CHALLENGERS INVADE PSION-INC., THREATEN STAFF

By Andrew Holden

DARIAN - Multiple Psion-Inc. employees were taken hostage by one of their inmates yesterday. The villain known as Killer Frost, who was recently brought to the facility, somehow broke free and captured several employees. Police, many of whom were back to work for the first time in months due to the police strike, were ensuring the situation didn’t escalate out of control when the Challengers showed up.

With little to no regard for the law, the Challengers broke the police protection barricade and invaded the Psion-Inc. offices. Several police officers attempted to stop them, but were unable to halt the super powered vigilantes. After a few hours, the so-called heroes emerged from the building, bruised but not beaten, having re-secured Killer Frost in her cryo-chamber.

Several employees of Psion-Inc. claim they were physically assaulted by Challengers team members. Phillip Ferguson, Psion-Inc. Public Relations Director, says that Psion-Inc. is currently pursuing legal action against the vigilantes. The Challengers have made claims about improper scientific practices within Psion-Inc., however, a search of their offices turned up no unusual materials or practices.

When asked the police official position on the Challengers behavior, Sergeant Smitty Barnes replied belligerently, "Put a cork in it, paper boy. In fact, put a cork in both ends and see if all that hot air can float ya’ to the moon."

LOCAL ATTORNEY SUES CHARITY

CRESCENT CITY - After the recent theft of the First National Bank of Crescent City by the notorious duo, Tortoise and the Hare, it was determined that they had donated over $200,000 of the money to the Fund for Underprivileged Children of Indigent Parents. Michael Grey, a lawyer with offices in Darian and Crescent City, has been hired by the First National Bank to retrieve the money. According to Grey, "People think that all of the money is insured by the FDIC, but that isn’t true. Only $100,000 of each account is insured. Many of the bank’s customers had accounts larger than that. Because of how the federal government accounting system works, we may still lose tens of thousands of dollars. That money wasn’t those criminals to give. While FUCIP, is a worthy cause, they are currently knowingly in possession of stolen assets. While we don’t want to press charges, we do want this matter resolved quickly."

HEAVY SCHEDULE AFFECTS NEW MAYOR

By Marsha Carter

DARIAN - Even before officially taking office two weeks, new Mayor Thomas Wilson was hard at work doing everything from negotiating with police unions to winning the potato sack race at the 14th Annual Darian Daily Fun Day. Since taking office, he has only increased his efforts, reportedly regularly working 14 to 16 hour days. "The man is like a machine", one of his staff said recently. "I used to say that I wished I was in as good a shape as he is when I'm his age, but I'm not in as good a shape as he is now, and I'm only 24!"

It appears, that Mayor Wilson’s hectic schedule may be catching up with him. At a press conference on the proposed new stadium for the Darian Destroyers yesterday, Mayor Wilson repeatedly mixed up the names of reporters. At one point, the Mayor even said that he believed "Lightning" Unger would take the Destroyers all the way to the SuperBowl this year. When this reporter reminded the Mayor that Lewis Unger died several days earlier and that he had even attended the funeral, the apologized and blamed dehydration.
Mall Opening Doesn’t Go As Expected
CHARLOTTE - One week before its grand opening, the newly constructed San Perdo Mall was completely swallowed by a massive sinkhole yesterday. A few workers were in the complex at the time finishing up plumbing work, but all were able to safely evacuate receiving only minor cuts and bruises. According to Prof. Isaac Stamos of the Geology department at Darian University, "Due to North Carolina’s primarily granite composition sink holes are rare in this state, unlike Florida which has a high limestone content, but they do sometimes occur. I believe the last one was in 1989."

The mall was to have over seventy stores, ranging from J.C. Penny’s to Spencer’s, and would have employed over 500 people. The loss is an unfortunate blow to the mall’s owner Killgore Industries, which had already seen its stock decrease over 50% in the past year. Once news of the sinkhole hit the market, Killgore Industries stock (KIL) dropped another 10 points to 25 1/4. Gregory Killgore, V.P. for Killgore Industries, has scheduled a press conference for 6:00 P.M. tonight at its Charlotte headquarters to address the incident.

Killgore’s loss appears to be Steelgrave Industries gain, whose stock rose 7 points to 53 1/2 (SGI). Three months ago Steelgrave Industries was unsuccessful in an attempted hostile takeover of Killgore Industries. Coincidentally, Steelgrave Industries is scheduled to open their own eighty-store mall in Crescent City next month. Reportedly, Darian City champion and V.P. of Steelgrave Industries, Jackson Steelgrave II, a.k.a., Danger Man, will be on-site for the grand opening.

Steelgrave Industries isn’t the only one not upset about the loss. Nature First!, frequent protesters of the mall and other development projects, posted on their web site, "Nature is fed up with the continuing encroachment of parasite of greedy people. She is now fighting back! Go Nature!"

News Briefs:

- Ladies and gentlemen, get out your checkbooks; the Darian Social Committee will be hosting its annual Celebrity Date Auction next month. The rumor has it that this year’s celebrities will include some of our local super-heroes!

- Numerous arsons were reported along North bound I-95 yesterday all the way up to New York. Authorities say many objects, from stops signs to barns were either engulfed in flames or had holes blown through them. Police and fire marshals from multiple states are looking into the matter.

Solar Activity Expected To Cause Interference
BOSTON - Astrophysicists at M.I.T. report that changes in the sun’s magnetic polarity in the coming weeks will cause interference with many telecommunication devices, from cell phones to radios and satellite television. "Every eleven years the poles of the sun shift. This results in a massive increase in solar flares and electromagnetic radiation. Our ozone layer is able to filter out the increases so there isn’t any danger to anyone. If it weren’t for the static on T.V. and cell phones, no one would even notice it" says Prof. Warez of M.I.T.

The solar flares can be dangerous to those in outer space, though. Eleven years ago, the Russian super-hero/cosmonaut, Oblongata, was aboard the former Russian space station, Mir, during the peak of the solar shift, when she began to have seizures and went into a coma. An emergency launch had to be made to bring her back to Earth.

According to the Russian paper Pravda, when she awoke after the solar activity had stopped, she claimed that before she went into a coma, her telepathic powers had been increased to the point where she could read the minds of everyone on Earth.

International Trade Summit Scheduled in Two Weeks
DARIAN - Two weeks from now delegates from around the world will be gathering in Darian to discuss trade with the U.S. Even President Luthor was originally scheduled to appear. However, due to the recent war effort, Secretary of Trade Aretha Franklin will be attending the conference in his stead.

Also originally scheduled to attend was the Ambassador from France Pierre Boviox, who spent several years in Darian attending Darian University. A spokesperson for the French embassy reports that Boviox has taken time off to be with his son, Jacque, who is recovering from an illness. It was hoped that Boviox, whose family produces over half of France’ s pharmaceuticals, would have been able to alleviate the trade tensions between the U.S., France, and many third world countries resulting from patent infringements. His replacement has yet to be announced.