

## What We've Been Doing

Whew! Since the first issue of *Lulu's Clubhouse* came out, the Lulu board and FoL members have survived convention season more or less intact. Here's the list of happenings and developments.

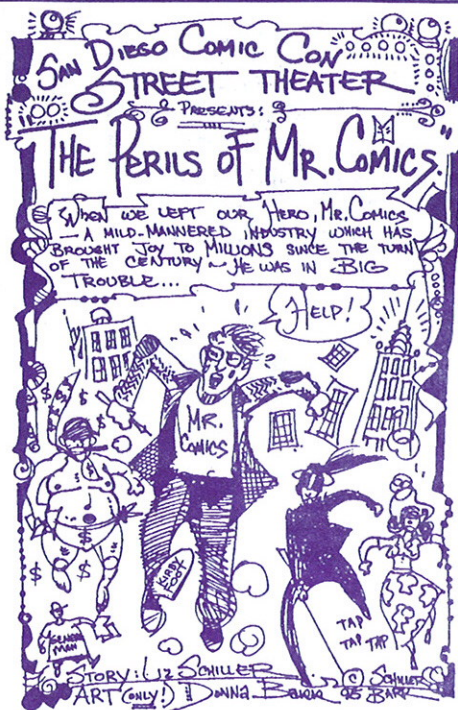
**Social Events:** Following the success of Lulupalooza at Wondercon, Friends of Lulu came back with A Lulu of a Party at the Chicago ComiCon, co-sponsored by the con, ES Services, Graham Crackers Comics, Lower Deck Comics, and PCR, Inc.. This was such a swell bash that even the hotel security guys came... oops! At least no permanent damage was done. Almost all the pros present at the Con attended, including a multitude of FoL members. A special thank you to Chuck Droste, Paul Guinan, and Terri Boyle for assistance on beverage runs. This was such a great party that the first thing everyone said on meeting board members in San Diego was "Are you guys having another party?"

**San Diego Convention Fun:** There was no party, but in the words of one convention goer "Friends of Lulu—you guys are everywhere!"

The FoL T-shirt with design by Mary Wilshire and the slogan "Here to save comics!" debuted to wide acclaim. (Ordering info can be found on page 2.) Another standout was the gorgeous FoL bookmark, put together by the Bay Area Chapter and distributed at tables of sponsoring publishers. The very busy Bay Area Luluites also put together a minicomic with art by Donna Barr (see above) and yet another mini, this one an art sampler. The Star\*Reach agency donated a jam piece by the artists on their roster, which was auctioned off on Sunday.

Luluites were on tons o' panels and signed lots of comics. Improvements at the booth included the "browsing" section for the first time: a display of books with female appeal donated by publishers.

The annual meeting was held Sunday, July 30th to announce the results of the election of the new board of directors. Elected were five past steering committee members: President, Jackie Estrada; Vice President for Industry Issues, Heidi MacDonald; Secretary Liz Schiller; Regional Chapter Coordinator



Minicomic written by Liz Schiller, drawn by Donna Barr, and distributed at the San Diego Comic-Con.

Anina Bennett; and Membership Secretary, Cheryl Harris. They are joined by two new board members: Vice President for Public Communication, Martha Thomases, and Treasurer, Deni Loubert. The results of the vote on agenda priorities were also announced: (1) PR outside the comics industry; (2) getting comics into nontraditional outlets; (3) membership drive; (4) newsletter; (5) fund-raising; (6) mentoring program; (7) serialized comics for girls'/women's magazines; (8) comics as an educational tool; and (9) public relations inside the comics industry.

Finally, guidelines for local chapters were drafted: a local chapter must hold a minimum of six meetings a year; submit quarterly reports to the National Board of Directors; submit the names of two contacts to the National Board; and, in general, work towards the goals of Friends of Lulu. (See Anina Bennett's report on page 4 for more info on this.)

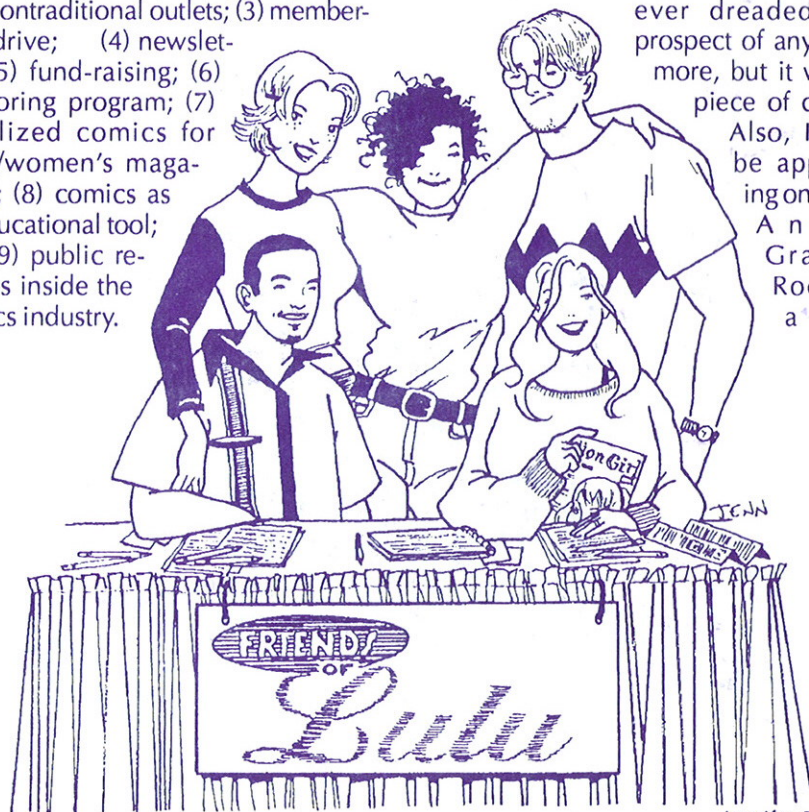
**Great Eastern New York Comic Book Spectacular:** The highlight of this convention was the appearance of legendary artist Marie Severin at the FoL booth. This was her first convention appearance in six years. Amanda Conner also appeared at the booth. NY chapter members also produced a minicomic.

**Membership Drive:** As of early October, Friends of Lulu has over 200 members. The super spiffy membership cards (designed by Marie Severin) have been mailed out. Please let us know if you didn't get yours.

**Press Coverage:** FoL has gone into audio and video: Liz Schiller and I (Heidi MacDonald) appeared on the WBAI radio talk show "Nuff Said" in July, discussing the history of comics and women's place in it, and fielding telephone calls from people who were up between 3 and 6 A.M. on a Wednesday morning (Editor's note: I'm not sure I've

ever dreaded the prospect of anything more, but it was a piece of cake!)

Also, I will be appearing on "The Anti-Gravity Room," a new



Jennifer Graves