

Addendum: The best laid plans of mice and men...

You ever have one of those days where nothing goes right? You ever have one of those months?

I have never had luck with my local Post Office: Damaged packages, opened bank statements, missing credit card bills, lost magazine subscriptions. I've even gone so far as to purchase a P.O. Box, to no avail. And, not unexpectedly, my complaints have fallen on deaf ears. This past August, the Post Office exceeded all my lowered expectations.

You see, the previous eighteen pages, which you now (hopefully) hold in your hands, were actually printed and shipped to Kevin Gould a few weeks before the last deadline, for INTERLAC #164. 40 copies, 18 pages each, mailed in early August. Imagine my surprise when, at the end of August, Kevin e-mailed us and listed the names of everyone who had submitted material to him ... and mine wasn't listed! After verifying with Kevin that he hadn't received my submission, I went to my post office. They basically shrugged their shoulders and said "oh, well". Then, when I checked my P.O. Box, I was in for a bigger surprise. An envelope marked "damaged goods" was sent to me from elsewhere in the state, and inside were three copies of my submission! Apparently they didn't consider it important enough to return to me the entire package. After all, they weren't going to have to pay to reprint them all, right?

Oh, but it gets better! A week or two later, Kevin McConnell, who works at the same facility as I do, told me that he had received INTERLAC #164. He gets his sent priority mail, while I get mine through media mail, so I waited for my copy to arrive. And I waited, and I waited. And it never arrived. Strange coincidence, huh? After three weeks, I e-mailed Kevin Gould and, thankfully, he had a single copy left. No longer trusting my regional postal system, I had him ship the replacement to Kevin McConnell. He received it on October 15th, dropping it off at my desk the following day. Imagine my surprise when I got home that afternoon and discovered the original copy sitting in my mailbox, having just arrived that day! Arrrgggghhhh!!!!!!

So, from now on, Kevin McConnell and I will be sending our submissions in together through Kevin's post office. Since I don't want to hold him up, I don't have time to fully read and comment on issue #164, so I'm just going to do a quick skim and throw out a few thoughts.

Harry Broertjes : I never read THE AUTHORITY, but now that you mention it I do recall hearing about a Superman knock-off. I must've missed the character that appeared in SANDMAN the first time around. The Siegel's get 50% of all profits from this point forward, however it is rumored that there is some question as to exactly what characters they have claim to. That's quite a supplement you included, can't wait to read it. Oh, and congratulations on your recent nuptials.

Hass Yusuf : Glad you enjoyed the Superman feature. Hope you enjoy my upcoming Karate Kid Index as well (see below).

Keating DuGarm : Thanks for the additions to the Superman checklist. I love little oddities like the ones you mentioned.

Talbot Katz : You've never seen most of the Chris Reeve flicks?!? I had heard talk that beings such as you existed, but until now I assumed such stories were merely urban legends!

Kevin McConnell : I'm anxiously awaiting THE LEGION COMPANION. See ya around the water cooler!

Chris Brown : So, for the benefit of us Jerseyans, exactly which High School did Lois Lane attend?

Nancy Geffken : The Superman info was a combination of my own knowledge, comic collection, notes, and numerous internet sites (most of which contained more than a few errors). Thanks for the Legion of Super-Pets material, always had a special place in my heart for the little critters.

And now, in local news:

A very shocking thing happened at my local comic shop last week. The owners of Classic Comics in Rahway, a husband and wife team, told me that they just discovered that their longtime friend and employee had been stealing from them for years. His theft had accelerated to such a level that they were on the verge of bankruptcy. This, they now believe, secretly thrilled the employee since he was going to buy the store from them, including all store stock, for peanuts. They treated this guy like family, like a son, and this is how he repaid them. He watched their kids grow up, for crying out loud!

On a lighter note, I now have nearly 80% of the SUPERFRIENDS episodes on tape. Unfortunately, the showings of those cartoons on Cartoon Network's Boomerang channel have slowed to a trickle.

I've decided to drop my Superboy Chronology as a possible submission to INTERLAC. I realize now that it's going to be far too long for this format. I have however started on a Karate Kid Index, which should be done by next issue. It'll be around 42 pages in length, and will be similar in format to Mark Waid's Legion Indexes published by ICG. I'm also toying with the idea of a feature showing how DC altered certain Legion stories when they were reprinted. Hey, would anyone be interested in any Planet of the Apes or Logan Trilogy material?

Till next time... LLL.