INTERGALACTIC SHOWDOWN AT THE U.N.

by Lois Lane

NEW YORK – A request for intergalactic extradition was made to the United Nations yesterday by representatives from the planet Coronis. A being calling himself Zarga, son of Jahal, Supreme Adjudicator of Coronis, and a Coronisian religious figure called an Apok Para asked the United Nations to put Abraxis, son of Galan, ex-Prince of Coronis (also known as Scion - a member of the Darian super team, the Challengers), into their custody based on accusations of war crimes against the population of Coronis. Zarga claimed that Scion and his family were guilty of despotism, murder, and other assorted crimes during their rule of Coronis.

After a few hours, Scion, along with the rest of the Challengers, made his way to the UN Building in order to confront his accusers. Scion claimed that his family members were honorable rulers over the planet and that Zarga was a member of small terrorist coup that took over by force. Zarga then showed holographic footage of a powerful being, whom Scion identified as his father, destroying hundreds of Coronisian citizens living in slums with his super-abilities. After seeing the footage, Scion claimed that it had to be a hoax.

After a period of testimony, the UN Secretary-General declared that he didn’t have the authority to decide on this matter but suggested that Scion return to his homeworld to face the charges. After the meeting was adjourned, Scion and Zarga had a heated discussion outside the UN Building.

Daniel Moore, an assistant to the UK Ambassador, describes the scene, “That Scion fellow was talking to the Zarga guy, and I could tell that he was getting rather angry at whatever Zarga was saying because some kind of strange energy was coming out of his eyes. All of a sudden, Zarga’s voice got really loud, and he was saying stuff like ‘My father is going to rape your sister’ and ‘We’re going to kill you as soon as we leave this planet.’ I thought that Scion’s family looked guilty until all of that stuff happened.”

As soon as Zarga mentioned Scion’s sister, Halara, who is allegedly held captive on Coronis, Scion and Zarga began to fight. Several Manhunter robots appeared from the Coronisian ship and entered the fray, as did the rest of the Challengers. The Challengers managed to destroy the Manhunter robots and stopped Zarga. Zarga and the Apok Para were taken into custody by the UN Security Council. Scion had this to say about the situation, “I would rather not comment at this time. I have many things to think about and a sister to rescue.”
“DARK” TIDINGS FOR THE CHALLENGERS?

by Tweeter Jackson

NEW YORK - In the recent foray at the United Nations, Darian’s own Challengers showed their capabilities, and showed off a new face or two.

Notably among the ranks of the Challengers was an enigmatic figure clad in shadow - referred to as Shot-in-the-Dark (or “Dark”, for short). While little is known of this new do-gooder, witnesses were able to get an idea of what he can do.

“It was always hard to see him, like my eyes could never adjust,” remarked one UN staffer. “He was a big guy, but other than that, I couldn’t really give you a good description.”

“It was weird. He blasted one of those robot things with darkness, man,” commented one young man who watched the battle from a second story window.

Whether or not these “blasts” have actual substance or are of a more ethereal nature remains to be seen, as does the new hero’s role among the Challengers.

Growing numbers of Challengers should theoretically comfort the citizens of Darian. However, with so little known about this new hero, this Darianite remains wary. Do the Challengers have the power of darkness on their side; or is this new, shadowy figure a super powered fly-by-night?

Only time will tell. For now, at least, criminals and villains beware - running and hiding from the Challengers is tougher than ever. Those shadowy corners and dark closets are not only within their reach... but “Dark” may be there waiting for you.

LOCAL BUSINESSMAN TAKES ON LESSER ROLE

by Andrew Holden

DARIAN – Entrepreneur and philanthropist Jackson Templeton Steelgrave I recently shocked Darianites by reduced his workload. Known throughout Darian as a workaholic, Jackson has voluntarily removed himself from the day-to-day operations of Steelgrave Industries. At a recent press conference, Jackson stated that completely dedicated to the company, his personal life has demanded more and more of his time lately. Steelgrave wishes to ensure success for the company, therefore he’s stepping down from his current duties so that the corporation doesn’t suffer due to lack of focus.

Steelgrave will still retain the majority share of ownership, however, Dalton Clarke will now run the day-to-day operations. Clarke, recently promoted to Chief Operations Officer, has been with Steelgrave Industries for 19 years. Serving in various capacities throughout his tenure, Steelgrave believes Clarke is ideal for the position. Clarke stated, “The Steelgrave family has kept this company strong for over 60 years. By following Jackson’s direction and ideals, I intend to continue the legacy of success.”

Steelgrave’s personal life has been made more complicated recently by his son’s prolonged disappearance. When Jack Steelgrave II (aka Danger Man) did reappear, he was suffering from temporary amnesia. Renowned as a family man, Steelgrave wishes to spend as much time as possible with his son during his recovery.
CAT OUT OF THE BAG
by James Dalemore

DARIAN – The scientific community was shocked today to discover that world-renowned geneticist and biologist, Dr. Summer Anne Mitchell, wears tights in her off time as a member of Darian’s superhero organization, the Challengers.

In a press conference, Dr. Mitchell removed her trademark veils and robes, believed to be covering disfigurement, to reveal the familiar lithe figure of the spotted high-kicking heroine, Kaliko. However, the scientist’s identity and new, lightly armored hero costume were not her only revelations to the press.

When asked why she chose to “come out” as a hero, Dr. Summers replied, “As a member of the Challengers, I have always contributed my numerous abilities and resources to the group. Recently, I have acquired ownership of Psion-Inc., an organization that will now be used for scientific advancement, instead of the atrocities the madman Mr. Markheim, its previous owner, committed. As the company was willed to Summer Anne Mitchell, I decided that I would claim the industry as Kaliko, co-leader of the Challengers, to officially show that Psion-Inc. will now be in the hands of the good guys.”

Through presiding over Psion-Inc., it appears that Dr. Mitchell will continue her award-winning genetic and biological research for the good of humanity, while at the same time, scratching out crime.

JEWEL THIEVES CAPTURED BY INTERPOL AGENT
by James Dalemore

RALIEGH – Interpol super agent, the Blue Manticore, single-handedly foiled an international jewel smuggling ring last week. The suspected smugglers are currently being held for trial. With confessions already signed, these smugglers are expected to be put away for a long time.

The Blue Manticore operates within the United States with special police powers granted from Interpol in agreement with the US government. His counterparts, the Red Griffin and Amber Chimera operate in England and France respectively.
**ALIEN BABY ON THE WAY?**

by Jackie Century

DARIAN – Fresh off of accusations of genocide, a new accuser has stepped up against Scion, one of the most popular members of the Challengers of Darian.

Miss Nikki Spears, a local exotic dancer who claims a distant relation with a certain blonde pop star, claims to be pregnant with the alien superhero’s child. “I been havin’ weird alien cravings, like for milk and Pepsi—I gotta have at least ten glasses a day or I feel woozy. I swear, if it’s a girl, I’m gonna name her Laverne,” she stated.

Miss Spears asserts that she and Scion, whom she affectionately calls “Abe,” had a brief relationship five months ago after watching one of her performances at “The House of Juggs.” According to Spears, “He came in with that scary biker dude— at first I thought they were ‘funny,’ but he said he liked my ‘mulklooms,’ and now I know he’s definitely straight.”

She says that she does not want any compensation from Scion, stating, “I just want my kid to know his daddy. If I have to, I’ll get him on ‘Montel’, have him take one of them paternity tests—but I know that since he’s a superhero and all, he’ll do what’s right. Abe, if you read this, come and see me. Maybe we can pick up where we left off.”

Is the “alien baby” real or a hoax? Only Scion knows for sure.

**SANGRIENTO MAY POSSESS WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION**

WASHINGTON D.C. – The Central Intelligence Agency recently disclosed that Comandante Sangriento’s regime might be in possession of weapons of mass destruction. Sangriento is the iron-fisted ruler of Comunidad de Muertas, a small independent city-state within South America.

A self-proclaimed opponent of the United States and its policy towards Metahumans, Sangriento is considered a terrorist and a real danger to American safety. Officials of the Argentina government have been working with the CIA in an effort to uncover the threat level Sangriento poses. Eighteen months ago, Sangriento led a coup that ended in Comunidad de Muertas declaring independence from Argentina.

Recently Sangriento’s key Lieutenant, Duro Asesinato, was rumored to have been inquiring with the intent to purchase weapons of mass destruction from middle eastern countries. Whether he succeeded in these purchases or not is unknown at this time. It’s believed that if Sangriento gains access to weapons of mass destruction, he will surely unleash them on the unsuspecting American populace.

Sangriento has been linked to the recent attempt to smuggle experiment explosives into the United States. Hueberto Gonzalez was caught transporting the explosives and now awaits trial.