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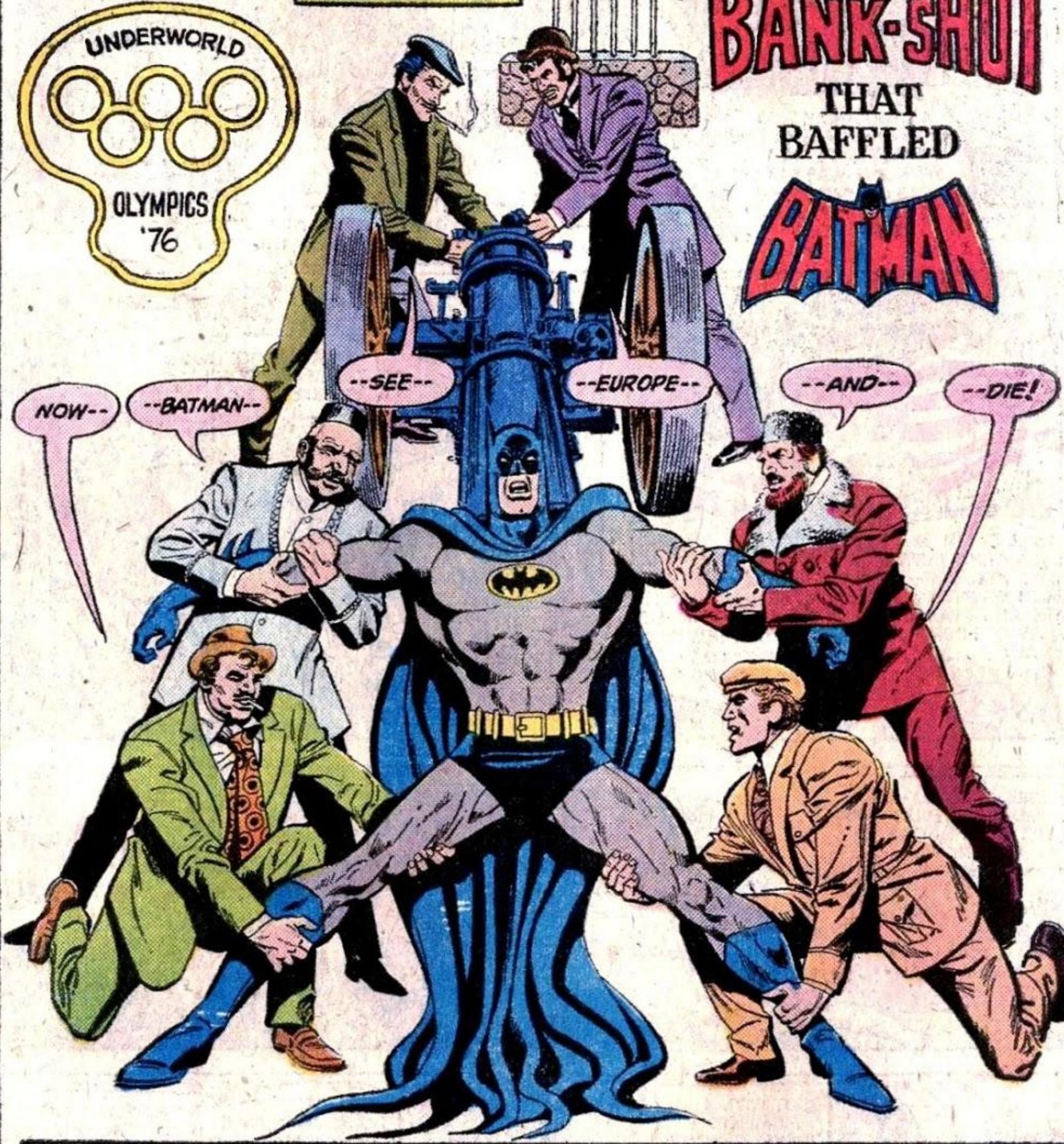
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THE BANK-SHOT THAT BAFFLED BATMAN



STORY BY: DAVID V. REED ART BY ERNIE CHUA & FRANK McLAUGHLIN EDITED BY JULIUS SCHWARTZ

S-2157

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THREE TIMES THE REDCOATS STORMED THE HILL TO SILENCE THE CANNON--AND THREE TIMES THEY FAILED AND FINALLY WITHDREW!

WE'LL BEGIN BY RE-ENACTING THEIR FIRST ATTEMPT-- WHICH STARTED WITH AN ADVANCE PARTY OF FOUR MEN!

NATURALLY, WE'RE ALL FIRING BLANKS.., BUT FOR THE SAKE OF REALISM, A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF MEN SHOULD FALL ON BOTH SIDES!

PLACES, EVERYONE!

START ACTION WHEN THE REDCOAT BUGLER SOUNDS THE CHARGE!

ENTHUSIASTICALLY-- ALMOST PLAYFULLY-- THE MOCK BATTLE BEGINS--

BAM

CRACK

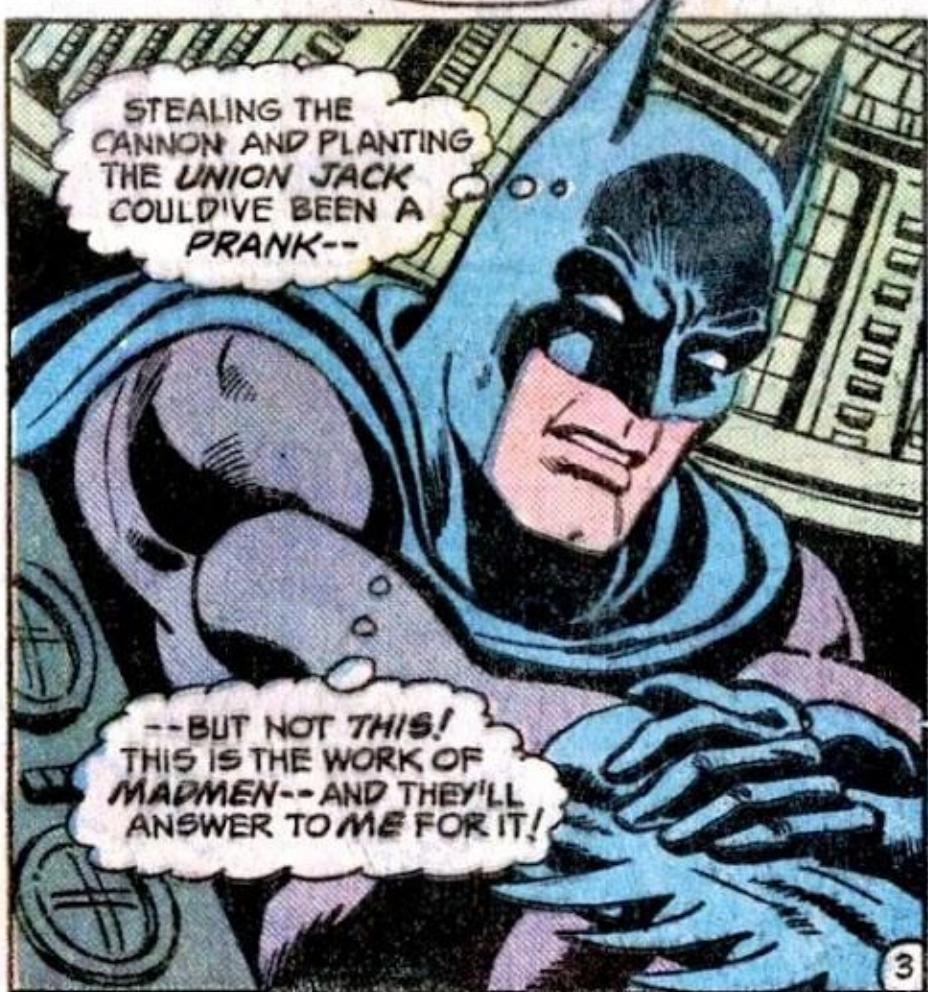
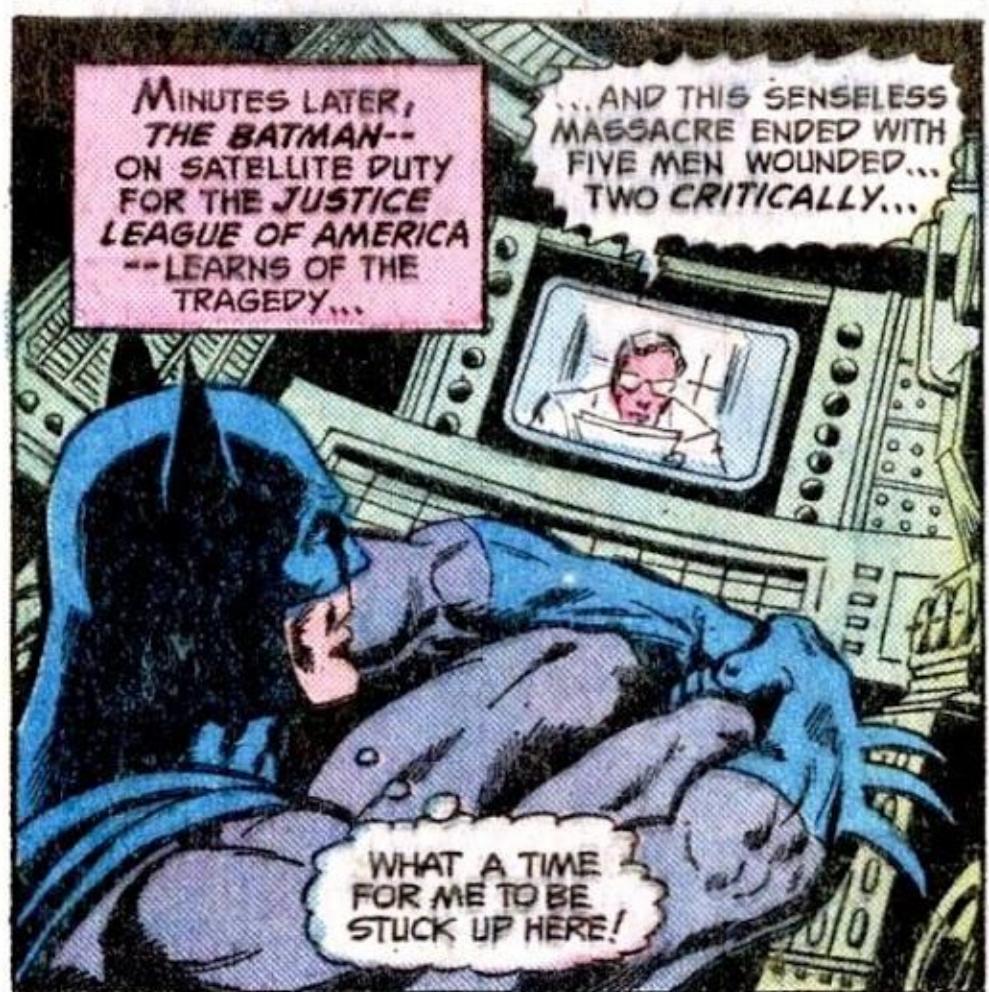
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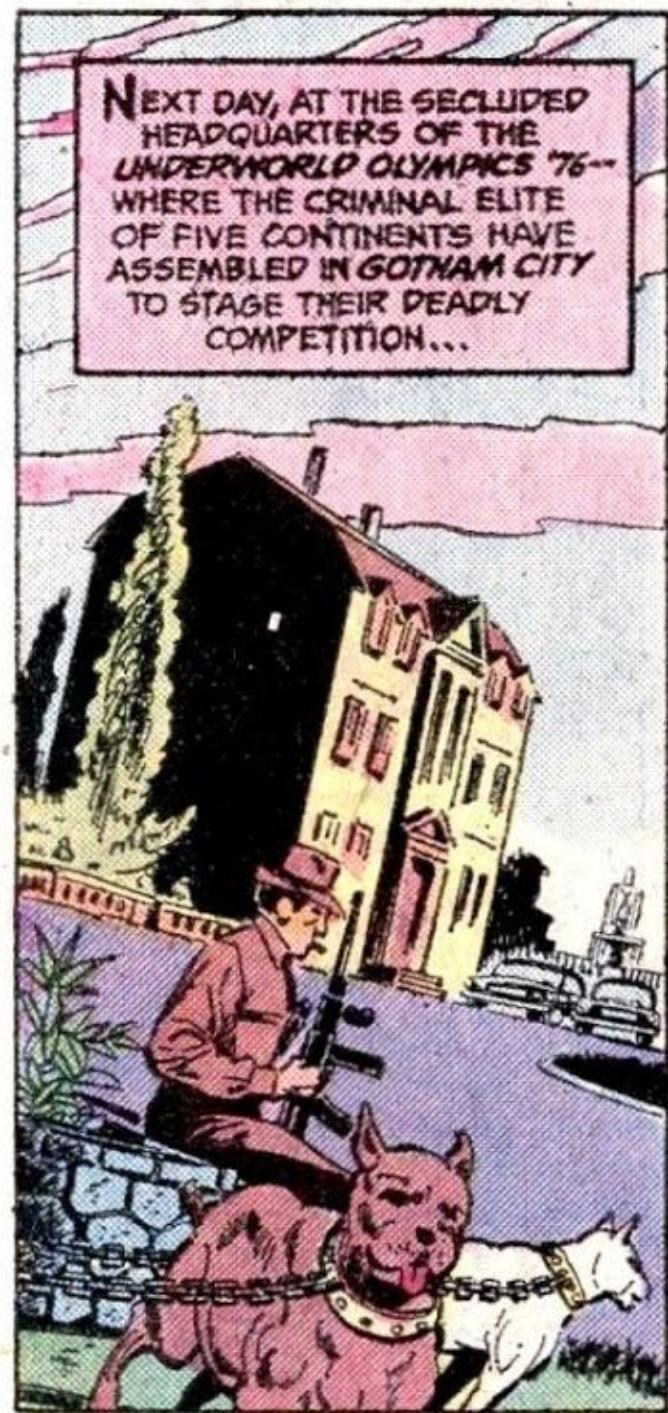
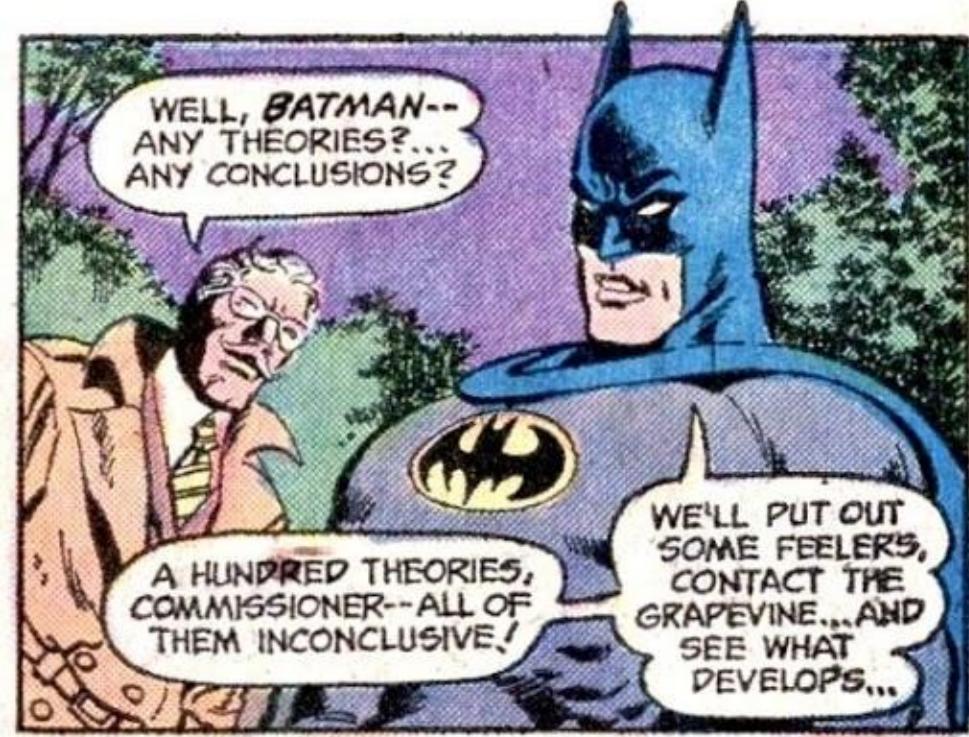
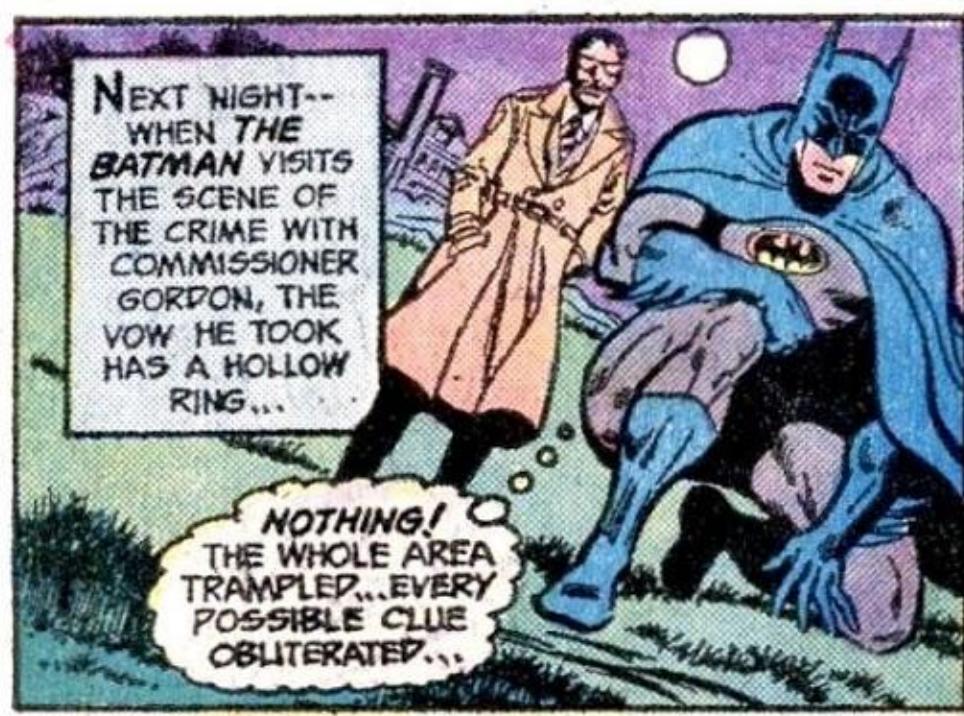
BUT WITHIN MOMENTS-- INEXPICABLY--

STOP! THE MAJOR'S BEEN WOUNDED!

THE REDCOATS ARE USING REAL BULLETS!

I'VE BEEN SHOT TOO!





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

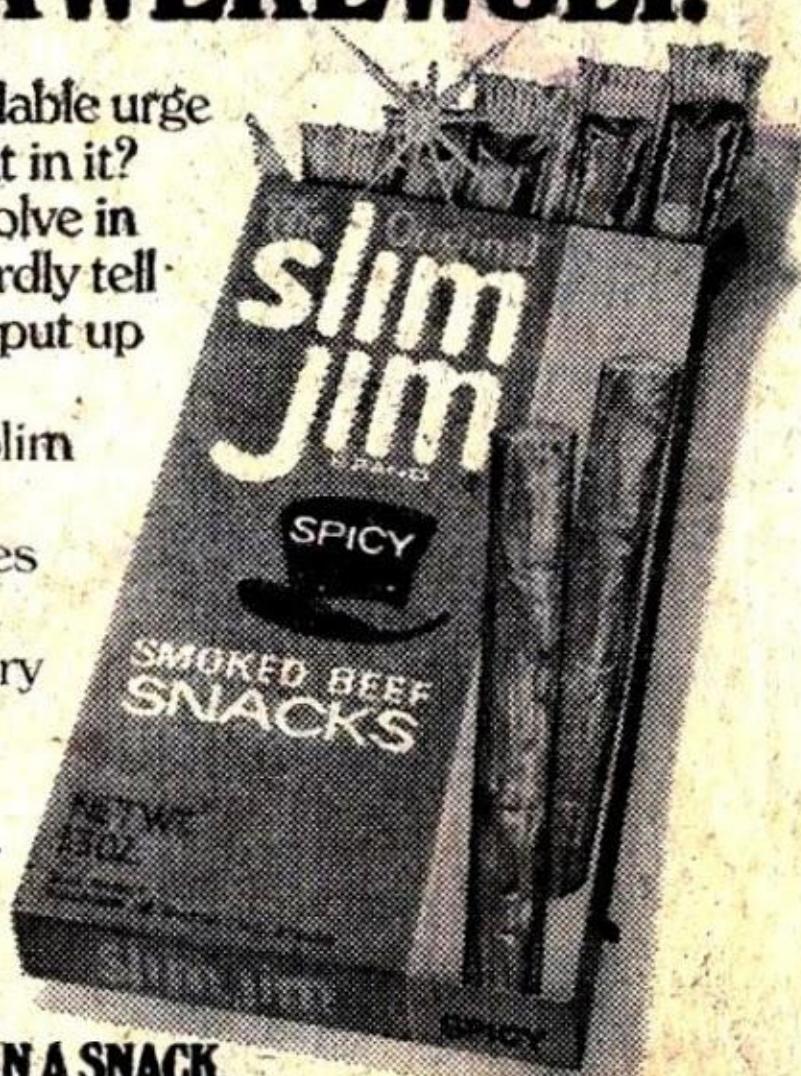
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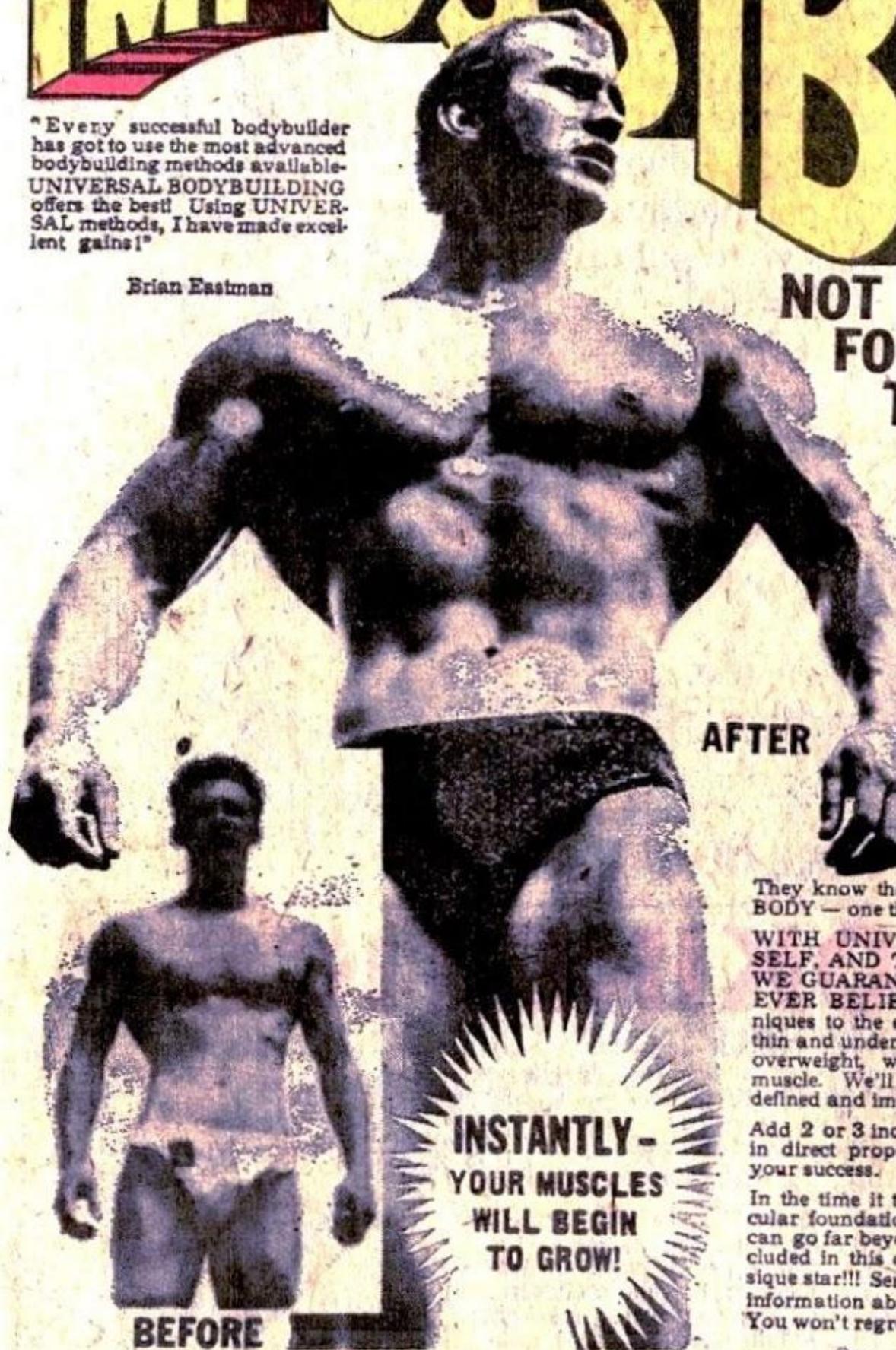
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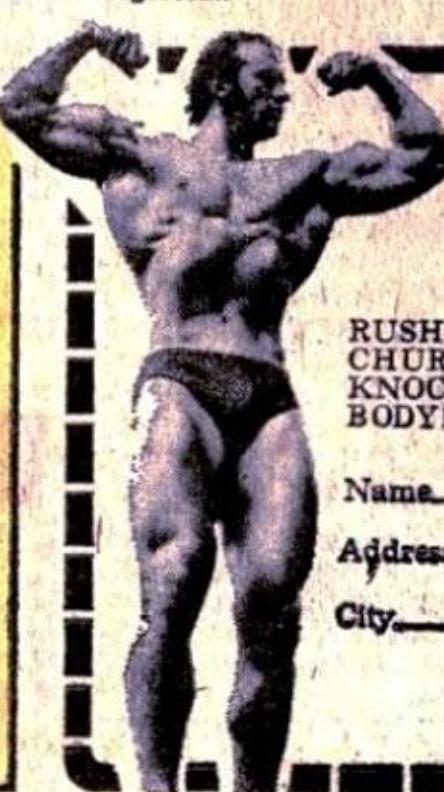
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I DON'T PRETEND TO UNDERSTAND YOU ENGLISHMEN, BUT WHAT WAS THE POINT OF THAT BRITISH FLAG BUSINESS--

--A CAPITALIST JOKE OR WHAT?

JOKE? WELL, A BIT OF WHIMSY, PERHAPS! AFTER ALL, THAT CANNON WAS ORIGINALLY BRITISH!

YOU FORGET, COBB, THAT THIS IS A COOPERATIVE ALL-EUROPEAN VENTURE!

THE PROJECTED PLANS FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMON THIEVES' MARKET MAY DEPEND ON HOW WE DO!

THE LIAISON MAN-- REPRESENTING THE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE-- AND GENERAL FACTOTUM FOR THE TEAM--TAKES A HAND--

ALL RIGHT, GENTLEMEN, LET'S MOVE ALONG!

PAOLO, YOU'RE THE TEAM LEADER! WHERE DO THINGS STAND?

AFTER THIS MEETING, BORIS AND I WILL MAKE THE NEXT-TO-LAST DELIVERY! THEN, IF HELMUT IS READY TOMORROW WITH THE LAST PARTS--

--WE'LL DELIVER THEM IN THE AFTERNOON... AND BE SET FOR ACTION TOMORROW NIGHT!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN IF I'M READY?

YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE GREATEST GUNSMITH IN EUROPE TODAY-- AND TOMORROW THE WORLD!

I WILL BE READY!

THAT EVENING-- AS THE BATMAN CARRIES ON HIS IDENTITY-- AND HIS OBLIGATIONS-- AS BRUCE WAYNE...

THE BANK CLOSES AT NINE TONIGHT, MR. WAYNE! WILL YOU BE STAYING ON?

I HOPE NOT, HAINES-- BUT I'M SWAMPED IN PAPERWORK...







S-2219

LETTERS to the **BATMAN**

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

Dear Editor:

In his voluminous tome on the pulps, Tony Goodstone says of Dashiell Hammett's stories, "... just as you think you have it all figured out, it takes several unexpected turns and ends up with a bang." So it was with the Hammett-inspired "Daily Death of Terry Tremayne" by David V. Reed.

From the pulp-like cover with Batman shielding his leggy companion to the "hard-boiled detective" characterization of the Caped Crusader, **BATMAN #269** came off like something from a bygone era of American popular culture. And with elusive art treasures and the hero regretfully arresting his leading lady, the nostalgic aura of the tale was enhanced—in "Spades".

But let's get back to the twists taken when things looked like they were solved. The story could have ended with the capture of Janghurst and Hakes. By that time, every element of the typical Batman tale—action, deduction, atmosphere, a deadly "inescapable" trap, and a seeming resolution—had taken place. Yet, in true Hammett style, Reed kept things moving up to an ending which, although unforeseen, explained everything that had gone on until that point, including the loose ends Batman brings up on pages 14 and 15.

What more can be said about this tribute to an author "who showed mystery writers the way to go" than "Way to go!"

RAY ENGELBERG, Bronx, N.Y.

(Overwhelming approval greeted our Hammett-esque Batman story, from people who have read the tales of Sam Spade, the Continental Op and The Thin Man and those who haven't. To readers who haven't sampled Mr. Hammett's works, we suggest you try "The Maltese Falcon", "The Glass Key" or one of his other classics.—BR)

• • • •

Dear Editor:

The degree of my respect for the David V. Reed/Ernie Chua team is growing in leaps and bounds, and **BATMAN #269** was no exception in their era of greatness. Half the reason Dave's stories turn out so well is Ernie's graphic artwork. The more I look at the panel layouts, the more I like them. On pages 9, 13, and 14, we see prime examples of how the varying panels keep the action flowing smoothly. Panels with no word balloons give us the chance to concentrate on the action and review the tremendous art.

I liked the use of exotic weapons and the fight with the swords. Batman's quick thinking was fully demonstrated by the way he protected himself from the poison darts with those fancy shields. But the real highlight was the amount of action—I counted 4 fights! And Dave seemed to be giving Batman a more developed sense of humor. He's started to pun around and showed a grim sort of jest when he "burned" the criminals out from behind the fireplace. This is okay, as long as you don't overdo it!

ROD McLAUGHLIN, Ramsey, Mont.

(While Batman may crack a joke once in a while, you can be sure he won't spend an issue trying to keep you McLaughing!—BR)

• • • •

Dear Mr. Schwartz,

BATMAN #269, the Dashiell Hammett—"Maltese Falcon" tribute, was somewhat disappointing. Ernie Chua seems to be settling in as the main artist for Batman and, while he is unfortunately perpetuating the over-muscled, pinheaded version of the darknight detective, he does use some remarkably inventive positions to convey the cat-like agility so necessary for him. The problem with "The Daily Death of Terry Tremayne" came not from the artist, but from the writer.

Hammett's gallery of grotesque gargoyle in "The Maltese Falcon" are transformed here into the usual faceless hoods Batman mops up every issue. The fabled Florentine Box seems thrown in as an afterthought and never attains the power and mystery it should have. But the crucial weakness here was the Terry-Batman romance. Batman comes off here like a dupe—he really seems the foppish, unperceptive playboy with a naive crush that Bruce Wayne pretends to be. Many of the classic Batman-Catwoman tales captured the Hammett romance more truly and with less effort.

While I commend the spirit of this tribute, more concentration on the details could have made it a masterpiece rather than merely an entertaining puzzle.

JONATHAN KUNTZ, Los Angeles, Cal.

(Our purpose was a tribute to Dashiell Hammett and a story in the tradition of "The Maltese Falcon", Jon, not a detail-for-detail copy you seem to think we were trying for!—BR)

• • • •

Dear Julie,

The combination of Hammett and Batman worked excellently in the hands of David Reed and Ernie Chua—why not expand to other mystery writers like Doyle, Carr, Queen, etc?

TOR JONASSEN, Morton, Pa.

(We've beat you to the punch, Tor. Coming up in **DETECTIVE #459** is a Marty Pasko-scripted Batman tale a la Ellery Queen and Denny O'Neil will be working on one in the Ed McBain style!—Bob Rozakis)

SHAZAM!

"The CUP CAKE CAPER"

HOLY MOLEY!
WE'VE JUST GOTTEN
WORD THAT THE
STRANGE DISAPPEARANCE
OF CUP CAKES AROUND
THE WORLD IS
CONTINUING!

UNLESS
SOMETHING
IS DONE ABOUT
THESE CUP CAKE
CROOKS, KIDS
COULD BE IN
REAL TROUBLE!

IF ONLY WE
COULD GET IN
TOUCH WITH
CAPTAIN MARVEL!

SHAZAM!

OBVIOUSLY,
THERE'S A
CUP CAKE CAPER.
MY PROBLEM IS
TO FIND WHO'S
BEHIND IT—AND
WHERE THEY'VE
STASHED THE
GOODIES.

PUT THOSE
HOSTESS
CUP CAKES
OVER THERE,
MAX.

RIGHT,
CHIEF.

THAT
COMPLETES
THE CUP CAKE
CAPER. WE'VE GOT
ALL THE CUP CAKES
NOW.

NOT SO
FAST, DUMB
ONE.

I SUPPOSE
YOU WANT US
TO RETURN
THESE HOSTESS
CUP CAKES TO
THE KIDS, JUST
BECAUSE THEY
LIKE THE DEVIL'S
FOOD CAKE,
CHOCOLATE
ICING AND
CREAMY
FILLING.

THAT'S
CORRECT, MY
FIENDISH
FRIEND. THAT'S
WHY I'M ENDING
YOUR CAPER
RIGHT NOW!

THANKS FOR ENDING
THE CUP CAKE CAPER,
CAPTAIN MARVEL.

THAT'S WHAT
FRIENDS ARE FOR,
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YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN
EVERY BITE OF
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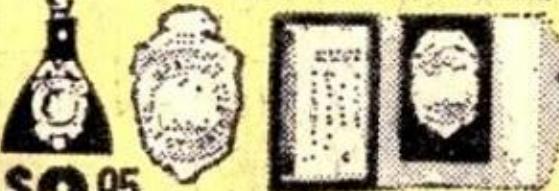
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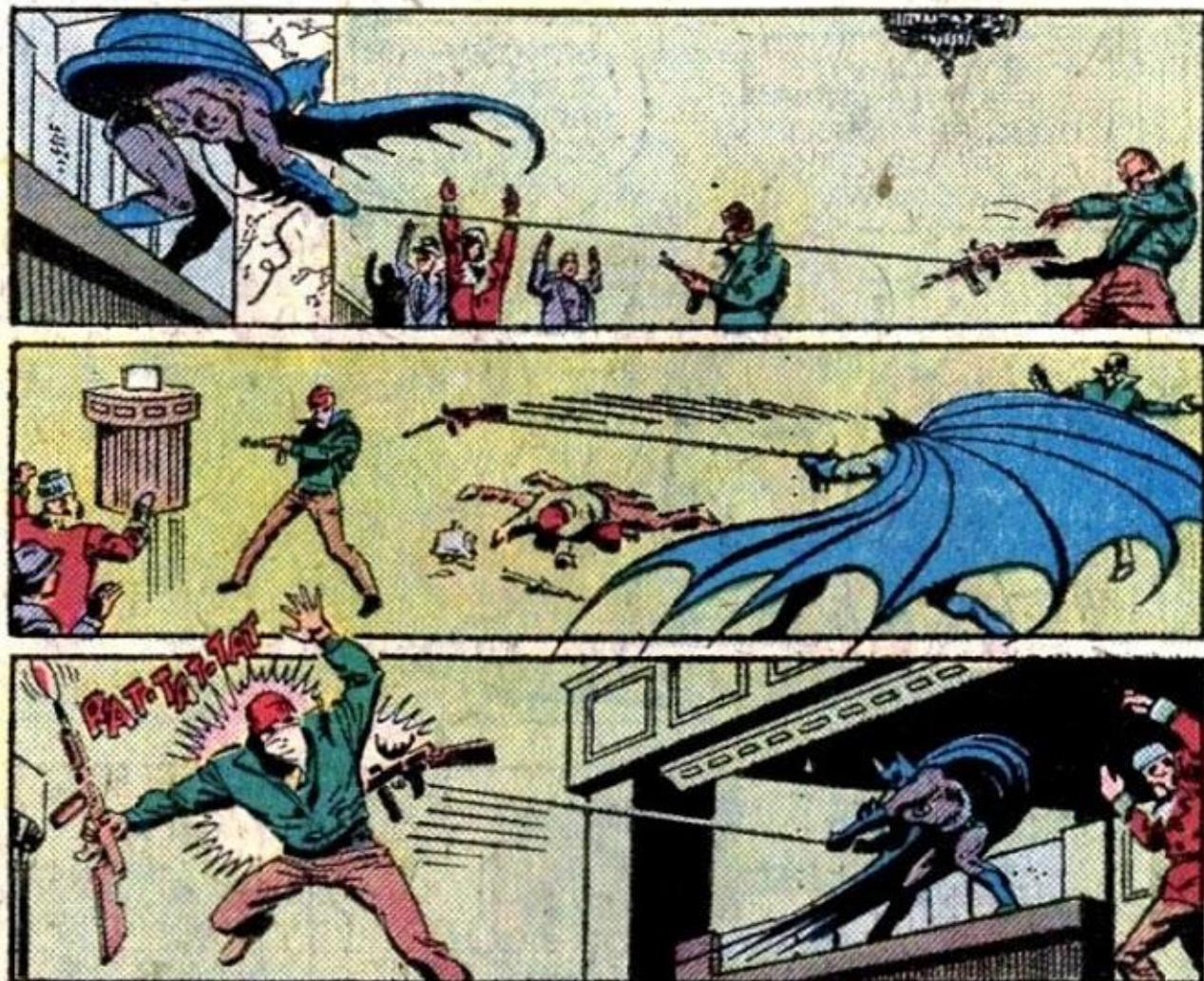
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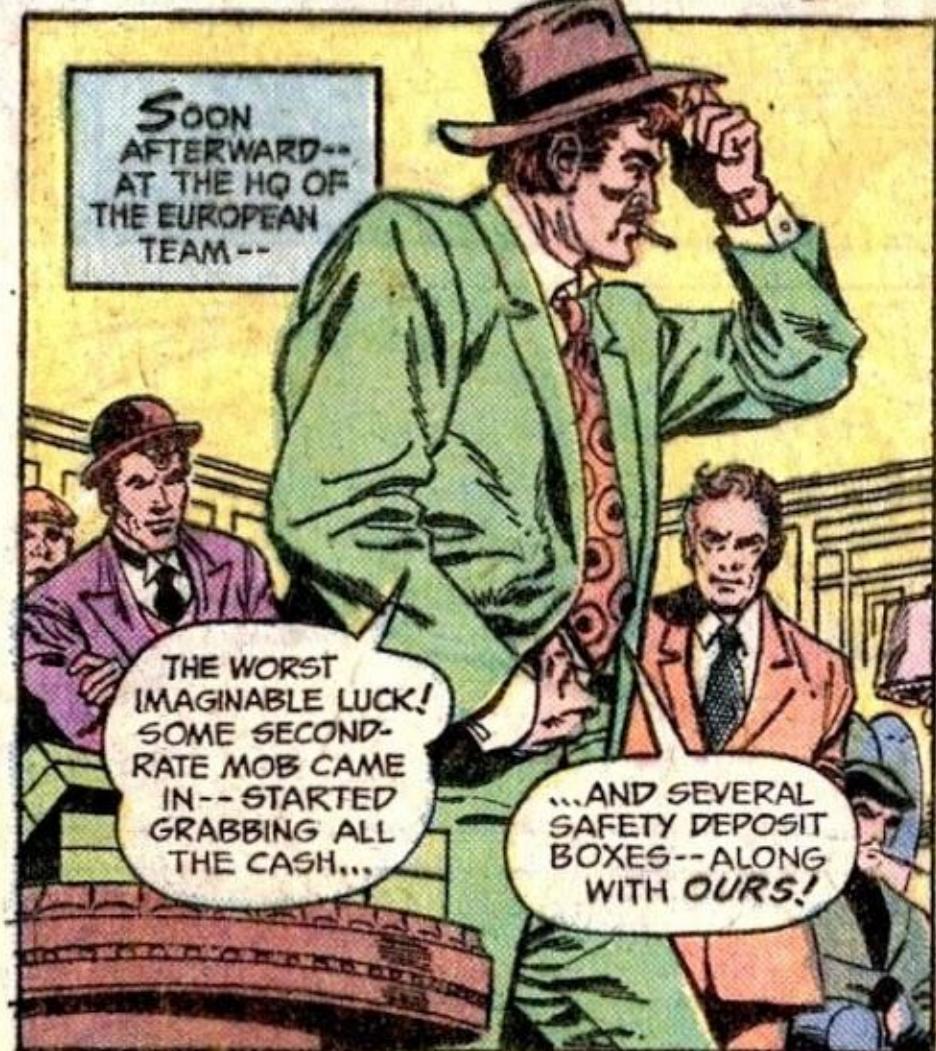
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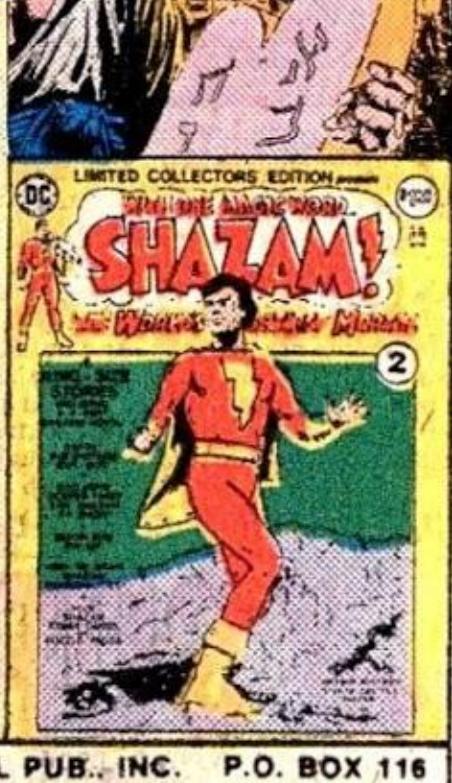
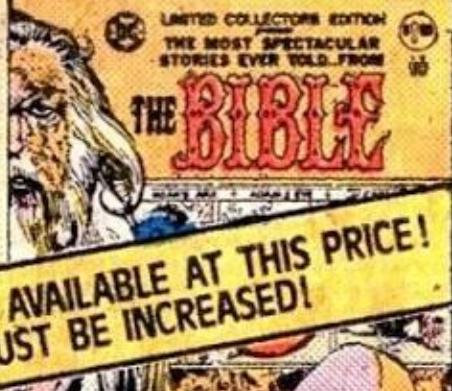
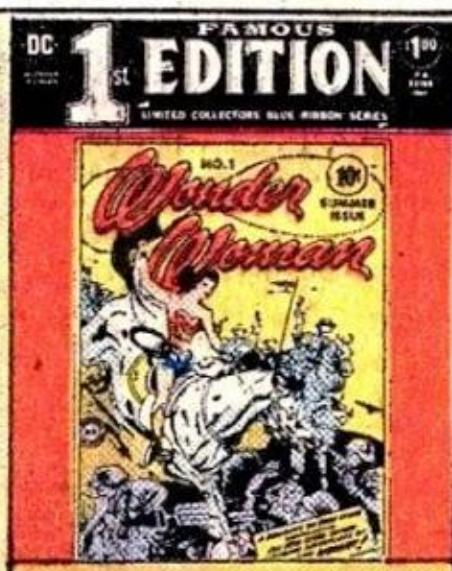
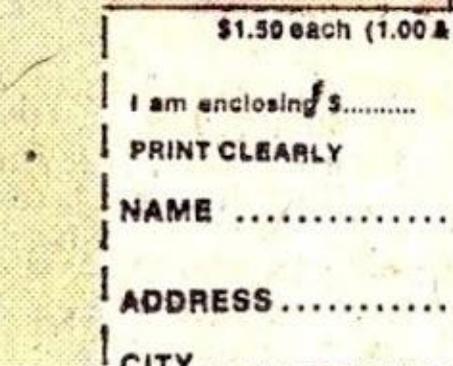
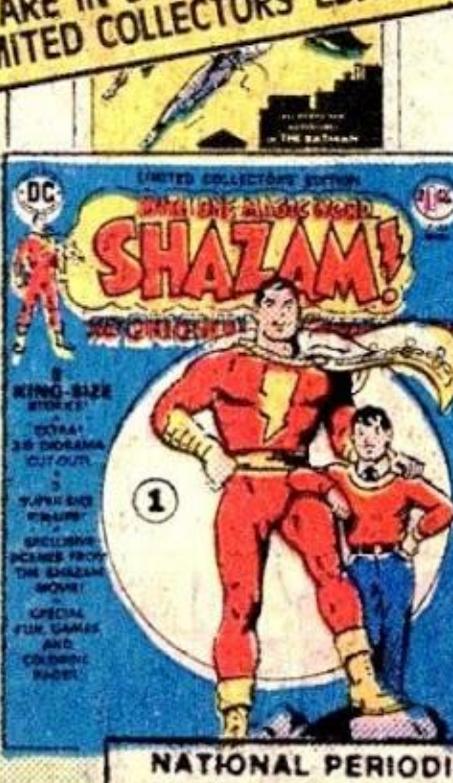
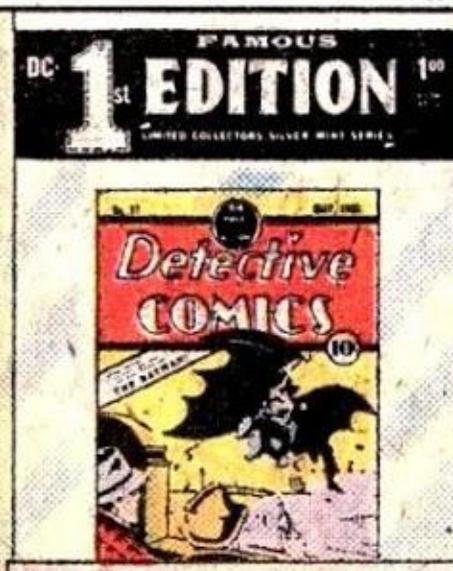
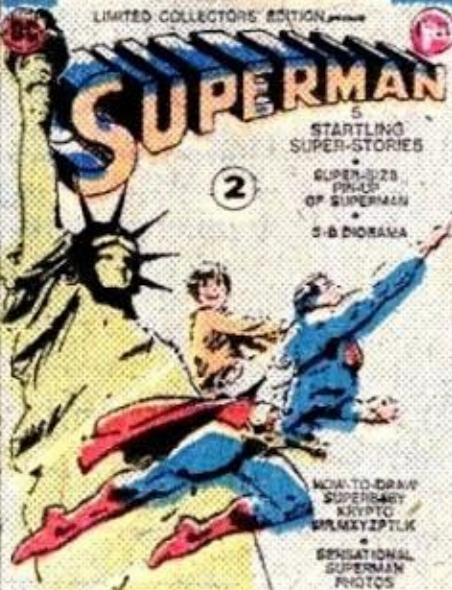
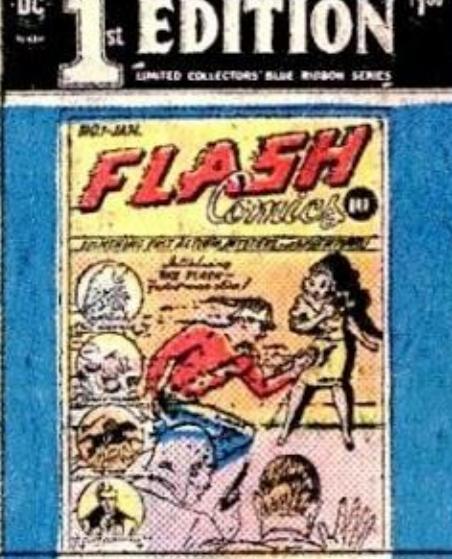
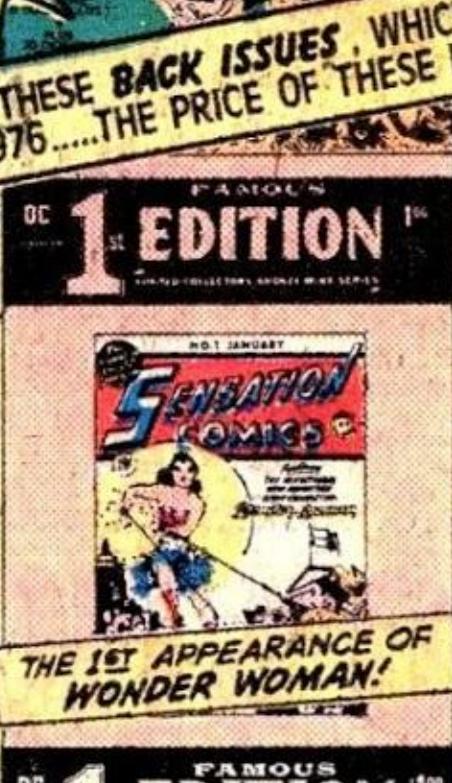
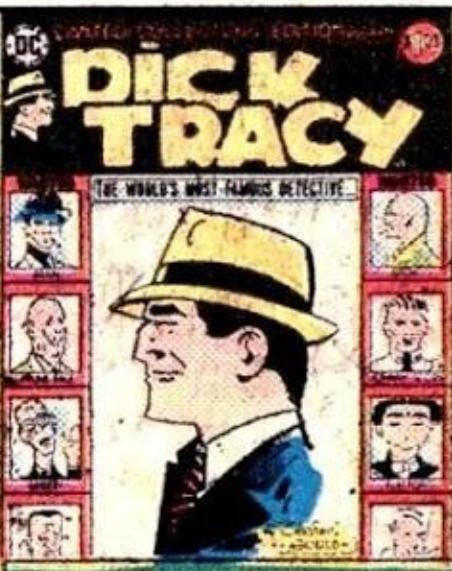
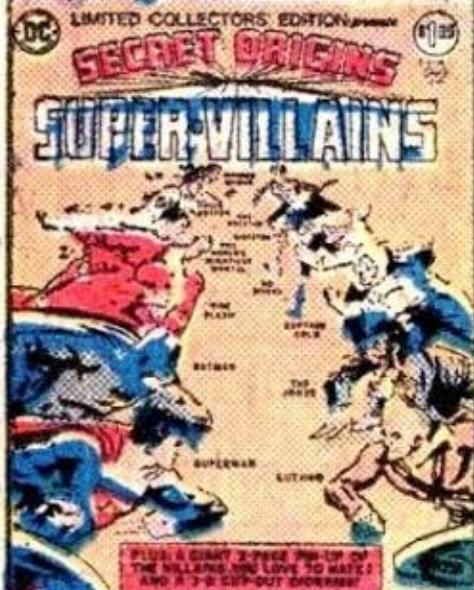
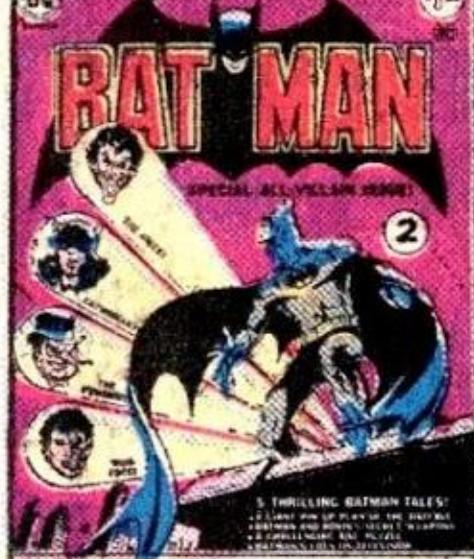
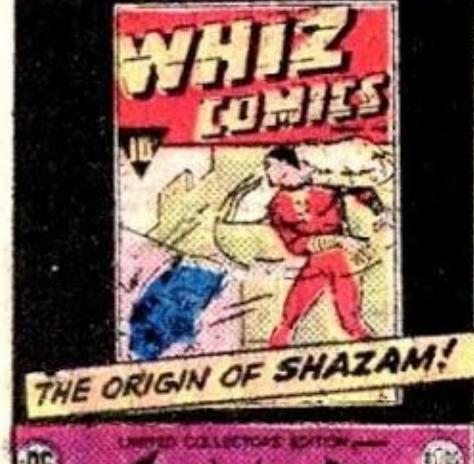
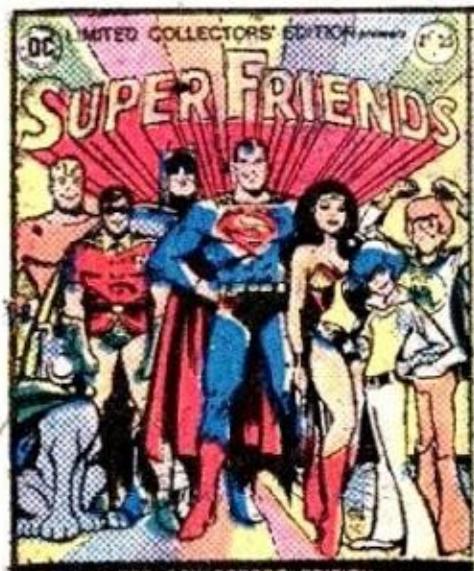
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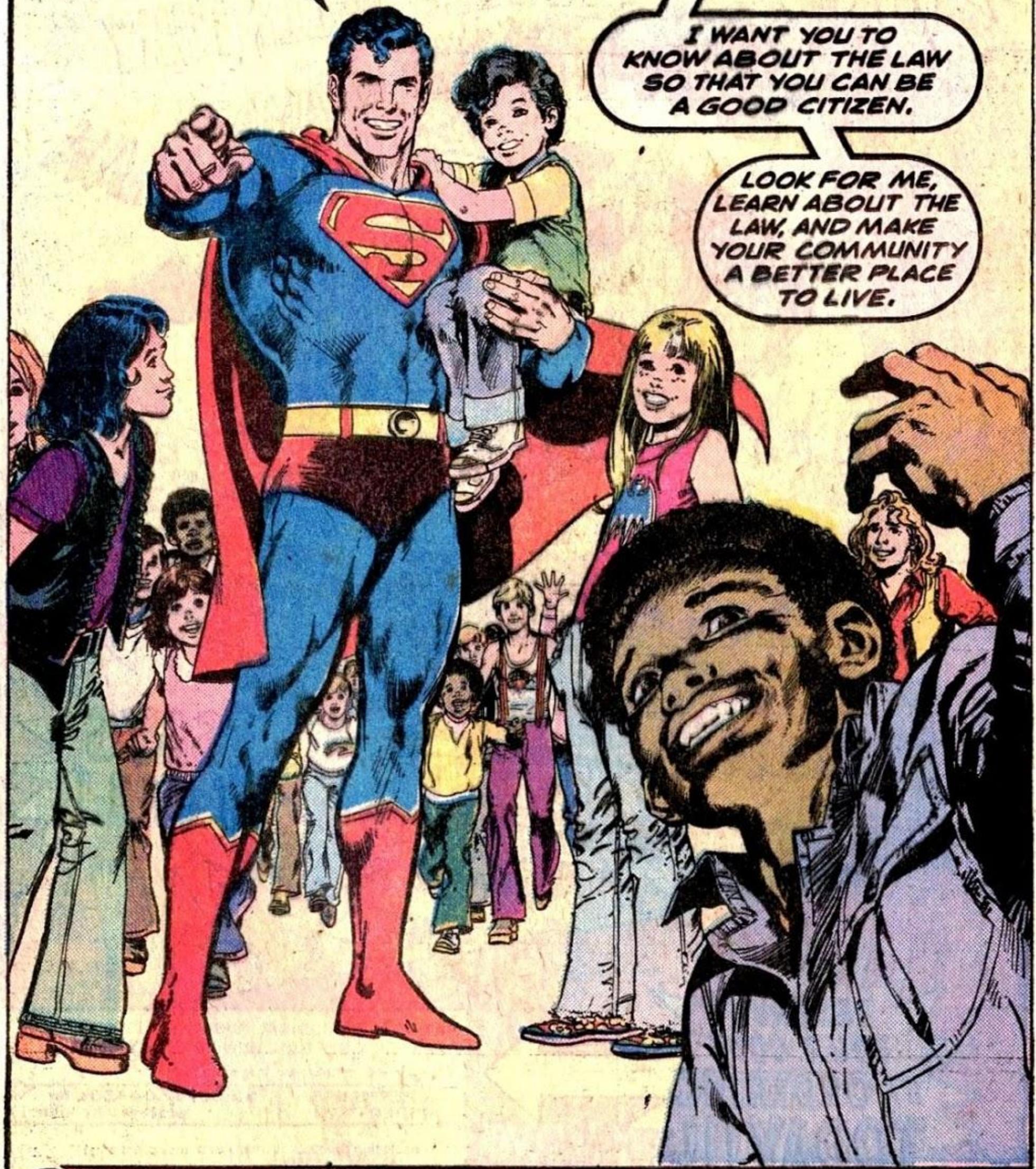
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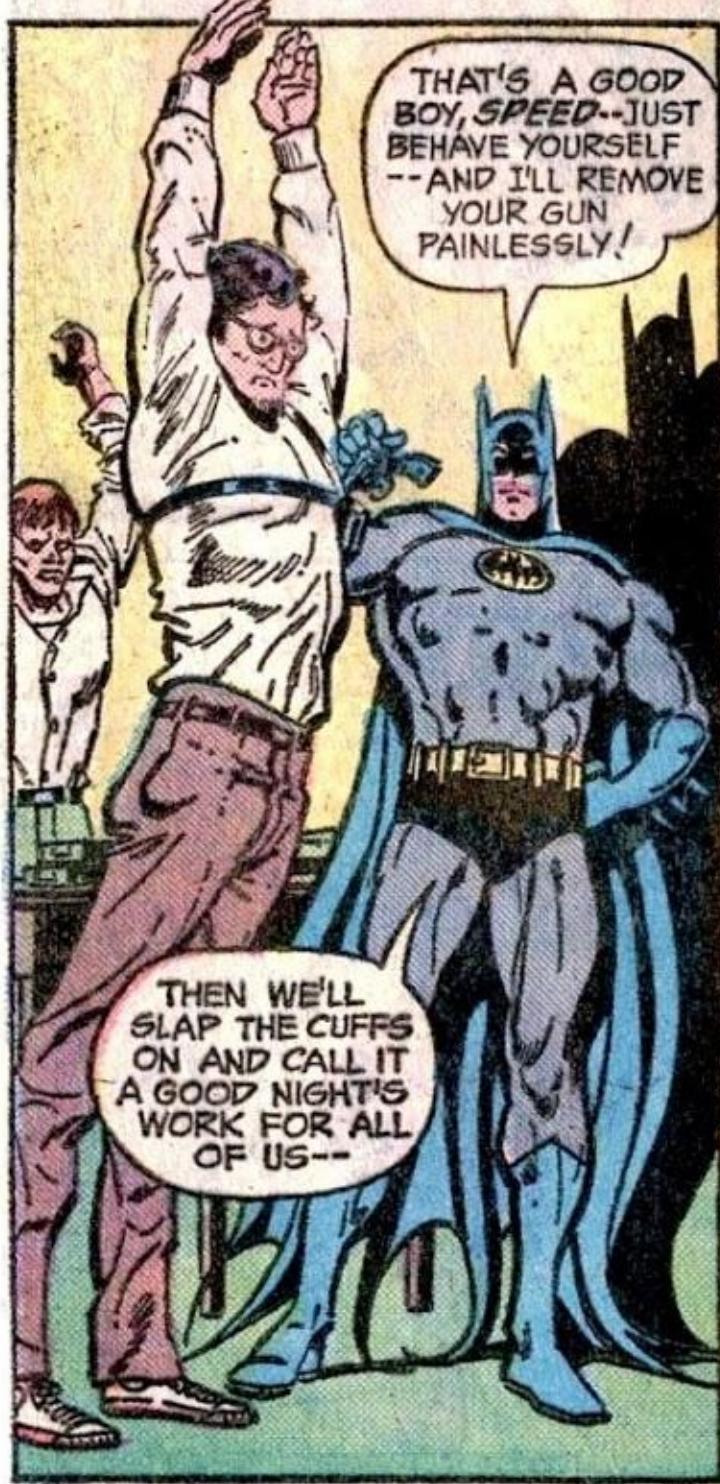
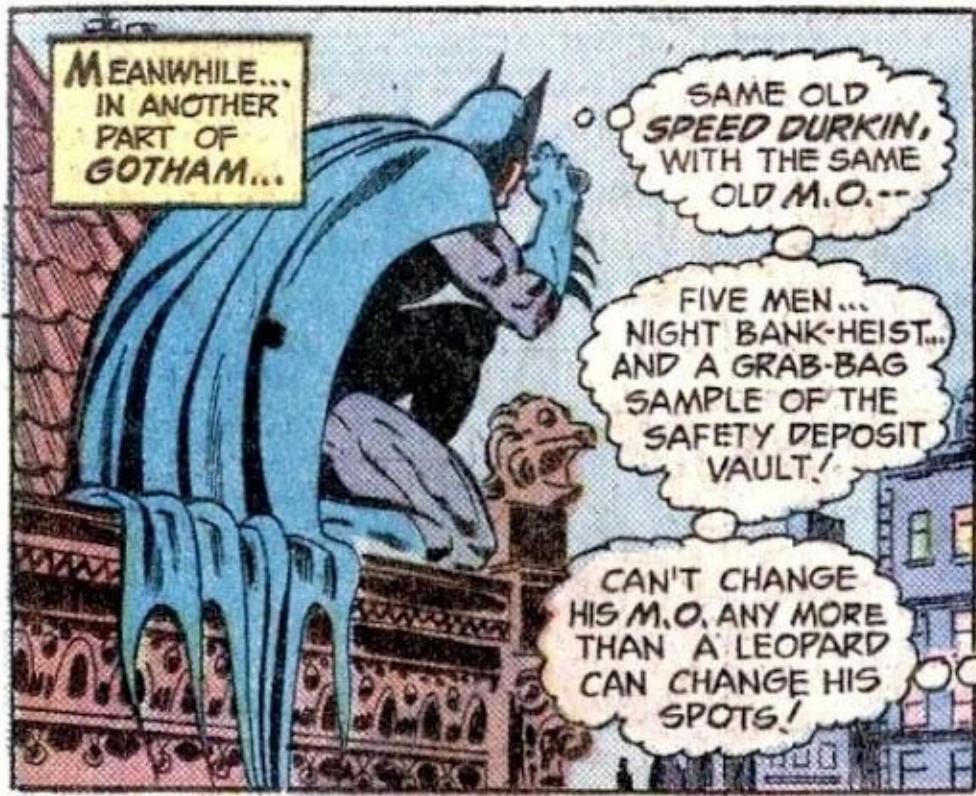
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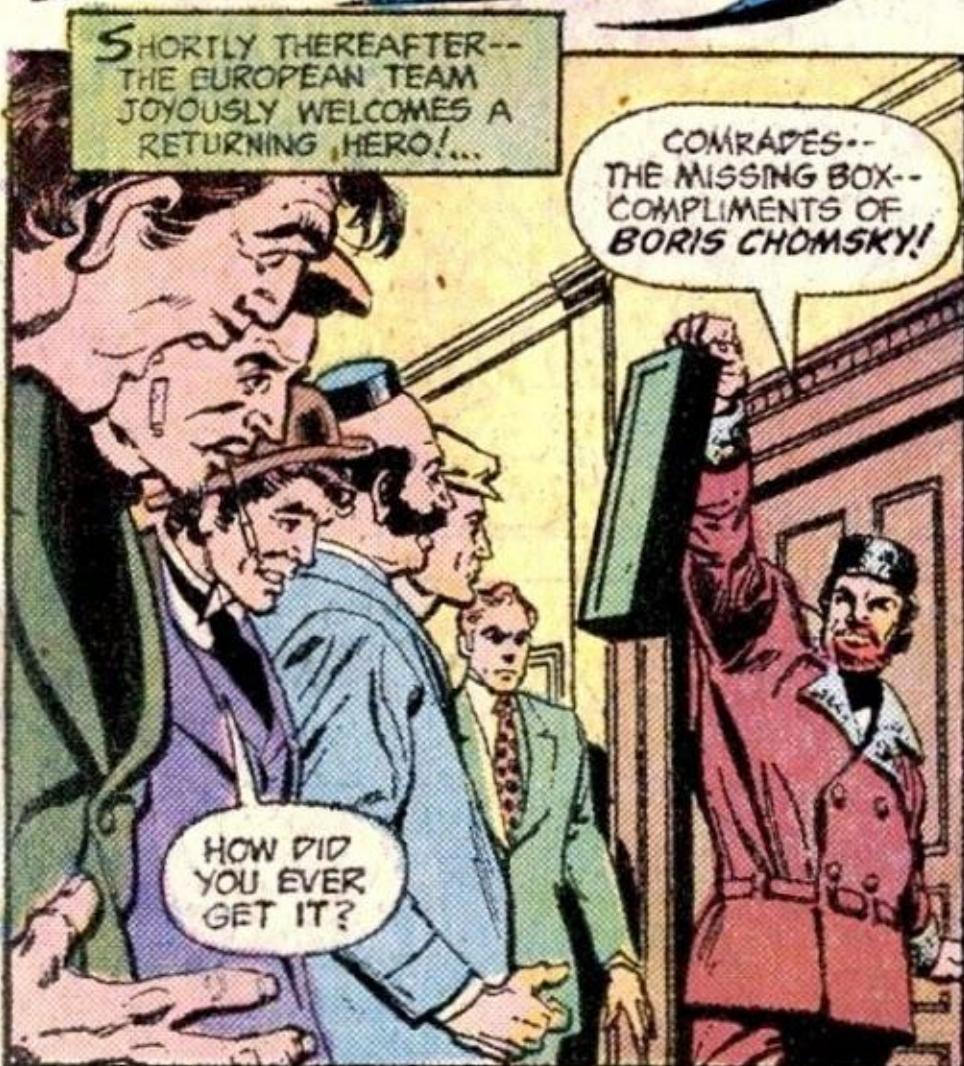
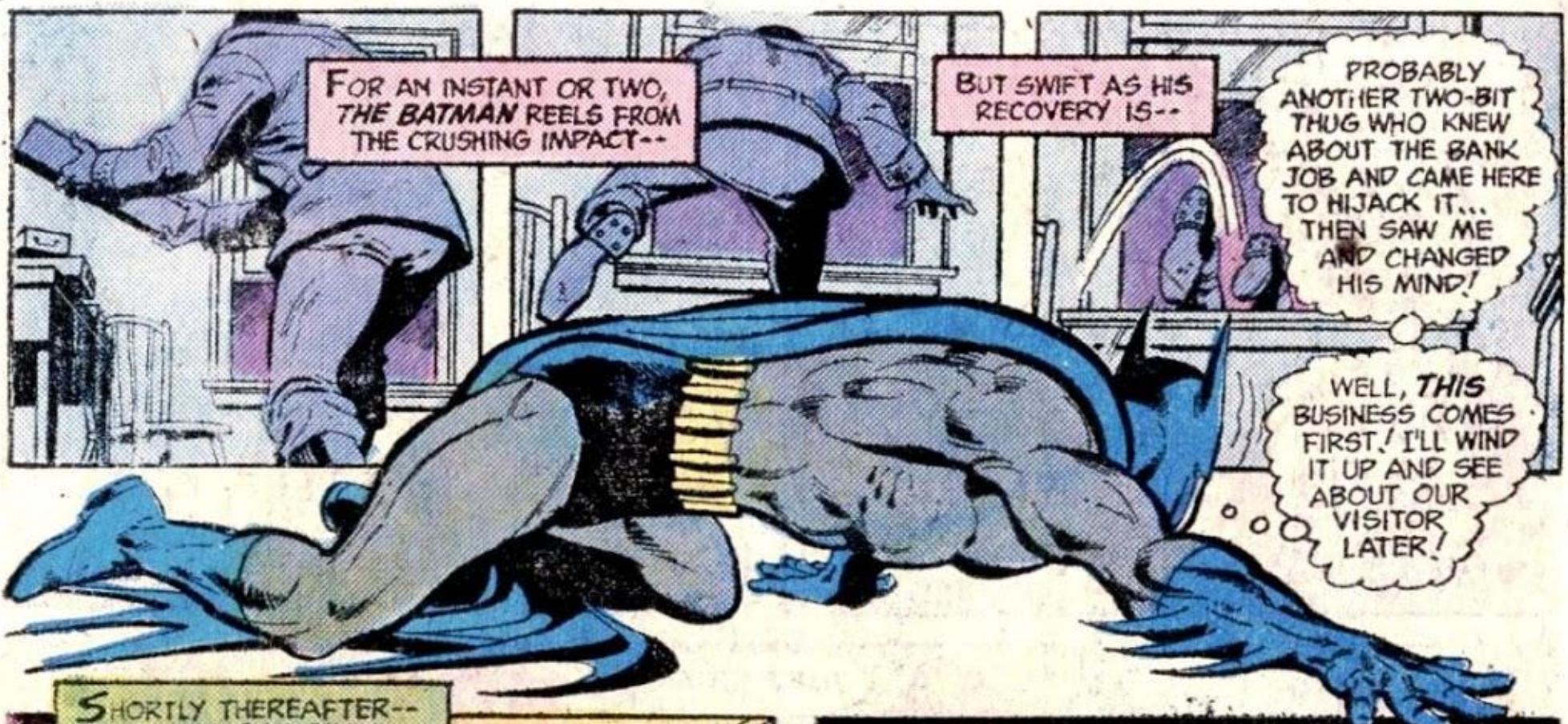
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LOOK FOR ME, LEARN ABOUT THE LAW, AND MAKE YOUR COMMUNITY A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE.



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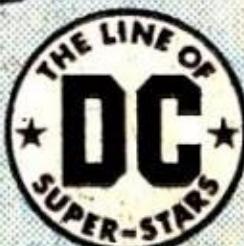
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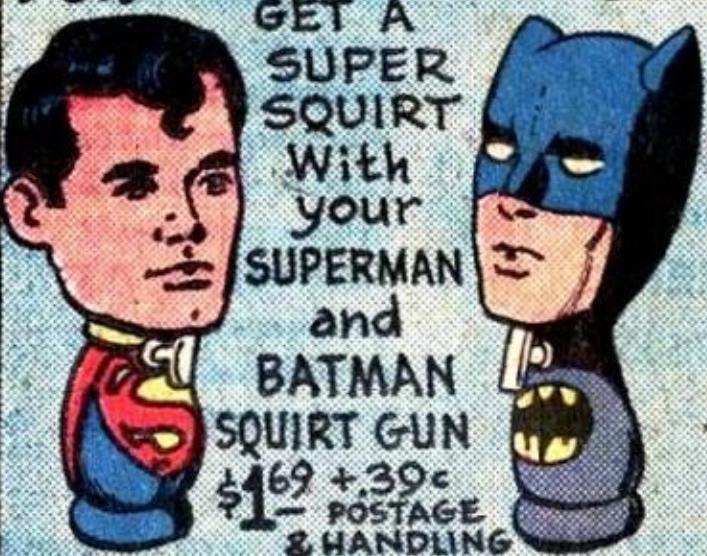
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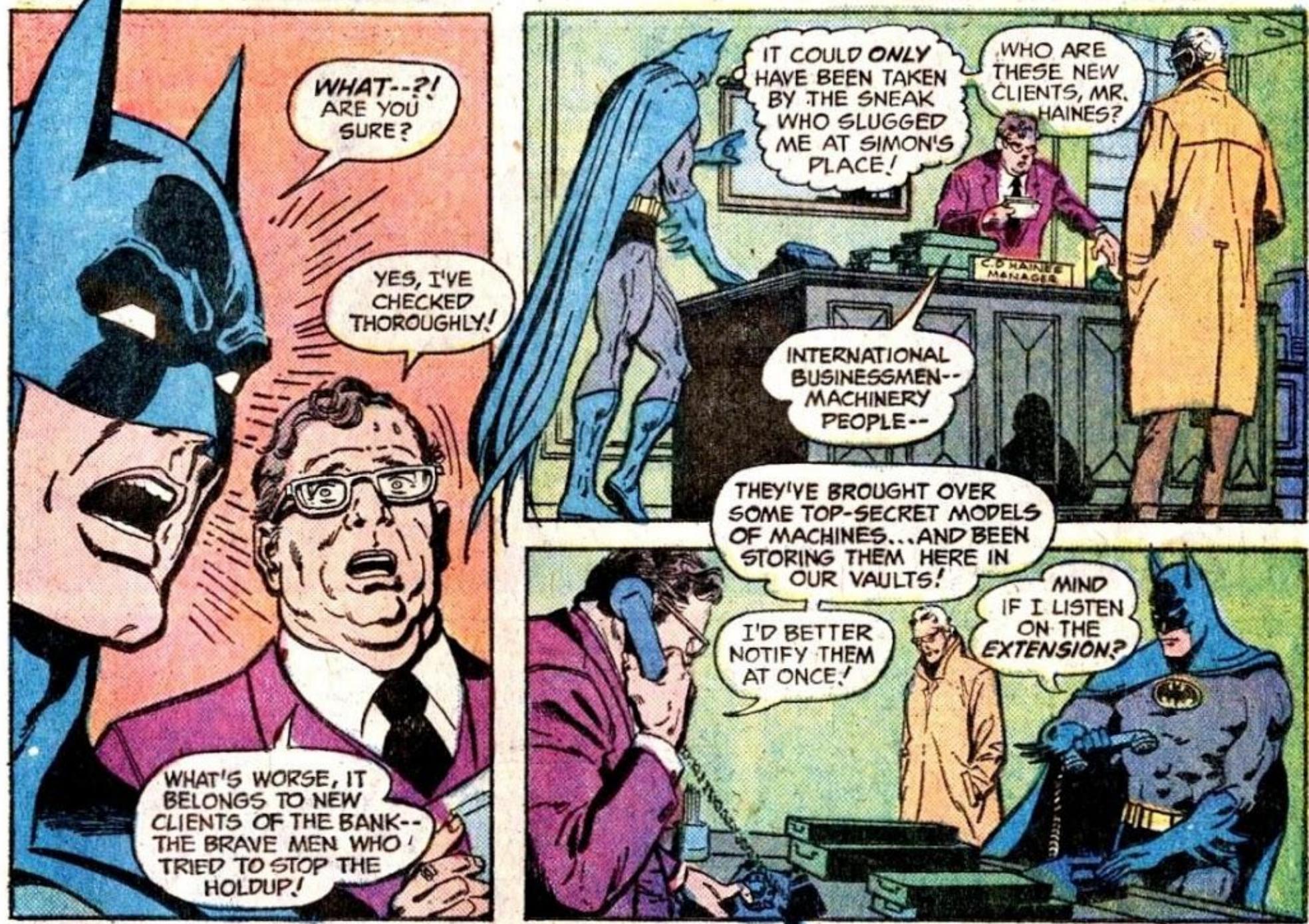
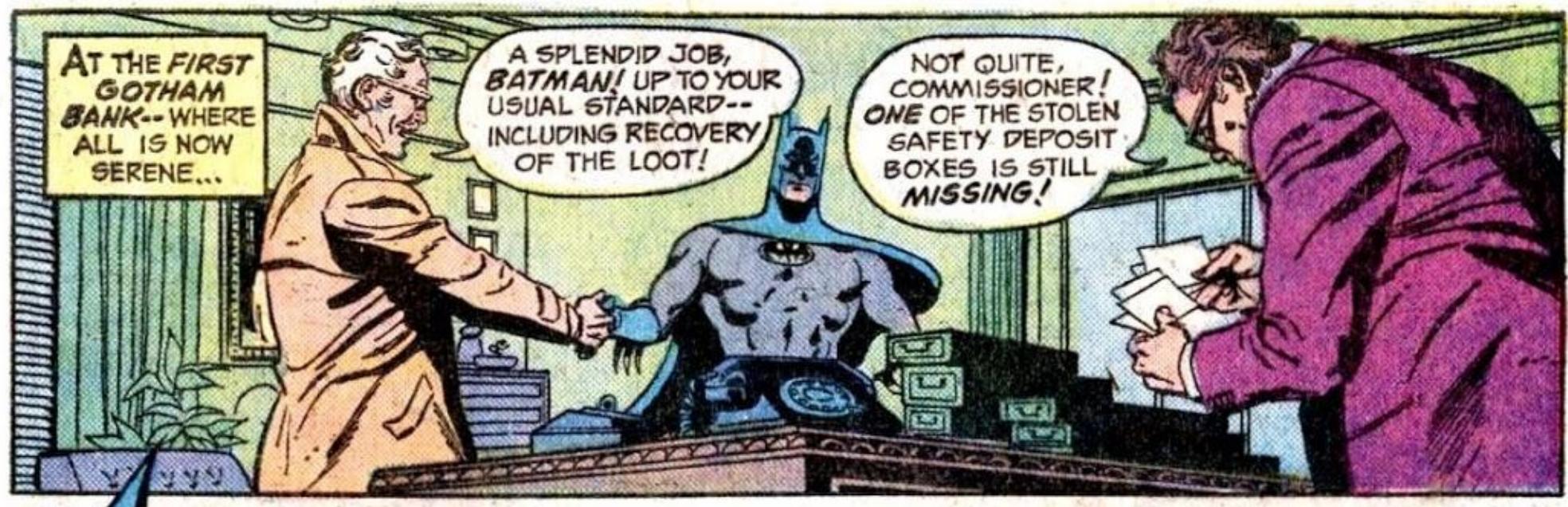
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THE FOLLOWING
AFTERNOON--
AT U.O. '76--

A PROGRESS
REPORT ON THE
EUROPEAN TEAM--

O: OLYMPICS '76

IN ADDITION TO THEIR
INITIAL TWENTY POINTS,
THEY HAVE SCORED
ANOTHER TWENTY--
FOR CONVERTING
THE CANNON!

PHASE THREE--
WORTH TEN POINTS--
IS PRESENTLY BEING
COMPLETED!

IF SUCCESSFUL
IT WILL GIVE THEM
A TOTAL OF FIFTY
POINTS!

THE BIG E IS
HALFWAY HOME AND
HASN'T SUFFERED
A PENALTY YET!

SEVEN TO FIVE
THEY FINISH WITH
A SIXTY!

EVEN MONEY
THEY DO BETTER!

COVERED!

SIMULTANEOUSLY--
AT THE FIRST
GOTHAM BANK--
BRUCE WAYNE DOES
A LITTLE DAYLIGHT
RECONNOITERING
FOR THE BATMAN--

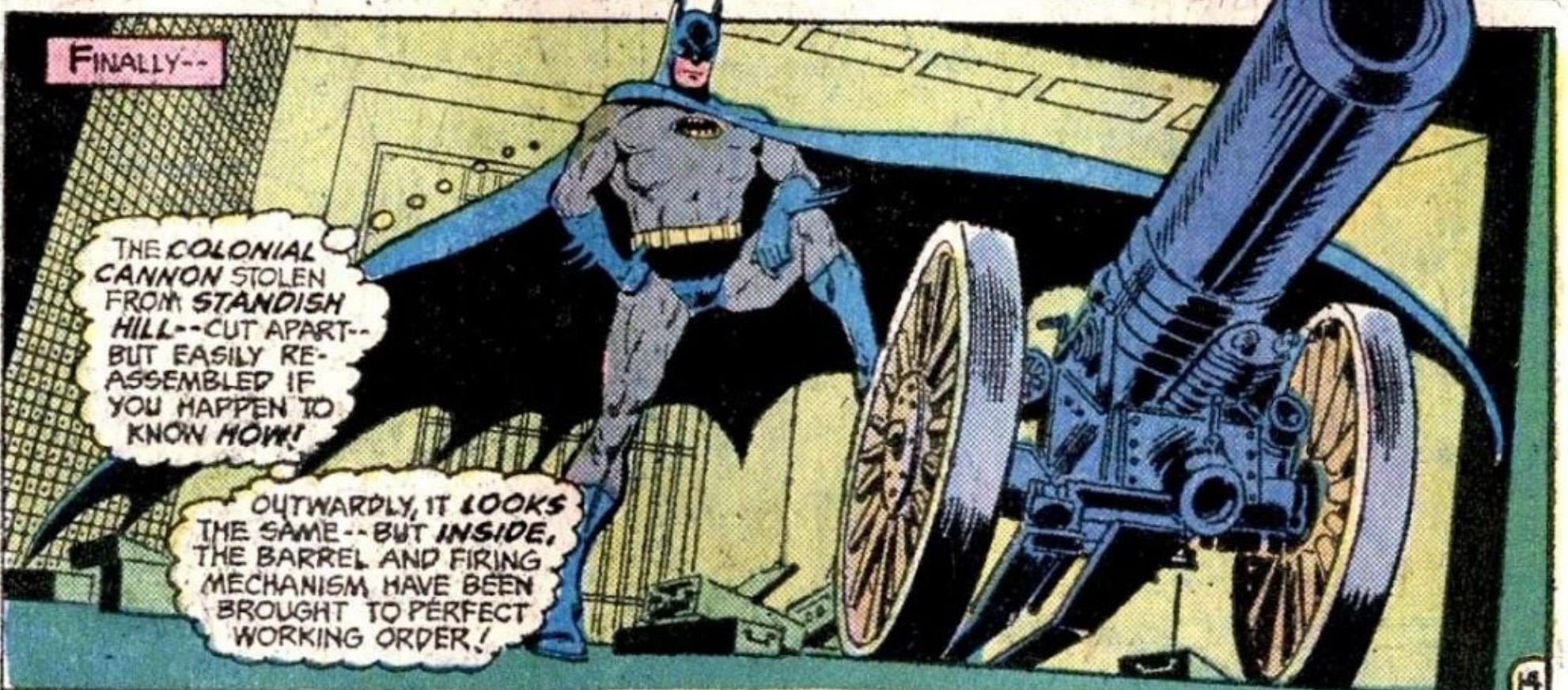
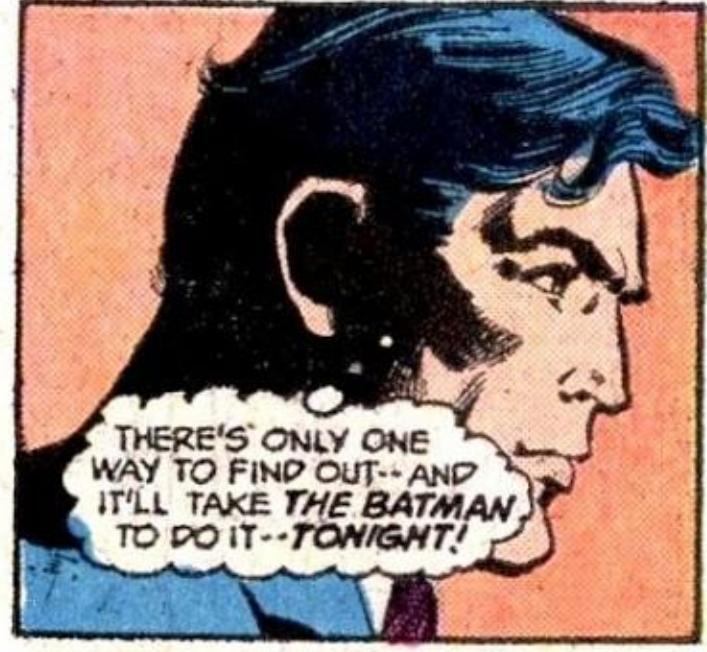
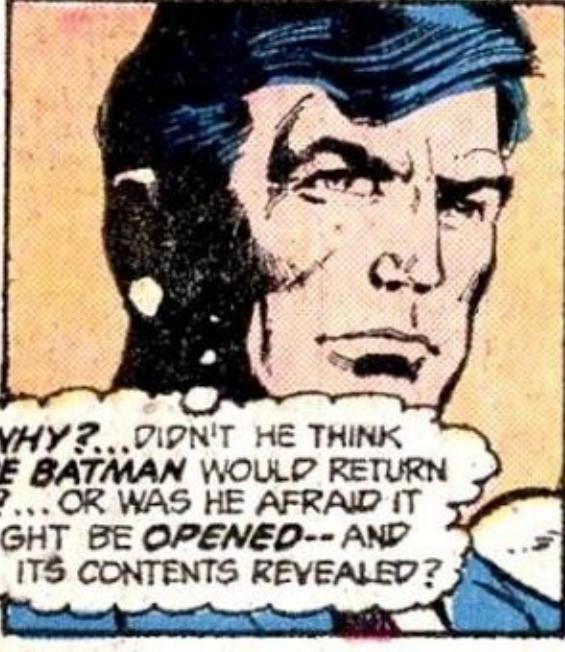
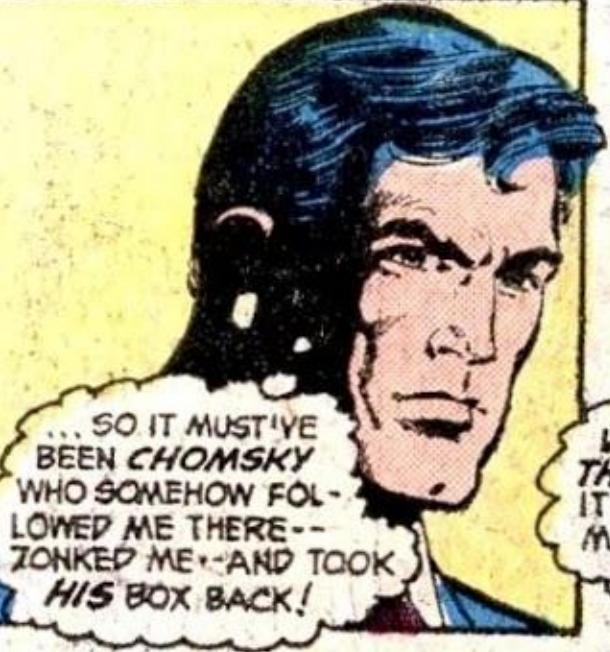
THERE THEY
ARE--THE COOL
MR. CORSINI AND
HIS PARTNER, MR.
CHOMSKY... AND
RATHER HEAVILY
WEIGHED DOWN...

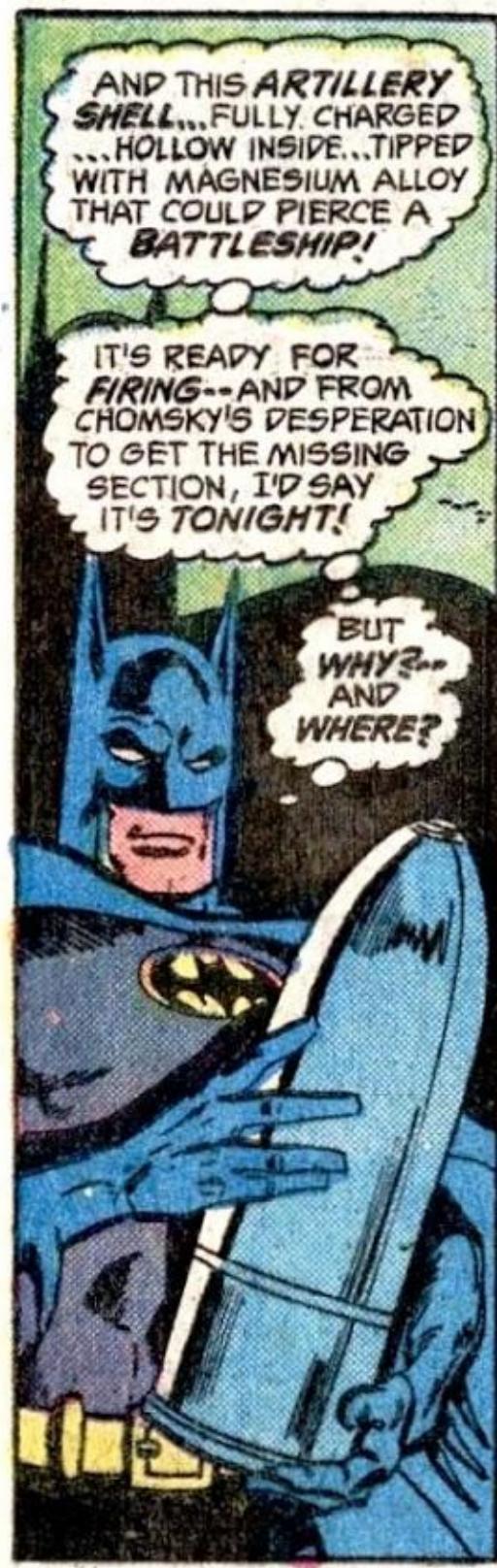
THEN--AS THE
THREE PROCEED
TO THE SAFETY
DEPOSIT VAULT--

DO I SEE
WHAT I THINK
I SEE--?

--I DO!

I'VE SEEN THEM
BEFORE--THOSE HOBNAILED
HEELS OF CHOMSKY'S--DIVING
OUT OF SIMON'S WINDOW
LAST NIGHT!





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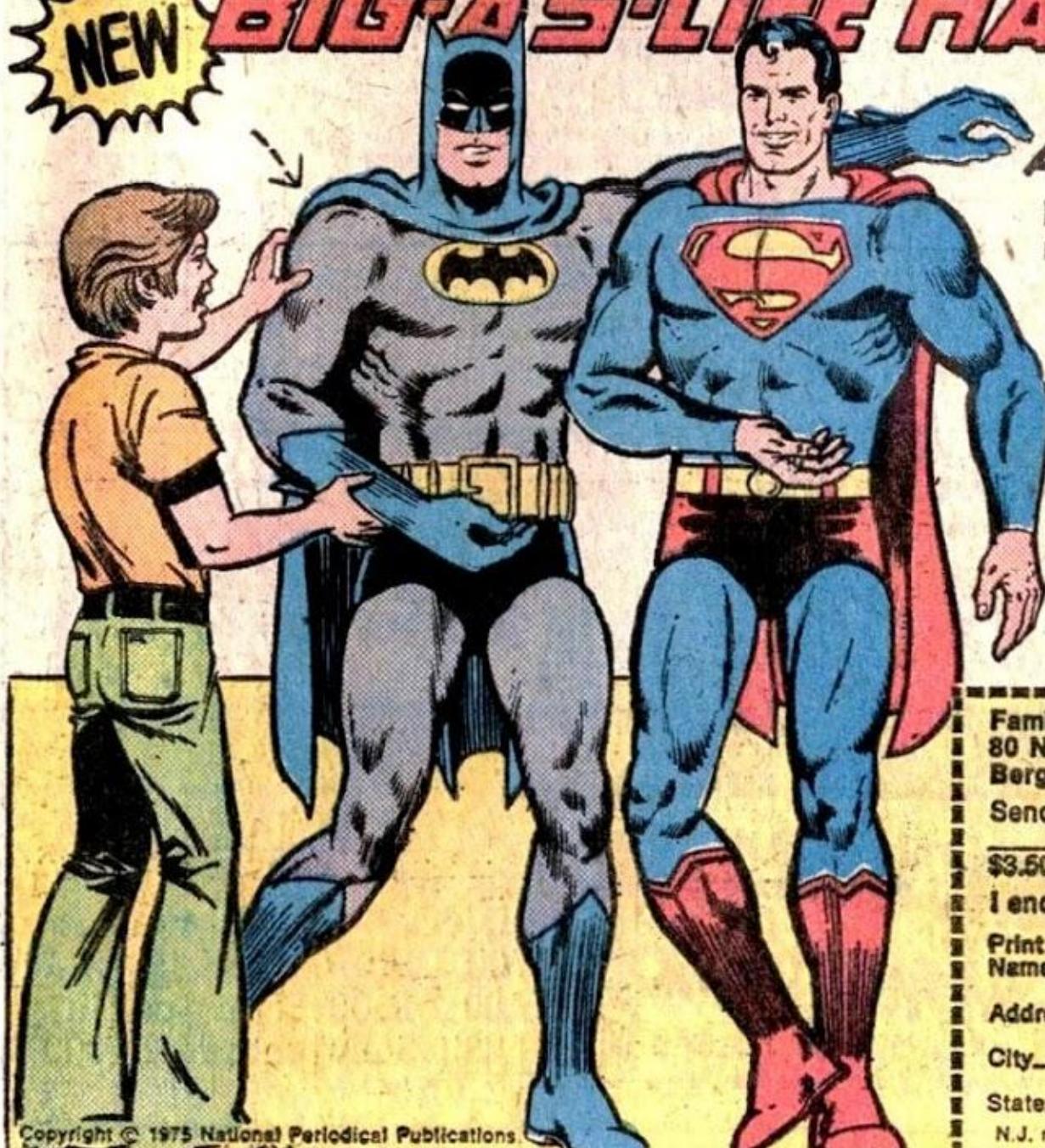
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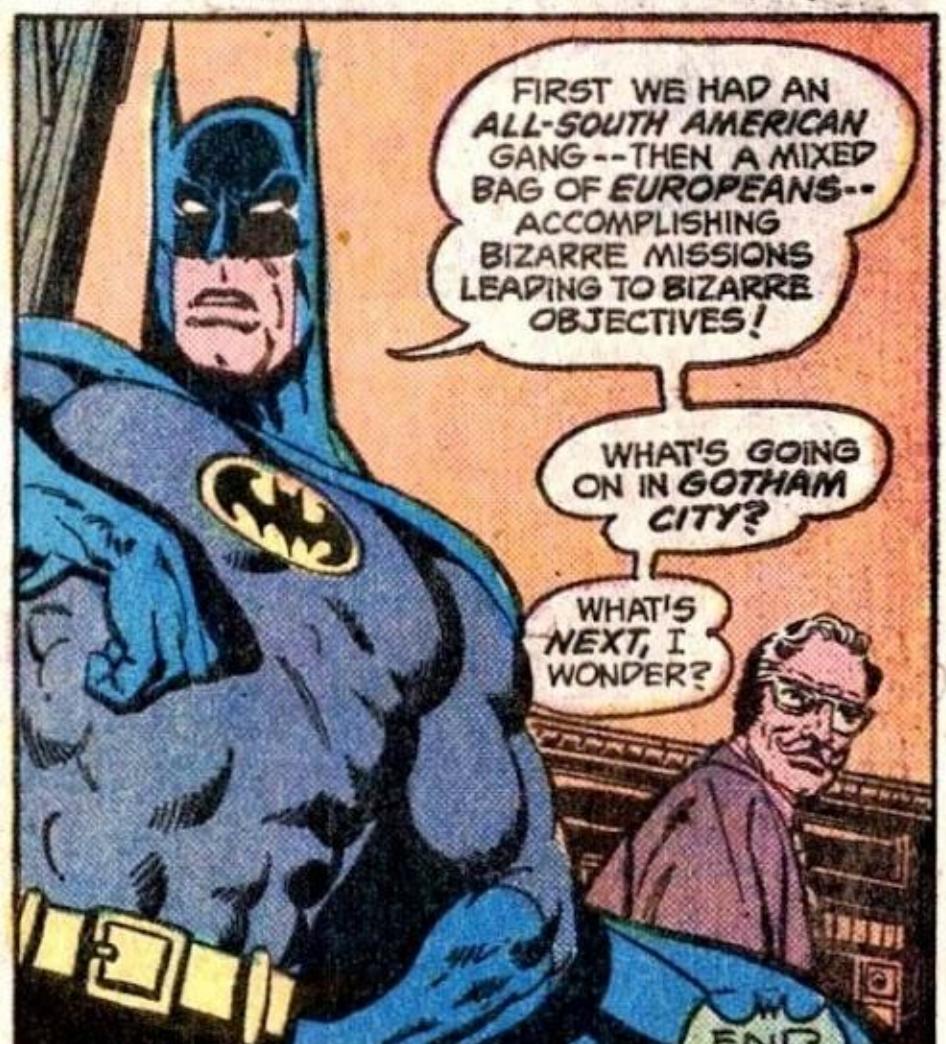
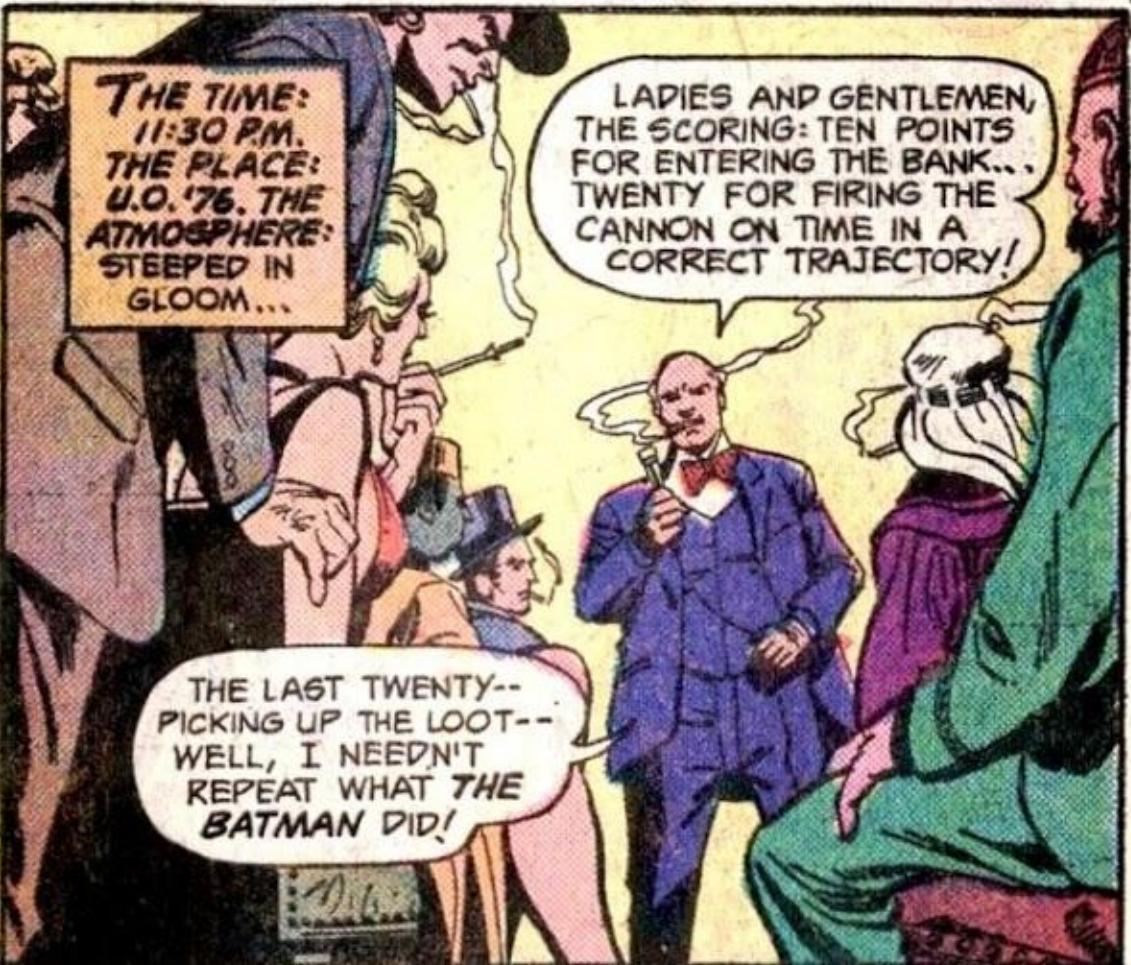


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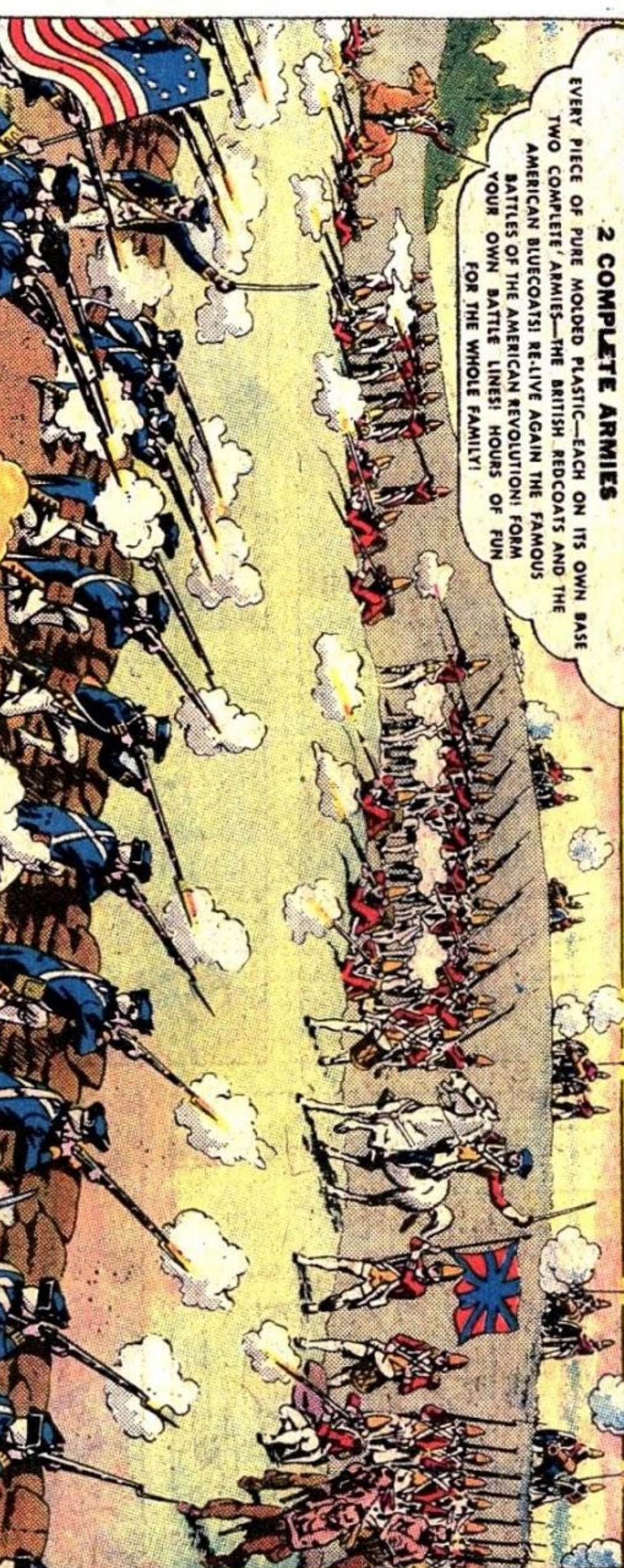
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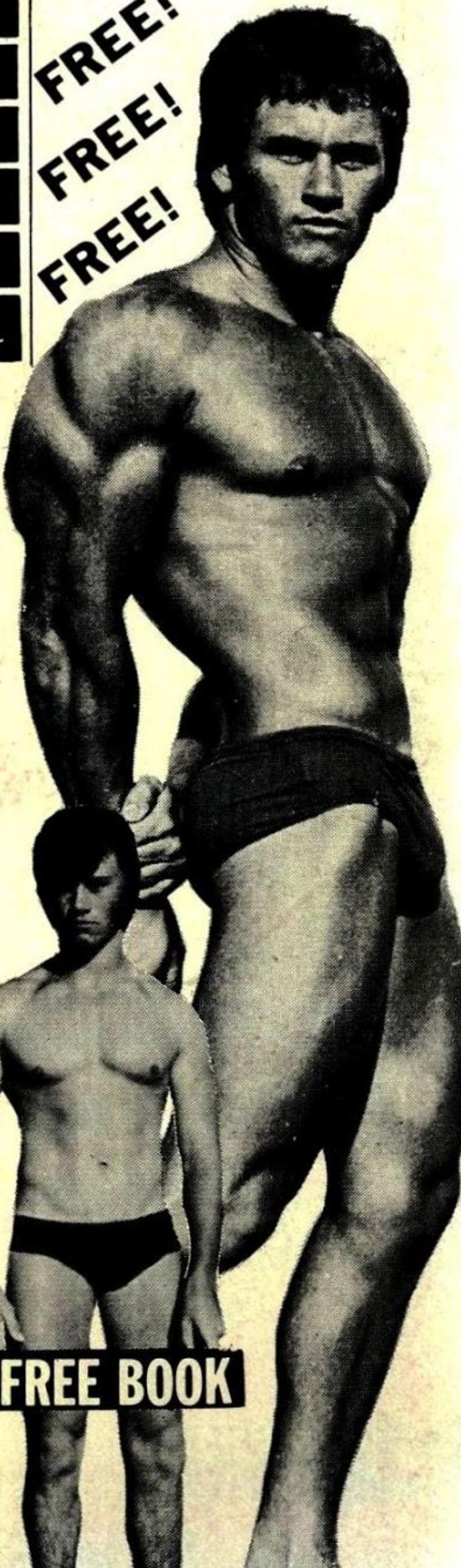
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