



# Wonder Woman

40¢  
ALL NEW!  
NO. 264  
FEB.

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
C.C.  
AUTHORITY

MY LASSO HAS  
**NEUTRALIZED**  
ALL YOUR POWERS!!  
**DIE --**  
**WONDER WOMAN!**



GRANTED THE WISDOM OF ATHENA, THE STRENGTH OF HERCULES, THE SPEED OF MERCURY AND THE BEAUTY OF APHRODITE BY THE GODS, PRINCESS DIANA OF PARADISE ISLAND RENOUNCED HER IMMORTALITY AND ENTERED MANS WORLD AS THE MOST LEGENDARY AMAZON OF ALL...

## Wonder Woman

LAST ISSUE, WE WATCHED AS EL GAUCHO, ONE OF FIVE PERFECT ASSASSINS CONTROLLED BY A MYSTERIOUS ENTITY CALLED THE PRIME PLANNER, CAME TO WASHINGTON, D.C., TO KILL THE SENATOR FROM CALIFORNIA...

HE WAS THWARTED BY THE UNEXPECTED INTERVENTION OF WONDER WOMAN-- BUT IN DOING SO, THE AMAZING AMAZON HAS APPARENTLY DOOMED HERSELF TO DEATH IN EL GAUCHO'S ELECTRO-LARIAT...

# A BOMB IN THE BIRD. IS WORTH TWO IN THE BAND

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JOSÉ DELBO &  
VINCE COLLETTA  
ARTISTS

SHELLY LEFERMAN  
LETTERER

JERRY SERPE  
COLORIST  
ROSS ANDRU  
EDITOR

BUT THEN--  
WHEN ARE  
THINGS EVER  
WHAT THEY  
SEEM?

J-625

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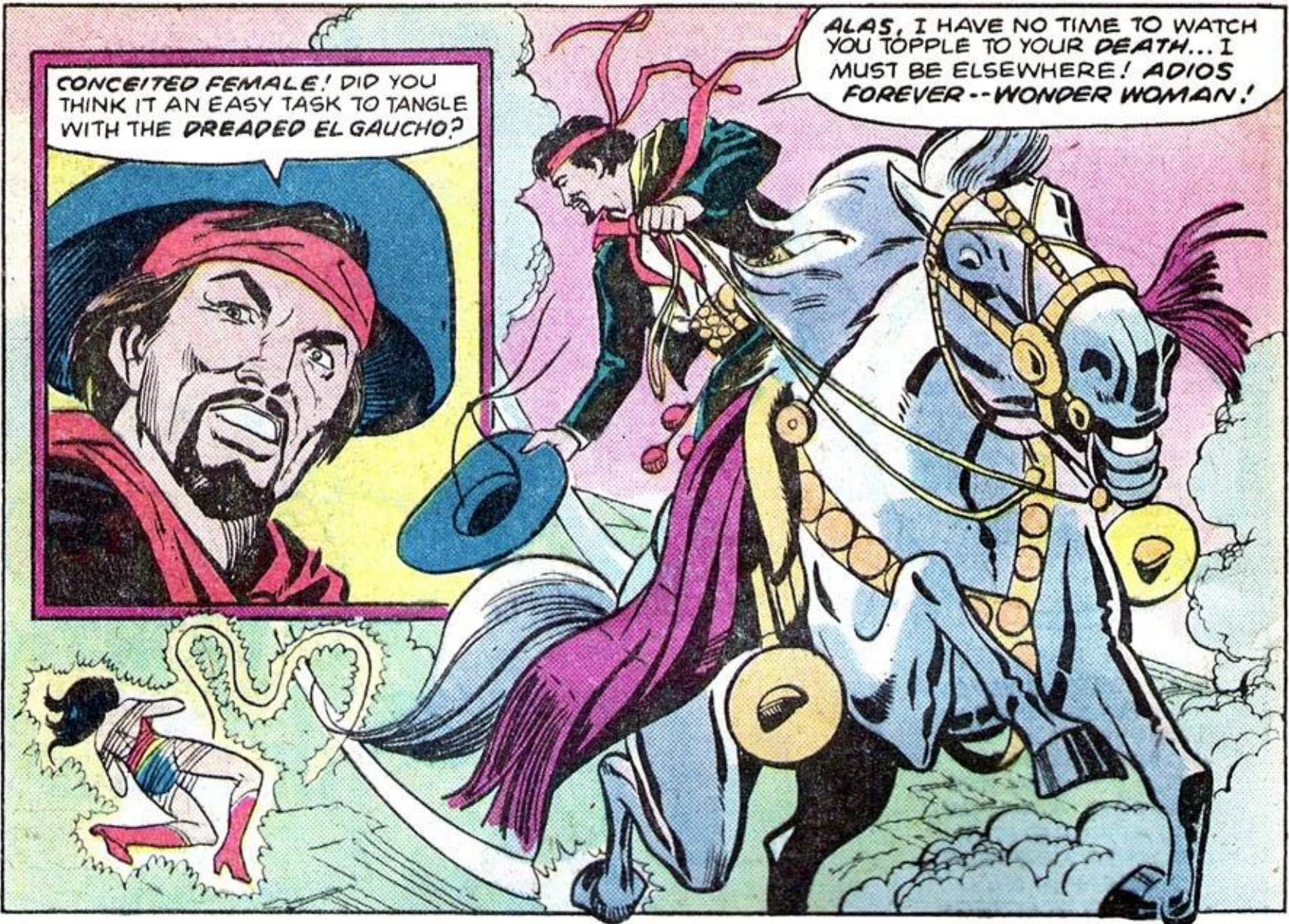
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CONCEITED FEMALE! DID YOU THINK IT AN EASY TASK TO TANGLE WITH THE DREADED EL GAUCHO?

ALAS, I HAVE NO TIME TO WATCH YOU TOPPLE TO YOUR DEATH... I MUST BE ELSEWHERE! ADIOS FOREVER--WONDER WOMAN!



WITH A LAST WILD LAUGH,  
THE KILLER FROM THE  
PAMPAS RIDES OFF  
INTO A SKY GATHERING  
WITH DARK  
CLOUDS--

--AS A VALIANT  
AMAZON FINDS  
HERSELF WRAPPED  
EVEN MORE  
TIGHTLY IN THE  
ELECTRO-  
LARIAT'S EEL-  
LIKE COILS!

MUST HAVE... A  
PORTABLE POWER  
SOURCE... CONCEALED  
IN THESE WIRES!

THOUSANDS  
OF VOLTS...  
POURING  
THROUGH ME!

BUT MAYBE...  
THAT WAS EL  
GAUCHO'S  
FIRST AND  
FATAL  
MISTAKE!

A BODY CAN  
TAKE... ONLY SO  
MUCH PAIN...  
BEFORE PAIN BECOMES  
MEANINGLESS!

WITH HERA'S HELP, I CAN  
IGNORE THE PAIN--  
CONCENTRATE ALL MY  
STRENGTH--ON  
BREAKING FREE!

I  
MUST  
BREAK  
FREE--

--AND IN THE NAME  
OF MY MOTHER, QUEEN  
HIPPOLYTE OF PARADISE  
ISLAND, I WILL!

I WILL!

AN AMAZON IS MANY THINGS,  
BUT AT THE CORE, SHE IS A  
WOMAN TRIUMPHANT, A  
WOMAN FREE OF SOCIETY'S  
LIMITING EXPECTATIONS, A  
WOMAN TOTALLY FULFILLED  
IN HER WOMANHOOD...

FAR BELOW, THE  
MEN AND WOMEN  
OF THAT MOST  
CYNICAL CITY,  
WASHINGTON,  
WITNESS THE  
ALMOST SYMBOLIC  
UNBINDING OF  
AN AMAZON...

...AND PERHAPS EACH OF  
THEM CATCHES A GLIMPSE  
OF WHAT THEY MIGHT BE,  
WERE THEY EVER THEM-  
SELVES FULLY UNBOUND...

ROBOT PLANE  
COME TO  
ME!

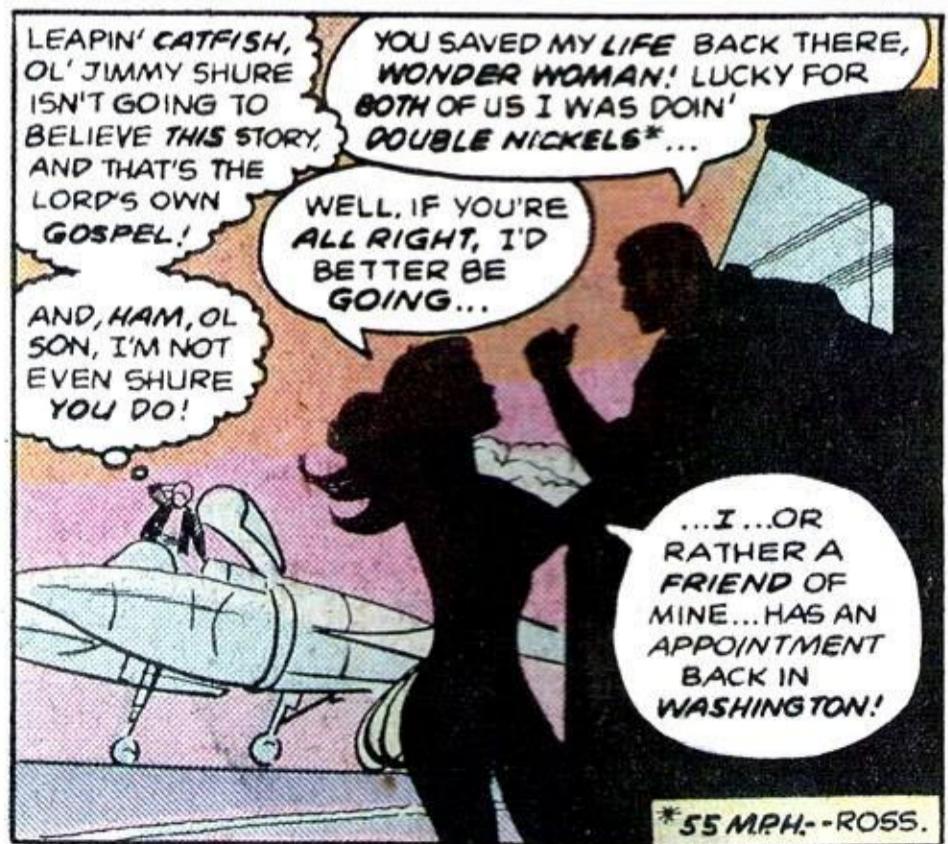
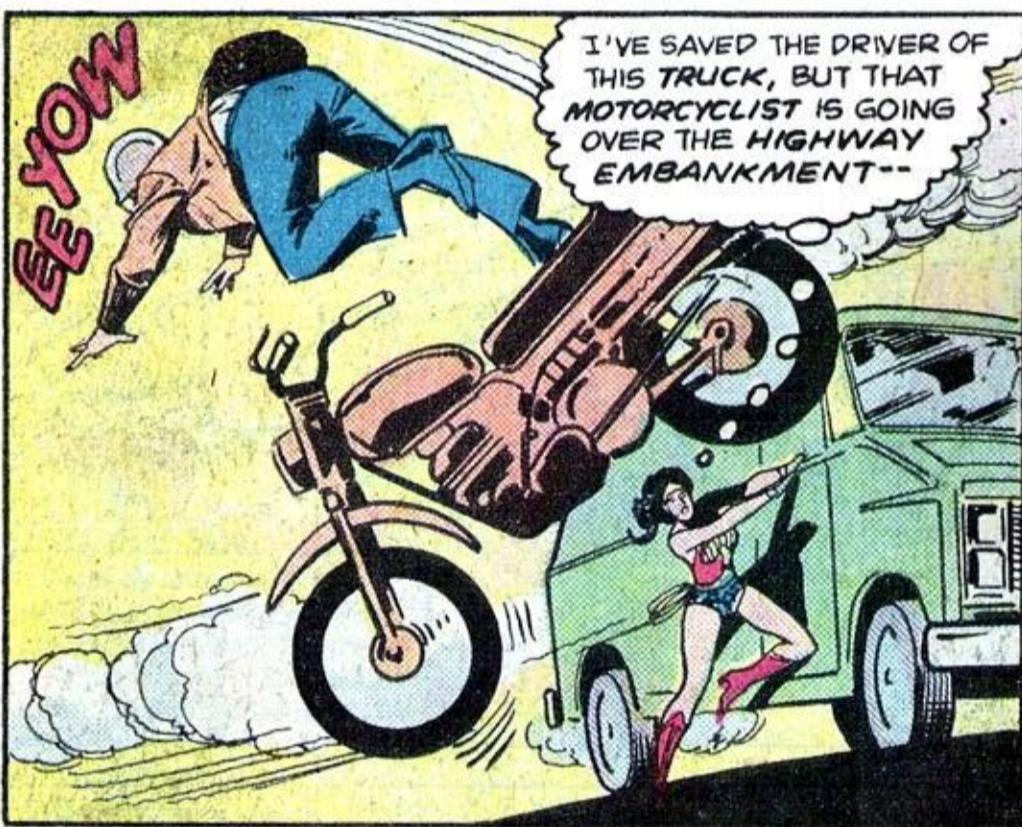
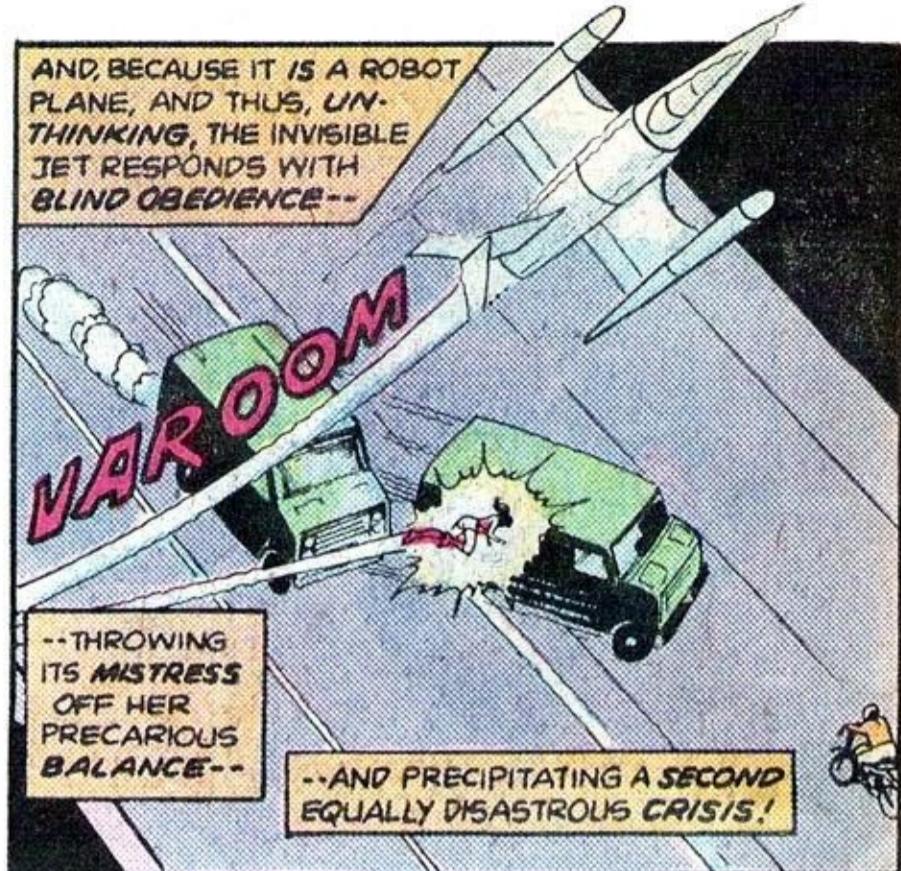
NORMALLY,  
I COULD  
RIDE THE  
AIR  
CURRENTS  
TO THE  
GROUND...

...BUT THERE'S A STORM  
WIND BLOWING UP OFF  
THE POTOMAC, AND I'D  
HAVE ABOUT AS MUCH  
MANEUVERABILITY AS A  
LOOSE STRAW!

EXCELLENT, ROBOT PLANE--  
NOW FOLLOW THE TRAIL OF  
EL GAUCHO TO THE WEST,  
BEFORE WE LOSE--

EH? MERCIFUL  
MINERVA!

SWOOSH



AT THAT VERY MOMENT, SEVERAL HUNDRED MILES NORTH,  
IN NEW YORK HARBOR, AS A MAJESTIC YACHT LEAVES  
THE BAY FOR THE OPEN SEA...

NOW THAT'S WHAT  
I CALL A TRIM SHIP...

WHAT'S HER NAME?  
THE "LEVIATHAN"?

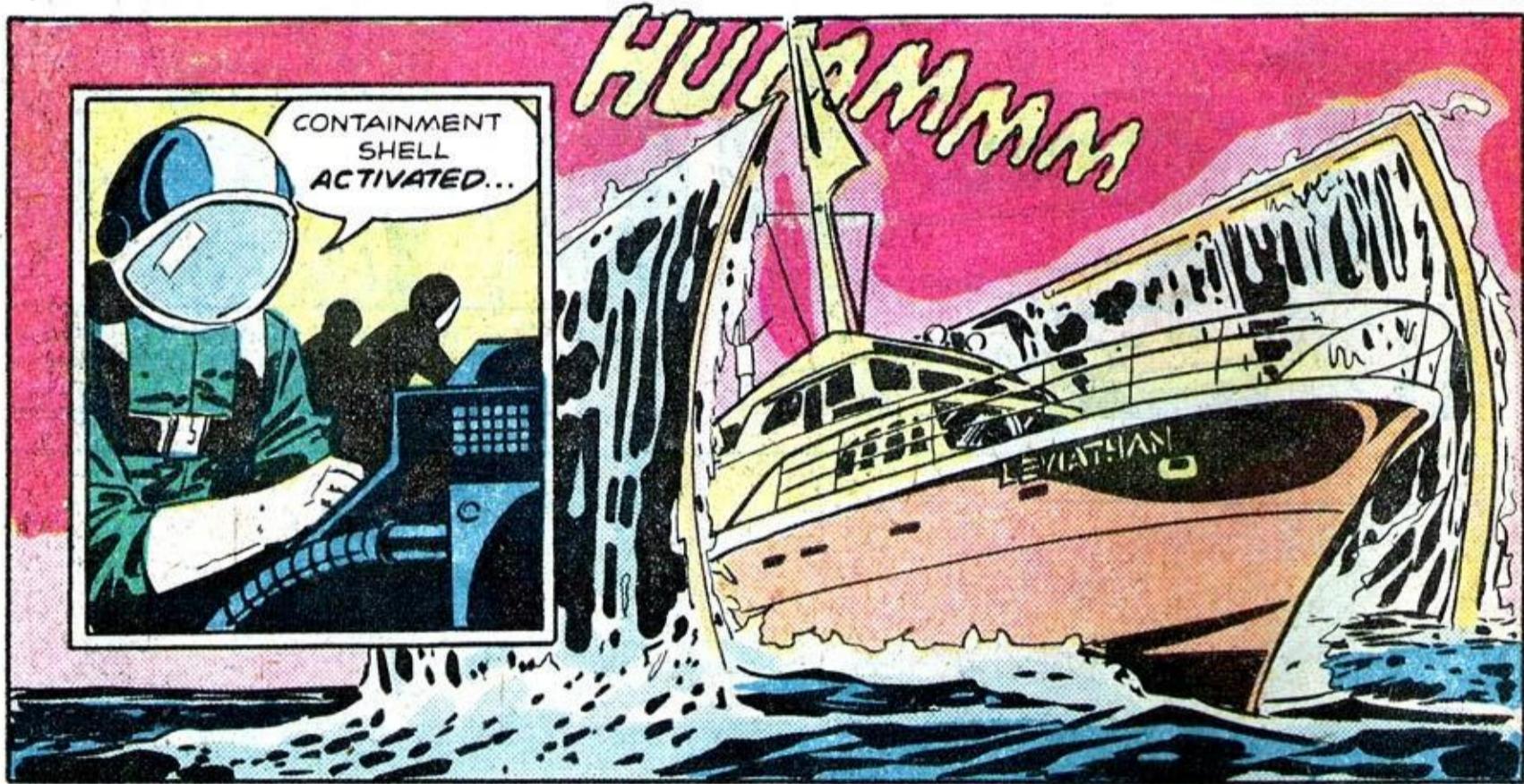
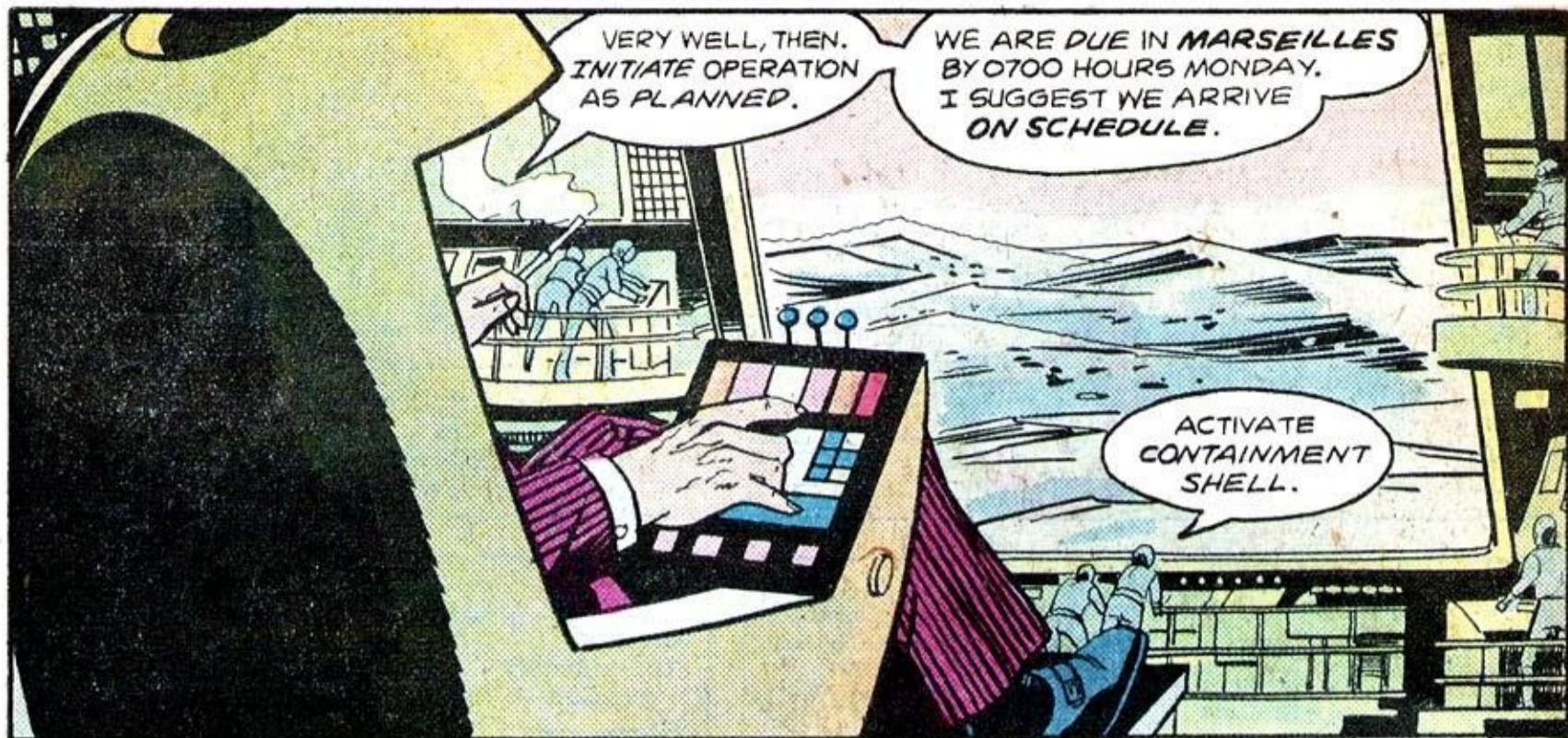
IT'S COMPANY SHIP, OWNED  
BY ONE OF THOSE BIG MULTI-  
NATIONAL CONGLOMERATES.  
THEIR EXECUTIVES USE  
HER FOR...AH...BUSINESS  
TRIPS...

BROTHER, IF THAT'S  
BUSINESS, WHAT  
ARE WE DOING IN  
THE COAST  
GUARD?

AH, BUT AS IS TRUE WITH SO MANY THINGS IN  
LIFE, ONE MUST SOMETIMES, LOOK **BENEATH**  
**MERE SURFACE BEAUTY...**

...TO THE REALITY BELOW:

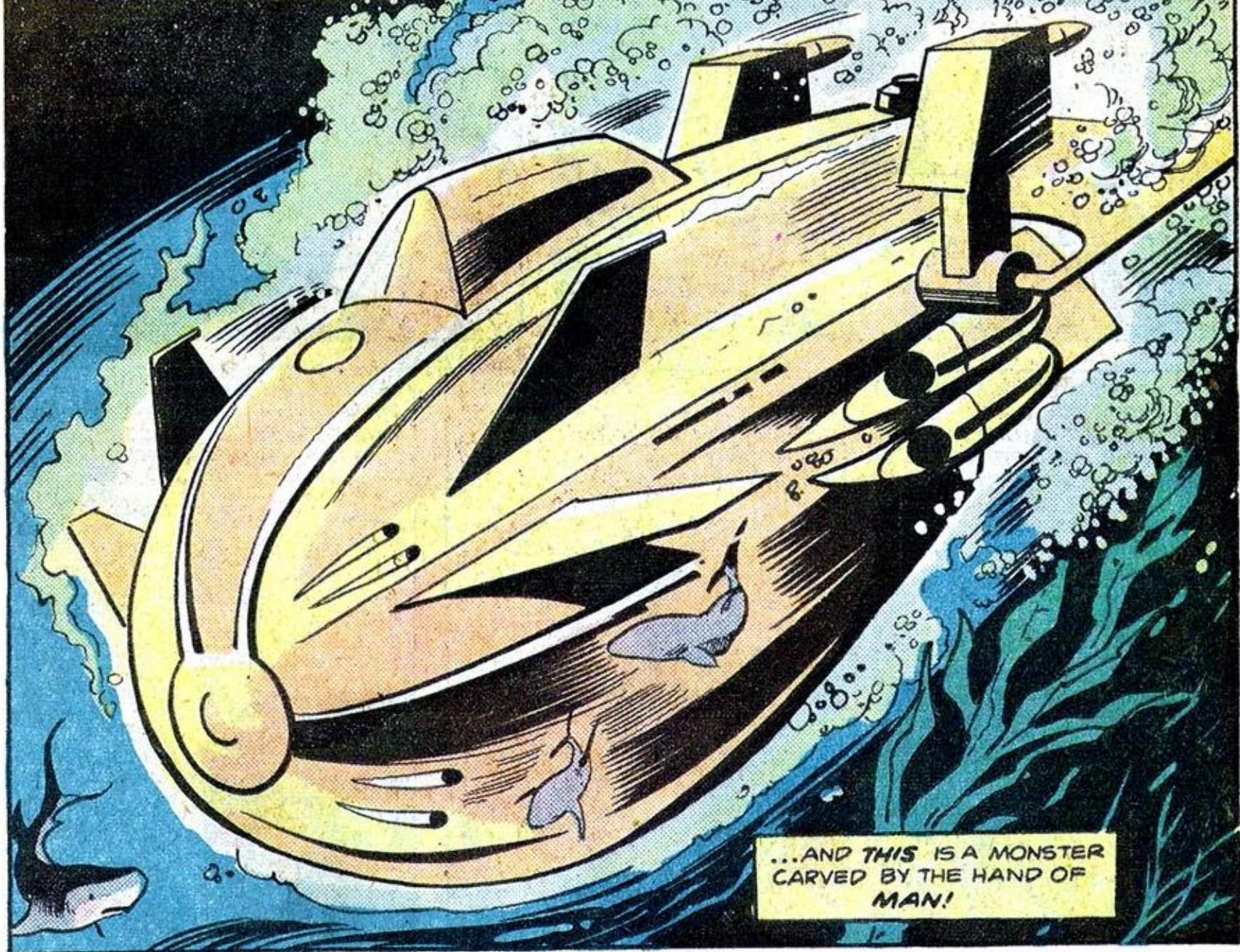
ALL DECKS  
REPORTING...  
COAST GUARD VESSEL  
IS MOVING OFF. WE  
ARE CLEAR FOR FULL  
FORWARD ENGINES...



MILTON, PARADISE LOST, BK. VII, 1.412:

"THERE LEVIATHAN,  
HUGEST OF LIVING CREATURES, ON THE DEEP  
STRETCH'D LIKE A PROMONTORY, SLEEPS OR SWIMS,  
AND SEEKS LIKE A MOVING LAND, AND AT HIS GILLS  
DRAWS IN, AND AT HIS TRUNK SPOUTS OUT A SEA."

PERHAPS JOHN MILTON HAD A  
MORE FRIGHTFUL CREATURE  
IN MIND THAN THIS -- BUT SUCH  
A CREATURE WOULD BE A  
MONSTER MADE BY GOD...



...AND THIS IS A MONSTER  
CARVED BY THE HAND OF  
MAN!

DEPTH: ONE THOUSAND  
FEET. ESTIMATED TIME  
OF ARRIVAL OFF  
MARSEILLES:  
0700 HOURS  
MONDAY.

EXCELLENT,  
EXCELLENT.  
PROCEED...  
AS  
PLANNED.

YOU! YOU  
THERE--I  
WANT AN  
EXPLANATION,  
BLAST IT!

I'M SORRY,  
SIR, THIS IS A  
RESTRICTED  
AREA...

THAT'S ALL RIGHT,  
GUARD MR.  
CRAMER HAS  
ALREADY SEEN  
OUR OPERATIONS  
ROOM. LET HIM  
IN.

YOU'RE THE ONE THEY  
CALL THE PRIME  
PLANNER, AREN'T  
YOU?

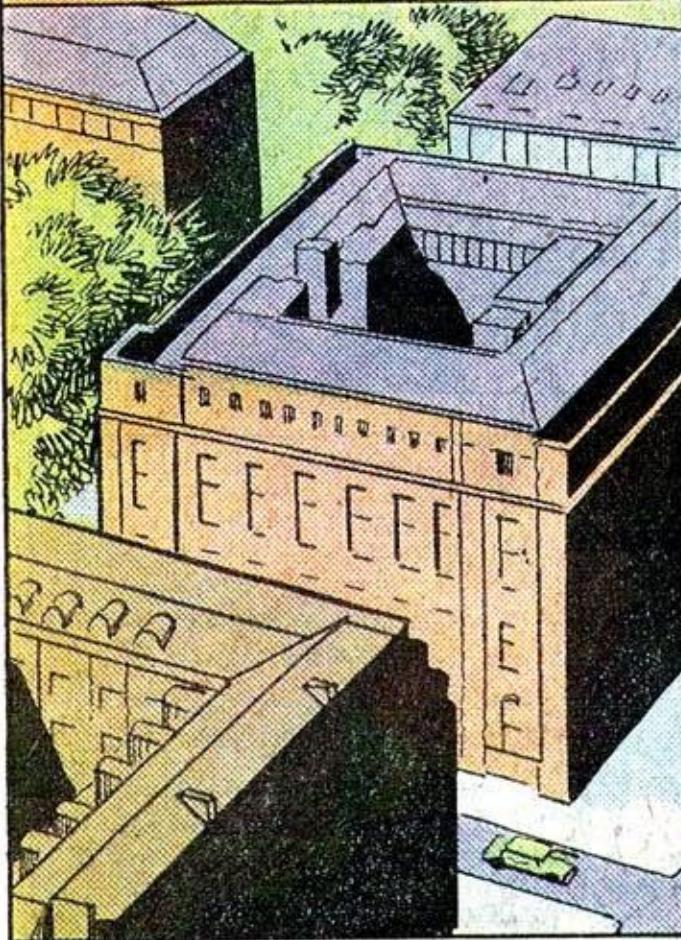
YOU'RE THE  
ONE I TALKED  
TO BEFORE!





THE SUN IS TREMBLING ON THE HORIZON,  
TIPPING TOWARD SUNSET, AS WE RE-  
TURN OUR ATTENTION TO THE DISTRICT  
OF COLUMBIA...

THERE, IN THE COURTYARD BEHIND A  
TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY BROWNSTONE  
HOUSING THE LAW FIRM OF MEYER  
AND COBLENTZ--



--A MIRACULOUS  
TRANSFORMATION TAKES  
PLACE IN THE DYING LIGHT  
OF DAY--



--AS A PRINCESS  
FROM PARADISE  
ISLAND EXCHANGES  
THE GARB OF AN  
AMAZON WARRIOR--



--FOR THE SOMEWHAT MORE SEDATE  
ACCOLUTMENTS OF THE CIVILIAN  
DIANA PRINCE!

THEN, MOMENTS LATER ...

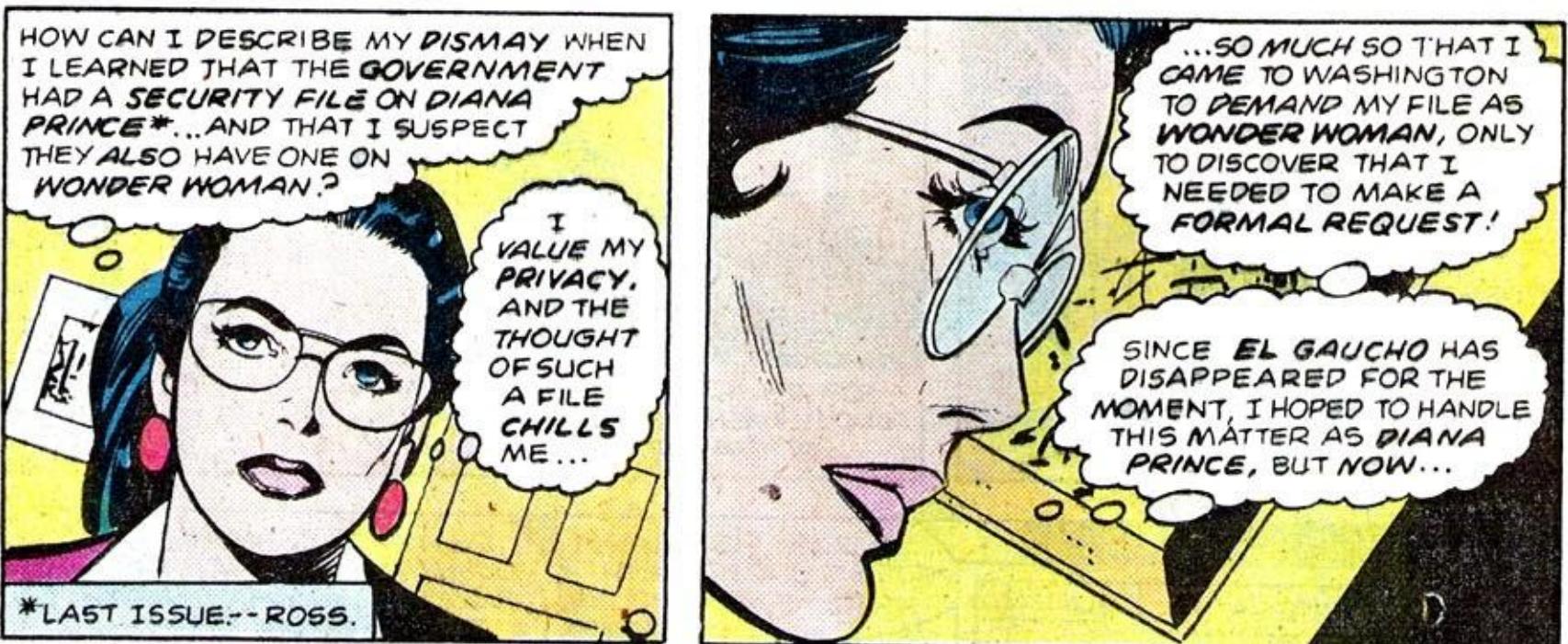
I'D LIKE TO HELP YOU,  
MS. PRINCE, BUT IT'S  
GETTING RATHER  
LATE...

...AND I'M REALLY NOT  
SURE I UNDERSTAND  
WHAT YOU WANT.

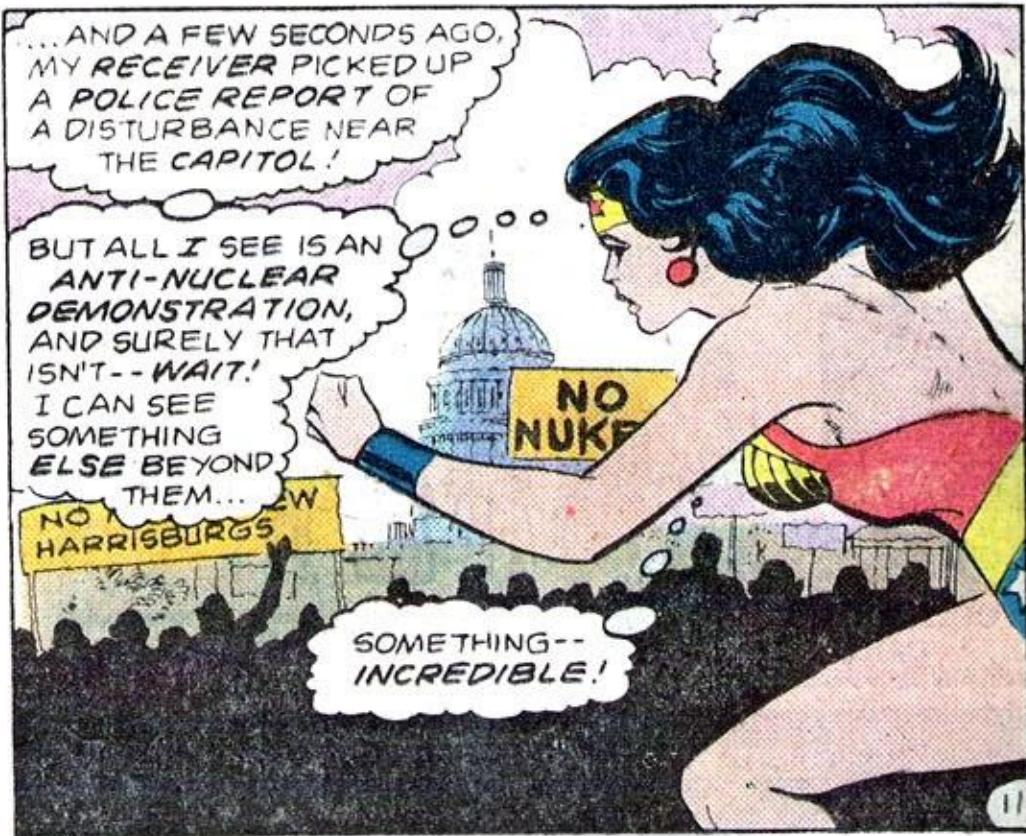
I WANT TO EXAMINE THE  
GOVERNMENT'S FILE ON  
WONDER WOMAN--UNDER  
THE FREEDOM OF  
INFORMATION ACT.

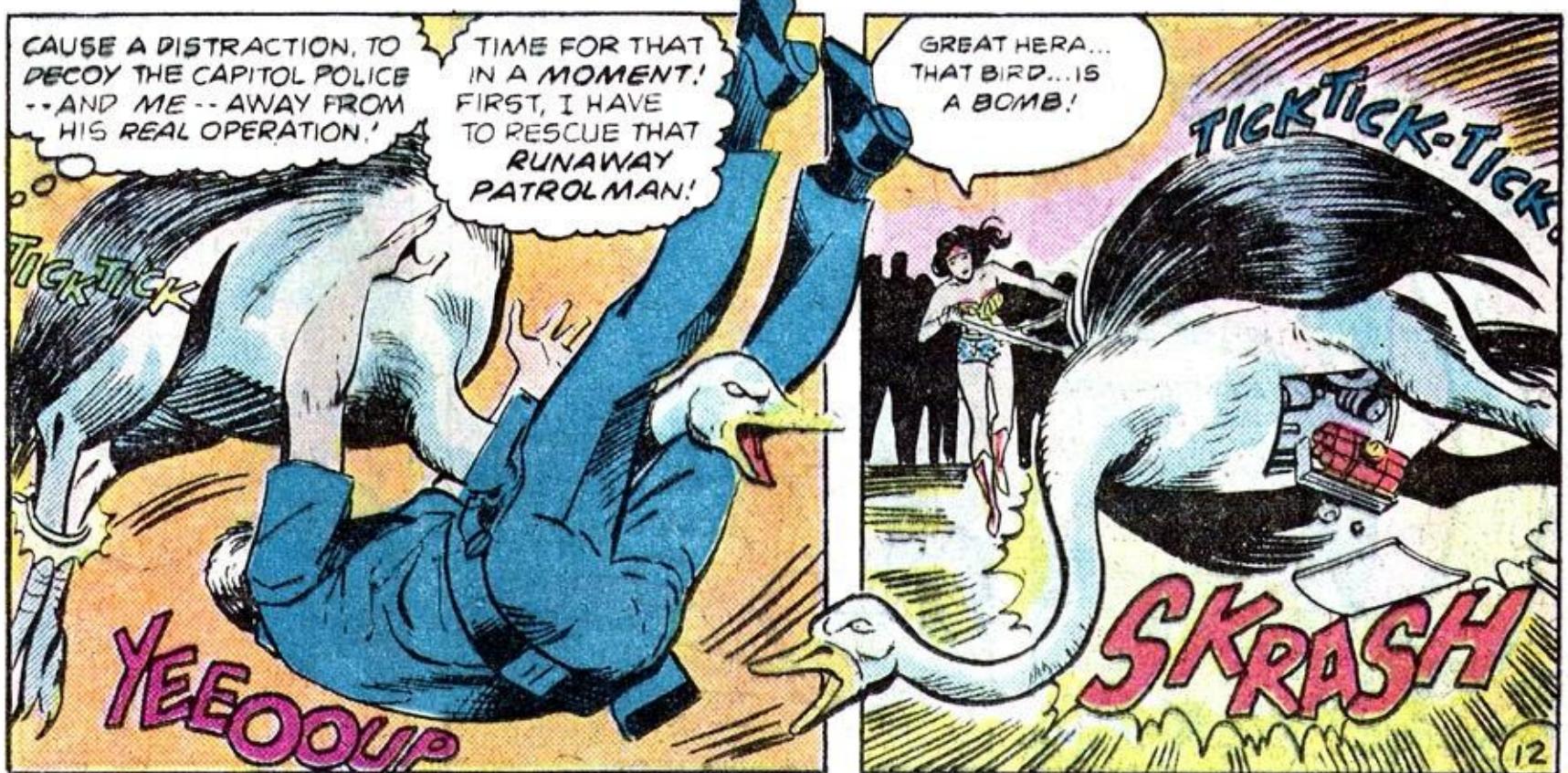
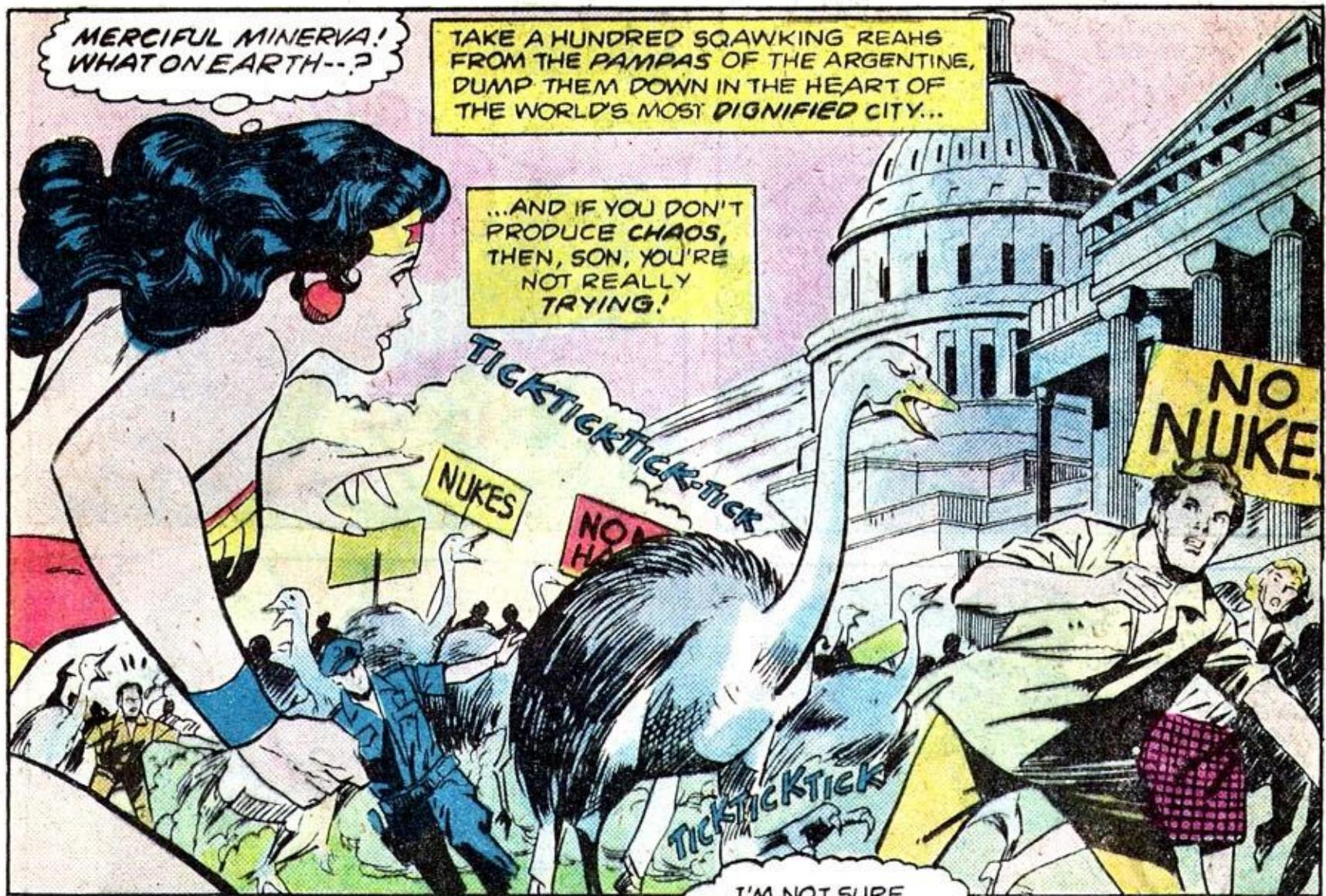
YES...  
BUT  
WHY?

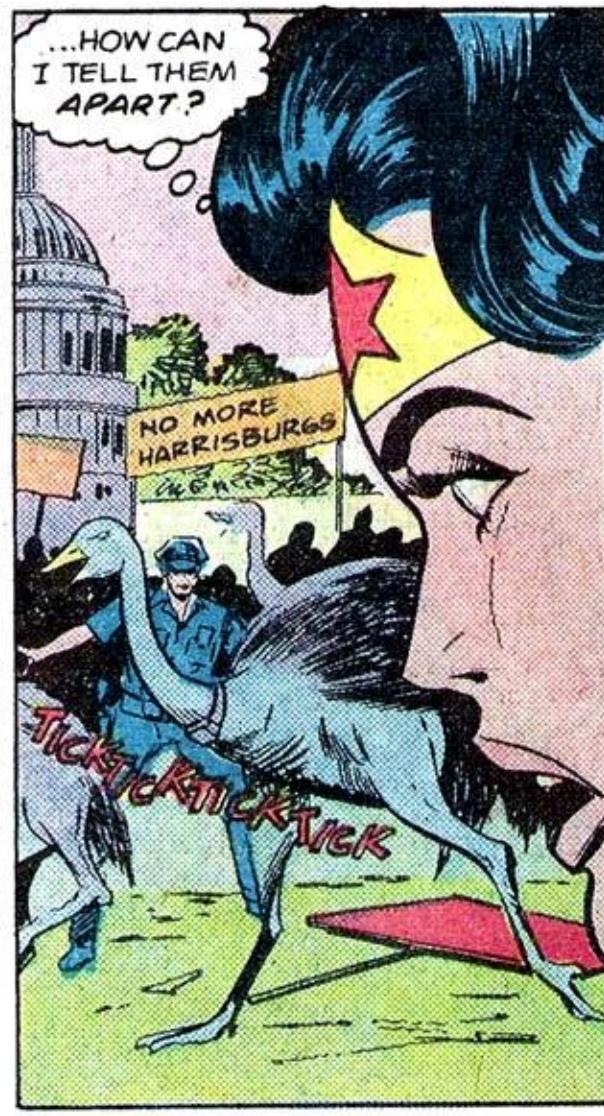
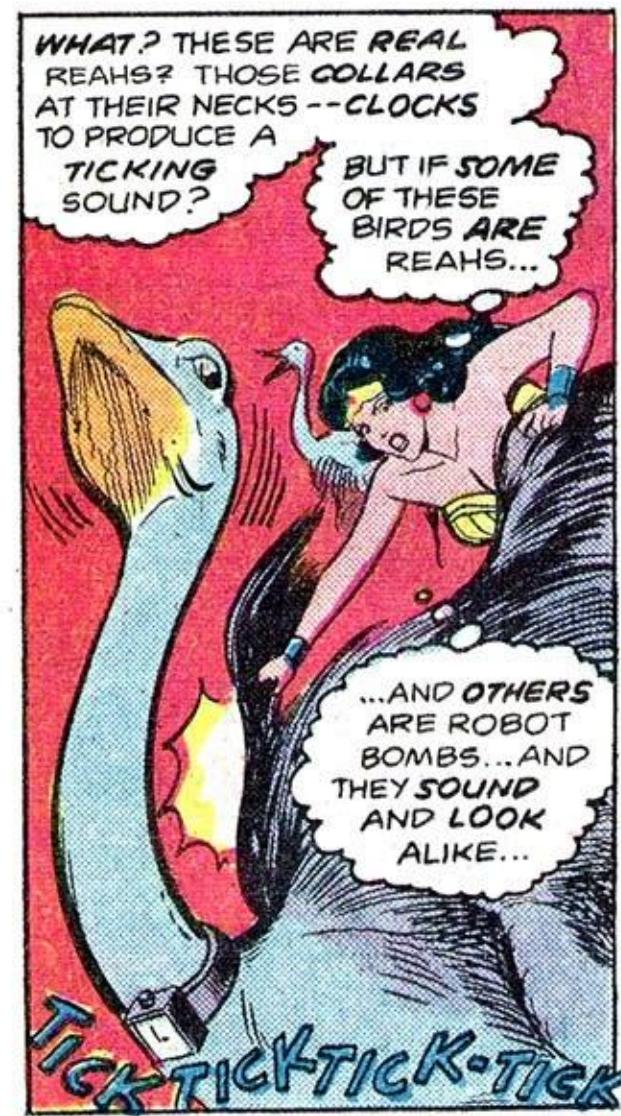
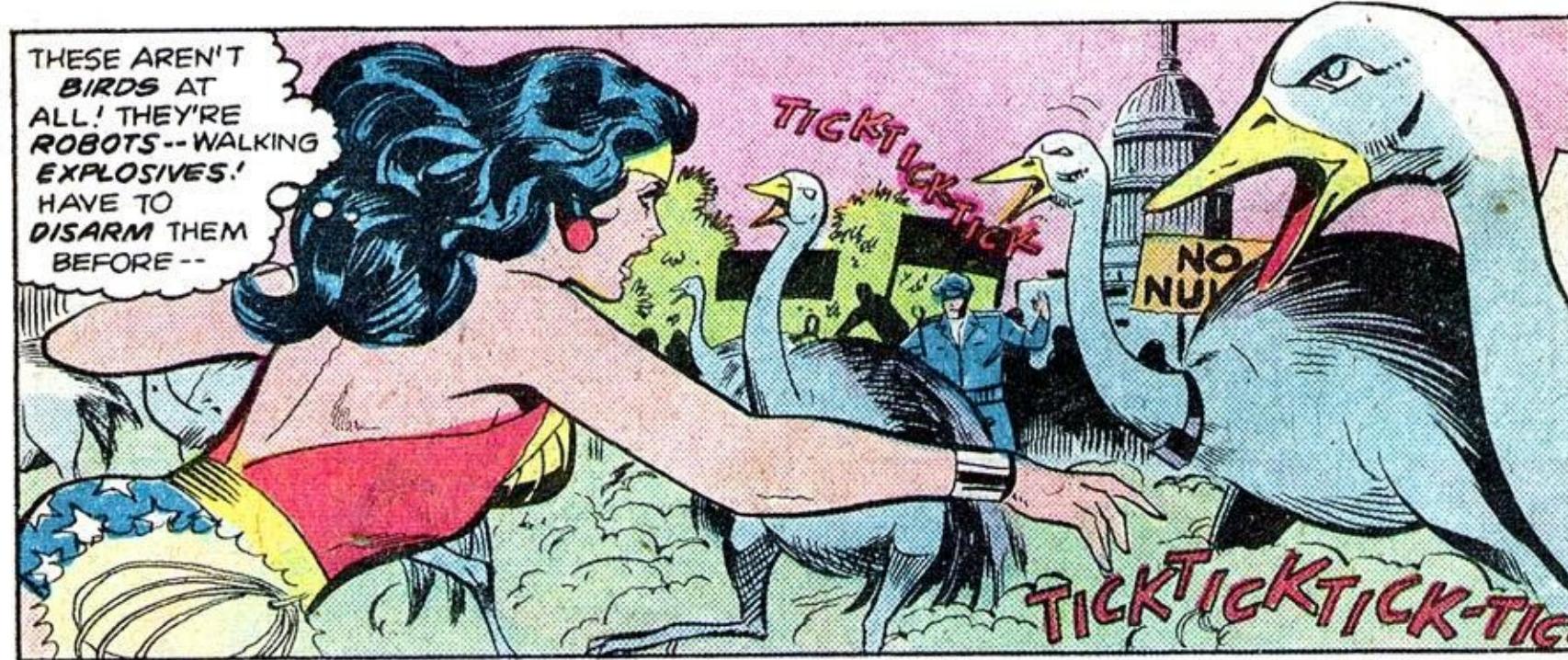
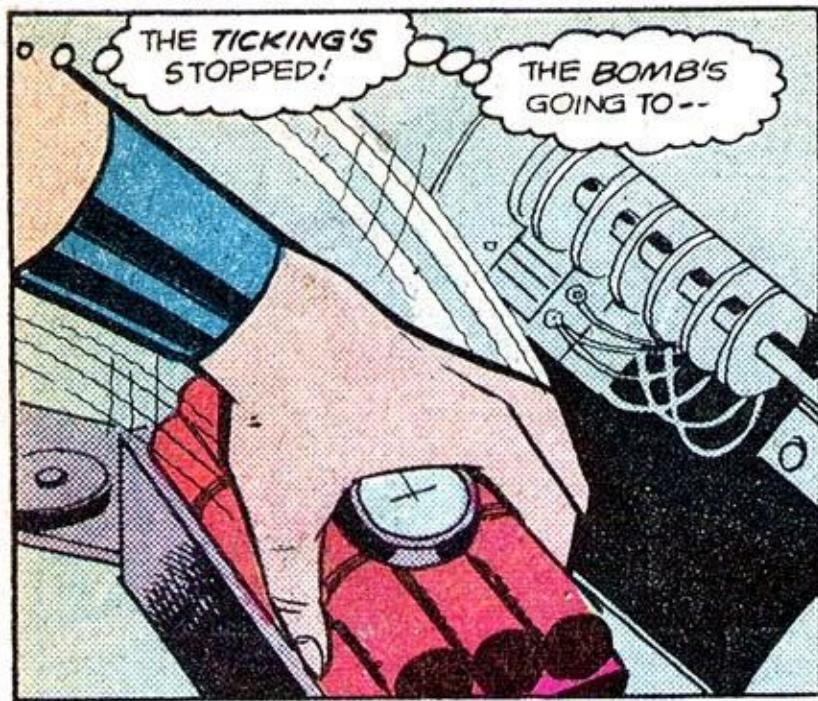




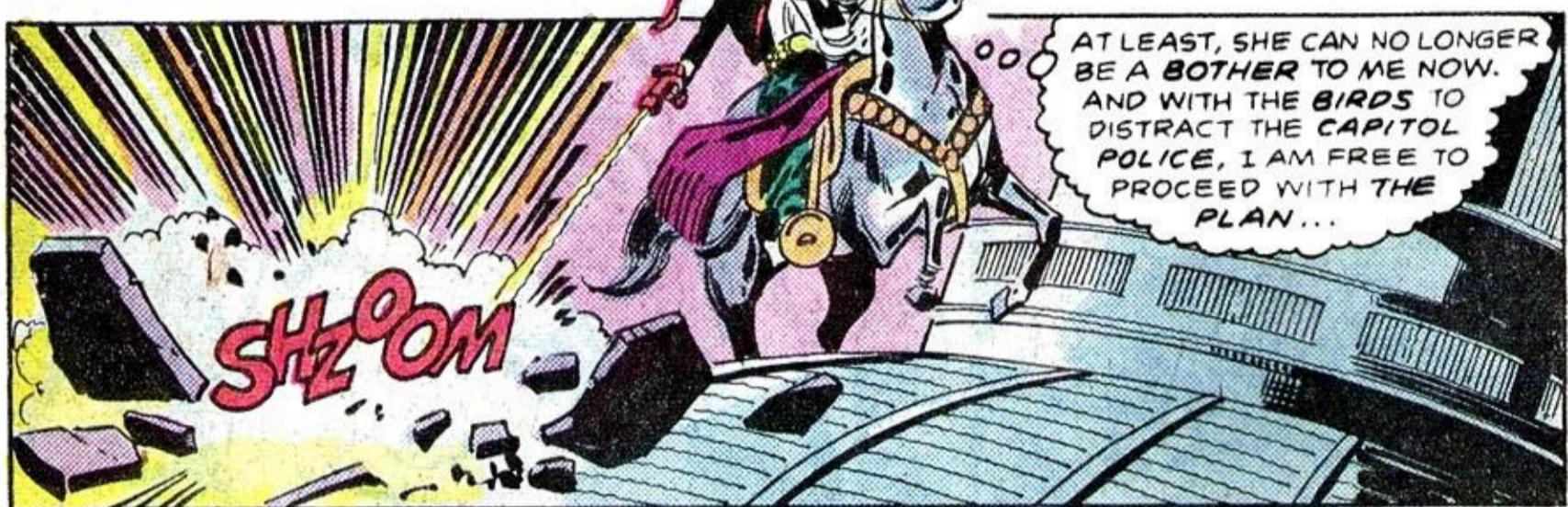
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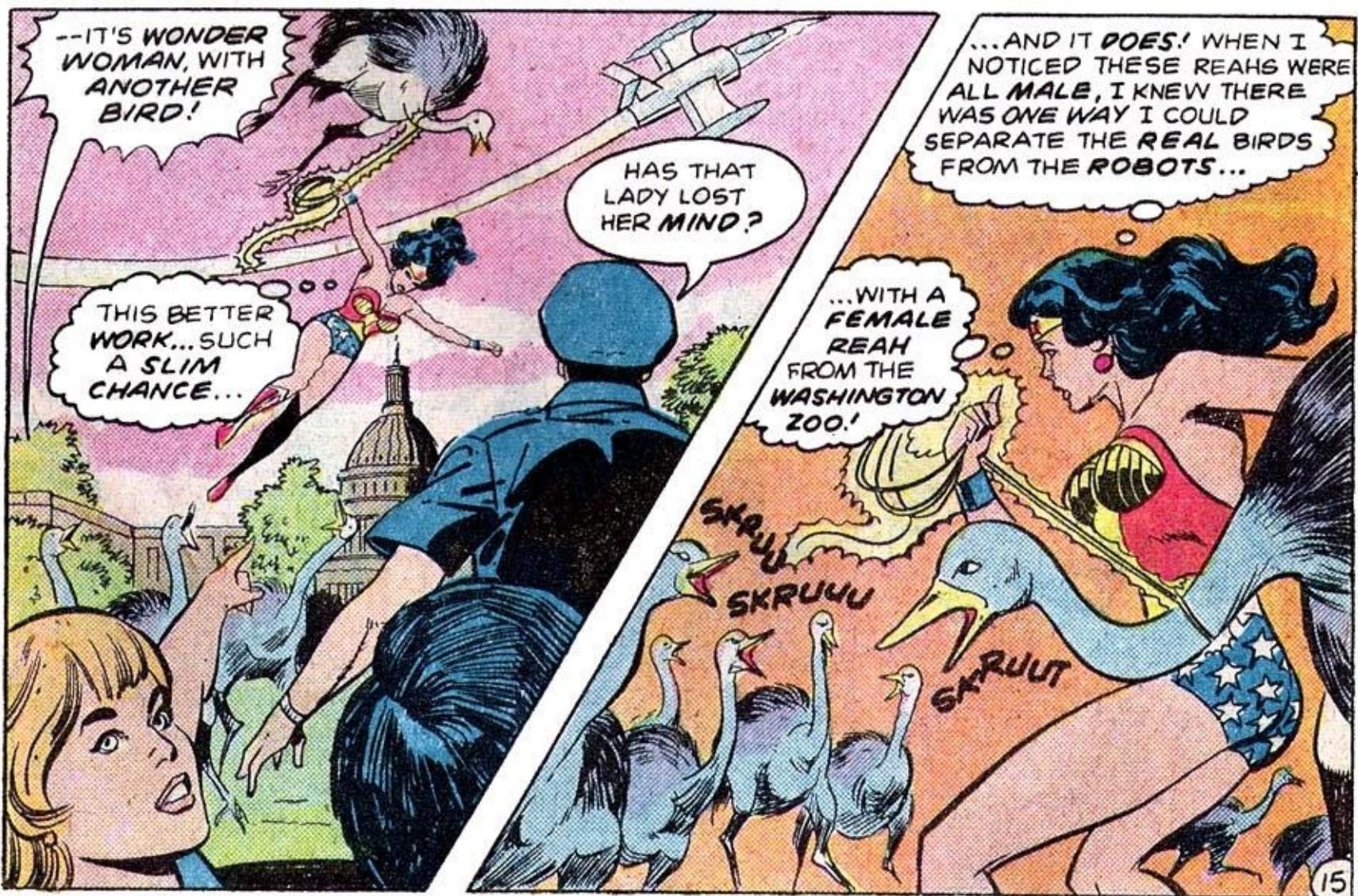
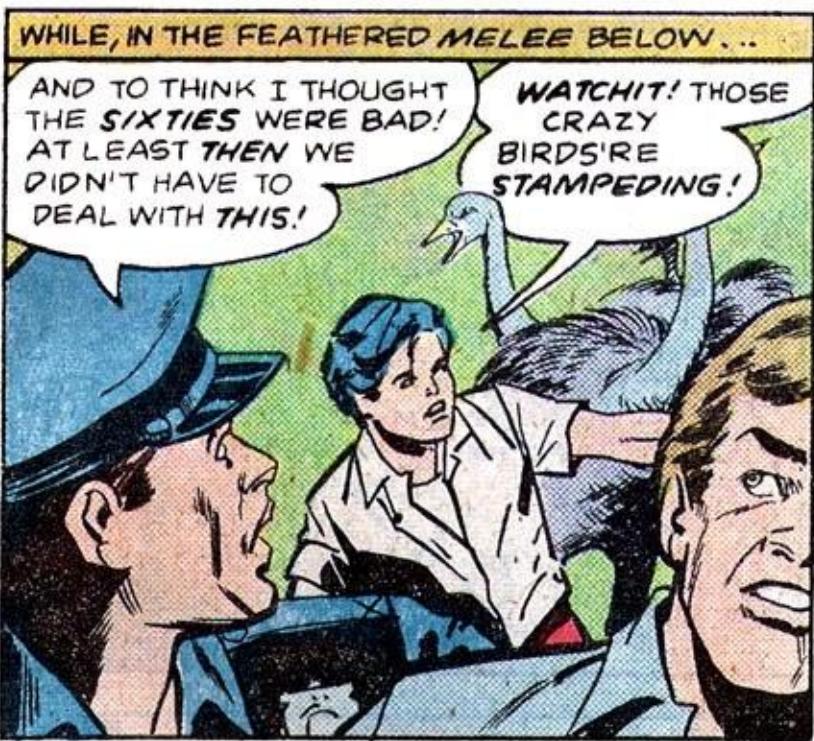
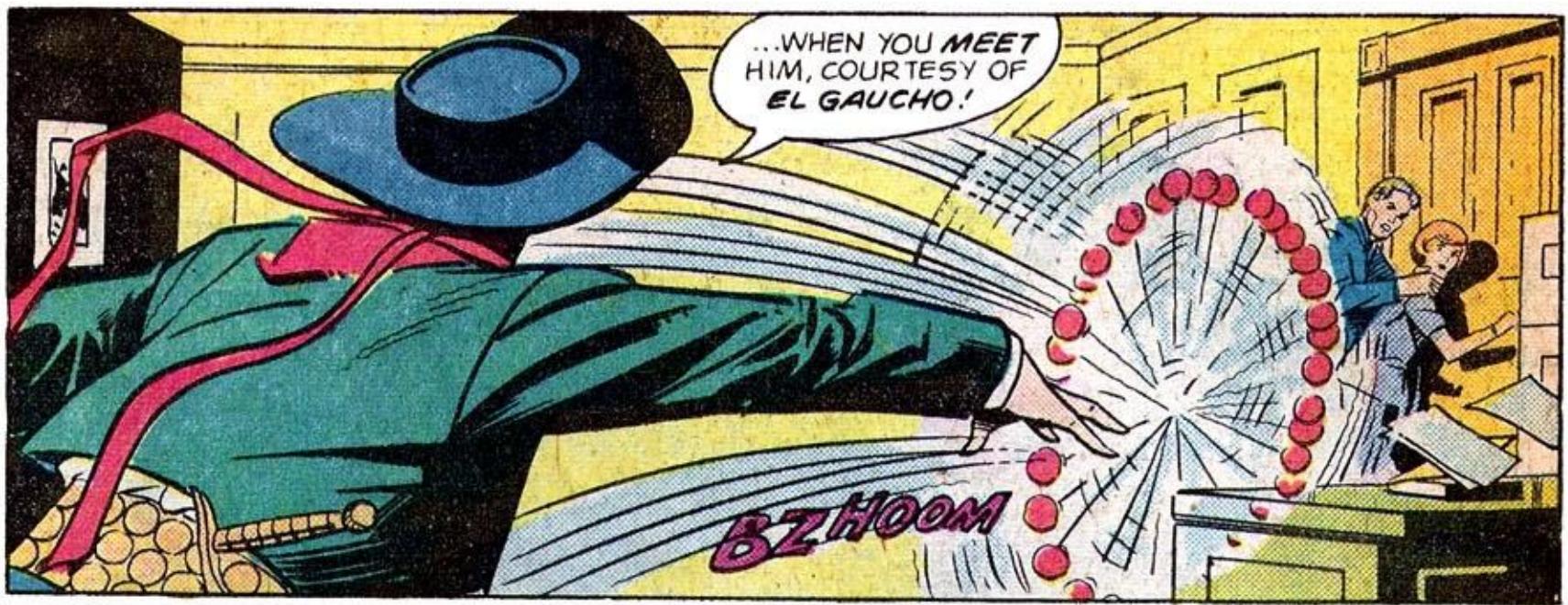


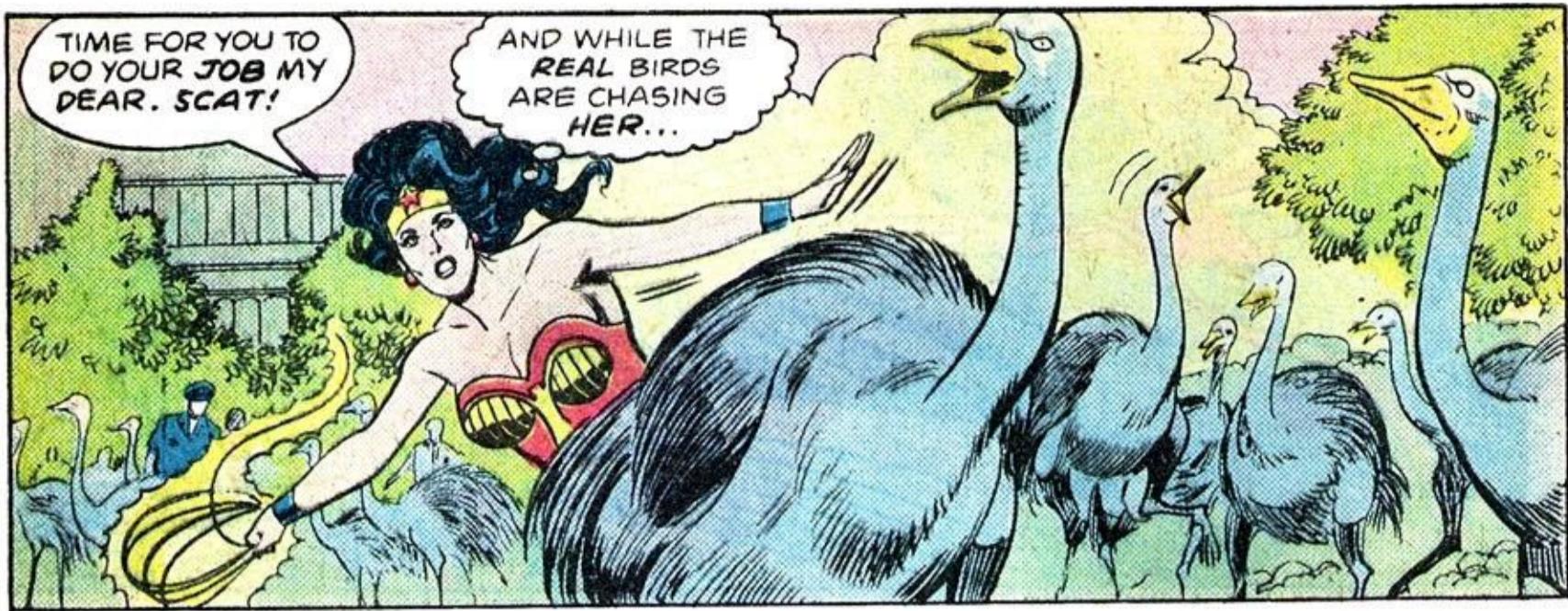


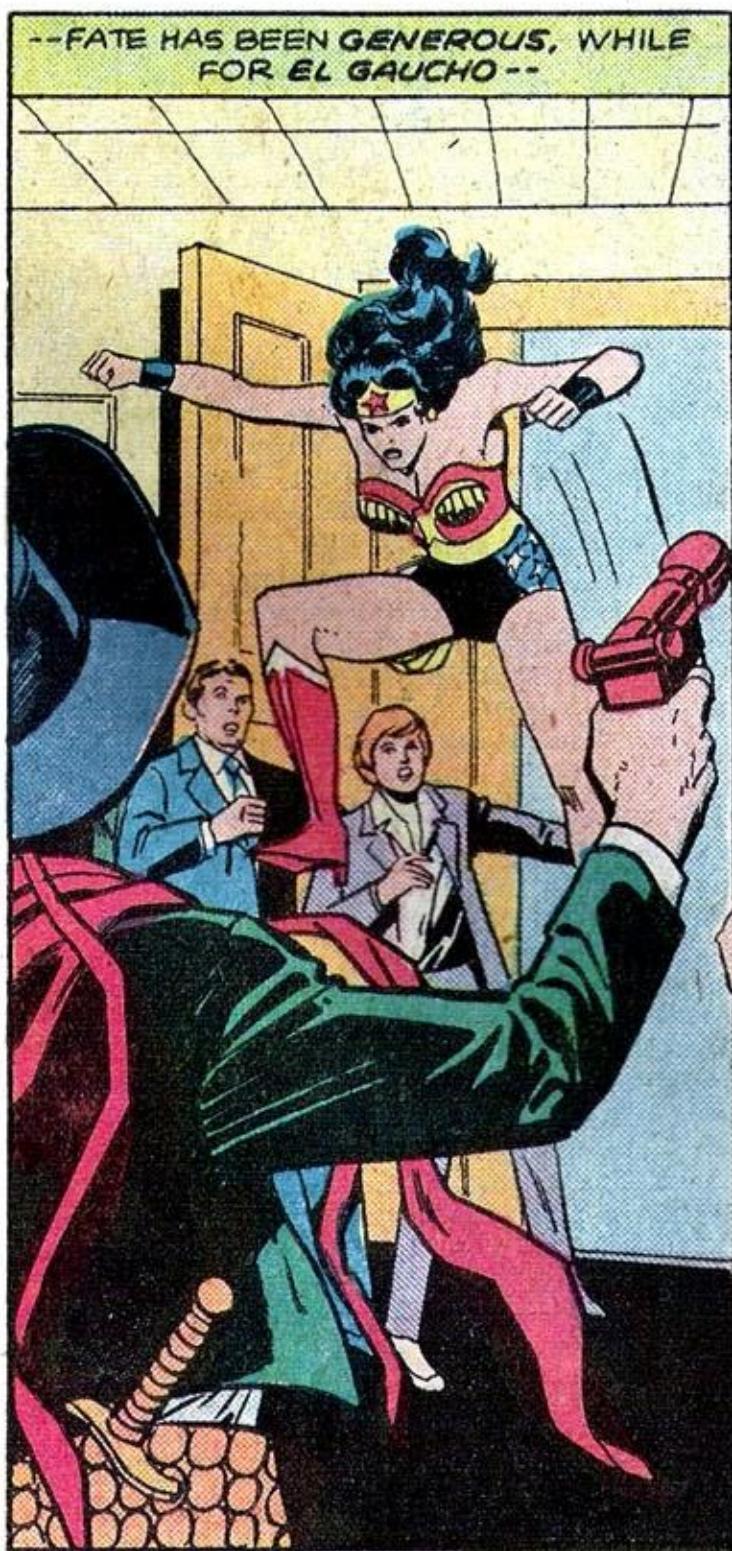


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NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE FIRST WEEK IN DECEMBER



# Wonder Words

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

Dear Wonder People:

Now that I know which hero you planned Wonder Woman to have a romance with, I'm glad you didn't. Green Lantern would have been a very poor choice—especially the way his character is portrayed in recent issues of Green Lantern/Green Arrow. My vote was for Superman.

Ever since World's Finest #204, when Diana Prince was matched by a computer dating service with Clark Kent, I've been hankering for a Superman/Wonder Woman romance. Both have loved others that have always left something to be desired. Supes always wished Lois could be more considerate of Clark and he always had reason to suspect that she was only in love with the hero instead of the man. Wonder Woman's Steve Trevor was always too macho to have a real relationship with Diana—she needs someone able to understand an Amazon's heart as well as her thoughts. And that sounds like a job for Superman!!

Victoria Schodowski

*I just loved the way you put that, Victoria. Your argument was succinct, clear and to the point. You've won me over sure enough. Now, about the editors...—NR*

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor,

I've always been amazed the way things work themselves out. When WW lost her powers and began a new life it was, of course, a move to boost her then-sagging sales. This led to the confusing WW #204 in which readers were even more confused on how the Amazing Amazon got her powers. But since then what have the above events brought us? A very realistic Super heroine, the only one that I've read that has had so many problems in both guises and still goes on fighting crime. A truly three (or more) dimensional character (unlike the T.V. version who I refuse to believe is really WW.) She has lost her only love twice and still goes on fighting the element she lost him in. WW gives strength to all women by her determination and strength. Something she's done since 1942 and will no doubt continue to do.

Fred Grandinetti  
96 Edenfield Ave.

Watertown, Mass. 02172

*Fred, you make me want to walk right out of the office and go off and do something noble! My spirits are uplifted by your admiration and affection for Wonder Woman. I feel proud to know you as a fan. Wonder Woman may be an inspiration to her readers, but you are an inspiration to all of us here. Thanks.—NR*

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor:

I have gotten WW's comic for the first time in three years. I am a recent high school graduate and for once I can afford your comics.

I was completely surprised when you changed your format from World War II to now. I was also surprised when I did not see Steve Trevor in this issue. Hurrah for Diana quitting the space program as she did in this issue. How would her WW costume look if she went into outer space?

Natalie E. Balitski

*A little history so you can catch up. Wonder Woman has always been a "present day" tale (even during World War II when that was "present day"). About three years ago, the WW format was changed so that it would tie in with the TV show, which was set in World War II. However, (and here's where it gets a little complicated, Natalie), the Wonder Woman presented in our comic books was the Earth II Wonder Woman and her story was the past adventures of Wonder Woman in World War II. Does that make things any clearer? The Wonder Woman we are reading today is from Earth I and she lives in 1980, just like us.... Wonder Woman flies around in space in the same outfit she flies around New York in. However, a space costume is an interesting idea.... And I hope I'm not the first to break the news to you, but Steve Trevor is dead.—NR*

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor:

Let me see if I got this right. You had an idea and rejected it because a reader suggested it. Excellent! You have given all your readers the proper incentive to shut off their minds. After all, what if someone does come up with a brilliant idea? There's no point in letting you know about it because it would guarantee that the idea will never be used. Your message is loud and clear. The next time I have an idea on how something interesting and positive can be done in Wonder Woman, I'll keep it to myself.

Robert Rapp

W. 1823 Shannon  
Spokane, Washington 99205

*Yours was such a feisty, spirited letter, Robert, that I just had to print it. Let me tell you, and anyone who's interested, this issue has come up before and we aim to relieve chagrin wherever humanly and editorially possible. Thus, in the October issue (#260) of Wonder Woman, we printed a letter from one Henry Martin, registering the same complaint as you, and explained how this whole mess got started and what we really meant by what we didn't say. We LOVE ideas from readers, we thrive on them. Don't stop sending them, else I shall feel blue. And forlorn is simply not my bag, mail bag, that is!—NR*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Diana Prince (alias you know who), all alone by the telephone, and I, slaving over a hot typewriter, request that you write us and write soon. For we are in want of human company, wonderful words (get it?) from all of you out there whom we do not know but would like to know. Share your thoughts and ideals. If you've got something interesting to say, we want to hear it (and when it's interesting enough, we'll print it). We need you readers to keep us editorial types in line. We want to make this column a home-away-from-home for our fans. We'll be waiting!—Nellie Cooke*



# KEEPING EARTH-2 SAFE FOR FUTURE COMIC FANS



**LIBERTY BELLE**