LOCAL HERO RETURNS, REVEALS SECRET IDENTITY

by James Dalemore

CRESCENT CITY, North Carolina – Local citizens were pleasantly surprised this week by the unexpected reappearance of Crescent City’s own favorite son, the Jester! The sudden disappearance of the Jester several months ago has been shrouded in mystery and rumor. Jester’s teammates the Challengers claimed that he was lost during some sort of time-traveling escapade; while other sources suggested that the short-lived hero the Gathering actually physically absorbed Jester’s body. While either excuse is flimsy and far-fetched, no one can deny the unbridled joy Crescent City is experiencing with the return of their hometown hero.

Though Jester’s costume may have become more functional and a few shades darker, he still retains the ability to shock and surprise the crowds. Jester recently appeared at a local city council assembly to announce his return. In a startling move to apparently engender trust, Jester removed his mask revealing his true identity. Identifying himself as Crescent City native Bradley Markus (born Markus Bradley), Jester gave his solemn commitment to the city council members that he’s here to help. While Jester has apparently taken the position of leader with the Challengers of Darian, he reassured the crowd he will still be operating on his own from time to time in Crescent City.

Pictured Above: Jester’s New Look.
ASTRONOMERS SAY NEW METEOR POSES NO THREAT TO EARTH

by Andrew Holden

SEATTLE, Washington – Astronomers at the Seattle Institute for the Study of Terrestrial and Extraterrestrial Rocks (S.I.S.T.E.R.) claim that the newly discovered object, dubbed the “Parobeck Rock”, poses no threat to Earth at this time. Though Parobeck Rock’s current trajectory appears to be on track towards Earth, scientists believe that gravitational forces will ultimately push the object in a different direction. According to the astronomers, even if Parobeck Rock didn’t change course, it’s small enough that it would easily burn up in Earth’s atmosphere before ever reaching land or sea. At this time, it has not been confirmed whether the “Parobeck Rock” is in fact a rock or not. However, the scientists believe based upon previous experience, it’s safe to assume this is nothing more than a harmless meteor hurtling through space. The usual objections have been raised by radical organizations dedicated to exposing government conspiracies. These extremists insist that “Parobeck Rock” is actually an alien space ship coming to attack the Earth, with an agenda of stealing all of Earth’s Pokemon cards. Watch out kids, don’t drink the Kool-Aid at your next Pokemon sleepover!

FRIENDSHIP PARK: NOT SO FRIENDLY?

by Richard McGee

Litterbugs beware! It seems that Friendship Park no longer tolerates your kind. Within the last week, dozens of reports have surfaced by people claiming the park "attacked them". The only link between these people is that the last thing they remember doing was littering, or defacing the park in some way. "Attacks" range from roots cropping up in their path, entanglement in vines, and sudden low hanging branches.

At the same time, though, the park itself has become more popular than ever. Visitors claim a greater sense of happiness and relaxation. And groundskeepers claim that the park seems to be managing itself. Various environmental and nature-loving groups have increased the number of meetings and visits. And the newly erected disc golf course (which makes use of the parks natural geography, and is barely noticeable save for tee sign, and metal baskets) is almost constantly in use. Based on the park's popularity, city planners are looking into finding land to create a new park.

One thing to remember for those of you thinking of visiting, keep your litter to yourself.

Nuclear Heroes – Do They Pose A Threat?

by Rhett Moore

WASHINGTON D.C. - The Directive on Radioactive Containment (DORC) is attempting to bring in former JLA member Captain Atom and current member Firestorm under speculation that they may be leaking radiation. When approached by our reporters, Firestorm had this to say, “I don’t have time for this. I’m busy trying to save the world.”
MAN ACCUSED OF SMUGGLING EXPLOSIVES INTO U.S. CHARGED

by Jackie Century

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina - A South American citizen accused of smuggling massive quantities of experimental explosives into the United States for use in a terrorist attack against U.S. citizens was charged Wednesday in federal court. When captured, the suspect called Americans bastards and Comandante Sangriento a hero.

Hueberto Gonzalez was arrested Tuesday in a sting operation -- the result of an six-month effort involving historic cooperation between intelligence officials in the United States and Argentina, U.S. officials said. "The fact that we're able to sting this bum is a pretty good example of what we're doing in order to protect the American people," said Inspector Jacob Justice of the Federal Bureau of Intelligence.

Gonzalez, a citizen of the South American territory Comunidad de Muertas, could face 25 years in prison if he is convicted on the two counts against him.

According to federal prosecutors, the international arms dealer, who boasted of sales to terrorist groups, thought he had struck a deal to sell dangerously experimental explosives. He believed he was supplying fellow anti-American terrorists to launch a "jihad" against the U.S.

Gonzalez previous employment can be traced directly back to Comandante Sangriento, the mysterious political leader of Comunidad de Muertas. It is unclear at this time whether Comandante Sangriento was directly involved with the experimental explosives, or whether Gonzalez was acting on his own. Comandante Sangriento is an outspoken opponent of the U.S., with a special loathing towards its metahuman population.

"This morning, terrorists who threaten America lost an ally in their quest to kill our citizens," said President Lex Luthor.