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WILLIS

COMICOPIA

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October 2011 House Organ

Mike's Shout-Out!

It doesn't take Sherlock Holmes or Bruce Wayne to deduce that something global is happening in the world around us as it pertains to the advance of Digital over Print. This is as true for eBooks as it is quickly becoming (thanks to ComiXology and iPads) for comic books.

By that same token, it's becoming apparent that there's a shift happening within the pages and membership of Comicopia. For many years it was always still a mystery, the ebb and the flow, but not really any longer, I believe. Still, Adapt and Grow, or Stagnant and Die. It's true for every living and not-living thing. And we're there now.

There are lots of changes this House Organ, and it's not simply because I've run out of things to say, or that I wanted to use some space to present the eCopia Survey Results. There is a future for us, but even that looks different than the outlook we had just a few short months ago. The next few months will definitely prove to be interesting ones! ☺ ❖



Comicopia Contributors

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		<hr/> 58 Pages

Response Summary

Total Started Survey: 8
Total Completed Survey: 8 (100%)

PAGE: 1

1. Do you still receive the Print version?		Create Chart	Download
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		87.5%	7
No		12.5%	1

2. Do you download the PDF version?		Create Chart	Download
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		100.0%	8
No		0.0%	0

3. Do you write up your MCs while referring back to the Print version or the PDF version?		Create Chart	Download
		Response Percent	Response Count
Print		37.5%	3
PDF		25.0%	2
Both		37.5%	3

4. Do you fear that if the Apa went PDF-only that the membership will die out or members would stop contributing?		Create Chart	Download
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		20.0%	1
No		80.0%	4
	Other (please specify) Show Responses		3
	answered question		5
	skipped question		3

DCRONICLES

OCTOBER 2011 #47

The exploration of a demented mind

A Living Nightmares Halloween Special!



A Gallery of the Early Strips!

LIVING NIGHTMARES by DCR©1998



My style changed a bit as time went on, though I don't know if it was for the better.

One of the primary reasons I used so much shadow or darkness was to compete with all the text and ads in the paper. I wanted the strip to attract the eyes. I guess a reflex from doing other ads. Also wanted the reader to have to absorb all the text and background to get the feel.

LIVING NIGHTMARES by DCR©1999

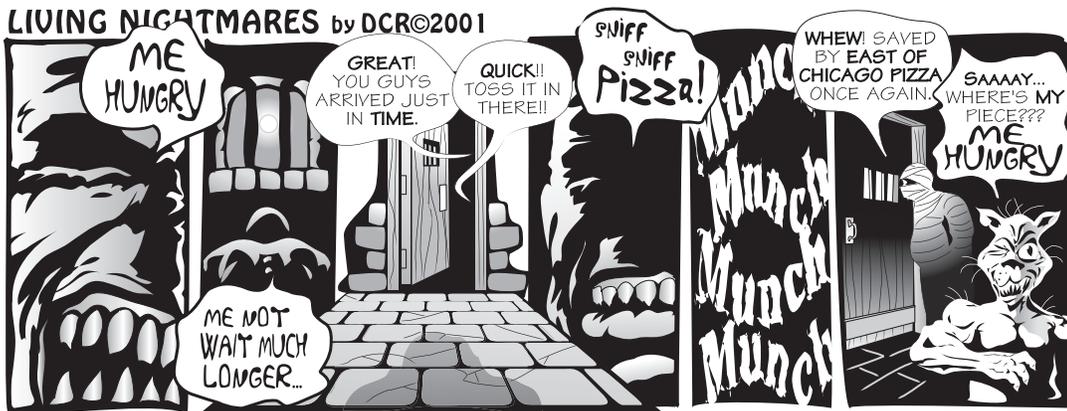


Don't know if that was ever accomplished though and there was more I wanted to explore with all characters.

If Mike or Dan were helping with the writing at the very beginning, maybe this strip could still be around instead of me showing old stuff.

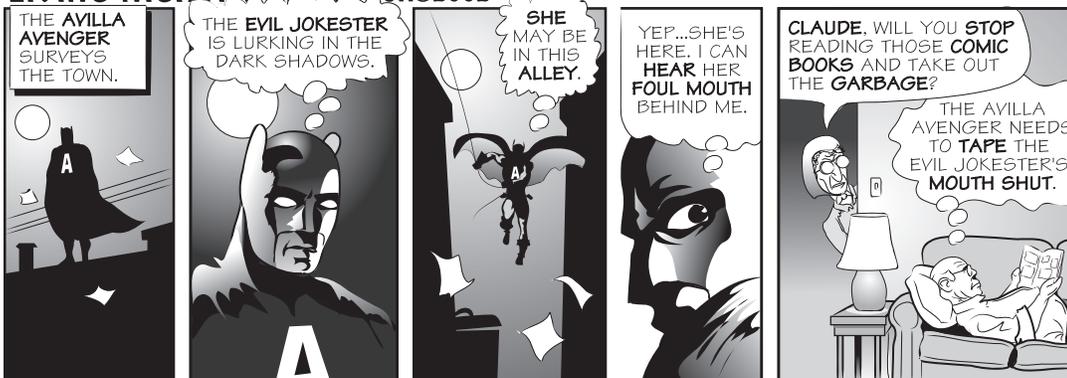
There is the possibility to revise this, but I really think that ship sailed or more likely sunk like a rock.

LIVING NIGHTMARES by DCR©2001



It was an adventure and I did learn from it all.

LIVING NIGHTMARES by DCR©2002



HOPE TO SEE ALL OF YOU NEXT ISSUE. TAKE CARE.



Savage Enterprises Publishing

<http://www.savageland.com>

<http://www.savagewriter.info>

<http://savageknight.livejournal.com>

Presents:

FloodGates of the Mind



Mike Aragona
(mike@savageland.com)

Comicopia 127

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Floodgates of the Mind, in all its iterations and expansive alliterations, is still © 2011 Mike Aragona/ Savage Enterprises Publishing. The truth will always be out and, yea though it walks through the valley of the shadow of death (because only HE knows what evils lurk therein!), so, too, shall the truth set you free! As a bird! In the sky! Until the next global crisis at which point you will decide whether or not to occupy the street of walls, or simply the bathroom stalls. Now and forever, amen.

Previously When No One Was Looking:

Mike's Opening Thoughts...

My foray into Digital Comics continues with me spending more and more time not just reading but buying as well! Sure enough, all the physical books I have on my reading-shelf seem to be getting ignored on a much more frequent basis than ever ☺ Proof in the pudding is that I barely have any books on review this time around! ☺

In other news... my brain is obviously still very much on my California project and wanting to be with my family. It's really torturous to love your job and work so much -which allows the days to fly by- but yet be very much unfulfilled and incomplete because the family that you love and crave so much are almost 4000 miles away. Sigh. There's definitely a song in there somewhere ☺

Anyhow, we're at the point of the project where we can start defining and/ or projecting the timeline for when we return to our loved ones, so soon, hopefully very soon, we'll have an actual point (or star) on the calendar that will mark our return to Canada. It won't be how we had expected or planned it to be from the beginning, but this is a continuous development project so it's about rolling with the schedule and getting new partners excited and on-board. Again, I have a number of private posts on LiveJournal in which I go further into my feelings, but I'm not going to port those over here yet.

Comics or Writing-business wise... I'm too busy to get anything out the door properly so I've been feeling like I'm neglecting a lot. Such is life and such are the sacrifices I need to make in the short term. I accept the truth that I can't do everything I want to do, so I have to be happy with the things I can accomplish and move on from them!

Now, speaking of moving on, let's get cracking with some Mailing Comments even if I don't have any original material to add to my zine this issue ☺

Comicopia 126 Front Cover:

Farewell to a Gentleman...

Gaby, I've often said over the years how you've got an unbelievable talent for gripping heartstrings when it comes with expressing our feelings of sadness on the passing of our legends, and once again you do it here in this wonderful tribute to Gene Colan. Amazing, my friend. Simply amazing.

House Organ:

All the news that's fit to print...

Oops. That blank page was a mistake, but I think it only happened on the member copy and not the printed ones... Still, a nice write-up on Alan!

One Man's Views - Mike on Books:

I've Got an Opinion... and I'm not afraid to share it!



Moonchild by Brigitte Roick (Trafford Publishing (2010), Paperback, 276 pages)

A very intriguing read as we watch a 4yr old girl and her family survive living in Germany at the start and through WW2. What does a family do to survive Hitler's regime and what are the children taught as they get older? What happens after the war and how do you live with the atrocities you realize really were committed by the leaders you had grown up believing?

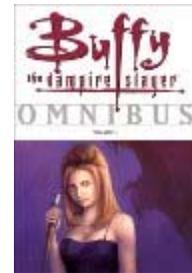
A fascinating book that alters your perception of events once the secrets are revealed.



Buffy the Vampire Slayer Omnibus, Vol. 1 by Joss Whedon (Dark Horse (2007), Paperback, 296 pages)

What a great addition to the Buffy legacy! Anyone who's a fan of the series will definitely get a huge kick out of this Omnibus. Taking all the stories that have been printed by Dark Horse and putting them into a proper timeline means that you start reading this Omnibus with the earliest known/ recorded stories of Buffy (and other characters) as we are taken from her origin to her initial stint at the psycho ward ☺

Great value and great entertainment!



Fun Filler:

Just stuff to round out the zine ☺

I'm assuming you've all seen Henry Cavill as Superman? How about Russel Crowe as Jor-El?



Welcome to the dog's house



Hello folks!! Welcome to the house of the dog!!!

HECK ON A STICK!!!! THE deadline for Daisy AND COPIA fall on the SAME DAY!!!! AGAIN

And, this time, the editorial office was late to get me the script AND late to get me the corrections AND the most important, the text placements (which I need to put in the final ballons) I got the documents at 10,58 and Mike's head's up at 11,29 , I kid you not!!

So you know what it means, Heck, I was waiting for the corrections to start final TOUCH-UP, so my deadline is REALLY tight!!! I anticipate some changes,, The writer was mentioning he was not sure if Narwhals used their tusks for breaking ice or if they use their heads instead. I redrew the panel with Narwhals using heads instead of tusk and they did NOT asked for that change!!OY!!!

This one will be one of the "quickest and dirtiest" I have done. Well in the PDF format, it is. I can now read the PDF anywhere now, Brigit got me a E-book reader for my birthday to read Copia. First thing I did is put old TV episodes of SPACE 1999 and LOST IN SPACE on it.

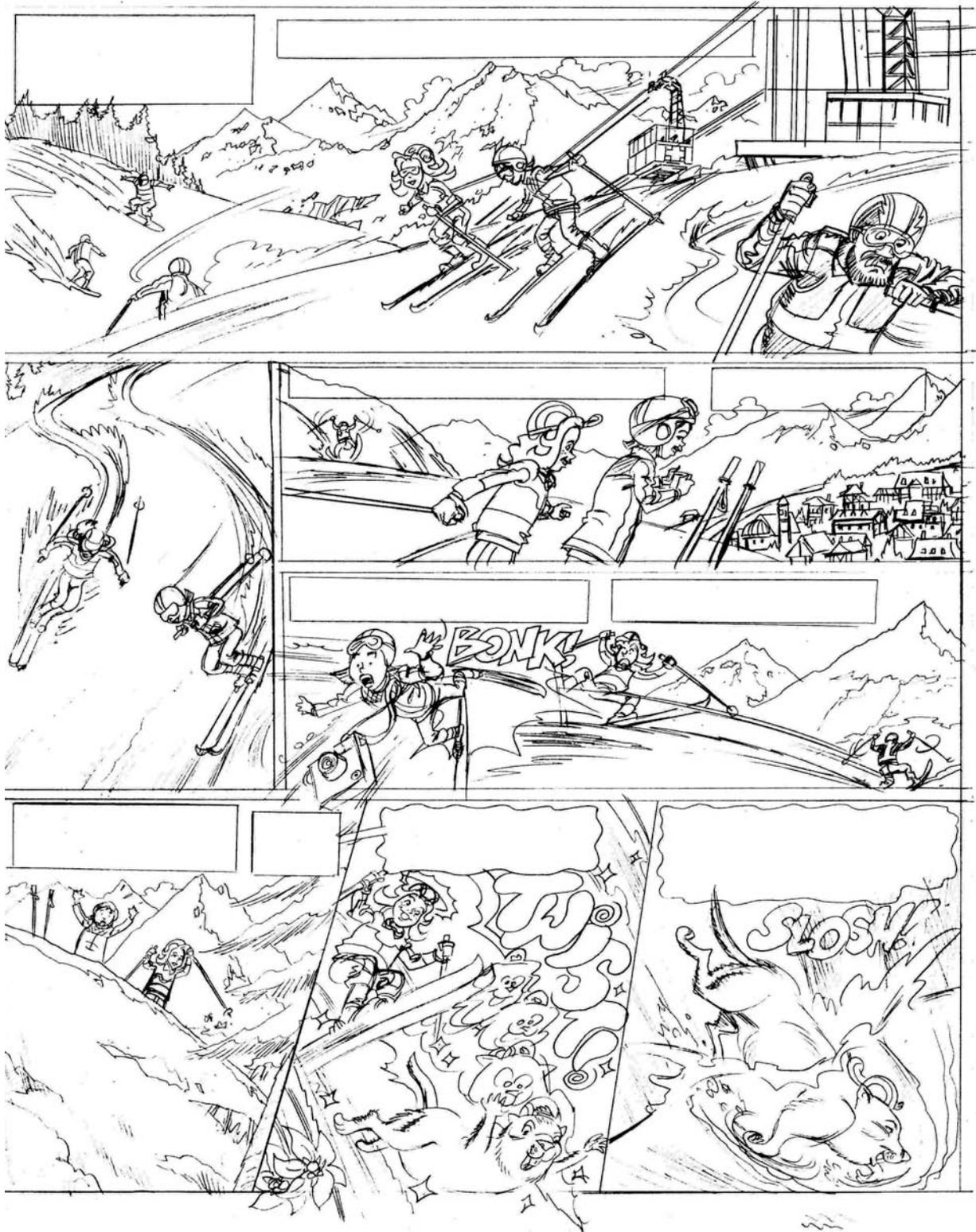
Health wise, I had my Doc's appointment 2 weeks ago, went for blood test and waiting for the results.. Feeling a bit better but I can easily "fall behind" with loosing 2-3 hours of sleep like last night. Can manage to muddle thru the day but it is a drag!!

Been cracking pages for KINGDOM, finally!! I solve a problem by enlarging my format to around 165% or so. The added surface give me a sense of space ,, I redrew page one at the same size or so but it feels like the panels "breathes better". I can't show you the stuff, I have not scanned them yet. And I had to stop my momentum to finish Daisy JAN-FEB.

That's it for now, I gave myself an hour to wrapt up the whole thing. Seeya in sixties , Folks!

Peter De Seves ,
who else!!!!





And to wrap up, my favorite illos EVER that I did for Druidquest.



Six years ago?? Already??
Comicopia, no 127



Hello, all, and welcome to another instalment of Dan's zine. Things are moving along at their own pace for me these days, and they're fortunately moving in the right direction. Health-wise, I'm back to my previous shape, whatever that was. My Increased English Comprehension course at university is a laugh and a breeze, and finances are starting to fall in order after I've beat them about the head and neck with a bunch of wet noodles. 2012 is looking on the upside from where I'm standing.

Included in this zine is something that hasn't been seen in a long time: comics reviews! In a comics APA! Who'd'a thunk it? ☺ Was planning to toss in my book reviews but there are quite a few gaps throughout the year, so they need to get fixed first. And as with all self-respecting zine, this one is being compiled rather late the night before it's due, So it's slap it together and send it off to Mike ASAP and then hit the sack. Now on to the good stuff:

COPIA #126 MCS

FRONT COVER / GABY

A very fitting tribute from you to Gene Colan, Gaby. May he rest in peace.

ALAN'S ARTICLE / MIKE

Came across this over via Facebook way.

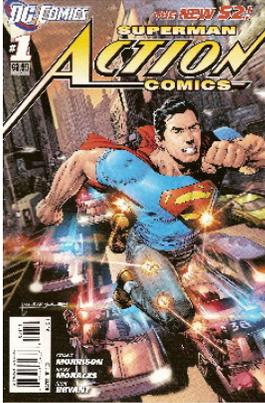
DCRONICLES / CHUCK

Back in the full swing of things, I'm glad to say ** RYCT JAY: A good artist friend of mine has always cited Bouguereau as his major influence. You're the only other person I know who's ever mentioned him. ** Heard of another free art program called ArtRage. There's at least a demo version available for free to play around with. Thought you might want to know and go fiddle with it. I'm going to give it a shot soon. ILLUSTRATOR ILLO: How are you finding the balance between Photoshop and Illustrator? I thought that Illustrator was equivalent to CorelDraw instead of

Photoshop.** LIVING NIGHTMARES: Loved the balding scientist screaming. ** CARTOONING CHRONICLE: Process is always interesting. It's said that Picasso would rather buy the different tests and quick sketches from an artist rather than a finished piece because he believed that's where the true creation took place. ** WRITER'S BLOCK: Brrr...Creepy stuff. Reminds me a bit of the Kid Miracleman stories that Neil Gaiman did. Also very creepy. ** CHRONICLES OF DREAMS: Love that misty face! How many projects have you started that someone pulled the plug from before they were finished? It seems to be a consequence of the great freelance life.

JAY'S ENDLESS STRUGGLE

FANTASY PORTFOLIO: It's too bad artists don't really do this type of thing anymore. Maybe you'll be the guy to give people ideas. I always wanted to get marshall Roger's Batman portfolio from his **Detective** days. My LCS guy has them hanging up throughout his shop. **Cool cover character. I like the whorly tree behind him too. The straight power lines of the spell he has in



ACTION COMICS

Since **Action Comics** started all the long underwear business, it's an appropriate title for DC to start the New 52 with. And with a team like Grant Morrison and Rags Morales, I was certainly going to take a look at it. And what I saw definitely did not disappoint. What we have here is both a reimagining and the deepest homage I have ever seen. John Byrne's restart of Superman in the Eighties was a sorely-needed shot in the arm for a character that had been stagnant for years. For the next few years, Superman was reinvigorated and actually interesting again. Then the initial vision slowly dissolved, along with my interest. And now at a time where the whole industry seems stagnant for the Big Two, DC takes the big gamble of tossing everything back into the mix and seeing how it comes out.

This book is an unabashed thrill. My inner fanboy rejoices seeing Morrison and Morales get Superman back to his roots in a way that has not been done since the beginning. Reading the original stories of Superman's start, I was fascinated to see how different he was ; less powerful, not so much flying as leaping, but the energy of those early stories seemed to make it all much more impressive because this Man of Steel could be hurt, but jumped into whatever it was with both feet. He was incensed with injustice and with all that was available to him, he crashed through in a way that many of us wished we could. And this is the young man disturbing Metropolis in what is described as "10 years ago". This is a Metropolis that is part City of the Future, part big city corruption. The world has not seen the likes of him before and is stunned, shocked, amazed, impressed...and suspicious. The regular players are all here, Jimmy Olsen, Lois Lane, Lex Luthor, redefined and refocused in a brilliant way. Luthor is the cool, arrogant egghead seeing Superman as the alien that he is, responding to a perceived threat that is plausible but that he uses for his own purposes. Jimmy is Clark's friend, not Superman's, putting him on an equal basis rather than Superman's "pet". Lois Lane? Well, she's Lois Lane in all her glory, and she's not about to let a newcomer pipsqueak working for the Star, the rival paper to the Daily Planet, mess up her byline. She's still a force to be reckoned with and that's how it should be.

Morrison's Superman is a cocky young guy who can just about move mountains, and he's getting stronger. He's already made a powerful enemy of Luthor just by who he is and by the end of the first issue, we see that he's going to have to be more careful as to how he goes about things, because even a Superman has limits. Morales' art is kinetic, powerful and makes you feel the physicality of Superman in his every jump and impact. This farmboy from Smallville won't take crap from anyone.

Definitely a keeper. Already got issue # 2. Which will also be reviewed. Soon.

BATWOMAN

With all the Bat-titles out there, this is the only one I'm picking up at this time. I was severely underwhelmed with the whole "Death of Bruce Wayne" thing, and was already not following the Overexposed Crusader for a while. So why am I here? J. H. Williams III. The man does "widescreen comics" and blows me



JAY WILLSON'S **THE ENDLESS STRUGGLE**



JAY WILLSON'S **THE ENDLESS STRUGGLE**

economy continues to provide a lot of **challenges in both home and work, so I'm** anxious for some movement in the **positive here at some point. I'm** growing very weary of continual cuts and trimming budgets.

My wife is back at work and working harder than ever, so there is not much change there. She is currently training for an upcoming Thanksgiving 10k race, **which I would run with her if I didn't hate** running through crowds so much. I would also prefer to spend the \$30 entry fee on **comics... ☺**

Speaking of comics, here's my assessment of the New 52, per the request of Pam and others:

Comics Reviews

Well, as you all know (I'm guessing), DC Comics "rebooted" its line by starting all of the titles over again with a number 1 issue. I was rather amused at how many people reacted with an "I'll never buy a DC comic again" fit of anger, but when you threaten 70 years of continuity, I can certainly understand why that would piss **some people off. Personally, I don't really** worry about continuity, because it really **doesn't exist in any concrete sense, and** tends to take on more of an "I'm the new writer and I say this is a part of **continuity"** situation, **only to have that** very statement erased by the next creator **in line. I'm just looking for some good** stories, and if they all connect up in the end, all the better.

Anyway, in **regards to the "new 52,"** for some of the titles, the new series simply meant a basic continuation of the existing series, with little change other than creative team. It was more of a situation of putting a new face on an old body that still looks good. However, in the case of others, it meant a completely new continuity and a whole new ball game. I would say that upon first read of this

news, my reaction was mixed; I could see the positives for doing it, but the comics collector in me hated the idea. Now that **it's happened, I'd have to say that it was probably a success, primarily because it's been literally ages since I've seen this** many people talk about reading DC Comics.

To wit, I manage a large group of young Technicians and Sr. Technicians. All of this group fall in the mid to late **20's,** with a few in their mid to late **30's. Before the** new 52, I would say that maybe one of them was a comics fan. Since the release of the new 52, literally ALL of them have asked me about comics or are buying print or digital versions of these books. That completely floored me. Recently, when I walked in to speak to two of them that were running our Helpdesk, about a problem, once we came to a lull in the conversation one of them asked me, **"which of the New 52 books have you read?" I was a bit taken** aback by the question, and asked, **"do you mean the DC Comics New 52?"** He nodded and we began to discuss the books that came out in the first week. Within minutes, after hanging up the support phone, the other person in the room also joined in with his own opinions.

My first reaction? What planet is this? Everyday co-workers talking about comics?

Anyway, I'm enjoying the new books for the most part. I love change, so this was probably something that was geared for my tastes anyway. **I didn't think that DC's output before** the change was heading in an upward direction, so something did seem needed. The past year of SUPERMAN, GREEN ARROW (especially the handling of Arsenal), WONDER WOMAN, etc. have all been nothing short of atrocious, and so I was very pleased to see that something was being done to clean up those titles. Batman and his various titles have been

JAY WILLSON'S **THE ENDLESS STRUGGLE**



CONNER'S



ON COMICS

Conner's Eye On Comics



Dr. Axel Brass



1979