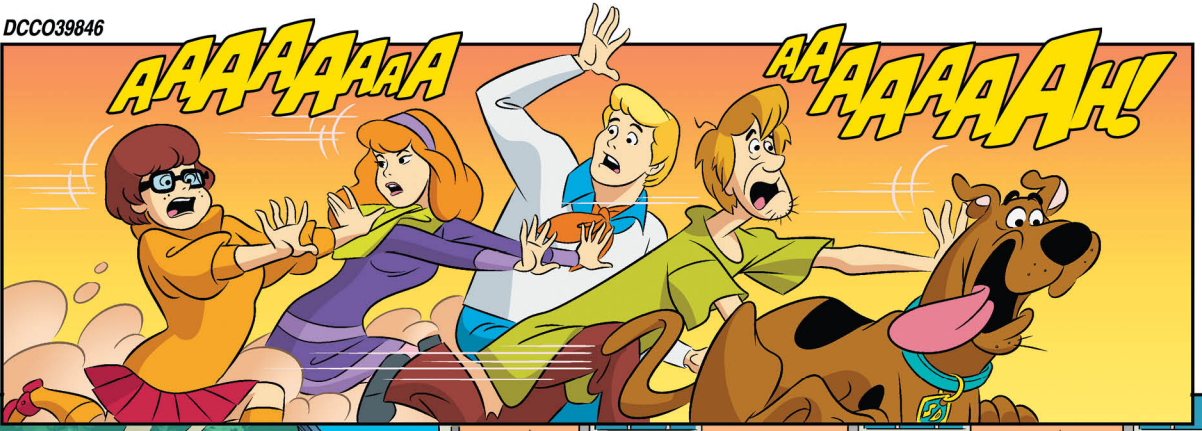


AAAAAAA

AAAAAAH!



BZZZZZZZZZZ

LIKE, IT'S BAD ENOUGH THAT WE'RE BEING CHASED BY A SWARM OF ANGRY BEES--



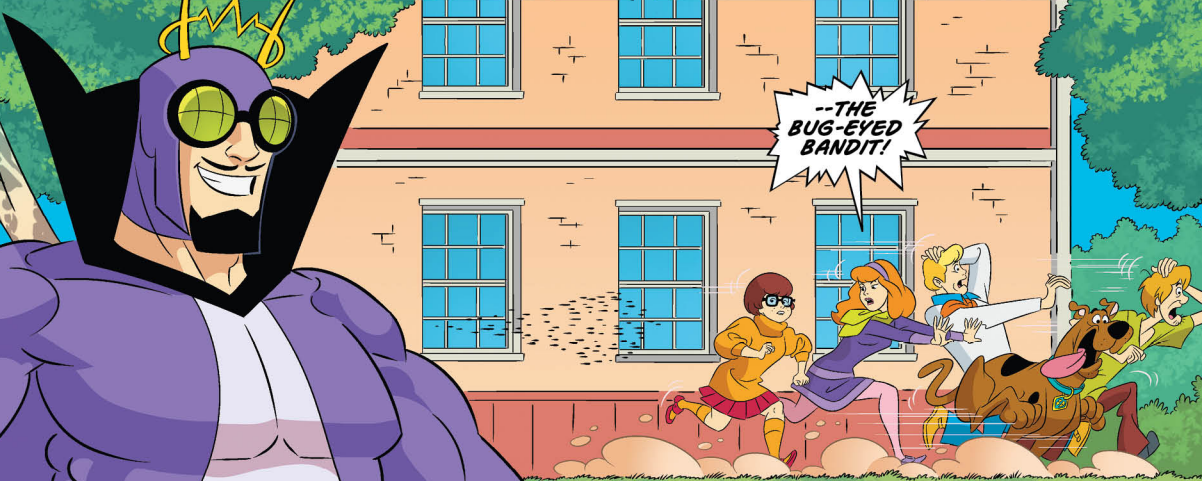
--BUT, LIKE, ROBOT BEES?!



I GUESS THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU CROSS PATHS WITH--



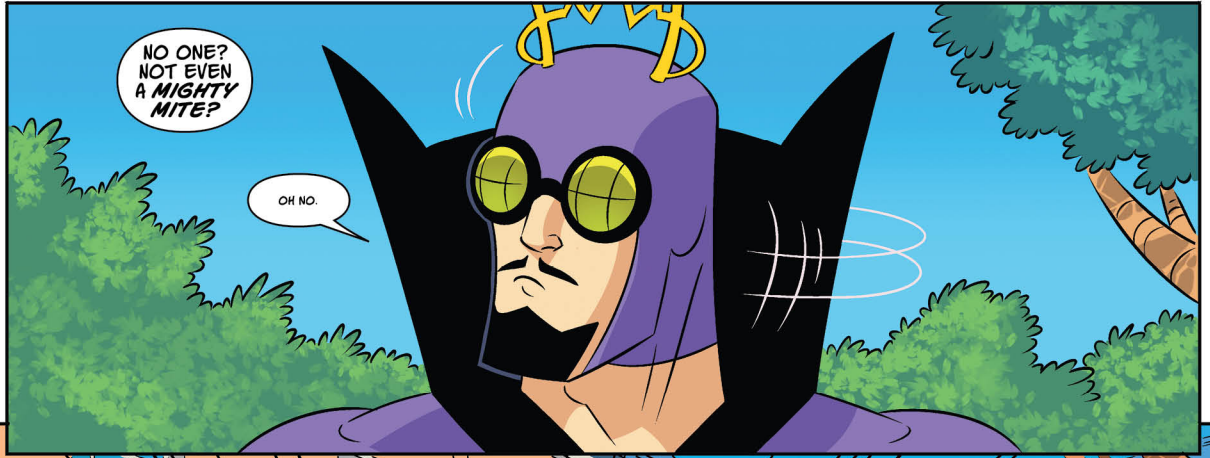
--THE BUG-EYED BANDIT!





HA HA!
LOOK AT THEM
RUN!

TODAY, I'LL
TAKE IVYTOWN!
TOMORROW, THE
EARTH! NO ONE CAN
STAND UP TO THE POWER
OF MY ROBOT
INSECTS!



NO ONE?
NOT EVEN
A MIGHTY
MITE?

OH NO.



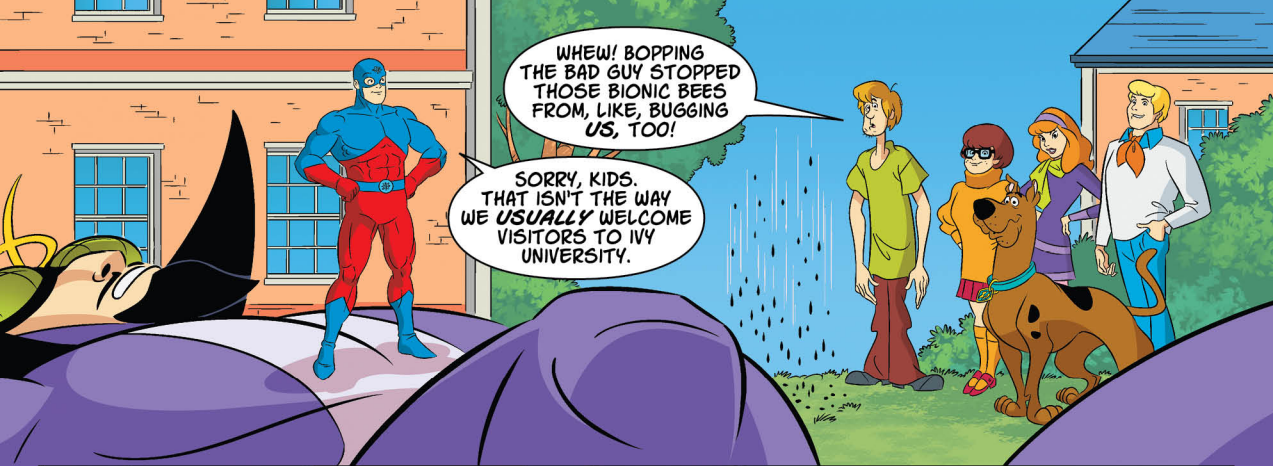
OR
SHOULD I SAY
A "NIGHTY
NIGHT"?

THE GHOST AT THE HEART OF THE ATOM

KAPOW

THE
ATOM!

writer: SHOLLY FISCH
artist: DARIO BRIZUELA
colorist: FRANCO RIESCO
letterer: SAIDA TEMOFONTE
cover artists: BRIZUELA & RIESCO
editor: KASTY QUINN
RAY PALMER ATOM created
by GARDNER FOX



WHEW! BOPPING THE BAD GUY STOPPED THOSE BIONIC BEES FROM, LIKE, BUGGING US, TOO!

SORRY, KIDS. THAT ISN'T THE WAY WE USUALLY WELCOME VISITORS TO IVY UNIVERSITY.



NO PROBLEM, ATOM! I'M GLAD WE COULD HELP CATCH ONE OF THE CRIMINALS FROM YOUR ROGUES GALLERY. YOU'RE ALWAYS UP AGAINST SUCH FORMIDABLE VILLAINS--



--CHRONOS THE TIME THIEF, JASON WOODRUE THE PLANT MASTER...

NOT TO MENTION BIG CHEESE AND HIS GIMMICKED CHEESES, OR BIG WIG'S EXPLODING HAIRPIECES!

BUT THE BUG-EYED BANDIT WASN'T THE REASON THAT HAWKMAN SUGGESTED I CALL YOU.

NO?



NO, IT'S...

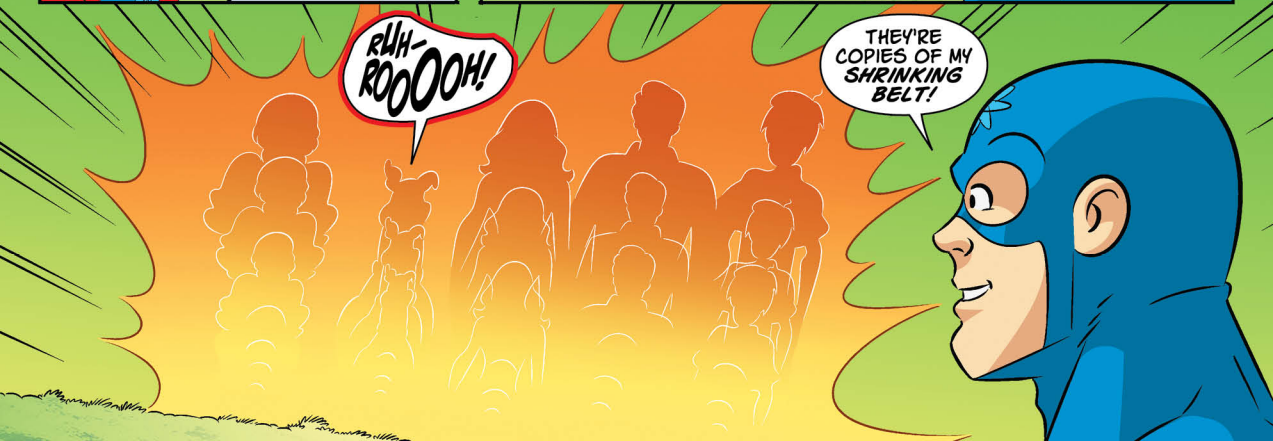
...WELL, IT'LL BE EASIER TO EXPLAIN IF YOU PUT ON THOSE BELTS FIRST.



I ASSUME THESE ARE MORE THAN A FASHION STATEMENT. ARE THEY SOME KIND OF UTILITY BELTS?

OR RAFFETY BELTS?

NOT EXACTLY.

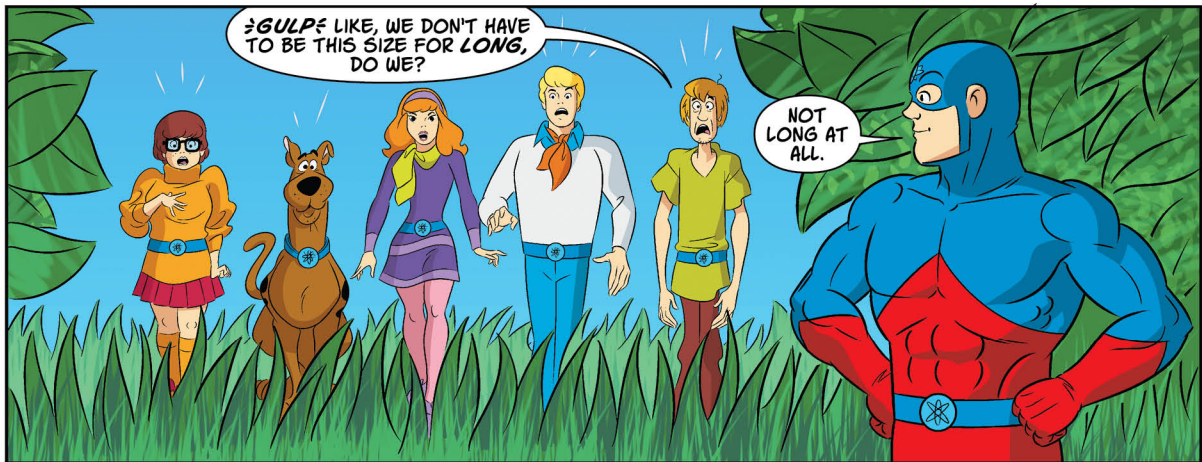


RHH-ROOOOH!

THEY'RE COPIES OF MY SHRINKING BELT!

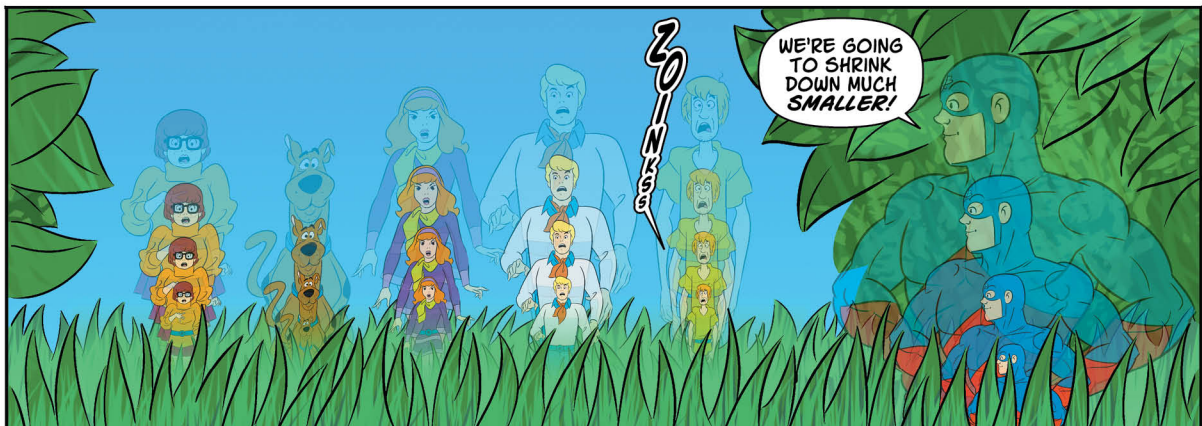
GULP! LIKE, WE DON'T HAVE TO BE THIS SIZE FOR LONG, DO WE?

NOT LONG AT ALL.



WE'RE GOING TO SHRINK DOWN MUCH SMALLER!

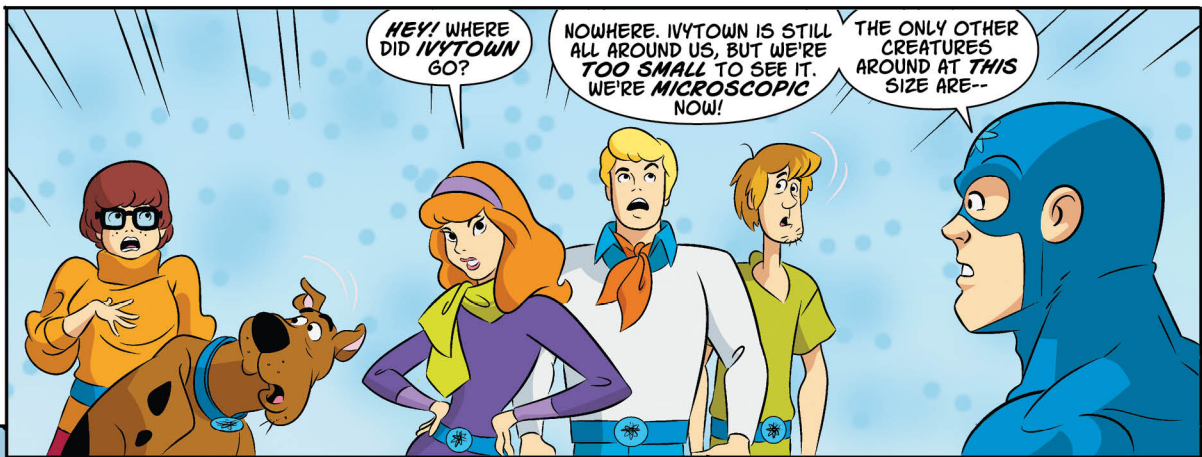
ZOINKS!



HEY! WHERE DID IVYTOWN GO?

NOWHERE. IVYTOWN IS STILL ALL AROUND US, BUT WE'RE TOO SMALL TO SEE IT. WE'RE MICROSCOPIC NOW!

THE ONLY OTHER CREATURES AROUND AT THIS SIZE ARE--



AAAGH!

--TINY ONE-CELLED ANIMALS, LIKE THAT PARAMECIUM!

"R-RINY"?!



JINKIES! WE'VE NEVER TAKEN A TRIP LIKE THIS IN THE MYSTERY MACHINE!

ACTUALLY, BEING THIS SIZE HAS SOME DEFINITE ADVANTAGES FOR TRAVELING.

I USED TO GO EVERYWHERE THROUGH TELEPHONE WIRES--AT LEAST UNTIL THE PHONE COMPANIES SWITCHED TO FIBER OPTIC CABLES. TRYING TO ACT LIKE A PARTICLE AND A WAVE AT THE SAME TIME MAKES ME SEASICK.

