Duh-Duh-Du Duh-Batma Duh-Duh-Du Duh-Duh-Du Batman!-Duh-D. Duh-Duh-Duh-Bat Duh-Duh-Duh-Dul -Duh-Duh-Duh-Du Duh-Batman!-Duh Duh-Duh-Duh-Du

By Dave Meile **Diversions Columnist**

"The Official Batman Batbook," by Joel Eisner (Contemporary Books \$9.95)

Like any normal 6-year-old in 1966, I was a Batman fanatic. My loving mother even sewed me a dazzling Batman mask with cute metal snaps. Unfortunately, it was a bit snug, and hideous batblisters would appear on my scrawny little throat. After a healthy dose of batsalve, I would park excitedly in front of the Zenith every Wednesday and Thursday night (same Bat time, same Bat chanel!) for one of the most bizarre shows in TV history. Shocked, I would glare over at my father who was laughing hysterically every time Robin uttered, "Holy contributing to the delinquency of minors!" or "Holy priceless collection of Etruscan Snoods!" In a nutshell, that's the appeal of the Batman show; for kids, action-packed superhero exploits, for adults, refreshingingly dopey parodies.

Joel Eisner has compiled a book that is not only a must for '60s TV trivia buffs, but a good chuckle for admirers of camp and gentle satire. Every Batman episode is thoroughly covered complete with Batcast Lists, synopses, a Batequipment list (Batscilloscope viewer, Batnesia Gas, etc.), Batfacts (or Bat trivia) and hilarious anecdotes by the dastardly perpetrators themselves: the creators, writers and actors.

Ther term "camp" is inaccurate. Reading this book will teach you that the people behind this show were not dummies. The shows were full of silly puns, absurd send-ups of other TV shows, and, surprisingly, even a few topical references. In one episode Batman calls President Johnson on the Batphone and concludes by saying, "Give my best to Hubert." In another, "retired" villain King Tut reverts to his evil ways when he is hit by a brick at a Love-In.

Only the producers of Batman would have the guts to cast Jerry Mathers in a show as "Pops" the Doorman, or Alan Hale Jr. (yup, the Skipper) as a restauranteur named Gilligan. Writer Stanley Ralph Ross even relates how he'd stick in lines of obscure foreign profanity to see if the network noticed. Most of the time they didn't.

Remember the impossibly phony scenes of the dynamic duo scaling the side of a building? On nearly every spisode some celebrity would appear at one of the windows. Some of the talents (or non-talents) who shamelessly hammed were Jerry Lewis, Edward G. Robinson, George Raft, Colonel Klink, the Green Hornet and Kato and the inimitable Don

This book conjuires fond memories of the colorful, somewhat daring television shows of the '60s. Whether you're willing to admit it or not, Batman was a historic series: a kind of weekly pop art for youngsters and adults alike. A mastepiece of playful and unpretentious primetime television. Batman has not aired in the Lincoln/Omaha area since the mid-'70s. Let's demand a reappraisal! Go to your Batphones



Calendar

Cinema 1 and 2, 13th and P streets - "Extremities": 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 p.m. "Nothing in Common": 4:35, 7:00, 9:25.

Cooper Theatre, 54th and 0 streets - "Aliens": 7 and 9:45 p.m.

Douglas Theatre, 1300 P St. -"Top Gun": 5:25, 7:35, 9:40 p.m. "Ruthless People": 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 p.m. "Shanghai Surprise": 5:15, 7:15, 9:15 p.m.

"Armed and Dangerous": 5:30, 7:30, 9:30. "Born American": 5:20, 7:20, 9:30. "Karate Kid II": 5:10, 7:20, 9:30 p.m.

Joyo Theater, 6102 Havelock -"Manhattan Project" and "Big Trouble in Little China": 7:30 p.m.

Plaza 4, 12th and P streets - "About Last Night": 4:45, 7, 9:15 p.m. "Stand By Me": 5:15, 7:15, 9:15 pl.m. "Armed and p.m.

East Park 3, East Park Plaza Mall Dangerous": 5:30, 7:30, 9:30. "The Fly": 5, 7, 9 p.m.

> State Theatre, 1415 0 St. -"Texas Chainsaw Massacre 2": 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 p.m.

Stuart Theatre, 13th and P streets, "Bullies": 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 p.m.

84th and O Drive-In - "Top Gun" and "Officer and a Gentleman": 8



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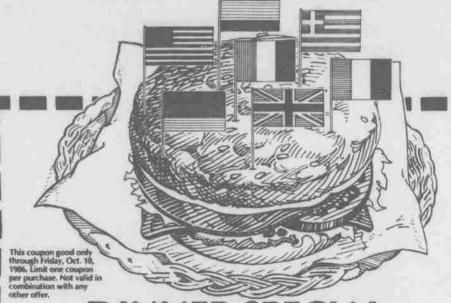
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