

Letters to Lulu

Dear Friends of Lulu:

My name is Paloma Gonzalez. I am 18 years old and a while ago I thought I was the only one. I had never met any other female who collected comics. Whenever I told others of my passion for comics (even fellow male comic book fans) I received the oddest of looks. When I walked into my newstand and picked up my weekly stack of comic books, the cashier asked, "Picking up some books for your brother?" Over the last few years, I discovered that I wasn't the only one. Through pen pals I discovered other females who shared the deep passion I have for comics. However, I have yet to meet a female comic enthusiast with whom I could develop a relationship akin to friendship.

I do realize that throughout this world there are female comics fans exactly like me and even more potential ones. Sadly, I felt that there could not be a way to reach those fans in order to keep their interest in comics. I also realized what a hard task it would be to foster new female fans that are not afraid to tread in a hobby where they might feel isolated due to the fact that this particular hobby is made up of over 90% males. Furthermore, as a UCR student who is study-

ing to possibly become part of the comic book industry, I know that the overwhelming number of males that make up the whole industry can be discouraging to a female hopeful.

Therefore, you can imagine my reaction when I picked up an issue of *Hero Illustrated* and saw the piece about your organization. As I read that it is your organization's goal to foster female interest in comic books and the comic book industry, I automatically knew that it was what I had been looking for and hoping for. Please send me information on how I can become not only a member but an active part of your organization.

Furthermore, feel free to give my name and address to any member who is looking for a friend or support, or who knows way too much about comics for their own good.

In closing, I am simply overjoyed to know that your organization exists and is helping to address the needs of the numerous female fans throughout the world.

Paloma Gonzalez
373 Armitos Place
Diamond Bar, CA 91765
Gonzalez@watmail.ucr.edu

Dear Fellow Lulu Members:
Last month my store, Night

Flight, had the honor of Andrew Vachss, author and child rights attorney, making an in-store appearance. He raised a subject matter that has me very concerned,—so concerned that I have been handing out his article to customers in my store. Here are some excerpts from that article:

Perhaps you've heard—although if you relied on the American media, probably not—about the "war" against "kiddie sex tourism" in Southeast Asia, with Thailand being the main offender. Well, this hasn't been anything close to a war—in a war, people shoot back. With your help, we propose to change all that.

Not only is the foul "business" of kiddie sex tourism rampant throughout Southeast Asia, the host countries themselves have, by their conduct, proclaimed themselves proudly corrupt and profoundly evil. Thailand has been a safe harbor for predatory pedophiles from all over the world. But what Thailand has not been, up to now, is accountable. And that's where you come in . . .

What we want are warriors committed to force Thailand to change its ways. And our weapon of choice is BOYCOTT. We want Americans to boycott anything made or manufactured in Thailand. Thailand sells its children like products. It traffics in the flesh of its own babies. For money. And the only thing that will stop it is the loss of money.

Many products sold in America—from "figurines" fashioned from comics superheroes or cartoon characters, to video games, to sneakers, to dresses of Thai silk—are made in a country which is for many of its children, HELL ON EARTH.

We want you to support the boycott personally and urge others to do the same. We want you to write about it, talk about it, sing about it, upload it, paint it, sculpt it, soapbox it, editorialize it—whatever you can do to help bring the baby-peddlers down. The "Made in Thailand" label is a symbol of foul dishonor. It should be rejected by all consumers, not just those with children of their own. . . .

We can't change a country's morals, but we can sure as hell change its behavior. So *Don't buy Thai!* . . . and tell them (all!) why.

Andrew Vachss

The Internet address for more information is: <http://dbtlori/dbtl.html>

Mimi Cruz

Night Flight Comics/Salt Lake City

Lulu's Clubhouse © 1996 by Friends of Lulu, a nonprofit corporation dedicated to getting more girls and women involved in comics.

Cover art © 1995 by Mary Wilshire

Editors: Jackie Estrada and Heidi MacDonald

Friends of Lulu Board of Directors: Anina Bennett, Jackie Estrada, Cheryl Harris, Deni Loubert, Heidi MacDonald, Liz Schiller, Martha

Thomases

Dedicated to Marjorie Henderson Buell

LULU'S DIARY

Does anyone have a job anymore? Through January, layoffs at Marvel, Diamond, Acclaim, and elsewhere totaled over 300 people. . . . Along those lines, is it just me, or was exclusive distribution the stupidest idea anyone has yet come up with? . . . John Romita and wife Virginia announced their retirement from Marvel Comics. After their going-away party February 9th, there wasn't a dry eye in the house. Truly the end of an era. . . . What distributor told its employees that they couldn't display a particular calendar on their walls, a calendar featuring lots and lots of "bad girl" art? What's particularly ironic is that the calendar was produced by that distributor. Oh m. . . .

Just got back from Toy Fair. The bad news: talk to a toy manufacturer for any length of time and you figure that boys and girls are two separate species. (See, there are girls' toys and boys' toys, and that's it.) The good news is that girls' toys like Barbie and Sky Dancers were among the biggest sellers in the biz last year. Sky Dancers, a flying toy in various faerie shapes, are actually so much fun that even boys started playing with them. Of course, the result is a new line of boys' toys, called Dragon Flyz. This line includes a girl figure, strangely. . . . I guess that one's meant for the tomboys. . . . At a party aboard the USS Intrepid thrown by Crusade Comics, Crusade Prez, Shi artist, and FoL member William Tucci delivered an inspiring speech while standing in front of a giant American flag. Hey Billy, are you trying out for that remake of Patton?