

How a Comic Is ^{Un} Created

BY JACK C. HARRIS

In prior installments of this feature, various writers revealed how comics spring from the scripter's or editor's mind, are translated into penciled pages, inked and finally become finished artwork.

Boy, did they ever make it sound easy! To hear them tell this wonderful story, you'd think there were never any problems! Oh, if it were only so!

Every snag or delay that could possibly happen—has! Even those problems that couldn't **ever** occur—do! Thankfully, most of those difficulties are little ones that can be corrected in the early stages. But some require more drastic action.

For instance, here's a problem that confronted us in March of this year. Murray Boltinoff and I had just turned **SUPERBOY starring THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #212** in to the production department for final

corrections before it headed to the printer. Originally, these stories were scheduled for the lead pages of a 50¢ Giant. Since we'd recently discontinued that format, we kept the 12-page cover feature ("Last Fight For A Legionnaire"), the 8-page back-up ("A Death Stroke At Dawn") and my **Super-Talk** letters page (my first one for that book!) as our regular 25¢ issue.

The day after we turned it in, production manager Jack Adler rushed in (Adler constantly rushes nowhere) to tell us the page count of the 25¢ books had been reduced. We had to cut two pages. . . .

The first thing we sliced was my letters page! It was a good one, so I could easily add some new comments and have it ready for #213. But how about that second page? Somewhere, somehow, we had to cut some story!

After careful re-reading, Murray and I found that the 8th page of the first story could be omitted without losing the even flow of action, even though we had to sacrifice a good bit of Jim Shooter's dramatics concerning the resignation of **Matter-Eater Lad**. It was an editorial decision—lose some characterization or some action—and characterization lost out! The page was removed, the remainder was re-numbered and the book left for the printers.

Now the question arose as to what to do with this unused, paid for, Mike Grell page of **Legion** art. Murray suggested that we use it for a "springboard" and write a new story around it—which we still might do someday. In the meantime, instead of letting it collect dust on our shelves, we've decided to present it here within our special **Legion** issue of **AWODCCI**!

If the purists among you wish, you can color the opposite page, clip it out and insert it between pages 7 and 8 of **SUPERBOY #212's** lead story, thus maintaining the tale in its original form.

However, since those two pages are back to back, this might prove a bit difficult. Because we've just told you how we solved one of our problems, we figured, to be fair, we'd offer suggestions as to how to overcome this page manipulation problem:

1. Buy an extra copy of **SUPERBOY #212**.
2. Find yourself an incredibly sharp razor blade to split pages 7 and 8 apart.
3. Make your own Editor's Note at the bottom of page 7 referring to this page of **AWODCC**.

If you can think of any others, please keep them to yourself—we've got problems of our own!

MAGAZINE TITLE Superboy COVER INV. NO. B2595
 NUMBER 212 UNIT Blue ISSUE Oct 1975

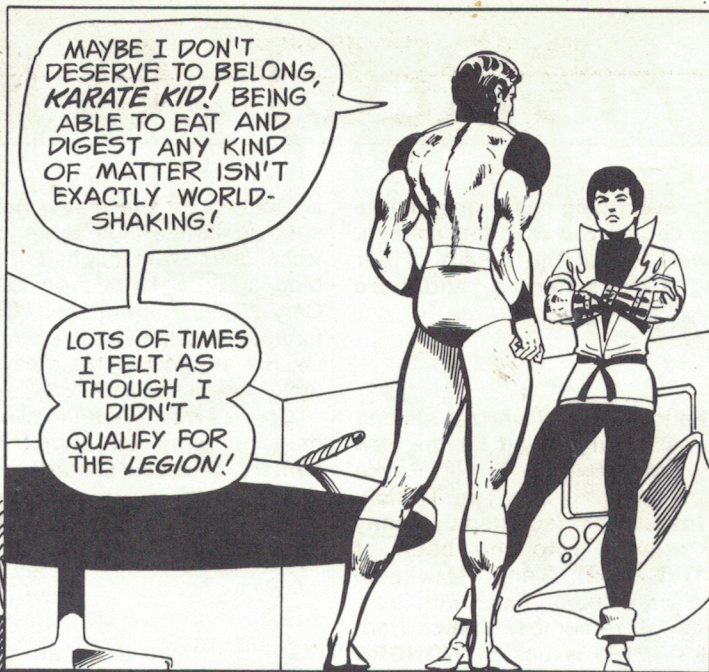
FEATURE	INV. NO.	TITLE	PAGES
<u>Superboy</u>	<u>B2488</u>	<u>Last Fight for a Legionnaire</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Death Stroke at Dawn</u>	<u>B2490</u>	<u>A Death Stroke at Dawn</u>	<u>8</u>
Super-Talk	B2599	Super-Talk (No. 1)	X
AD-FLAT			
1st Lt.P.	3	<u>Blue-Dev</u>	
2nd Lt.P.	5	<u>SLIM JIM + 1/2 ANCHOR SPEC.</u>	
1st Lt.P.	12	<u>H. AD #355 (Family Council)</u>	
2nd Lt.P.	21	<u>HELEN OF TOY (Gold Crown/Tank Tr)</u>	
2nd Lt.P.	28	<u>SUBSCRIPTION</u>	
AD-FLAT			
1st Lt.P.	6	<u>1/2 AMER. CIRCLE + 1/2 COMIC LIBRARY</u>	
1st Lt.P.	11	<u>CONTINENTAL BAKING</u>	
2nd Lt.P.	22	<u>WRITE RIGHT NOW</u>	
2nd Lt.P.	27	<u>1/2 COIN VALUES + 1/2 IMAGINATION HQ</u>	
ADDITIONAL PAGES			
Pg.	15	<u>LA SALLE EXT. UNIVERSITY</u>	
P.	16	<u>ABRACADABRA</u>	
P.	17	<u>H. AD #357 (2 King)</u>	
P.	18	<u>H. AD #350 (12 King)</u>	
P.	32	<u>DENARU (Karate)</u>	
			TOTAL:

Jim Harris
has
missing
page



I SAW WHAT HAPPENED! **SUPERBOY** DOESN'T UNDERSTAND HOW IMPORTANT **PRIDE** CAN BE...

HE HAS A VARIETY OF POWERS, BUT THE REST OF US HAVE TO PROVE TO OURSELVES WE **DESERVE** TO BE **LEGIONNAIRES!**



MAYBE I DON'T DESERVE TO BELONG, **KARATE KID!** BEING ABLE TO EAT AND DIGEST ANY KIND OF MATTER ISN'T EXACTLY **WORLD-SHAKING!**

LOTS OF TIMES I FELT AS THOUGH I DIDN'T QUALIFY FOR THE **LEGION!**



TO TOP IT OFF, I GOT **CLOBBERED** BY A **GIRL!**

MAYBE I SHOULD QUIT AND LET **HER** TAKE MY PLACE!

COME ON-- A **LEGIONNAIRE** DOESN'T ALWAYS **WIN...**



...BUT HE ALWAYS **FIGHTS!**

IF YOU WANT TO **CHICKEN OUT**, DO IT **BEFORE** THE ACTION! DON'T CAVE IN WHEN THE OTHERS ARE COUNTING ON YOU!

