



T FOR TEENS

FUTURE'S GUARDIAN



ISSUE 15
2019



**CHAMPIONS
ONLINE**

PERFECT
WORLD

VISIT

Millennium City

www.VisitTheFuture.millennium.city

AN IN-GAME AD FOR CHAMPIONS ONLINE

HEROES NEED MORE THAN JUST A CAPE
AND COWL TO FIGHT EVIL.

THEY NEED FUEL.

THEY NEED ENERGY.

THEY NEED STAMINA.

THEY NEED HEALTH.

THEY NEED RESTORATION.

THEY NEED...



Inspiration

Personal Boost Energy Drinks

FICTIONAL PRODUCT. NOT A REAL ADVERTISEMENT.

From another time and from another world, Galatea Future arrived in the world of the Champions to do the one thing she tried so desperately to avoid before... to live.

It's not easy, though, when you're over a thousand years old and suddenly you're given a new life in more ways than one. Life is literally starting over again for her, and yet she is still doing what she does best: serving humanity as...

FUTURE'S GUARDIAN

"LEAP"

- A CHAMPIONS ONLINE STORY BY DAVID 2

***"STRENGTH OF THE MOUNTAIN.
FORCE OF THE STORM.
SIGHT OF THE EAGLE.
HEARING OF THE BAT.
BLOOD OF THE WARRIOR."***

FOR DOZENS OF GENERATIONS, JOHN BATTLE'S FAMILY PROTECTED THE WEAK AND DEFENDED THE INNOCENT. THEIR SELFLESS ACTS OF HEROISM IN THE WEST WERE THE INSPIRATION FOR THE LEGENDARY WESTER HEROES OF TV AND MOVIES.

BUT NOW THE LATEST "LEGACY WARRIOR" IS IN MILLENNIUM CITY, AND IT IS HIS FAMILY'S LEGACY THAT IS ABOUT TO BE CHALLENGED.

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MILLENNIUM CITY, MI., USA

JUNE 2019

AFTER DETROIT WAS DESTROYED, CITY LEADERS PROMISED TO REBUILD IT BIGGER AND BETTER THAN IT EVER WAS BEFORE.

BUT THEY WANTED THE TOWERS OF THE RENAISSANCE CENTER TO BE THE TALLEST OF THEM ALL, STANDING OUT OVER THE REST OF THE CITY AS BEACONS OF THEIR RESOLVE.

AND HERE THEY DID NOT DISAPPOINT...

WHICH BRINGS ME TO MY REGULAR EXERCISE.



JOHN BATTLE
LEGACY WARRIOR

THIS IS THE TALLEST TOWER IN THE CITY.
THE TALLEST IN THE CENTRAL U.S.

ONLY HEROES CAN MAKE IT UP TO THE ROOFTOP.

NO HELIPAD,
NO STAIRWAY
ENTRANCE, NO
ELEVATOR.

WARNING LIGHTS AND THIS AUTOMATED BEACON WARN OFF CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT.

A COUPLE OF YEARS BACK
THERE WAS THIS MOVIE
ABOUT A SO-CALLED
"SUPERHERO".

I THINK THE STAR'S
NAME WAS "RYAN"
SOMETHING...

AND HE MAKES A BIG
PRODUCTION ABOUT HOW
SOME VILLAIN MAKES A
"SUPERHERO LANDING" TO
SHOW OFF THEIR POWERS.

SO THAT LEAD TO
THE "HERO-LANDING
CHALLENGE" IN
SOCIAL MEDIA.

JUMP OFF THE TOP OF SOME
HIGH BUILDING AND LAND
LIKE A "SUPERHERO".

THE CATCH IS THAT YOU HAVE
TO HAVE THE RIGHT KIND OF
POWERS TO PULL IT OFF.

FIFTEEN PEOPLE BROKE THEIR
LEGS, SHATTERED THEIR
KNEECAPS, SPLINTERED THEIR
FEET, AND TWO PEOPLE DIED
BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T KNOW
HOW TO DO IT OR THEY DIDN'T
HAVE THE RIGHT POWERS.



THEY WERE IDIOTS.

THE THING IS... MY
FATHER TRAINED
ME TO DO THIS IN
ARIZONA WHEN MY
POWERS FIRST
MANIFESTED IN
MY EARLY TEENS.

HE'D HAVE ME CLIMB UP
MESAS AND BUTTES AND
THEN JUMP OFF THEM TO
TOUGHEN ME UP.

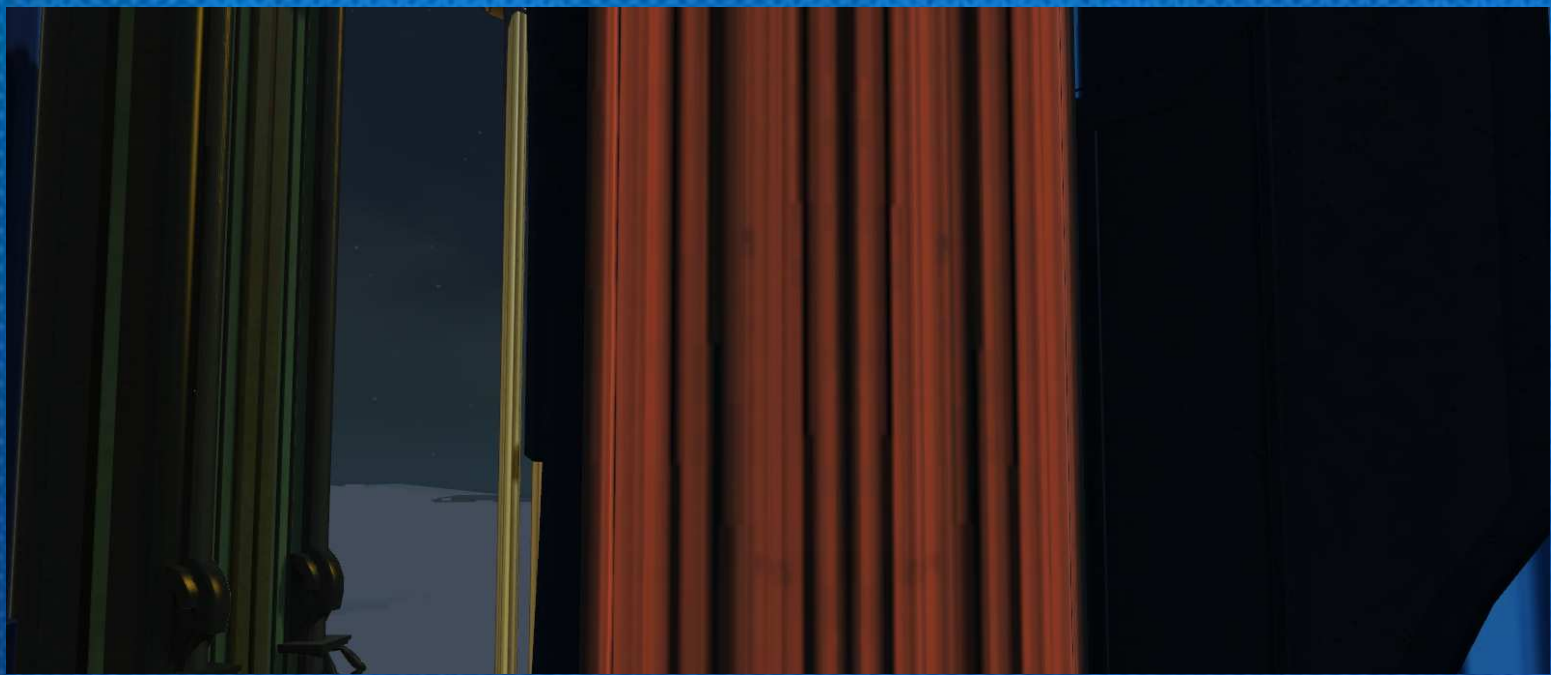
HELL, HOW DID YOU THINK
I MADE IT UP HERE
WITHOUT MY SKYBIKE?



HELL OF A VIEW.

I CAN SEE THE
WHOLE STATE FROM
HERE THANKS TO MY
EAGLE SIGHT.





★WHAM!★



SUPERHERO
LANDING.

A FEW HOURS LATER...



GOOD MORNING
MILLENNIUM CITY!
IT'S 9AM AND I'M
VICTORIA
CROWNSTONE.



VICTORIA CROWNSTONE
WCOC ANCHORWOMAN



COMING UP, WE
HAVE AN INTERVIEW
WITH SINGING
SUPERHERO
SAPPHIRE ON HER
LATEST CAMPAIGN
TO ADOPT FERAL
KITITIES.

BUT FIRST WE HAVE
MERCEDES REALE
WITH THE NEWS.



THANK YOU VICTORIA.
GOOD MORNING
MILLENNIUM CITY.



MERCEDES REALE
WCOC REPORTER



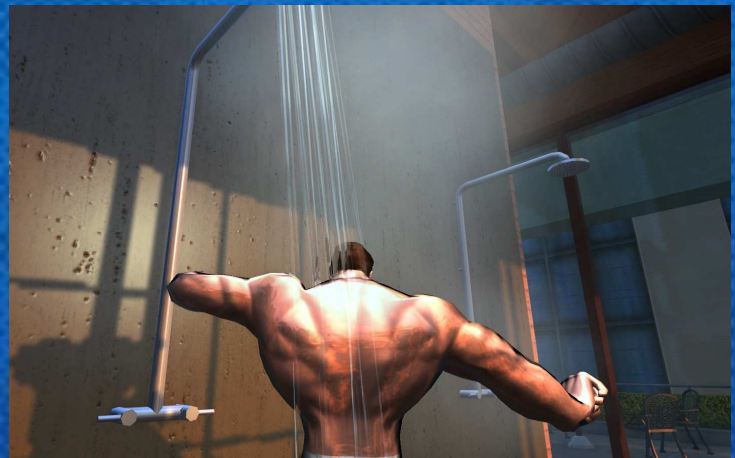
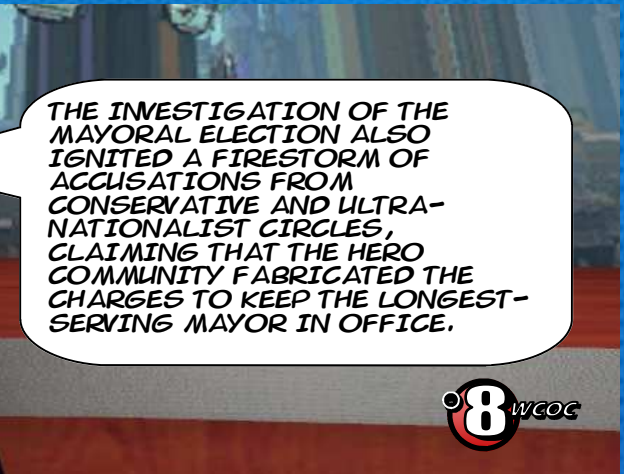
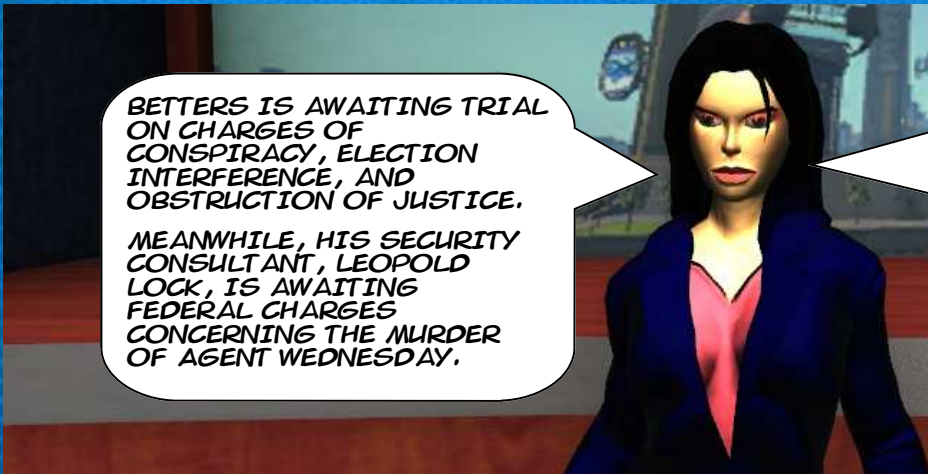
LONGTIME MAYOR CALVIN
BISELLE HELD ONE OF HIS
MANY CITY RALLIES
YESTERDAY, WHERE HE THANKED
THE HERO COMMUNITY FOR
STOPPING WHAT HE DESCRIBED
AS "THE GREATEST THREAT TO
DEMOCRACY" IN THE CITY'S
HISTORY.

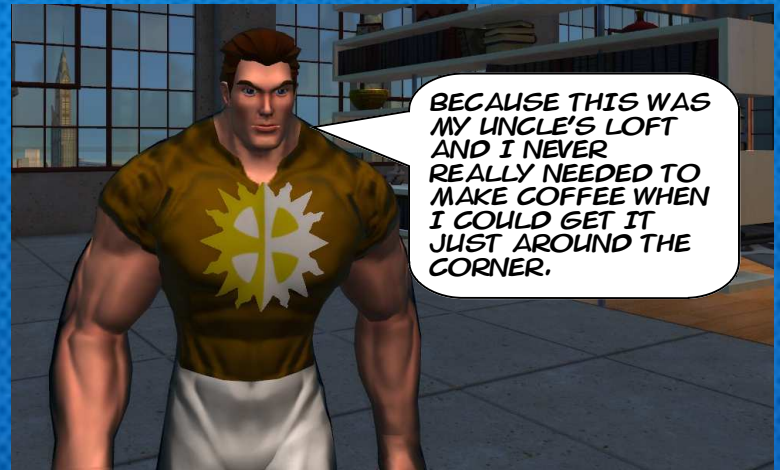



MAYOR BISELLE FACED
A STRONG CAMPAIGN
CHALLENGE FROM
WEALTHY BUSINESSMAN
RONALD BETTERS LAST
YEAR, WHICH WAS THE
FIRST FOR THE
LONGTIME MAYOR IN
OVER TWENTY YEARS.

IT HAD APPEARED THAT BETTERS
WON THE ELECTION LAST
NOVEMBER, BUT AN
INVESTIGATION BY FBI AGENT
ANNA WEDNESDAY REVEALED THAT
BETTERS AND HIS SECURITY
CONSULTANT HAD INTERFERED
WITH THE ELECTION PROCESS,
SUBSTITUTING HUNDREDS OF
ABSENTEE BALLOTS WITH FORGED
BALLOTS FOR BETTERS.








A wide shot of a rooftop apartment. John, a muscular man in a yellow t-shirt with a white star and white pants, stands facing Mary, a woman with long red hair in a white top and black underwear. They are on a wooden floor with a railing and city buildings in the background.

WHY DON'T YOU KEEP ONE OF
YOUR WORK OUTFITS HERE?
YOU ALREADY HAVE SOME OF
YOUR OTHER CLOTHES HERE,
AND IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T
HAVE THE ROOM.

THERE'S MORE THAN JUST
PUTTING ON AN OUTFIT,
JOHN. I HAVE NOTES,
EQUIPMENT, MY JET-PACK...


A close-up of Mary's face. She has long red hair and is looking slightly to the side with a serious expression.

AND ONE OF THE REASONS
WHY I LIKE WHERE I'M AT
IS BECAUSE I CAN SLIP IN
AND OUT WITHOUT PEOPLE
ASKING QUESTIONS.

HERE, YOU HAVE
NEIGHBORS, DOORMEN,
AND THEY ALL KNOW WHO
YOU ARE... AND WHO I AM.

A close-up of John's face. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression.

AND YOU STILL
WEAR A MASK
WHEN YOU'RE AT
WORK. I KEEP
FORGETTING
ABOUT THAT.
HOW ABOUT
DINNER TONIGHT?

Mary is standing in the middle of the rooftop apartment, looking towards the camera. The background shows the wooden floor, railing, and city view.

MAYBE... IF I
CAN FINISH MY
TESTIMONY
BEFORE I NEED
TO GO TO CLUB
CAPRICE.

John is seen from behind, standing on the rooftop. Mary is visible in the distance, walking away. The city skyline is visible in the background.

AND AS LONG AS
IT'S NOT IN LITTLE
ITALY!

YOU REALLY DON'T
WANT TO KNOW
WHAT THEY PUT IN
THAT SAUCE.

John is seen from behind, standing in the apartment. Mary is walking up a set of stairs in the background. The apartment has large windows and modern furniture.

YOU'RE NOT
OGLING ME,
ARE YOU?

JUST ENJOYING THE
VIEW OF THE CITY.
I CAN SEE WHY MY
UNCLE LOVED THIS
PLACE.

MEANWHILE, JUST ON THE OTHER
SIDE OF THE RENAISSANCE CENTER...

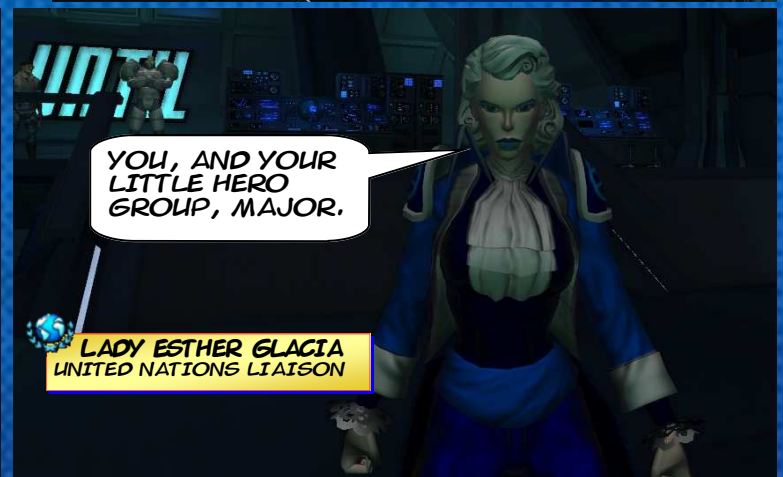
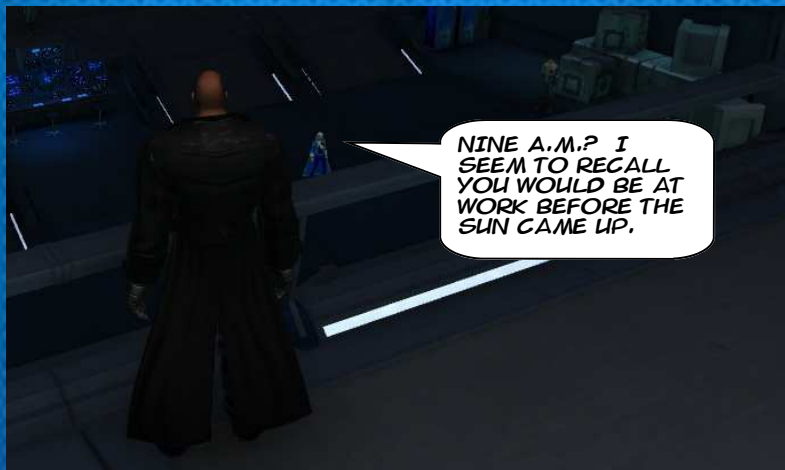
THIS IS U.N.T.I.L.
SHADOW EIGHT TO
U.N.T.I.L. CONTROL. WE
ARE ON APPROACH TO
DELIVER PASSENGER.

U.N.T.I.L. SHADOW
EIGHT, YOU ARE
CLEARED TO DELIVER
PASSENGER TO THE
FRONT ENTRANCEWAY.

UNITED NATIONS TRIBUNAL FOR
INTERNATIONAL LAW (U.N.T.I.L.)
- MILLENNIUM CITY HEADQUARTERS

COPY, U.N.T.I.L.
CONTROL.
DESCENDING
FOR DELIVERY.

THIS IS SECURITY
POINT ALPHA.
YOU ARE CLEARED
FOR DELIVERY.



MEANWHILE...



I DON'T BELIEVE
YOU VIPER
CLOWNS!



I CAN'T EVEN
GET A CUP
OF COFFEE
WITHOUT A
FIGHT!



HUH... HUH...

DING-DING
DING-DING
DING-DING



HEY...
YOU MADE
IT IN?
GREAT!



NO, WE CAN MEET.
IT SHOULD BE
SAFE RIGHT NOW.



THERE'S A PARK JUST A
FEW BLOCKS AWAY FROM
YOU THAT SHOULD BE
PERFECT.
NO, NO OUTFITS. WE
DON'T WANT TO ADVERTISE
IT THIS EARLY.
OKAY, SEE YOU SOON.



THE SUB-SUB
BASEMENT...

I SEE YOU'VE
MADE THIS
PLACE YOUR
HOME.

THANKS.

BUT I DON'T THINK
YOU CAME ALL
THIS WAY TO SEE
MY WORKSPACE.

THEN I'LL GET RIGHT
TO THE POINT.

THE U. N. SECURITY
COUNCIL HAS BEEN
GETTING SOME
COMPLAINTS ABOUT
PROJECT MYCROFT
AND HOW THEY'VE
BEEN OPERATING.

AT FIRST WE'VE
BEEN ABLE TO SAY
IT'S BECAUSE
YOU'RE A NEW
GROUP AND
YOU'RE GETTING
YOUR BEARINGS.

BUT IN RECENT
YEARS... YOU'VE
BEEN OPERATING
MORE LIKE A
ROGUE AGENCY.

THAT WHOLE MESS WITH
MALIZIA AND THE WAKE-EZ
PILLS...*

PROJECT MIND-GAME IS
STILL COMPLAING
ABOUT BEING SHUT OUT OF
THAT WHEN IT WAS CLEARLY
WITHIN THEIR SCOPE.

(SEE ISSUES 7-12 FOR DETAILS)

THAT WAS
CONNECTED TO AN
INVESTIGATION
WE WERE ALREADY
INVOLVED WITH.

AND THAT SEEMS TO BE A
COMMON EXPLANATION FOR
YOUR ACTIVITIES.

PROJECT CITADEL SAYS THAT
YOU GAVE THEM CHERRY-PICKED
INFORMATION ABOUT AN
EXTRADIMENSIONAL THREAT
NAMED GRIFF, WHILE
CONVENIENTLY OMITTING THE
PRESENCE OF SOMEONE NAMED
"AGENT SIDESTEP".*


THEN THERE'S YOUR
INVESTIGATION OF PROJECT
GREENSKIN, A JOINT
OPERATION WITH OUR U.S.
GOVERNMENT COUNTERPARTS.**

I'M SURE YOU'RE AWARE THAT
DIRECTOR KAUFMAN STILL
PLAYS GOLF WITH THE
PRESIDENT ONCE A MONTH.

AND THIS PRESIDENT IS NOT
HAPPY WHEN HIS "REALLY
GOOD FRIEND" IS NOT HAPPY.

(ISSUE #6)

(** ISSUES #13 AND 14)




YOU KNOW WHO I'M
UP AGAINST.
YOU KNOW HOW WELL
THEY'RE CONNECTED.

AND HERE WE GO...
I WAS WONDERING
HOW LONG IT WOULD
TAKE BEFORE YOUR
GREAT CONSPIRACY
WOULD COME UP.

VARTECH IS REAL!

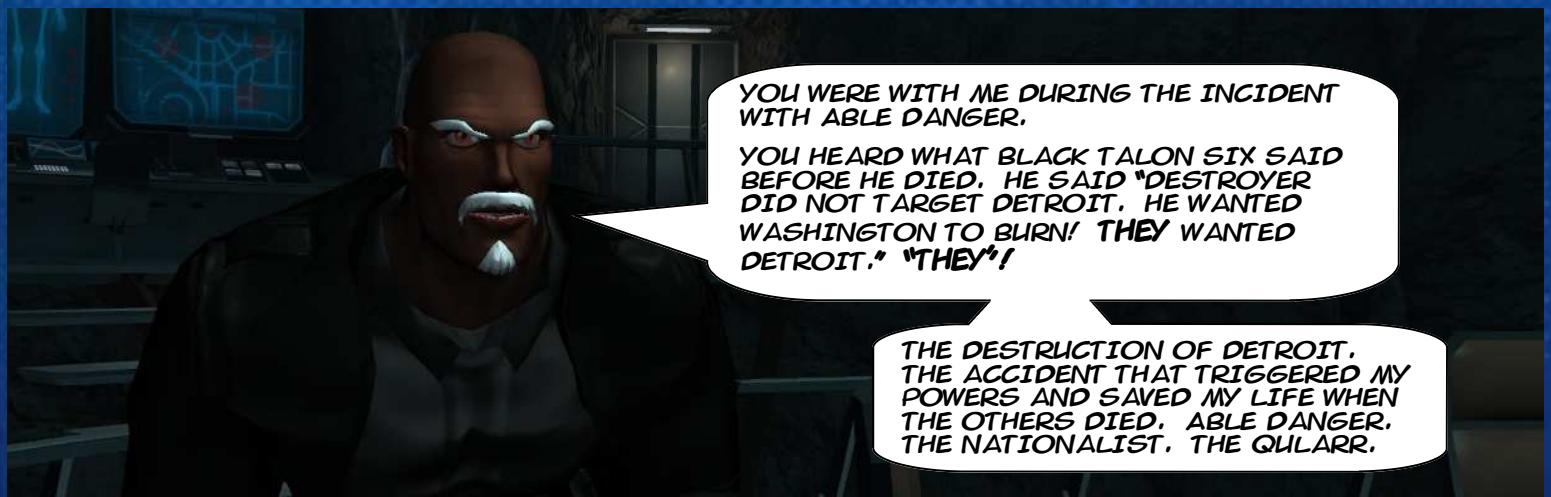
I'VE BEEN TRACING
THEIR ACTIVITIES
FOR YEARS NOW.

EVERY TIME THEY MAKE A
MOVE ON ONE OF MY
PEOPLE, THEY EXPOSE A
LITTLE MORE OF THEIR
OPERATION.



DO YOU EVEN HEAR YOURSELF, XAVIER?

A SHADOW CABINET OF POWER-BROKERS
AND INDUSTRIALISTS WHO HAVE BEEN
QUIETLY MANIPULATING EVENTS SINCE,
WHAT, WORLD WAR II? AND THEY HAVE
THEIR HANDS IN EVERYTHING, INCLUDING
THE DESTRUCTION OF DETROIT AND THE
BUILDING OF MILLENNIUM CITY?



YOU WERE WITH ME DURING THE INCIDENT
WITH ABLE DANGER.


YOU HEARD WHAT BLACK TALON SIX SAID
BEFORE HE DIED. HE SAID "DESTROYER
DID NOT TARGET DETROIT. HE WANTED
WASHINGTON TO BURN! THEY WANTED
DETROIT." "THEY"!

THE DESTRUCTION OF DETROIT.
THE ACCIDENT THAT TRIGGERED MY
POWERS AND SAVED MY LIFE WHEN
THE OTHERS DIED. ABLE DANGER.
THE NATIONALIST. THE QULARR.



AGAIN, LISTEN TO YOURSELF.

YOU'RE TAKING A WHOLE BUNCH OF SEPARATE EVENTS AND SAYING THEY'RE ALL CONNECTED WHEN THEY ARE NOT.



AND HOW ABOUT THE MAYOR'S ELECTION LAST YEAR?

WAS THAT PART OF YOUR "GRAND CONSPIRACY" AS WELL?



THAT WAS DIFFERENT.

MY PEOPLE WERE HELPING OUT AGENT WEDNESDAY AS A FAVOR FOR HER HELP WITH THE MALIZIA SITUATION.*

THAT WAS AN FBI OPERATION, NOT AN U.N.T.I.L. ONE.



THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE TURNED IT OVER TO PRIMUS.*

THAT IS THEIR JURISDICTION, XAVIER!

(* PRIMUS IS THE OFFICIAL HERO AGENCY FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.)

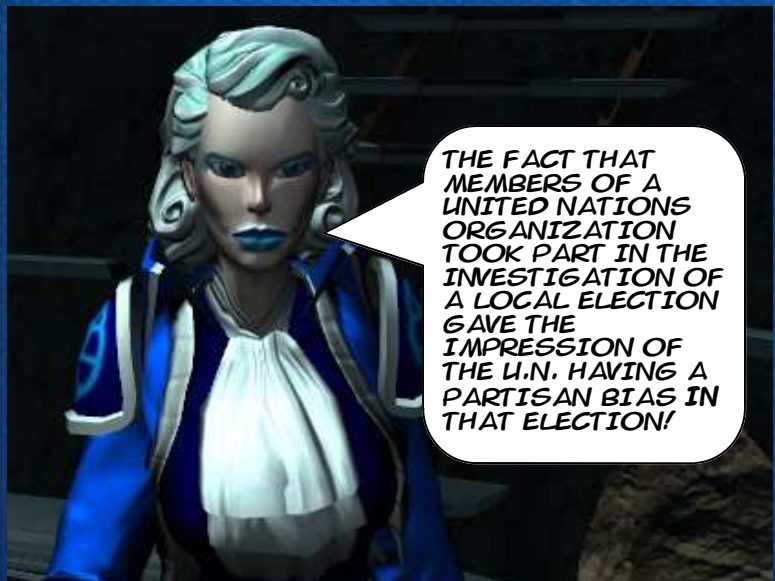
(* ISSUES #12 AND 13)



U.N.T.I.L. IS NOT SOME CATCH-ALL SUPER-IMPOSING GOVERNING BODY.

WE HAVE TO AVOID STEPPING ON THE SOVEREIGNTY OF OTHER NATIONS, ESPECIALLY WITH THE UNITED STATES!

THAT'S WHY WE HAVE ALL THESE VARIOUS DIVISIONS AND DEPARTMENTS TO ADDRESS SPECIFIC INSTANCES INSTEAD OF BEING A SUPER-AGENCY.



THE FACT THAT MEMBERS OF A UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION TOOK PART IN THE INVESTIGATION OF A LOCAL ELECTION GAVE THE IMPRESSION OF THE U.N. HAVING A PARTISAN BIAS IN THAT ELECTION!



SINCE WHEN DID JUSTICE BECOME PARTISAN?

WCOC STUDIO



OKAY... CAN YOU
TIGHTEN IT UP..?
PERFECT! THAT'LL
LOOK GREAT FOR
THE NOON SHOW.

BRRRRING



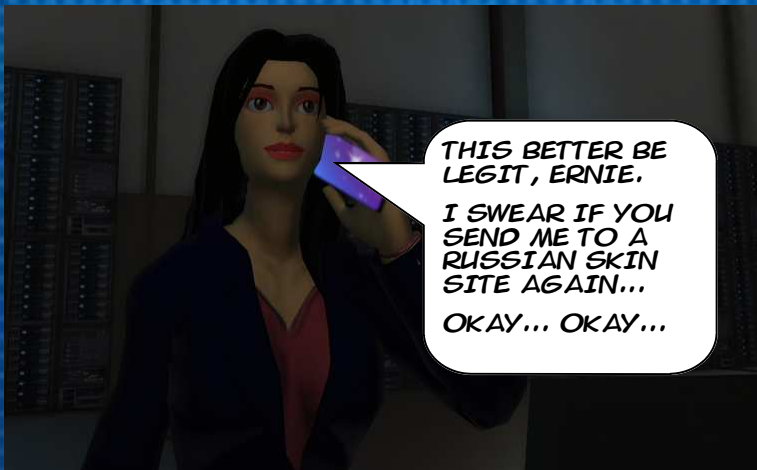
MERCEDES REALE..
NO, ERNIE, I
DON'T HAVE TIME
TO TALK.



ERNIE, THE LAST
LEAD YOU SENT ME
WAS A *PÉRDIDA DE
TIEMPO!*
YOU BETTER--

WHAT DO YOU
MEAN THIS IS
DIFFERENT?

(*WASTE OF TIME*)



THIS BETTER BE
LEGIT, ERNIE.
I SWEAR IF YOU
SEND ME TO A
RUSSIAN SKIN
SITE AGAIN...
OKAY... OKAY...



JULIE, OPEN A
BROWSER TO
REAL-TRUTH-
DOT-MILL.



THAT'S IT.



HOLA...

INJURED?

"Better Call Bill!"

Bill Jones

ATTORNEY AT LAW



THE TOUGH LAWYER! CALL 24/7 - 555-TUFF

This is not an ad for a real life attorney. Any comparisons to an actual lawyer in the real world are coincidental. The attorney in question operates only in the world of Champions Online MMO and even that is questionable.



*"Sure, I want to open a bank account, but I want to make sure my money is available when *I* need it, not when the bank decides that I should access it."*

We hear you.

That's why we offer 24-hour banking services available online, including virtual tellers that you can speak with live if you have any questions or special issues that need to be addressed.

Because National Bank believes that we're here for you, not the other way around.



The bank that truly puts you first.

National Bank is a fictional lending institution in the world of Champions Online. Not a real entity.

Be Heroic By Looking Heroic



In the world of heroes, image is everything.

The right outfit can not only make you look confident, but it also makes you feel confident.

With so much at stake, it pays to have help from our team of experts that has years of experience coming up with a heroic look that reflects both your powers and your nature.

From the moment you walk in until the time you cash-out, Greer & Harlick will make you look and feel heroic without having to spend money like a millionaire playboy.



Greer & Harlick

- Fine Fashions for Hip Heroes - Since 1981 -

Available exclusively for heroes inside every Powerhouse training facility. Open 24-hours a day. No appointment necessary.

NOONTIME, JUST OUTSIDE
CITY HALL...

FIRST THEY WANT ME
TO TESTIFY... THEN
THEY DON'T...
THEN THEY WANT A
CONTINUANCE.

STARLETT
STREET VIGILANTE

SO MUCH FOR MY
BUSY DAY IN COURT.

I DON'T GET IT.
IT WAS A CLEAN BUST.

WHY ARE THE
PROSECUTORS
MAKING THINGS
SO COMPLICATED?

ANNA WOULD KNOW.
SHE'D BE ABLE TO
TELL ME.

I MISS...

WAIT.

IS THAT...
JOHN?



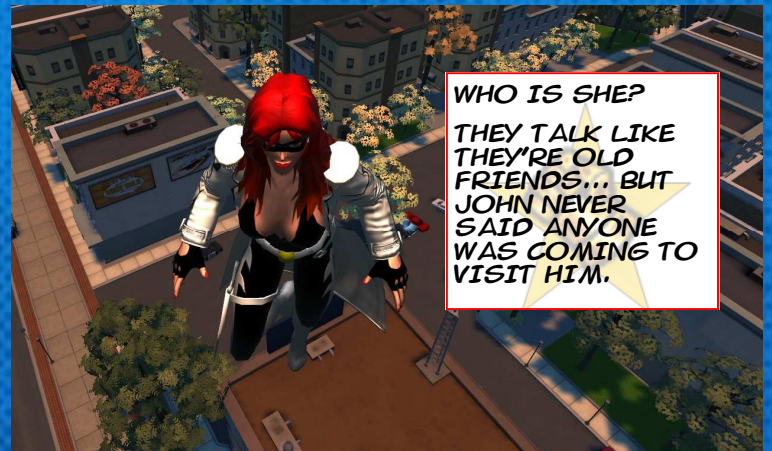
AND THEN HE SAYS... IN
A HUSHED VOICE...

"YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED
TO CATCH ME, YOU'RE
SUPPOSED TO LET ME
GET AWAY."

HAHAHA/
SERIOUSLY? THAT
IS SO STRAIGHT
OUT OF A SATURDAY
MORNING CARTOON!



THAT'S FOXBAT
FOR YOU.
BUT SOMEHOW THE
CITY LOVES HIM.



WHO IS SHE?
THEY TALK LIKE
THEY'RE OLD
FRIENDS... BUT
JOHN NEVER
SAID ANYONE
WAS COMING TO
VISIT HIM.



I'M A LITTLE
NERVOUS ABOUT
ALL THIS, JOHN.
WHAT IF
SOMEONE...?

LET ME WORRY
ABOUT THAT, OKAY?
I'VE GOT YOUR BACK
ON THIS.



MAYBE I
SHOULD...?

NO... I'M
STILL IN MY
HERO OUTFIT.

IT MIGHT BE
HARD FOR HIM
TO EXPLAIN IT
TO HER IF SHE'S
NOT A HERO.



I'LL ASK HIM
ABOUT IT LATER
TONIGHT.

HAVE SOME PIZZA..
SOME BEER..
AND THEN ASK
ABOUT HIS NEW
FEMALE FRIEND.

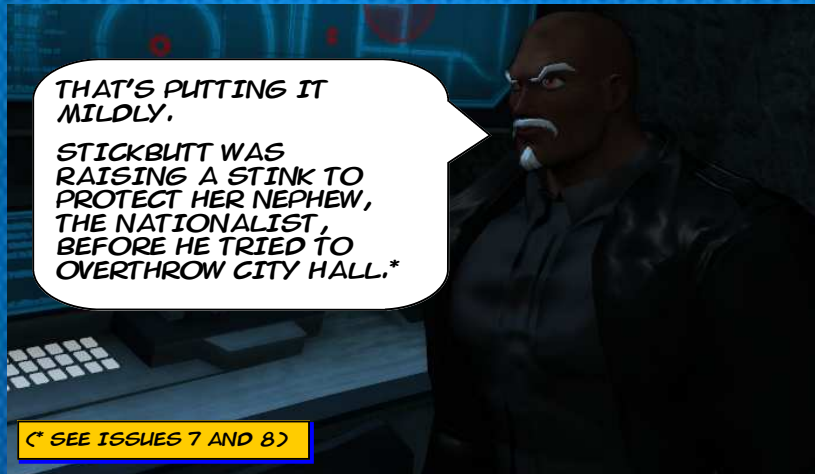
MAYBE IT'S JUST
WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE.
TWO OLD FRIENDS
CHATTING.
RIGHT...



I WANT TO BE ON YOUR SIDE, XAVIER. BUT... THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE THAT ARE MAKING NOISE ABOUT YOUR ACTIVITIES.

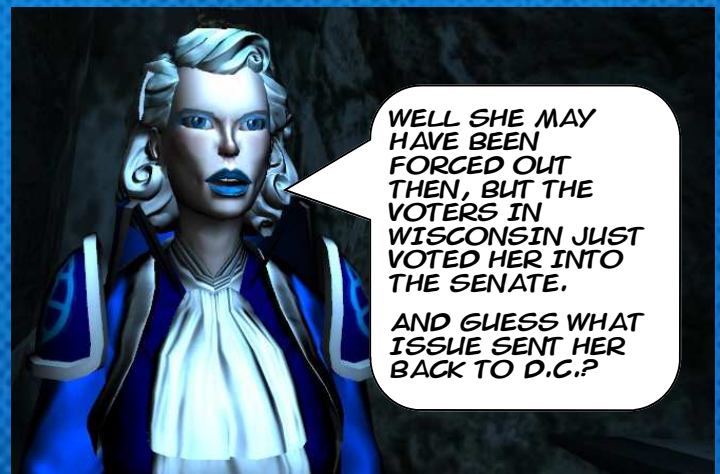


REMEMBER U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN SHELLY STICKBUTT? SHE'S NOW A U.S. SENATOR. I SEEM TO RECALL SHE WAS PRETTY VOCAL ABOUT THIS CITY IN THE PAST.

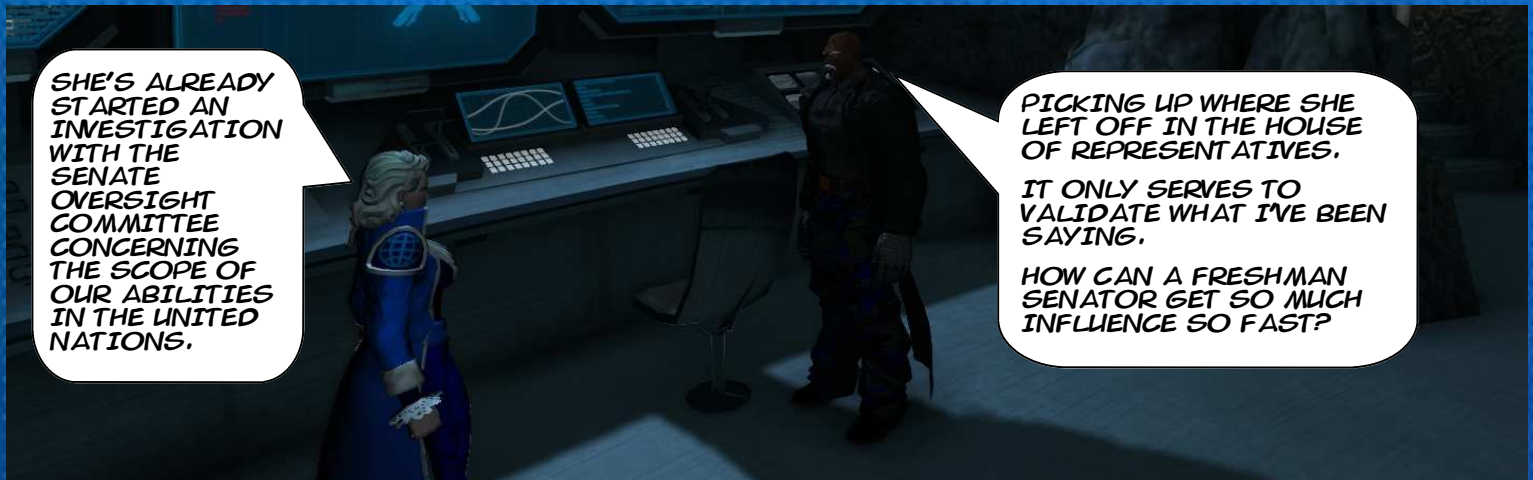


THAT'S PUTTING IT MILDLY. STICKBUTT WAS RAISING A STINK TO PROTECT HER NEPHEW, THE NATIONALIST, BEFORE HE TRIED TO OVERTHROW CITY HALL.*

(* SEE ISSUES 7 AND 8)



WELL SHE MAY HAVE BEEN FORCED OUT THEN, BUT THE VOTERS IN WISCONSIN JUST VOTED HER INTO THE SENATE. AND GUESS WHAT ISSUE SENT HER BACK TO D.C.?



SHE'S ALREADY STARTED AN INVESTIGATION WITH THE SENATE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE CONCERNING THE SCOPE OF OUR ABILITIES IN THE UNITED NATIONS.

PICKING UP WHERE SHE LEFT OFF IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. IT ONLY SERVES TO VALIDATE WHAT I'VE BEEN SAYING. HOW CAN A FRESHMAN SENATOR GET SO MUCH INFLUENCE SO FAST?



THIS IS WHY PROJECT MYCROFT WAS SET UP AS AN INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING GROUP. WE NEED TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT VARETECH BEFORE WE CAN MOVE FORWARD AND TAKE ACTION. WE NEED TO SEE THE SCOPE OF THEIR ACTIVITIES. WHO TO TRUST. HOW MUCH INFLUENCE VARETECH HAS OVER THE SYSTEM.

VARETECH USED MARKMAN GOLD TO TRY TO BREAK GALATEA FUTURE WHEN HER CAREER IN THIS CITY WAS JUST STARTING.* WHY HER? WHY FOCUS THEIR EFFORTS ON HER? WE FIND THE REASON FOR THAT AND WE FIND OUT WHO VARETECH REALLY ARE.

(* "THE LOST ADVENTURES OF GALATEA FUTURE" #4 AND "FUTURE'S GUARDIAN" #1)



WELL FOR AN INTELLIGENCE GROUP, YOU HAVE STRAY--

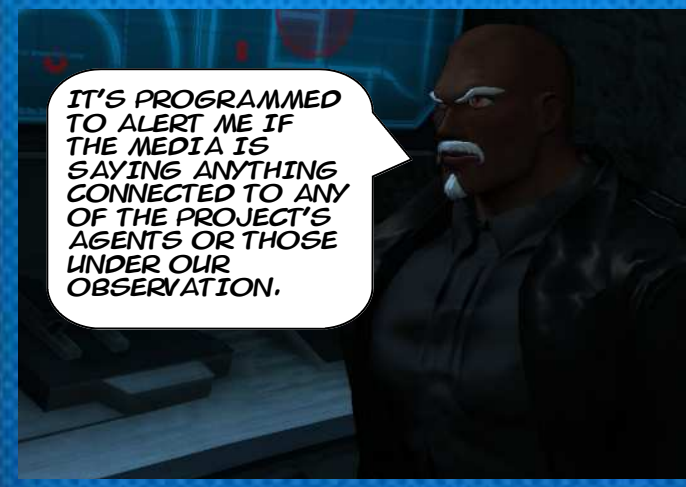
NEWS FEED ALERT!
NEWS FEED ALERT!



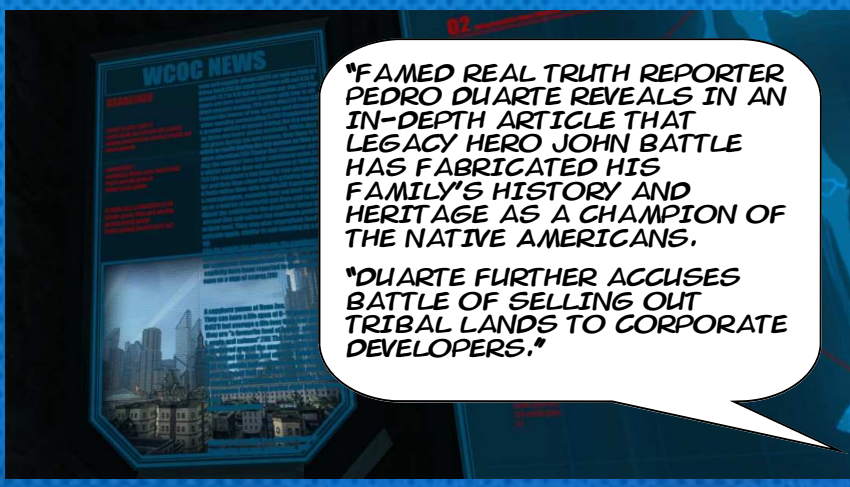
UFF DA*

IT'S AN ALERT FROM MY MEDIA SEARCH ALGORITHM.

(* NORWEGIAN EXCLAMATION*)



IT'S PROGRAMMED TO ALERT ME IF THE MEDIA IS SAYING ANYTHING CONNECTED TO ANY OF THE PROJECT'S AGENTS OR THOSE UNDER OUR OBSERVATION.



"FAMED REAL TRUTH REPORTER PEDRO DUARTE REVEALS IN AN IN-DEPTH ARTICLE THAT LEGACY HERO JOHN BATTLE HAS FABRICATED HIS FAMILY'S HISTORY AND HERITAGE AS A CHAMPION OF THE NATIVE AMERICANS.

"DUARTE FURTHER ACCUSES BATTLE OF SELLING OUT TRIBAL LANDS TO CORPORATE DEVELOPERS."



JOHN BATTLE IS ONE OF YOUR AGENTS, ISN'T HE?

HIS UNCLE WAS A LEGEND ON THE EAST COAST.

IF WHAT THIS REPORT SAYS IS TRUE--



--IT'S NOT TRUE!

I PERSONALLY VETTED THE WHOLE BATTLE FAMILY BEFORE BRINGING JOHN IN.

THIS IS VARTECH LAUNCHING A NEW ATTACK ON OUR CREDIBILITY.



MAYBE.

BUT IN LIGHT OF THIS AND THE OTHER EVENTS, I HAVE NO CHOICE NOW BUT TO PUT PROJECT MYCROFT UNDER MY EVALUATION AND SUPERVISION.



I'M SORRY, XAVIER...

BUT YOU AND YOUR TEAM NOW REPORT TO ME.

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, JOHN BATTLE WAS INVOLVED WITH THE SALE OF NATIVE AMERICAN LAND TO A SHADY DEVELOPING COMPANY THAT THEN USED THE LAND FOR OIL SHALE FRACKING.



8 WCOC NEW STORY: JOHN BATTLE - TURNCOAT?

OH WHAT A LOAD OF CRAP!



IS IT TRUE?
IS WHAT SHE
IS SAYING
THE TRUTH?

C DEFENDER
THE CHAMPIONS



I'M GOING TO
RIDE OVER THERE
AND DROP A
MOUNTAIN ON
THAT REPORTER
AND HER PACK
OF LIES!



JOHN BATTLE!
IS SHE TELLING
THE TRUTH?



ABOUT WHAT THEY
SAID CONCERNING
MY FAMILY?

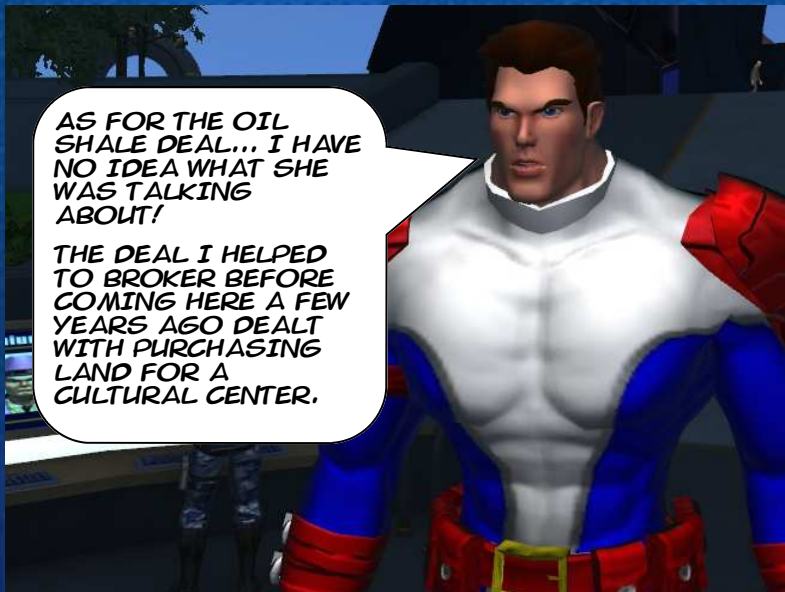
ABSOLUTELY NOT!

I KNOW MY
FAMILY'S HISTORY.



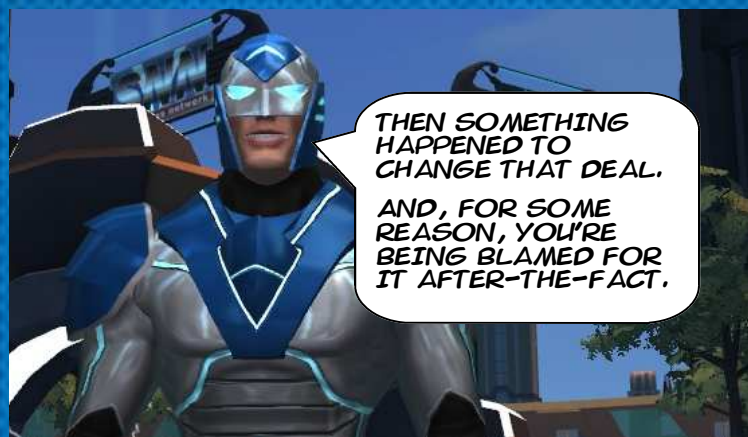
AS FOR THE OIL
SHALE DEAL... I HAVE
NO IDEA WHAT SHE
WAS TALKING
ABOUT!

THE DEAL I HELPED
TO BROKER BEFORE
COMING HERE A FEW
YEARS AGO DEALT
WITH PURCHASING
LAND FOR A
CULTURAL CENTER.

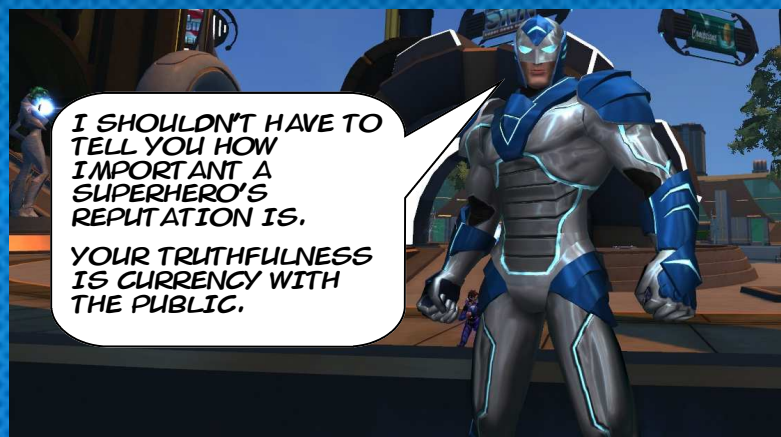


THERE WAS NO
POSSIBLE WAY THAT
DEAL COULD BE USED
FOR ANYTHING OTHER
THAN FOR THE
CULTURAL
APPRECIATION OF
THE YAVAPAI PEOPLE.





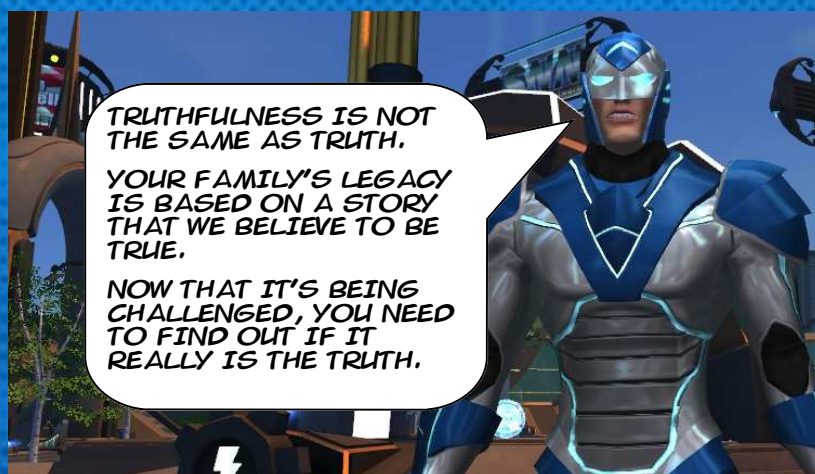
THEN SOMETHING
HAPPENED TO
CHANGE THAT DEAL.
AND, FOR SOME
REASON, YOU'RE
BEING BLAMED FOR
IT AFTER-THE-FACT.



I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO
TELL YOU HOW
IMPORTANT A
SUPERHERO'S
REPUTATION IS.
YOUR TRUTHFULNESS
IS CURRENCY WITH
THE PUBLIC.



SAYS THE
HERO WEARING
A MASK.



TRUTHFULNESS IS NOT
THE SAME AS TRUTH.
YOUR FAMILY'S LEGACY
IS BASED ON A STORY
THAT WE BELIEVE TO BE
TRUE.
NOW THAT IT'S BEING
CHALLENGED, YOU NEED
TO FIND OUT IF IT
REALLY IS THE TRUTH.



I DON'T NEED TO
KNOW IF IT'S TRUE.
I KNOW IT IS.



THEN DEFEND IT,
JOHN BATTLE.
JUST REMEMBER WHO
YOU ARE AND WHY
YOUR FAMILY IS SO
IMPORTANT.
NOT JUST AS A
WARRIOR.
BUT AS A HERO.



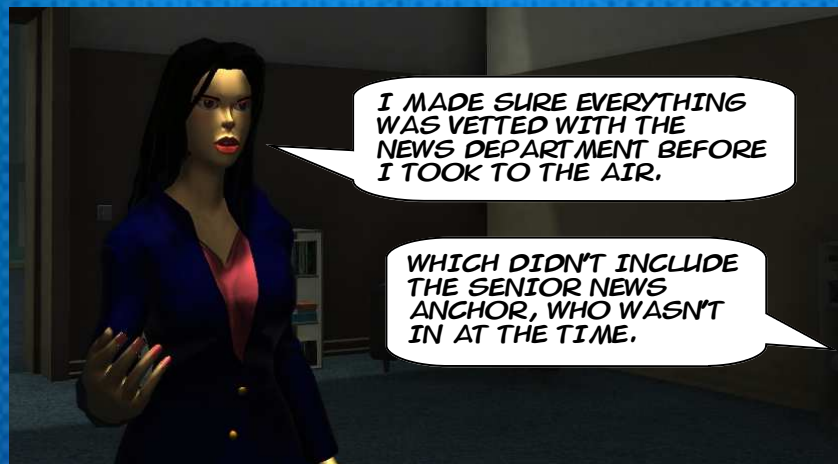


"FIRST OFF... GREAT WORK REPORTING THAT STORY, MERCEDES."

"THANK YOU."



BUT... YOU ALSO STEPPED ON QUITE A FEW TOES GETTING IT OUT THERE FOR THE NOONTIME NEWS.



I MADE SURE EVERYTHING WAS VETTED WITH THE NEWS DEPARTMENT BEFORE I TOOK TO THE AIR.

WHICH DIDN'T INCLUDE THE SENIOR NEWS ANCHOR, WHO WASN'T IN AT THE TIME.



BECAUSE THEN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A ROB MAHOGANY STORY!

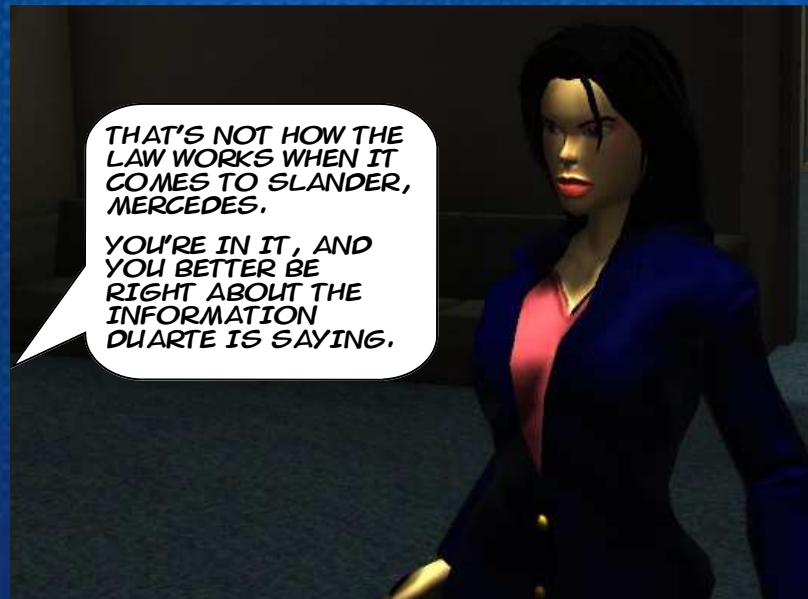
THIS WAS MY LEAD, MY STORY, NOT HIS.



WELL... ROB'S THROWING A FIT. AND I IMAGINE VICTORIA'S NOT HAPPY THAT YOU DIDN'T WAIT UNTIL THE MORNING TO BREAK IT ON HER SHOW.

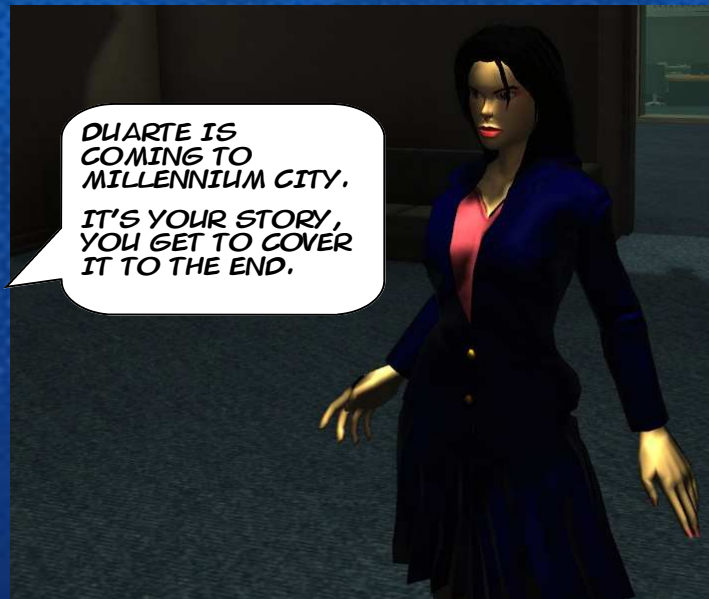
AND I GOT A CALL FROM AN ATTORNEY WHO IS READY TO FILE A SLANDER SUIT AGAINST US.

ALL I DID WAS REPORT WHAT PEDRO DUARTE REVEALED. IF HE SLANDERED JOHN BATTLE, THEN IT'S ON HIM, NOT US.



THAT'S NOT HOW THE LAW WORKS WHEN IT COMES TO SLANDER, MERCEDES.

YOU'RE IN IT, AND YOU BETTER BE RIGHT ABOUT THE INFORMATION DUARTE IS SAYING.



DUARTE IS COMING TO MILLENNIUM CITY. IT'S YOUR STORY, YOU GET TO COVER IT TO THE END.



"NO, I UNDERSTAND."

"THANKS CANDACE. YES, I'LL TELL HER."



CANDACE SINCLAIR IS ON THE CASE.

SHE SAYS I HAVE A PRETTY STRONG SLANDER SUIT AGAINST THE STATION AND THAT SO-CALLED "REPORTER".



SHE SAID I NEED TO KEEP LOW FOR THE TIME BEING.

NO HEROICS UNLESS IT'S THE END-OF-THE-WORLD SORT OF STUFF.

SHOULDN'T BE TOO BAD, RIGHT? I MEAN, EVEN WITH GALATEA OFF DOING WHATEVER SHE'S BEEN DOING.

SHE ALSO SAYS "HI".

DID YOU ORDER THE PIZZA?



TRIPLE PEPPERONI AND DOUBLE-CHEESE, JUST LIKE YOU ASKED.



JOHN, I...

I SAW YOU EARLIER TODAY AROUND NOONTIME JUST OUTSIDE MILLENNIUM MIKE'S.



REALLY? WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING?

DO ONE OF THOSE "HELLO GOOD CITIZEN" THINGS?



YOU WERE WITH SOMEONE. A YOUNG WOMAN WITH BROWN HAIR.


YOU LOOKED PRETTY FRIENDLY WITH HER, LIKE YOU KNEW HER FROM SOMEWHERE.




WELL A WOMAN
DID ASK ME IF I
WAS A HERO.

COULDN'T EXACTLY
SAY "NO".

SO I STARTED
TALKING ABOUT
WHAT IT'S LIKE.

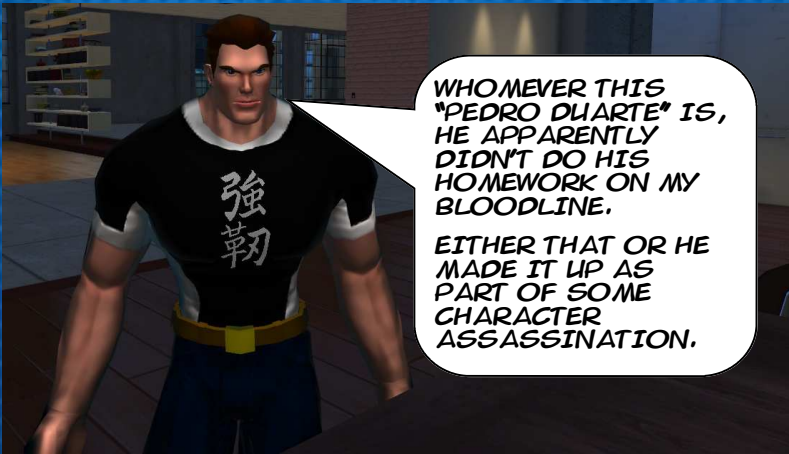


THAT'S ONE OF
THE DOWNSIDES
OF NOT HAVING A
SECRET IDENTITY.
EVERYONE KNOWS
WHO I AM 24-7.



OH... OKAY...
SO... THE STORY.
IS IT TRUE? IS
ANY OF IT TRUE?

ABOUT MY FAMILY?
DEE, I'M HALF-APACHE.
MY FATHER'S FAMILY HAS
MORE TRIBAL BLOOD
THAN EUROPEAN.
THE BATTLE FAMILY IS
CONNECTED TO A FEW
DOZEN TRIBAL NATIONS.



WHOMEVER THIS
"PEDRO DUARTE" IS,
HE APPARENTLY
DIDN'T DO HIS
HOMEWORK ON MY
BLOODLINE.

EITHER THAT OR HE
MADE IT UP AS
PART OF SOME
CHARACTER
ASSASSINATION.



I GUESS THIS SORT
OF WHAT GALATEA
WENT THROUGH WHEN
MARKMAN GOLD
TRIED TO OWN HER.*

(* "THE LOST ADVENTURES
OF GALATEA FUTURE" #4)



AND THE OTHER
PART OF IT?
THE LAND DEAL?



FOR A CULTURAL
CENTER, NOT AN
OIL FRACKING
OPERATION.
EVERYTHING
ABOUT THAT DEAL
WAS ABOVE-THE-
BOARD AND AS
LEGIT AS YOUR
RED HAIR.



MY HAIR IS
DYED.
I WASN'T
BORN WITH
THIS BRIGHT
RED COLOR.



EVERY FEW MONTHS I
PAY A SALON OWNER
FIFTY BUCKS TO KEEP IT
THIS BRIGHT.

SO WHAT'S TO SAY
THAT THE PEOPLE
BEHIND THAT DEAL
WEREN'T HONEST ABOUT
THEIR INTENTIONS?



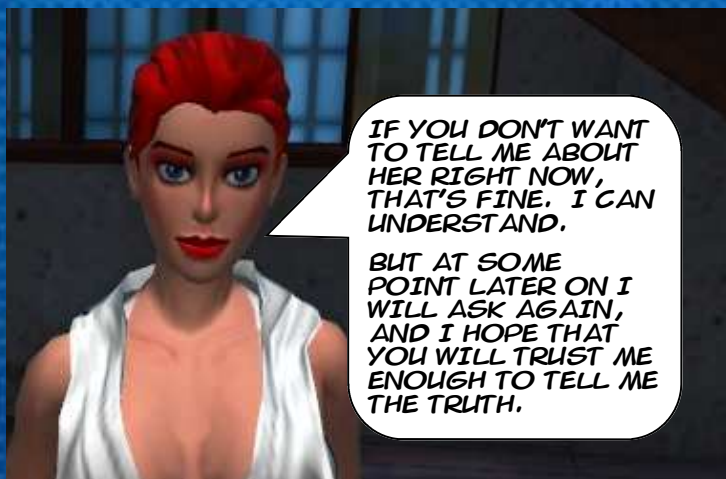
DEE... I NEED YOU
TO BE ON MY SIDE.
TO TRUST ME.

AND I AM...
AND I WANT
TO.



BUT YOU NEED TO
BE HONEST WITH
ME AS WELL.

THAT GIRL
EARLIER TODAY?
SHE DIDN'T LOOK
LIKE A CITY
RESIDENT.



IF YOU DON'T WANT
TO TELL ME ABOUT
HER RIGHT NOW,
THAT'S FINE. I CAN
UNDERSTAND.

BUT AT SOME
POINT LATER ON I
WILL ASK AGAIN,
AND I HOPE THAT
YOU WILL TRUST ME
ENOUGH TO TELL ME
THE TRUTH.



DEE... I...

DING-DONGGG

THAT'S...
PROBABLY
THE PIZZA.



AND... ABOUT
THAT THING...
LATER ON... YES.



I TRUST THAT
ALL WENT
ACCORDING
TO PLAN.

PERFECTLY, M-MISTER
VAN CLEEF.

N-NOBODY ON THE SITE
QUESTIONED THE
ARTICLE'S VERACITY.
NEITHER D-DID THE
REPORTER.

GOOD.

VARTECH INVESTED
HEAVILY IN YOUR
CAREER AND IN YOUR
RECOVERY.

WE TRUST YOU WILL
NOT SQUANDER THAT
INVESTMENT.



OH I-I WILL PR-PROVE YOU
RIGHT, MISTER V-VAN
CLEEF.

THEY L-LAUGHED AT ME
BEFORE... MADE F-F-FUN
OF ME... CALLED ME A J-
JOKE.

BUT I W-WILL SHOW THEM.

I HAVE NO
DOUBT THAT
YOU WILL.



P-PRETTY-BOY HEROES AND
THEIR CAPED SK-SK@NKS.

I'LL B-BRING THEM ALL
DOWN,

NEXT...
MEET PEDRO

GUARDIAN WORDS

Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.



UNITED NATIONS TRIBUNAL ON INTERNATIONAL LAW
Project Mycroft - Major Xavier Cross, U.N.T.I.L. Commander



CLASSIFIED INFORMATION - EYES ONLY

The Battle/Battlerock Legacy

History:

In the early 1800's, Jordon Battalion immigrated from France to the United States. He was disgusted by the horrors of the post-Revolution society and he sought new opportunities presented by the land purchased by the United States under President Thomas Jefferson.

Much like the famed explorers Lewis and Clark, Jordon travelled deep into the tribal nations, making friends and allies along the way. However, he wasn't the only one exploring these new lands.

Reverend Nathaniel Marsh - a self-professed "crusader" - led a religious sect that firmly believed that the new territories were "given" to them by God to bring forth a new paradise. They regarded the tribal nations as "savages" that either needed to be converted or killed. To that end, they launched what would later be called "The Marsh Crusade", raiding tribal communities, ransacking them and either converting or killing the people.

According to Jordon's journal entries, around this time he began to experience nightmare visions of the conflict, and of a young woman and her grandfather standing behind a great warrior. The woman's name was Towa, and her grandfather was a holy man. She introduced Jordon to her grandfather. They discovered they had the same vision, which led Jordon to go through a special ceremony to make him "one with the land".

The various tribal nations would talk about "the lone warrior Battle", who stood his ground against Marsh's crusaders and stopped them using powers that some would claim were superhuman.

In the years that followed, Jordon and Towa and their children would travel further west, visiting many other tribes. Jordon and his children would each be called "Battle", in honor of the "promise" made.

In the 1950's, Richard Battle would change his last name to Battlerock and work with the various studios in Hollywood to develop movies and TV shows that would reflect the heroism of the Battle family without invoking their family name. His son Jonathan would eventually become a soldier and make his own fame as a hero in his own right in the armed forces and later as a tactical consultant.

Meanwhile, the main Battle family settled down in Arizona. Only recently did John Eagle Battle, the latest descendant of Jordon Battalion, venture back east to help Millennium City.

The Creed:

The statement of belief of the Battle family is passed from parent-to-child as they develop their abilities in their early teens. As they train and learn how to harness their powers, they are given the following passage...

***"The strength of the mountain,
The force of the storm,
The sight of the eagle,
The hearing of the bat,
The blood of the warrior"***

Each line describes the abilities and attributes of the members of the Battle family, from their invulnerability (mountain), strength (storm), enhanced sight (eagle), enhanced sound (bat), and determination (warrior).

Continues on next page...

Where Is Galatea?

Sufficient to say, Galatea Future is pretty busy... just not on the pages of **"Future's Guardian"**.

Our favorite alternate-future superhero from a certain "City" is tied up with otherworld visitors Watcher Twelve and Sinnamon Kitten. As strangers to Millennium City, it really didn't take too long for those two to get into trouble; especially when one of them wears a Navix device. They certainly could use the assist from Millennium City's Guardian.

You can see her adventures with Twelve and SK in the pages of **"The Crucible"** starting with Issue #36, which includes a great 3D rendering of Galatea in her new outfit.

"What's that", you say? "A new outfit?"

Well it's been a few years. Things have happened. Some of them seen in this issue. Some things you'll find out in upcoming issues.

But for now, you can check out Galatea's adventures in the pages of "The Crucible", which you can find along with some really cool images at www.CoXComics.com

And get the latest news at the official website of Battlerock Comics...



[HTTP://BATTLE ROCKCOMICS.WORDPRESS.COM](http://battlerockcomics.wordpress.com)

NEXT ISSUE...

**CHAMPIONS
ONLINE**



JOHN BATTLE MUST DEFEND HIS FAMILY'S NAME AND HIS OWN AS PEDRO DUARTE ARRIVES TO BACK UP HIS CLAIMS.

**AND WHO IS THE STRANGE WOMAN THAT JOHN MET WITH?
FIND OUT!**



'THE CRUCIBLE'



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