



FUTURE'S GUARDIAN



ISSUE 03
2013



**CHAMPIONS
ONLINE**

PERFECT
WORLD

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

"VOX POPULI"

- A CHAMPIONS ONLINE STORY BY DAVID 2

AFTER BEING AWAY FROM SOCIETY FOR OVER A YEAR, GALATEA FUTURE RETURNS TO MILLENNIUM CITY WITH A NEW LOOK AND A NEW PERSONAL LIFE.

UNFORTUNATELY SHE'S FINDING THAT SHE'S ALSO MADE SOME NEW ENEMIES, AND SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHEN OR HOW THEY ARE GOING TO STRIKE.

SO WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE ENEMY YOU FACE IS ONE THAT YOU CAN'T HIT?

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THE PENTHOUSE OF ATHENA ROSE FAIRMORE

(A.K.A. GALATEA FUTURE)

MILLENNIUM CITY, MICHIGAN, USA

ALL RIGHT...
ALL RIGHT...
I'M UP...

✱ BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! ✱

NIEPIK

GALATEA FUTURE
IS UG-LY!

NIEPIK

GF: FAT AND
UGLY! FUGLY!

NIEPIK

MUST BE NICE TO
NOT WORK OUT
AND LOOK LIKE A
STRIPPER!

NIEPIK

I HEARD SHE
SMELLS NASTY!

NIEPIK

GF: BAD B.O.!

NIEPIK

GF: WHO CUT
YOUR HAIR? GET
A REFUND!

NIEPIK

WHY IS GF A
"HERO"?

NIEPIK

GF: SAVING THE
DAY BY BOOBS!

NIEPIK

GALATEA: NEW
STRIPPER NAME!



GALATEA FUTURE
Otherworld Guardian



NIEPRIK

GALATEA FUTURE
... REALLY?
FUTURE?

NIEPRIK

GF: WEAK
COSTUME
DESIGN.

NIEPRIK

GALATEA FUTURE
IS UGLY!

NIEPRIK

DIDN'T GF KILL
SOMEONE?
SOME HERO!

NIEPRIK

HEAR GF DOES
J.HARMON 4.

NIEPRIK

HARMON WILL DO
ANYONE... LOOK
AT GALATEA FOR
PROOF!



NIEPRIK

GALATEA IS
WORST HERO EVER

NIEPRIK

DID HARMON
DRESS GF IN
THAT OUTFIT?

NIEPRIK

GALATEA: FUGLY
NAME!

NIEPRIK

CAN'T BELIEVE
MEDIA LOVES GF!

NIEPRIK

GALATEA FUTURE
IS FAT, SMELLY.

NIEPRIK

GALATEA FUTURE
IS UGLY!

NIEPRIK

I WOULDN'T
TOUCH GF WITH
HAZMAT GEAR!

NIEPRIK

GF: FUGLY,
FUGLY, FUGLY!

NIEPRIK

GALATEA FUTURE
SHOULD JUST GO
AWAY AGAIN AND
STAY THERE

NIEPRIK

GALATEA FUTURE:
WORST HERO
NAME EVER!!

NIEPRIK

GALATEA FUTURE
IS UGLY!

NIEPRIK

HEY GF: THOSE
800BS AREN'T
REAL!

NIEPRIK

GF: FUGLY,
FUGLY, FUGLY!



NIEPRIK

GALATEA FUTURE
IS UGLY!

NIEPRIK

STOP TELLING ME
ABOUT GF!

NIEPRIK

GF: FUGLY,
FUGLY, FUGLY,
FUGLY, FUGLY!

NIEPRIK

GF: PROOF THE
CITY WILL CALL
ANYONE "HERO"!

NIEPRIK

GF: FAT, UGLY,
DISGUSTING!

NIEPRIK

GALATEA
FUTURE IS
UGLY!

NIEPRIK

GF: FUGLY,
FUGLY, FUGLY!

NIEPRIK

I'D DO GF BUT I
CAN'T AFFORD
HER RATE!

NIEPRIK

GALATEA FUTURE
IS UGLY!

GF: FLY
AWAY!

NIEPRIK

OH AND GF IS
FUGLY TOO!!

NIEPRIK

HEY GF: GET THE
PICTURE! U SUK!

NIEPRIK

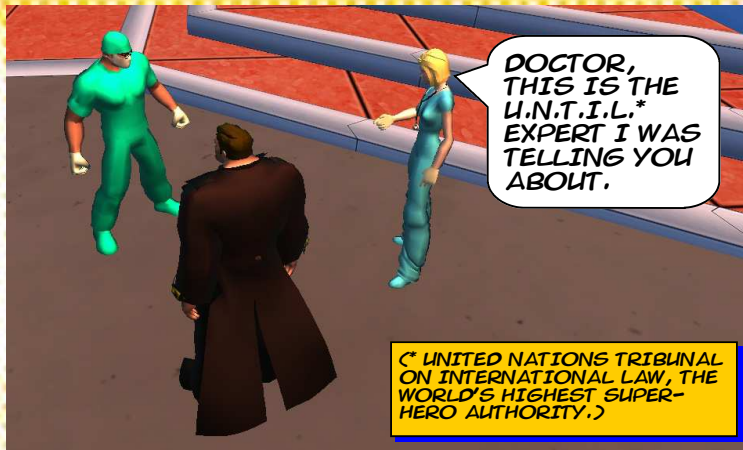
GF: FUGLY,
FUGLY, FUGLY!

NIEPRIK

I SMELL \$KANK,
GF MUST BE
NEARBY.

NIEPRIK

GALATEA FUTURE
IS UGLY!



DOCTOR,
THIS IS THE
U.N.T.I.L.*
EXPERT I WAS
TELLING YOU
ABOUT.

(* UNITED NATIONS TRIBUNAL
ON INTERNATIONAL LAW, THE
WORLD'S HIGHEST SUPER-
HERO AUTHORITY.)



I'M A PRETTY
BUSY MAN,
AGENT...?

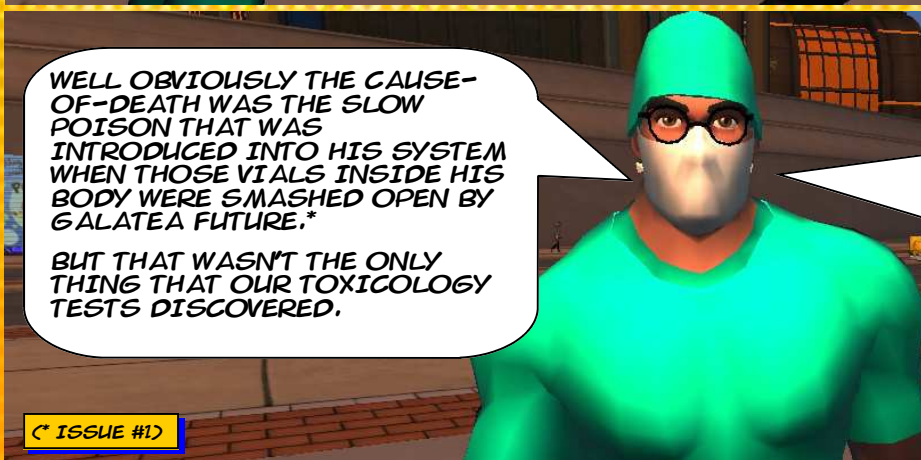
RONIN OMEGA.

I'M NOT AN AGENT... I'M JUST A
CONSULTANT WITH U.N.T.I.L.
WORKING WITH MAJOR CROSS.

I'M TOLD THAT YOU'RE
PERFORMING THE AUTOPSY
ON TONY ATWELL, AKA
"FORECLOSURE", AND I
WAS WONDERING IF YOU
COULD TELL ME WHAT YOU
FOUND SO FAR.



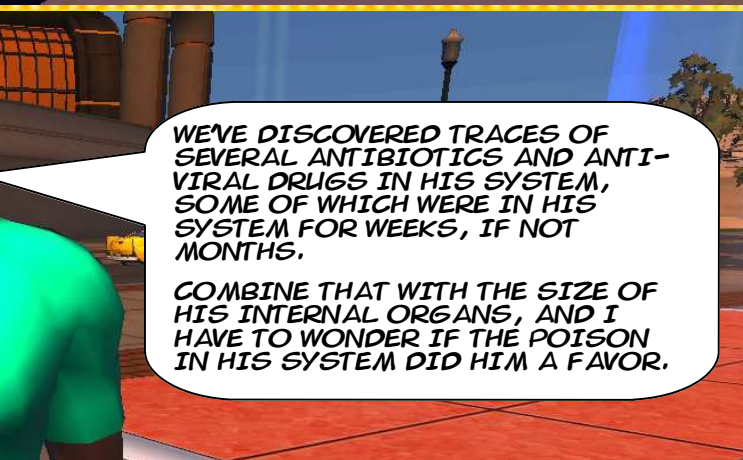
RONIN OMEGA
Cosmic traveler



WELL OBVIOUSLY THE CAUSE-
OF-DEATH WAS THE SLOW
POISON THAT WAS
INTRODUCED INTO HIS SYSTEM
WHEN THOSE VIALS INSIDE HIS
BODY WERE SMASHED OPEN BY
GALATEA FUTURE.*

BUT THAT WASN'T THE ONLY
THING THAT OUR TOXICOLOGY
TESTS DISCOVERED.

(* ISSUE #1)



WE'VE DISCOVERED TRACES OF
SEVERAL ANTIBIOTICS AND ANTI-
VIRAL DRUGS IN HIS SYSTEM,
SOME OF WHICH WERE IN HIS
SYSTEM FOR WEEKS, IF NOT
MONTHS.

COMBINE THAT WITH THE SIZE OF
HIS INTERNAL ORGANS, AND I
HAVE TO WONDER IF THE POISON
IN HIS SYSTEM DID HIM A FAVOR.



IT SOUNDS TO ME
LIKE FORECLOSURE
WAS DYING EVEN
BEFORE THE CITY
HALL ENCOUNTER.



DYING? MISTER
OMEGA, I'M
SURPRISED THIS
MAN WAS ALIVE
LONG ENOUGH TO
BE IN CITY HALL
THAT DAY.

WELL OF COURSE I FEEL SORRY ABOUT MY ROLE IN THIS UNFORGIVABLE MESS WITH GALATEA FUTURE'S OUTFIT. I WAS THE ONE THAT WORKED WITH HER REGARDING HER CHANGE*, AND WE BELIEVED THAT WE DID SO WITH THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF PROFESSIONALISM AS EXHIBITED AT ALL GREER & HARLICK ESTABLISHMENTS.

HOWEVER, SHOULD MS. FUTURE NOT BE SATISFIED, IN LIGHT OF THE SCATHING CRITICISM FROM ONE OF OUR HIGHLY-ESTEEMED COLLEAGUES, WE ARE PREPARED TO GIVE HER A FREE MAKEOVER.**

< ISSUE #1 ** ISSUE #2 >

8WCOC Ramirez Sanchez - Greer & Harlick Tailor Store

BACK AT THE PENTHOUSE...

AND... THERE IT IS...

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THAT I HAVE AN INTERACTIVE WEBSITE FOR THE BOOK SERIES!

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I'M OFF TRAVELLING.

WELL, THAT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO REALLY GET THE WORD OUT ABOUT YOUR BOOKS.

ERNIE CAME UP WITH THE DESIGN, AND THEN HIS COMPANY HANDLED THE MASS-PROMOTION THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA.

THERE ARE ACTUALLY TWO WEBSITES: ONE FOR THE BOOK SERIES... AND ONE IS FOR YOU.



CANDACE SINCLAIR
Attorney-At-Law

AND *WHEN* WERE YOU GOING TO TELL ME ABOUT THAT ONE?

WELL... ACTUALLY... THIS MORNING?

I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S AN **ACTIVE** WEBSITE ABOUT YOU; YOU KNOW, WHAT YOUR DAY-TO-DAY SCHEDULE IS LIKE.

IT'S JUST A STATIC SITE ABOUT WHO YOU ARE AND WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO WRITE, AND IT GIVES VISITORS A CHANCE TO LEAVE MESSAGES.



ATHENA ROSE FAIRMORE
(aka: Galatea Future)



ACTUALLY YOUR PUBLISHER INSISTED ON IT, MS. FAIRMORE, ESPECIALLY AFTER THE RUMORS STARTED COMING OUT ABOUT YOU BEING A SHUT-IN GUY.

WHICH I STILL HAD TO DEBLINK ON TV ANYWAY.*
NEXT TIME YOU DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS, YOU LET ME KNOW BEFOREHAND, OKAY?

(← BACK IN ISSUE #1)



AND THE SAME GOES TO YOU TOO, CANDACE.

UM... HEH-HEH... DULY NOTED.
ERNIE? WHY DON'T YOU GO AHEAD AND SHOW ATHENA WHAT YOU SHOWED ME EARLIER?



YES, MA'AM...

THIS STARTED APPEARING ON BOTH WEBSITES JUST BEFORE MIDNIGHT LAST NIGHT.

WHAT THE HELL?

ERNIE'S FILTERING PROGRAMS CAUGHT MOST OF THEM...



"... BUT A FEW OF THEM DID MANAGE TO SNEAK THROUGH.

AND EVEN THOUGH ERNIE DELETED THEM, ONCE IT REACHES THE INTERNET, THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS TRULY ERASING IT."

"WHAT YOU'RE SEEING, MA'AM, IS WHAT WE CALL A 'BOT SWARM'.

THOUSANDS OF BOT PROGRAMS POSTING THE SAME MESSAGE FROM DIFFERENT COMPUTERS OVER AND OVER AGAIN."

"BUT... THEY'RE ALL ABOUT GALATEA FUTURE!"

"RIGHT. THE BOT SWARM DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THE WEBSITE, MS. FAIRMORE.

ALL OF OUR CLIENT WEBSITES GOT THE SAME MESSAGES AROUND THE SAME TIME.

FINANCIAL, MEDICAL, YOU NAME IT, THESE BOTS ARE ALL OVER THEM."

OKAY, SO YOU'RE SAYING
"BOT PROGRAMS" ARE
BEHIND THIS... BUT
SOMEONE HAS TO BE
BEHIND ALL THOSE.
IS THERE ANY WAY TO
BLOCK THEM?

WITH ALL DUE
RESPECT,
MA'AM, THAT'S
NOT THE WAY
THAT THESE
THINGS WORK.

"THIS IS HOW A BOT
SYSTEM IS SET UP..."



"A SMALL PROGRAM
IS SLIPPED INTO
SOME MAINSTREAM
APPLICATION."

"IT THEN GETS
SHARED THROUGH
SOCIAL MEDIA
AND FRIENDS
SHARING FILES
WITH OTHER
FRIENDS."

"MOST PEOPLE DON'T
EVEN REALIZE THAT
THEY'VE GOT THE
PROGRAM ON THEIR
SYSTEMS."

SO THEY DON'T
EVEN KNOW THAT
THEY'RE THE
ONES SENDING
THE MESSAGES.

THERE ARE AGENCIES THAT
GET PAID TO USE BOTS TO
BEEF UP A SOCIAL MEDIA
SITE TO BE MORE POPULAR
THAN IT REALLY IS.

AND... I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT
WE USED IT TOO... TO HELP
PROMOTE THE FIRST BOOK.

IT'S PRETTY MUCH
COMMONPLACE,
MS. FAIRMORE.


I GET IT, ERNIE.
I WANT TO THANK
YOU BOTH FOR
BRINGING THIS TO
MY ATTENTION.
CAN YOU GIVE US A
FEW MINUTES TO
TALK PRIVATELY?

OF COURSE,
MS. FAIRMORE.
JUST CALL
BACK WHEN YOU
NEED ME. *BEEP*




WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I WANT TO KNOW WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT ME ON NITPIK.



"GALATEA IS FAT."
"GALATEA FUTURE SMELLS."
"GALATEA FUTURE IS A..."
DO... DO THEY **REALLY** THINK THAT I SLEEP AROUND JUST BECAUSE I HAVE BIG BREASTS?
AND WHAT DOES EIGHT-ZERO-ZERO-EIGHT MEAN?

UM... "BOOBS".
THAT'S THE DIGITAL SUBSTITUTE.



"BOOBS"?

THEY **REALLY** HAVE TO BEHAVE LIKE A BUNCH OF TWELVE-YEAR-OLDS ONLINE?

"THEY" AREN'T THE ONES POSTING THE MESSAGES.
IT'S WHOEVER IS CONTROLLING THE BOTS ON THEIR COMPUTERS AND CELLPHONES THAT ARE DOING THAT.



WELL THIS IS ONE JUNIOR HIGH GAME THAT I'M GOING TO PUT TO AN END.

YOU SAY THERE ARE WHOLE AGENCIES THAT EMPLOY THESE TACTICS?

WELL, I CERTAINLY KNOW **ONE** AGENCY THAT HAS A SPECIFIC GRUDGE AGAINST ME!

"PROJECT MYCROFT, MAJOR?"

I TAKE IT YOU'VE HEARD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES.

I'VE HEARD OF THE CHARACTER FROM SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S BOOKS.
A BRILLIANT BUT SMUG DETECTIVE.

MAJOR XAVIER CROSS
U.N.T.I.L. Senior Agent

MYCROFT HOLMES WAS SHERLOCK'S OLDER BROTHER. HE HAD THE SAME KIND OF FINELY-DETAILED MIND, BUT TO THE POINT TO WHERE HE WAS OFTEN ABSENT-MINDED ABOUT OTHER THINGS...

...LIKE REMEMBERING TO WEAR CLOTHES.

BUT WHAT MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW IS THAT MYCROFT HOLMES WAS REAL, AND HE DID HELP SOLVE CRIMES. BUT COULDN'T TAKE THE CREDIT FOR THEM BECAUSE OF HIS CONNECTION TO THE ROYAL FAMILY... AND HIS LITTLE EMBARRASMENTS.

SO HE COMMISSIONED DOYLE TO INVENT A YOUNGER BROTHER THAT COULD SOLVE THE MYSTERIES IN HIS PLACE.

THE PURPOSE OF PROJECT MYCROFT IS TO COLLECT INFORMATION, MUCH LIKE MYCROFT HOLMES DID IN VICTORIAN ENGLAND.

WE'LL DESIGNATE THE SUBJECTS AND THEN COLLECT INFORMATION ABOUT THEM.

"KNOWLEDGE IS POWER".

SO I GUESS MY FIRST QUESTION IS... TO WHAT END?

I'M GUESSING THIS INVOLVES GALATEA FUTURE AND MARKMAN GOLD AND HIS AGENCY, BUT WHAT IS THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE OF COLLECTING ALL OF THIS INFORMATION?

THAT, I'M AFRAID, IS SOMETHING THAT I HAVE TO KEEP TO MYSELF AND DIRECTOR JONES FOR THE TIME BEING.

YOU'RE RIGHT; KNOWLEDGE IS POWER, AND IF THE WRONG PEOPLE KNEW WHY PROJECT MYCROFT EXISTS, THEN THEY'D BE WORKING TO SHUT IT DOWN.

ONCE WE GET FURTHER IN, YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.

SO I TAKE IT THAT I'M NOW A PART OF THIS PROJECT.



IF YOU WISH TO CONTINUE TO USE U.N.T.I.L. CREDENTIALS, THEN, YES, YOU ARE NOW A PART OF PROJECT MYCROFT.

AGAIN, OUR PRIMARY ROLE WILL BE INTELLIGENCE, BUT I CAN'T GUARANTEE THAT YOU WON'T HAVE TO GET INVOLVED WITH SOME ACTION.

U.N.T.I.L. HAS A WHOLE SERVER RACK DEDICATED JUST FOR PROJECT MYCROFT; SEARCHING FOR AND COLLECTING DATA ON EVERYTHING WE TELL IT TO LOOK--

*PING!



SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...

IT APPEARS THE SERVERS FOUND SOMETHING NEW CONCERNING GALATEA FUTURE.



THAT SOUNDS RATHER OMINOUS, MAJOR.

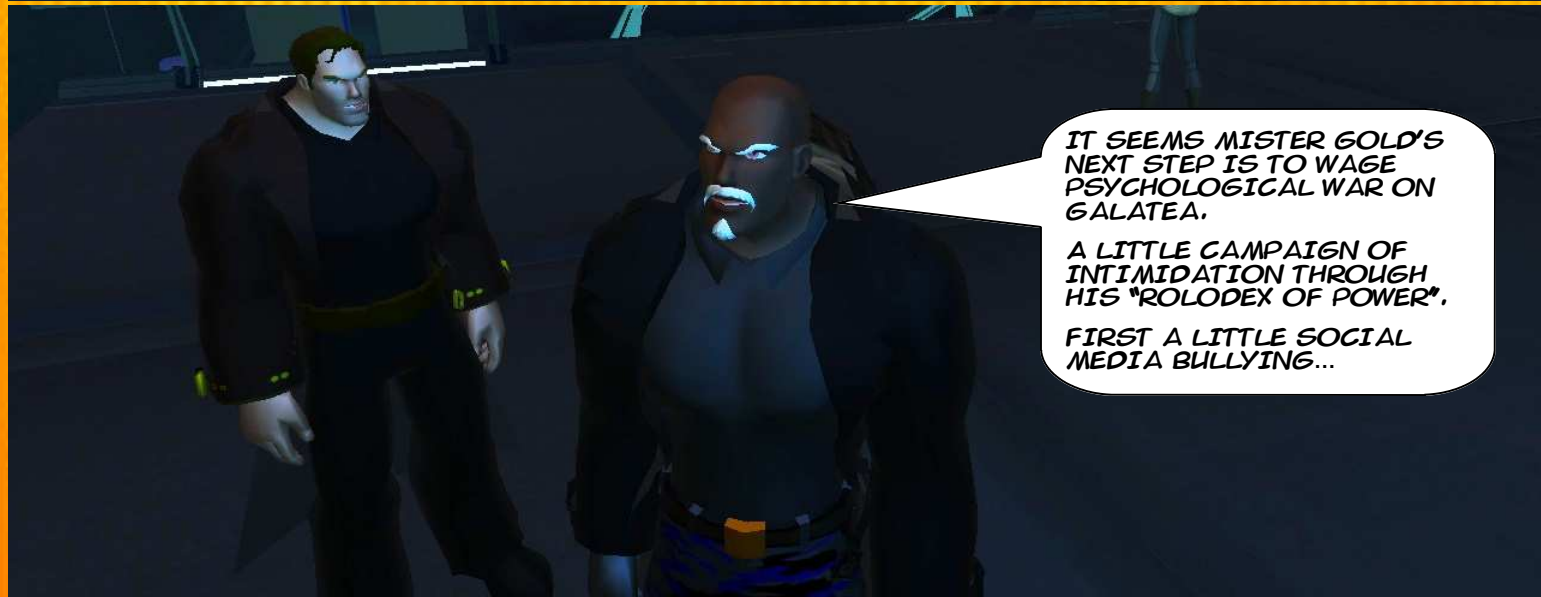


IT'S REALLY NOTHING MORE THAN A SEARCH ENGINE THAT LOOKS FOR DATA.

IN THIS CASE, IT FOUND SOME NEW INFORMATION THAT WAS FLAGGED WITH GALATEA'S NAME.

UH OH...

WHAT IS IT?



IT SEEMS MISTER GOLD'S NEXT STEP IS TO WAGE PSYCHOLOGICAL WAR ON GALATEA.

A LITTLE CAMPAIGN OF INTIMIDATION THROUGH HIS "ROLODEX OF POWER".

FIRST A LITTLE SOCIAL MEDIA BULLYING...

"... AND THEN...
ESCALATION."

BOT SWARM?

YEAH, UNFORTUNATELY I'VE
HEARD ABOUT IT.

IT HAPPENS HERE IN
MILLENNIUM CITY A LOT,
ESPECIALLY HERE WITH THE
NEWER HEROES.

AND I'M NOT SURPRISED
THAT IT'S BEING DONE TO
YOU AFTER WHAT WCOC
BROADCAST THE OTHER DAY.*

(* LAST ISSUE)

OFF-THE-
RECORD, I DON'T
THINK IT WAS
EMILIO VON
FRERE'S PLACE
TO SINGLE OUT
YOUR OUTFIT
LIKE HE DID.

JULIE MORGAN
WCOC Reporter

BUT YOU
CAN'T SAY
THAT ON
THE AIR.

I REALLY
WISH I
COULD...
BUT MY
BOSSSES
SAY THAT I
CAN'T.

I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON,
AND I THINK IT'S WRONG.
SOMEONE'S TRYING TO PUT
PRESSURE ON YOU, AND
THEY'RE USING THEIR
"FRIENDS" TO DO IT.
AND UNFORTUNATELY THE
STUDIO HAS A "HANDS-
OFF" POLICY WHEN IT
COMES TO THESE THINGS.

YOU HEROES HAVE TO PUT UP
WITH A LOT IN AND OF ITSELF,
BETWEEN VILLAINS AND THE
OCCASIONAL DISASTER AND
THE INVADING ARMIES, AND
YOU DON'T DESERVE TO HAVE
SOME PETTY LITTLE MINDS--

GASP!

IS THAT **THE** JULIE
MORGAN?!?
SHOCKERS! BE STILL
MY LITTLE HEART!

NNHHH...

AND SPEAKING
OF WHICH...



LISTEN, WHATEVER YOU DO, DONT ANTAGONIZE HIM, OKAY?

HI JULIE!
HIIIIII!

THOUGHT NEVER
CROSSED MY
MIND.



HEY EVERYONE!
IT'S ME, THE
VEE-TO-THE-
PEE, VOX
POPULII!



HE'S AN
INTERNET
GOSSIP
WRITER.

HEY LOOK
WHO I'M
WITH!



NITPIK'S NUMBER ONE
TREND-SETTER IS HERE
IN REN-CEN WITH JULIE
MORGAN...
AND IT LOOKS LIKE
SHE'S PUTTING THAT
SK@NKY GALATEA FUTURE
IN HER PLACE!

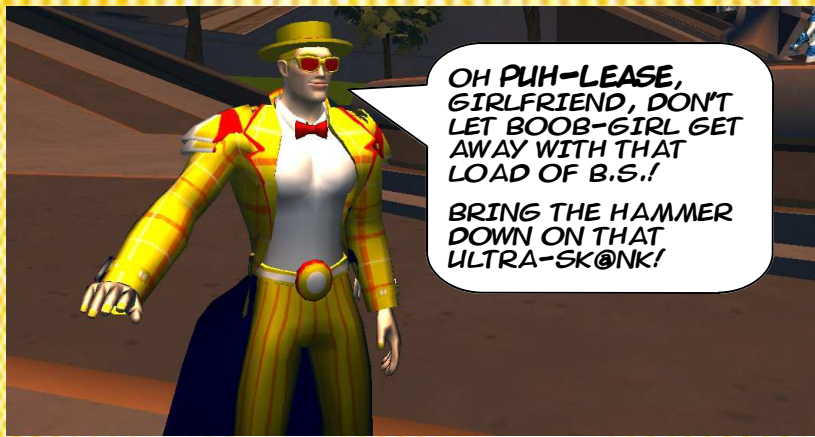
I CAN SEE IT NOW...
SPAMMING NET-WIDE!
"GALATEA FUTURE BOOB-
BLOCKED BY REPORTER!"



JUST FOR THE
RECORD, YOU AND--

--I ONLY MET MR.
HARMON ONCE
DURING A CRISIS.
ALL-BUSINESS.*

(* NOT ENTIRELY TRUE AS JAMES HARMON IV IS REALLY DEFENDER)







OPINIONS VARY.



YOU DON'T GET IT,
DO YOU BEOTCH?

MY OPINION IS
THE ONLY ONE
THAT MATTERS
HERE!



IF I SAY YOU'RE A SK@NKY
BROKE-@SS BEOTCH, THEN YOU'RE
A SK@NKY BROKE-@SS BEOTCH!

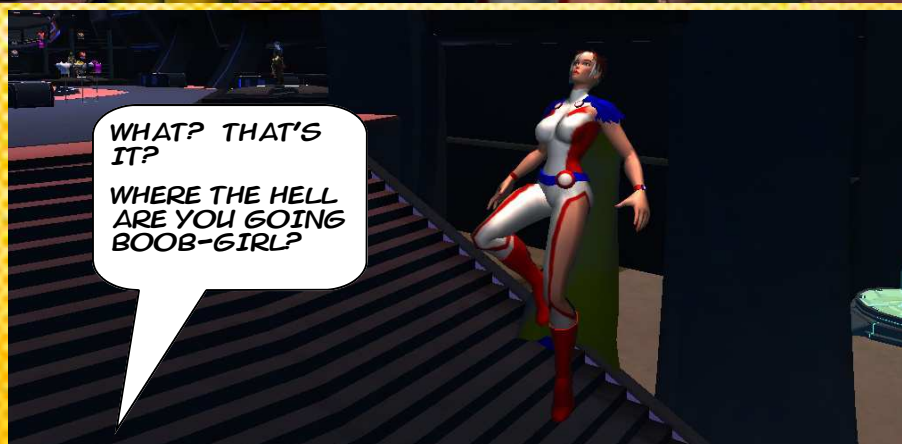
I SAY IT AND **MILLIONS** AGREE
WITH ME!

AND IF I SAY YOUR TIME IS DONE
HERE IN MILLENNIUM CITY, THEN
YOUR TIME HERE IS DONE!

YOU GET ME, BEOTCH?



THANK YOU FOR
YOUR OPINION.



WHAT? THAT'S
IT?

WHERE THE HELL
ARE YOU GOING
BOOB-GIRL?



THIS AIN'T OVER.
YOU HEAR ME
BOOB-GIRL?

YOU CAN'T RUN
FROM VOX POPULII!
I AM EVERYWHERE
NITPIK GOES!

GO CRY TO YOUR RICH
BILLIONAIRE SUGAR
DADDY, YOU HO!



WELL SHE'S NOT GOING TO GET OFF THAT EASILY...

NITPIK: CAME ACROSS GALATEA FUTURE. SK@NK STUNK!

NITPIK: GALATEA FUTURE TRIED TO INTIMIDATE ME. WEAK!



NITPIK: GF RAN OFF TO MEET WITH BOYFRIEND.

EXCUSE ME...



YOU DO REALIZE THAT YOU'RE TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT WITH SOMEONE THAT COULD BREAK YOU IN TWO JUST BY SNEEZING ON YOU, RIGHT?

STARLETT

Sword-wielding Vigilante



I MEAN, IF YOU'RE SO EAGER TO GET YOUR @SS KICKED, I'LL HAPPILY DO THAT TO YOU IN HER PLACE.



PUH-LEASE, GIRL!

I AM NOT HERE TO BE ANYONE'S PUNCHING BAG!

I HAVE A JOB TO DO JUST LIKE YOU...

AND MAYBE YOU SHOULD JUST WORRY ABOUT DOING YOURS.



BUT THANK YOU, HONEY, YOU JUST GAVE ME A WHOLE BUNCH OF NITPIK POSTS TO DISH OUT IN HER NAME!

'THE CRUCIBLE'



WHAT LITTLE GIRLS ARE MADE OF...

[HTTP://WWW.COXCOMICS.COM](http://www.CoxComics.com)

"SORRY?"



Stop us if you've heard this before...

Hero versus Villain. Villain uses giant cranes as weapons against hero. Hero disarms villain and sends villain to jail. The day is saved.

But it's not that simple, is it? It never is once the dust settles.

That building that the cranes landed on was someone's workplace. Those jobs are probably gone. And what about the people inside the building when the cranes came crashing through? Did they make it out okay?

The damage will block area roads for weeks, impeding the daily commute of other workers. People will have to spend more time getting to and from work just to get around the destruction caused by this battle.

And what about the company that owned those cranes?

What is the hero to say to those people whose businesses and jobs are lost? What about the people who were maimed or killed by the destruction? Will saying "sorry" fix everything?

That's where we come in.

Millennium Insurance

Because just saying "Sorry" is never enough.

Millennium Insurance is a fictional business in the world of Champions Online. Any resemblance to real-world businesses is purely coincidental.

NEARBY...

IT'S JUST SO...
FRUSTRATING!

I MEAN, THERE'S A LOT
THAT I WANT TO DO TO
HELP HER AND I CAN'T!

I...

I SHARE IN YOUR
SENSE OF...
FRUSTRATION.



AGENT SIDESTEP
Omniverse Operative

YEAH, BUT CAN'T YOU
DO SOMETHING TO
HELP?

YOU HAVE ALL OF
THOSE ADVANCED
TECHNOLOGICAL
DEVICES... AND IT'S
NOT LIKE YOU HAVEN'T
HELPED HER BEFORE!

I MEAN, YOU SENT
HER TO MEET WITH ME!

I WISH I COULD HELP.

AND, YES, I HAVE
HELPED HER OUT ON
PRIOR OCCASIONS*,
BUT NOT WITHOUT
REPERCUSSIONS BY
MY SUPERIORS.

(* AS SHOWN IN "THE LOST
ADVENTURES OF GALATEA
FUTURE #3 & 4")

MY PURPOSE HERE
HAS ALWAYS BEEN
AS AN OBSERVER.

TO WATCH EVENTS
AND NOT BE A
PART OF THEM.

I HAD BEEN THROUGH
SEVEN ASSIGNMENTS
IN OTHER REALITIES
BEFORE THIS ONE.

BUT THIS IS THE
FIRST ONE WHERE I
AM EXPECTED TO BE
HERE FOR A LONG-
TERM OBSERVATION...
TO ACCLIMATE TO THE
NATIVE INHABITANTS.
TO... TO GET...

-- TO GET TO
KNOW THEM?
MAYBE EVEN
HAVE... **FEELINGS**
FOR THEM?

... YES.

AND I FEAR
THAT THE NEXT
INTERACTION I
MAKE COULD
RESULT IN MY
RECALL.

AND I... WOULD
RATHER NOT
RISK THAT.

WILL WONDERS NEVER CEASE?
YOU MUST BE PSYCHIC
BECAUSE I WAS ABOUT TO TRY
TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO
CONTACT YOU, AND HERE YOU
ARE CALLING **ME!**

YOU CAN SAVE THE ACT,
GOLD.
YOU KNEW I'D BE CALLING
YOU OVER THIS MEDIA
CAMPAIGN OF YOURS.

MARKMAN GOLD
"Agent to the Super-Legends"

I'M AFRAID I
DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU ARE
TALKING ABOUT.

PLEASE! LIKE I'M
SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE
THAT YOU'RE NOT BEHIND
THE SOCIAL MEDIA
CAMPAIGN OUT TO
SMEAR ME?

NITPIK? OVALINKS?
MYLISTS? VOX POPULII?

I'M AFRAID I'M GOING TO HAVE TO
PLEAD IGNORANCE TO ALL OF THAT,
MS. FUTURE.

I DO KNOW THAT SOME SPIRITED
INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN DEMAING
YOUR NAME ONLINE, BUT I CAN
ASSURE YOU THAT **NOBODY** INSIDE
MY AGENCY IS BEHIND IT.


AND I'M SUPPOSED
TO JUST **BELIEVE** YOU
WHEN YOU SAY THAT
YOU'RE INNOCENT?

OBTAININGLY NOT, GIVEN OUR
HISTORY...

HOWEVER, I AM WILLING TO
OFFER YOU SOME MODICUM
OF PROTECTION THROUGH OUR
AGENCY.

YOU WON'T HAVE TO SIGN A
CONTRACT WITH US, AND YOU
CAN RETAIN US AS A VERY
LIMITED CONSULTING GROUP.

THINK ABOUT IT... FOR JUST
A MODEST FEE AND FOR A
LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME,
MY TEAM OF ATTORNEYS
WILL GO AFTER THE
PERPETRATORS DEMAING
YOU ONLINE




AT THE EXPENSE OF MY OWN ATTORNEY, WHO MANAGED TO BEST YOUR TEAM OF LAWYERS NOT TOO LONG AGO.*

AND I'M SURE IF I SAID "YES" THAT THOSE "SPIRITED INDIVIDUALS" WOULD JUST "MAGICALLY" GO AWAY.

HA-HA-HA! I WISH IT WERE THAT SIMPLE, MS. FUTURE!

BUT OBVIOUSLY WE HAVE THE RESOURCES THAT MISS SINCLAIR WOULD NOT TO FIND THESE PEOPLE AND SERVE THEM WITH COURT PAPERS.

(* ISSUE #1)



DON'T GET ME WRONG, WE HAVE THE **LIT** MOST RESPECT FOR MISS SINCLAIR IN HER **SINGLE** LEGAL VICTORY.



I'M SURE YOU DO, MISTER GOLD.

BUT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE A PASS ON YOUR GENEROUS OFFER.



ARE YOU CERTAIN YOU WANT TO DO THAT?

I MEAN, IT'S ONLY GOING TO GET WORSE FOR YOU. I'VE SEEN HOW THESE THINGS WORK. THESE PEOPLE WILL NOT STOP.

WE'VE GOT IT COVERED.
GOOD-BYE.



JUST LIKE YOU EXPECTED.
NOW WHAT?



NOW IT'S OUR TURN TO USE A LITTLE SOCIAL MEDIA ENGINEERING.

NOT LONG AFTER...

YOUR CALL,
GLORIA.

OKAY, ARE
WE READY?
THREE-TWO-
ONE...

GLORIA ROOT
WCOC Reporter

I'M HERE IN THE
RENAISSANCE
CENTER WITH AN
UPDATE ON A
STORY WE COVERED
YESTERDAY
CONCERNING
FAMED DESIGNER
EMILIO VON FRERE.

8WCOC Gloria Root - Entertainment Reporter

VIEWERS MAY RECALL THAT
VON FRERE ISSUED TWO
CRITICISMS OF RECENT
FASHION TRENDS, WITH ONE
OF THEM SPECIFICALLY
DIRECTED AT GALATEA
FUTURE'S NEW OUTFIT.

MISTER VON FRERE'S
OFFICE IS NOW SAYING
THAT THE CRITICISM OF MS.
FUTURE'S OUTFIT DID NOT
COME FROM VON FRERE
HIMSELF, BUT RATHER FROM
AN ASSISTANT--

EXCUSE ME!/?
HELLOOOOP!/?

8WCOC Gloria Root - Von Frere Appologies For Critique


HI GLORIA!
I'M HERE!
REMEMBER ME?

EXCUSE ME?

WE'RE TRYING TO
RECORD A NEWS
SEGMENT HERE.

YES, I KNOW, BUT
I HAVE A BETTER
NEWS STORY FOR
YOU TO COVER.

LISTEN, YOU DON'T NEED TO
BE DOING A STORY ABOUT
SOME BROKE-@SS BEATCH
LIKE GALATEA FUTURE, 'KAY?
SHE'S NOT NEWSWORTHY!
THE INTERNET WIPED THEIR
BITTS WITH HER AND SHE'S
DONE IN THIS CITY, YOU GET
WHAT I'M SAYING?



SIR, YOU'RE ENTITLED TO YOUR OPINION, BUT THAT DOESN'T ENTITLE YOU TO TELL ME HOW TO DO MY JOB. I HAVE AN ASSIGNMENT TO DO AND I'M DOING IT. AND WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU KEEP YOUR OPINIONS TO YOURSELF SO I CAN **DO** MY JOB!

CHA!

OH YOU **DID NOT** JUST SAY THAT!




BURT, YOU BETTER CALL 9-1-1 AND GET SOME OFFICERS HEADED HERE.



YOU JUST DON'T SEEM TO GET IT, DO YOU?

YOUR JOB IS TO REPORT ON WHAT IS HIP AND HOT AND HAPPENING IN THE WORLD.

AND THAT, HONEY, IS **ME!**



WHATEVER IT IS THAT I POST ON NITPIK... **BAM!** SIX-POINT-THREE **MILLION** PEOPLE WILL INSTANTLY "OKAY" IT AND THEN RE-POST IT ALL AROUND THE WORLD.

I CAN TALK ABOUT ANYTHING IN THE WORLD... ANYTHING... AND IT WILL BE "OKAYED" AND RE-POSTED BY SIX-POINT-THREE MILLION!



THAT'S NICE, BUT CAN YOU JUST--

I CAN TALK ABOUT ANYTHING, HONEY. I CAN TALK ABOUT HOW THAT OUTFIT MAKES YOU LOOK **FAT** AND SIX-POINT-THREE **MILLION** WILL AGREE THAT IT IS.

I HAVE MADE AND BROKEN CAREERS BY WHAT I SAY ON NITPIK!

IF I SAY THAT YOUR STORY IS NOT WORTH WATCHING, THEN SIX-POINT-THREE **MILLION** PEOPLE WILL SAY THE SAME THING...

AND THEN YOU'LL BE OUT OF A JOB BEFORE THE SIX-O-CLOCK NEWS.






OH YOU'D BE SURPRISED TO KNOW
WHAT THE FOLKS AT U.N.T.I.L.
MANAGED TO FIND ABOUT YOU,
WILFRED.

AND IT'S ALL OUT THERE ON THE
INTERNET, IF YOU JUST KNOW
WHERE TO LOOK.


I KNOW, FOR INSTANCE,
THAT YOUR NAME IS
WILFRED DOUGLAS, AND
THAT YOU WERE A HUMBLE
PROGRAMMER UNTIL ABOUT
FOUR YEARS AGO.




I'M GUESSING YOU WERE
BULLIED WHEN YOU WERE
YOUNGER... SHORT, SKINNY,
SOMEWHAT EFFEMINATE,
WITH A FIRST NAME THAT
MATCHES.

EASY TARGET FOR YOUNG
BULLIES.

THEN YOU FOUND OUT
HOW TO SPREAD A
BOT-GENERATING
VIRUS... OR MAYBE YOU
JUST FOUND THE BOT
NETWORK AND CAME UP
WITH A WAY TO OWN IT.



YOU... YOU DON'T KNOW ME!
SO WHAT IF I WAS BULLIED?
THAT DOESN'T MATTER!
YEAH, I OWN ALL THOSE BOTS!
I MAY NOT HAVE CREATED THE
NETWORK, BUT I MADE IT *MINE*
AND I MADE IT WORK FOR *ME*!



IN FACT I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU
JUST HOW MUCH POWER I HAVE NOW!
NITPIK: WCOC SK@NK GLORIA ROOT
LOOKING LIKE HIGHWAY WORKER.

•BEEP!•
MESSAGE NOT SENT.

WHAT?!

NITPIK: WCOC SK@NK
GLORIA ROOT LOOKS
UGLY!

BEEP!

MESSAGE NOT SENT.

NITPIK: U.N.T.I.L.
TRYING TO CENSOR
ME FROM SPEAKING
THE TRUTH!

BEEP!

MESSAGE NOT SENT.

**WHAT THE HELL
HAVE YOU DONE
TO ME?!**
**WHY CAN'T I SEND
MESSAGES?!**

OH DON'T BLAME
U.N.T.I.L. FOR THAT.
THAT'S ACTUALLY
NITPIK'S
ADMINISTRATORS
CANCELLING YOUR
ACCOUNTS.
ALL OF THEM.

ONCE YOU STARTED
BOASTING THAT YOU
OWN SIX-POINT-
THREE MILLION BOTS,
YOU VIOLATED
NITPIK'S TERMS OF
SERVICE REGARDING
THEIR MESSAGE
SYSTEM.

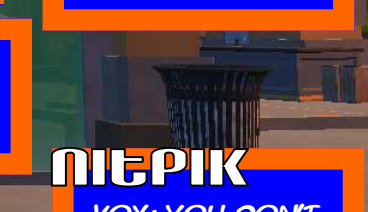
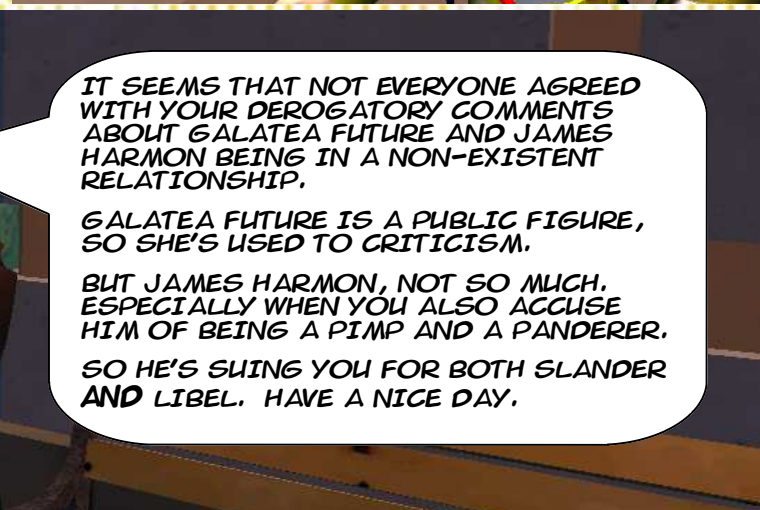
**YOU... YOU CAN'T
DO THAT TO ME!
I'LL SUE YOU ALL!**

NITPIK CAN'T SHUT ME DOWN!
I AM THE FACE OF NITPIK!
I AM ITS VOICE AND ITS WILL AND
ITS POWER!

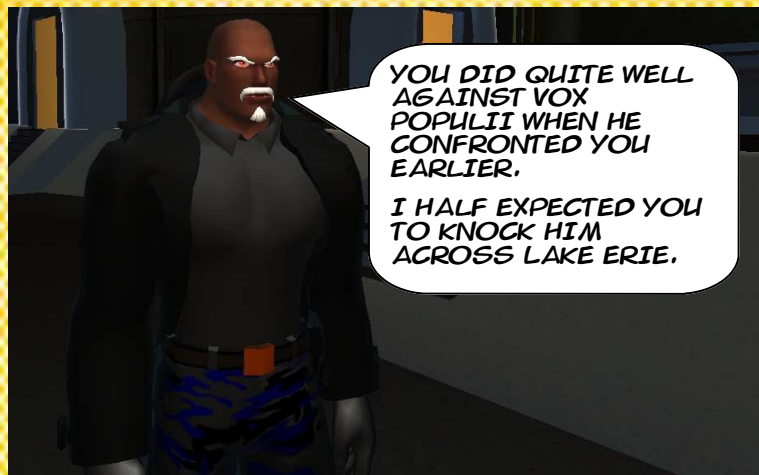
SIX-POINT-THREE MILLION PEOPLE
AGREEING WITH ME AND REPOSTING
WHATEVER I TELL THEM!

I AM WHAT IS HIP AND HOT AND
POPULAR IN THE ONLINE WORLD!

**ME! I'M THAT! I AM VOX POPULII
AND I OWN NITPIK!!**





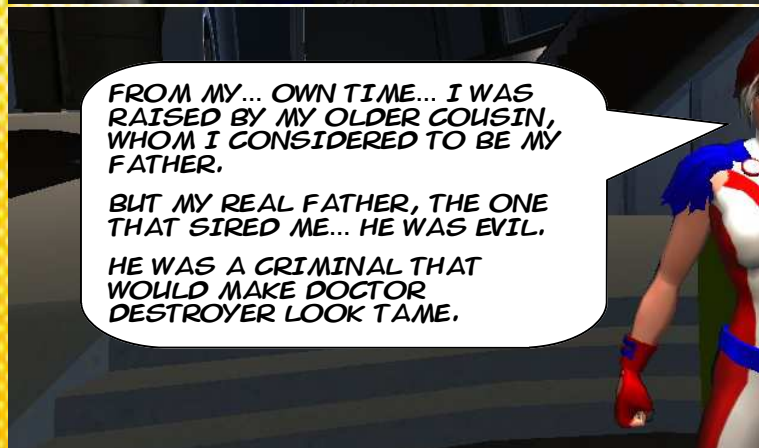


YOU DID QUITE WELL AGAINST VOX POPULII WHEN HE CONFRONTED YOU EARLIER.

I HALF EXPECTED YOU TO KNOCK HIM ACROSS LAKE ERIE.



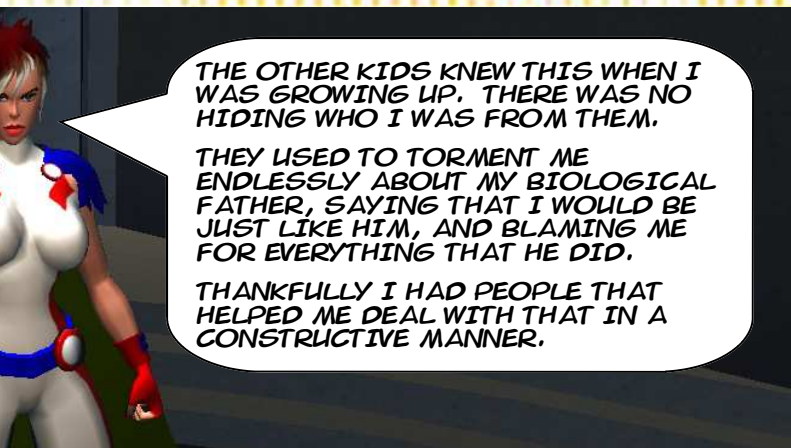
I WON'T DENY THAT THE THOUGHT CROSSED MY MIND... BUT THEN AGAIN, I REMEMBERED MY OWN CHILDHOOD AND WHAT HAPPENED TO ME.



FROM MY... OWN TIME... I WAS RAISED BY MY OLDER COUSIN, WHOM I CONSIDERED TO BE MY FATHER.

BUT MY REAL FATHER, THE ONE THAT SINED ME... HE WAS EVIL.

HE WAS A CRIMINAL THAT WOULD MAKE DOCTOR DESTROYER LOOK TAME.



THE OTHER KIDS KNEW THIS WHEN I WAS GROWING UP. THERE WAS NO HIDING WHO I WAS FROM THEM.

THEY USED TO TORTURE ME ENDLESSLY ABOUT MY BIOLOGICAL FATHER, SAYING THAT I WOULD BE JUST LIKE HIM, AND BLAMING ME FOR EVERYTHING THAT HE DID.

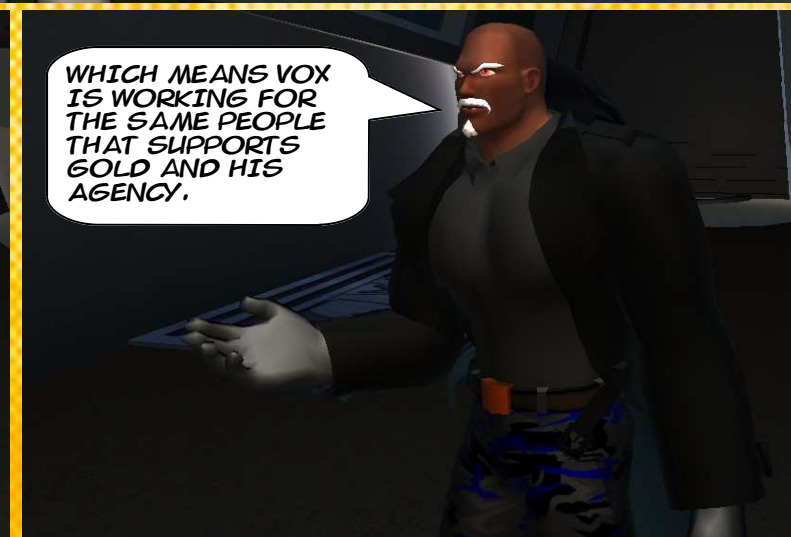
THANKFULLY I HAD PEOPLE THAT HELPED ME DEAL WITH THAT IN A CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER.



THAT'S GOOD, BECAUSE WE GOT LUCKY WITH VOX POPULII.

WE FIRST THOUGHT HE WAS ONE OF MARKMAN GOLD'S EMPLOYEES...

BUT IT TURNS OUT HE WAS OPERATING A WHOLE YEAR BEFORE GOLD CAME TO THIS COUNTRY!



WHICH MEANS VOX IS WORKING FOR THE SAME PEOPLE THAT SUPPORTS GOLD AND HIS AGENCY.



FOR THE TIME BEING, I'M ASKING THAT YOU KEEP THIS JUST BETWEEN US.

DON'T LET YOUR LAWYER FRIEND KNOW THAT THERE'S A GROUP BEHIND MARKMAN GOLD'S AGENCY.



I WON'T SAY ANYTHING FOR NOW, MAJOR, BUT I CAN'T GUARANTEE THAT SHE WON'T FIND THAT OUT HERSELF.

SHE'S PRETTY DETERMINED WHEN SHE PUT HER MIND TO THINGS.

MEANWHILE, JUST BELOW...

"WELL, FOR HER
SAKE, I HOPE SHE
DOESN'T START
INQUIRING."

"BECAUSE THE
PEOPLE BEHIND
GOLD AND VOX
POPULI ARE
VERY POWERFUL."

DEEP-DEEP
DEEP-DEEP

"AND IT'S A POWER
THAT WE ARE NOT
YET READY TO
CONFRONT."

THIS IS
MARKMAN
GOLD.

MISTER
GOLD...

I TRUST YOU WERE
ABLE TO REACH OUT
TO GALATEA FUTURE
AS YOU WERE
ASSIGNED TO.

I DID, MISTER VAN CLEEF...
I DID.

BUT... I'M SORRY; SHE
REJECTED MY OFFER.

I TRIED TO STRESS THE
IMPORTANCE OF THE DEAL,
BUT SHE REFUSED.

I'M SORRY THAT I LET YOU
DOWN, SIR. I PROMISE--

YOU'LL PROMISE NOTHING.

I'M SURE YOU'LL BE RELIEVED
TO KNOW THAT YOU DID NOT
FAIL US THIS TIME.

WE ANTICIPATED THAT MS.
FUTURE WOULD REJECT YOUR
OFFER, NO MATTER HOW WELL
YOU TRIED TO SELL IT.

I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND,
MISTER VAN CLEEF.

IF YOU KNEW THAT SHE
WOULD REJECT MY OFFER,
WHY HAVE ME MAKE IT IN
THE FIRST PLACE?

IT'S ABOUT GATHERING
INTELLIGENCE.

WE LEARN SOMETHING FROM
PEOPLE, EVEN THROUGH REJECTION.

IN THIS CASE, WE'VE LEARNED THAT
MS. FUTURE HAS SOME HELP THAT
GOES BEYOND HER ATTORNEY.

TO BREAK MS. FUTURE, WE NEED TO
BREAK HER TRUST IN HER FRIENDS.
YOU WILL BE CONTACTED WHEN TO
MAKE YOUR NEXT OFFER.

FAR FROM OVER...

GUARDIAN WORDS

Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.

BULLIES AND BULLYING

This issue is a very special one, dealing with a very special subject that has been in the news recently.

Bullying.

Growing up, I was the subject of bullying on a regular basis. Two different communities in two different states and by two different groups with one common target: me.

It's not easy having to grow up in that kind of environment, especially when you're in a Roman Catholic family and you are told that you have to "turn the other cheek". That was always my mother's solution: ignore them. Say nothing, do nothing, just take it. Unfortunately, to sociopathic kids, "turn the other cheek" translates into "thank you sir may I have another".

Then there was the option of fighting back. Of course once that happens then you become the villain. The bully cries that he or she was being "attacked". Sociopathic kids know how to manipulate the system so that they appear to be the innocent victim and you are blamed as being the aggressor.

Then there was the "official" option: reporting it. That only works when you have a system that recognizes bullying for what it is and is willing to stand by you. Two different communities in two different states all said the same thing: our hands are tied. You either have to endure it or you have to fight back, and in either case you don't win. The deck is always stacked against the victims.

Bullies find all sorts of ways to assert their superiority over others. Much like a street cartoonist drawing a caricature, any sort of difference on you is singled out and exaggerated. If that doesn't work, they try another tactic. Name-calling, fabricated rumors, psychological intimidation, pranks, destruction of property, and even physical assault are all standard tactics of bullies.

And it's not a "childhood phase" that people "grow out of" either. The bullying continues even as an adult, partially because it's seen as getting results. Adult bullies are credited as being "assertive", "aggressive", "go-getters", "Type 1 personalities", and "Alpha-Males". They are rewarded for their bullying ways.

Worse yet, victims of bullying can easily become bullies themselves, simply because they believe it is the only way they can avoid being further bullied.

Bullying kills. That is not an exaggeration. Young people have actually died or have committed suicide because of intense and prolonged bullying.

On March 2nd, 2013, a sixth-grade student by the name of Bailey O'Neill died after being in a medically-induced coma since that January, when he was viciously attacked by two bullies. Amanda Todd, a teenager in Vancouver, committed suicide after years of bullying even after transferring to numerous schools. 13-year old Erin Gallagher committed suicide in Ireland after vicious online bullying, and then later that same year her 15-year old sister Shannon took her own life.

What doesn't help is that we have movies and television shows that glamorize bullying. MTV has "Bully Beatdown", where victims of bullying get a professional mixed martial-arts fighter to fight their tormentors for a chance to win money. Oxygen has "Bad Girls Club", where admitted "bad

Continues on next page...

girls” live in a luxury house and spend time tormenting each other, often to destructive ends, including out-and-out fights. CBS’s “NCIS” has Anthony DiNozo, an arrogant and vain investigator who spends his time bullying his co-workers, even though it was revealed that he himself was once a victim of bullying. Then there are movies like “Swimming with Sharks”, “Mean Girls”, and “Bad Bosses” that not only highlight bullies, but even have the victims of bullying becoming bullies themselves.

The traditional way of dealing with bullies - either ignoring them, fighting back, or reporting them to the “system” - does not work. Too many people have died that should not have because of this. This is not a phase that will simply “go away”. It is systemic, and it must be addressed both as individuals and as a community.

In working on this issue, I reached out to Jennifer Hancock, a public speaker, mother, online columnist, and author of several books including her newest publication called “**The Bully Vaccine**”. In that book she shares her experiences with how to deal with bullies and the steps that need to be taken that will both prevent one from being bullied and also how to deal with someone already being bullied. Some of those insights helped to develop this issue.

You can purchase a copy of “The Bully Vaccine” through Amazon.com or Kindle, but the best way is through the official website, where you can not only purchase the book, but also help spread the word about what it offers. There are also numerous links to free online resources that you can turn to that deal with bullying, cyber-bullying, and suicide prevention. These are resources that I wish were around when I was a child.

The address for “The Bully Vaccine Project” is...

[HTTP://THEBULLYVACCINE.COM](http://THEBULLYVACCINE.COM)

Or you can visit the official website for Future’s Guardian...

[HTTP://BATTLE ROCK COMICS.WORDPRESS.COM](http://BATTLE ROCK COMICS.WORDPRESS.COM)

NEXT ISSUE...

**CHAMPIONS
ONLINE**



Starlett wanted to get someone’s attention...

But what she may not survive what happens when she gets the attention of a bounty hunter hired to kill Galatea Future.



Bullying is not a "phase".

For years, bullying has been seen as a "childish phase"; something that people will simply grow out of, and for victims to simply grin and bear.

But the truth is that bullying is systemic, and it reaches all the way to adulthood. Worse yet, many victims of bullying become bullies themselves.

Children need more than platitudes to deal with bullies. They need practical how-to advice without having to either continue being a victim or resort to being a bully in order to survive.

"The Bully Vaccine" by author and mother Jennifer Hancock is a practical way to not only "immunize" a child from bullying but also give them advice on how to deal with someone already bullying them.

In addition to the book, **"The Bully Vaccine Project"** website offers numerous resources to help deal with the issue of bullying.



Let's END bullying today!
Visit The Bully Vaccine Project
<http://TheBullyVaccine.com>