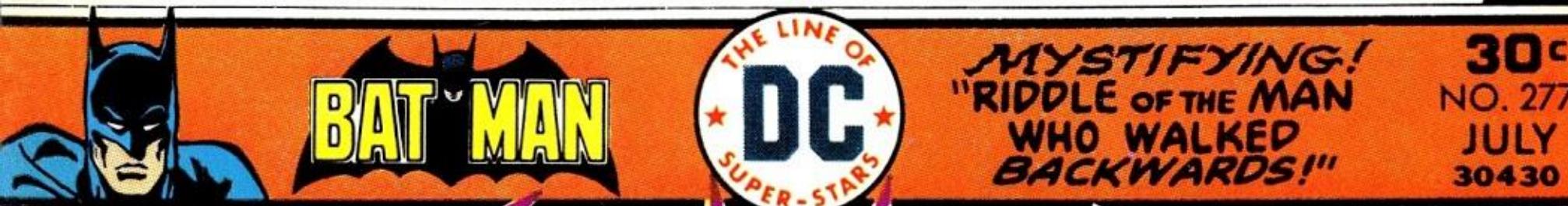


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# BATMAN



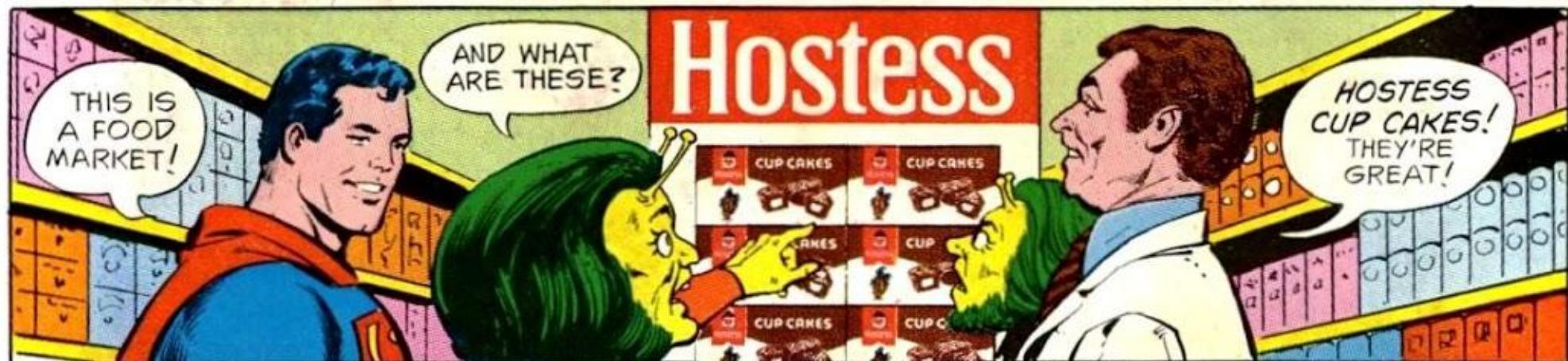
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ADVERTISEMENT

# SUPERMAN SAVES THE EARTH

ZOOMING  
THROUGH  
SPACE,  
SUPERMAN  
HEADS FOR  
AN ALIEN  
PLANET...

MUST REACH THE  
MEETING OF THE  
INTERSTELLAR  
COUNCIL BEFORE  
IT'S TOO LATE!



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FOR THE BATMAN, EVERY ENIGMA HAS A SOLUTION! TO THE DARK UNDERWORLD OF THE LAWLESS, HE BRINGS LIGHT--OPERATING ON CRIME WITH THE SUPERB PRECISION OF A SURGEON!  
BUT NOTHING IN THE ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER OF THE **WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE** HAD PREPARED HIM FOR A WAY-OUT MYSTERY-- WITH NO WAY OUT-- WHEN HE GRAPPLED WITH...

# BATMAN

## "THE RIDDLE OF THE MAN WHO WALKED BACKWARDS!"



STORY BY:  
DAVID V. REED  
ART BY:  
ERNIE CHUA  
& TEX BLAISDELL  
EDITED BY:  
JULIUS SCHWARTZ

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THE FLORIDA GULF COAST... AT THE LUXURIOUS BEACHFRONT HOME OF GOTHAM SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE--

--WHERE HE OCCASIONALLY FINDS PEACE AND RECREATION FROM HIS MOONLIGHTING AS THE BATMAN...

BUT--FROM THE LOOK OF THINGS--NOT TODAY!..

ANOTHER RIDICULOUS STORY ABOUT A NOCTURNAL SEA MONSTER AT COVE POINT!

TALK ABOUT SHARKS RUINING A RESORT AREA--THIS NONSENSE COULD BANKRUPT THE TOWNSPEOPLE AROUND HERE!

FRANKLY, I AM SCARED TO DEATH!

SEE? EVEN A SWEET, SENSIBLE PERSON LIKE YOU CAN BE AFFECTED--

TELL YOU WHAT, SUSAN! JUST FOR LAUGHS, LET'S STROLL OVER TO COVE POINT TONIGHT!

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

WHAT I USUALLY SAY TO YOU, BRUCE  
--YES!

THAT NIGHT... A FULL MOON DAPPLES THE SEA... THE QUIET BROKEN ONLY BY ONRUSHING SURF...

THEN--AT THE APPROACH TO COVE POINT--

B-BRUCE--LOOK! COMING UP ON THE BEACH--!

I SEE IT!

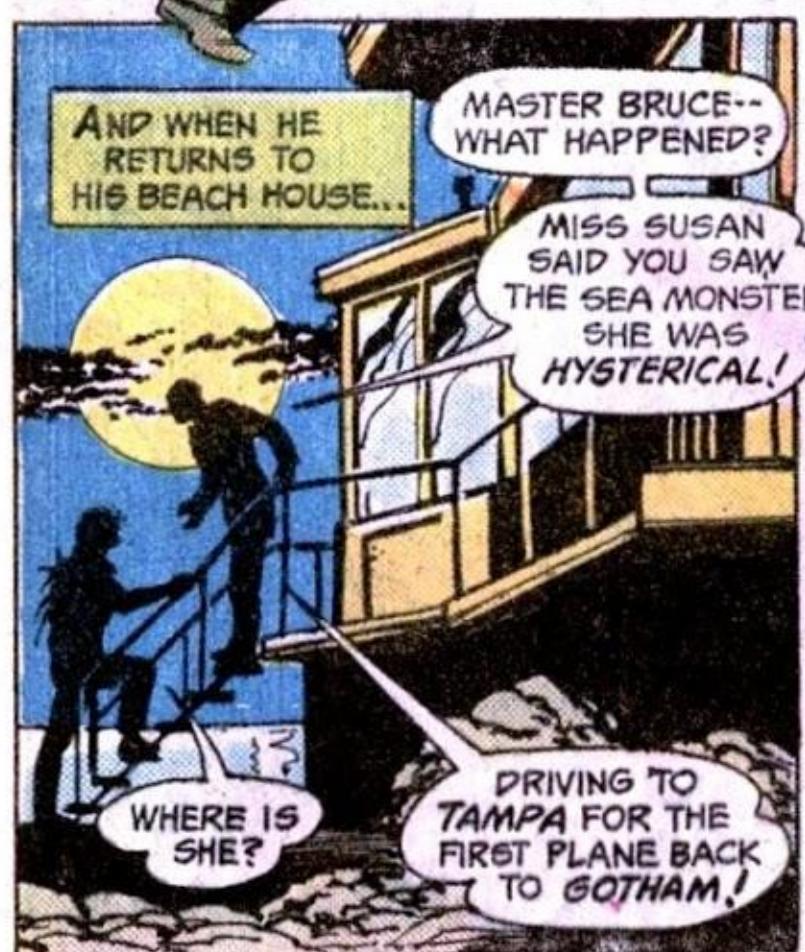
GET BACK TO THE HOUSE --FAST!

NOTHING HERE BIG ENOUGH FOR A WEAPON--

--BUT THIS BRUSH SHOULD BE DRY ENOUGH TO BURN--!

--WHERE HE OCCASIONALLY FINDS PEACE AND RECREATION FROM HIS MOONLIGHTING AS THE BATMAN...





THE FOLLOWING NIGHT... ALONG THE DESERTED BEACH NEAR COVE POINT...

OFFSHORE A SMALL DINGHY ANCHORS... HIDDEN AMONG JUTTING ROCKS...

...FROM WHICH A MAN COMES WADING IN...

UNSEEN EYES OBSERVE HIM THROUGH AN INFRARED NIGHT-SCOPE AS HE COMES OUT OF THE WATER--

--HUNKED OVER--AND WALKING BACKWARDS!

AS THE DIM FIGURE VANISHES BEHIND A HILLOCK, THE SAND SUDDENLY COMES ALIVE-- BEGINS TO STIR!

THAT WAS NO SEA MONSTER--

--BUT Equally INTERESTING!

NO FOOTPRINTS--?!

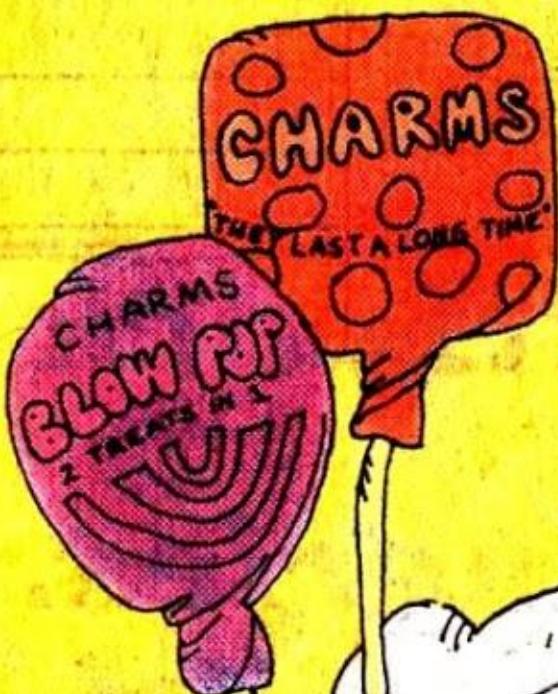
THAT'S WHY HE BENT OVER AND BACKED UP THE BEACH--ERASING HIS FOOTPRINTS AS HE WENT!

BUT WHERE'D HE GO--INTO THAT CAVE--?

LET'S SEE--

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

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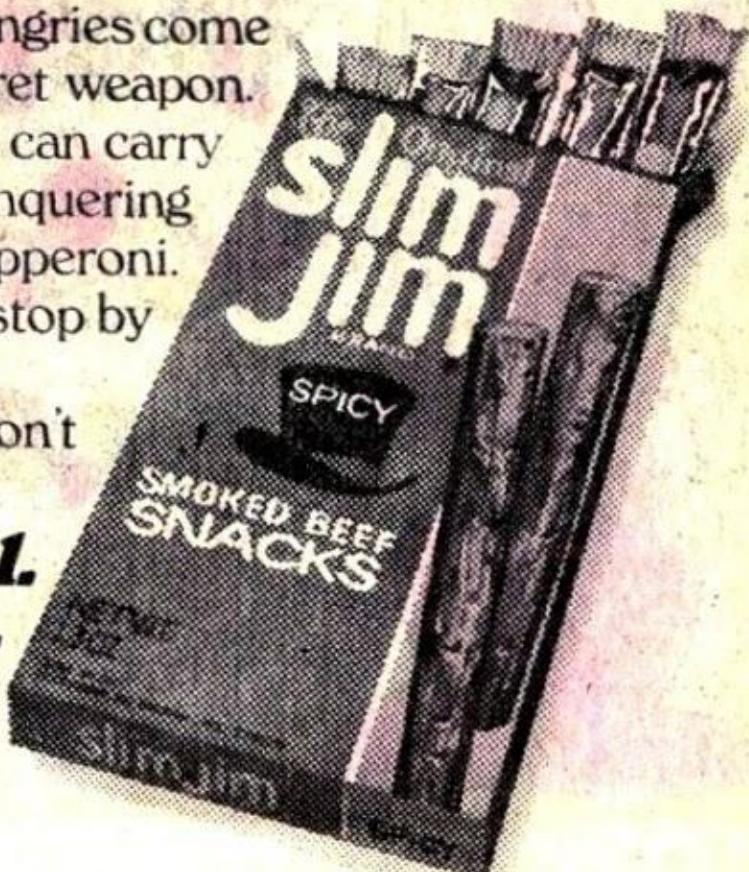
If you want to be ready, next time the Hungries come around, try taking along your pocket-size secret weapon.

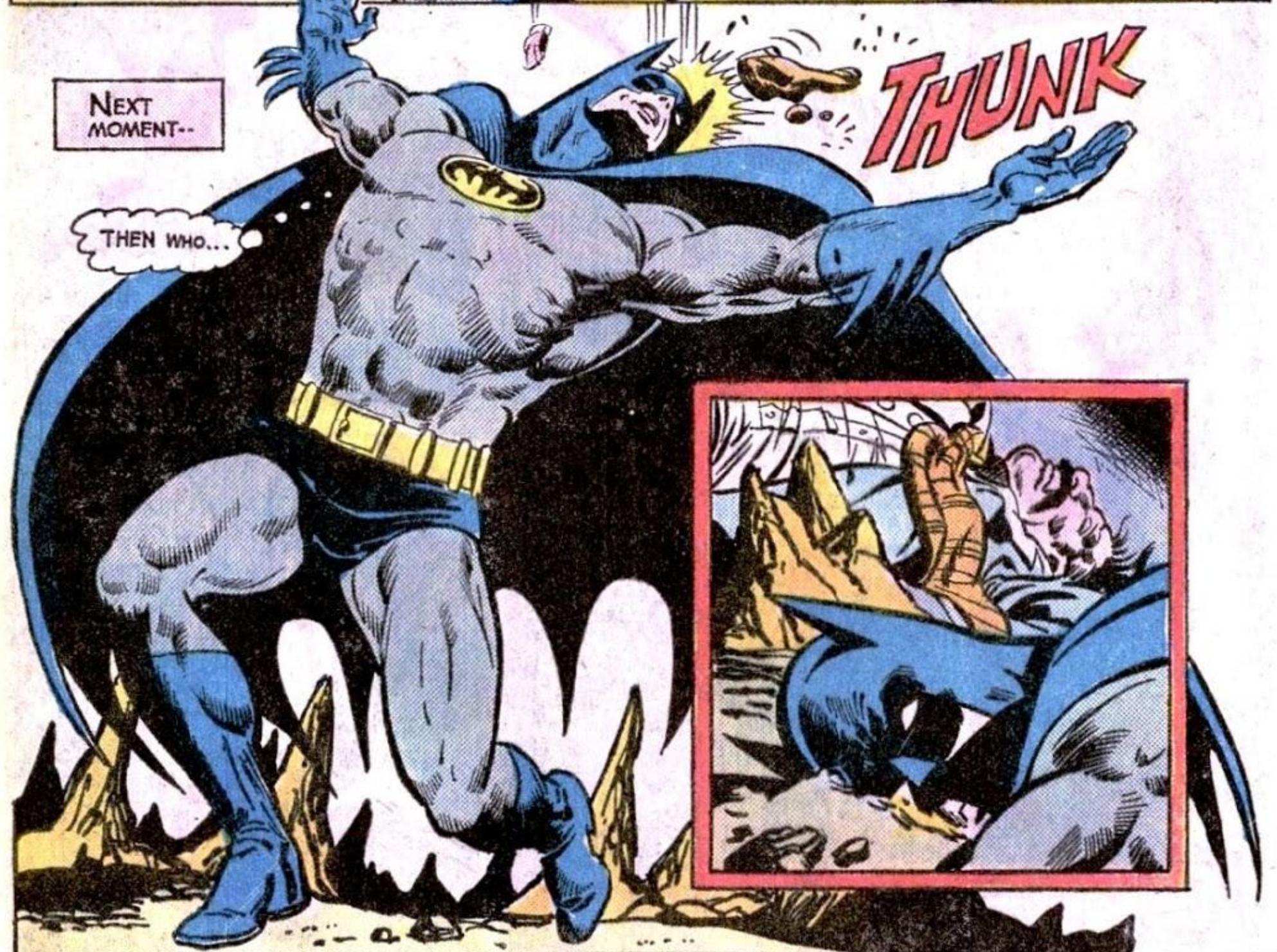
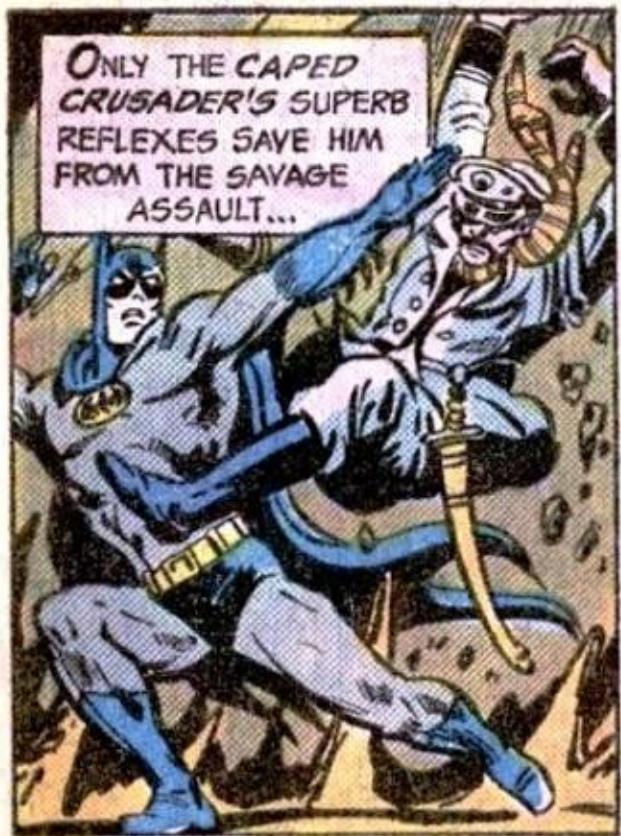
Slim Jim® The mighty meat snack you can carry anywhere, and eat anytime. In six Hungries-conquering flavors—mild, spicy, pizza, bacon, salami, and pepperoni.

So pick up Slim Jim the next time you stop by the grocery store.

If you don't, and the Hungries get you, don't say we didn't warn you.

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





EONS PASS  
BEFORE THE  
BATMAN'S  
EYES OPEN...  
BEGIN TO  
FOCUS...  
AND SOUND  
FILLS THE  
CAVE--

BRUCE WAYNE, YOU  
HAVE THE RIGHT TO  
REMAIN SILENT...  
ANYTHING YOU SAY  
CAN BE USED AGAINST  
YOU...

... YOU'RE  
ENTITLED TO  
HAVE A LAWYER  
PRESENT DURING  
QUESTIONING...

BRUCE WAYNE?!  
WHY IS HE CALLING  
ME THAT?

? WHA--!?!-  
I... I'M BRUCE  
WAYNE AGAIN!

MY BATMAN GARB  
GONE-- ALL BUT  
MY BOOTS!

WHAT'S GOING  
ON HERE?-- WHAT  
AM I CHARGED  
WITH?

MURDER!  
THE MURDER OF  
SAM TAGGART--  
BLUDGEONED TO  
DEATH WITH HIS  
OWN PEG LEG!

SURE HATE  
TO DO THIS,  
WAYNE, BUT--

--I UNDERSTAND,  
SHERIFF! I HAVE  
NOTHING TO SAY!

THAT GROTESQUE  
CLAWED FOOT-  
PRINT NEAR  
TAGGART'S  
BODY-- NOBODY  
SEEMS TO HAVE  
NOTICED IT!

SOON AFTERWARD  
AT THE SMALL  
PORT HATCHED  
JAILHOUSE...

I'LL BE  
BACK IN THE  
MORNING...

...WE'LL HAVE  
TO KEEP ALL  
YOUR PERSONAL  
ARTICLES TILL THEN...

BARELY HAS  
THE OUTSIDE  
JAILHOUSE  
DOOR CLANGED  
SHUT THAN THE  
PRISONER  
REMOVES HIS  
BOOT...

NOT ALL  
MY PERSONAL  
ARTICLES,  
SHERIFF...

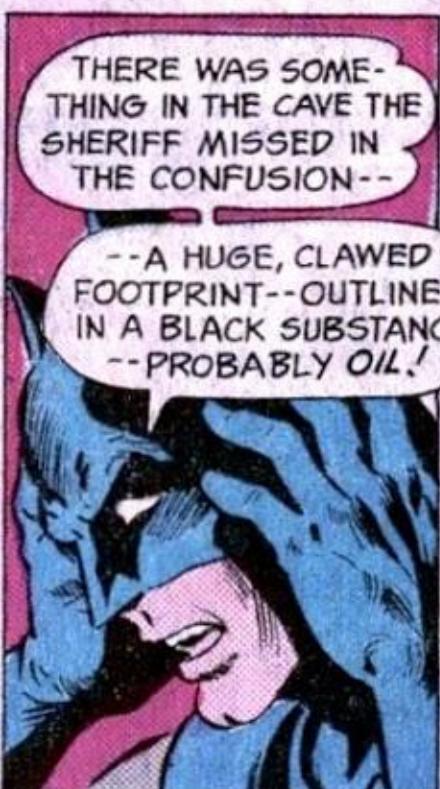
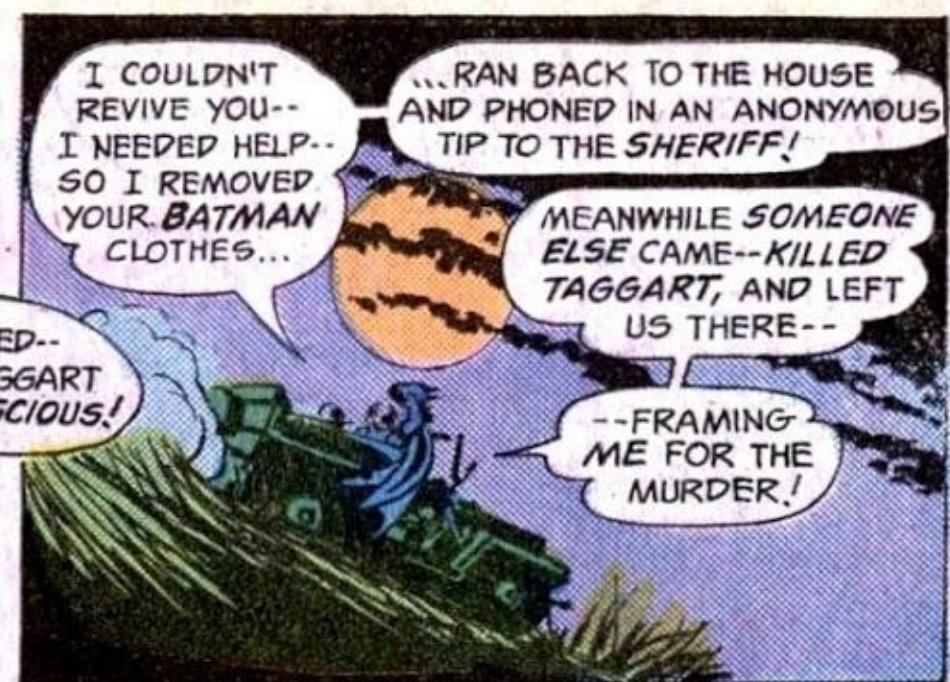
SPECIFICALLY,  
MY BATMAN  
BOOT WITH ITS  
MINI-SIZED  
TOOLS!

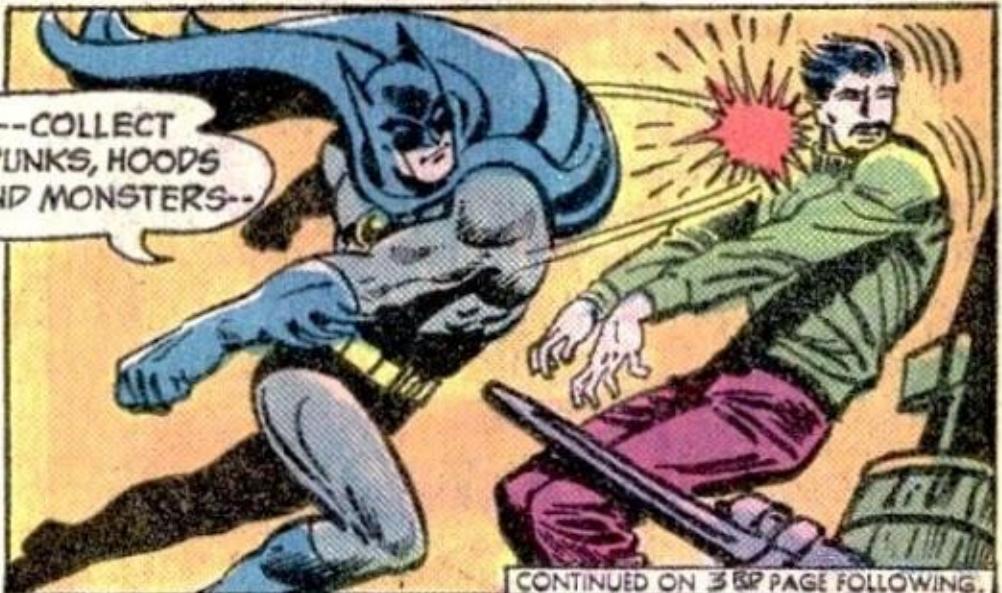
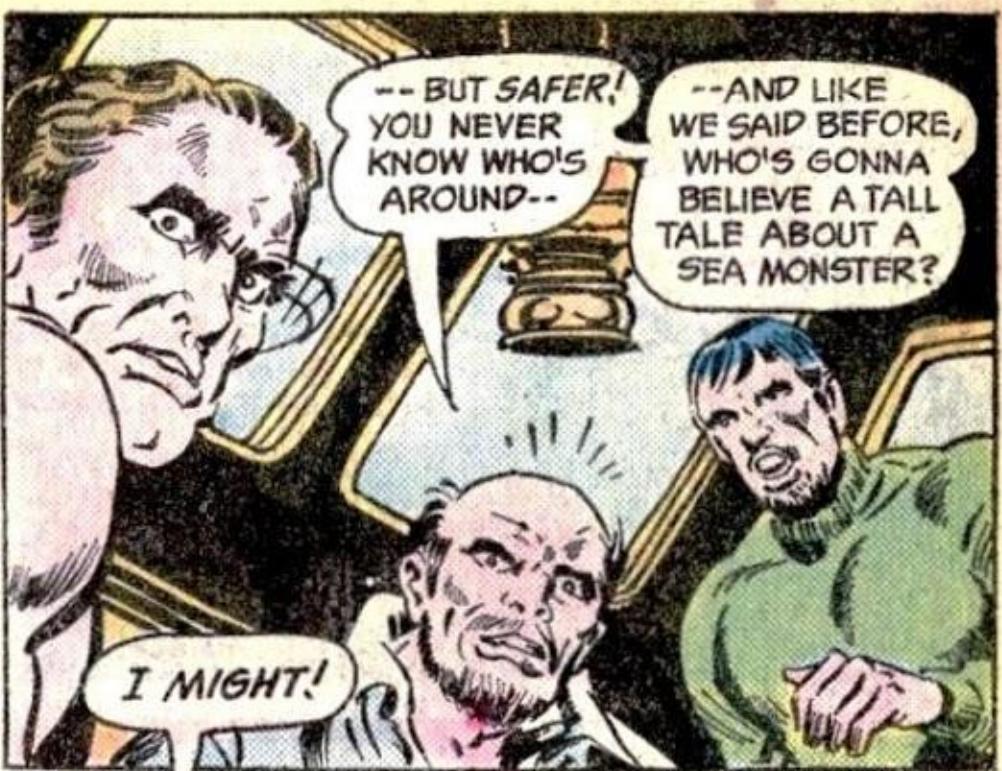
FOUR  
MINUTES  
LATER--



NICE  
TIMING,  
ALFRED!



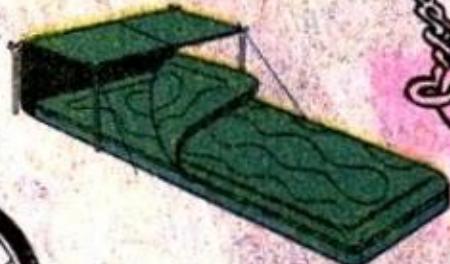




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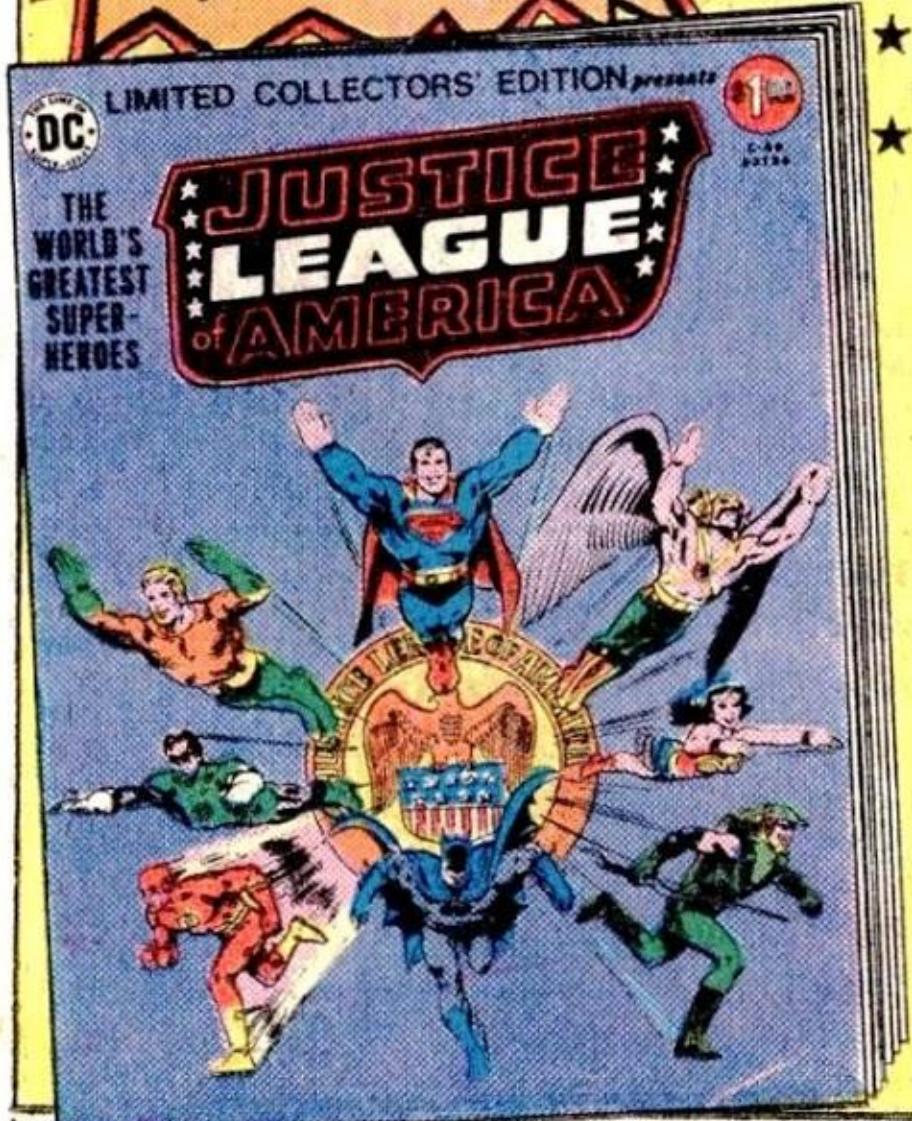
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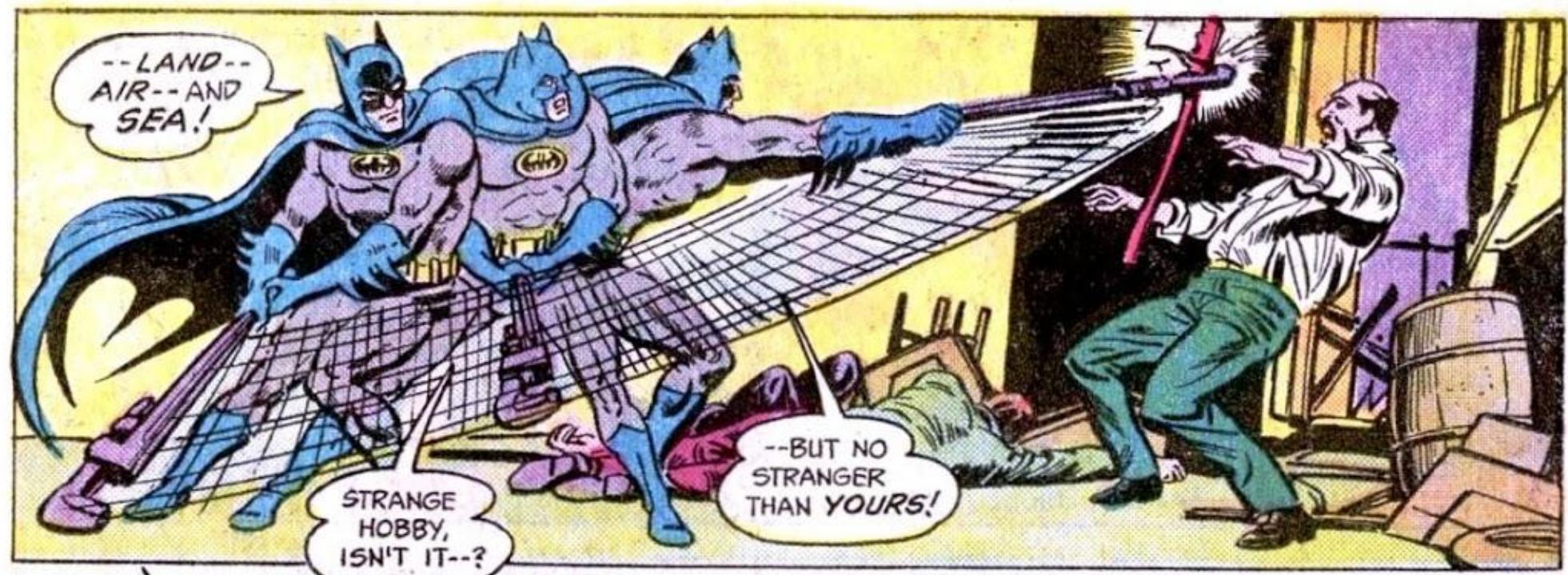
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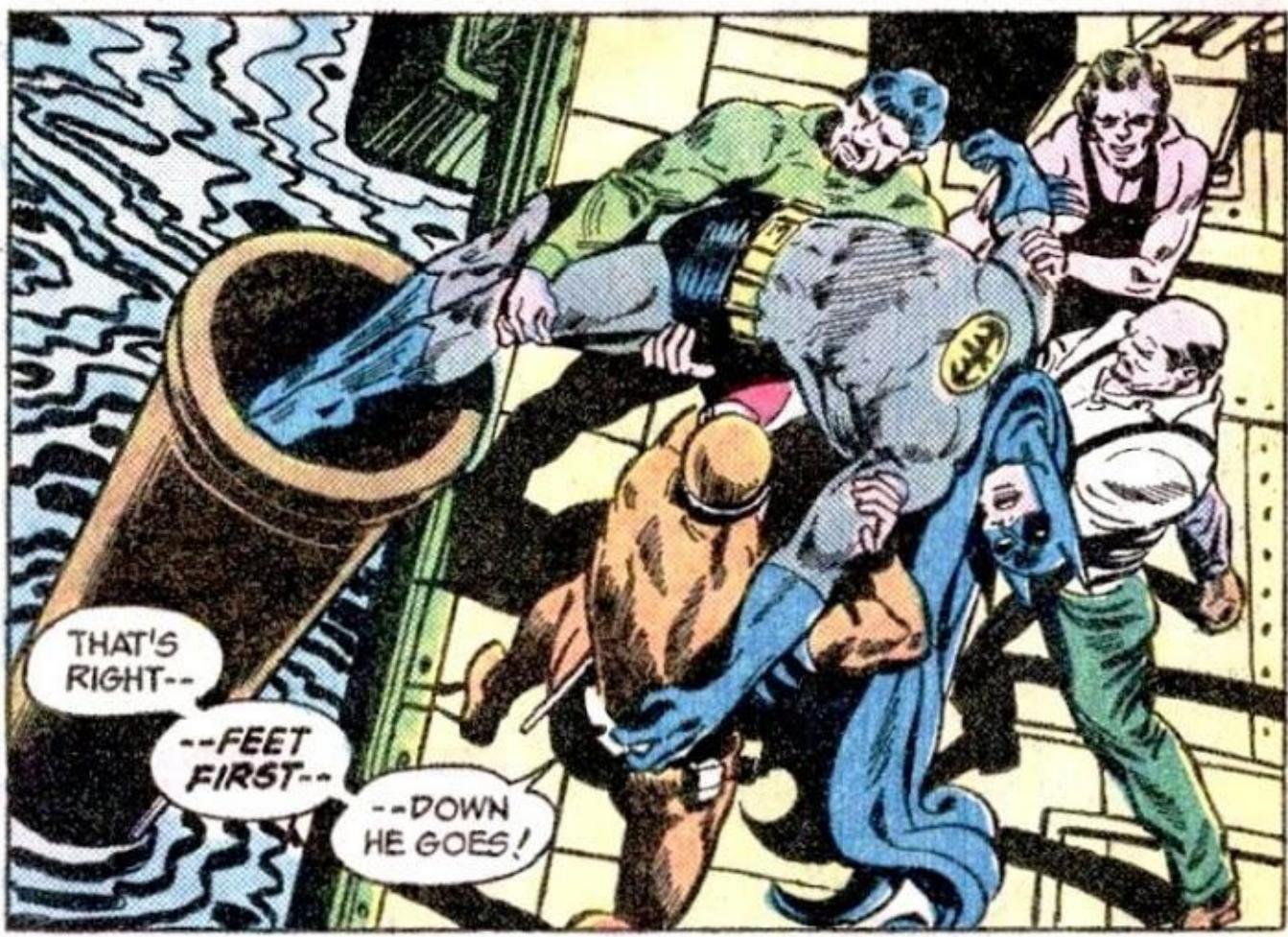
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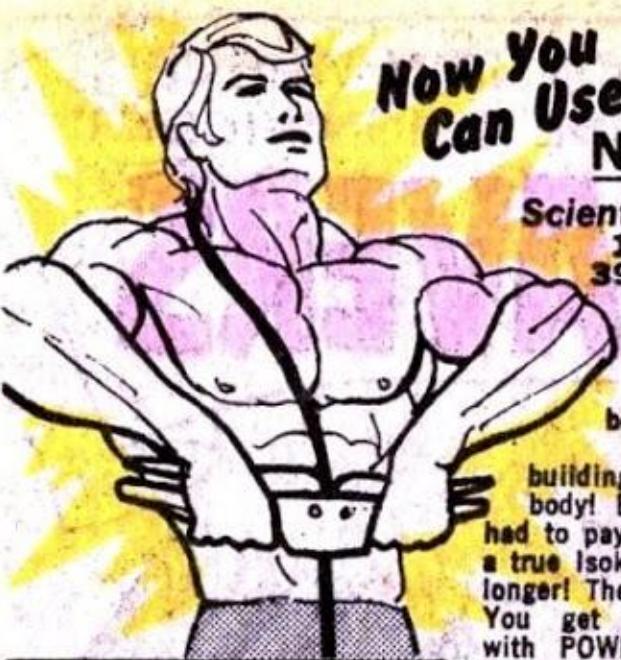
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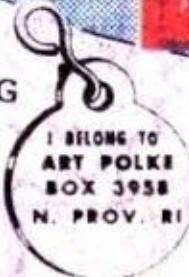
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Completely under its own power, ACTION LURE swims and dives like a live darting minnow, then returns to the surface to dive again and again, even on a slack line! As amazing ACTION LURE dives down deep to where the big ones are lurking, fish see its free swimming action, hear its buzzing sound, and bite savagely utterly without fear or hesitation!

**Swims & dives to 15 feet!  
No tugging; no pulling!**

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**Works like magic even when other lures and bait fail completely!**

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Here's how ACTION LURE works: All you do is snap open the fuel chamber, drop in two pellets of fuel, and close the fuel chamber again. Takes less than 60 seconds; you don't even dirty your hands! And then... simply cast or lower ACTION LURE into fresh or salt water, and get set for the fishing thrill of your life!

### ACTION LURE GUARANTEE

ACTION LURE is guaranteed to catch more fish and bigger fish in every kind of water, in every kind of weather. If you are not completely satisfied in every respect, return ACTION LURE within 30 days for complete refund.



Granted U.S. Patent  
No. 2,932,916



For perhaps one minute ACTION LURE will float quietly; then, as water reaches the fuel, your lure will seem to shudder for a second, then spring dramatically to "life!" Making the buzzing sound of a dying bee, ACTION LURE will point its nose downward, and begin its first descent! Slowly, jerkily, like a maimed minnow, it will swim noisily downward, buzzing and humming, traveling about nine feet every fifteen seconds! If no fish intercepts it, its descent automatically stops, it slowly raises up its nose and climbs to the surface again!

And again! And again! Tirelessly, hour after hour, far beyond the reach of your own casts! Roaming restlessly over every foot of water beneath you — even on slack line — even when your boat is tied up — even when you're curled upon the dock, sound asleep! And all the while ACTION LURE is swimming and buzzing and driving the fish around you to such a frenzy they practically tear the rod out of your hands!

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Tomorrow, for the first time in your life, you'll be weighing down your boat with bass, trout, pike, pickerel, perch... limit catches of pan fish, game fish, fresh and salt water fish, wherever you can drop a line! You'll fish better — novice or pro — sound asleep at the bottom of your boat, than most fishermen sweating and casting till their arms ache from exhaustion!

And you'll have the time of your life, amazing your friends and family with your hauls, and seeing your fishermen friend's eyes pop as they watch your incredible self-propelled ACTION LURE at work!

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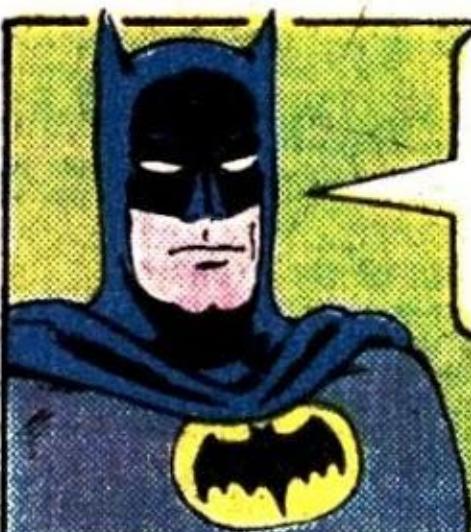
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QUICKLY SENSES HIS  
GRIM SITUATION...

THEN, ONCE AGAIN,  
THE BATMAN'S  
MATCHLESS CAPACITY  
TO DEAL WITH  
DISASTER COMES TO  
HIS RESCUE!...

WITHIN MOMENTS,  
THE GULF WATERS  
ARE POURING IN!...

THEN--WITH A  
MIGHTY UPWARD  
LUNGE--

WATER  
LAPPING  
OUTSIDE...  
SKY ABOVE...  
I'M ON SEA  
BOTTOM!

ABOUT  
25 FEET  
FROM THE  
TOP OF THIS  
PIPE... AND  
NO ROOM  
TO SWING  
MY BATROPE!

I'M LOCKED  
IN--LIKE A  
SPECIMEN AT  
THE BOTTOM  
OF A TEST  
TUBE!

I'LL TAKE CARE OF  
THOSE GOONS ON  
THE TENDER LATER!

RIGHT  
NOW I'VE  
GOT A DATE  
WITH A  
MONSTER!

"UP RIVER TO  
DEADWOOD," THEY  
SAID! THAT'S A  
MILE FROM HERE  
AND HE'S GOT A  
HEAD START...

...BUT HE'S GOING  
UNDERWATER-- AND  
I'M ON LAND-- WHICH  
SHOULD MORE THAN  
MAKE UP FOR IT!

BUT I'VE GOT  
MY UTILITY BELT  
KIT--

--AND WHERE  
THERE'S A DRILL,  
THERE'S A WAY!

GREAT! AT  
THIS RATE IT'LL  
ONLY BE A FEW  
MINUTES BEFORE  
I'M FLOATED TO  
THE LEVEL OF  
THE SURFACE--

--AND THE  
REST I CAN DO  
BY MYSELF!

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...AND NOW SCARCELY EVEN A GHOST TOWN--

HALF AN HOUR DRAGS BY-- THEN--THE SIGHT THE BATMAN HAS BEEN WAITING FOR!...

A SHELL OF A HOUSE-- THE ONLY THING LEFT HERE-- AND CLOSE TO THE RIVER--

--SO THIS SHOULD BE THE "DROP"!

NOW TO CHECK OUT THE "DELIVERY"!

THE MONSTER--IN PERSON!  
OR SHOULD I SAY-- THE PERSON--IN MONSTER!

THE PACKAGE I SAW AT THE OIL RIG--CARRIED ON HIS BACK INSIDE THAT GET-UP!

I'VE GOT A VERY GOOD IDEA OF WHAT'S IN IT!

I'VE SEEN ENOUGH--

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

# The secret of teaching yourself music

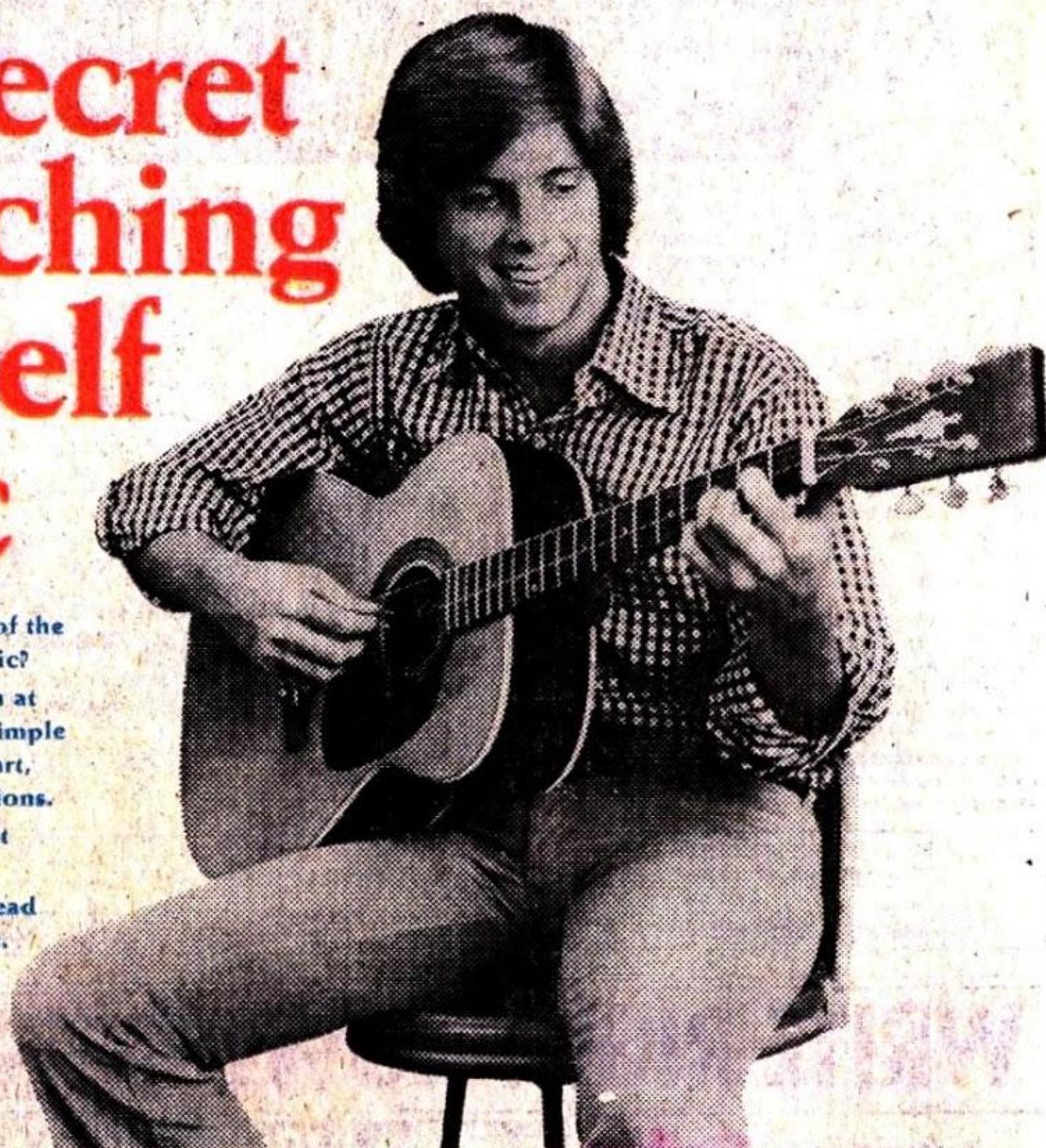
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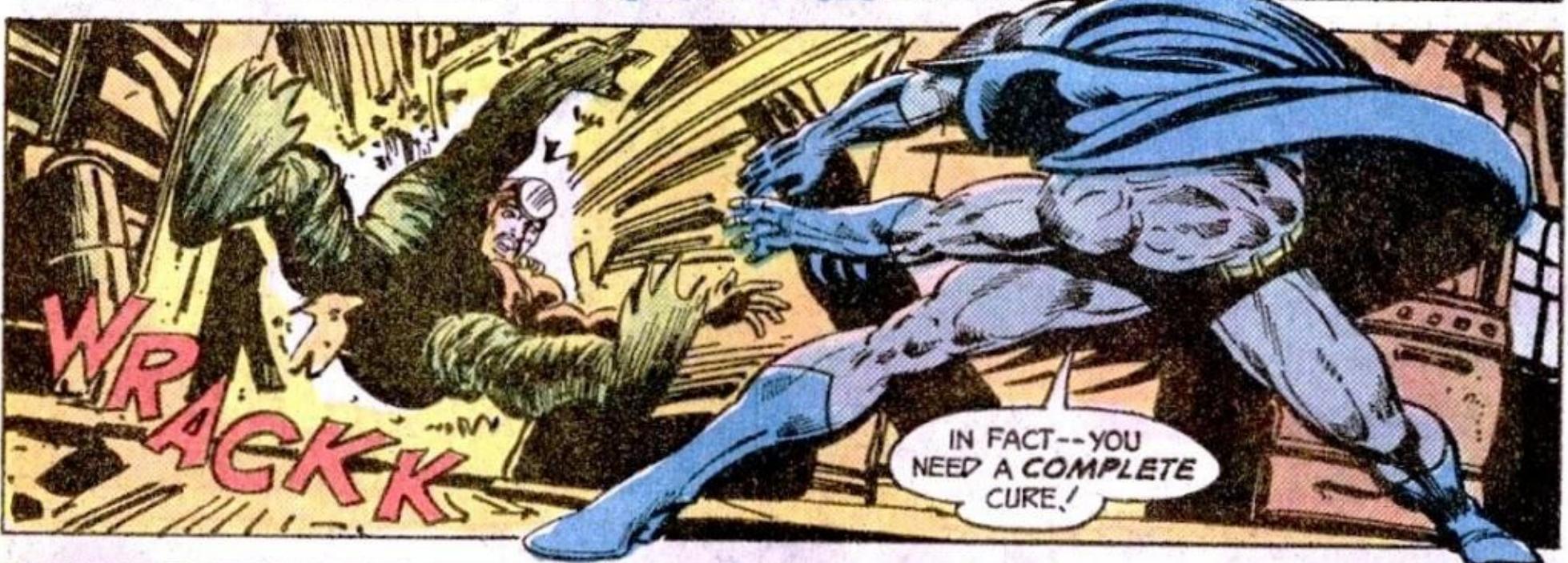
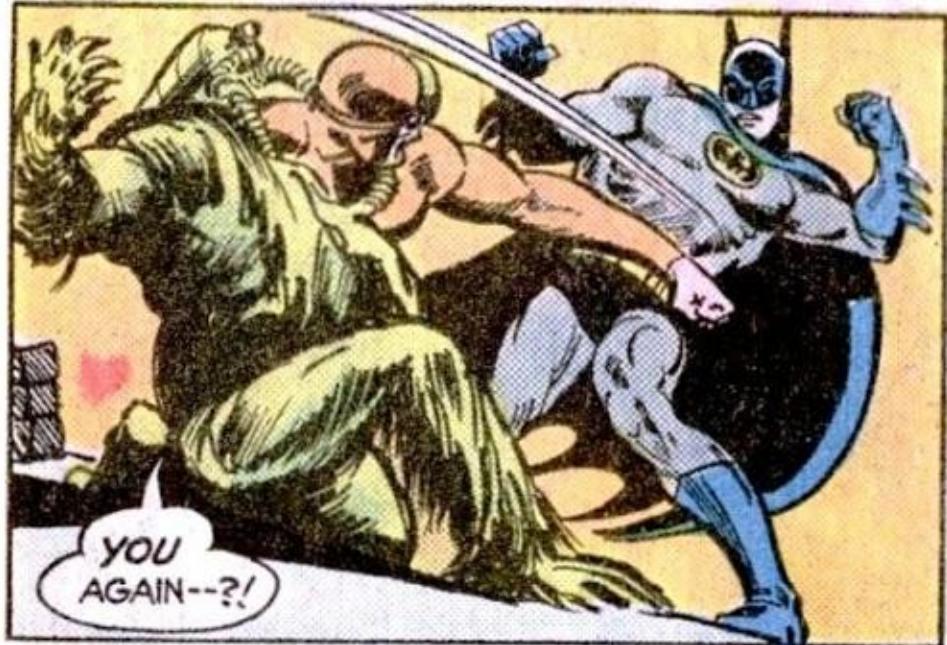
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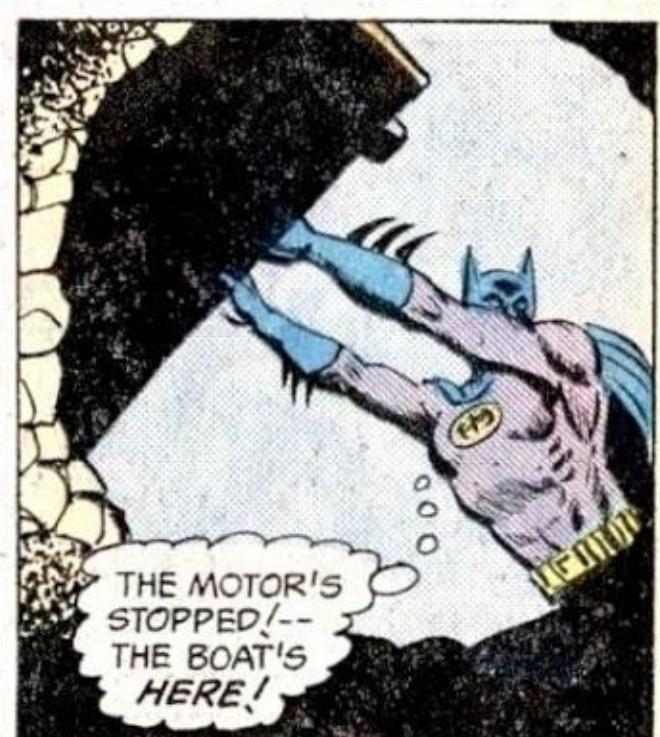
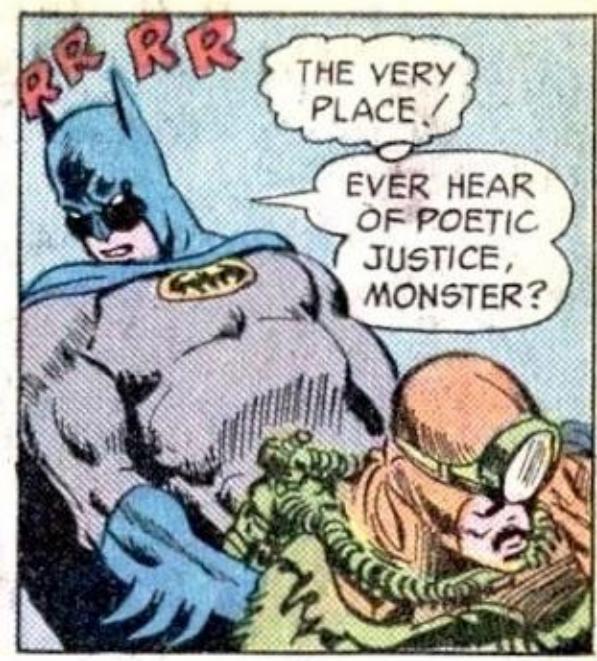
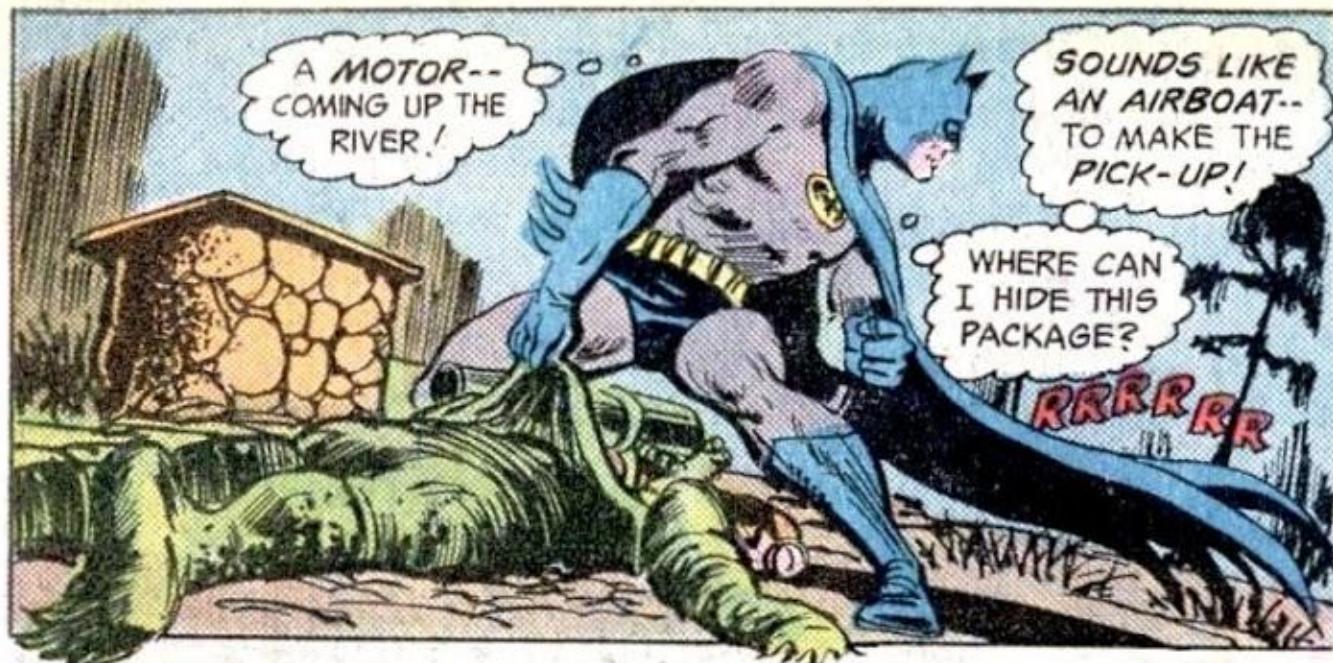
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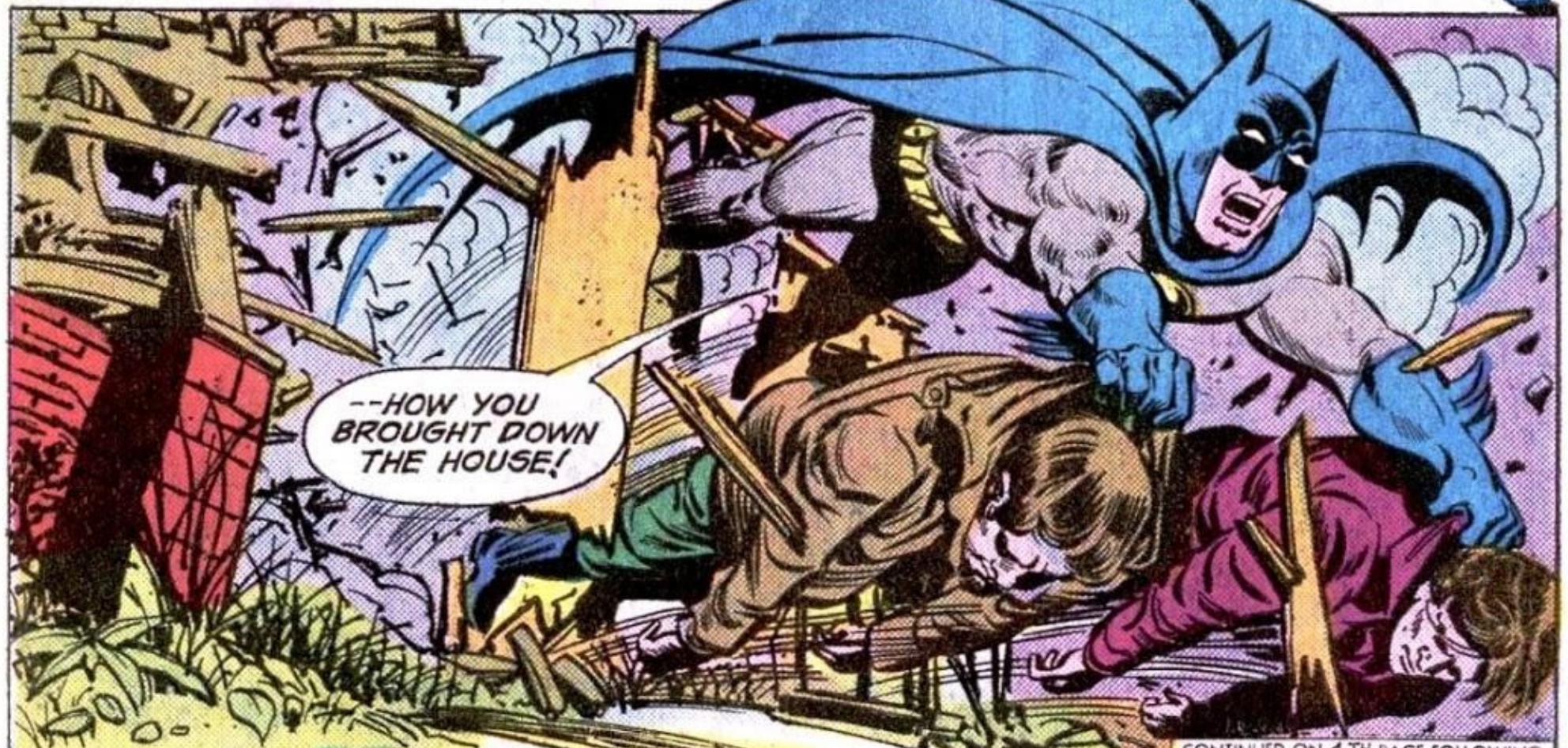
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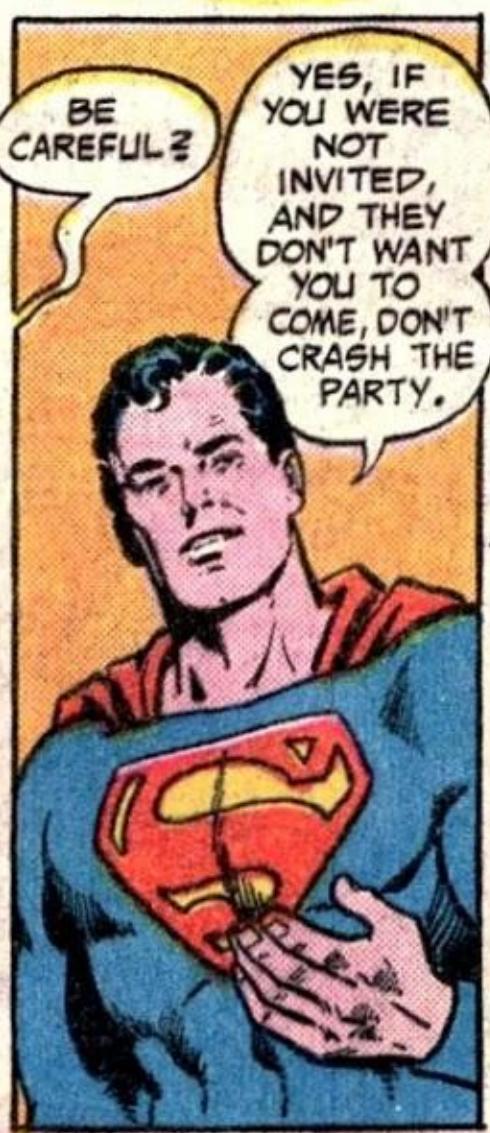
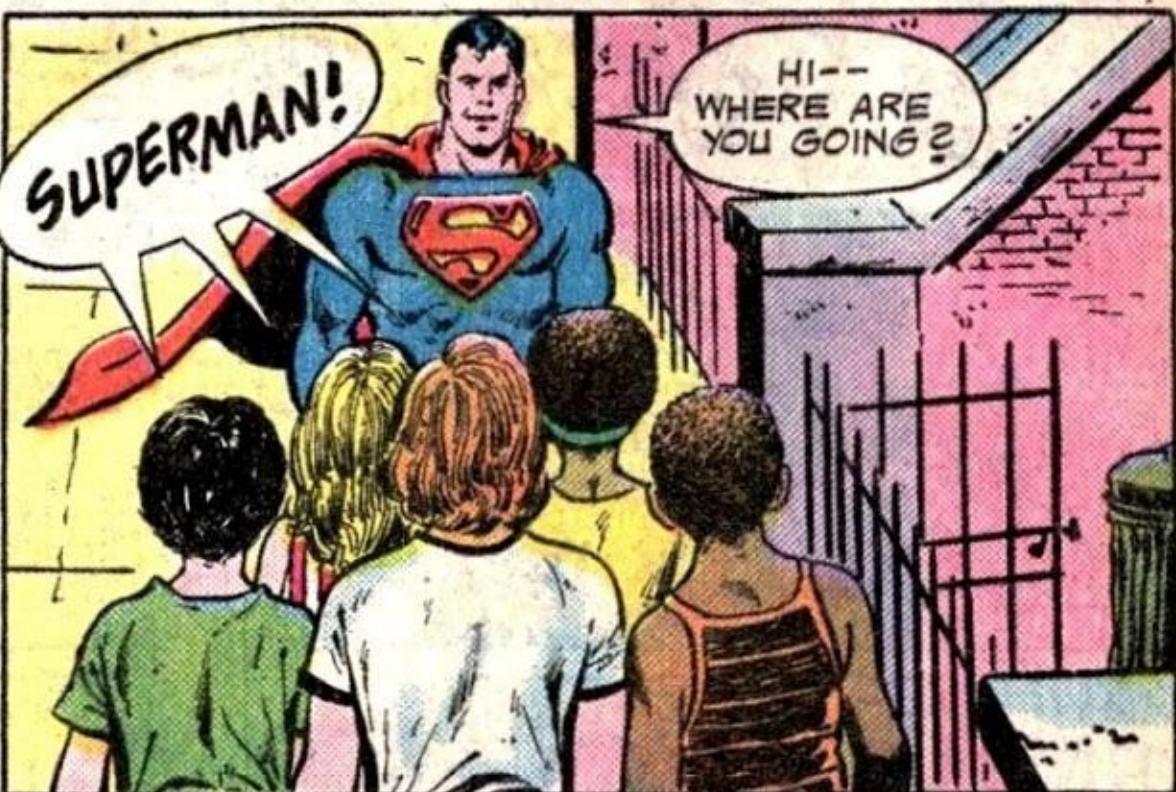




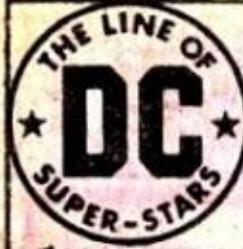
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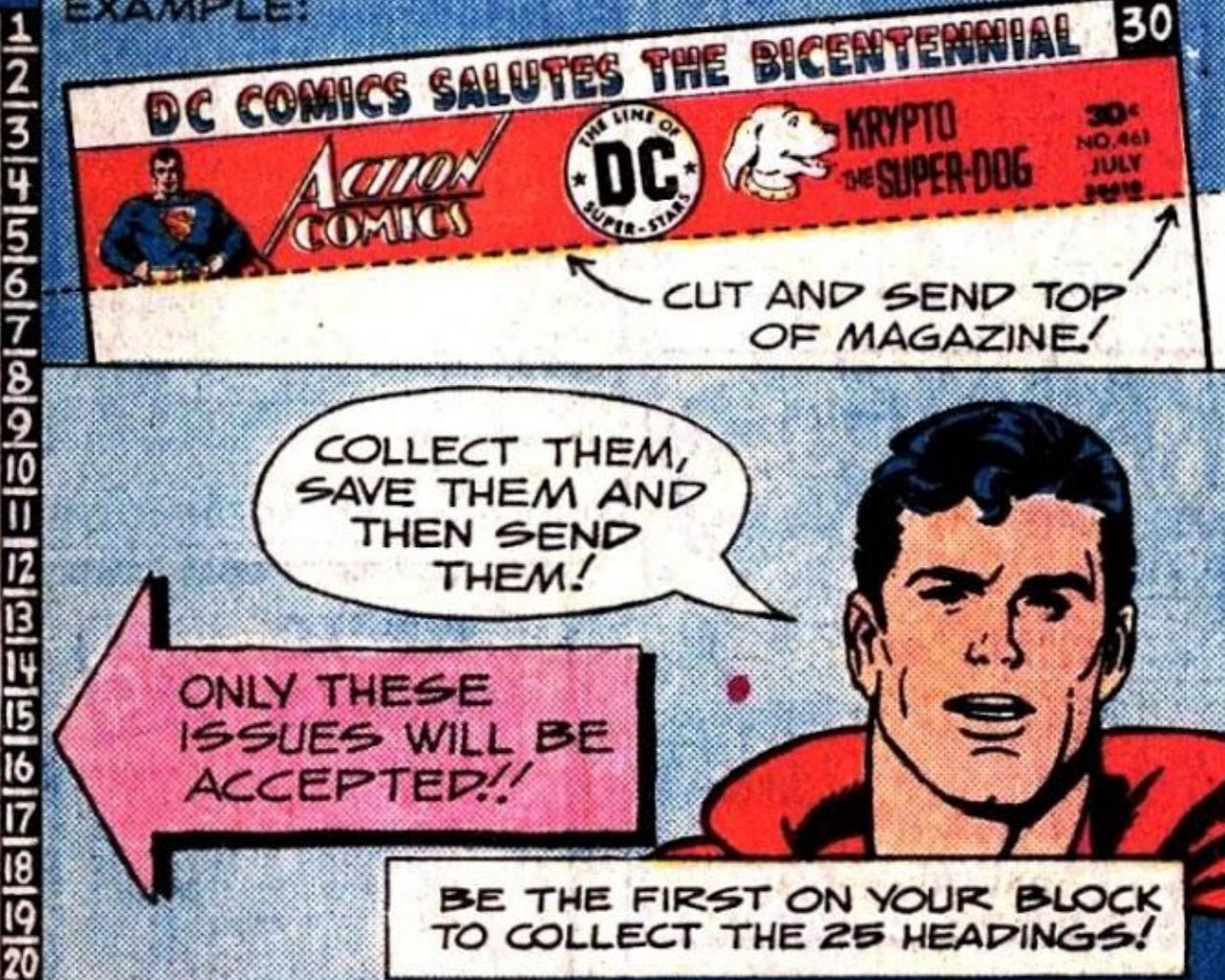
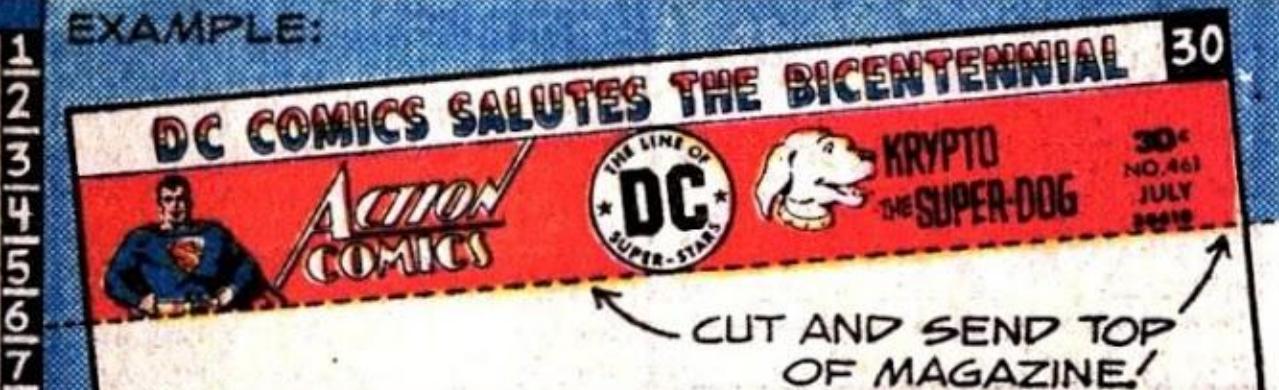
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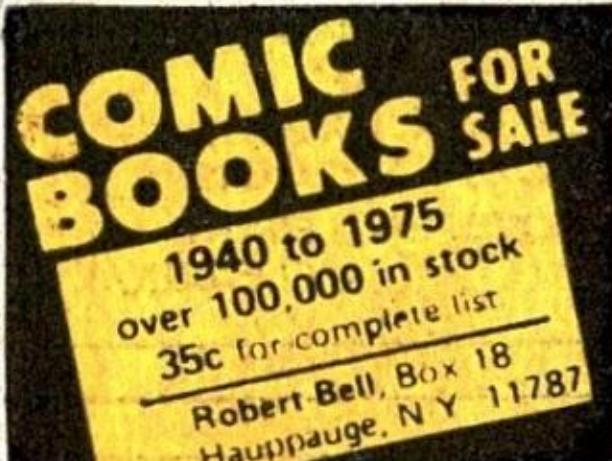
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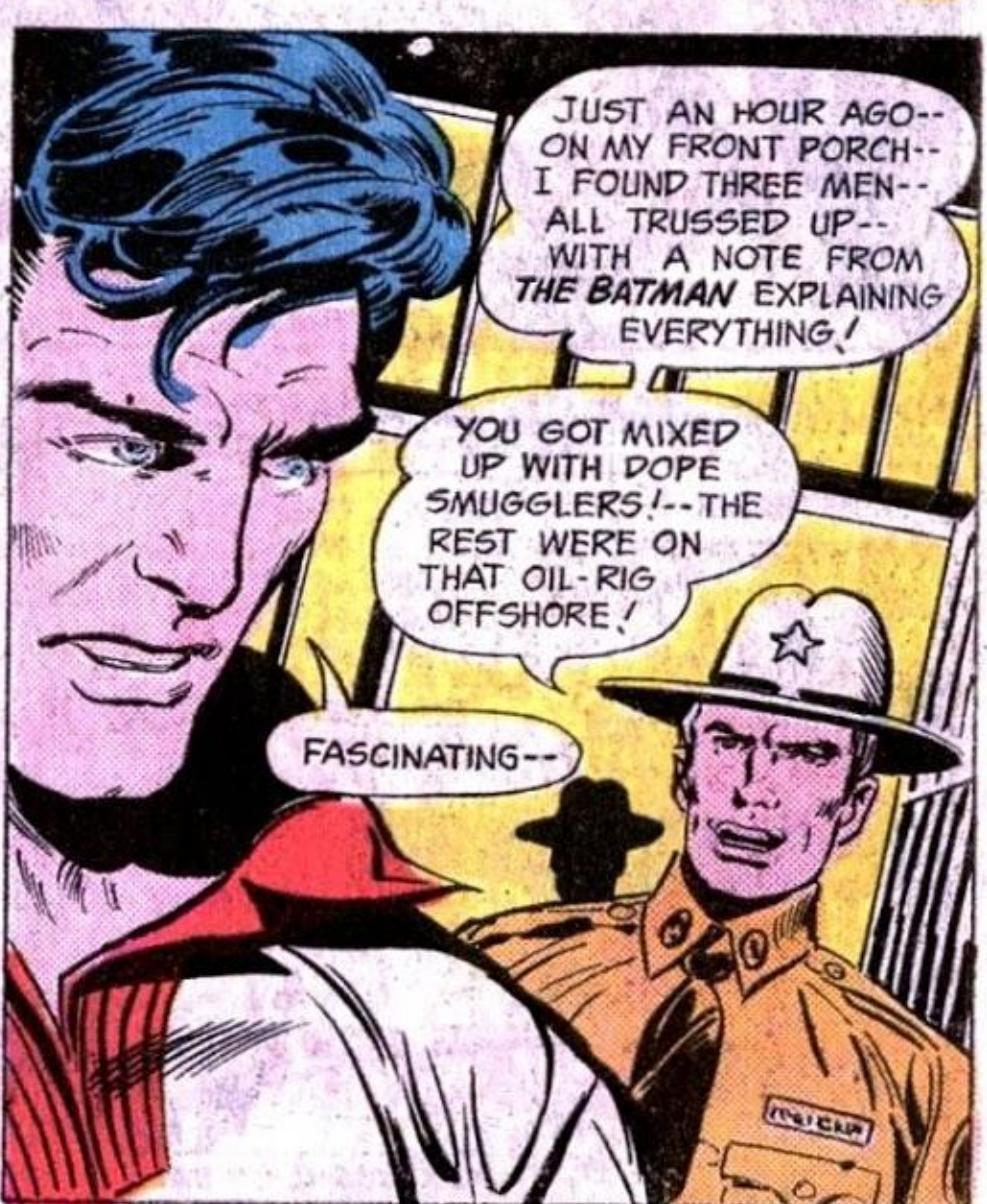
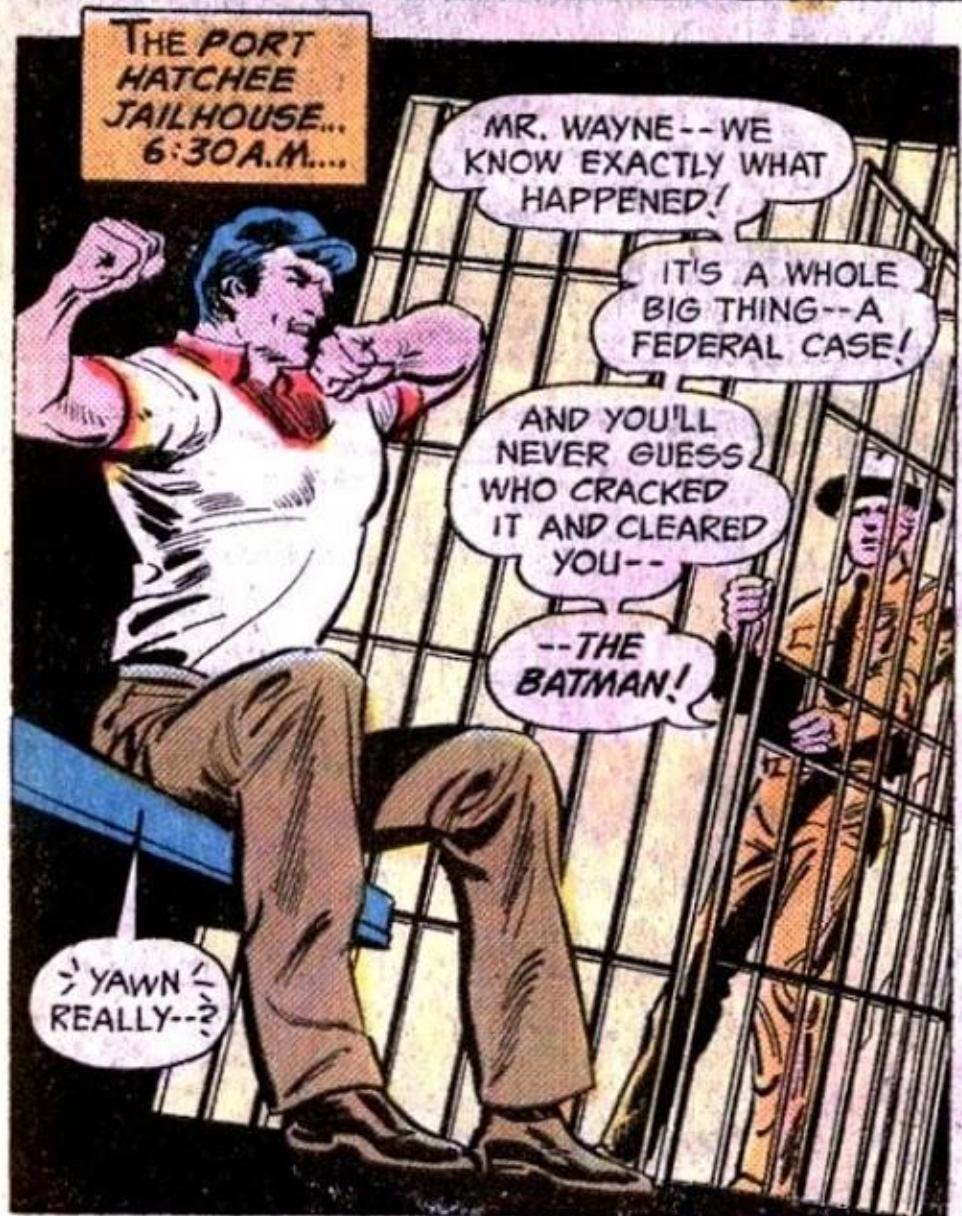
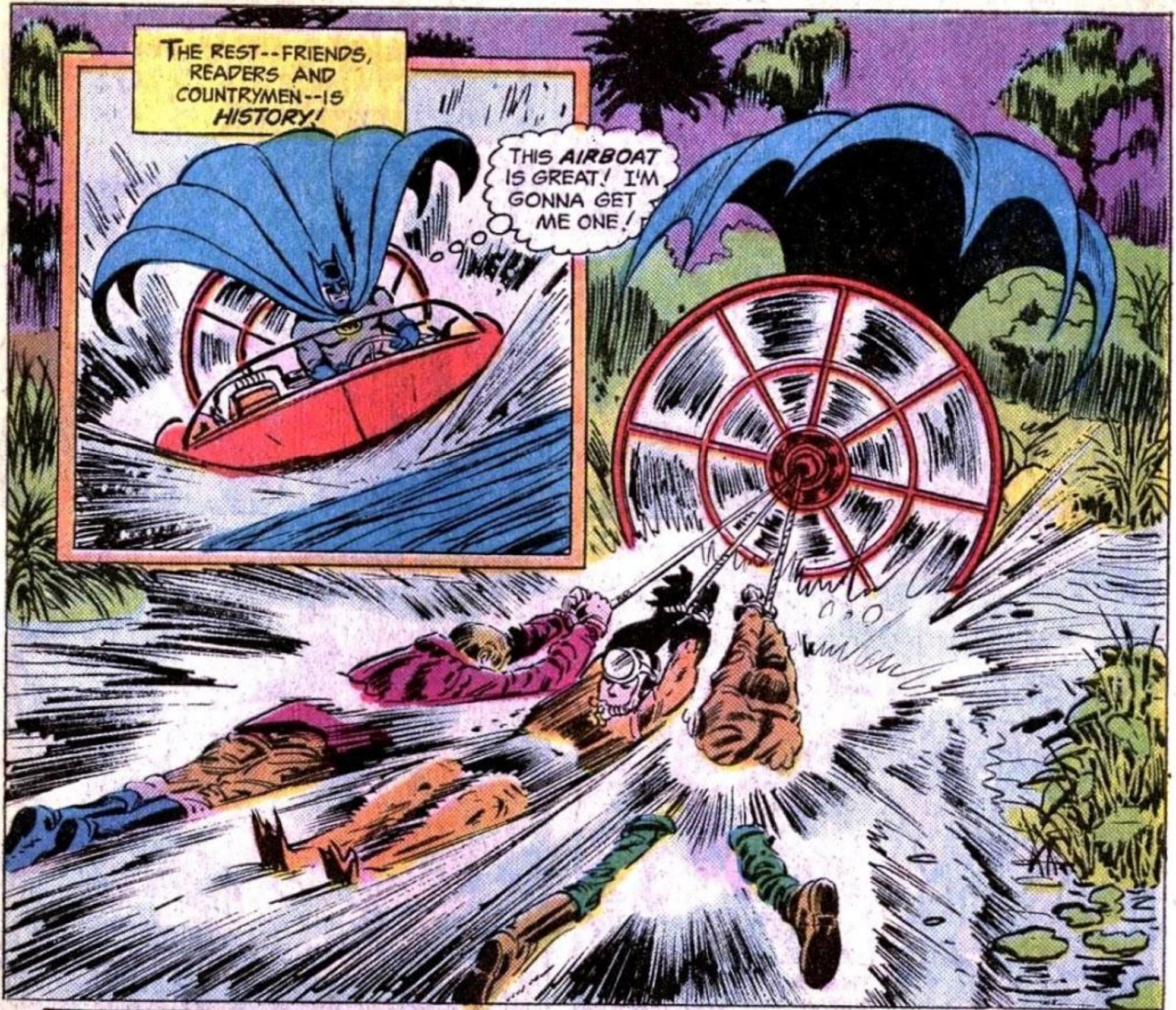
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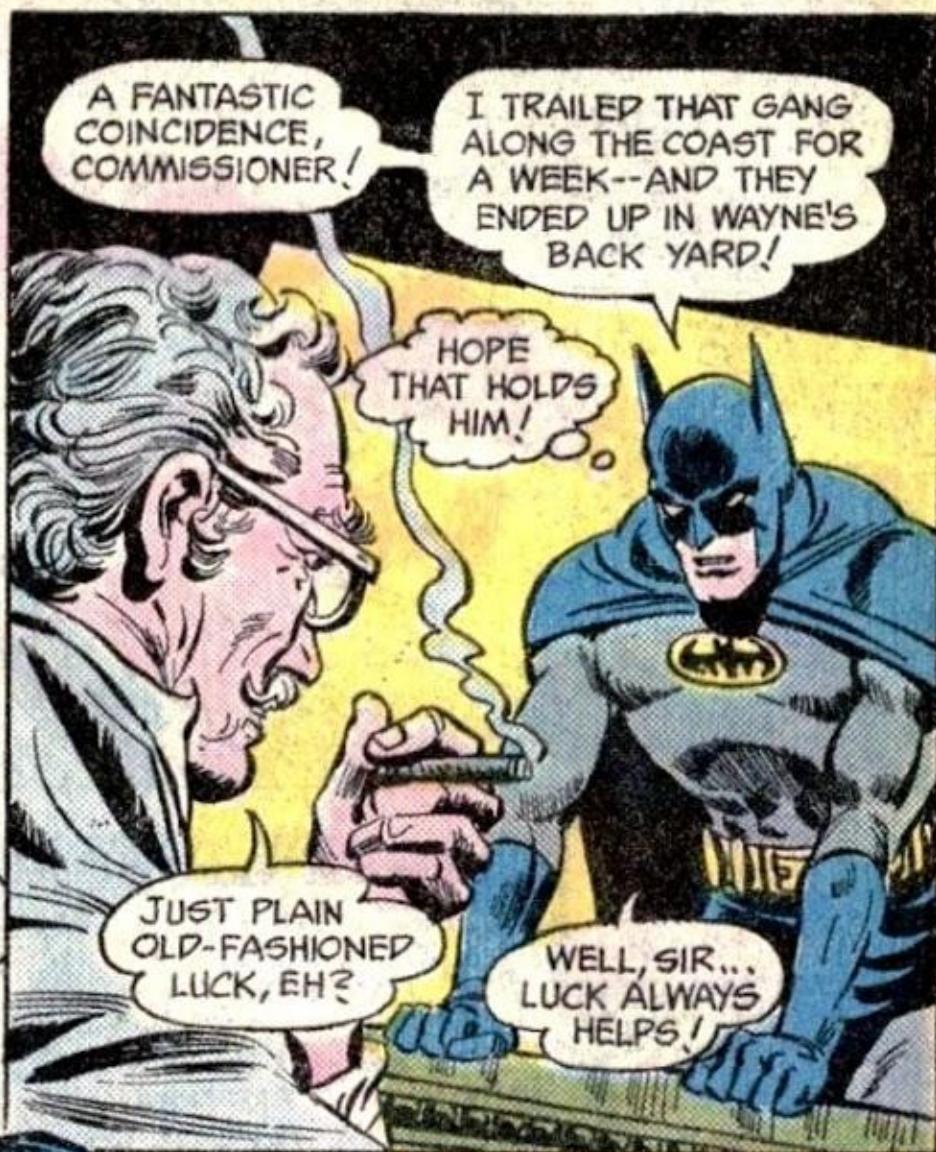


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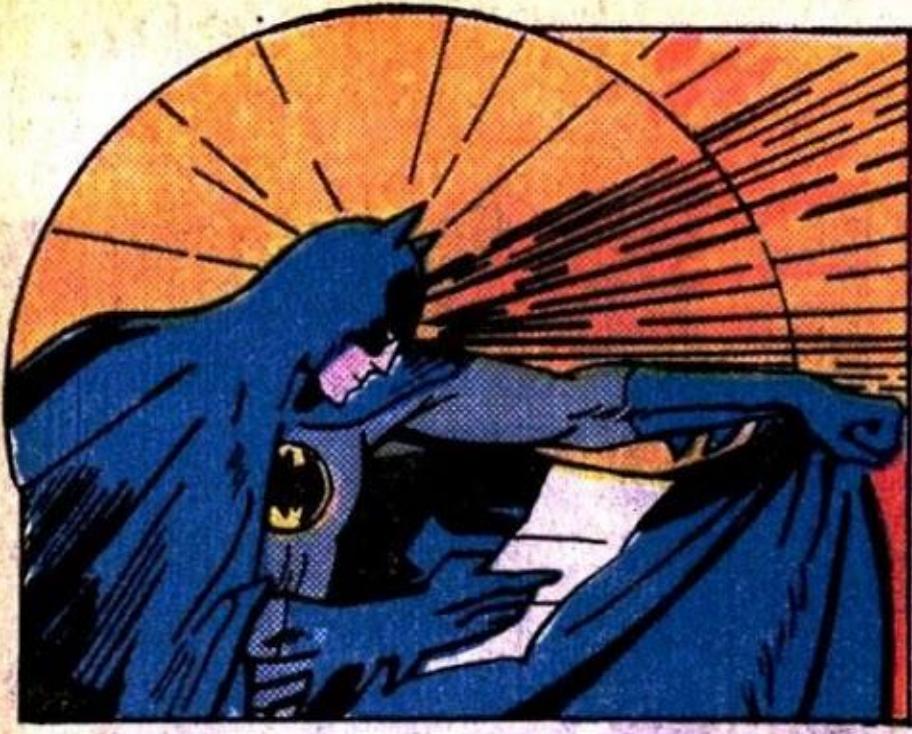
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S-2318

# LETTERS to the BATMAN

c/o NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC.,  
75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019.

**Dear Editor,**

If there is any one thing in David V. Reed's **Batman** tales that should be singled out as prominent, it is the use of super-powerful criminal organizations. Mr. Reed seems to enjoy pitting the Caped Crusader against impossible odds in the form of sinisterly well-organized crime-combines. Witness the recent battle with the Crime Exchange and the current matter of the Underworld Olympics. **Batman** is more than capable of handling a barrelful of crooks at a time and it's not often we see his amazing detective skills put to such fascinating use.

"The Bank Shot That Baffled Batman" (**BATMAN #273**) is one of the finest examples of the aforementioned traits. Here we see the Caped Crimebuster using an amazing combination of brain and brawn to outwit foes who were ahead of him at every turn but the last. Had the European team not had the bad breaks they did, I wonder if **Batman** would have succeeded in catching up with them. But at the end of the tale, **Batman** indicates that he knows this caper is somehow related to that of the South American criminals last issue, so at least he's on the right track!

ROD McLAUGHLIN, Ramsay, Mont.

(If **Batman** hadn't cracked the case, Rod, he wouldn't qualify for the title World's Greatest Detective and we'd probably have to make somebody else the star of this magazine! But speaking of detective work, our next correspondent is on a case of his own!—BR)

• • • •

**Dear Editor,**

It is now obvious who "David V. Reed" is!

Oh, I admit it took me a while to figure it out. After all, Bob Rozakis gave us all those clues, but how could we be sure they weren't red herrings? (A man who can chop up my letters is capable of any crime!)

Contemplating this mystery while watching TV, I fell asleep and awoke to find Tom Snyder cross-examining three gentlemen on his **TOMORROW** program—three gentlemen who turn out to be Carmine Infantino, Stan Lee and Julius Schwartz, titans of the comics industry. Mr. Lee hadn't changed from the last time I saw him and Mr. Infantino was very much like I imagined him. But the fellow claiming to be Mr. Schwartz was an obvious impostor. He was jovial, witty and definitely a life-of-the-party type of guy. Yet DC comics have always depicted Julie Schwartz quite differently. In JLA

#123 we saw the "gruff, blustery gentleman" chewing out Bates and Maggin and in **AMAZING WORLD OF DC COMICS #5** Len Wein described how the Schwartzian presence would reduce him to a cowering, quivering mass of protoplasm. Now certainly this cannot be the same man!

And then it hit me! Yes, friends, David V. Reed is, in reality, Julius Schwartz's long-lost lookalike cousin, Julian Schwartz, the mystery and science-fiction writer. Julian uses pen names so that no one can accuse him of cashing in on his cousin's reputation. In fact, Julian once tried to be an editor, but he didn't have the temperament for it. But he's great at parties and that's why Ye Editor sent him on the **TOMORROW** show to engage in that highly entertaining battle of wits with Mr. Lee.

Sorry, Julian, but it was inevitable that some brilliant reader like myself would ferret out your secret identity. That's the way the comics crumble!

PETER SANDERSON, New York, N.Y.

(An incredible piece of detective work, Peter—incredible and 100% WRONG! There is only one Julie Schwartz, the gruff and blustery life-of-the-party, and none of him is David V. Reed! But now, back to comments on **BATMAN #273**.—BR)

• • • •

**Dear Bob,**

I think David V. Reed has established himself as an excellent portrayer of the Caped Crusader and **BATMAN #273** only proves this point. Even while keeping the Darknight Detective in the dark as to the existence of the Underworld Olympics, Dave has **Batman** solving the crimes and stopping the crooks without even knowing their motives.

FRED SCHNEIDER, New York, N.Y.

.... David Reed's magnificent story moved quite quickly with the scorekeeping scenes blending nicely. It was also great to see Bruce Wayne doing his duties for once and I loved the part where **Batman** nabbed Chomsky because of his hobnailed shoes. It was so subtle on page 11 that I didn't even notice it!

MIKE WHITE, Mackinaw, Ill.

.... Progress Report re: "The Bank Shot That Baffled Batman!"

The writing department received 10 points for originality, 10 points for plot coordination and structure and 5 points for dialogue.

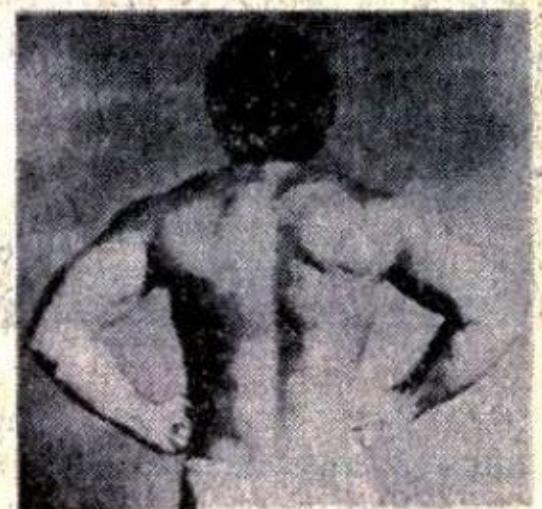
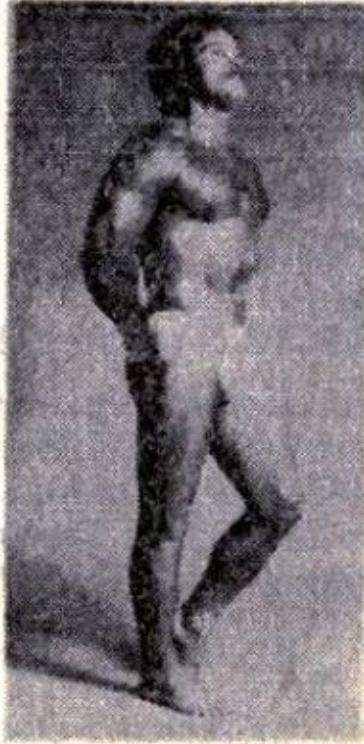
The art department was awarded 10 points for excellence in story illustration, 5 points for the cover, 5 points for **Batman's** physical appearance, and 5 points for coloring.

Overall comments: Believability—10 points; Enjoyment—10 points; Interest and desire to read the next episode—10 points.

Grand Total: 80 points of a possible 100. Not bad! MICHAEL D. DARGAY, Royal Oak, Mich.

(Hey, how come the letter column didn't get any points?—Bob Rozakis)

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*R. Ott, New York*

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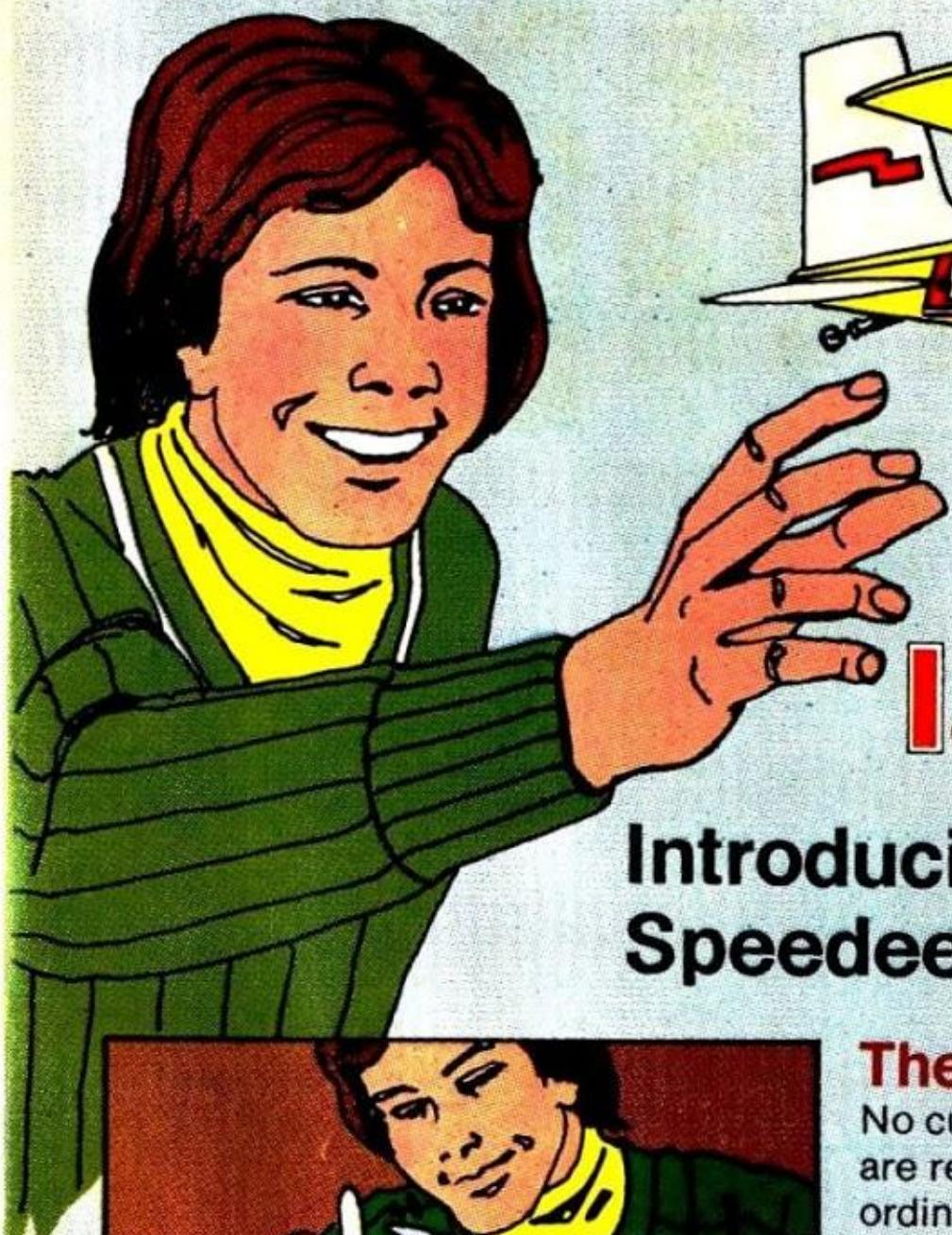
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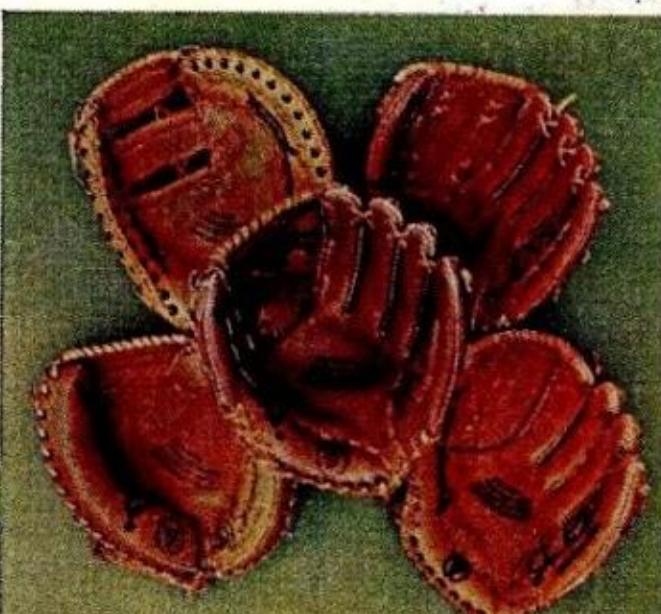


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