



SUPERMAN

COMPLIMENTS OF
Radio Shack
The biggest name in little computers™

THIS IS
SUPERMAN'S
LAST HEROIC
ACT! AFTER HE
BLOWS AWAY THE
TORNADO, HE
WON'T BE ABLE
TO THINK
STRAIGHT!



**THE COMPUTERS THAT
SAVED METROPOLIS!**

* STARRING *

THE TRS-80 COMPUTER WHIZ KIDS!



Radio Shack TRS-80™

NETWORK I

*It's the magic way
to bring your class together*

A low-cost alternative to cassette tapes! Now enjoy the convenience and reliability of simultaneous loading of multiple TRS-80's in the classroom. The Network Controller allows from one to 16 TRS-80's to be connected to a central TRS-80 disk system using the cassette ports. Student programs can be loaded into the student stations from the central disk system with a high degree of reliability. All 16 student stations can be loaded simultaneously, or any combination of stations can be loaded at a time.

Radio Shack's Network 1 Controller connects Level II and Student TRS-80s to your



32K disk-drive TRS-80, and comes complete with a set of cables and manual.

For details, write to Radio Shack Computer Customer Services, 900 Two Tandy Center, Fort Worth, Texas 76102.



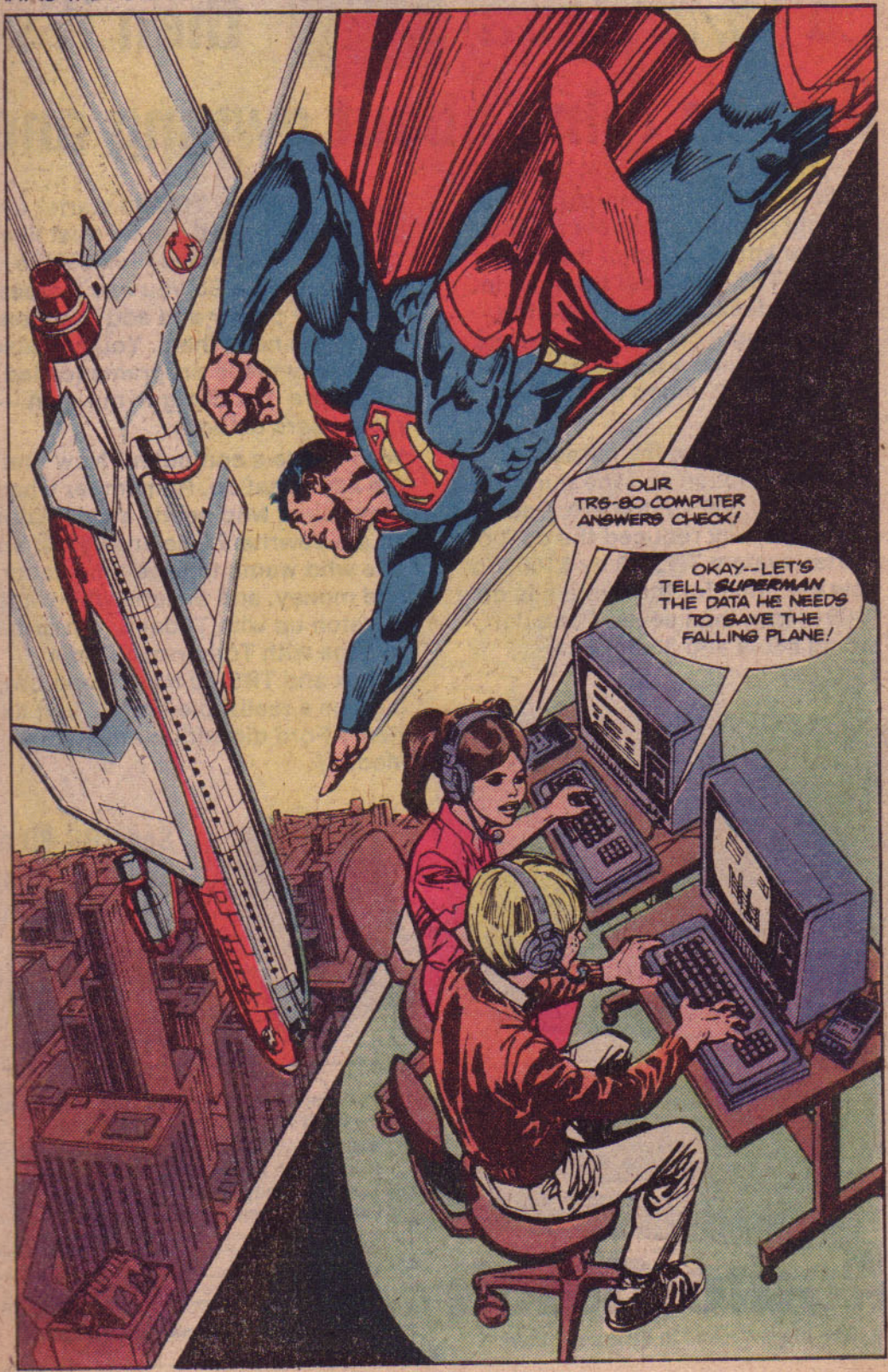
Controller Only

\$499*

*Retail prices may vary at individual stores and dealers

Radio Shack® The biggest name in little computers™

PROLOGUE: A CRY FOR HELP... A RUSH OF WIND... AND THE WORLD'S GREATEST SUPER-HERO HURTTLES INTO ACTION ONCE MORE-- WHILE, MILES BELOW, IN METROPOLIS, TWO YOUNG HEROES SIT AT THEIR TRS-80 COMPUTERS, THEIR FINGERS FLYING URGENTLY ACROSS THE KEYBOARDS. WHAT IS THE ASTONISHING CONNECTION BETWEEN THESE TWO EVENTS? READ ON...AND SEE!



When a computer costs less than a or a then it's time to think about owning one!

Radio Shack is the company that brought computing to the masses with the introduction of its world-famous TRS-80 Model I system in 1977. By designing, engineering, and building it ourselves, we were able to produce a full computer — including a 12" video display — for \$599.

In 1979, thanks to the miracle of mass production and the purchases of over 150,000 customers, Radio Shack actually reduced the cost of a starter-system TRS-80 by \$100. So now the price for the system is only \$499 — less than several popular racing bikes and 35mm SLR cameras!

Of course every TRS-80 starter system is e-x-p-a-n-d-a-b-l-e (just like cameras which have replaceable lens systems). So you can increase computer power and add functions when you need them. You can also buy ready-made programs (called "software") or design your own — most users do both.

Who needs a computer? Now that's the key question. Remember when they asked who needs a calculator? Or a typewriter? The answer is: anyone who wants to save time, labor and money, and anyone who wants to catch up with Today . . . in order to cope with Tomorrow. Radio Shack and TRS-80 have made owning one a realizable dream, just like Henry Ford did with his fabulous Model T.



See TRS-80 at
any Radio Shack
or send for
FREE
color catalog!

Radio Shack®

The biggest name in little computers™

Yes, I'm interested! Please rush me a copy of the latest TRS-80 catalog.

Mall to:
Radio Shack Dept. CMA-470
1300 One Tandy Center
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Retail price may vary at individual stores and dealers

8:50 A.M.--
ONLY THIRTEEN
MINUTES TO
GO BEFORE MY
CROWNING
CATASTROPHE
STRIKES
METROPOLIS!
AND THEN IT
WILL ONLY BE
A MATTER OF
HEARTBEATS
BEFORE
CONTACT--

--WITH
MY CAPED
TARGET--

--SUPERMAN!

FIFTY-ONE
MINUTES
PAST
EIGHT...

I'D BETTER REALLY
HUSTLE IF I'M GOING
TO FINISH THIS
MORNING PATROL
ACROSS METROPOLIS
IN TIME TO MAKE
MY 9 O'CLOCK
APPOINTMENT--

--AND CARRY
OUT A VERY
SPECIAL
JOB FOR
SUPERMAN!

FOR YOUR OBSERVATION-- TWO
DYNAMIC MEN OF ACTION!

ONE, A PARAGON OF PERIL--
THE INSIDIOUS MASTER OF
VILLAINY KNOWN TO THE
WORLD AS MAJOR
DISASTER!

THE OTHER, A CAPED
CHAMPION-- THE
MIGHTY MAN OF
STEEL WHO FIGHTS
A NEVER-ENDING
BATTLE FOR TRUTH,
JUSTICE, AND THE
AMERICAN WAY!

SUPERMAN
CREATED BY
JERRY SEIBEL &
JOE SHUSTER

The COMPUTERS THAT SAVED METROPOLIS!

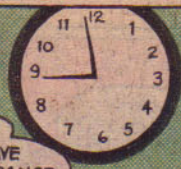
WRITER: CARY BATES
ART: JIM STARLIN /
DICK GIORDANO

SUPERMAN IN "THE COMPUTERS THAT SAVED METROPOLIS" (July, 1980) is published by DC COMICS INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, New York 10019 for Radio Shack, a division of Tandy Corporation, One Tandy Center, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, U.S.A. Copyright © 1980 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. Nothing may be reprinted in whole or in part without written permission from the publisher. Superman and Lana Lang are trademarks of and copyrighted by DC Comics Inc.; Radio Shack, The Biggest Name In Little Computers, and TRS-80 are trademarks of Radio Shack, a division of the Tandy Corporation. 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.

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SIX MINUTES LATER, IN A SIXTH-GRADE CLASSROOM ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF METROPOLIS...



...AND YARROW, TIMOTHY--?

HERE, MS. WILSON!

VERY GOOD, CLASS! WE HAVE A 100% ATTENDANCE TODAY!

I TRUST TOO MANY OF YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED WHEN I ANNOUNCE YOUR ORAL BOOK REPORTS WILL BE POSTPONED UNTIL TOMORROW!

I'M NOT! I COULD USE ANOTHER DAY TO PRACTICE IT!

WELL, I'VE BEEN READY TO DELIVER MY REPORT FOR A WEEK!

WHEN THERE'S GOOD NEWS... THERE USUALLY IS BAD NEWS!

NO BAD NEWS, KAREN... ONLY EVEN BETTER NEWS! AN "OLD FRIEND" OF MINE HAS PROMISED TO DROP IN THIS MORNING TO TAKE OVER TODAY'S LESSON!

YAWWWNNN! JUST WHAT WE'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR, MS. WILSON-- A BORING TALK ON COMPUTERS!

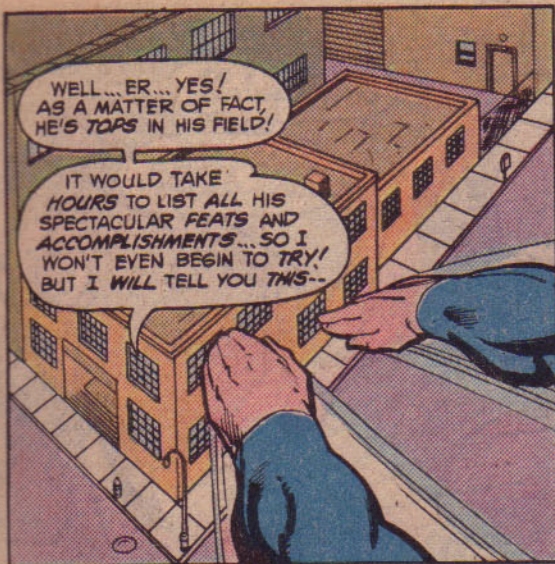
WE'LL GET TO BRUSSELS SPROUTS ANOTHER DAY, ALEC... JUST FOR YOU!

I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING I'D RATHER HEAR ABOUT... EXCEPT MAYBE THE HISTORY OF BRUSSELS SPROUTS!

BUT AS I WAS ABOUT TO SAY--OUR SUPER-GUEST IS MAKING A SPECIAL TRIP HERE TODAY, JUST TO TALK WITH US ABOUT COMPUTERS!

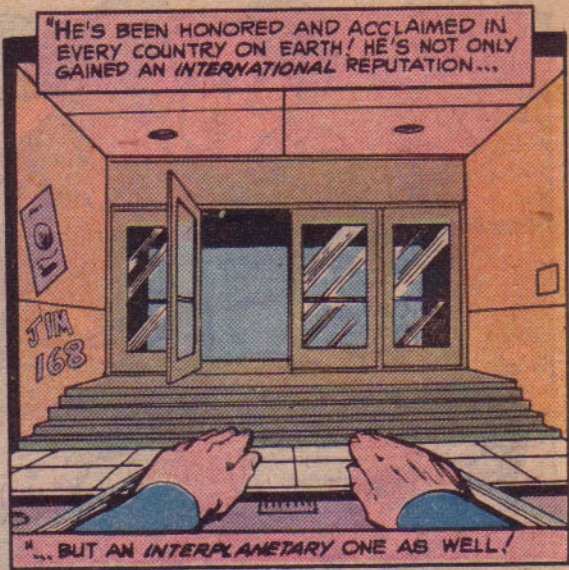
AS YOU ALL KNOW, NEXT YEAR YOU'LL BE TAKING THE SCHOOL'S NEW INTRODUCTORY COMPUTER COURSE...

WHO IS THIS FRIEND OF YOURS, MS. WILSON... A COMPUTER EXPERT?



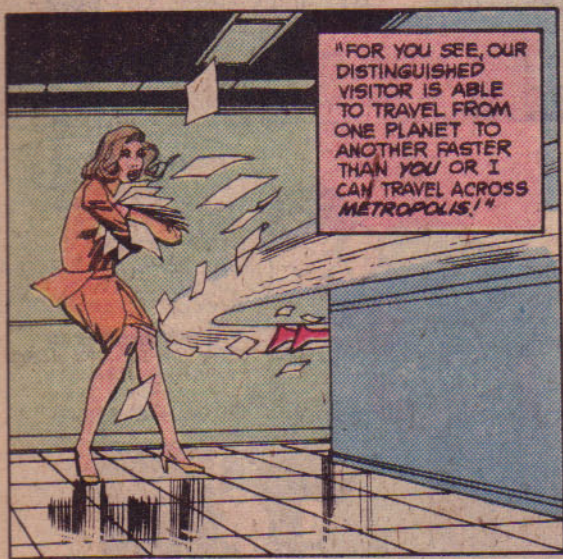
WELL... ER... YES!
AS A MATTER OF FACT,
HE'S TOPS IN HIS FIELD!

IT WOULD TAKE
HOURS TO LIST ALL HIS
SPECTACULAR FEATS AND
ACCOMPLISHMENTS... SO I
WON'T EVEN BEGIN TO TRY!
BUT I WILL TELL YOU THIS--

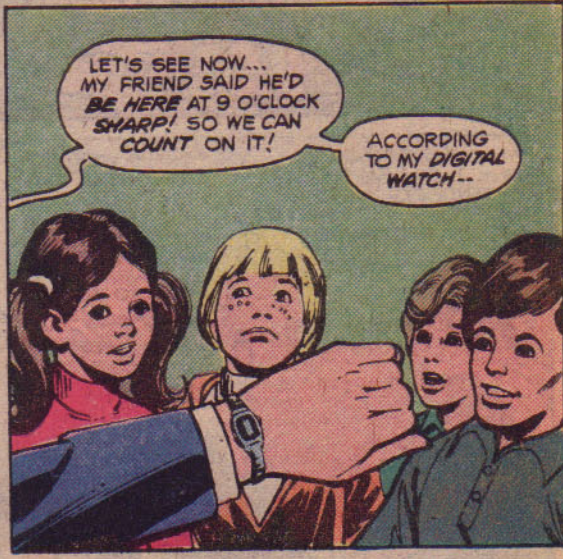


"HE'S BEEN HONORED AND ACCLAIMED IN
EVERY COUNTRY ON EARTH! HE'S NOT ONLY
GAINED AN INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION...

"... BUT AN INTERPLANETARY ONE AS WELL!

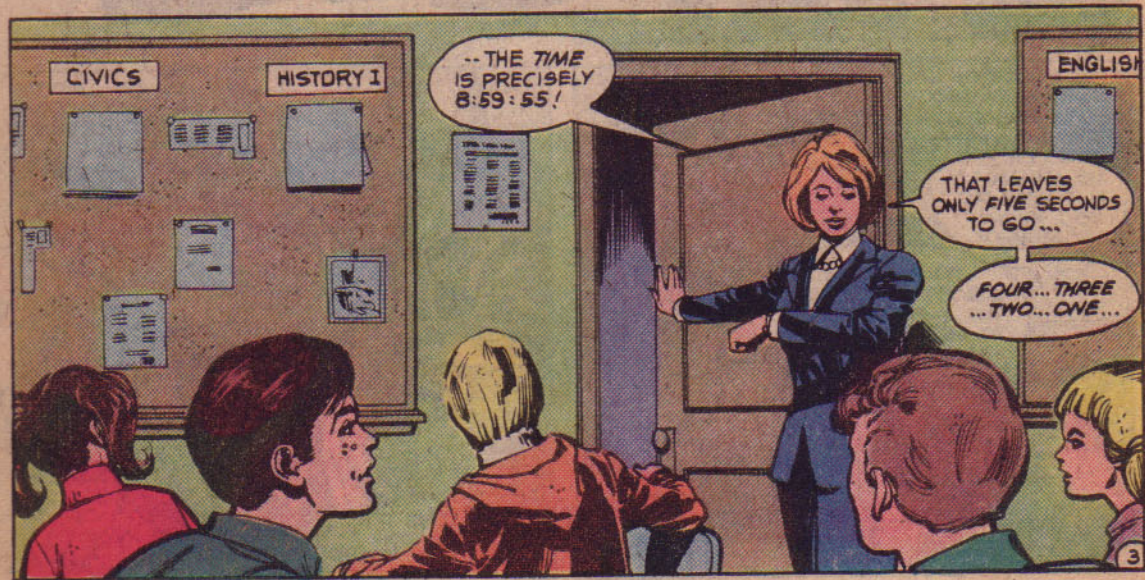


"FOR YOU SEE, OUR
DISTINGUISHED
VISITOR IS ABLE
TO TRAVEL FROM
ONE PLANET TO
ANOTHER FASTER
THAN YOU OR I
CAN TRAVEL ACROSS
METROPOLIS!"



LET'S SEE NOW...
MY FRIEND SAID HE'D
BE HERE AT 9 O'CLOCK
SHARP! SO WE CAN
COUNT ON IT!

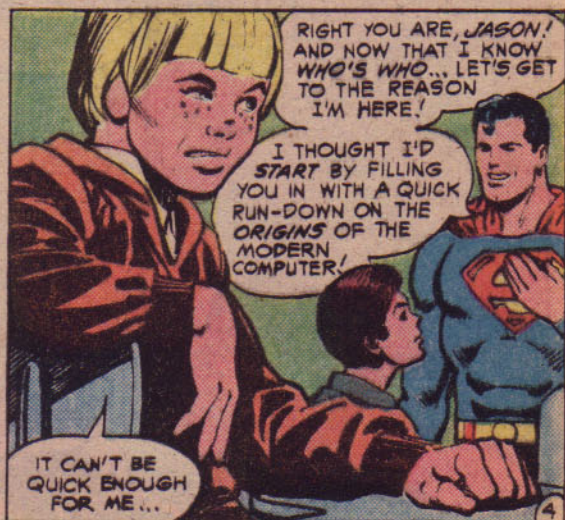
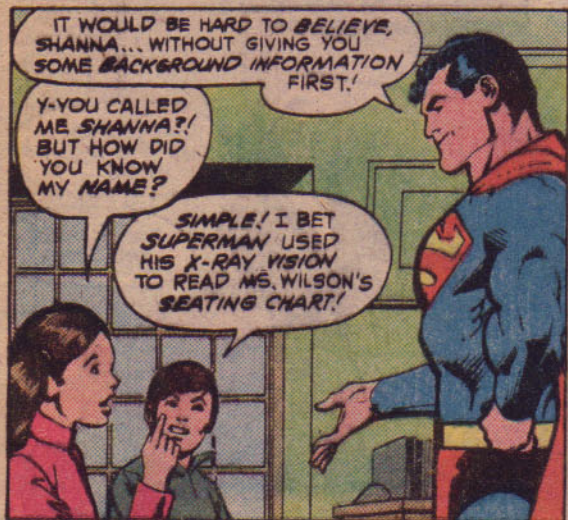
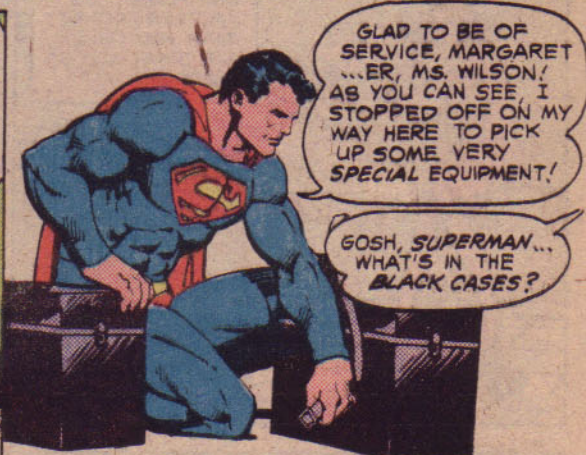
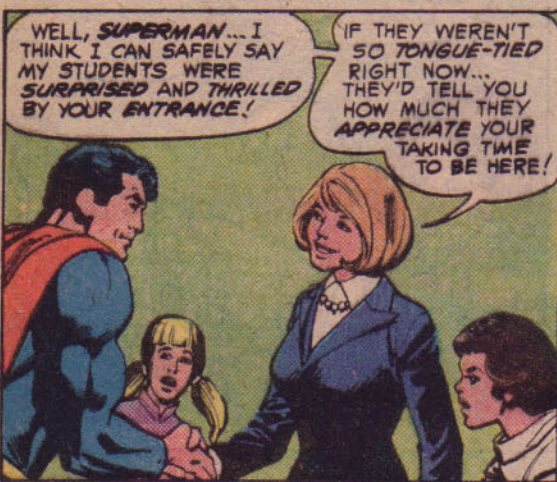
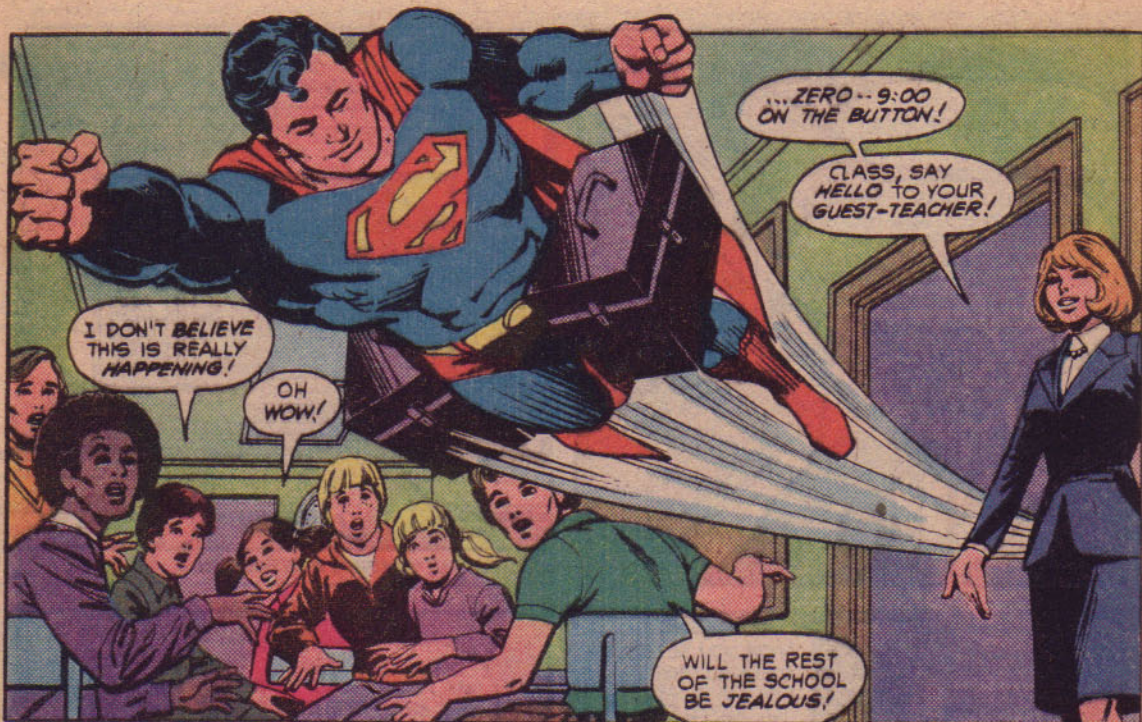
ACCORDING
TO MY DIGITAL
WATCH--

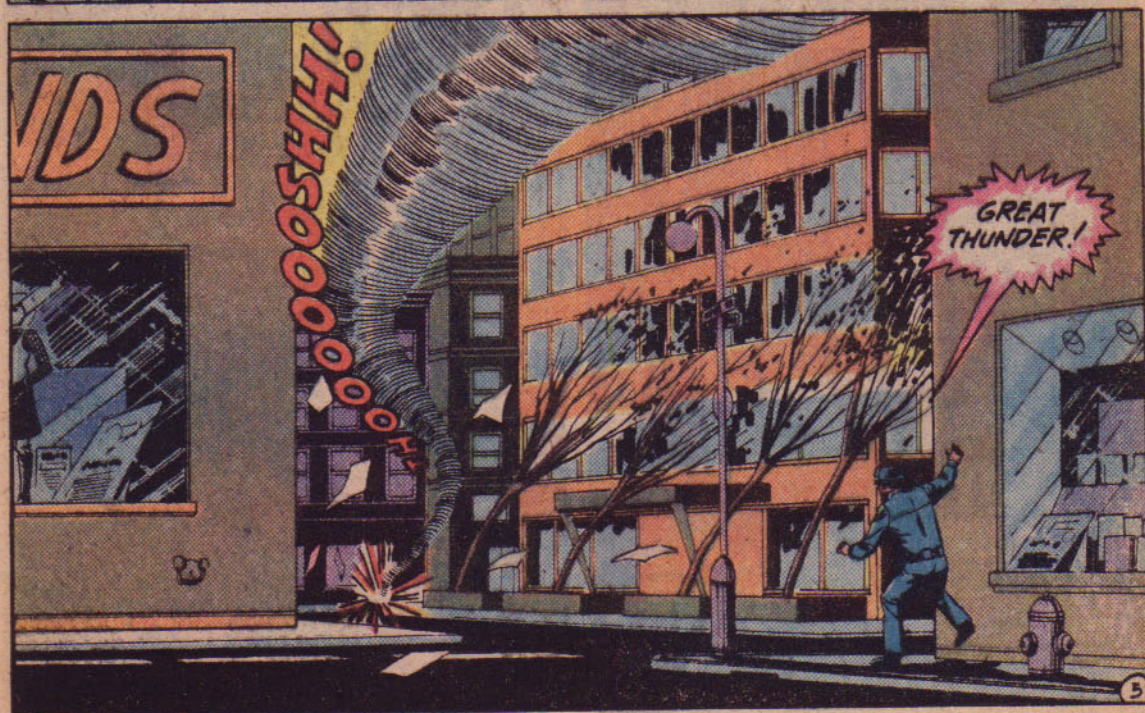
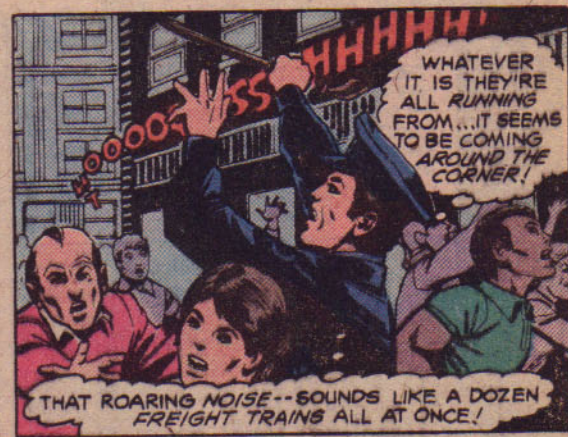
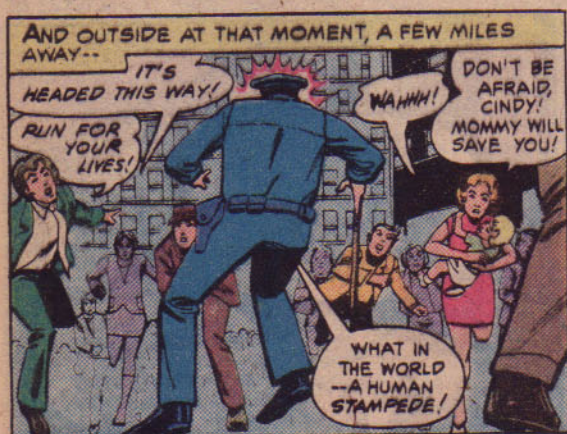


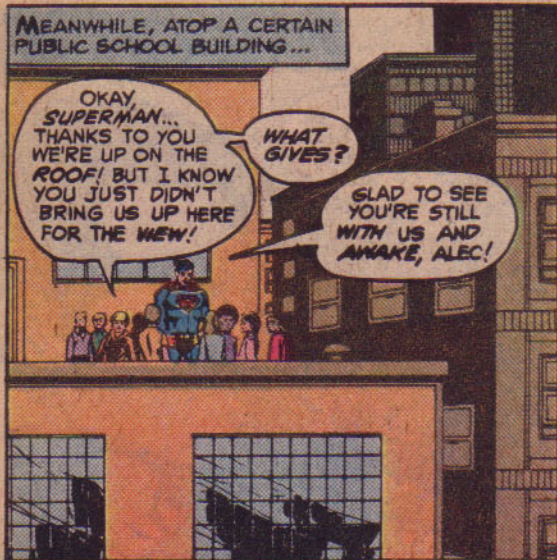
-- THE TIME
IS PRECISELY
8:59:55!

THAT LEAVES
ONLY FIVE SECONDS
TO GO ...

FOUR... THREE
... TWO... ONE...





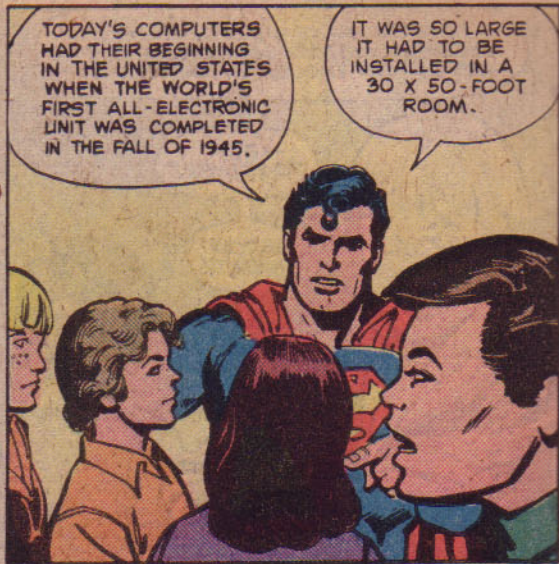


MEANWHILE, ATOP A CERTAIN PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING...

OKAY SUPERMAN... THANKS TO YOU WE'RE UP ON THE ROOF! BUT I KNOW YOU JUST DIDN'T BRING US UP HERE FOR THE MEAT!

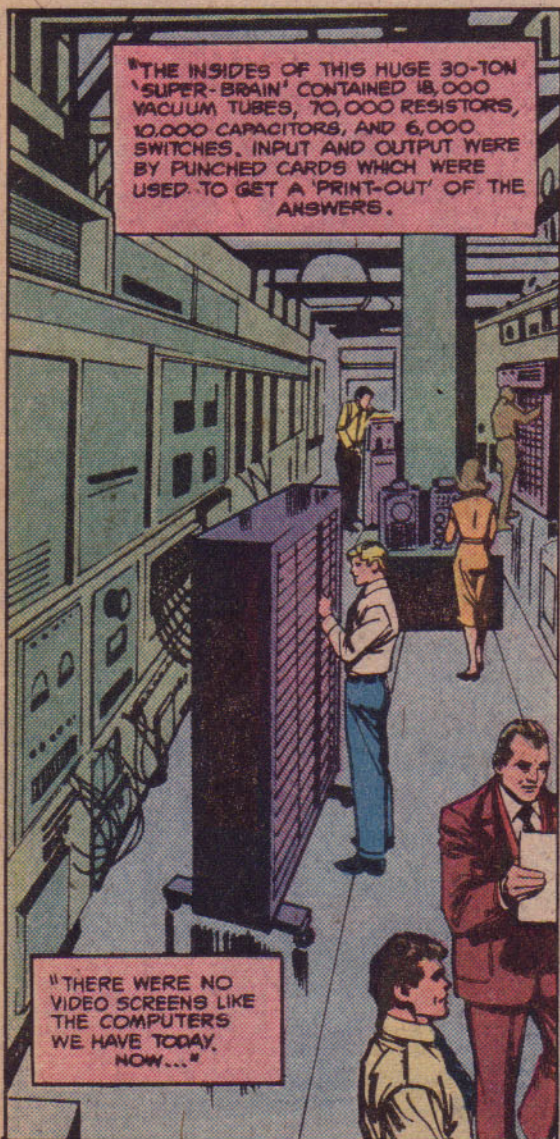
WHAT GIVES?

GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE STILL WITH US AND AWAKE, ALEC!



TODAY'S COMPUTERS HAD THEIR BEGINNING IN THE UNITED STATES WHEN THE WORLD'S FIRST ALL-ELECTRONIC UNIT WAS COMPLETED IN THE FALL OF 1945.

IT WAS SO LARGE IT HAD TO BE INSTALLED IN A 30 X 50-FOOT ROOM.



THE INSIDES OF THIS HUGE 30-TON 'SUPER-BRAIN' CONTAINED 18,000 VACUUM TUBES, 70,000 RESISTORS, 10,000 CAPACITORS, AND 6,000 SWITCHES. INPUT AND OUTPUT WERE BY PUNCHED CARDS WHICH WERE USED TO GET A 'PRINT-OUT' OF THE ANSWERS.

"THERE WERE NO VIDEO SCREENS LIKE THE COMPUTERS WE HAVE TODAY. NOW..."



... JUST LOOK AROUND YOU! THESE EARLY COMPUTERS ACTUALLY FILLED AN AREA AS HUGE AS THIS SECTION OF THE ROOF YOU'RE STANDING ON!

SOL-LEE! I DON'T EVEN SEE HOW YOU COULD GET SOMETHING THAT BIG INTO A ROOM!

THEY PROBABLY BUILT THE COMPUTER FIRST--THEN BUILT A ROOM AROUND IT, DODO!

SMART ALEC! YOU THINK YOU KNOW EVERYTHING!

"... AND PLEASE BE REMINDED... A COMPUTER IS MORE THAN A CALCULATOR. COMPUTERS CAN ALSO ORGANIZE AND REMEMBER WORDS, ANALYZE INFORMATION, AND MAKE COMPARISONS... ALL THIS IN SECONDS.

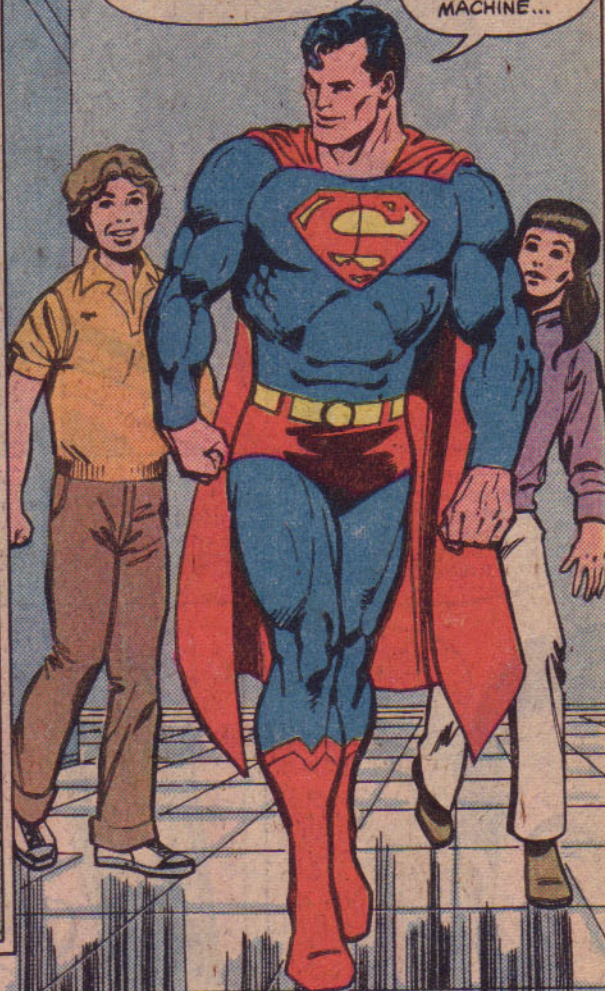
"IN FACT, ITS CAPABILITIES ARE ALMOST UNLIMITED. BUT IT HAS TO BE PROGRAMMED FIRST-- FED INFORMATION AND TOLD WHAT TO DO.

"TODAY'S MICROCOMPUTERS (THE OLD-TIME 'BIG COMPUTERS' SQUEEZED DOWN TO THE SIZE OF A SMALL TV-SET ATTACHED TO A TYPEWRITER-LIKE KEYBOARD) CAN TEACH MATH, ENGLISH, OTHER LANGUAGES, AND HISTORY...

"IT CAN PLAY GAMES, PERFORM HOUSEHOLD TASKS, AND SAVE TIME AND MONEY IN MANY SMALL BUSINESS OPERATIONS."

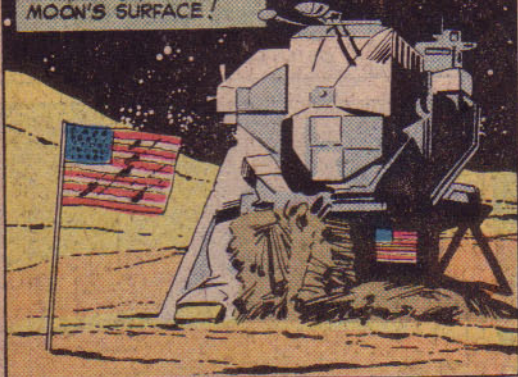
THEN, OF COURSE, THERE'S THE SPACE-PROGRAM! WITHOUT THE VITAL ROLE PLAYED BY COMPUTERS, OUR ASTRONAUTS WOULD NEVER HAVE MADE IT TO THE MOON AND BACK!

THE APOLLO PROGRAM WAS A TEAM EFFORT BETWEEN MAN AND MACHINE...



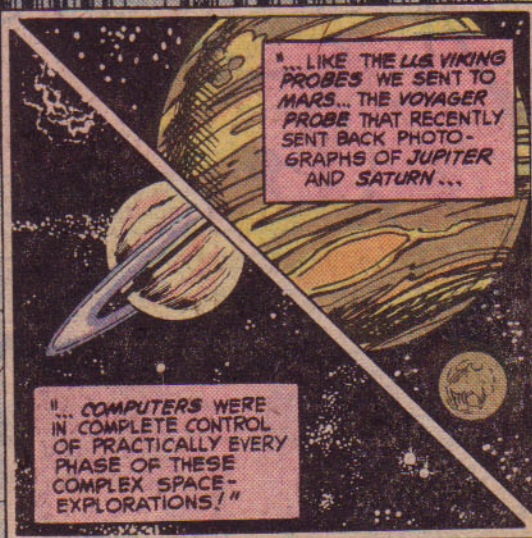
"... MAKING IT POSSIBLE TO NAVIGATE AND LAND THE U.S. LUNAR MODULE CHALLENGER AND ITS ROVING EXPLORATORY VEHICLE ON THE MOON'S SURFACE!

"AND WHEN IT COMES TO MORE RECENT UNMANNED MISSIONS...



"... LIKE THE US VIKING PROBES WE SENT TO MARS... THE VOYAGER PROBE THAT RECENTLY SENT BACK PHOTOGRAPHS OF JUPITER AND SATURN ...

"... COMPUTERS WERE IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF PRACTICALLY EVERY PHASE OF THESE COMPLEX SPACE-EXPLORATIONS!"



COMPUTERS TODAY MIGHT STILL BE THE SIZE OF BUS TERMINALS... IF IT WEREN'T FOR A TREMENDOUS DISCOVERY IN 1948 THAT REVOLUTIONIZED THE ENTIRE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY!



"A TRIO OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS-- JOHN BARDEEN, WILLIAM SHOCKLEY, AND WALTER BRATTAIN-- COMBINED RESEARCH AND RESOURCES TO INVENT THE TRANSISTOR ...

"... AN ACHIEVEMENT SO MONUMENTAL THEY WERE JOINTLY AWARDED THAT YEAR'S NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS!"

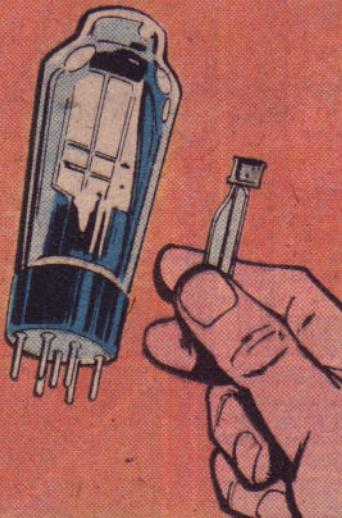


AVERAGING ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE ERASER-TIP ON A PENCIL, TRANSISTORS QUICKLY BEGAN TO REPLACE BULKY RADIO TUBES!

AND THE AGE OF MINIATURIZATION WAS BORN!



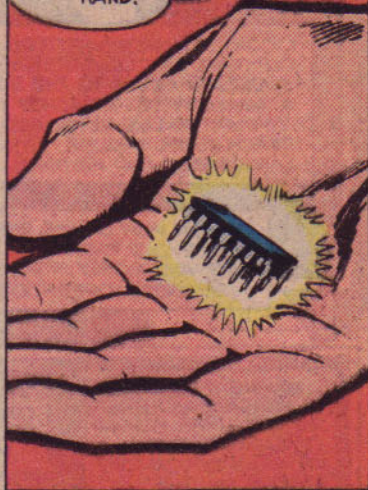
"THE OLD RADIO-TUBE WAS MANY TIMES LARGER THAN THE TRANSISTOR ... WHICH REVOLUTIONIZED THE FIELD OF ELECTRONICS AROUND THE WORLD.



"IT SPEEDED THE MOVE TO MINIATURIZED ELECTRONIC CIRCUITS...

... TRANSISTOR RADIOS AND SOLID-STATE STEREO HI-FI EQUIPMENT.

THE NEXT STEP IN THE MINIATURIZATION FIELD WAS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INTEGRATED CIRCUIT LIKE THE ONE I HOLD IN MY HAND.



"COMPUTERS MADE FROM THESE COMPLEX INTEGRATED CIRCUITS ARE OFTEN CALLED MICROPROCESSORS."

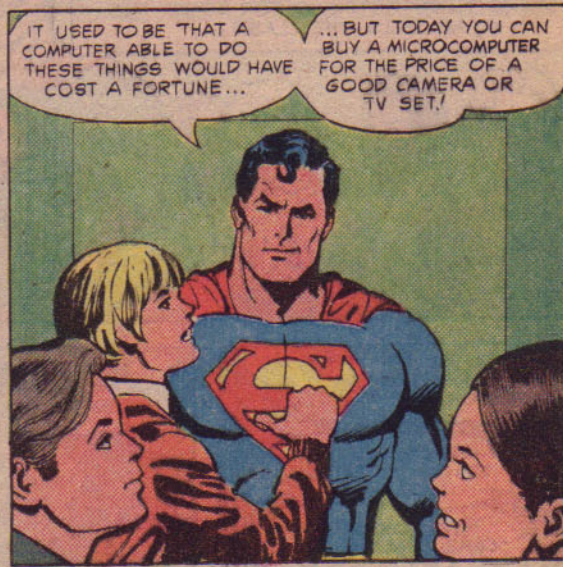
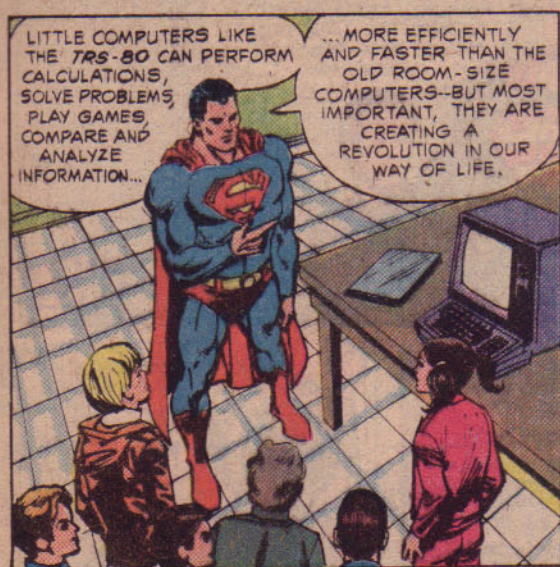
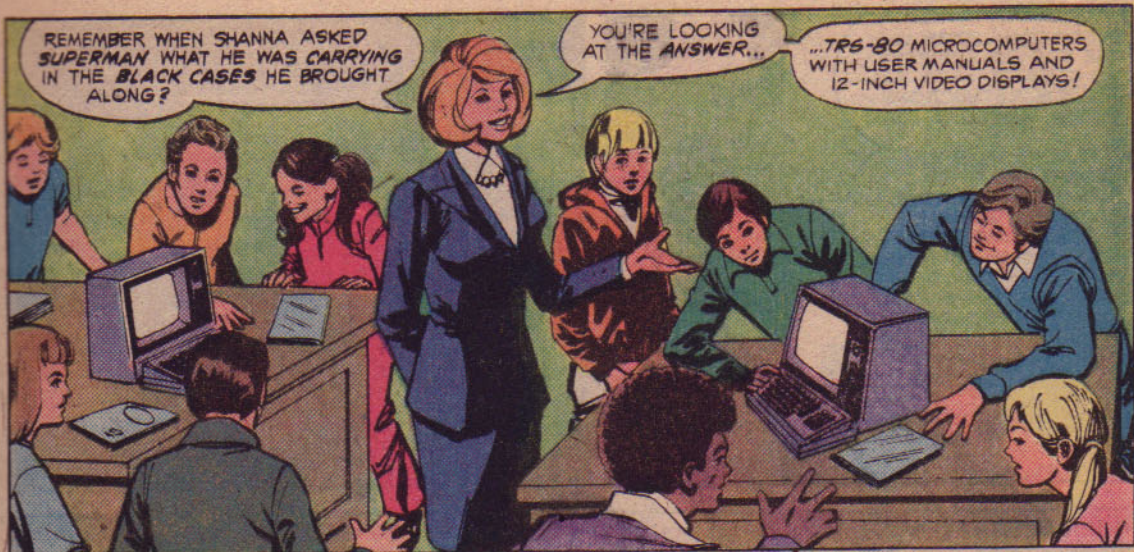
AS THE ACTION ACE USHERS THE STUDENTS BACK INTO THE CLASSROOM...

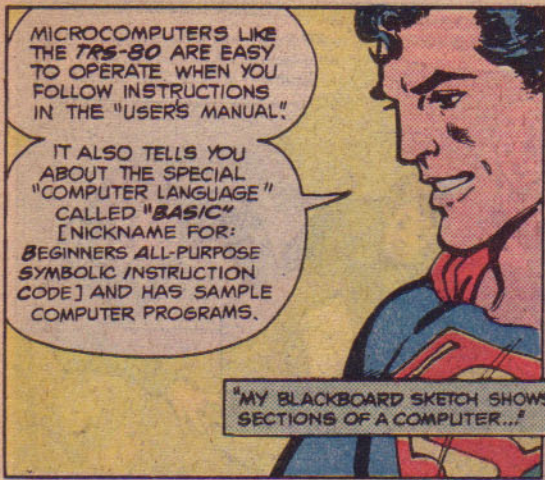
OH WOW!

WHERE DID THOSE COME FROM, MS. WILSON?

FAR-OUT!



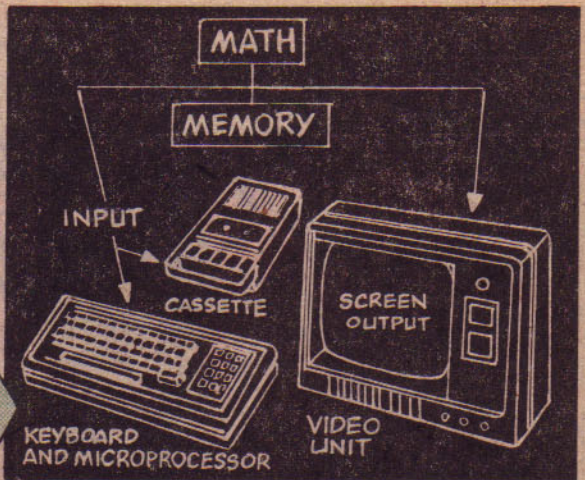




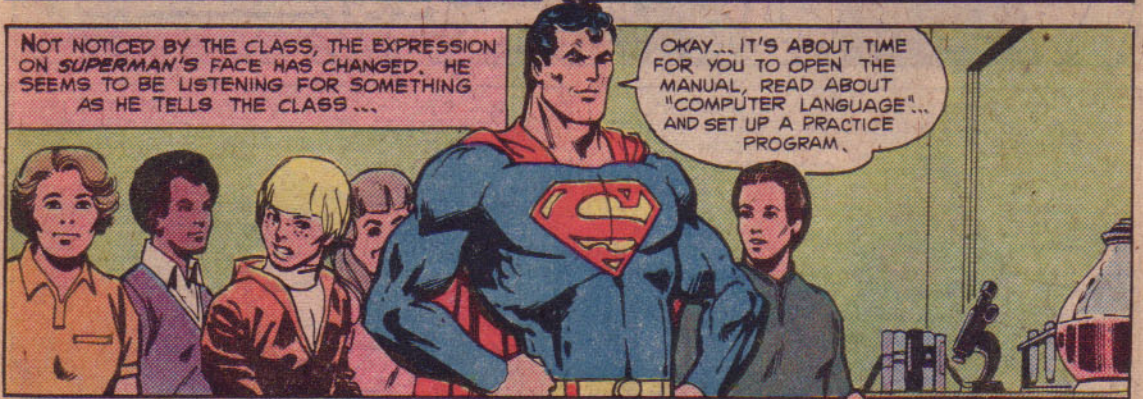
MICROCOMPUTERS LIKE THE TRS-80 ARE EASY TO OPERATE WHEN YOU FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS IN THE "USER'S MANUAL."

IT ALSO TELLS YOU ABOUT THE SPECIAL "COMPUTER LANGUAGE" CALLED "BASIC" [NICKNAME FOR: BEGINNERS ALL-PURPOSE SYMBOLIC INSTRUCTION CODE] AND HAS SAMPLE COMPUTER PROGRAMS.

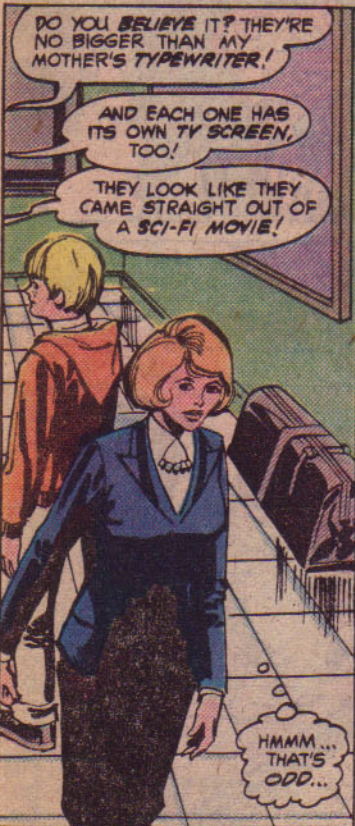
"MY BLACKBOARD SKETCH SHOWS SECTIONS OF A COMPUTER..."



NOT NOTICED BY THE CLASS, THE EXPRESSION ON SUPERMAN'S FACE HAS CHANGED. HE SEEMS TO BE LISTENING FOR SOMETHING AS HE TELLS THE CLASS ...



OKAY... IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR YOU TO OPEN THE MANUAL, READ ABOUT "COMPUTER LANGUAGE"... AND SET UP A PRACTICE PROGRAM.



DO YOU BELIEVE IT? THEY'RE NO BIGGER THAN MY MOTHER'S TYPEWRITER!

AND EACH ONE HAS ITS OWN TV SCREEN, TOO!

THEY LOOK LIKE THEY CAME STRAIGHT OUT OF A SCI-FI MOVIE!

HMMM... THAT'S ODD...

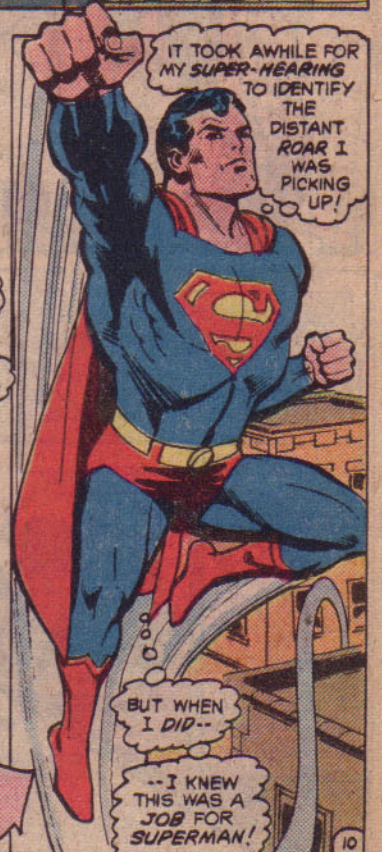


... THE CLASS IS SO EXCITED ABOUT THE TRS-80'S THEY HAVEN'T NOTICED YET--

--THAT SUPERMAN HAS MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED FROM THE SCENE!

WHATEVER SUDDENLY CALLED HIM AWAY MUST BE A SERIOUS EMERGENCY...

THE GRIM EXPRESSION ON THE MAN OF STEEL'S FACE AT THIS MOMENT WOULD CLEARLY CONFIRM MS. WILSON'S NAGGING HUNCH...

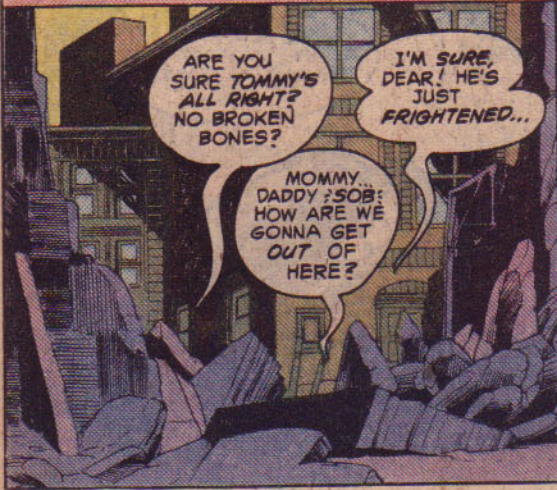


IT TOOK AWHILE FOR MY SUPER-HEARING TO IDENTIFY THE DISTANT ROAR I WAS PICKING UP!

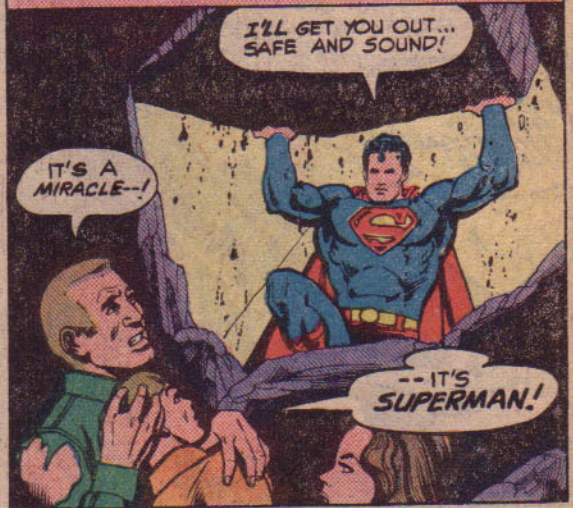
BUT WHEN I DID--

--I KNEW THIS WAS A JOB FOR SUPERMAN!

AT THAT MOMENT, SEVERAL MILES AWAY-- THE SOUND OF FRIGHTENED VOICES RISES FROM THE SHAMBLES OF WHAT WAS ONCE A FAMILY'S HOME...

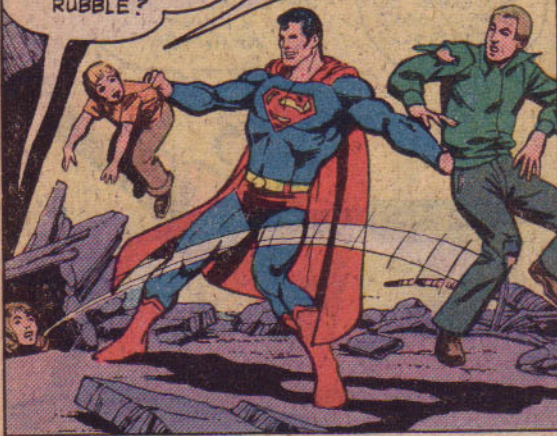


AND THE VERY NEXT MOMENT, AS IF IN ANSWER TO THE CHILD'S QUIVERING QUESTION...

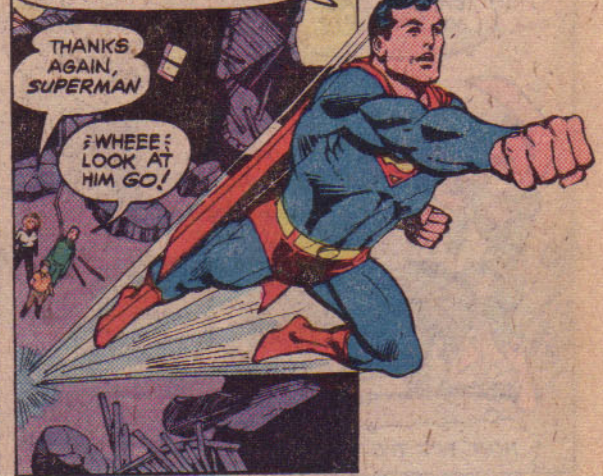


A TORNADO STRUCK WITHOUT WARNING! HOW ON EARTH DID YOU EVER FIND US UNDER ALL THAT RUBBLE?

I CAN TELL YOU THAT, MOMMY! HE DID IT WITH HIS SUPER-HEARING AND SUPER-VISION!

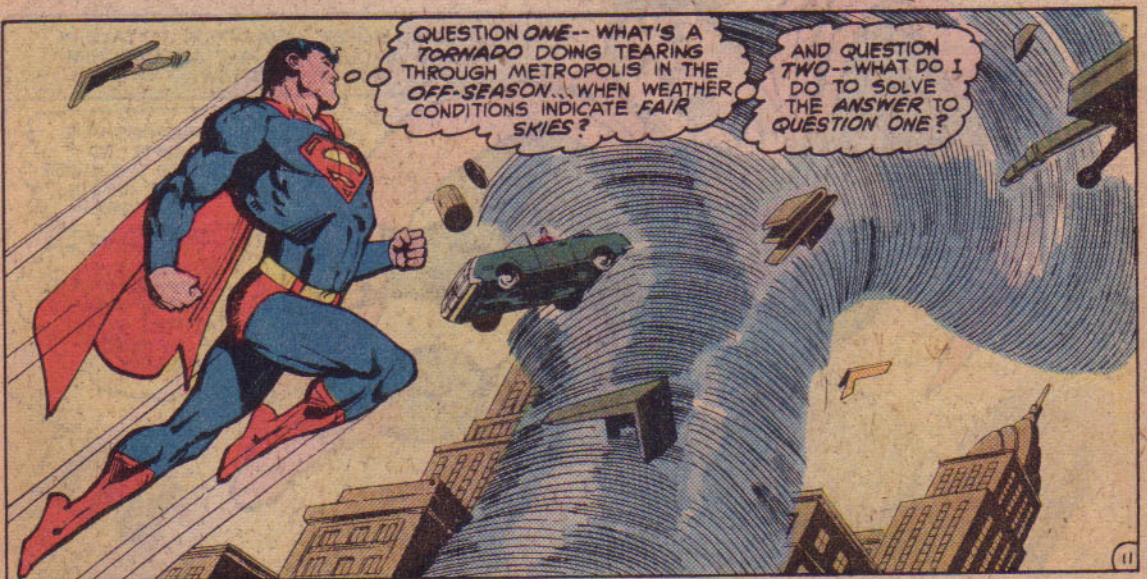


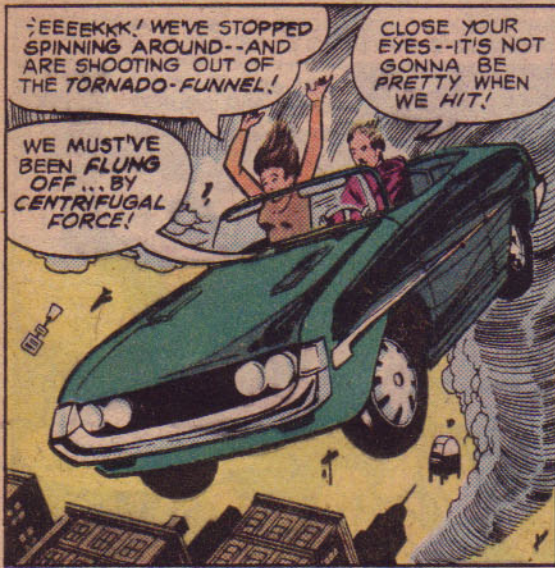
IF YOU GOOD PEOPLE WILL EXCUSE ME... I'VE GOT TO TAME A WILD TORNADO!



QUESTION ONE-- WHAT'S A TORNADO DOING TEARING THROUGH METROPOLIS IN THE OFF-SEASON... WHEN WEATHER CONDITIONS INDICATE FAIR SKIES?

AND QUESTION TWO-- WHAT DO I DO TO SOLVE THE ANSWER TO QUESTION ONE?

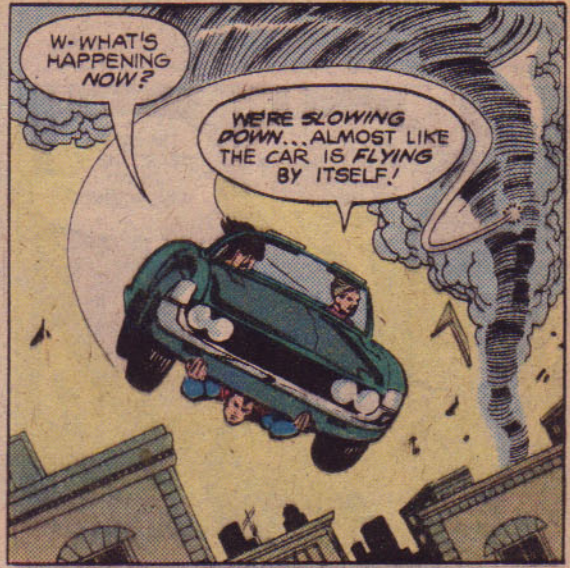




EEEEKKK! WE'VE STOPPED SPINNING AROUND--AND ARE SHOOTING OUT OF THE TORNADO-FUNNEL!

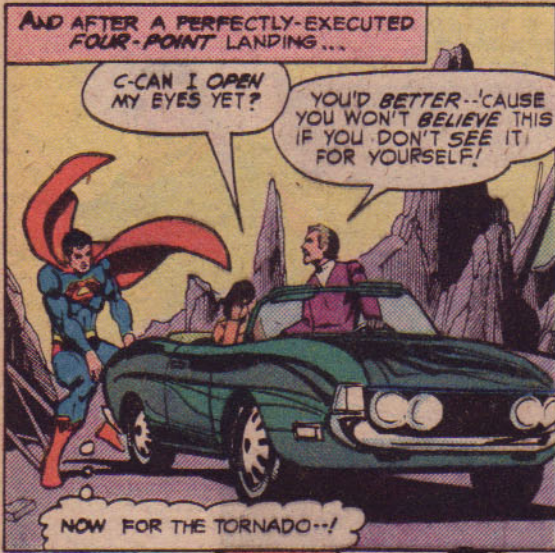
CLOSE YOUR EYES--IT'S NOT GONNA BE PRETTY WHEN WE HIT!

WE MUST'VE BEEN FLUNG OFF... BY CENTRIFUGAL FORCE!



W-WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

WE'RE SLOWING DOWN... ALMOST LIKE THE CAR IS FLYING BY ITSELF!



AND AFTER A PERFECTLY-EXECUTED FOUR-POINT LANDING...

C-CAN I OPEN MY EYES YET?

YOU'D BETTER--'CAUSE YOU WON'T BELIEVE THIS IF YOU DON'T SEE IT! FOR YOURSELF!

NOW FOR THE TORNADO--!



YOU'RE RIGHT-- I DON'T BELIEVE IT! HOW DID WE LAND SO SAFELY... AND SOFTLY--?

THERE'S YOUR ANSWER, STACY--

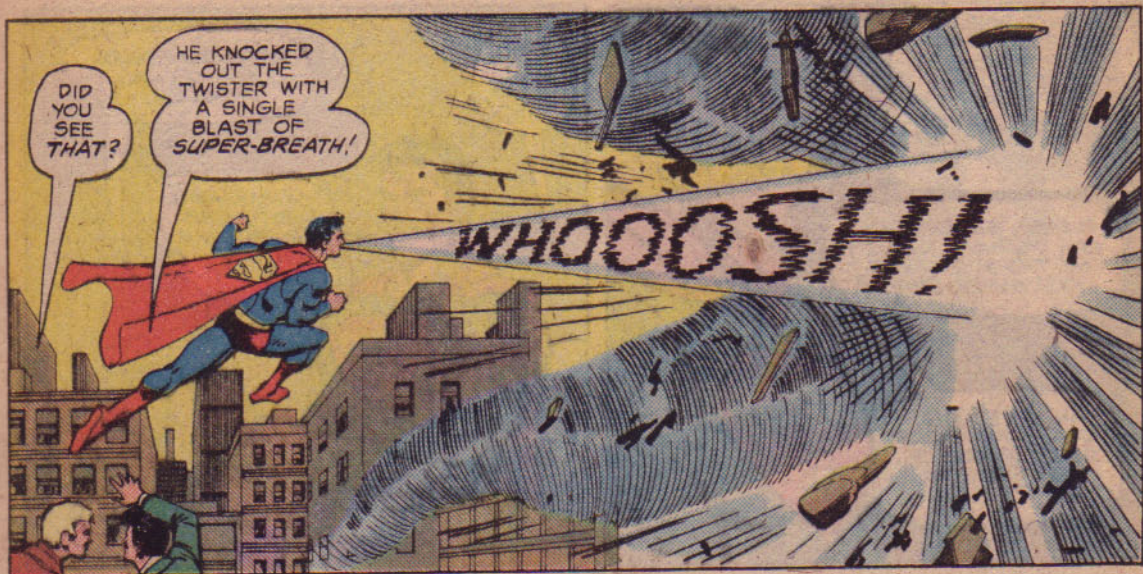
--TACKLING THAT TORNADO HEAD-ON!



AND USING SUPER-INHALATION TO TAKE IN MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF AIR AROUND HIM AS AMMUNITION...

TORNADOES ARE KNOWN TO PRODUCE THE MOST VIOLENT WINDS IN NATURE--

--BUT NOT EVEN A TORNADO CAN STAND UP AGAINST THE FULL FORCE OF MY SUPER-BREATH!



DID YOU SEE THAT?

HE KNOCKED OUT THE TWISTER WITH A SINGLE BLAST OF SUPER-BREATH!



MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE CLASSROOM...

OH WOW, MS. WILSON... WRITING PROGRAMS ON THE TRS-80 IS AS EASY AS USING A TYPEWRITER!

THAT'S RIGHT, SHANNA! ALWAYS REMEMBER TO HIT THE 'ENTER' BUTTON-- IT TELLS THE COMPUTER TO TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE TYPED... AND ACT ACCORDINGLY!

1/4 PRINT "HELLO THERE. I AM YOUR NEW TRS-80 MICROCOMPUTER."



PLEASE, MISS WILSON, MAY I TRY ANOTHER ONE OF THE SAMPLE PROBLEMS FROM OUR USER'S MANUAL?

JUST A MOMENT, SHANNA! I HEAR SOMETHING COMING THIS WAY-- GETTING LOUDER AND LOUDER!

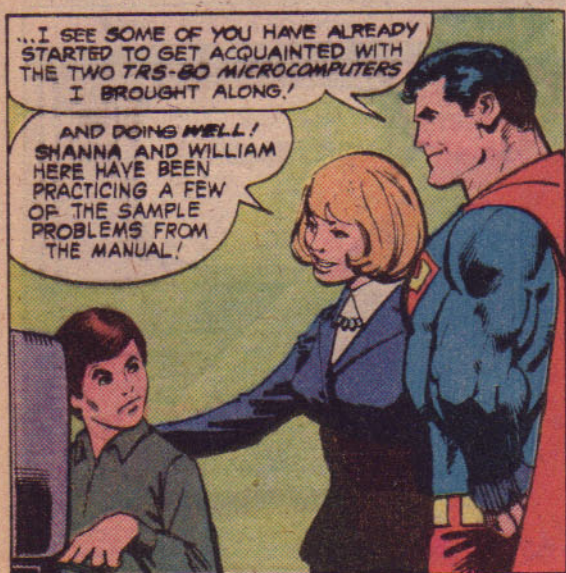
IT SOUNDS LIKE--



--SUPERMAN!

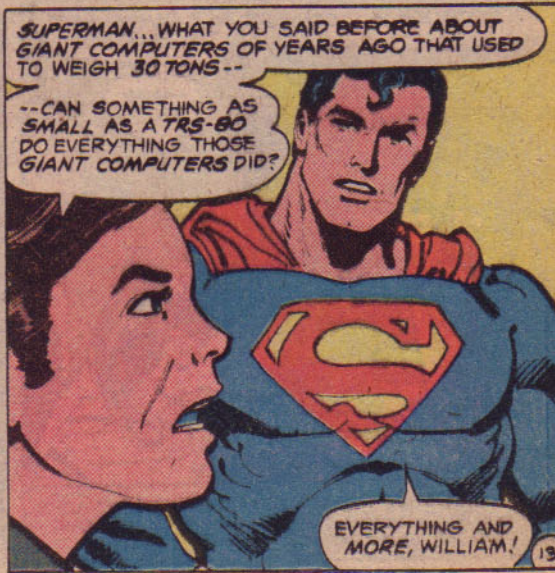
TWICE IN ONE DAY--! HOW LUCKY CAN WE GET!

HELLO, CLASS...



...I SEE SOME OF YOU HAVE ALREADY STARTED TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH THE TWO TRS-80 MICROCOMPUTERS I BROUGHT ALONG!

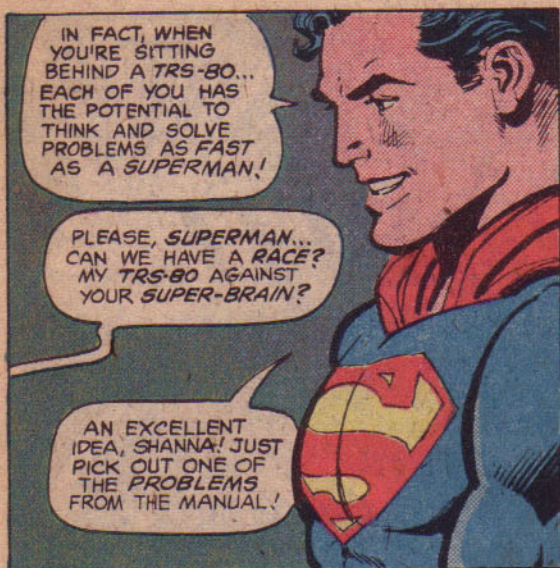
AND DOING WELL! SHANNA AND WILLIAM HERE HAVE BEEN PRACTICING A FEW OF THE SAMPLE PROBLEMS FROM THE MANUAL!



SUPERMAN... WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE ABOUT GIANT COMPUTERS OF YEARS AGO THAT USED TO WEIGH 30 TONS--

--CAN SOMETHING AS SMALL AS A TRS-80 DO EVERYTHING THOSE GIANT COMPUTERS DID?

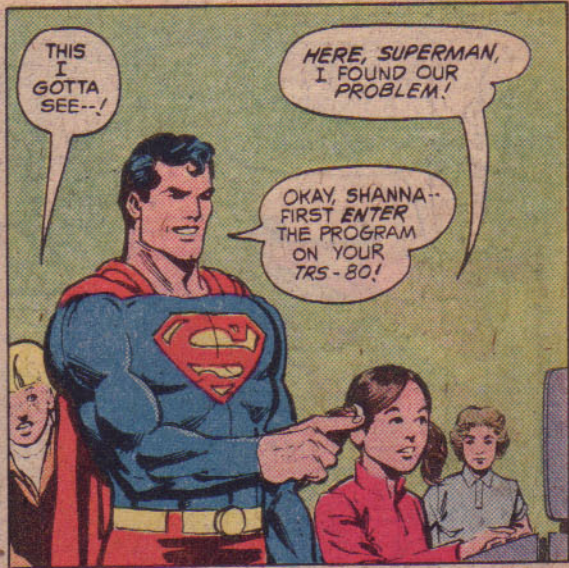
EVERYTHING AND MORE, WILLIAM!



IN FACT, WHEN YOU'RE SITTING BEHIND A TRS-80... EACH OF YOU HAS THE POTENTIAL TO THINK AND SOLVE PROBLEMS AS FAST AS A SUPERMAN!

PLEASE, SUPERMAN... CAN WE HAVE A RACE? MY TRS-80 AGAINST YOUR SUPER-BRAIN?

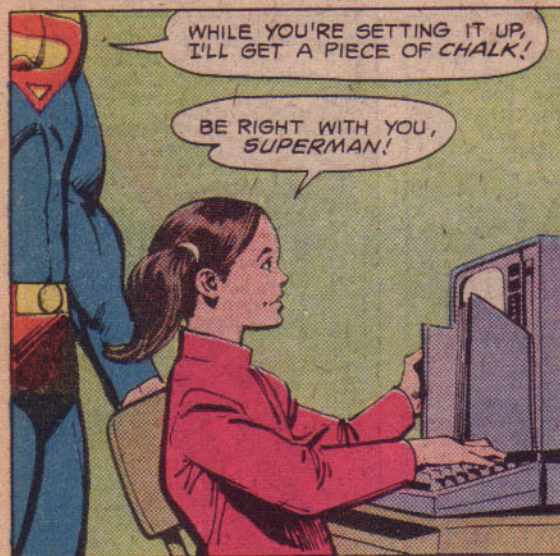
AN EXCELLENT IDEA, SHANNA! JUST PICK OUT ONE OF THE PROBLEMS FROM THE MANUAL!



THIS I GOTTA SEE--!

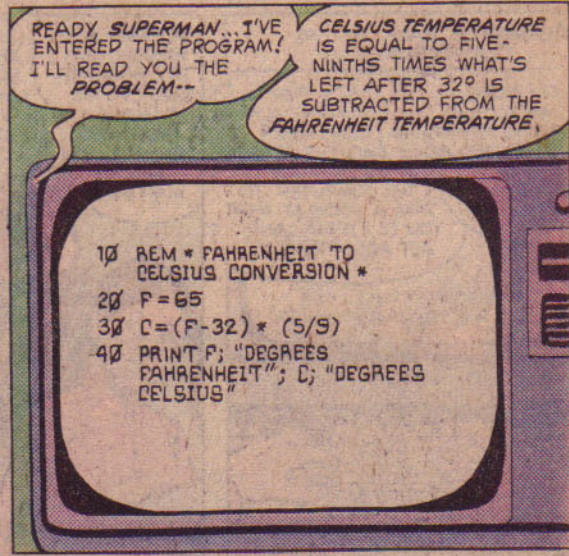
HERE, SUPERMAN, I FOUND OUR PROBLEM!

OKAY, SHANNA-- FIRST ENTER THE PROGRAM ON YOUR TRS-80!



WHILE YOU'RE SETTING IT UP, I'LL GET A PIECE OF CHALK!

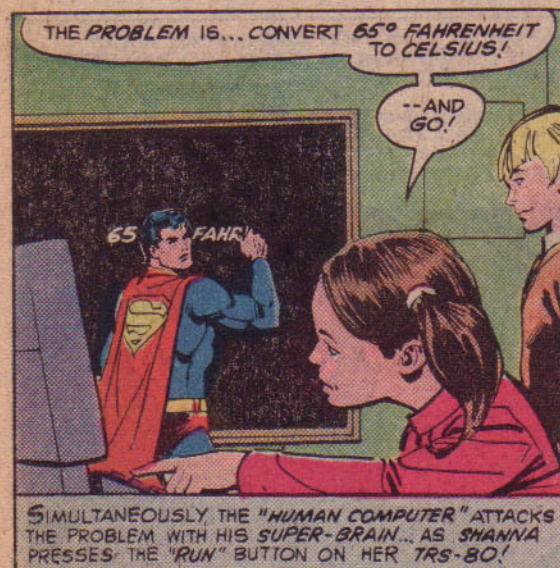
BE RIGHT WITH YOU, SUPERMAN!



READY, SUPERMAN... I'VE ENTERED THE PROGRAM! I'LL READ YOU THE PROBLEM--

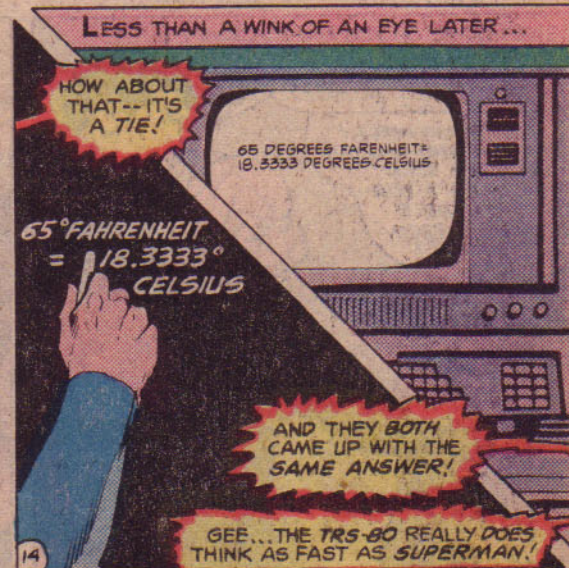
CELSIUS TEMPERATURE IS EQUAL TO FIVE-NINTHS TIMES WHAT'S LEFT AFTER 32° IS SUBTRACTED FROM THE FAHRENHEIT TEMPERATURE.

```
1Ø REM * FAHRENHEIT TO
    CELSIUS CONVERSION *
2Ø F = 65
3Ø C = (F - 32) * (5/9)
4Ø PRINT F; "DEGREES
    FAHRENHEIT"; C; "DEGREES
    CELSIUS"
```



THE PROBLEM IS... CONVERT 65° FAHRENHEIT TO CELSIUS!

--AND GO!



LESS THAN A WINK OF AN EYE LATER...

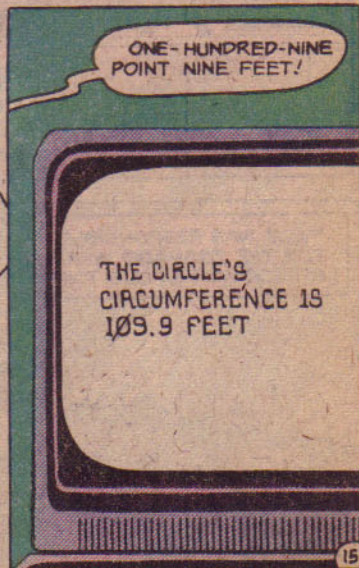
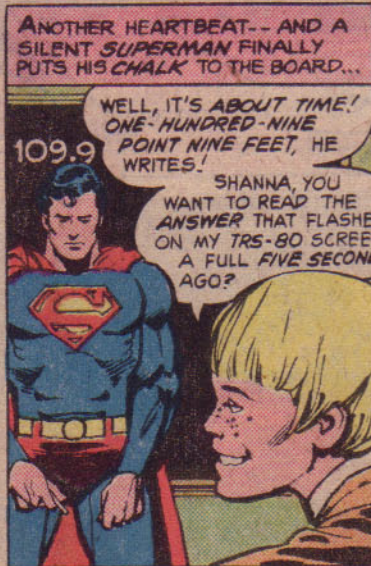
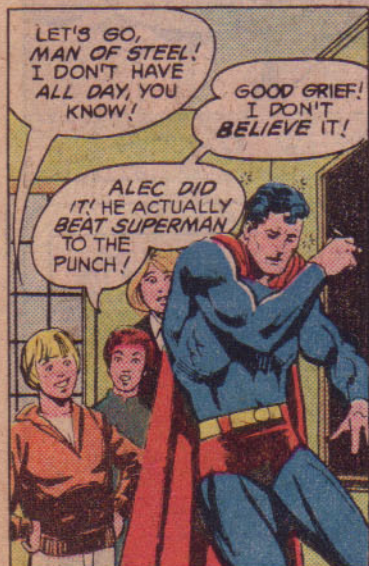
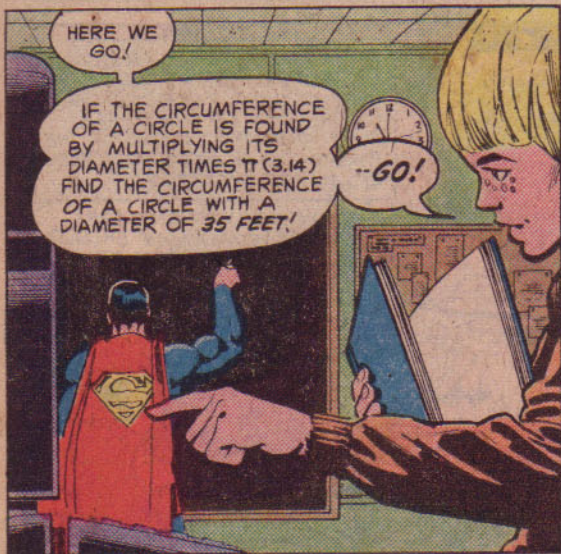
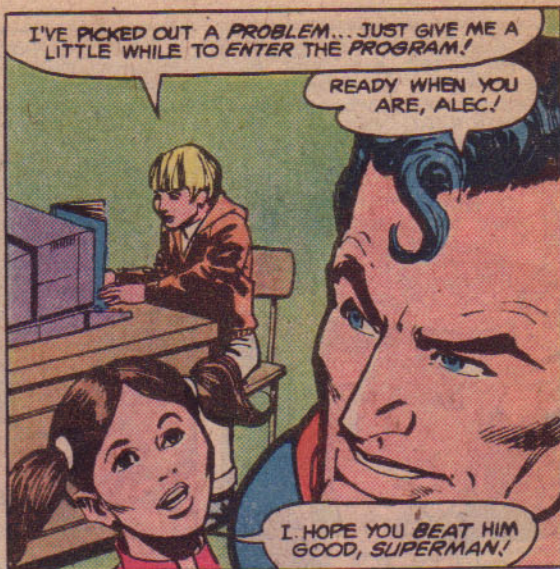
HOW ABOUT THAT-- IT'S A TIE!

65 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT = 18.3333 DEGREES CELSIUS

65° FAHRENHEIT = 18.3333° CELSIUS

AND THEY BOTH CAME UP WITH THE SAME ANSWER!

GEE... THE TRS-80 REALLY DOES THINK AS FAST AS SUPERMAN!





I GUESS YOU'RE NOT SO SUPER AFTER ALL--NOT WHEN YOU'RE UP AGAINST A TRS-80 AND SOMEONE WITH REAL BRAIN-POWER LIKE ALEC THE GREAT!

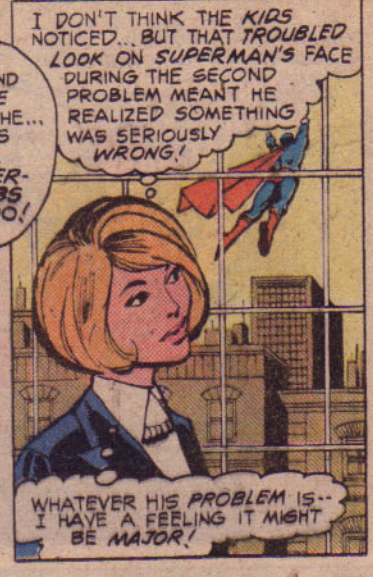
OH WOW... YOU HAVE TO DO SOMETHING, SUPERMAN! TELL HIM YOU LET HIM WIN AS A JOKE... PLEASE!



I CAN'T DO THAT, SHANNA! WHAT HAPPENED JUST NOW WAS FOR REAL! ALEC BEAT ME FAIR AND SQUARE!

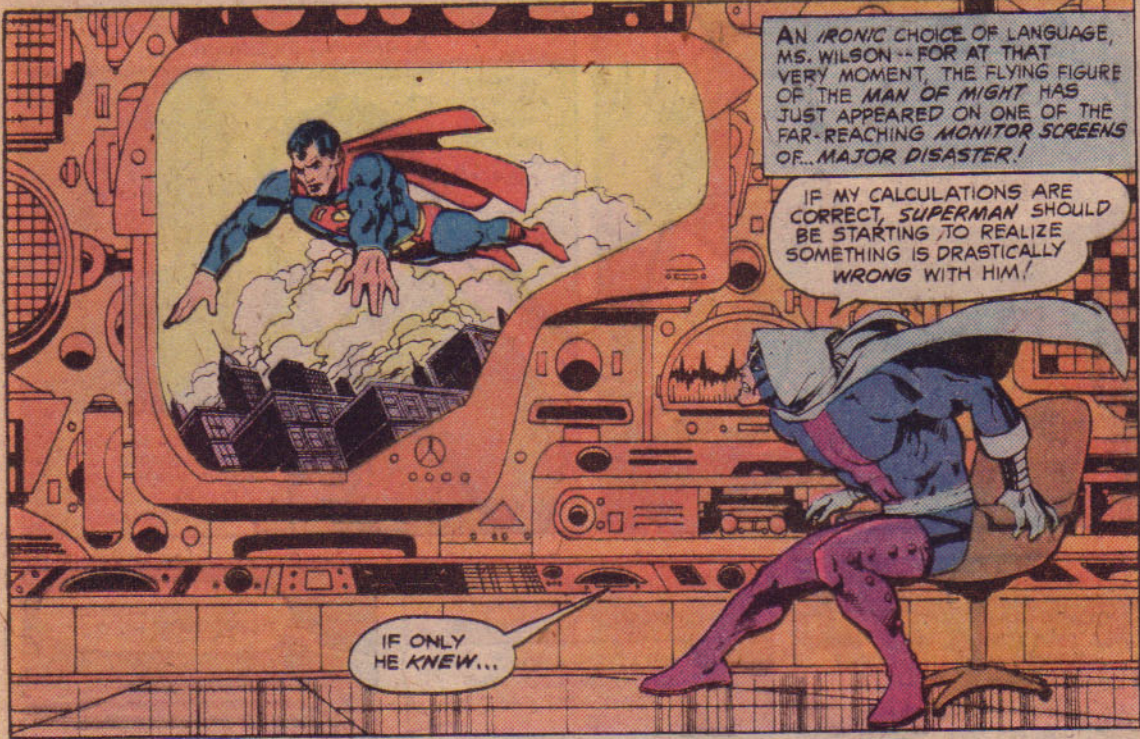
I'M AFRAID IT'S TIME TO THANK SUPERMAN AND SAY GOODBYE NOW, CLASS! HE... ER, HAS OTHER SUPER-JOBS TO DO!

I'LL SAY ONE THING FOR YOU--AT LEAST YOU'RE A GOOD LOSER!



I DON'T THINK THE KIDS NOTICED... BUT THAT TROUBLED LOOK ON SUPERMAN'S FACE DURING THE SECOND PROBLEM MEANT HE REALIZED SOMETHING WAS SERIOUSLY WRONG!

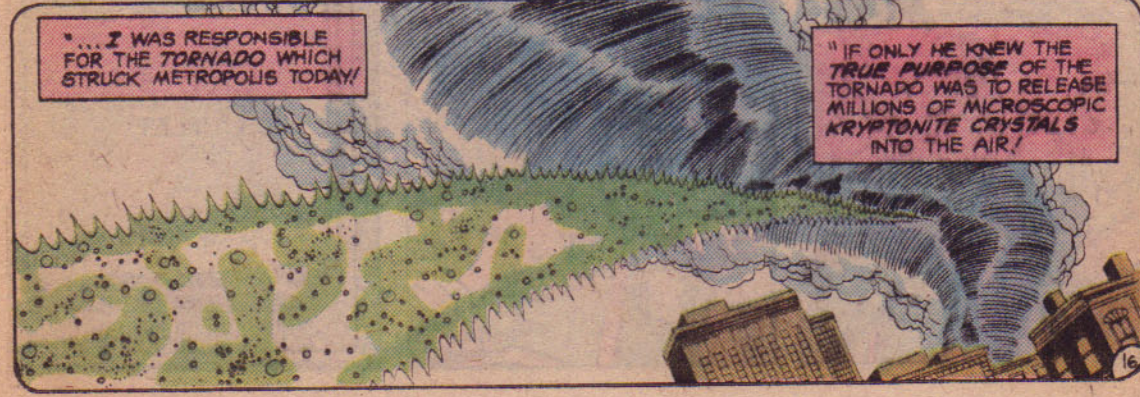
WHATEVER HIS PROBLEM IS-- I HAVE A FEELING IT MIGHT BE MAJOR!



AN IRONIC CHOICE OF LANGUAGE, MS. WILSON--FOR AT THAT VERY MOMENT, THE FLYING FIGURE OF THE MAN OF MIGHT HAS JUST APPEARED ON ONE OF THE FAR-REACHING MONITOR SCREENS OF... MAJOR DISASTER!

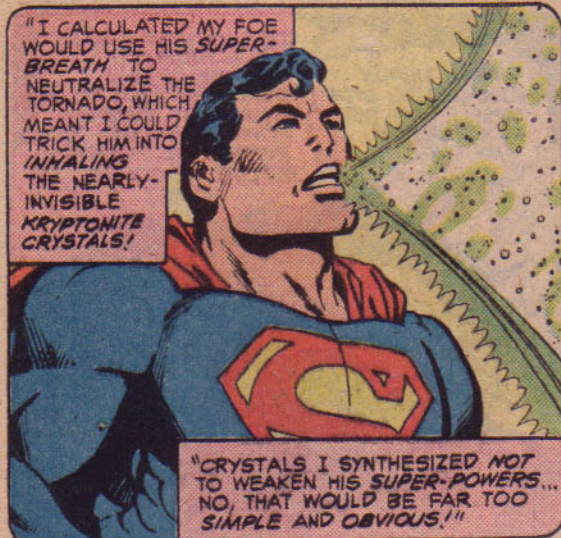
IF MY CALCULATIONS ARE CORRECT, SUPERMAN SHOULD BE STARTING TO REALIZE SOMETHING IS DRASTICALLY WRONG WITH HIM!

IF ONLY HE KNEW...



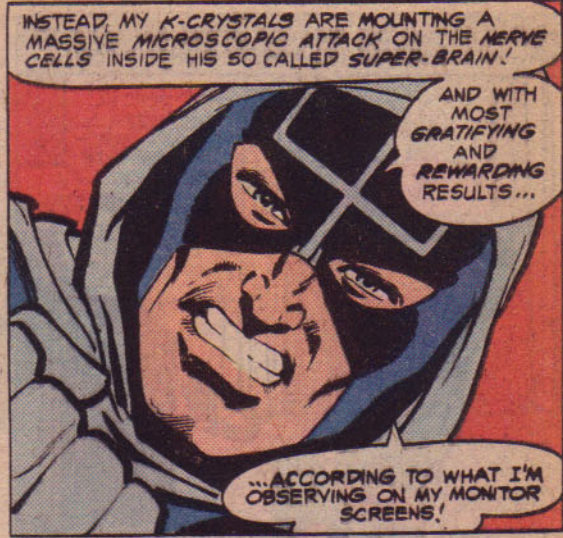
... I WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TORNADO WHICH STRUCK METROPOLIS TODAY!

IF ONLY HE KNEW THE TRUE PURPOSE OF THE TORNADO WAS TO RELEASE MILLIONS OF MICROSCOPIC KRYPTONITE CRYSTALS INTO THE AIR!



"I CALCULATED MY FOE WOULD USE HIS SUPER-BREATH TO NEUTRALIZE THE TORNADO, WHICH MEANT I COULD TRICK HIM INTO INHALING THE NEARLY-INVISIBLE KRYPTONITE CRYSTALS!"

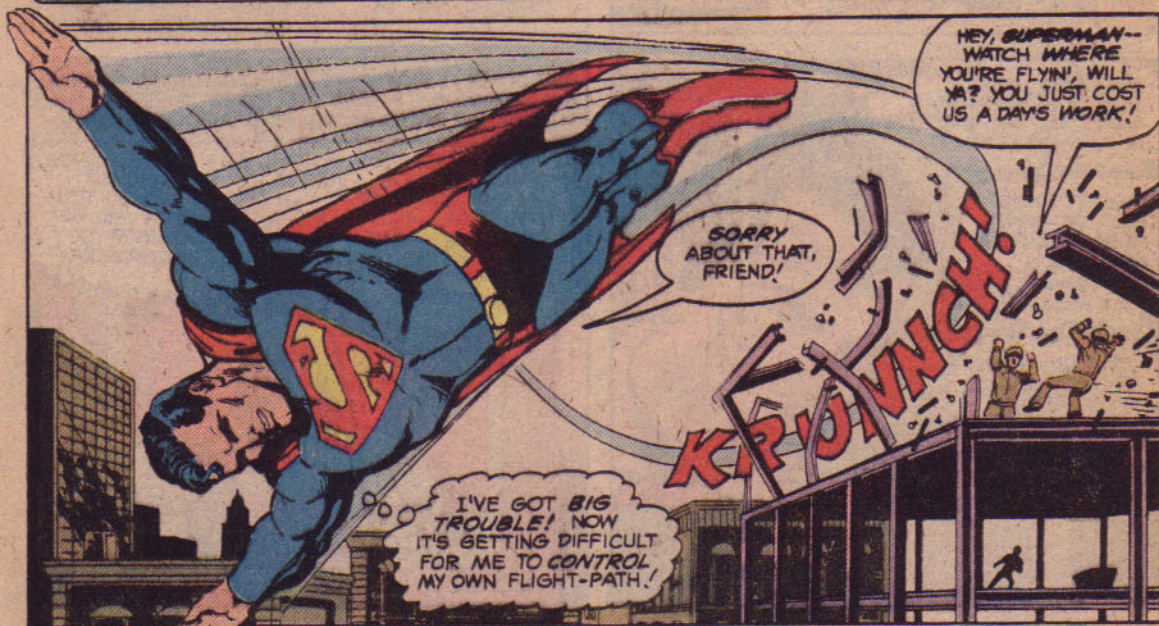
"CRYSTALS I SYNTHESIZED NOT TO WEAKEN HIS SUPER-POWERS... NO, THAT WOULD BE FAR TOO SIMPLE AND OBVIOUS!"



INSTEAD, MY K-CRYSTALS ARE MOUNTING A MASSIVE MICROSCOPIC ATTACK ON THE NERVE CELLS INSIDE HIS SO CALLED SUPER-BRAIN!

AND WITH MOST GRATIFYING AND REWARDING RESULTS...

...ACCORDING TO WHAT I'M OBSERVING ON MY MONITOR SCREENS!

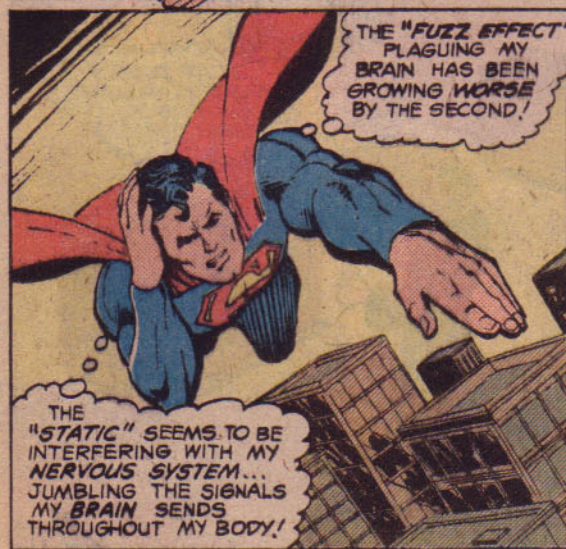


HEY, SUPERMAN-- WATCH WHERE YOU'RE FLYING!, WILL YA? YOU JUST COST US A DAYS WORK!

SORRY ABOUT THAT, FRIEND!

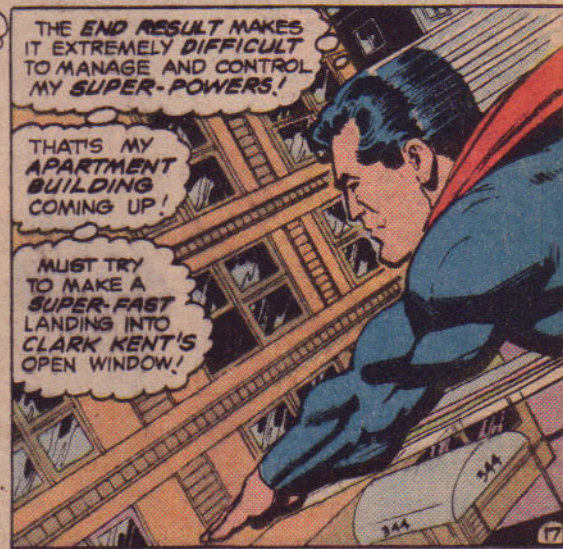
KR-OWNCH!

I'VE GOT BIG TROUBLE! NOW IT'S GETTING DIFFICULT FOR ME TO CONTROL MY OWN FLIGHT-PATH!



THE "FUZZ EFFECT" PLAGUING MY BRAIN HAS BEEN GROWING WORSE BY THE SECOND!

THE "STATIC" SEEMS TO BE INTERFERING WITH MY NERVOUS SYSTEM... JUMBLING THE SIGNALS MY BRAIN SENDS THROUGHOUT MY BODY!

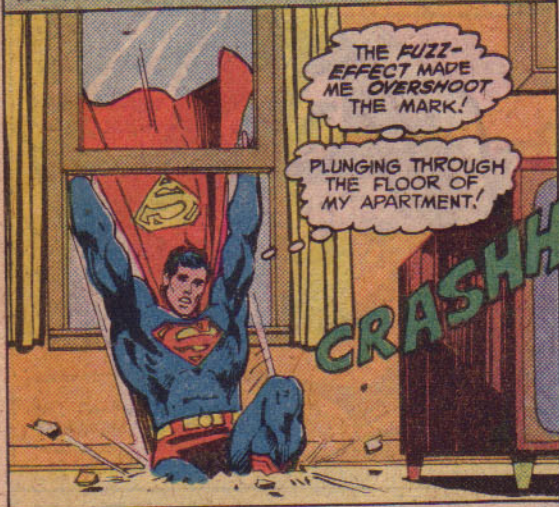


THE END RESULT MAKES IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO MANAGE AND CONTROL MY SUPER-POWERS!

THAT'S MY APARTMENT BUILDING COMING UP!

MUST TRY TO MAKE A SUPER-FAST LANDING INTO CLARK KENT'S OPEN WINDOW!

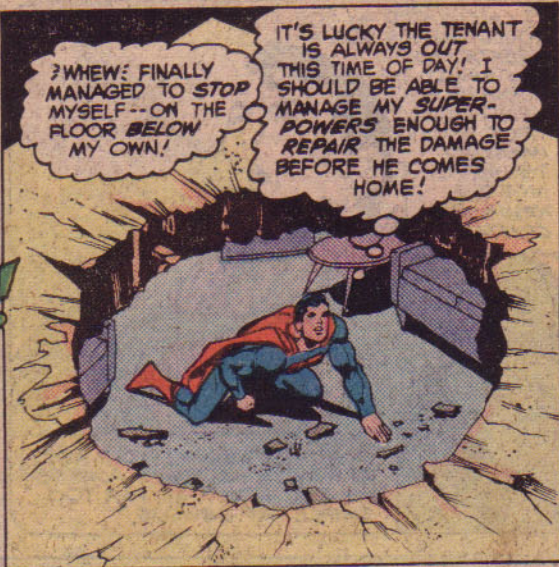
AND ALTHOUGH THE *MAN OF STEEL* MANAGES TO NAVIGATE THROUGH HIS WINDOW SIGHT-UNSEEN...



THE FUZZ-EFFECT MADE ME OVERSHOOT THE MARK!

PLUNGING THROUGH THE FLOOR OF MY APARTMENT!

CRASHH!



?WHEW! FINALLY MANAGED TO STOP MYSELF--ON THE FLOOR BELOW MY OWN!

IT'S LUCKY THE TENANT IS ALWAYS OUT THIS TIME OF DAY! I SHOULD BE ABLE TO MANAGE MY SUPER-POWERS ENOUGH TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE BEFORE HE COMES HOME!

BUT THEN WHAT? HOW IS A SUPERMAN SUPPOSED TO FUNCTION IN THIS CONDITION?

I DON'T KNOW WHO OR WHAT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME...

...I ONLY KNOW I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THE WORST IS YET TO COME!



AND COME IT DOES--AT 9 THE FOLLOWING MORNING, AS A SNARLING VISAGE AND VOICE SUDDENLY CUT INTO TV AND RADIO BROADCASTS THROUGHOUT THE AREA...

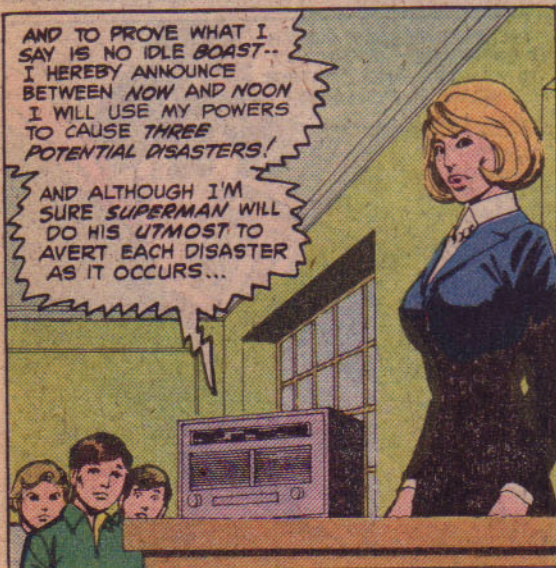
ATTENTION, PEOPLE OF METROPOLIS... THIS IS A MAJOR DISASTER SPEAKING! THE PRECARIOUS FATE OF YOUR FAIR CITY NOW RESTS IN MY HANDS--

-- BUT FOR ONCE, YOUR CAPED CHAMPION FROM KRYPTON WILL BE OF NO HELP TO YOU WHATSOEVER!

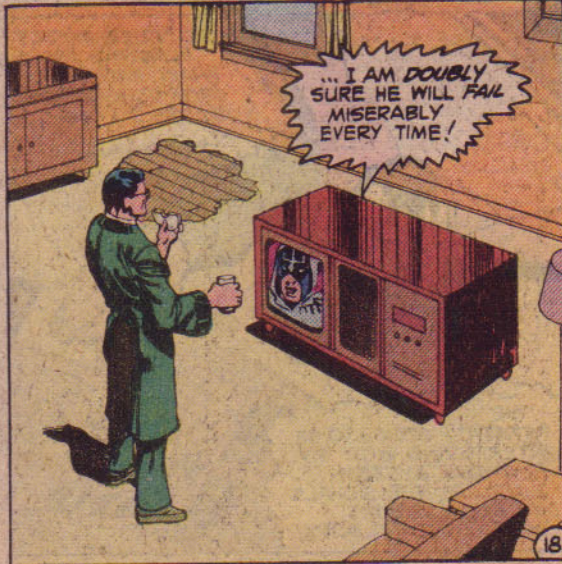


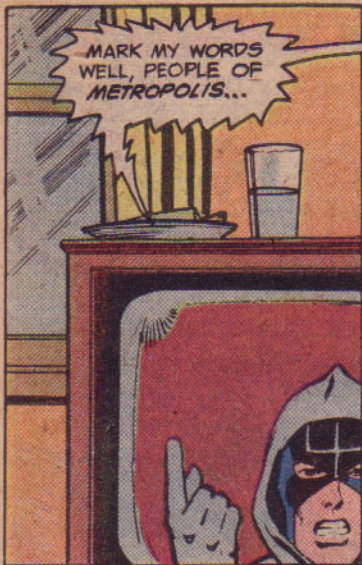
AND TO PROVE WHAT I SAY IS NO IDLE BOAST-- I HEREBY ANNOUNCE BETWEEN NOW AND NOON I WILL USE MY POWERS TO CAUSE THREE POTENTIAL DISASTERS!

AND ALTHOUGH I'M SURE SUPERMAN WILL DO HIS UTMOST TO AVERT EACH DISASTER AS IT OCCURS...



... I AM DOUBLY SURE HE WILL FAIL MISERABLY EVERY TIME!





MARK MY WORDS WELL, PEOPLE OF METROPOLIS...



...THE MAN OF STEEL'S FINAL HOURS ARE NUMBERED NOW...

... AND THE REIGN OF MAJOR DISASTER HAS JUST BEGUN!



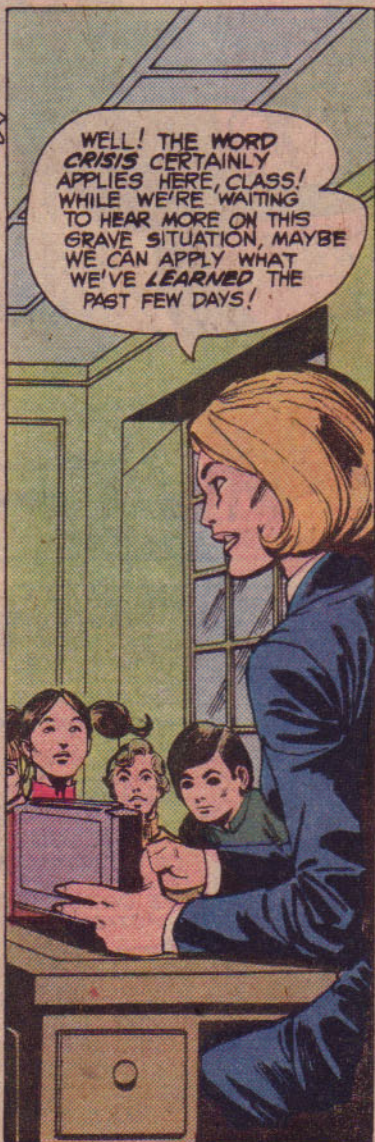
AND JUST IN CASE YOU HAPPEN TO BE LISTENING TO THIS BROADCAST, SUPERMAN... I KNOW YOU'LL DO EVERYTHING IN YOUR POWER TO TRY AND STOP ME!

AND THAT'S WHEN THE FUN WILL REALLY START!

SOME 35 MINUTES LATER, IN A CERTAIN FAMILIAR CLASSROOM...

... AND ALSO IN THIS MORNING'S NEWS IS THE SIMULTANEOUS BREAKDOWN OF COMPUTERS WHICH HAVE CRIPPLED EVERY MAJOR COMPUTER SYSTEM THROUGHOUT THE AREA!

MORE ON THIS STORY AS THE CRISIS DEVELOPS!

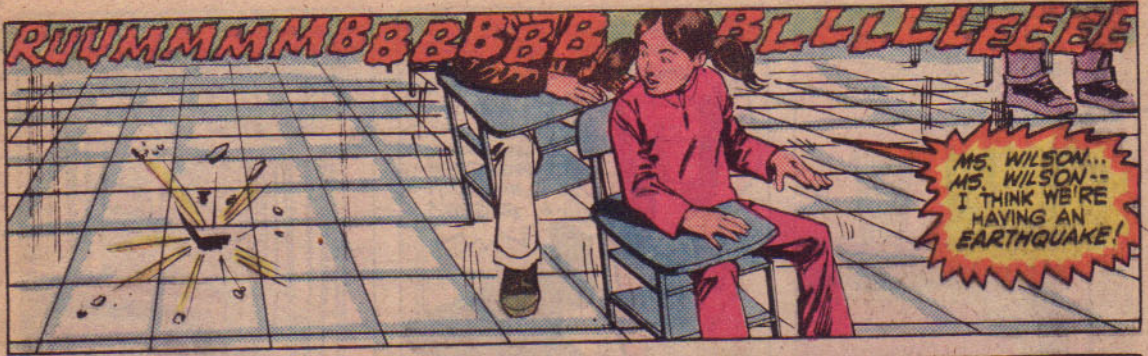


WELL! THE WORD CRISIS CERTAINLY APPLIES HERE, CLASS! WHILE WE'RE WAITING TO HEAR MORE ON THIS GRAVE SITUATION, MAYBE WE CAN APPLY WHAT WE'VE LEARNED THE PAST FEW DAYS!

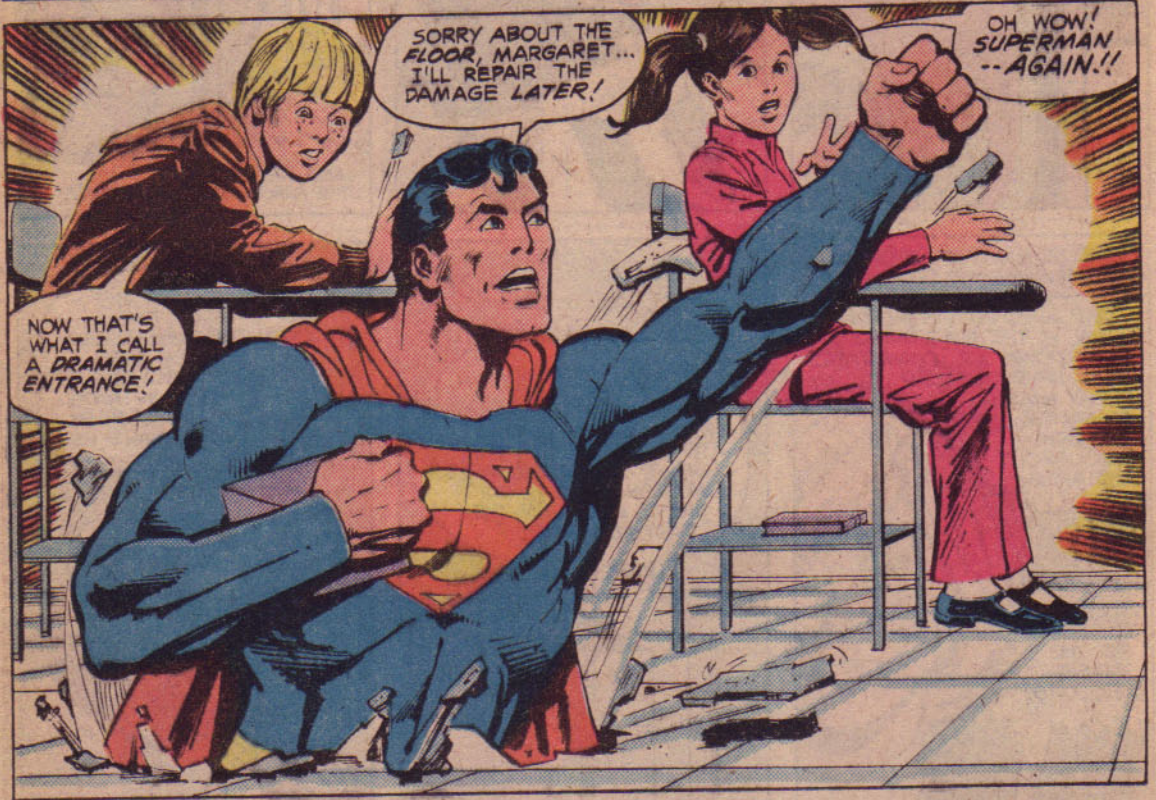


LET'S DISCUSS THE EFFECT THIS COMPUTER BREAKDOWN COULD HAVE ON OUR EVERYDAY LIVES... AND REVIEW THE MANY WAYS COMPUTERS HAVE BEEN FAITHFULLY SERVING US!

HUNH--? HOW COME MY DESK IS SH-SHAKING?



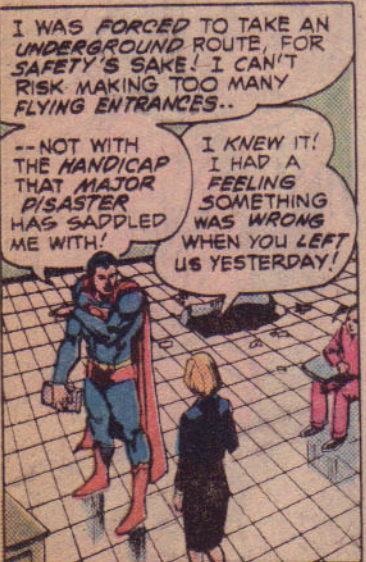
MS. WILSON...
MS. WILSON--
I THINK WE'RE
HAVING AN
EARTHQUAKE!



SORRY ABOUT THE
FLOOR, MARGARET...
I'LL REPAIR THE
DAMAGE LATER!

OH WOW!
SUPERMAN
-- AGAIN!!

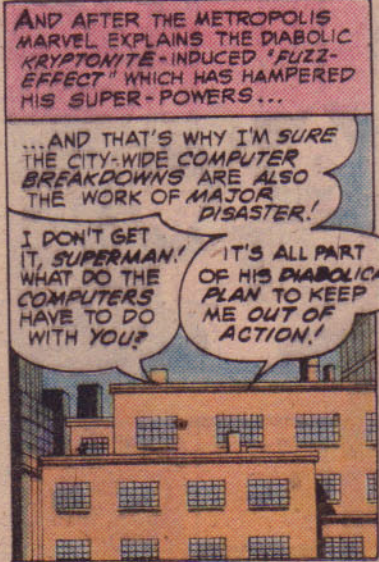
NOW THAT'S
WHAT I CALL
A DRAMATIC
ENTRANCE!



I WAS FORCED TO TAKE AN
UNDERGROUND ROUTE, FOR
SAFETY'S SAKE! I CAN'T
RISK MAKING TOO MANY
FLYING ENTRANCES..

--NOT WITH
THE HANDICAP
THAT MAJOR
DISASTER
HAS SADDLED
ME WITH!

I KNEW IT!
I HAD A
FEELING
SOMETHING
WAS WRONG
WHEN YOU LEFT
US YESTERDAY!

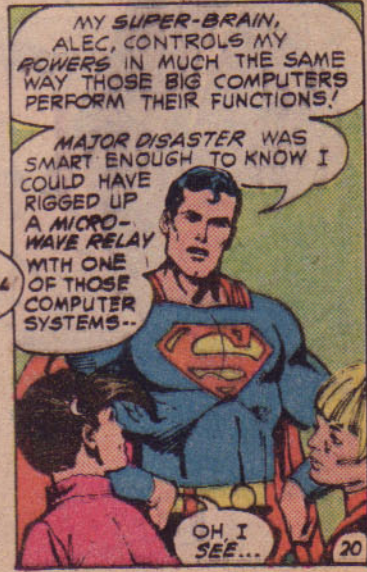


AND AFTER THE METROPOLIS
MARVEL EXPLAINS THE DIABOLIC
KRYPTONITE-INDUCED "FLIZZ-
EFFECT" WHICH HAS HAMPERED
HIS SUPER-POWERS...

...AND THAT'S WHY I'M SURE
THE CITY-WIDE COMPUTER
BREAKDOWNS ARE ALSO
THE WORK OF MAJOR
DISASTER!

I DON'T GET
IT, SUPERMAN!
WHAT DO THE
COMPUTERS
HAVE TO DO
WITH YOU?

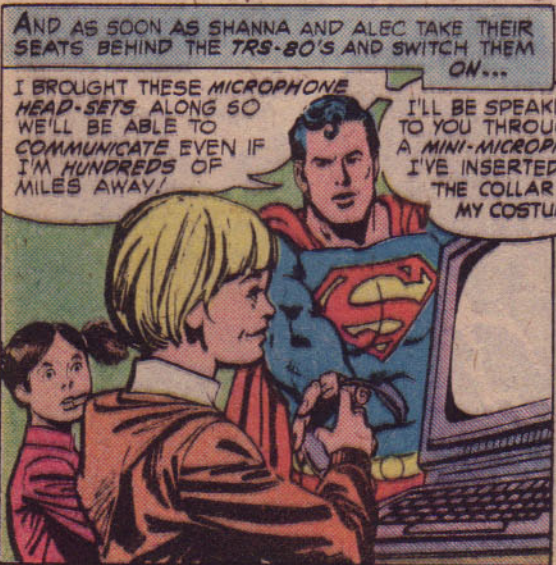
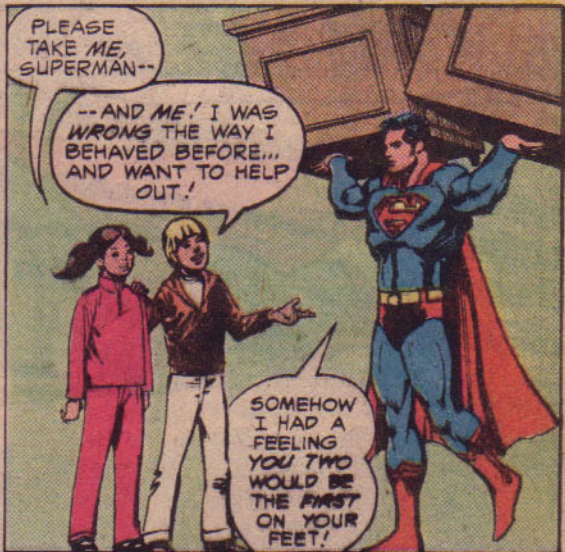
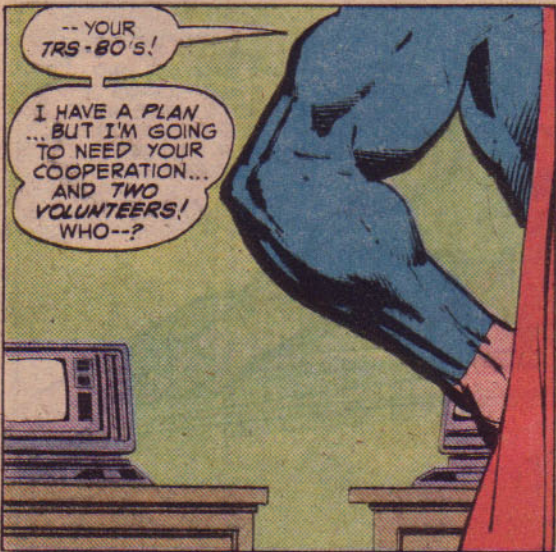
IT'S ALL PART
OF HIS DIABOLICAL
PLAN TO KEEP
ME OUT OF
ACTION!



MY SUPER-BRAIN,
ALEC, CONTROLS MY
POWERS IN MUCH THE SAME
WAY THOSE BIG COMPUTERS
PERFORM THEIR FUNCTIONS!

MAJOR DISASTER WAS
SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW I
COULD HAVE
RIGGED UP
A MICRO-
WAVE RELAY
WITH ONE
OF THOSE
COMPUTER
SYSTEMS--

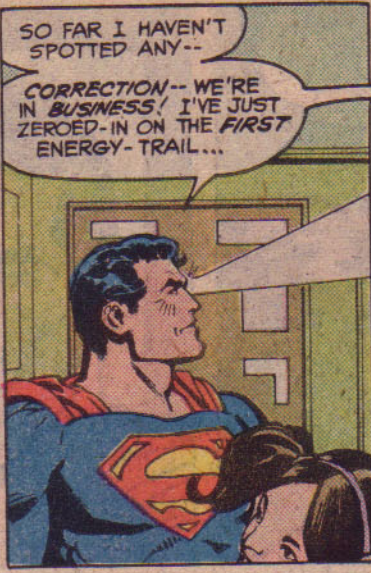
OH, I
SEE...





SINCE 9 A.M. I'VE BEEN PERIODICALLY SCANNING THE METROPOLIS AREA WITH SWEEPING BEAMS OF TELESCOPIC VISION--

--SEARCHING FOR A TRACE OF THE ENERGY-RESIDUE THAT INDICATES MAJOR DISASTER HAS BEEN ON THE SCENE!



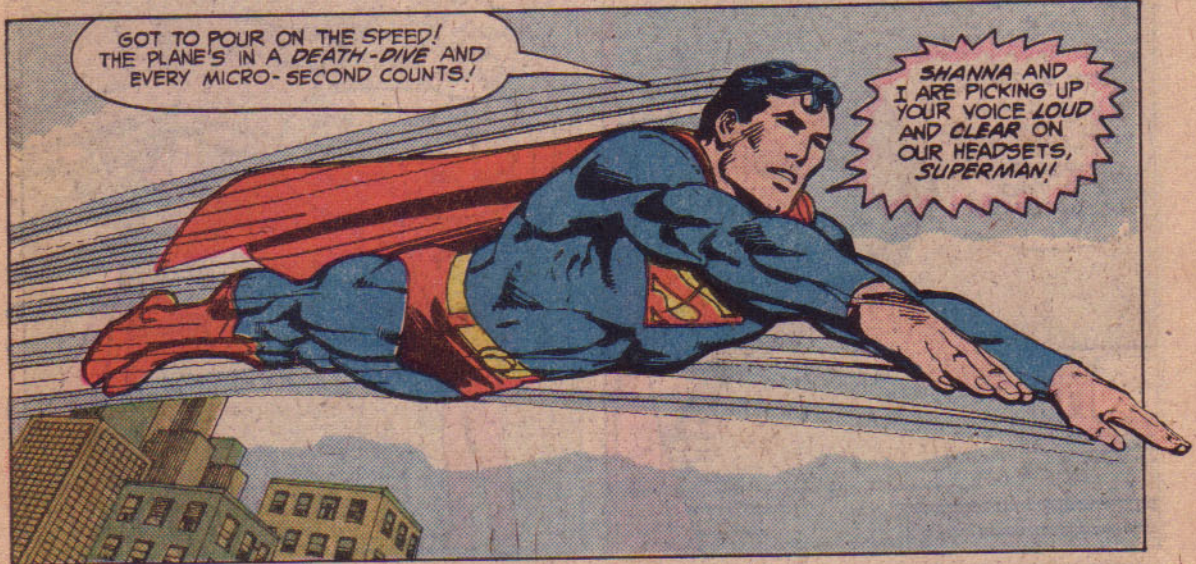
SO FAR I HAVEN'T SPOTTED ANY--

CORRECTION-- WE'RE IN BUSINESS! I'VE JUST ZEROED-IN ON THE FIRST ENERGY-TRAIL...



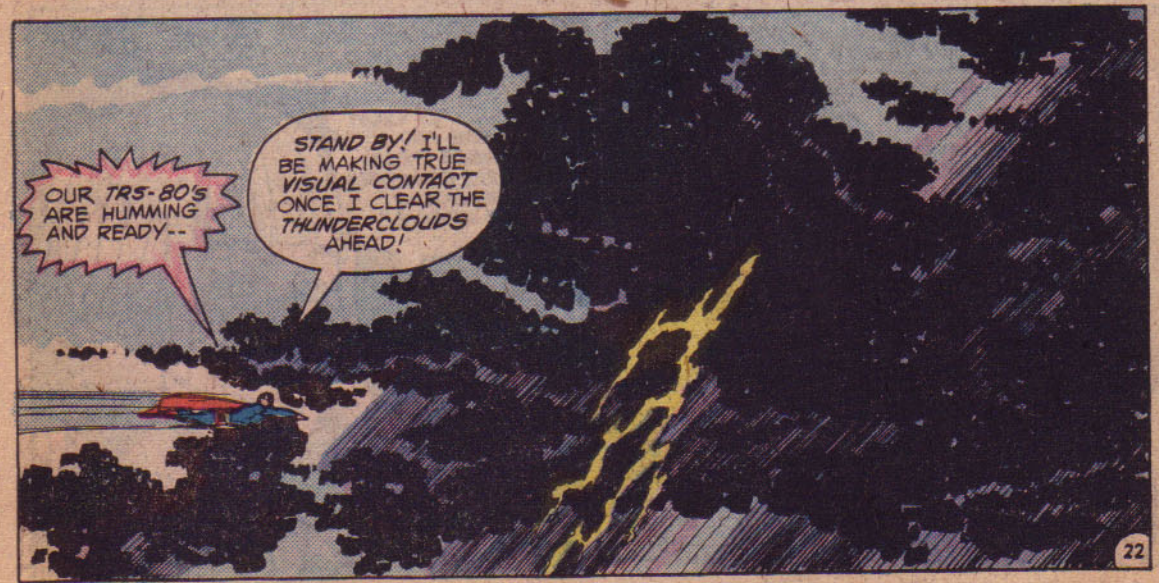
...IN TIME TO SEE THE DEVASTATING RESULT--

-- A POWERFUL LIGHTNING BOLT THAT HAS KNOCKED A JETLINER OUT OF THE SKY!



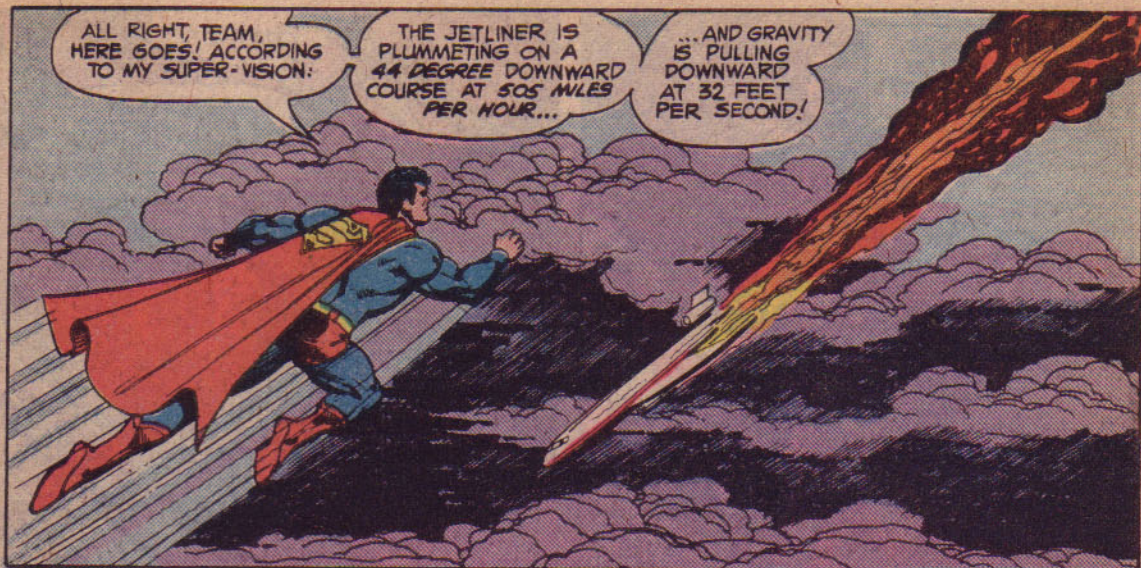
GOT TO POUR ON THE SPEED! THE PLANE'S IN A DEATH-DIVE AND EVERY MICRO-SECOND COUNTS!

SHANNA AND I ARE PICKING UP YOUR VOICE LOUD AND CLEAR ON OUR HEADSETS, SUPERMAN!



OUR TR5-80'S ARE HUMMING AND READY--

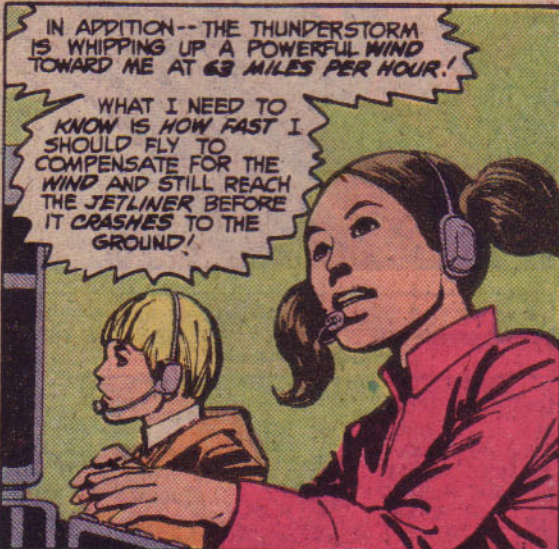
STAND BY! I'LL BE MAKING TRUE VISUAL CONTACT ONCE I CLEAR THE THUNDERCLOUDS AHEAD!



ALL RIGHT, TEAM, HERE GOES! ACCORDING TO MY SUPER-VISION:

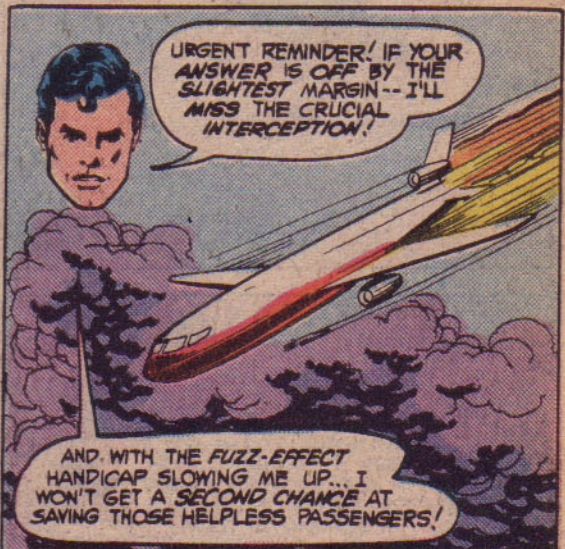
THE JETLINER IS PLUMMETING ON A 44 DEGREE DOWNWARD COURSE AT 505 MPH PER HOUR...

...AND GRAVITY IS PULLING DOWNWARD AT 32 FEET PER SECOND!



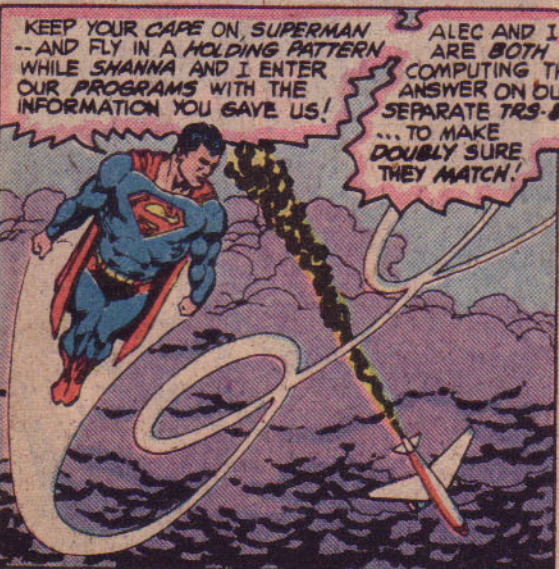
IN ADDITION-- THE THUNDERSTORM IS WHIPPING UP A POWERFUL WIND TOWARD ME AT 63 MILES PER HOUR!

WHAT I NEED TO KNOW IS HOW FAST I SHOULD FLY TO COMPENSATE FOR THE WIND AND STILL REACH THE JETLINER BEFORE IT CRASHES TO THE GROUND!



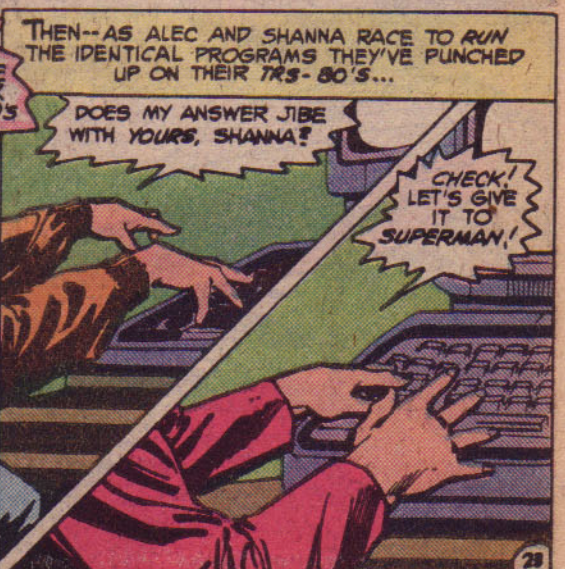
URGENT REMINDER! IF YOUR ANSWER IS OFF BY THE SLIGHTEST MARGIN-- I'LL MISS THE CRUCIAL INTERCEPTION!

AND WITH THE FUZZ-EFFECT HANDICAP SLOWING ME UP... I WON'T GET A SECOND CHANCE AT SAYING THOSE HELPLESS PASSENGERS!



KEEP YOUR CAPE ON, SUPERMAN -- AND FLY IN A HOLDING PATTERN WHILE SHANNA AND I ENTER OUR PROGRAMS WITH THE INFORMATION YOU GAVE US!

ALEC AND I ARE BOTH COMPUTING THE ANSWER ON OUR SEPARATE TRS-80'S ... TO MAKE DOUBLY SURE THEY MATCH!



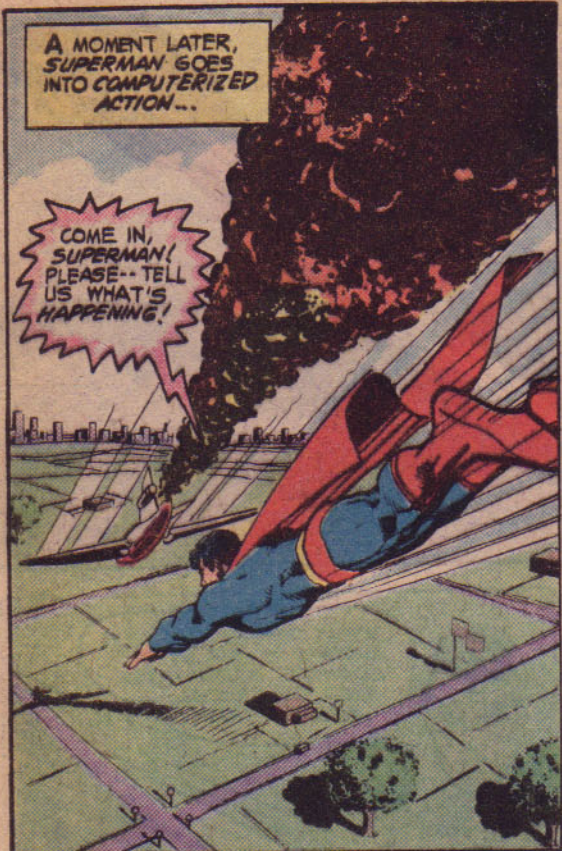
THEN-- AS ALEC AND SHANNA RACE TO RUN THE IDENTICAL PROGRAMS THEY'VE PUNCHED UP ON THEIR TRS-80'S...

DOES MY ANSWER JIBE WITH YOURS, SHANNA?

CHECK! LET'S GIVE IT TO SUPERMAN!

A MOMENT LATER,
SUPERMAN GOES
INTO COMPUTERIZED
ACTION...

COME IN,
SUPERMAN!
PLEASE-- TELL
US WHAT'S
HAPPENING!



CONTACT!

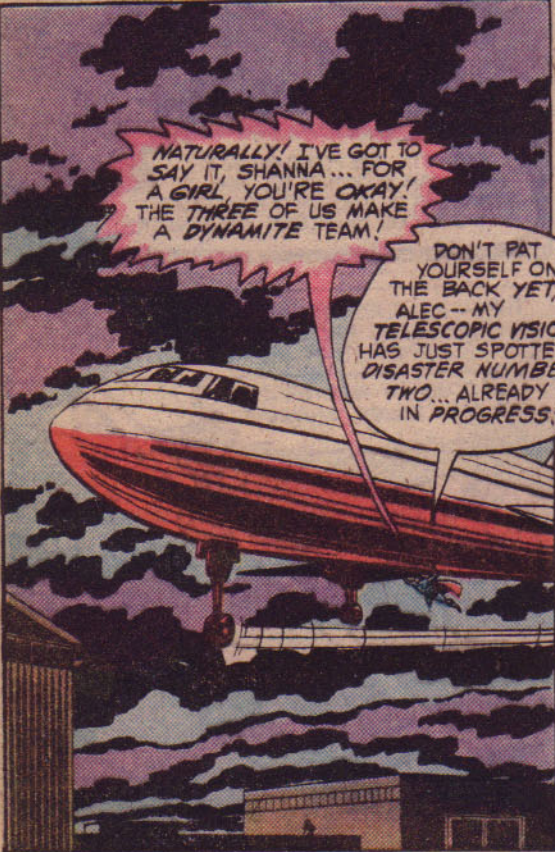
DISASTER ONE
HAS BEEN AVERTED...
THANKS TO YOU TWO
AND YOUR TRS-80'S!

HOORAY! HE
DID IT! SUPERMAN
WAS RIGHT ON
TARGET AND
GRABBED THE
JETLINER IN
TIME!



NATURALLY! I'VE GOT TO
SAY IT, SHANNA... FOR
A GIRL, YOU'RE OKAY!
THE THREE OF US MAKE
A DYNAMITE TEAM!

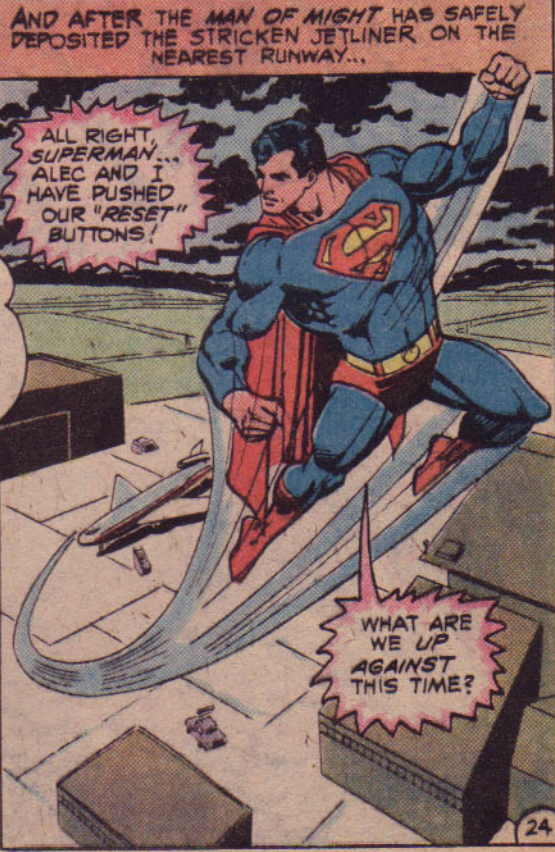
DON'T PAT
YOURSELF ON
THE BACK YET,
ALEC-- MY
TELESCOPIC VISION
HAS JUST SPOTTED
DISASTER NUMBER
TWO... ALREADY
IN PROGRESS!

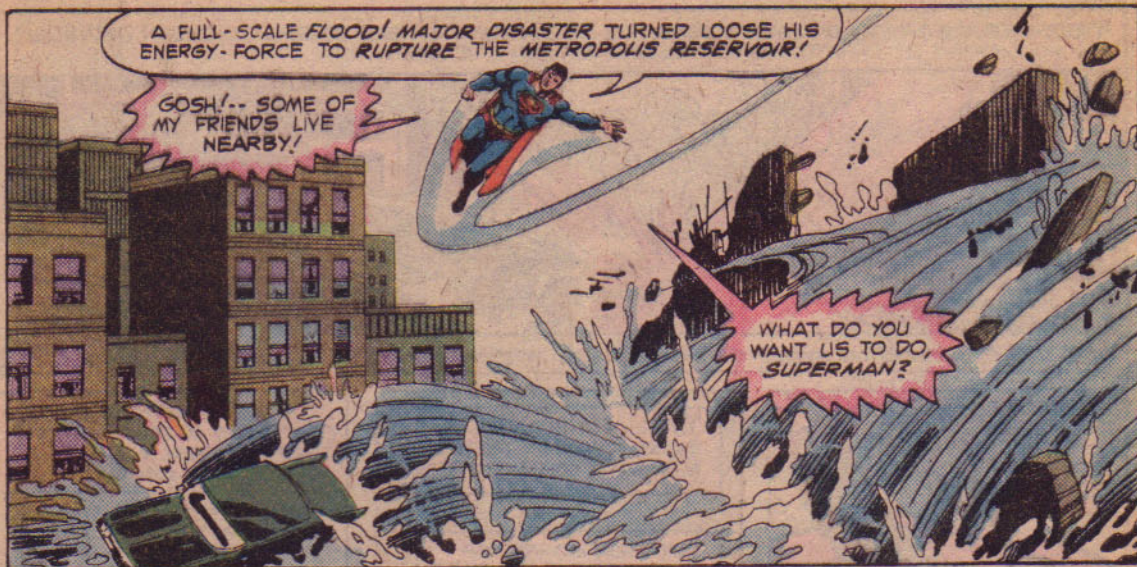


AND AFTER THE MAN OF MIGHT HAS SAFELY
DEPOSITED THE STRICKEN JETLINER ON THE
NEAREST RUNWAY...

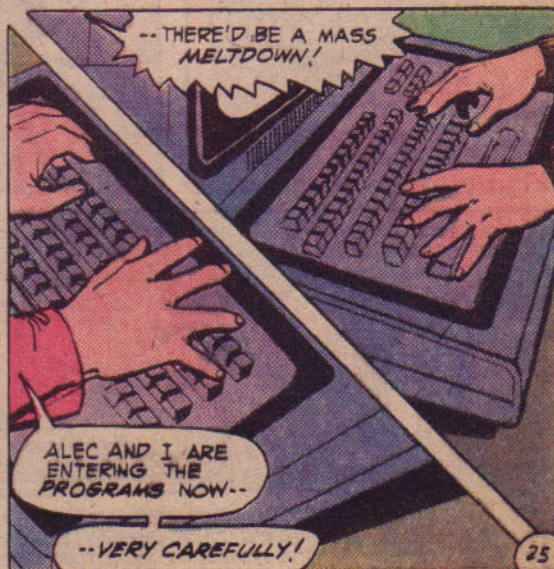
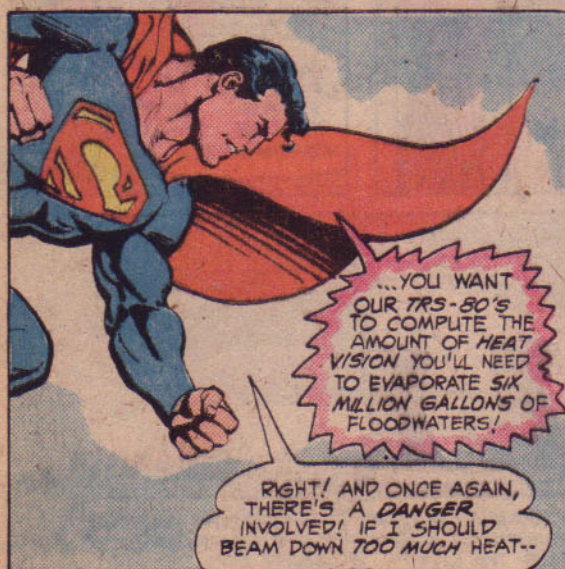
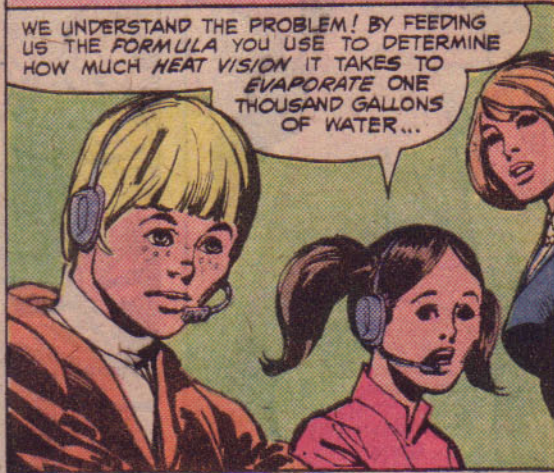
ALL RIGHT,
SUPERMAN...
ALEC AND I
HAVE PUSHED
OUR "RESET"
BUTTONS!

WHAT ARE
WE UP
AGAINST
THIS TIME?

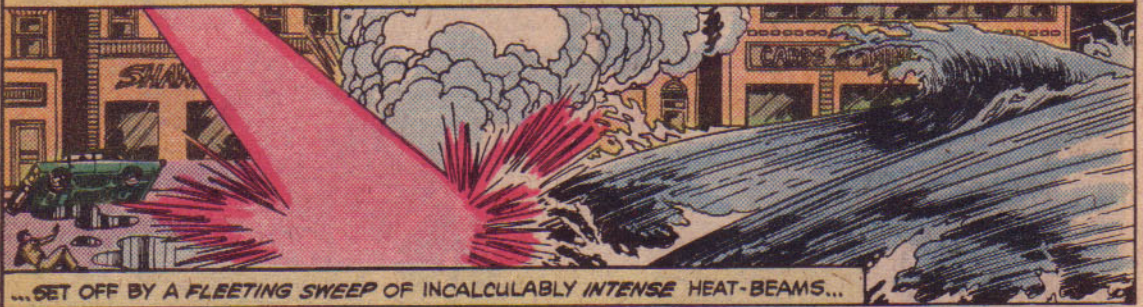




AND SHORTLY TWO PAIRS OF HANDS FURIOUSLY PUSH THE TRS-80 KEYBOARDS IN RESPONSE TO INFORMATION COMING IN OVER THE HEADSETS...



MERE INSTANTS LATER, AN OVERFLOWING TIDE OF SWIRLING WATERS BEGINS TO CHURN AND BOIL INTO MASSIVE BILLOWS OF RISING STEAM...



...SET OFF BY A FLEETING SWEEP OF INCALCULABLY INTENSE HEAT-BEAMS...



...BEAMS WHICH HAVE BEEN TIMED PRECISELY FOR SUPERMAN BY HIS DISTANT HELPER!

THE TRS-80'S HAVE SCORED AGAIN! BY FOLLOWING THE COMPUTATIONS YOU TWO SENT BACK--

--I'M SUCCESSFULLY EVAPORATING ALL THE WATER WITHOUT HARMING THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

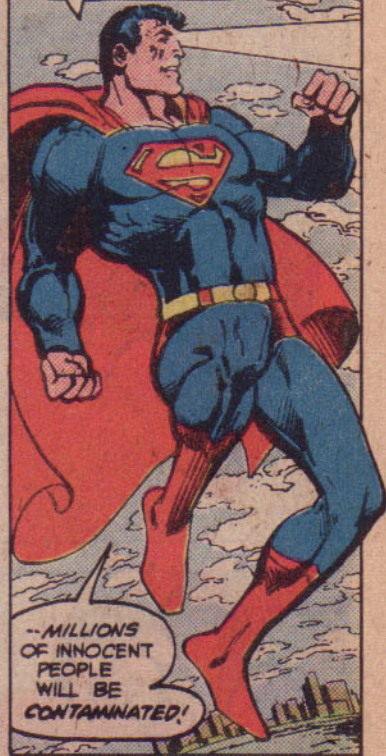
TO WHICH A BEAMING SHANNA AND ALEC RESPOND WITH MUTUAL CONGRATULATIONS...

BUT THEIR MOMENT OF TRIUMPH TURNS OUT TO BE FLEETING AT BEST...

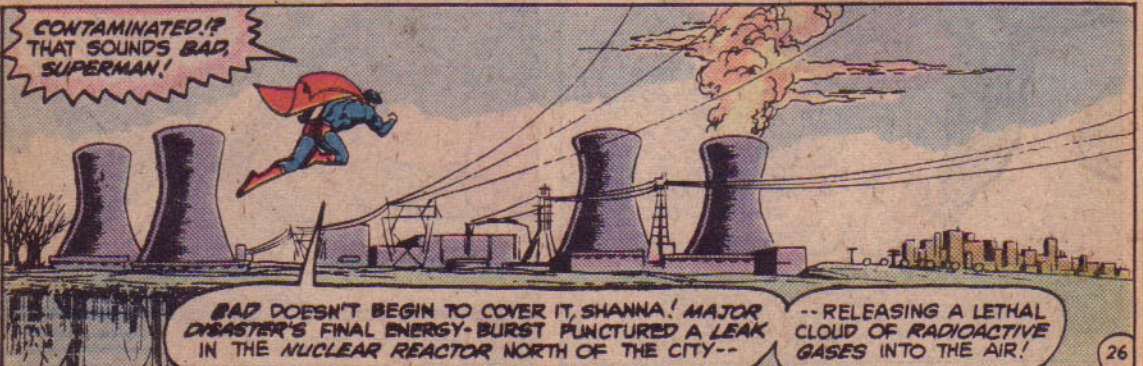


...AS THE METROPOLIS MARVEL CONFRONTS MAJOR DISASTER'S THIRD AND FINAL WORK OF INSIDIOUS EVIL...

LOOKS LIKE MY FOE SAVED THE WORST FOR LAST! IF I FAIL PUTTING A STOP TO THIS DISASTER--



--MILLIONS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE WILL BE CONTAMINATED!



CONTAMINATED!? THAT SOUNDS BAD, SUPERMAN!

BAD DOESN'T BEGIN TO COVER IT, SHANNA! MAJOR DISASTER'S FINAL ENERGY-BURST PUNCTURED A LEAK IN THE NUCLEAR REACTOR NORTH OF THE CITY--

--RELEASING A LETHAL CLOUD OF RADIOACTIVE GASES INTO THE AIR!

FORTUNATELY THE AIR IS CALM AT THE MOMENT! BUT AS SOON AS THE FIRST WIND COMES UP...

WE GET THE PICTURE, SUPERMAN! TELL US THE STRATEGY YOU WANT TO USE -- AND HOW WE CAN HELP!

WITH NOT A SECOND TO SPARE, THE MAN OF STEEL RELAYS HIS ATTACK-PLAN TO SHANNA AND ALEC -- FEEDING THEM THE INFORMATION HIS OWN SUPER-BRAIN IS STILL TOO "FUZZED" TO COMPUTE!

ONCE AGAIN TWO PAIRS OF HANDS DEFTLY GLIDE OVER THE TRS-80 KEYBOARDS...

...AS SUPERMAN'S YOUNG ALLIES RUN MATCHING PROGRAMS, ENABLING THEM TO QUICKLY SUPPLY THE CAPED CHAMPION WITH THE DATA HE NEEDS...

THANKS TO SHANNA AND ALEC -- I KNOW EXACTLY HOW FAST TO FLY AT PRECISELY THE CORRECT SPINNING CIRCUMFERENCE...

...IN ORDER TO CONTAIN THE CONTAMINATED CLOUD AND SEND IT SPIRALING STRAIGHT UP...

...ALL THE WAY UP THROUGH THE TOPMOST LAYERS OF EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE... WHERE THE CLOUD WILL HARMLESSLY DISSIPATE IN OUTER SPACE!

AND NOW I HAVE ONE FINAL DISASTER TO ATTEND TO--

-- NAMELY, THE MANIACAL MAJOR HIMSELF!

GOT IT-- AND JUST IN TIME, TOO! A SUDDEN BREEZE HAS STARTED BLOWING THE CLOUD TOWARD METROPOLIS!

EPILOGUE

... AND AS THIS EXCLUSIVE WGBS VIDEO-TAPE SHOWS-- SUPERMAN MADE A SURPRISE APPEARANCE AT METROPOLIS POLICE HEADQUARTERS ...


... BUT IT APPEARS NO ONE WAS MORE SURPRISED THAN THE PRISONER HE WAS BRINGING IN--



--MAJOR DISASTER!

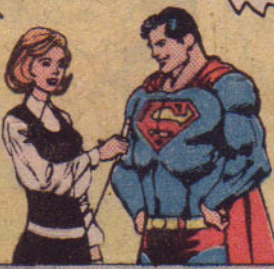
SUPERMAN EXPLAINED AFTERWARD THAT IT WAS MAJOR DISASTER'S UNIQUE DESTRUCTIVE ENERGY-FIELD WHICH DID THE PERPETRATOR IN!

FOR ONCE HE HAD SUCCESSFULLY AVERTED ALL THREE OF YESTERDAY'S NEAR-DISASTERS... SUPERMAN THEN MERELY TRACED THE REMAINING ENERGY-RESIDUES BACK TO THEIR SOURCE--



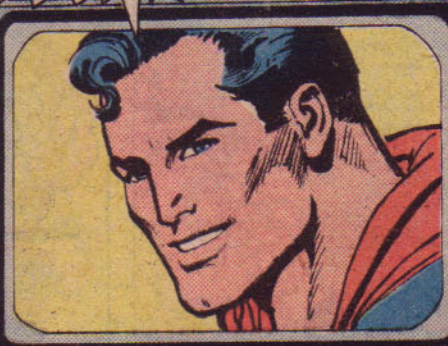
--WHERE HE WASTED NO TIME IN DEMONSTRATING HOW THE CRIPPLING EFFECTS OF THE KRYPTONITE CRYSTALS IN HIS SYSTEM HAD FINALLY WORN OFF!

BUT WHAT STILL PUZZLES ME AND ALL OUR VIEWERS, SUPERMAN... IS HOW YOU MANAGED TO HANDLE THOSE DISASTERS EVEN THOUGH YOUR SUPER-BRAIN WAS "FUZZED OUT"!



MS. LANG, I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT THE HELP OF THE VERY LATEST COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY, AND TWO VERY SPECIAL YOUNG FRIENDS!

BUT WHY DON'T WE LET THEM DO THE REST OF THE TALKING...




HELLO! MY NAME IS SHANNA ...

AND I'M ALEC...

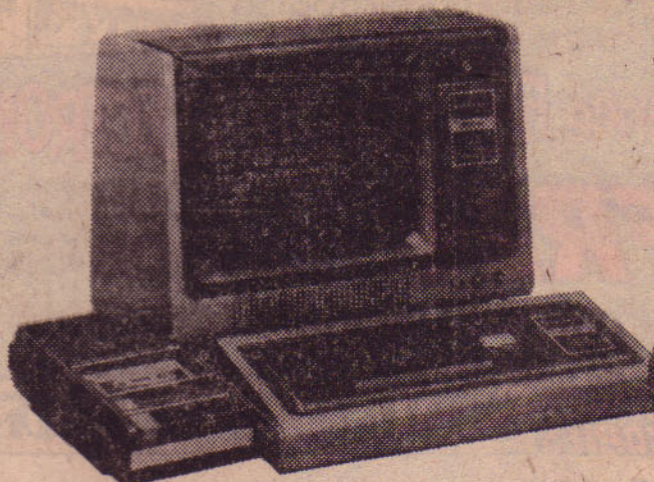
... AND WE'RE GOING TO DEMONSTRATE HOW ANY OF YOU PEOPLE WATCHING AT HOME CAN THINK AS SUPER-FAST AS A SUPERMAN--

--WITH A TRS-80 MICROCOMPUTER!



THE END

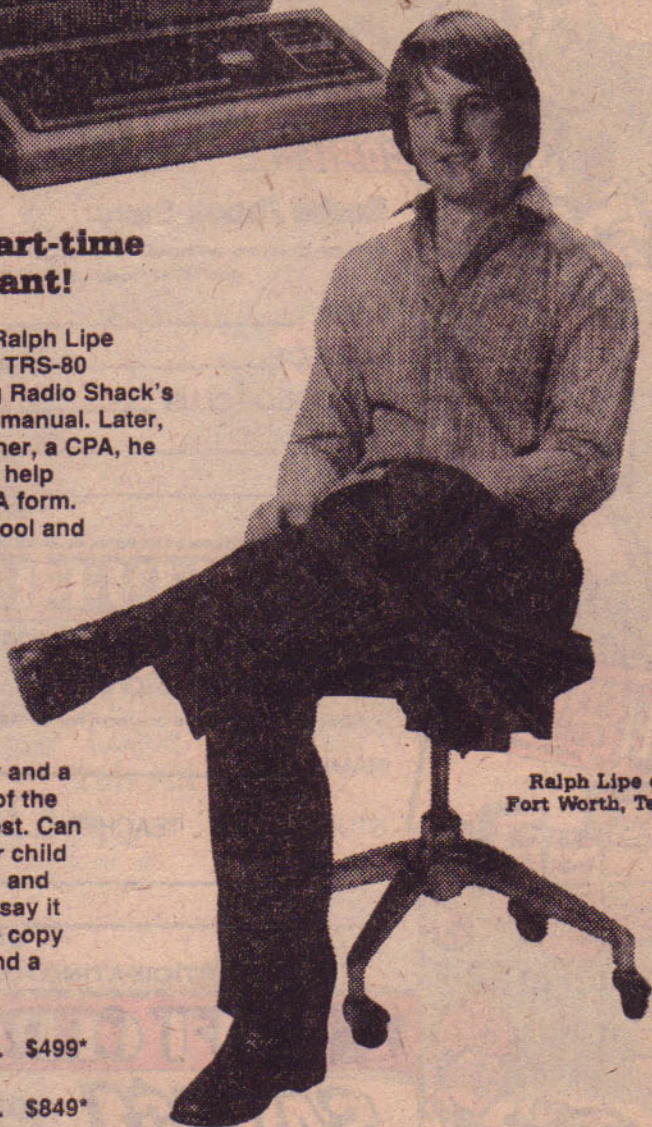
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boy got into
computing
with a
Radio Shack
TRS-80™



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computer consultant!**

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Ralph Lipe of
Fort Worth, Texas

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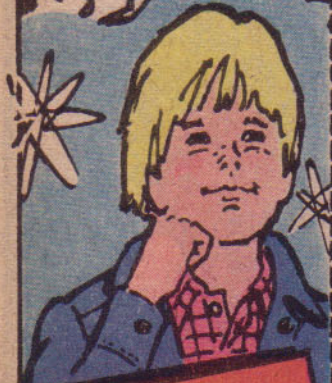
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164-Page
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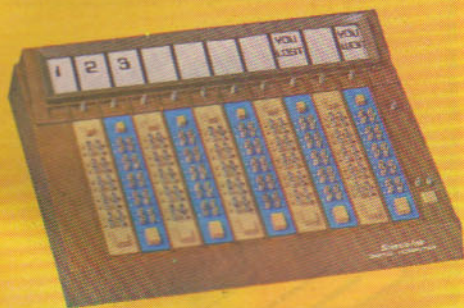


Are For Experimenting!



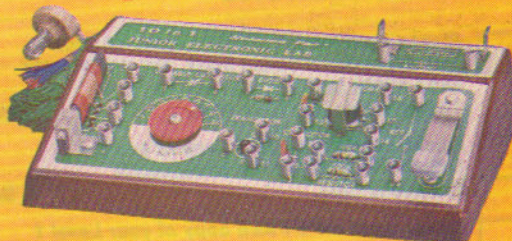
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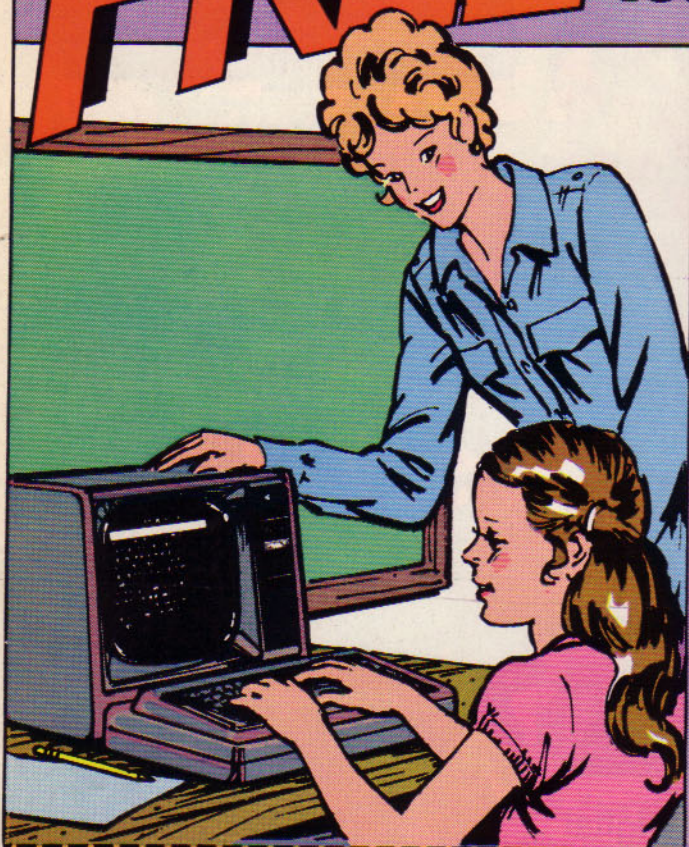
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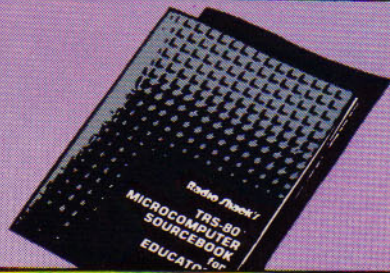
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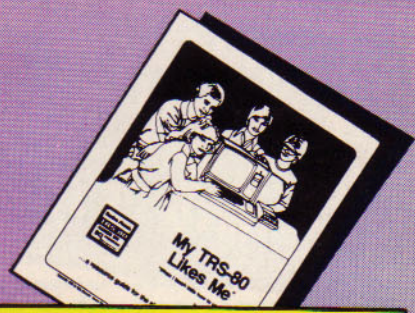


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