

# Assignment TV

By **TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY**

What is America's latest and most acute shortage? Water? Oil? Gold? Nope. It's "Batman" costumes!

It's all part of The Great Comic-Strip Take Over on television. For years the networks have been drifting closer and closer to 12-year-old minds. The programs which one appealed to adult dramatic tastes have slipped from the air to be replaced by giggly domestic nap designed to fascinate the acne-and-electric-guitar set.

One of the current rules of network creativity says that a successful television show is one that "cuts across all age groups." It is important to remember that this is achieved by infanzining the adult elements instead of maturing the youthful story lines.

This Ponce de Leon fixation is most apparent in ABC's new hit "Batman," which is a television adaptation of the comic book character and a remaking of the film series which enjoyed considerable popularity at the elementary school level in neighborhood theaters just before TV came along to take over their baby-sitting duties.

WILL THERE be more "Batman" type shows on TV? You can bet on it! The new shows for the fall season have already been shot and are being sold so the real avalanche won't hit home screens until the season afterward.

The producer of "Batman" has announced (perhaps "threatened" is a better word) that he owns the TV rights to "The Green Hornet" and "Wonder Woman!"

The original theater serial "Superman" is so funny now that it's no use remaking it for television in its same form so the new show on CBS will be animated.

Marvel Comics have recently licensed the rights to do animated TV serials of "Spider Man" and "Captain America," two custom-tailored super-heroes, as well as such characters as "Sub-Mariner," "The Hulk" and "Thor."

TELEVISION has done live adaptations of comic strip characters before, but they were either made specifically for the Saturday Morning Bubble Gum Brigade or used only as vague suggestions for situation comedies like "Hazel" and "Dennis the Menace."

What makes "Batman" unique is that it was designed for adult viewing and presented in prime time. You may be sure that its success sent dozens of \$100,000-a-year television executives scrambling for the comic book libraries this past month.

I wonder who owns "Little Orphan Annie?" With a little

imagination and a million buck promotion she could be a female "Batman."

See yuh in kindergarten! MARCH WAS a very bad month for Julius Caesar and it will be equally fateful for Dr. Ben Casey. On March 28 the soulful surgeon will put away his scalpel and mask, presumably forever, to be replaced by a secret agent sardine (WHAT! Another?) called "The Avengers," a British-made product.

I saw "The Avengers" in London in November and it is half "Secret Agent" (with Patrick McNeen instead of McGoonah) and half fashion show with a long legged beauty named Diane Rigg wearing far-out snakeskin catsuits. It may sound familiar to "Honey West" fans but "The Avengers" has been running four years in England.

During all those years when Dr. Casey was stethoscoping his way into the hearts of viewers, little did he realize that his terminal disease would be a British satire! ABC says "The Avengers" will replace spring and summer reruns of "Casey" but the program has been among the bottom 15 in popularity this season and a long rest is likely to be prescribed.

In Dr. Casey's own words to a patient long ago: "No one can live forever."

## First Aid Class Set For Adults

Final offering in a series of basic first aid courses to be taught this spring by Torrance Evening High School in conjunction with the Red Cross will begin tonight.

The 12-hour course will meet from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesdays in room 109 at Torrance High School, 2200 W. Carson St.

The instructor is Keith Enger.

Raymond Collins, adult education principal, said the course is particularly useful to Scout leaders and persons, such as bus drivers, who need to renew licenses.

Students may register at the first meeting of class.

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18"	24"	3.29	36"	48"	7.16	48"	36"	10.59
18"	30"	3.59	36"	60"	8.00	48"	48"	13.59
18"	36"	3.89	36"	72"	8.79	48"	60"	14.59
24"	18"	3.59	36"	84"	9.59	48"	72"	15.59
24"	24"	3.89	36"	96"	10.39	48"	84"	16.59
24"	30"	4.19	36"	108"	11.19	48"	96"	17.59
24"	36"	4.49	36"	120"	11.99	48"	108"	18.59
30"	18"	4.19	48"	36"	11.19	60"	36"	13.59
30"	24"	4.49	48"	48"	12.19	60"	48"	14.59
30"	30"	4.79	48"	60"	13.19	60"	60"	15.59
30"	36"	5.09	48"	72"	14.19	60"	72"	16.59
36"	18"	4.79	48"	84"	15.19	60"	84"	17.59
36"	24"	5.09	48"	96"	16.19	60"	96"	18.59
36"	30"	5.39	48"	108"	17.19	60"	108"	19.59
36"	36"	5.69	48"	120"	18.19	60"	120"	20.59

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24"x54"	1.78
30"x30"	1.91
30"x36"	1.65
30"x42"	1.77
30"x48"	1.97
30"x54"	2.20
36"x24"	1.51
36"x30"	1.65
36"x36"	1.78
36"x42"	1.98
36"x48"	2.08
36"x54"	2.50
48"x36"	2.13
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