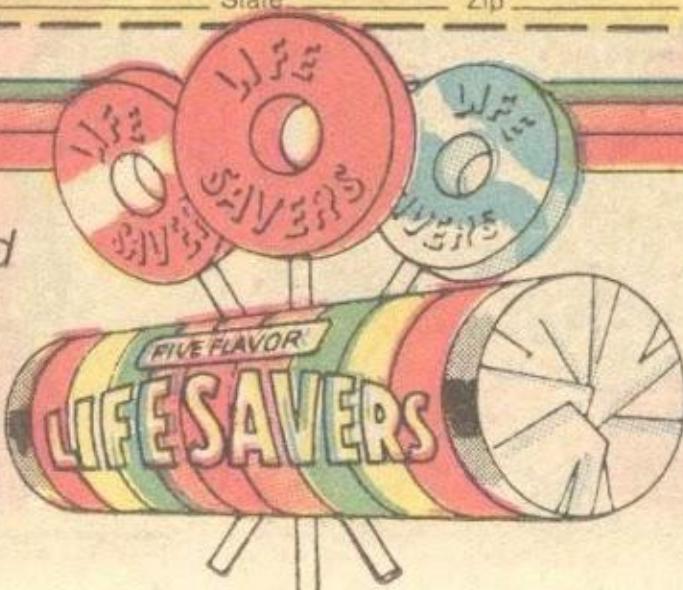
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

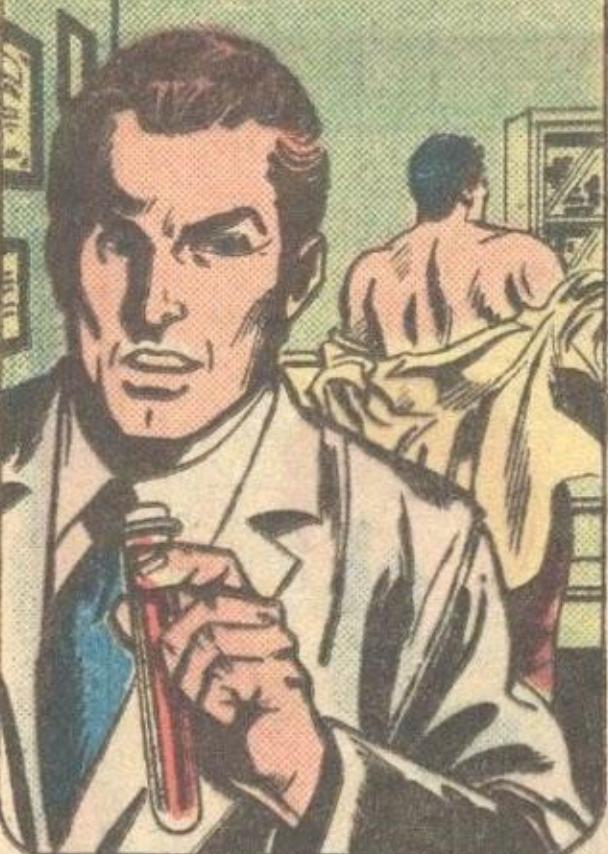
© 1981 Life Savers, Inc.

Life Savers Roll Candy and  
Lollipops.

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



"--IDEAS THAT WOULD HAVE MADE HIM AN OUTCAST IN THE MEDICAL WORLD, IF HE'D EVER REVEALED THEM..."



"FATHER BELIEVED THAT ATHLETIC ABILITY COULD BE 'LEARNED' BY AN UNATHLETIC BODY, THROUGH INJECTIONS OF RNA-- THE 'MEMORY' CHEMICAL PRESENT IN ALL LIVING THINGS..."



"BY TAKING RNA FROM THE TISSUES OF A TRUE ATHLETE, AND INTRODUCING IT INTO A NON-ATHLETE'S BLOODSTREAM, FATHER HOPED TO PRODUCE A PSEUDO-ATHLETE..."



"...AND NATURALLY, THE FIRST PERSON HE DECIDED TO TEST HIS THEORIES ON WAS HIS OWN SON..."



"MOTHER MUST HAVE HEARD ME SCREAMING... AND SHE WAS SHOCKED SPEECHLESS BY WHAT SHE SAW WHEN SHE RUSHED TO MY ROOM..."



"MY FATHER SEEMED TO COME OUT OF IT THEN, LIKE A MAN SHAKING OFF A DREAM..."

LOUISA... I KNOW WHAT YOU MUST BE THINKING!

I SWEAR IT'S FOR MARTY'S OWN GOOD--



I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE DOING, MARTIN...

FRANKLY, I DON'T CARE. I THINK YOU NEED PSYCHIATRIC HELP.

BUT I DON'T INTEND TO STAY HERE WITH MARTIN WHILE YOU GET IT.

WE'RE LEAVING.



"FATHER ARGUED, HE PLEADED, HE THREATENED, BUT HE COULDN'T CHANGE MOTHER'S MIND."

"WE LEFT AND I NEVER SAW HIM AGAIN."

"STRANGE THINGS BEGAN TO HAPPEN TO ME, THEN..."

"YEARS LATER, MOTHER TOLD ME HE'D SOLD THE HOUSE AND JUST DISAPPEARED."



"MOTHER DIDN'T APPROVE, BUT THERE WAS NO WAY FOR HER TO STOP ME, SHORT OF LOCKING ME AWAY."

"I WAS OBSESSED WITH ATHLETICS..."

"I GROW QUICKLY, AND I DISCOVERED A TALENT FOR SPORTS THAT I NEVER HAD BEFORE."

"...AND BY THE TIME I GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL, I WAS CAPTAIN OF THREE DIFFERENT VARSITY TEAMS!"

"AT COLLEGE, I MAJORED IN ENGINEERING... AND CONTINUED MY SPORTS CAREER BY GOING OUT FOR TRACK, BASKETBALL AND FOOTBALL..."

"THEN, THE DAY AFTER I FINISHED SECOND FOR THE HEISMAN TROPHY--"



"PAINKILLS BECAME ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE... I TOOK SO MANY PAIN-KILLERS, I WAS IN A PERPETUAL FOG..."

"FINALLY, ON MOTHER'S INSISTENCE, I GOT A DOCTOR--"



--AND WAS TOLD THAT SOMETHING, SOME FOREIGN SUBSTANCE, WAS AFFECTING MY NERVOUS SYSTEM..."

"I WAS GOING TO DIE."

"THE HEADACHES BEGAN. THEY WERE UNBEARABLE."



"IT WAS DAD'S  
MEMORY RNA,  
OF COURSE.

"I REALIZED  
THEN WHAT  
I'D ALWAYS  
KNOWN IN MY  
HEART--

"--MY  
ATHLETIC  
ABILITY  
WAS A  
CHEMICAL-  
INDUCED  
SHAM!"

"NOW IT WAS KILLING ME--SO I  
BECAME THE SPORTSMAN! I COULDN'T  
REPAY FATHER FOR WHAT HE'D DONE--"

--SO I DID  
THE NEXT  
BEST  
THING!

I USED MY  
ENGINEERING  
SKILLS TO  
CREATE MY  
COSTUME AND  
WEAPONS.

NOW I TAKE  
MY REVENGE  
ON THE SPORTS  
WORLD--

--AND I  
PLAY MY  
GAME FOR  
KEEPERS!

MANTLE,  
YOU'RE  
SICK....!

YOU NEED  
HELP... MEDICAL  
HELP.

GIVE ME THE  
STICK. LET ME  
TAKE YOU TO  
A HOSPITAL.

OH, I'LL GIVE YOU  
THE STICK, ALL  
RIGHT, BATMAN--

--BUT THE ONLY  
PLACE YOU'RE  
GOING IS TO THE  
GOTHAM MORGUE!

I DIDN'T  
WANT TO  
DO IT THIS  
WAY,  
MANTLE.

BUT  
YOU  
WROTE  
THE  
RULES...

CLICK



ONCE HE WAS ONE OF THE FLYING GRAYSONS, ACROBATS SUPREME. THEN HIS PARENTS WERE MURDERED AND HE HELPED BATMAN AVENGE THEIR DEATHS... BECOMING FIRST A BOY WONDER, AND NOW...

# ROBIN

THE TEEN WONDER

## "MURDER MID-WAY PART TWO

FROM DICK GRAYSON'S DIARY:

I'D WAIT IN THE DARKNESS OF THE HILL CIRCUS'S BIG TOP FOR MOST OF THE NIGHT, HOPING THAT THE KILLER WHO'D FRAMED MY FRIEND WALDO THE CLOWN FOR THE MURDER OF JO-JO JONES WOULD RETURN TO THE SCENE OF HIS CRIME...

A MOVEMENT IN THE RING BELOW HAD CAUGHT MY EYE, AND I DROPPED TO THE SAWDUST FLOOR TO SEE IF I'D FOUND THE MURDERER.

WHAT I FOUND WAS ANOTHER SHOCK!

LOURNA HILL  
...THE CIRCUS OWNER...

YOU'RE  
THE  
MURDERER?

THE NIGHT  
WASN'T OVER  
YET...

KILLER UNDER  
THE  
**BIG TOP!**

ROBIN! I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT YOU'RE  
DOING HERE IN  
SARATOGA--

--AND I  
CERTAINLY  
DON'T KNOW  
WHAT  
YOU'RE  
TALKING  
ABOUT!

I'M TALKING  
ABOUT THAT  
THING IN YOUR  
HAND, MS. HILL.

A MAN WAS GUNNED DOWN  
HERE THIS AFTERNOON,  
WHILE A FRIEND OF MINE,  
DICK GRAYSON, WAS  
AUDITIONING AS AN  
AERIALIST FOR YOUR  
SHOW!

JO-JO JONES  
WAS MURDERED  
IN COLD BLOOD--

--AND GRAYSON'S  
FRIEND WALDO  
FLYNN WAS CAUGHT  
WITH A SMOKING  
GUN IN HIS HAND.

THIS MIGHT HAVE  
PROVED HIM INNO-  
CENT--THIS BULLET  
YOU FOUND IN THE  
SAWDUST.

IT'S WHAT YOU  
CAME HERE TO  
FIND, ISN'T IT?

TO HIDE  
YOUR OWN GUILT!

NO, YOU'RE WRONG! IT'S TRUE  
I SLIPPED IN HERE PAST THE  
POLICE GUARDS OUTSIDE...

...BUT I ONLY  
WANT TO HELP WALDO!  
HE'S A FRIEND.

HE'S--  
OH MY GOD!

WHERE  
DID THEY  
COME FROM?

GRAARRR

I DIDN'T REALLY EXPECT  
AN ANSWER--BY THAT  
TIME, THE TWO CATS  
WERE MOVING--

--AND SO  
WAS I!



RAILROAD  
WHO?  
NO, NEVER  
MIND  
THAT.

YOU WERE SEEN ARGUING  
WITH JO-JO JONES JUST  
BEFORE HE WAS SHOT.\*

YOU KILLED HIM--  
AND SOMEHOW  
FRAMED WALDO  
FOR HIS MURDER!

THAT'S  
NOT TRUE!

YES, JO-JO  
AND I ARGUED,  
BUT I DIDN'T  
SHOOT HIM...

\*LAST  
ISSUE.  
--R.G.

...AND I  
CERTAINLY  
NEVER WOULD  
HAVE FRAMED  
WALDO!

WE'RE  
GOING  
TO BE  
MARRIED!

I LOVE  
WALDO!

NOW I REALLY  
AM CONFUSED!

WHY WERE YOU  
AND JO-JO  
FIGHTING?

BEFORE  
WALDO JOINED  
THE CIRCUS,  
JO-JO AND I  
WERE... WELL,  
WE WERE AN ITEM.

JO-JO NEVER  
ACCEPTED THAT ALL  
OF THAT WAS OVER.

OKAY... SO FAR SO GOOD, I  
GUESS, THEN WHY DID YOU SEND  
THOSE CATS TO ATTACK  
LOURNA HILL AND ME?

I THOUGHT YOU  
WERE WORKING  
WITH THE POLICE  
TO BLAME WALDO  
FOR JO-JO'S  
DEATH.

I-I GUESS I  
WENT KIND  
OF CRAZY.

YOU'RE GOING  
CRAZY?

LADY, I'M SO MIXED  
UP RIGHT NOW, I  
WOULDN'T BE SUR-  
PRISED TO LEARN  
THAT JO-JO  
SHOT HIMSELF!

CONTINUED ON 2<sup>nd</sup> PAGE FOLLOWING

# We are Looking for a few Good Boys and Girls Who would like to —

- Earn their own spending money
- Earn neat prizes
- Gain practical business experience



"America's Greatest Family  
Newspaper Since 1882"

By  
Introducing

**GRIT**  
AMERICA'S GREATEST FAMILY NEWSPAPER

To Friends, Relatives  
Neighbors and Others

## GRIT Will Help You Start Your Own Business

You can be among the thousands of boys and girls in small cities and towns all across America who earn their own spending money every week by introducing GRIT to their family, friends and neighbors. GRIT will help you get started in a profitable business of your own by sending you papers, all the supplies you'll need, and suggestions on how and where to begin. GRIT will assist you in every way to make this a happy, successful and profitable venture. HURRY! SIGN UP NOW.

State law requires newspapers and girls to be 10 years or older, 12 years or older in the states of AL, DE, LA, MA, MO, NJ, NY, NC, PA, RI, VA and WI.

GRIT PUBLISHING CO.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Papers sent only in the Continental U.S.

\*\*\*\* Fill Out and Mail This Coupon In An Envelope Today \*\*\*\*

GRIT PUBLISHING CO., Williamsport, PA 17701

Please send me all the details and ..... copies  
each week to start my own GRIT route.

(PRINT)

NC - 51

Name .....

In Care of .....

Address .....

Town ..... State ..... ZIP .....

Age ..... Date of Birth .....

Month Day Year

Male

Please Print Your Last Name Plainly Below

Female

Signature of Parent  
or Guardian .....



FREE BONUS!  
WITH PURCHASE

TEEN  
TITANS  
BY  
GEORGE PEREZ

MENTION  
THIS AD.

ONE PERSON  
OFFER GOOD  
UNTIL SEPT. 15, 1981

WE ALSO BUY!

## CAN'T FIND DC COMICS ON THE WEST COAST? YOU CAN AT THESE INDEPENDENTLY OWNED COMIC BOOK STORES.

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

BERKELEY: FUNNY PAGES

DUBLIN: DON'S COMICS & RECORDS

FRESNO: ALPHA OMEGA

: WONDERLAND

LIVERMORE: QUAKE COMICS

OAKLAND: COMICCOLLECTORS

SAN FRANCISCO: COMICS EXCHANGE

: FUNNY PAGES

: GAMEMASTERS HOBBIES

: S.F. COMIC COMPANY

: COMIC COLLECTOR SHOP

SAN JOSE: PENINSULA COMICS

SEASIDE: DON'S COMICS & RECORDS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

GARDEN GROVE: FANTASY ILLUSTRATED

LAWNDALE: BOB'S COMICS

LOS ANGELES: GOLDEN APPLE

SAN DIEGO: COMIC KINGDOM

SANTA MARIA: MARKGRAF'S COMICS

OREGON

PORTLAND: FUTURE DREAMS

WASHINGTON

SEATTLE: GOLDEN AGE COMICS

: WALLY'S BOOKS & COMICS

AND IN CANADA: GOLDEN AGE COMICS

2512 Telegraph Ave. 94704 (415) 849-1179

7168 Regional Ave. 94566 (415) 829-6533

2373 East Shaw 93701 (209) 221-6500

418 Blackstone 93701 (209) 268-3950

2175 First St. 94550 (415) 449-0112

140 14th St. 94612 (415) 763-4295

1610 Irving St. 94122 (415) 661-5541

Pier 39 Space M-1 94133 (415) 434-4045

4627 Geary Blvd. 94118 (415) 387-4118

3339 23rd St. 94110 (415) 648-9738

73 E. San Fernando 95113 (408) 287-2254

1725-B Fremont St. 93955 (408) 394-0999

2678 N. Main St. 94596 (415) 933-1234

12535 Harbor Blvd. 92640 (714) 537-0087

14721 Hawthorne 90260 (213) 679-7352

7753 Melrose Ave. 90046 (213) 658-6047

1629 University Ave. 92103 (714) 291-1515

113 W. Church 93454 (805) 925-7470

1800 E. Burnside 97214 (503) 231-8311

1501 Pike Pl. Mkt. 98101 (206) 622-9799

128 Commercial, Kirkland (206) 822-7333

830 Granville Vancouver (604) 683-2819

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

WHAT I NEEDED WAS TIME TO THINK AND A CHANCE TO FIT THE PUZZLE PIECES TOGETHER.

WALDO WAS STILL IN THE HOSPITAL, UNDER POLICE GUARD, RECOVERING FROM THE FALL HE'D TAKEN WHEN I CAPTURED HIM THAT MORNING.

I WENT THERE AS DICK GRAYSON AND FOUND THE OTHER CARNIES IN THE WAITING ROOM... EVEN BIG, BROODING TINY, WHO KEPT LOOKING UP FROM HIS MAGAZINE TO FIX ME WITH A BALEFUL GLARE.

TINY WAS SUSPICIOUS OF NEWCOMERS AND I THINK HE BLAMED ME FOR WALDO'S TROUBLE.

AND MAYBE, IN A WAY, I BLAMED MYSELF.

TRouble seems to FOLLOW ME THESE DAYS, WHETHER I'M DICK GRAYSON OR ROBIN.

I'D COME TO THE CIRCUS TO REDISCOVER MY ROOTS.

INSTEAD, I'D REDISCOVERED THE DARK SIDE OF MY LIFE.

HEY, SONNY--GRAYSON.

YES, OFFICER? SOMETHING I CAN DO FOR YOU...?

HE'S OKAY?

COULD BE. YOUR PAL WALDO FINALLY RECOVERED CONSCIOUSNESS.

THE DOCS THINK SO. HE WANTS TO TALK...

...BUT ONLY IF YOU'RE AROUND.

I'VE ALREADY READ HIM FLYNN, HERE'S YOUR PAL. HIS RIGHTS.

DICKIE BOY.

"BELIEVE ME, I'M STILL NOT SURE WHAT HAPPENED. YOU WERE UP AUDITIONING FOR THE NEW ACROBAT JOB..."

I REALLY MESSED UP, DIDN'T I ?

I KNOW HOW THIS MUST LOOK...

"...WHEN SUDDENLY JO-JO STARTED YELLING AT ME ABOUT... UH... A MUTUAL FRIEND.

"I TOLD HIM TO SHUT UP, AND I TURNED AWAY..."

"THAT'S WHEN HE CALLED MY NAME. I LOOKED AROUND, AND THERE WAS THIS GUN FLYING TOWARD ME."

**POW**

"...AND THAT'S WHEN IT WENT OFF!"

"JUST BY REFLEX, I GRABBED IT..."

"JO-JO GRABBED HIS CHEST AND DROPPED LIKE A SANDBAG."

"BUT THE WEIRD THING IS...THE GUN WASN'T EVEN POINTED AT HIM!"

"I COULDN'T HAVE SHOT HIM EVEN BY ACCIDENT!"

"THAT'S WHEN YOU CAME AFTER ME."

"I GUESS I PANICKED. I RAN."

"NOW THAT I KNOW HOW IT MUST HAVE LOOKED, I FEEL LIKE A JERK..."

"...BUT I SWEAR TO YOU, I NEVER SHOT JO-JO JONES."

SOMEBODY DID, FLYNN, AND YOU'RE THE ONLY SUSPECT WE'VE GOT WHO WAS SEEN HOLDING A SMOKING GUN!

TOO BAD THE BULLET MISS HILL FOUND IN THE BIG TOP WAS TOO BADLY SMASHED FOR FORENSICS TO MATCH WITH YOUR GUN...

BUT THAT DOESN'T CHANGE THE CASE AGAINST YOU!

MAYBE IT DOES, OFFICER. TO BE SURE...ROBIN WILL HAVE TO VISIT THE HOSPITAL MORGUE!

I CHANGED INTO MY COSTUME IN A THIRD FLOOR REST ROOM AND WENT DOWN THE OUTSIDE WALL TO THE FIRST FLOOR MORGUE...

THE MEDICAL EXAMINER HAD JUST FINISHED THE AUTOPSY ON JONES' BODY...

DOCTOR, WHAT YOU'VE JUST TOLD ME FITS WITH WHAT I'D GUessed.

IT GIVES ME A MOTIVE  
FOR HIS MURDER.

NOW ALL I NEED  
IS TO FIND THE  
WEAPON THAT  
KILLED HIM!

INSIDE AN HOUR, I WAS  
BACK AT THE CIRCUS.

I KNEW WHAT I WAS LOOKING  
FOR, AND I HAD A FAIR AREA  
WHERE TO FIND IT...

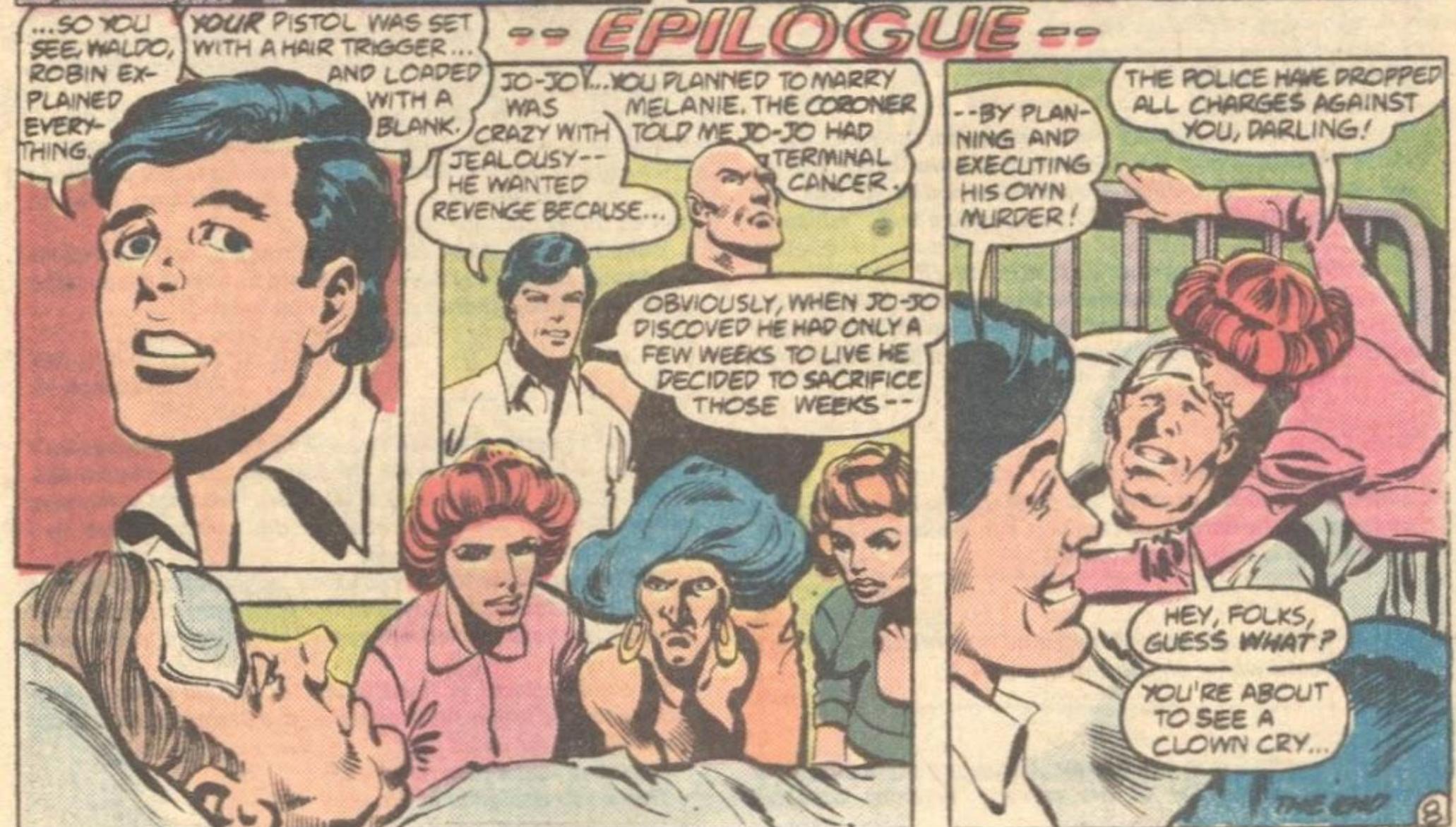
IT WOULD BE INSIDE THE  
BIG TOP, IN THE BLEACHERS  
OVERLOOKING THE  
THE MAIN RING.

--AND THAT WAS THE MISTAKE  
THAT ALMOST KILLED ME!

ENTERING  
THE TENT,  
I LET MY  
GUARD  
SLIP--

ARRRK!





# BAT SIGNALS

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

L-820

Dear Editor,

This is the 12th letter that I have written to a comic book and I hope it is worthy of print, because my last 11 obviously were not.

While reading "The China Syndrome" several questions came up.

1-PAGE 4: When Mr. Gustav told Batman that he had seen through his disguise, why did Batman waste his time taking off his disguise? This procedure was both time consuming and risky. This change must of been quite amusing to Gustav.

2-PAGE 9 PANEL 6: When did Bruce Wayne get a bat insignia tattooed on his chest?

3-PAGE 12 PANEL 1: Why can't Bruce Wayne put 1 and 2 together? Mr. Gustav sent the killers and Mr. Gustav knows Batman's secret ID, which he learned from page 3 (via the fingerprint scan).

4-PAGE 17 PANEL 5: I thought Batman was a fast thinker, but I was proved wrong. Why didn't Bruce Wayne stop the gas at its source by stuffing his handkerchief into the hole that the gas was seeping out of?

Issue 333 wasn't a total loss thanks to "Shanghaied" and the pun on page 8. The pun being having the story end with a needle heading toward Robin and then stating NEEDLEss to say: to be continued.

David F. Mickus  
Novi, MI.

*By the numbers, David (and 12 is your lucky one, isn't it?). 1-Admittedly, it would have been a bit clumsy for Batman to remove his disguise under those circumstances, but we must claim the right to "artistic license". The action sequence that followed would not have been very interesting if it weren't performed by Batman.*

*2-See letter below.*

*3-What Gustav learned from the fingerprint scan was that it wasn't Krugerrand, not necessarily that it was Bruce Wayne. All available information would have indicated that the "impostor" would have to be Batman, leading to his "educated guess".*

*4-Handkerchiefs are porous. Just as holding it over his mouth did not prevent the gas from entering his lungs, it would have been equally as futile to stuff the handkerchief into a small portion of the door when the gas could have seeped through the cracks elsewhere.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor,  
Only one comment on Batman #333—Irv Novick really added a nice touch in panel 6 of page 9. Yessir, if super-hero insignias on the bare chest catch on, it may eliminate the need for wearing identifying costumes!

Steve Thompson  
La Crescenta, CA

*Way to go, eagle-eye! (How come you missed Batman's shirt, colored white, on the bed in panel 3?)*

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor,  
Intriguing as it is to see Batman globe-trotting in pursuit of clues to the identity of the mystery man (or woman?)

undermining Bruce Wayne's financial empire, it's equally exasperating not being more privy to his thought processes—and those of Talia, as they make each scenic change of locale.

The dubs and drabs alluding to "The Lazarus Affair" in the back-up features of Batman's current issues haven't served to clarify matters any, and have only added to my confusion.

Once this 4-parter reaches its conclusion, I hope Talia will be among the deceased (I detest her shallow presence.), Catwoman safely esconced in Batman's rogues' gallery, and Robin reunited with his cowed guardian.

Yours truly,  
Jeffrey Lowndes  
Scranton, Pa.

*Batman probably would never trust Talia enough to tell her everything. The only other way, in this case, to have our readers be aware of their thought processes is through the extensive use of thought balloons...not a good idea for an action/adventure story of this type. Too much would be revealed by their thoughts.*

*The 4-parter is concluded, Talia is alive and well, Catwoman is God knows where and Robin is back to his roots...in a circus. Is there any other way we can make you happy?*

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear DCers,

Top of the mornin' to you. As I write you now, it's Christmas Eve, and I just went out and bought me a Christmas present; Batman #333.

I haven't written a letter to a comic magazine in years, but considering the job you've been doing on the Lazarus Affair, I just had to tell you guys what a job you've been doing. Marv Wolfman has been doing a marvelous job on Batman, combining the best of old Batman writers such as Denny O'Neil, Len Wein, and David V. Reed (what ever happened to him, anyway) with his own unique writing style to create fascinating and intriguing situations. This story has been going on, through subplots, since the Two-Face two-parter, and each installment seems as refreshing as the last. Even though "The China Syndrome" didn't move the plot along much, it was able to keep my interest, which is a lot more than I can say for a lot of other action-oriented tales. The interplay between Batman and Talia was a nice touch.

Interestingly enough, however, the Catwoman and Robin story upstaged the lead story in both action and intrigue. Marv really hit a goldmine with this combination. Both are pretty angry with the Batman right now, and, with their abilities, and Catwoman's underworld background, they make a pretty good team. It's unfortunate they have to be broken up after this episode. I hope Selena stays straight, I like her a lot more as a heroine than a villainess.

Irv Novick is a fantastic artist, and I especially like his work on Batman. Irv's art remains the same as it did in the early '70's, which was the Batman's best era. I'd rather see Irv do both the lead and back-up features, since his art is worth seeing throughout the issue.

Well, I've just about run out of things to say, as well as typewriter ribbon, so I'd just like to end by saying keep up the good work (gee, where've I heard that before).

Bill Norton  
Waterloo, Ill.

*I couldn't agree more with your lavish praise. Maybe that's because I read this series as you did...as a comics fan. Although I'm now the editor of Batman, I was not in any way connected with the preparation of this terrific series, so I enjoyed it as much as you did.*

*The reason the lead story/back-up concept worked as well as it did is because the same author/artist team did both parts. It would not have worked half as well if it were done any other way.*

*By the by, David V. Reed wrote for my old roomie, Julie Schwartz, and when Julie moved off the Batman series, so did Reed. A loss for us all.*

*Hope you had a nice new year!  
Thank you and good afternoon!*

# A "DUNGEONS & DRAGONS®" Adventure!

VALERIUS the Fighter, GRIMSLADE the magic user and INDEL the elf find a secret door in the ruins of ZENOPUS castle...



THE ADVENTURERS PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY THROUGH NARROW, TWISTING CORRIDORS.



EXPLORE EXCITING WORLDS OF FUN, FANTASY, AND ADVENTURE WITH DUNGEONS & DRAGONS® AND ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS™ ADVENTURE GAMES. SEND IN THE COUPON TODAY FOR YOUR FREE COLOR CATALOG OF GAMES AND ACCESSORIES, SEND TO: TSR HOBBIES, INC. POB 756 DEPT. 170, LAKE GENEVA WI. 53147

Please send a catalog to:

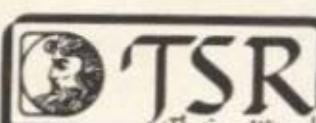
NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

  
© 1981 TSR Hobbies Inc.  
All Rights Reserved



**RADICAL!**

**JOX**<sup>®</sup>

the shoe named for you!

Whether you are into the radical sports . . . or the regular sports  
... whether it's BMX racing or plain old biking . . . basketball  
or baseball . . . whatever the sport and however you play it . . .

there's a JOX shoe for you.  
Available only at Thom McAn.



*Thom McAn*

**JOX JAG . . . the official shoe of TEAM JAG BMX.**