

THE GUARDIAN POWERS



ISSUE 05
2012



TEAM-UP IN KINGS ROW...

AND RETURN TO
OUROBOROS!



ONCE THEY REPRESENTED THE NEXT GENERATION OF SUPERHERO TEAMS... THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN! THEY BATTLED CRIME LORDS, CORRUPT GOVERNMENT AGENTS, AND EVEN GODS AND DEMIGODS. THEY MADE A DIFFERENCE WHEN MANY BELIEVED THEY WOULD NOT.

BUT WHILE THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN ARE NO MORE, SEVERAL OF THE HEROES REFUSE TO GIVE UP THE FIGHT TO MAKE THAT BRIGHTER FUTURE POSSIBLE. CONTINUING TO OPERATE COVERTLY AS A "GHOST GROUP", THEY ARE KNOWN COLLECTIVELY AS...

THE GUARDIAN POWERS



ALEX WENTWORTH - PARAGON CITY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

FORMERLY THE LIBERTARIAN AVENGER, THIS ONE-TIME "CELEBRITANT" BECAME THE WORST NIGHTMARE FOR CROOKED COPS AND ABUSIVE PROSECUTORS. NOW HE WORKS FROM WITHIN THE SYSTEM TO BRING IT IN LINE.

GALATEA POWERS - PARAGON CITY'S "TRUE GUARDIAN"

BORN FROM ANOTHER WORLD, GALATEA CAME TO THIS WORLD WITH NO KNOWLEDGE OF WHO SHE WAS. GIVEN A NEW LIFE AND A NEW NAME, SHE'S NOW ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR HEROES IN PARAGON CITY.



CAPTAIN PARAGONNA - PARAGON CITY'S SUPERHERO POLICEWOMAN

THE ORIGINAL FOUNDING MEMBER AND FORMER LEADER OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN, STEVIE WALKER-RODGERS CONTINUES THE FIGHT FOR LAW AND ORDER, AS WELL AS BRING THAT PROMISE OF A BRIGHT FUTURE.

LYON POWERS - WELSH SUPERHERO

THIRD-GENERATION SUPERHERO FROM ENGLAND, KATIE LEA POWERS IS QUICK TO DEFEND HER FAMILY'S HONOR AND REPUTATION, EVEN WHEN EXTENDING IT TO HER NEW "ADOPTED" SISTER, GALATEA POWERS.



ICON POWERS/KENT PODERES - TECHNICAL CONSULTANT

THE GREATEST HERO OF HIS EARTH, AND FOSTER FATHER OF GALATEA, KENT SACRIFICED EVERYTHING, INCLUDING HIS COUSIN'S TRUST. NOW HE HAS LOST MUCH OF HIS POWERS AND SEEKS TO REBUILD THE TRUST OF HIS TEAMMATES.

"CHOICE ENCOUNTERS"

- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2

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PARAGON CITY, RHODE ISLAND

KINGS ROW

NORMALLY
NOBODY ROBS
THE BANK IN
KINGS ROW.

REASON #1: IT'S
PRACTICALLY
NEXT TO POLICE
HEADQUARTERS.

REASON #2: THE AREA
IS PROTECTED BY
SUPERHEROES.

INCLUDING MYSELF...

THAT IS, IF I WASN'T
WORKING UNDERCOVER
TRYING TO BREAK UP
THE TEAM THAT HAS
BEEN ROBBING BANKS.*

A TEAM THAT HAS
BEEN RECRUITING
FROM THE RANKS OF
THE UNEMPLOYED
AND HOMELESS.

(* SEE LAST ISSUE)

 "RAVEN" AKA STEVIE WALKER-RODGERS
AKA CAPTAIN PARAGONNA

THEY WASTED NO TIME
TAKING OUT THE GUARDS.

AND THEY HAVE FULL
ACCESS TO THE VAULT.

THESE AREN'T ALL
AMATEURS EITHER.

SOME OF THE CREW
HAVE MILITARY
EXPERIENCE,
ESPECIALLY THE
TEAM LEADER.

YOU CAN'T JUST BUY A
VANGUARD REDDING RIFLE
ON THE STREETS. THE BIO-
SIGNATURE SAFEGUARD
ALONE WOULD PREVENT MOST
PEOPLE FROM USING ONE.

I'M GUESSING HE'S A VANGUARD
RESERVIST, WHICH MEANS THAT
HE'S PROBABLY KILLED BEFORE!

THAT BRINGS ME BACK TO
MY FAVORITE QUESTION:
WHAT THE HELL AM I
DOING OUT HERE?

MOST OF THE
"AMATEURS" WERE
SENT OUT FRONT TO
KEEP WATCH IN CASE
THE POLICE OR A
HERO SHOWED UP.

LIKE LAMBS TO
THE SLAUGHTER,
DEPENDING ON
WHO SHOWS UP
FIRST.

SO... THIS IS IT?
WE'RE SUPPOSED
TO JUST... WAIT
HERE? FOR WHAT?

FOR WHATEVER.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW
WHY YOU'RE STILL
WITH US! I MEAN,
YOU DIDN'T EVEN
BOTHR TO GET THE
REST OF THE GEAR!

YOU'RE JUST LUCKY
THE BOSS DECIDED
TO RISK THIS JOB
WITH YOU. YOU DO
YOUR PART AND YOU
GET YOUR FEE, AND
YOU DON'T ASK
QUESTIONS!

YEAH, WELL THIS "JOB"
REMINDS ME SOMETHING
MY COUSIN ALMOST GOT
CAUGHT UP IN OVER IN
CLEVELAND... ONLY IT WAS
ACCEPTING PACKAGES
THAT TURNED OUT TO BE
BOUGHT BY STOLEN...

HEY, NEW GIRL, YOU
TRYING TO GET US
IN TROUBLE?

I GOT A MORTGAGE
THAT I HAVE TO PAY
THAT'S "UNDERWATER".
NO WAY AM I GOING
TO LET THE BANKS
TAKE MY HOUSE!
YOU MESS THIS JOB
UP, YOU ANSWER TO
ME, YOU GOT THAT?

WHATEVER... AT LEAST
YOU STILL HAVE A
HOUSE!
I'M GOING TO CHECK
THE CAMERAS. TRY NOT
TO GET YOUR SKI MASK
IN A BUNCH OVER IT.

I'M NOT REALLY
HOMELESS... THAT'S
JUST PART OF THE
COVER THAT WE SET
UP FOR "RAVEN".



I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM... SLIGHTLY.
BUT I STILL HAVE A JOB TO DO.

I'M NOT BEING AN ACCESSORY TO A BANK ROBBERY IF I CAN HELP IT.



RELAY CENTER:
LEAVE A MESSAGE.

IT'S RAVEN.
CODEWORD HAS BEEN GIVEN, BUT THE SCENE IS HOT.
BREACH WITH CAUTION, AGENT NOW IN PLAY.



ONE QUICK CHANGE LATER...

GOODBYE "RAVEN"...

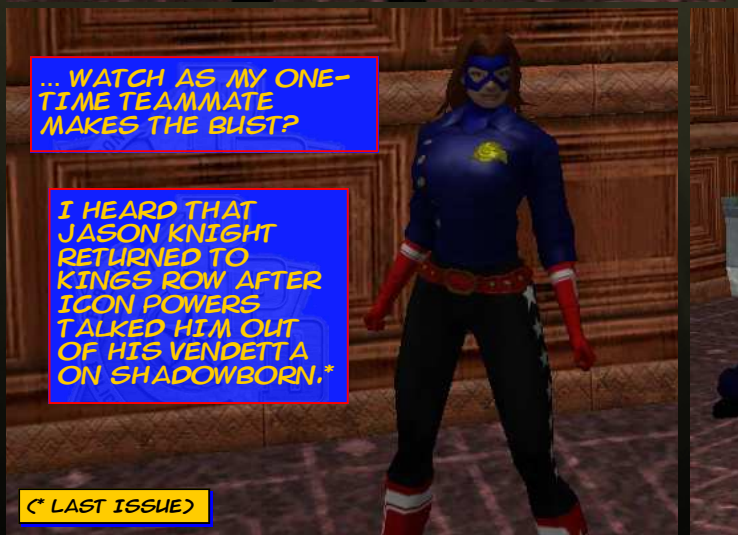
NOW I CAN...

 CAPTAIN PARAGONNA
SUPERHERO COP



DON'T JUST STAND THERE!
MOVE!

 MIDKNIGHT X
STREET VIGILANTE



... WATCH AS MY ONE-TIME TEAMMATE MAKES THE BUST?

I HEARD THAT JASON KNIGHT RETURNED TO KINGS ROW AFTER ICON POWERS TALKED HIM OUT OF HIS VENDETTA ON SHADOWBORN.*

(* LAST ISSUE)




BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO BE BACK IN ACTION SO QUICKLY!



HE DEFECTED THE FIRST SHOT WITH HIS GAUNTLET, AND NOW HE'S GENERATING PURE FEAR INTO MY "ASSOCIATE".

NO... NO... DON'T...
I HAVE A FAMILY, MAN...
DON'T DO THIS!!

HE WON'T KILL MISTER "UNDERWATER MORTGAGE", BUT THE GUY WILL NEED SOME SERIOUS THERAPY WHEN HE WAKES UP.

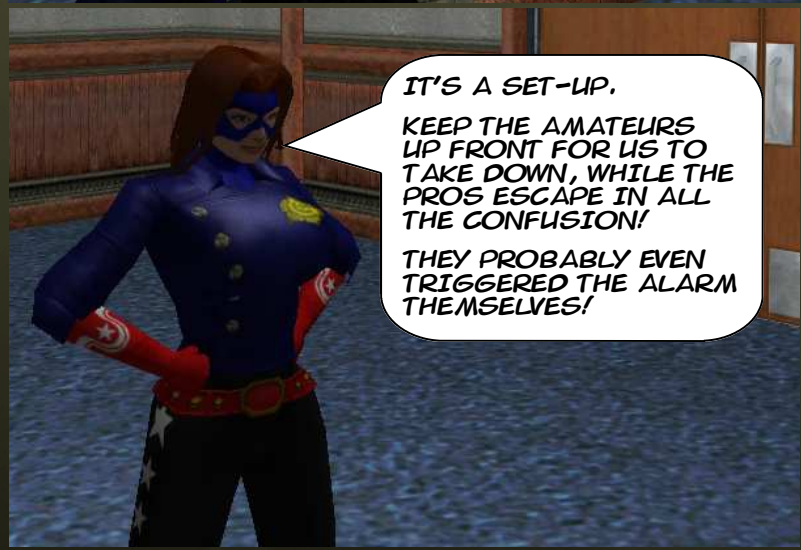


YOUR *TEAM* IS SLOPPY.
BANK ALARM WAS TRIPPED FIVE MINUTES AGO, AND THE POLICE AREN'T EVEN MOBILIZING.




I CALLED IT IN AS YOU GOT HERE. THEY...
WAIT.. YOU SAID THE BANK ALARM WAS TRIPPED? I DIDN'T DO THAT! I W... I SAW THAT THE ALARM LINES WERE CUT!


OKAY, *RAVEN* CUT THEM, BUT I WASN'T GOING TO LET HIM KNOW THAT I'M HER.



IT'S A SET-UP.
KEEP THE AMATEURS UP FRONT FOR US TO TAKE DOWN, WHILE THE PROS ESCAPE IN ALL THE CONFUSION!
THEY PROBABLY EVEN TRIGGERED THE ALARM THEMSELVES!



MM.. POSSIBLE, ESPECIALLY WHEN WORKING WITH AMATEURS.



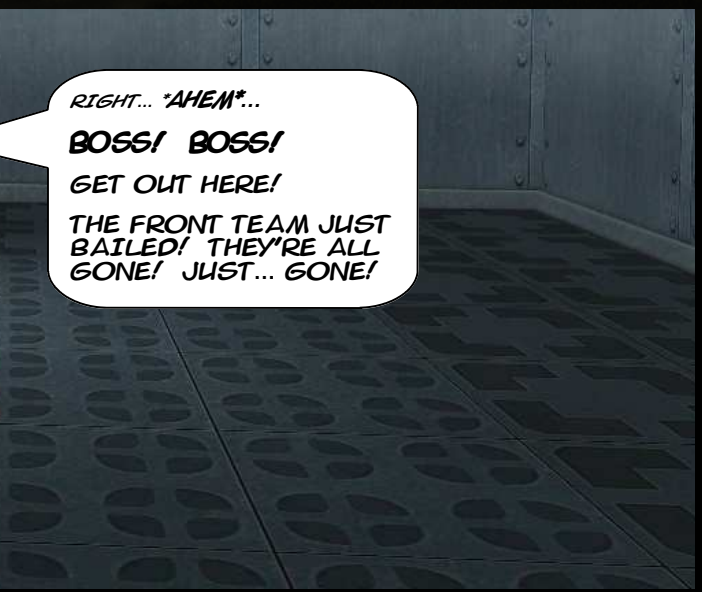
WELL THEN LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN DO TO MAKE THIS *TOO BIG TO FAIL* OPERATION COME APART ON THEM.



OH... AND WELCOME BACK.



GET THEIR LEADER OUT HERE FIRST.



RIGHT... *AHM*...
BOSS! BOSS!
GET OUT HERE!
THE FRONT TEAM JUST BAILED! THEY'RE ALL GONE! JUST... GONE!



WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU T...P!?

FIRST THING'S FIRST:
TAKE OUT THE ONES THAT
YOU KNOW ARE THREATS.



I LET JASON
DEAL WITH
THE REST OF
THE PROS.



THIS IS NOT SUPPOSED
TO BE PERSONAL.

BUT I COULDN'T HELP
BUT MAKE IT SUCH.



I THOUGHT OF THE PEOPLE
WHO GOT SUCKERED INTO
THESE ROBBERY JOBS.

THE STRUGGLING
FAMILIES THAT WOULD BE
WITHOUT A PARENT WHILE
PEOPLE LIKE HIM GET
AWAY IN THE CONFUSION.



YOU FINISHED?

Huh... huh...

NO.
NO I WASN'T.



DISPATCH, THIS IS CAPTAIN PARAGONNA.

BUT I STILL HAD A JOB TO DO HERE.
AND A COVER TO KEEP.



BANK HAS BEEN CONTAINED.
TEN IN CUSTODY.

BACKUP WITH A WAGON WILL BE NEEDED TO TRANSPORT
DETAINED SUSPECTS.

CAUTION: HEROES ON SITE
AND ASSISTING IN ROUND-
UP OF REMAINING SUSPECTS.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "ROUND-
UP"?

WE HAVE ELEVEN
ROBBERS.

CONFIRMED. ALL
UNITS, ALL UNITS!
BACKUP NEEDED AT
THE EXCHANGE
BANK.

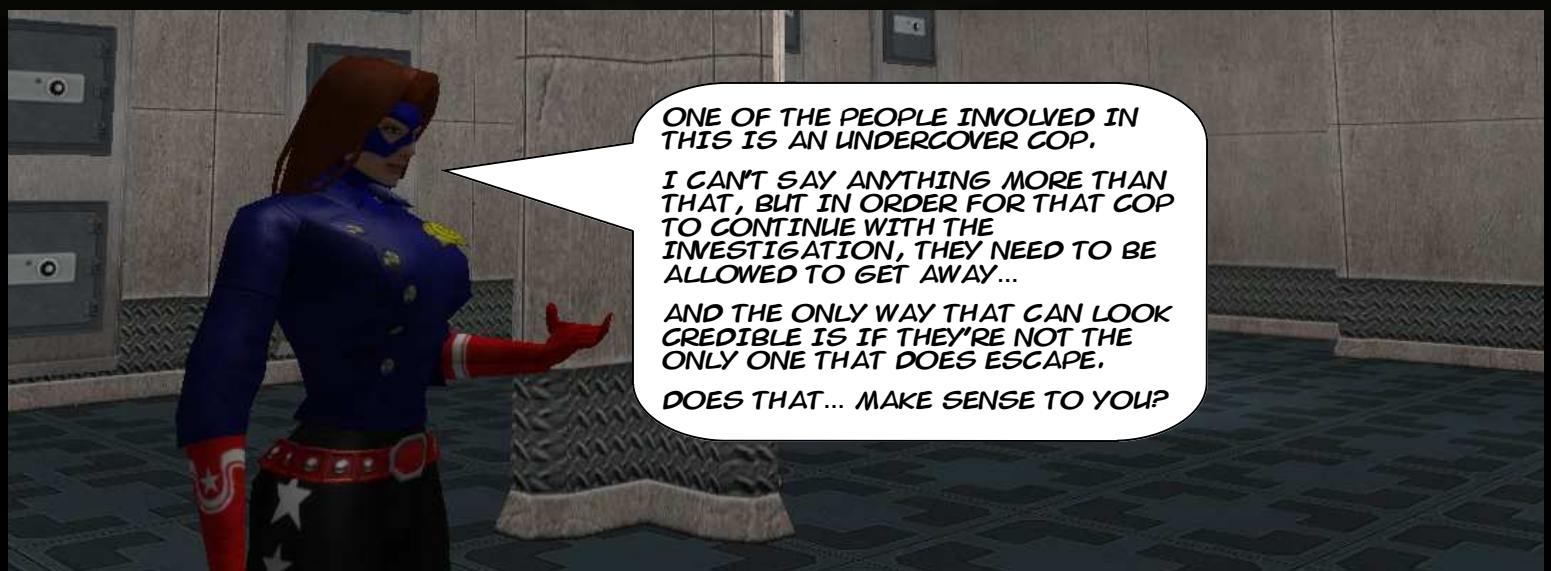


YES, I KNOW. BUT WE'LL NEED
TO UNTIE ONE OF THEM AND
LET THEM ESCAPE.

PREFERABLY ONE OF THE
AMATEURS. THE ONES YOU
OVERWHELMED AT THE
ENTRANCEWAY.

WE'LL NEED TO LET SOMEONE
IN THAT GROUP GET AWAY.

I PRESUME YOU
HAVE A REASON
FOR DOING THAT.



ONE OF THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN
THIS IS AN UNDERCOVER COP.

I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING MORE THAN
THAT, BUT IN ORDER FOR THAT COP
TO CONTINUE WITH THE
INVESTIGATION, THEY NEED TO BE
ALLOWED TO GET AWAY...

AND THE ONLY WAY THAT CAN LOOK
CREDIBLE IS IF THEY'RE NOT THE
ONLY ONE THAT DOES ESCAPE.

DOES THAT... MAKE SENSE TO YOU?



HMM... YES, IT
MAKES SENSE.
OKAY... BUT ONLY
BECAUSE YOU'RE
USING IT TO GO
AFTER THE
BIGGER BOSS.



THANK YOU.
I'VE MISSED
WORKING WITH
YOU.



DON'T ASSUME THAT MY
RETURN TO KINGS ROW
MEANS THAT I'M READY
TO JOIN YOUR LITTLE
"CIRCLE", CAPTAIN.
I'M ONLY HELPING
BECAUSE THIS PROBLEM
IS HAPPENING INSIDE
MY DOMAIN.

I'M TAKING KINGS ROW
BACK FROM THE PUNKS
AND THUGS. FROM THE
CRIMINALS THAT
INFESTED IT LIKE RATS.
THE BEST YOUR GROUP
CAN DO RIGHT NOW... IS
TO NOT GET IN MY WAY.

THIRTY MINUTES LATER...



WH... WHAT...

COME ON,
GET UP.



WHAT THE HELL
HAPPENED?
WHERE AM I?

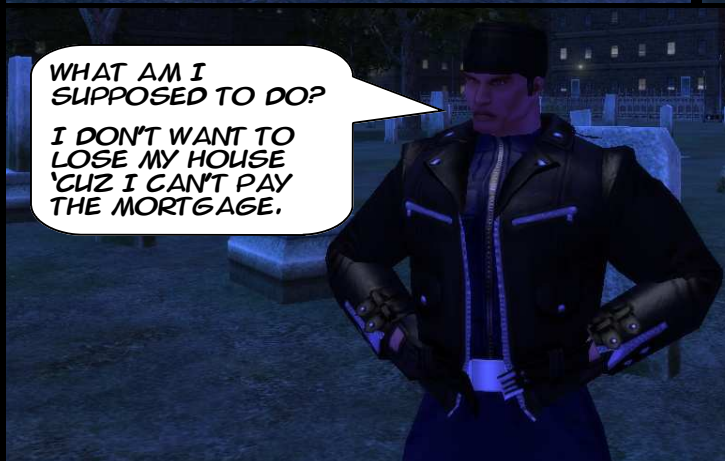
CEMETERY.
I JUST SAVED
YOUR BUTT.



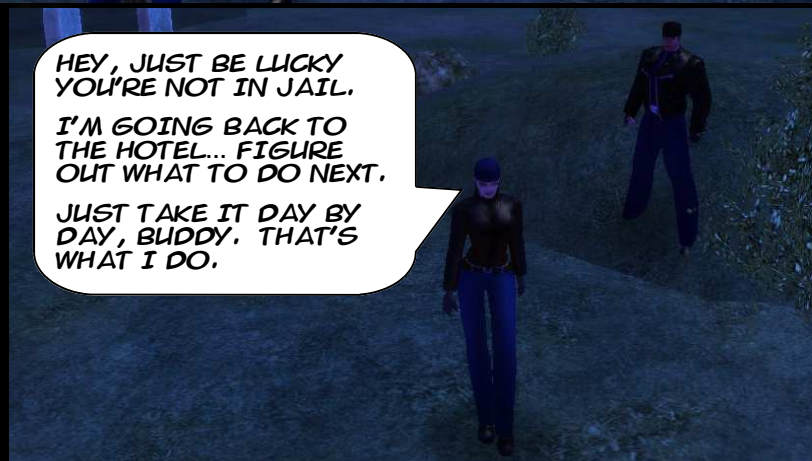
I STEP AWAY AND YOU
GUYS WERE OUT AND
TIED UP. I FIGURED I'D
TAKE ONE OF YOU WITH
ME WHEN I BAILED.



IT WAS THAT CAPE...
MIDNIGHT X.
I THOUGHT HE WAS
DEAD, BUT I GUESS NOT.
I GUESS I OWE YOU FOR
THIS. BUT...



WHAT AM I
SUPPOSED TO DO?
I DON'T WANT TO
LOSE MY HOUSE
'CUZ I CAN'T PAY
THE MORTGAGE.



HEY, JUST BE LUCKY
YOU'RE NOT IN JAIL.
I'M GOING BACK TO
THE HOTEL... FIGURE
OUT WHAT TO DO NEXT.
JUST TAKE IT DAY BY
DAY, BUDDY. THAT'S
WHAT I DO.

TALOS ISLAND

THE NEXT MORNING...

DAWN.
THE SUN FEELS
GOOD.

WISH THE REST
OF ME FELT
THAT GOOD.

I'VE BEEN UP
ALL NIGHT.

THE LAST TIME I
HAD PROBLEMS
SLEEPING, IT ENDED
WITH ME HAVING A
LITERAL SPLIT
PERSONALITY.*

*GOOD MORNING
PARAGON CITY! THIS IS
PNN RADIO AND HERE'S
YOUR MORNING NEWS...*

*THE BIG NEWS... A LATE-
NIGHT BANK ROBBERY IN
KINGS ROW WAS SHUT
DOWN BY THE AREA'S
RESIDENT GUARDIAN,
MIDNIGHT X, ALONG WITH
CAPTAIN PARAGONNA.*

*A POLICE SPOKESMAN SAID
THAT TEN PEOPLE WERE
ARRESTED, INCLUDING A
VANGUARD RESERVIST, BUT
SEVERAL MORE MANAGED TO
ESCAPE IN THE CONFUSION.*

 GALATEA POWERS
OTHERWORLD SUPERHERO

< * "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT" ISSUES 23-25 >

I STILL CAN'T GET
RECENT EVENTS OUT
OF MY HEAD.

I GOT BEAT! BADLY!
BY A GLORIFIED
CYBERNETIC PUPPET
NO LESS!*

AND THE WORST
PART IS... IT USED
MY OWN FEARS TO
HELP DEFEAT ME.

< * ISSUES 2 & 3 >

MY *MYSTERIOUS FRIEND*
WAS RIGHT... I AM AFRAID
OF FAILURE, OF BEING
VULNERABLE, OF BEING
MANIPULATED.

FIRST FROM MY BIRTH-
FATHER, LIONEL POWERS.
THEN BY MY FOSTER
FATHER, KENT, WHEN HE
TRIED TO "SAVE ME" FROM
LIONEL'S GENETIC
PROGRAMMING.

I COULDN'T STOP ALOR FROM
KILLING PHOTONIS OR
SAVING MY OWN UNIVERSE
FROM DESTRUCTION.

I WASN'T ABLE TO HELP
THE GUARDIANS AND
THE FREEDOM PHALANX
STOP ALOR.*

I COULDN'T SAVE
GALAXY CITY.

SOME *TRUE GUARDIAN*
I TURNED OUT TO BE.

< * "SPOTLIGHT" ISSUES 18-22 >



KATIE LEA SHOULD BE
WAKING UP SOON.


I LEFT A NOTE SAYING
I'M ON PATROL, SO
HOPEFULLY SHE WON'T
FREAK OUT.

I'M STILL NOT USED TO
HAVING A SISTER,
ADOPTED OR OTHERWISE.


THE POWERS FAMILY
OF THIS WORLD ARE
GOOD PEOPLE. FAR
BETTER THAN MY
BIRTH-FAMILY.

HMM... WARRIORS AND
TSOO ARE STARTING
THEIR FEUD EARLY.

AND NOW THE
FREAKSHOW JOINED
IN. WONDERFUL.



MAYBE MY FEAR IS
WHAT IS KEEPING ME
FROM FORGIVING
KENT FOR DOING
WHAT HE DID.



MAYBE I'M AFRAID
THAT IF I FORGIVE
HIM, I'D ACCEPT
THAT WHAT HE DID
TO ME WAS RIGHT.



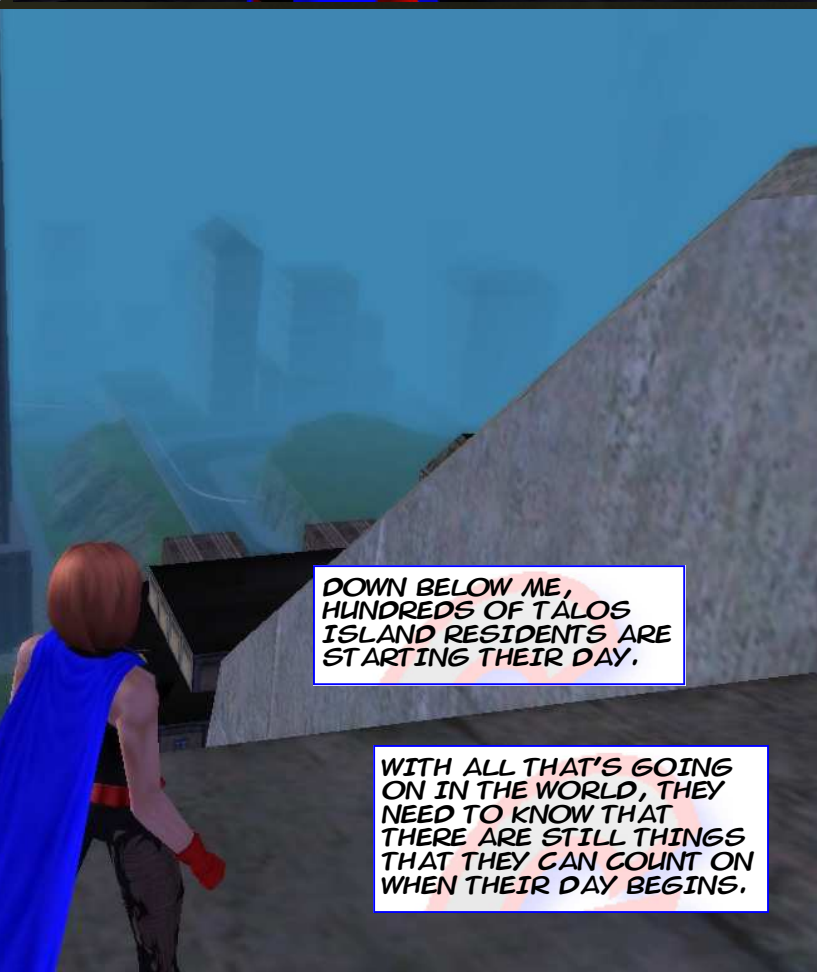
THE MORNING NEWS IS
STILL TALKING ABOUT
THE BUST IN KINGS ROW.

NEWSPAPER COLUMNIST
IS BOASTING THAT
MIDNIGHT X IS KINGS
ROW'S "TRUE GUARDIAN".

JASON CAN HAVE THE
TITLE IF HE WANTS IT.
BUT I KNOW HE DOESN'T
REALLY CARE ABOUT
THAT SORT OF STUFF.

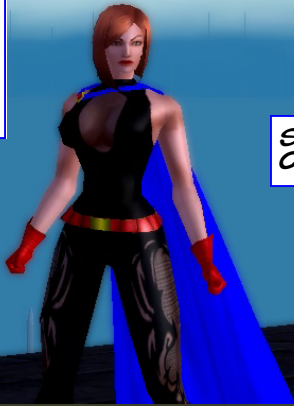
THE FUNNY PART IS
THAT I WASN'T EVEN THE
ONE THAT CREATED
THAT TITLE! THAT WAS
ARKTIC CHILL'S IDEA
WHEN HE WAS WORKING
AS THE ADMIN TO ONE
OF MY FAN SITES.

I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED
TO THAT SITE? MAYBE I
SHOULD LOOK IN ON THAT.



DOWN BELOW ME,
HUNDREDS OF TALOS
ISLAND RESIDENTS ARE
STARTING THEIR DAY.

WITH ALL THAT'S GOING
ON IN THE WORLD, THEY
NEED TO KNOW THAT
THERE ARE STILL THINGS
THAT THEY CAN COUNT ON
WHEN THEIR DAY BEGINS.




THEY NEED TO
KNOW THAT
SOMEONE IS
WATCHING OUT
FOR THEM.

SOMEONE THEY
CAN COUNT ON.



NOT IN A "GOD" WAY,
BUT MORE OF A
"GUARDIAN ANGEL".

EMPHASIS ON THE
"GUARDIAN" PART.



I WAS GIVEN A SECOND
CHANCE AT LIFE
BECAUSE THE OTHER
GUARDIANS DIDN'T
GIVE UP ON ME.

IT'S UP TO ME TO PAY
THAT FORWARD AND
GIVE THE CITIZENS A
REASON TO NOT GIVE
UP ON THE HEROES.

NOW... LET'S SEE
WHAT I CAN DO
ABO...

KINGS ROW - FOUR HOURS LATER...

"GOOD MORNING,
SOVEREIGN INSURANCE."

"NO, MISSUS KING, NO MONEY
WAS REPORTED MISSING IN LAST
NIGHT'S ATTEMPTED ROBBERY. ALL
ACCOUNTS ARE REPORTEDLY
INTACT AND ACCESSIBLE."

"GOOD MORNING,
SOVEREIGN INSURANCE."

"GOOD MORNING,
SOVEREIGN INSURANCE."

"GOOD MORNING,
SOVEREIGN INSURANCE."

"YES, WE COVER ALL
ACCOUNTS, BOTH
PERSONAL AND
CORPORATE."

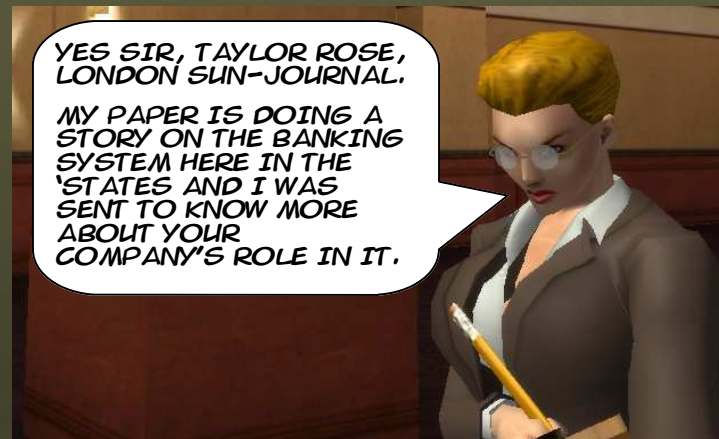
"GOOD MORNING,
SOVEREIGN INSURANCE."

"YOUR CLAIM CHECK
SHOULD BE
DELIVERED TO YOU
BY TOMORROW..."

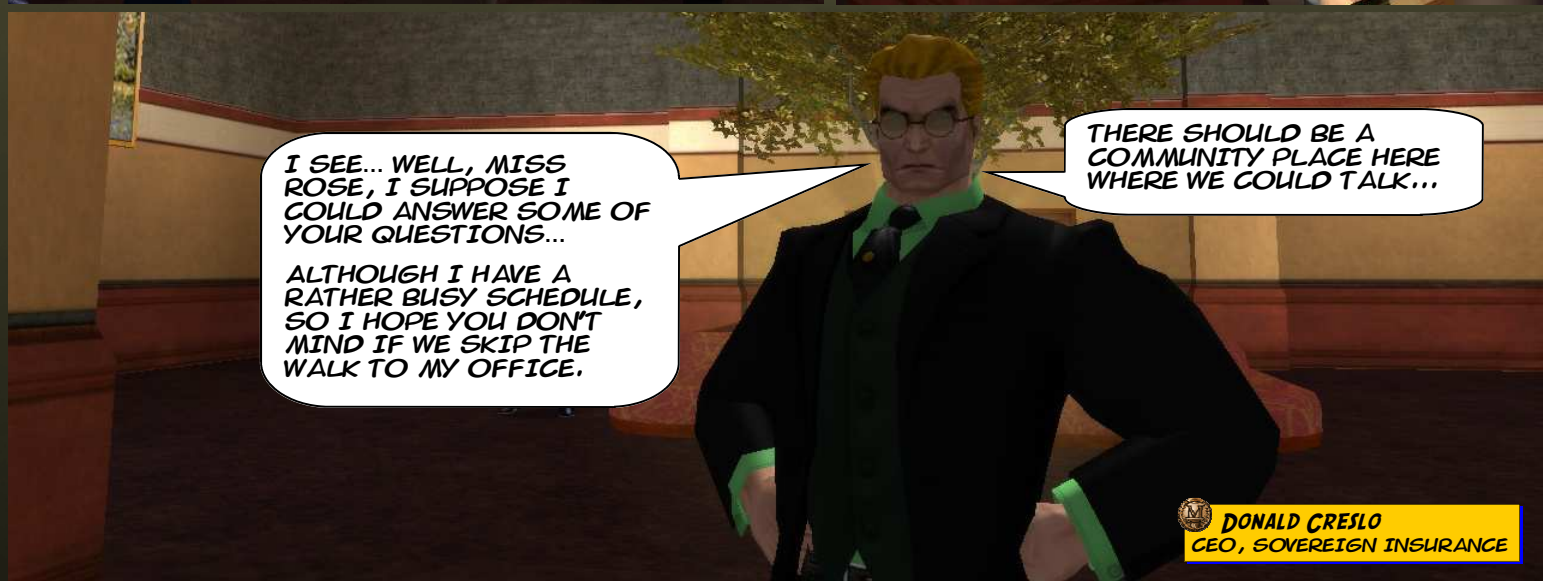
"EXCUSE ME...
MISTER CRESLOP?"



YES, YOU'RE THE... JOURNALIST THAT I WAS TOLD TO EXPECT, RIGHT?



YES SIR, TAYLOR ROSE, LONDON SUN-JOURNAL.
MY PAPER IS DOING A STORY ON THE BANKING SYSTEM HERE IN THE 'STATES AND I WAS SENT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR COMPANY'S ROLE IN IT.



I SEE... WELL, MISS ROSE, I SUPPOSE I COULD ANSWER SOME OF YOUR QUESTIONS...
ALTHOUGH I HAVE A RATHER BUSY SCHEDULE, SO I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF WE SKIP THE WALK TO MY OFFICE.

THERE SHOULD BE A COMMUNITY PLACE HERE WHERE WE COULD TALK...



DONALD CRESLO
CEO, SOVEREIGN INSURANCE



HERE WE GO...
IS THIS ACCEPTABLE?
I NOTICED THAT YOU DIDN'T BRING A PHOTOGRAPHER WITH YOU.

NO, IT'S FINE, MISTER CRESLO.
AND THIS IS MORE OF A BACKGROUND PIECE ON THE COMPANY, NOT NECESSARILY ON YOU AS THE CEO.
SO I GUESS MY FIRST QUESTION HAS TO BE...



IN YOUR OWN WORDS, WHAT *IS* YOUR COMPANY'S ROLE WITH THE BANKING INDUSTRY?



THE BEST ANSWER IS...
WE ARE THEIR "SECURITY BLANKET."

"IN THE 1930'S THE WORLD SUFFERED UNDER THE WORSE ECONOMIC DEPRESSION EVER EXPERIENCED. FAR WORSE THAN EVEN RECENT ECONOMIC EVENTS."

"THE BLAME EASILY WENT TO THOSE STILL WITH MONEY, NAMELY THE BANKS."



"BANK ROBBERIES SKYROCKETED IN THE 1930'S AS EVERYONE FROM HARDENED CRIMINALS TO OUT-OF-WORK FARMHANDS TOOK THEIR FRUSTRATIONS OUT ON THE BANKING INDUSTRY."



"THANKFULLY, A YOUNG SUPERHERO SHOWED UP HERE IN PARAGON CITY AND PUT A STOP TO MOST OF THE AREA ROBBERIES."

(EDITOR'S NOTE: IMAGES TAKEN FROM 2004 "CITY OF HEROES" VIDEO)

"THAT YOUNG MAN, OF COURSE, WAS STATESMAN."

BUT THE DEBUT OF STATESMAN AND OF THE FREEDOM PHALANX WERE STILL NOT ENOUGH TO STOP THE WAVE OF ROBBERIES, OR TO STOP THE DEBILITATING SECONDARY EFFECTS OF THOSE ROBBERIES.

CITIZENS REFUSED TO KEEP THEIR MONEY IN BANK ACCOUNTS IF THE BANKS CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT MONEY WOULD BE SECURE AND AVAILABLE.

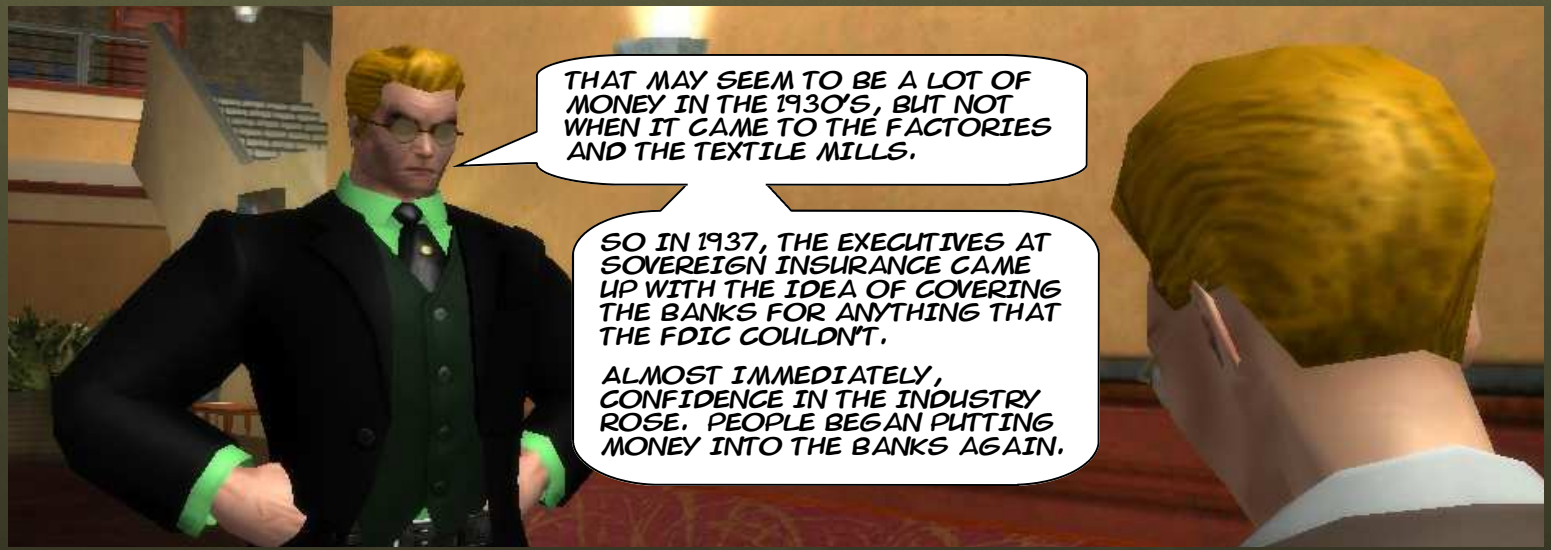
THAT IS WHAT CAUSED THE INITIAL BANK COLLAPSES IN THE FIRST PLACE.

YES, BUT DOESN'T THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INSURE EVERY BANK ACCOUNT IN AMERICA?

I THINK IT'S CALLED THE... FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION? WEREN'T THEY CREATED TO MAKE SURE THAT CUSTOMERS HAD UNHINDERED ACCESS TO THEIR ACCOUNTS?

YES, BUT THERE ARE LIMITS TO THAT COVERAGE.

IN 1935, THAT LIMIT WAS FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS PER ACCOUNT.



THAT MAY SEEM TO BE A LOT OF MONEY IN THE 1930'S, BUT NOT WHEN IT CAME TO THE FACTORIES AND THE TEXTILE MILLS.

SO IN 1937, THE EXECUTIVES AT SOVEREIGN INSURANCE CAME UP WITH THE IDEA OF COVERING THE BANKS FOR ANYTHING THAT THE FDIC COULDN'T.

ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, CONFIDENCE IN THE INDUSTRY ROSE. PEOPLE BEGAN PUTTING MONEY INTO THE BANKS AGAIN.



AND THE ECONOMY CRAWLED OUT JUST IN TIME FOR THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

BUT NOW YOUR COMPANY'S DOING MORE THAN JUST PROTECTING BANKS, AREN'T YOU?



IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT OUR RECENT EXPANSION INTO COVERING INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS, THAT'S MORE OF A NATURAL EVOLUTION OF OUR ORIGINAL MISSION.



PERHAPS... IF YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT CORPORATE ACCOUNTS, MANY OF WHICH WOULD BE CLEARLY OUTSIDE OF THE FDIC'S CURRENT LIMIT OF \$250,000 PER ACCOUNT.

BUT... I UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR NEW EXPANSION IS TARGETED AT THE AVERAGE CHECKING OR SAVINGS ACCOUNT-HOLDER, WHOSE AVERAGE VALUES WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE FULLY COVERED BY THE FDIC.

IT WOULD SEEM... ALMOST NEEDLESS.

TO THE AVERAGE OBSERVER, PERHAPS. BUT WE BOTH KNOW THAT THESE ARE NOT ORDINARY TIMES.



THE FDIC IS OVERWHELMED WITH A STAGGERING NUMBER OF BANK FAILURES, NOT TO MENTION HELPING OUT THOSE "TOO BIG TO FAIL" MEGA-BANKS.

SIMPLY PUT, THEY CAN'T GUARANTEE COVERING EVEN ORDINARY ACCOUNTS IN THESE EXTRAORDINARY TIMES.

AND THEN THERE IS THE FACT THAT PARAGON CITY HAS THE LARGEST NUMBER OF BANK ROBBERIES IN THE NATION...

OVER 5300 PER YEAR, AS OUR ADVERTISING POINTS OUT.

... AND YOU CAN SEE THAT THE DEMAND IS THERE FOR ADDITIONAL COVERAGE.

SO, I GUESS IT WOULD BE... FORTUNATE... THAT YOUR COMPANY WOULD BE OFFERING THIS SERVICE DURING AN INCREASED NUMBER OF BANK ROBBERIES.

WITH THE MOST RECENT ONE BEING JUST THIS PAST EVENING... RIGHT NEXT DOOR.

"COINCIDENTAL" WOULD PROBABLY BE A BETTER WORD TO USE.

I WOULDN'T WANT YOUR READERS TO ASSUME THOSE TWO THINGS ARE CONNECTED.

D@MN HE'S GOOD. HE'S GOT THAT LINE WORKED OUT. OKAY, TIME TO WRAP IT UP.

DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS? I'M AFRAID MY TIME IS INCREDIBLY LIMITED RIGHT NOW.

ICON POWERS
"RETIRED" SUPERHERO

NO, I THINK THAT COVERS ALL THE QUESTIONS I HAVE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, MISTER CRESLO.

OF COURSE... AND BE SURE TO EMAIL THE LINK TO YOUR PAPER'S WEBSITE TO MY ASSISTANT SO I CAN READ YOUR ARTICLE AFTERWARD.

CERTAINLY.

WELL DONE, KATIE.

ACTUALLY THANK YOU FOR COACHING ME ON THE DETAILS. YOU MADE ME SOUND LIKE I KNEW WHAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT.

WELL DON'T REST ON YOUR LAURELS JUST YET; YOU STILL HAVE AN ARTICLE TO WRITE.

WHAT? BUT I THOUGHT THAT...

THERE REALLY IS A TAYLOR ROSE, AND SHE DOES WRITE FOR THE SUN-JOURNAL. AND SHE DOES EXPECT YOU TO WRITE THAT ARTICLE.

DON'T WORRY, I'LL GET PROFESSOR WALLACE TO HELP YOU WITH IT.*

CONSIDER IT EXTRA CREDIT.

KATIE LEA POWERS
AKA LYON POWERS

(* ENGLISH PROFESSOR AND ALSO GUARDIAN MEMBER RYDER LIGHTNING.)

A FEW BLOCKS AWAY...

MY GOD... ARE YOU SERIOUS? THEY ACTUALLY HAD YOU... ROB THAT BANK?

WELL, I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS FOR REAL UNTIL THEY TOLD US TO WAIT OUT FRONT.

I GUESS I WAS KIND OF LUCKY, OR ELSE I WOULD HAVE BEEN IN JAIL TOO.

WOW... THAT... THAT REALLY COMPLICATES THINGS!

I MEAN, YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE HAD **NO IDEA** THAT THIS WAS GOING ON! WE WERE HERE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THIS WAS A LEGITIMATE OPERATION; DONE WITH THE FULL APPROVAL OF THE BANKS!

ROBERT
"EMPLOYMENT RECRUITER"

I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THIS UP WITH MY SUPERIORS.

IN THE MEANTIME, WHY DON'T YOU HEAD ON BACK TO THE HOTEL, AND I'LL GET THIS SQUARED AWAY AND I'LL CONTACT YOU AS TO WHAT WE CAN DO NEXT.

OH GOD, I AM SUCH AN IDIOT! I THOUGHT I HAD A REALLY GOOD THING GOING TOO!

NO, NO! IT'S OKAY! REALLY! IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, RAVEN! YOU DIDN'T KNOW THEY WERE GOING TO DO THAT.

LIKE I SAID, GO BACK TO THE HOTEL, AND I'LL GET THIS STRAIGHTENED OUT HERE, AND THEN I'LL MEET YOU THERE.

O-O-KAY... BUT ONLY BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN SO KIND TO ME...

I HAD TO PRETEND TO BE "GRATEFUL" TO ROBERT, EVEN THOUGH EVERY INSTINCT IN ME SAID TO ARREST HIM.

I ALSO NEEDED TO SEE HIM HERE AT HIS OFFICE SO WE WOULD KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN WE EVENTUALLY RAID IT TO SHUT THIS WHOLE "RECRUITMENT" SCAM DOWN.

OUROBOROS - NEAR THE END OF TIME.

OH COME ON!

OUROBOROS AGAIN?!

I'M GETTING REALLY TIRED OF BEING SHANGHAIED BY YOU GUYS!

THE LAST TIME I GOT DRAGGED HERE AGAINST MY WILL, I ENDED UP LOSING SEVERAL MONTHS OF MY LIFE, NOT TO MENTION THE GUARDIANS HAD TO TAKE ON STARCYNUS WITHOUT ME!

AND AT LEAST THEN I HAD A RECEPTION COMMITTEE WELCOMING ME HERE!

I GUESS THIS TIME AROUND I DON'T EVEN RATE AN ACOLYTE.

(*SPOTLIGHT* 18-22 AGAIN)

SUPPOSE I BETTER START AT THE TOP.

MENDER SILOS...

I THINK SOMEONE HERE OWES ME AN EXPLANATION AS TO WHY I GOT PULLED OUT OF THE 21ST CENTURY.





MY ROLE MAY APPEAR TO BE LIMITED HERE, BUT I AM STILL A MENDER. I STILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE PILLAR AND CAN USE IT FOR MY OWN PURPOSES.



MENDER ROEBUCK
OUROBOROS MERCHANT



OKAY... SO... WHY DID YOU BRING ME HERE?



YOU KNOW FROM YOUR PREVIOUS TIME HERE THAT WE MENDERS ARE OFTEN PROHIBITED FROM REVEALING CERTAIN FUTURE EVENTS.

EVEN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THESE EVENTS COULD DISRUPT THEIR TURNOUTS AND THUS ALTER FUTURE EVENTS.

HOWEVER, I HAVE BEEN ASKED BY... ANOTHER SOURCE... TO REVEAL ONE SUCH UPCOMING EVENT TO YOU.

ONE WHERE YOUR ACTIVITY WILL BE ESSENTIAL, AND THE CHOICES THAT YOU MAKE WILL AFFECT THE FUTURE OF ALL OF HUMANITY ITSELF.



GALATEA? WHAT'S WRONG?



I'M SORRY... IT SEEMS LIKE NOTHING BUT...

THE LAST TIME I WAS HERE I ALWAYS HAD THIS FEELING LIKE SOMEONE WAS ALWAYS WATCHING ME FROM ONE OF THOSE FLOATING ISLANDS. BUT NOW... NOTHING.



IT'S BEST THAT YOU NOT DWELL ON THAT PARTICULAR DETAIL.

MATTERS OF TIME CAN BE... AS OUR MUTUAL FRIEND WHOSE NAME WE CANNOT MENTION HERE WOULD SAY... "WISHY-WASHY".

SPEAKING OF WHICH, THAT MUTUAL FRIEND'S NAME WILL BE INVOKED DURING THAT EVENT.

THAT WILL BE YOUR CLUE. YOU MUST PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO WHAT HAPPENS AFTERWARD.



THAT'S IT?
THAT'S WHY YOU
DRAGGED ME HERE?

YES.

THE LAST TIME AROUND YOUR
FELLOW MENDERS PULLED ME
OUT OF 2010, KEPT ME HERE
FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, SAID
NOTHING ABOUT WHY YOU
DID IT, AND THEN DROPPED
ME OFF IN 2011.

NOW YOU DRAG ME HERE WITH
SOME CRYPTIC WARNING
ABOUT A CERTAIN EVENT AND
THAT I SHOULD JUST... "PAY
ATTENTION"?



UNDERSTAND THAT A
LOT OF WHAT WE DO IS
SHROUDED IN MYSTERY.

IT HAS TO BE SO FOR
EVENTS TO UNFOLD AS
THEY NATURALLY MUST.

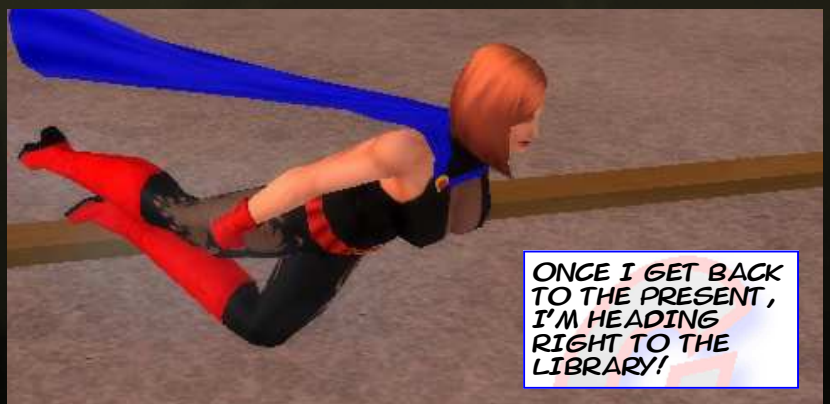
BUT I WILL GIVE YOU THIS
PASSAGE TO REMEMBER, AND IT
WILL MAKE SENSE WHEN THE
SITUATION CALLS FOR IT.

"FOR WANT OF A NAIL, THE SHOE
WAS LOST."

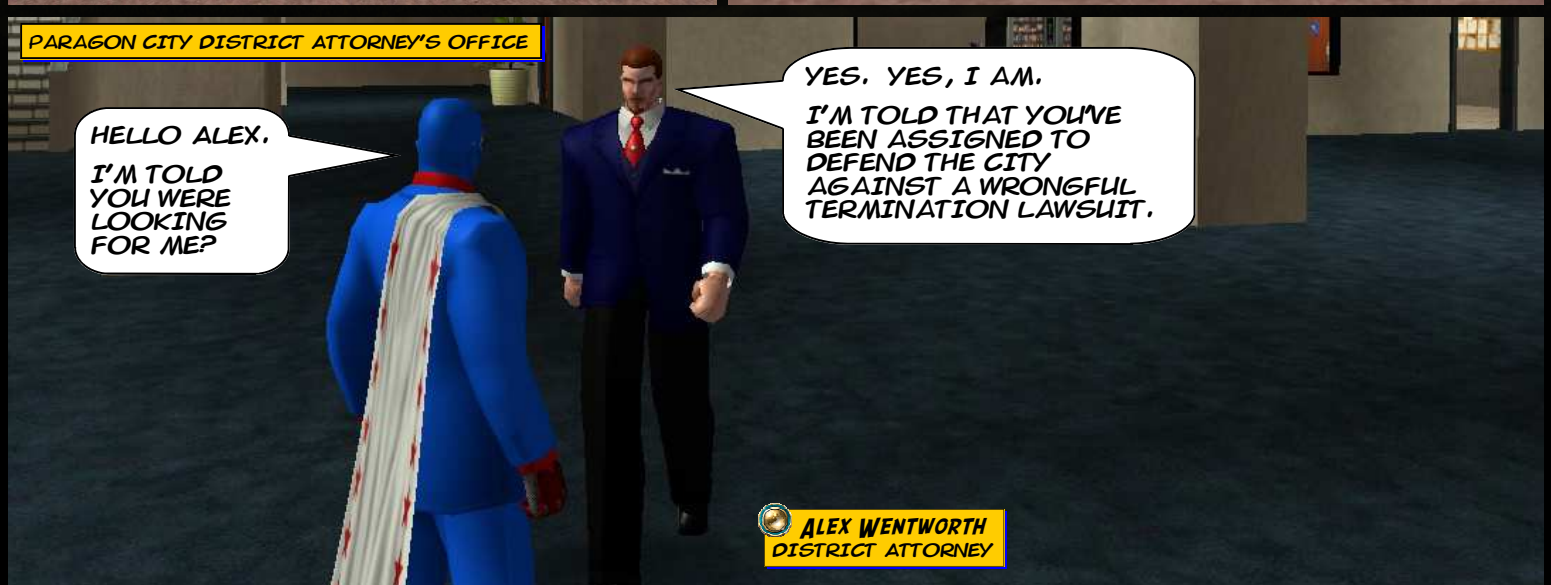
UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE,
GALATEA, AND YOU WILL KNOW
WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.



"FOR WANT OF
A NAIL", HUH?



ONCE I GET BACK
TO THE PRESENT,
I'M HEADING
RIGHT TO THE
LIBRARY!



PARAGON CITY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

HELLO ALEX.
I'M TOLD
YOU WERE
LOOKING
FOR ME?

YES. YES, I AM.

I'M TOLD THAT YOU'VE
BEEN ASSIGNED TO
DEFEND THE CITY
AGAINST A WRONGFUL
TERMINATION LAWSUIT.



ALEX WENTWORTH
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

YEAH, BENDIX V.
PARAGON CITY.

BENDIX WAS A
FREEDOM CORPS
OFFICER THAT WAS
FIRED FOR GROSS
NEGLIGENCE AND
NOW HE'S DECIDED
TO FIGHT IT.

 **NOBLE SON**
JUNIOR PROSECUTOR

BENDIX...

BENDIX...

WHY SHOULD I
REMEMBER THAT
NAME?

WELL I'M NOT SURPRISED THAT
YOU'VE HEARD NAME BEFORE...

THE GUY WAS A REAL SLACKER.
SET UP A QUOTA SYSTEM FOR
BAGGING GANG MEMBERS IN
ATLAS PARK, AND THEN WENT
TO THE OFFICER'S CLUB TO
GET DRUNK WITH HIS TEAM.

THEN SOME JUNIOR HERO
NEEDED HELP AND THEY
WEREN'T THERE FOR HER. GOT
BEAT UP PRETTY BAD TOO.

IN FACT I JUST
CALLED UP THE
JUNIOR HERO
IN QUESTION
TO COME HERE
AND VERIFY THE
INCIDENT IN A
DEPOSITION.

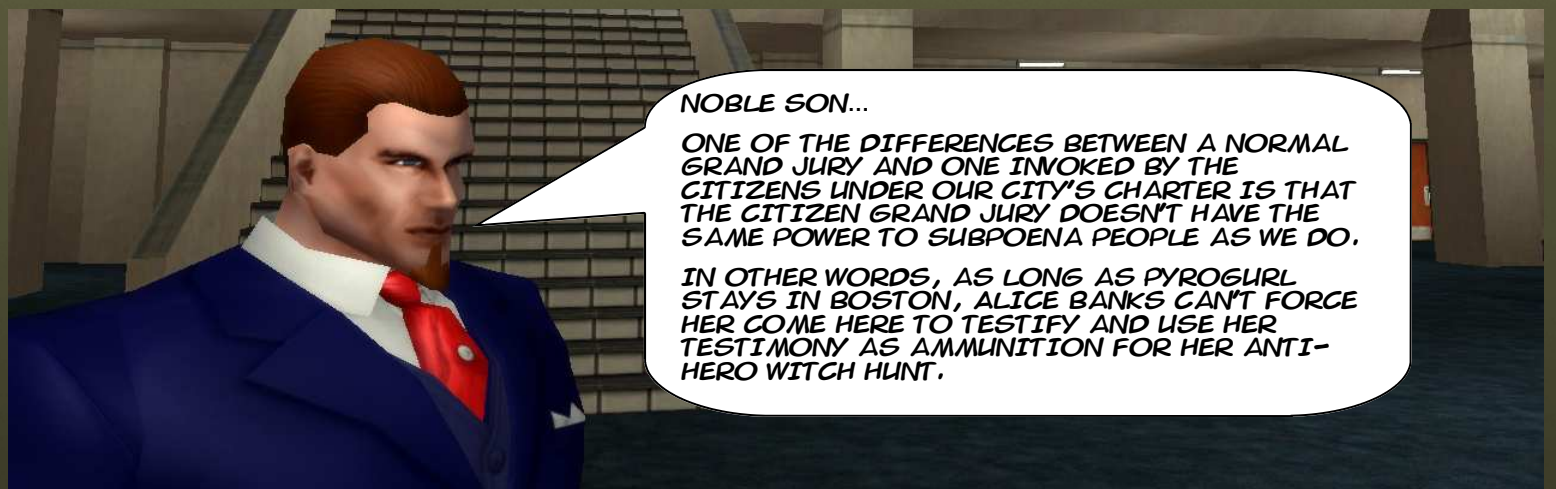
PYROGURL
SAID SHE'D BE
HERE LATER IN
THE WEEK.

WHAT?!?

ARE YOU OUT OF
YOUR MIND?
HAVEN'T YOU BEEN
KEEPING EYE ON
THE NEWS?

WELL I KNOW THAT
THERE'S THAT
CITIZEN GRAND
JURY THING WITH
HER*, BUT THIS IS
A COMPLETELY
SEPARATE CASE.

 **ISSUE #1)**



NOBLE SON...

ONE OF THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN A NORMAL GRAND JURY AND ONE INVOKED BY THE CITIZENS UNDER OUR CITY'S CHARTER IS THAT THE CITIZEN GRAND JURY DOESN'T HAVE THE SAME POWER TO SUBPOENA PEOPLE AS WE DO.

IN OTHER WORDS, AS LONG AS PYROGURL STAYS IN BOSTON, ALICE BANKS CAN'T FORCE HER COME HERE TO TESTIFY AND USE HER TESTIMONY AS AMMUNITION FOR HER ANTI-HERO WITCH HUNT.



BUT IT'S A SEPARATE CASE...

IT'S VERY POSSIBLE THAT THE WHOLE CASE WITH BENDIX SUDDENLY DECIDING TO FIGHT HIS TERMINATION WAS FABRICATED JUST TO BRING PYROGURL HERE TO PARAGON CITY!

YOU COULD HAVE JUST AS EASILY PERFORMED THE DEPOSITION IN BOSTON AND KEPT HER AWAY FROM MISSUS BANKS.

DID YOU ALREADY CONFIRM THE DEPOSITION WITH COUNCIL?



YES... IN FACT THEY SEEMED RATHER PLEASED.



UNDERSTANDABLY SO...

THANK YOU. I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.



F.B.S.A.*
TECHNICAL
ANALYSIS.
THIS IS KENT
PODERES.

(* FEDERAL BUREAU FOR
SUPER-POWERED AFFAIRS.)



KENT, IT'S
ALEX.
WE HAVE A
PROBLEM.

KINGS ROW STATIONHOUSE - AN HOUR LATER...

CAPTAIN?
A WORD
PLEASE.

OF
COURSE.

I JUST GOT BACK
FROM CHIEF
CLAYTON'S
OFFICE...

THE BRASS HAS
GREEN-LIT THE RAID
ON THE CLEAN-UP
TEAM'S WORKPLACE.

BUT... NOT ON THE
RECRUITMENT GROUP,
AND CERTAINLY NOT
ON SOVEREIGN
INSURANCE.

WHAT?
LIEUTENANT KEENE,
THAT DOESN'T
MAKE SENSE!

THE CLEANERS
WORK FOR THE
RECRUITERS, AND
THEY IN TURN WORK
FOR SOVEREIGN
INSURANCE!

THE BACKGROUND
WORK THAT LYON
POWERS DID WITH
THE F.B.S.A.
EARLIER SHOWED
THAT SOVEREIGN
HAS BEEN
PROFITING FROM
THE STORIES OF
THE INCREASED
ROBBERIES.

AND IT WAS
GOOD WORK ON
HER PART...

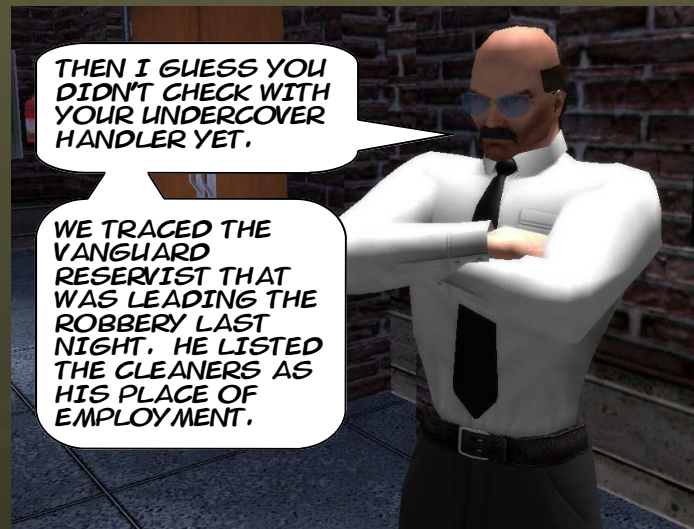
BUT IT WAS ALSO
CIRCUMSTANTIAL.
YOU NEED PROVE A
DIRECT LINK... "A"
TO "B" TO "C".

THE LINK TO THE RECRUITERS IS
SHAKY AT BEST. FROM YOUR OWN
REPORT YOU SAID THAT THE
"TRAINING SEMINAR" WAS SET UP
VERY CAREFULLY TO MAKE IT
SOUND LIKE THE BANKS WERE IN
ON ALL THE OPERATIONS.

WE NEED TO PROVE THAT THEY
KNOW OTHERWISE.



OKAY, THEN WHY STILL GREEN-LIGHT THE RAID ON THE CLEANERS? THEIR ROLE IN THIS SEEMED TO BE EVEN MORE REMOTE THAN THE RECRUITING COMPANY.



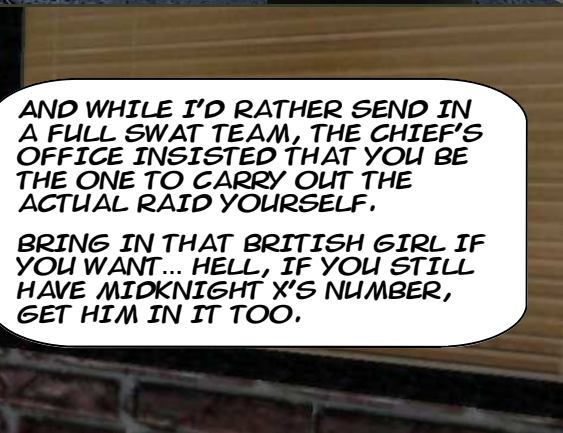
THEN I GUESS YOU DIDN'T CHECK WITH YOUR UNDERCOVER HANDLER YET.

WE TRACED THE VANGUARD RESERVIST THAT WAS LEADING THE ROBBERY LAST NIGHT. HE LISTED THE CLEANERS AS HIS PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT.



SCORE ONE FOR GOOD OLD-FASHIONED POLICE WORK.

BETWEEN THEIR ATTACK ON YOU PREVIOUSLY* AND THIS CONNECTION TO THE ROBBERY, WE NOW HAVE ENOUGH CAUSE TO SHUT THEM DOWN.



AND WHILE I'D RATHER SEND IN A FULL SWAT TEAM, THE CHIEF'S OFFICE INSISTED THAT YOU BE THE ONE TO CARRY OUT THE ACTUAL RAID YOURSELF.

BRING IN THAT BRITISH GIRL IF YOU WANT... HELL, IF YOU STILL HAVE MIDNIGHT X'S NUMBER, GET HIM IN IT TOO.

(* ISSUE #2)



GIVE 'EM HELL, CAPT AIN.

BUT SOMETHING IN ME IS SAYING THIS IS WRONG.

I SHOULD BE OVERJOYED BY THIS. KEENE NORMALLY IS NOT A BIG FAN OF THE HERO SHIELD PROGRAM.

WHY SUDDENLY MAKE THIS A "HERO-ONLY" BUST? THERE'S NO SENSE TO IT.



KENT, IT'S STEVIE. GIVE KATIE A CALL AND HAVE HER MEET ME HERE.



AND THEN I NEED YOU TO DO A LITTLE DIGGING FOR ME.

AND THIS NEEDS TO BE JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME RIGHT NOW.

"THIS IS RELAY CENTER 2853.
PLEASE LEAVE A NAME AND
CONTACT NUMBER." *BEEP*

"THE CONFIRMATION WORD
IS SLEEPING BEAR."

"PLEASE HOLD."

"PLEASE REPEAT THE
CONFIRMATION WORD."

"THE CONFIRMATION WORD
IS SLEEPING BEAR."

"SLEEPING BEAR, YOU WERE
INSTRUCTED TO NOT UTILIZE
THIS RELAY CENTER UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE."

"WE HAVE AN URGENT UPDATE ON CAPTAIN
PARAGONNA'S INVESTIGATION.
PRIORITY: PARASOL."

"WE WILL RELAY THE INFORMATION THIS
ONE TIME, BUT THIS RELAY CENTER
MUST BE SHUT DOWN AFTERWARD."

"UNDERSTOOD."

"WE WERE ABLE TO VETO THE RAID ON THE
GENERAL, BUT NOT ON THE SERVICE."

"THIS DOES NOT WARRANT A
PARASOL PRIORITY."

"THE RAID WILL BE COMMENCING
WITHIN THE HOUR. OPERATIVES
NEED TO TAKE STEPS TO MINIMIZE
INCRIMINATING MATERIAL."

"OPERATIVES IN THE SERVICE
WILL BE ALERTED TO RESPOND
ACCORDINGLY."

"IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE?"

"IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT A
NEGATIVE MEDIA PRESENCE WILL
TURN PUBLIC SUPPORT AWAY
FROM FURTHER ACTION."

"WE MUST REMIND YOU THAT
THIS NETWORK IS TO REMAIN
LOW-KEY, ESPECIALLY IN
REGARDS TO MATTERS
INVOLVING CAPTAIN
PARAGONNA'S FORMER GROUP."

"IF YOU WANT ONE OF THE
OLDEST MEMBERS OF THE
NETWORK TO BE TAKEN DOWN
BY THEM, THAT'S FINE."

"WE WILL CONTINUE TO
PROTECT MEMBERS OF THE
NETWORK WHENEVER
POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, WE
MUST DO SO WITHOUT
ATTRACTING ATTENTION."

"WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THE
SAFETY OF SAID MEMBER
FROM THIS INVESTIGATION
WITHOUT PUBLIC PRESSURE."

"WILL YOU CONTACT THE
MEDIA TO MAKE THE
ARRANGEMENTS?"

"VERY WELL."

"ARRANGEMENTS
WILL BE MADE
THIS ONE TIME."

"DO NOT CONTACT
THIS RELAY
CENTER AGAIN."



MISTER CADE
TECHNOMANCER



AN HOUR LATER...



I DON'T LIKE BEING
TOLD TO JUST STAND
BACK. WHY EVEN
BRING ME IN IF I'M
JUST GONNA STAND
HERE LIKE A DONKEY?



LYON POWERS
WELSH SUPERHERO



IT'S... JUST THIS...
FIRST GROUP...



DON'T WORRY...



WHO'S WORRIED? I
JUST THINK YOU HAVE
SOME ANGER ISSUES.



YOU TRY LIVING UNDERCOVER
FOR A FEW DAYS AND YOU'LL
GET A LITTLE ANTSY TOO.
OKAY... I THINK I GOT IT OUT
OF MY SYSTEM. FEEL FREE TO
JUMP IN ANYTIME.



MINUTES LATER...

OKAY, THIS DOESN'T
MAKE ANY SENSE.

WHAT? I MEAN, WE
ARRESTED THE STAFF
MEMBERS THAT ATTACKED
US... WE HAVE THE AREA
CLEARED OUT AN' HAVE
UNIFORMS AT ALL THE
ENTRANCES.

THE OWNER'S OFFICE.
IT'S... TOO CLEAN.
NO PHONE, NOT EVEN
PERSONAL PICTURES.

IT'S ALMOST
LIKE... IT'S A
STORE DISPLAY.
EVEN THE PAPERS
ON THE DESK
LOOK LIKE
THEY'RE JUST
GIBBERISH.

THEY KNEW THAT WE
WERE COMING.
THEY WENT TO GREAT
LENGTHS TO MAKE
SURE ANY KIND OF
POTENTIAL EVIDENCE
IS DESTROYED.

HOLD ON...
THAT
SOUNDS
LIKE...

CAPP? WHY
ARE YOU
GOIN' IN
THERE?

COME
ON!
I FOUND
IT!

I WAS RIGHT!
THESE COMPUTERS ARE
BEING SCRUBBED BY A
REMOTE SYSTEM ON
THEIR NETWORK!
BUT THIS IS AN OLDER
COMPUTER, SO IT TAKES
LONGER TO COMPLY!



I DON'T GET IT.
HOW COULD YOU
TELL THAT THIS
COMPUTER
WOULD HAVE
ANYTHING?



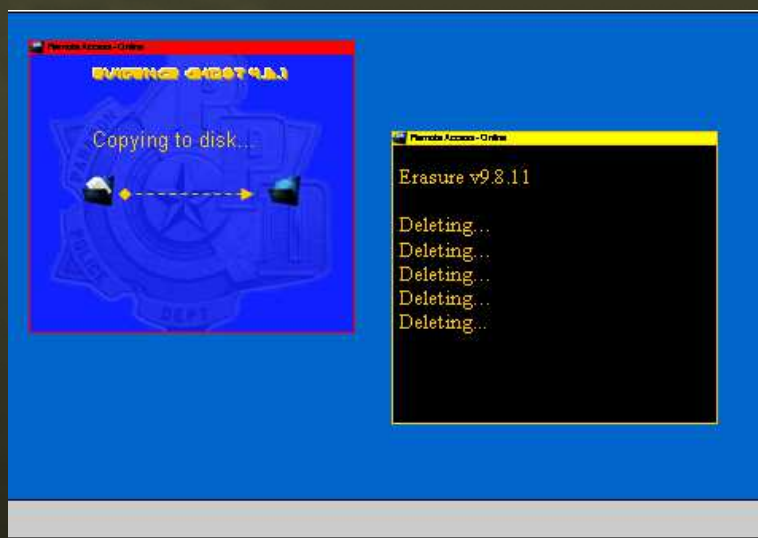
WHEN I WAS DESK-
BOUND FOR A WHILE,
I HAD TO WORK WITH
OLD DESKTOPS LIKE
THIS OFFICE HAS.

I KNOW THE SOUND OF
NOISY COOLING FAN
WHEN THE PC IS BEING
OVERTAXED WITH
PROGRAMS.



THERE'S AN ERASURE
PROGRAM BEING RUN
RIGHT NOW, BUT IT
LOOKS LIKE IT'S
HAVING TO GO
THROUGH A LOT OF
IMAGE FOLDERS.

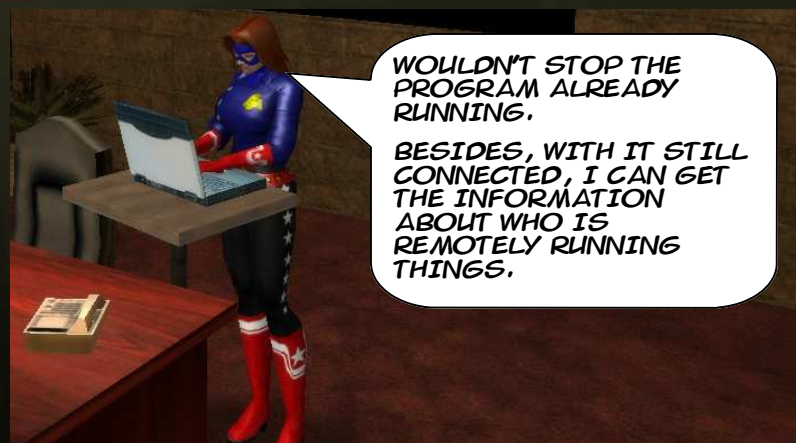
GREAT... WHO'D
THOUGHT EVIDENCE
WOULD BE SAVED
BECAUSE OF A
BLOODY WORKPLACE
PORNO FREAK!



```
Erasure v9.8.11  
  
Deleting...  
Deleting...  
Deleting...  
Deleting...  
Deleting...
```



SO WHY DON'T
YOU JUST...
UNPLUG THE
NETWORK CABLE?

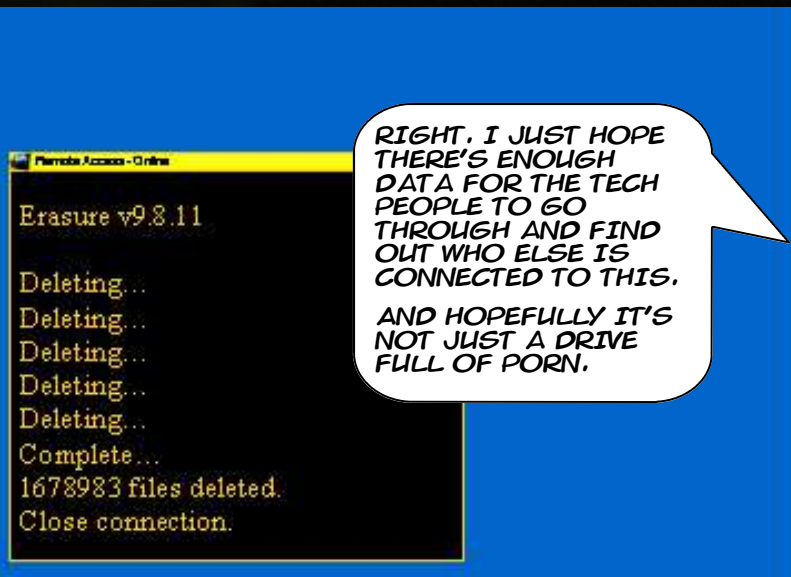


WOULDN'T STOP THE
PROGRAM ALREADY
RUNNING.

BESIDES, WITH IT STILL
CONNECTED, I CAN GET
THE INFORMATION
ABOUT WHO IS
REMOVING RUNNING
THINGS.



LOOKS LIKE
THAT'S ALL
YOU'LL GET
FROM IT.



RIGHT. I JUST HOPE
THERE'S ENOUGH
DATA FOR THE TECH
PEOPLE TO GO
THROUGH AND FIND
OUT WHO ELSE IS
CONNECTED TO THIS.

AND HOPEFULLY IT'S
NOT JUST A DRIVE
FULL OF PORNO.

```
Erasure v9.8.11  
  
Deleting...  
Deleting...  
Deleting...  
Deleting...  
Deleting...  
Complete...  
1678983 files deleted.  
Close connection.
```


LATER THAT DAY...

WELL...

I THOUGHT
I'D FIND
YOU DOWN
HERE.

ALEX... GLAD YOU
MADE IT.
HOPE YOU LIKE THE
CHANGES.

WELL IT'S ONE THING
TO SEE THE PICTURES...

IT'S ANOTHER TO
ACTUALLY COME DOWN
HERE AND SEE WHAT
YOU'VE BEEN UP TO.

SO THIS IS THE NEW
NERVE CENTER, HUH?

YUP. THE NEW
"MINI-CPCI"
SYSTEM THAT
THE GIRLS THINK
IS UP IN THE
S.E.R.A.P.H.
OFFICE IS HERE.

I SUPPOSE WE
SHOULD TELL
THEM THE TRUTH
AT SOME POINT.
BUT THAT'S NOT
WHY I'M HERE.
HOW GOES THE
INVESTIGATION?

CAP THOUGHT WE
HAD ENOUGH
EVIDENCE TO GO
AFTER THE
RECRUITERS, BUT
HER SUPERIORS
SHOT IT DOWN.

THAT DOESN'T
SOUND RIGHT.

THE VIDEO YOU
SENT ME FROM
HER SHOWED
PROBABLE
CAUSE.

RIGHT. AND THAT'S
WHAT BOTHERED ME
AS WELL.

BUT RIGHT AFTER THEY
RAIDED THE CLEAN-UP
COMPANY, I STARTED
SEEING THIS ON TV...
BEGIN PLAYBACK.



I HAVE TO WONDER WHAT THE HEROES WERE THINKING IN SHUTTING DOWN A TEMP SERVICE LIKE THAT.

POLICE RAID: WRONG?



TIMES ARE TOUGH FOR EVERYONE, AND NOW IT'S GOING TO BE EVEN TOUGHER BECAUSE OF THIS. IT'S JUST.. STUPID.

CITIZENS REACT ON RAID



I THINK TEMP SERVICES PLAY AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN OUR SOCIETY.

WAS RAID WRONG?



IT'S WRONG THAT A WHOLE TEMP SERVICE SHOULD BE SHUT DOWN FOR THE ACTIONS OF A FEW BAD WORKERS.

JOBS AT STAKE - RAID WRONG?



I THINK THE BANKS GOT WHAT THEY DESERVED... THEY TOOK OUR MONEY AND OUR HOMES. WHY AREN'T THE POLICE GOING AFTER THEM?

PARAGON CITIZENS SPEAK!



I THINK WITH THE ECONOMY AS IT IS, PEOPLE HAVE TO MAKE CERTAIN SACRIFICES.

RAID VIEWED NEGATIVE



AS YEW CAN SEE, PUBLIC SUPPORT IS **CLLEARLY** AGAINST THE POLICE IN THIS MATTER.

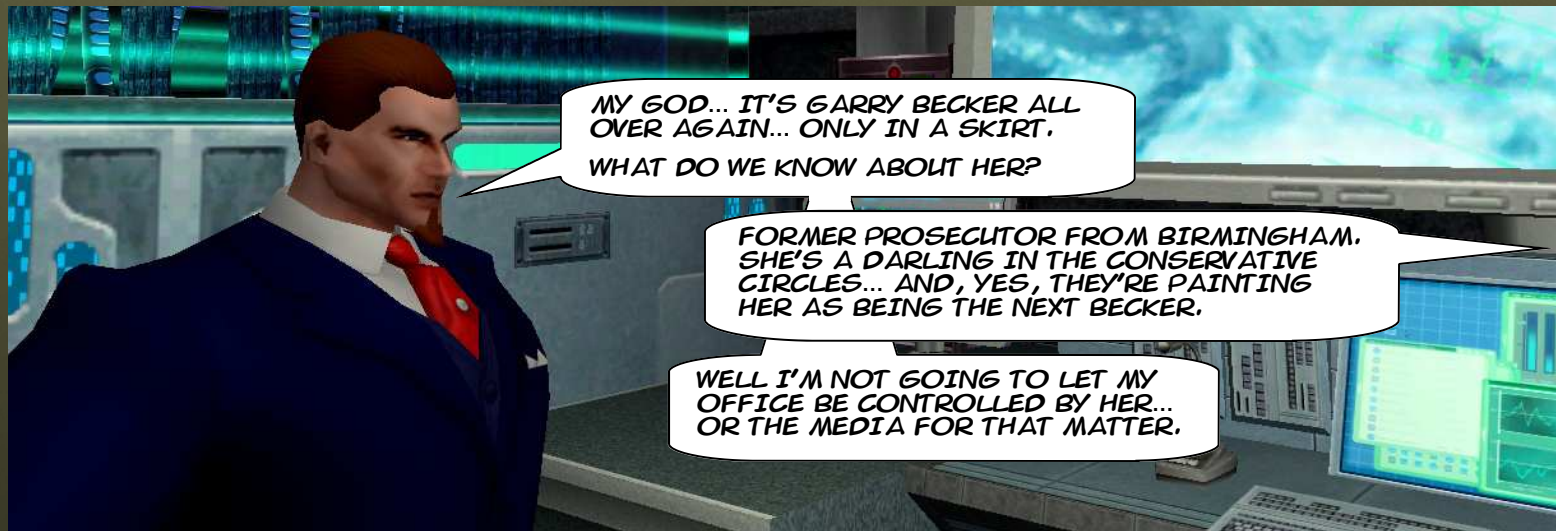
NAN BRACER'S VIEW



AH THINK OUR **NEWWWLY**-ELECTED DISTRICT ATTORNEY NEEDS TO THINK LONG AND **HARRRD** ABOUT PURSUING THIS ANY FURTHER.

BRACER - PNN LEGAL CONSULTANT





MY GOD... IT'S GARRY BECKER ALL OVER AGAIN... ONLY IN A SKIRT. WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT HER?

FORMER PROSECUTOR FROM BIRMINGHAM. SHE'S A DARLING IN THE CONSERVATIVE CIRCLES... AND, YES, THEY'RE PAINTING HER AS BEING THE NEXT BECKER.

WELL I'M NOT GOING TO LET MY OFFICE BE CONTROLLED BY HER... OR THE MEDIA FOR THAT MATTER.

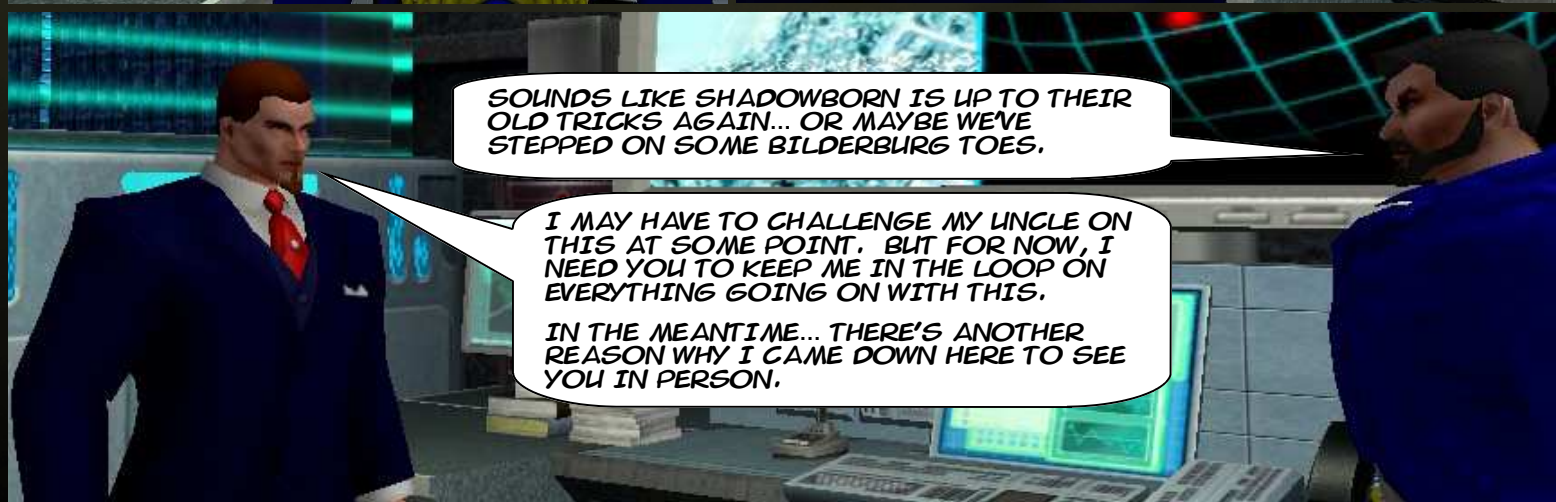


THAT'S JUST IT... BRACER STARTED CONDEMNING THE RAID ON-AIR JUST MINUTES AFTER IT STARTED.



IN OTHER WORDS, SOMEONE TIPPED HER OFF.

JUST LIKE THE CLEANERS WERE GIVEN TIME TO GET RID OF MOST OF THEIR EVIDENCE.



SOUNDS LIKE SHADOWBORN IS UP TO THEIR OLD TRICKS AGAIN... OR MAYBE WE'VE STEPPED ON SOME BILDERBURG TOES.

I MAY HAVE TO CHALLENGE MY UNCLE ON THIS AT SOME POINT. BUT FOR NOW, I NEED YOU TO KEEP ME IN THE LOOP ON EVERYTHING GOING ON WITH THIS.

IN THE MEANTIME... THERE'S ANOTHER REASON WHY I CAME DOWN HERE TO SEE YOU IN PERSON.



WHY DO I HAVE THE FEELING I'M NOT GOING TO LIKE THIS BIT OF NEWS?



ALICE BANKS FOUND A WAY TO GET PYROGURL AWAY FROM BOSTON.

KRYS IS ON HER WAY HERE, KENT, AND WE HAVE TO KEEP HER FROM BEING USED IN THE WITCH HUNT.

**NEXT ISSUE:
PYROGURL RETURNS!**

POWER TRIP



Words of wisdom and reference from writer and creator David 2.

FROM THE DESK OF...

Kent Poderes Technical Consultant

Ouroboros:

I often consider it to be arrogant presumptiveness to think that time would be something that can be policed and controlled. The entities that consider themselves to be the "masters of time" end up being either woefully impotent or dangerously megalomaniacal.



The first group of "ultimate enforcers" that I encountered were the Utopians; the same beings from the universe that Doc Tor came from. At first, they were masters of just time and space for their own universe, but once they discovered the existence of other universes, they claimed jurisdiction over them as well. They claimed that they're just observers, but when the time came to deal with the demigod Alor, they finally decided they needed to act only after Tor took action on his own. Their "action" involved recruiting hundreds of heroes, such as myself, from other universes and time periods. When the battle was done, though, only myself and one other hero survived, and I didn't know until recently that this other hero was Daybright, a hero that recruited in 2010 by Libra, not by the Utopians.

The second group of "time enforcers" that I have come across are the Menders of Ouroboros. Unlike the Utopians, though, they are quite content in sticking to matters of time within this universe.

The Menders claim to be operatives from various points in time, although most of the operatives appear to be from humanity's future. They each talk about a future event known as "The Coming Storm", and that they have been trying to prevent it from taking place, even though by their own admission, it has already started with the destruction of Galaxy City.

Their base of operations, Ouroboros, is situated near the theoretical end of all time. It is a continual paradox, keeping itself minutes away from complete oblivion by folding time in on itself into a bubble. What holds it in that state of perpetual paradox is something called the Pillar of Ice and Flame, a living paradox in and of itself. The Pillar also allows others to travel through time and thus make changes to it.

The Menders have insulated themselves with a collection of allies, including the Greek god Prometheus, and with several of Paragon City's heroes, including Flower Knight. They have also recruited Galatea on more than one occasion, and in one instance they held her for several months with no reason given. This has rightly made her question their motives.

There is one hero that they refuse to work with, though.

As a former time manipulator, Doc Tor has been deemed too "dangerous" for the Menders to allow access to the Pillar. They have every reason to be concerned, although you have to wonder if that fear is out of concern for what he could do, or of what he will find out about their activities.

Continues on next page...

EDITOR'S NOTES:**THE WRITING ON THE WALL...**

Readers of “Guardians of the Dawn Spotlight” may recall that certain “cryptic messages” were scribbled on chalkboards in various locations, most notably in the Guardian Base. Some were in reference to events that soon happened, and others were references to things that went on in Paragon City.



In Issue #3, we saw the return of the “cryptic chalkboard” and its strange messages, and I’m sure you’ll find that some of them are strange indeed.

But if you pay attention to the story, you’ll start to discover that each message is connected somehow to an event that either has happened or will happen. In fact, at least two references are connected to this very issue. Can you spot them?

For more about the “cryptic chalkboard” and other little secrets of the series, be sure to visit the official website for The Guardian Powers...

<http://GuardiansOfTheDawn.wordpress.com>

NEXT ISSUE...

WITH PYROGURL RETURNING TO PARAGON CITY, CAN THE GUARDIANS KEEP HER FROM BEING USED IN ALICE BANKS' WITCH-HUNT?

AND WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE CRUSADING SPECIAL PROSECUTOR TURNS TO AN OLD ADVERSARY GROUP FOR HELP?

FIND OUT IN ISSUE #6!





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