

GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN



SPOTLIGHT ON... **Arktic Chill**

I HATE
THIS
PLACE!



PARAGON CITY: THE CITY OF HEROES! THE ONLY PLACE IN THE WORLD WHERE THE HERO-TO-PROBLEM RATIO IS ALMOST ONE-TO-ONE. IF YOU NEED A HERO IN THIS CITY, YOU JUST HAVE TO LOOK AROUND THE CORNER.

BUT NOT ALL HEROES ARE THE SAME. SOME ARE MORE MERCENARY THAN THE OTHERS. BUT THERE ARE SOME WHO SEE THE CALLING AS A SIGN OF BRIGHTER DAYS AHEAD FOR ALL MANKIND. THESE ARE THE HEROES WHO FIGHT FOR SOMETHING BETTER. THEY ARE THE...

GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN



NAME:
ARKTIC CHILL

REAL NAME: HUNTER
BLOODMOON

STATUS:
REGISTERED
SUPERHERO

ARCHETYPE:
DEFENDER

PRIMARY POWER:
COLD DOMINATION

SECONDARY POWER:
ICE BLAST

NOT EVERY HERO BECOMES ONE BECAUSE OF SOME GREAT CALLING OR SOME TRAGIC EVENT IN THEIR LIVES.

SOMETIMES BEING A HERO IN PARAGON CITY IS CONSIDERED A JOB. A MEANS TO PAY THE BILLS OR TO PAY OFF A DEBT.

THIS IS THE SAD CASE FOR **HUNTER BLOODMOON**, ALSO KNOWN AS **ARKTIC CHILL**. A MUTANT WITH A POWER THAT HE DESPISES AND A PROBLEM THAT HE HATES EVEN MORE THAN HIS POWER.

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"CHANGE OF ENVIRONMENT"

- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2



HEY BUDDY, IT'S GETTING CLOSE TO LAST CALL. YOU NEED A REFILL ON THAT HOT COCOA?

 ARKTIC CHILL

NOTE: THE FOLLOWING TAKES PLACE DURING THE 2009 WINTER EVENT.



THIS CLUB RUNS TWENTY-FOUR-SEVEN. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS "LAST CALL" HERE.



AND I'M NOT DRINKING COCOA. THIS IS ALASKAN COFFEE.



ACTUALLY YOU'VE BEEN DRINKING COCOA. WE STOPPED SERVING YOU ACTUAL ALASKAN COFFEE THREE HOURS AGO.



BESIDES... WHY ARE YOU HERE? I WOULD THINK THAT YOU WOULD BE OVER IN THE SKI CHALET... OVER IN YOUR ELEMENT.

MY... ELEMENT?



DO YOU ASK GHOST WIDOW WHY SHE ISN'T TAKING PART IN THE HALLOWEEN EVENT?
OR ASK BACK ALLEY BRAWLER WHY HE'S NOT "HANGIN' WITH DA HOME BOYS"?



JUST BECAUSE I'M HALF-INUPIAQ* DOESN'T MEAN THAT I WANT TO SPEND MY LIFE HANGING AROUND ICEBERGS AND EATING WHALE BLUBBER!



OKAY, POINT TAKEN.

SORRY, I HAD TO PULL A SHIFT OVER IN THE RED-SIDE EARLIER AND THOSE GUYS LOVE TO HURL BIGOTED COMMENTS.



SO WHAT IS IT THAT YOU HALF-OF? HALF-INU-WHAT?

INUPIAQ. THEY'RE THE NORTHERN MOST INUIT TRIBE IN ALASKA AND CANADA.



I GREW UP IN ALASKA, BUT MY FATHER MADE SURE I KNEW ALL ABOUT MY INUIT ROOTS, MUCH TO MY REGRET.

YOUR *REGRET*?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND...



I HATE THE COLD! I HATE SNOW AND ICE AND I HATE EVERYTHING CONNECTED TO IT!

MY MOM WAS FROM MIAMI. SHE WENT TO ANCHORAGE BECAUSE SHE HATED THE HEAT.

UNFORTUNATELY SHE WAS ALSO A FIRE-BASED MUTANT WHOSE POWER STAYED DORMANT ALL HER LIFE.

I INHERITED HER MUTATION, ONLY I HATE THE COLD.

I HAD HOPED WHEN I GOT MY POWER THAT IT WOULD BE ABOUT FIRE OR HEAT... INSTEAD, I GOT ICE.

I MANAGED TO LEAVE ALASKA AND I END UP WITH SOMETHING CALLED "THERMO-SENSITIVE DISORDER", WHICH ESSENTIALLY MEANS I'M PHYSICALLY ALLERGIC TO HOT CLIMATES!



THAT EXPLAINS THE DECORATIVE BODYSUIT.

RIGHT. CREY INDUSTRIES' OWN "THERMIGUAR" COLD-COMPATIBILITY SUIT. HELPS TO KEEP MY INTERNAL TEMPERATURE WITHIN LIMITS.



UNFORTUNATELY THIS STUFF DOESN'T COME CHEAP. THAT'S WHY I HAD TO BECOME A REGISTERED HERO, SO I CAN PAY OFF THE MEDICAL BILLS.



OKAY, SO HOW ABOUT GOING TO THE SKI CHALET, RESCUE BABY NEW YEAR, AND THEN PUT SOME OF THOSE CANDY CANES UP ON AUCTION?

THAT'S WHAT MOST PEOPLE DO AROUND HERE TO MAKE SOME EXTRA SCRATCH.



YEAH... WELL THERE'S JUST A LITTLE PROBLEM WITH THAT IDEA...



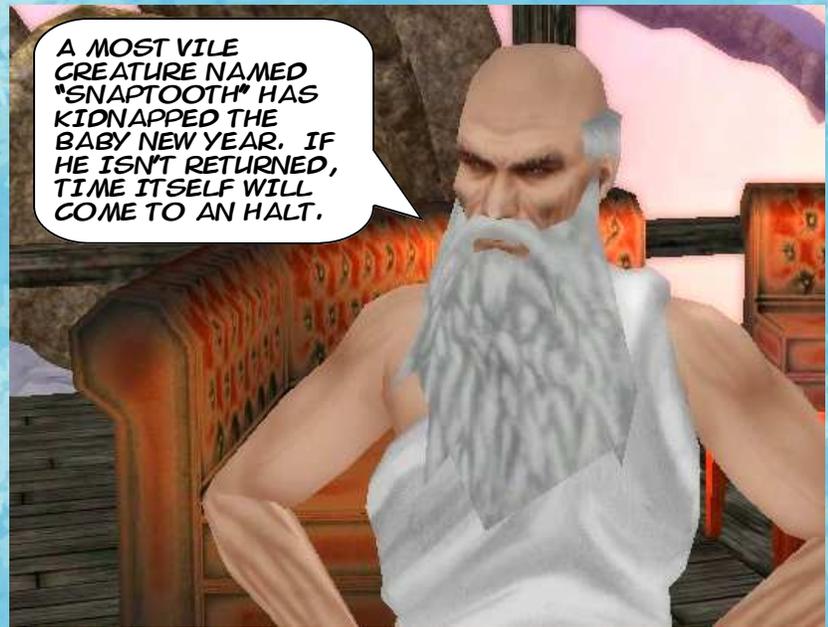
ONE WEEK AGO...

I'M HERE TWO MINUTES AND I ALREADY HATE IT.



THANK YOU NOBLE HERO FOR HEEDING MY CALL.

 **FATHER TIME**



A MOST VILE CREATURE NAMED "SNAPTOOTH" HAS KIDNAPPED THE BABY NEW YEAR. IF HE ISN'T RETURNED, TIME ITSELF WILL COME TO AN HALT.



LISTEN, I HATE TO BE A KILLJOY ABOUT THIS, BUT I REALLY HAVE TO ASK...
WHAT SORT OF PARENTAL GUARDIAN ARE YOU TO ALLOW THIS ON A CONTINUAL BASIS?

I MEAN, HOW MANY TIMES DOES THIS KID GET KIDNAPPED? FIFTY THOUSAND TIMES A YEAR? AND EVERY TIME SOMEONE RESCUES HIM, HE GETS KIDNAPPED AGAIN!
IF HE'S SO IMPORTANT TO THE FABRIC OF SPACE-TIME, THEN I'D WANT TO KNOW WHO'S IN CHARGE OF SECURITY FOR THIS LITTLE BRAT? AND WHY IS THIS PERSON STILL HOLDING A JOB?



OH **CRAAAAAAAAAAPPPPPP!**



"OKAY, SO WHO KNEW THE OLD MAN STILL HAD ENOUGH STRENGTH TO THROW ME OUT THE WINDOW?"

CROATOA

OKAY, SO
CROATOA GETS
FROZEN
AGAIN... FUN.



* OOFFF! *



THAT'S THE LAST
MISTAKE YOU'LL
EVER MAKE!



* awooo... *



"YOU'D THINK THAT AN ICE-BASED MUTANT
WOULD BE OUT-OF-SORTS IN THE COLD,
RIGHT? THINK AGAIN!"



"HERE'S A DIRTY LITTLE SECRET: MY POWERS ARE
ACTUALLY HIGHER-THAN-NORMAL IN COLDER
WEATHER. THAT'S WHY I'M ABLE TO HOLD MY OWN
AGAINST THE WINTER MINIONS."

"ONCE YOU GET PAST THE MUTATED REINDEER, YOU HAVE TO FACE THE SNOW-BEASTS."



"ONE OF THEM HAS THE KEY TO GET YOU INSIDE THE CAVE WHERE SNAPTOOTH IS HIDING."



"IT CHANGES, THOUGH, SO YOU JUST HAVE TO KEEP TAKING DOWN WINTER HORDES UNTIL YOU PULL THE KEY OUT FROM THEIR BELLY."

"ONCE INSIDE, THIS BECOMES AN ICE-CAVE MISSION."

"CAVE MISSIONS ARE AS POPULAR AS THOSE RMT SPAM MESSAGES PEOPLE GET SO I'LL SUMMARIZE THE USUAL PLAY-BY-PLAY."

"YOU TAKE ON A FEW MORE WINTER HORDE SNOWMEN, THEN THE RED CAPS, AND THEN FINALLY SNAPTOOTH. AND HE'S USUALLY A PAIN TO DEFEAT."

"BUT THIS TIME AROUND THERE WAS NOTHING! NO RED CAPS, NO WINTER HORDE, NOTHING. NOT EVEN SNAPTOOTH WAS THERE!"

WHERE THE HECK IS EVERYONE?



"THERE WAS JUST 'BABY'..."

CAN WE, LIKE HURRY IT UP? I'M RUNNING LATE FOR THE NEXT SCHEDULED RESCUE, AND I'VE ALREADY CUT SOME CORNERS TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR YOU TO FIND ME THIS TIME AROUND.



 **BABY NEW YEAR**



WAIT A MINUTE! ARE YOU ACTUALLY SAYING THIS WHOLE THING IS... STAGED?

WELL, OF COURSE IT IS, EINSTEIN! WHY DO YOU THINK THIS HAPPENS A MILLION TIMES EVERY YEAR FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS?

OR DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT THE SPACE-TIME-CONTINUUM CAN BE PUT AT RISK LIKE THIS ON A CONTINUAL BASIS?



AND TO ANSWER YOUR NEXT OBVIOUS-BUT-STUPID QUESTION, IT'S ALL ABOUT THOSE STUPID CANDY CANES.

DO YOU KNOW THE INFLATION RETURN ON CANDY CANES IN WENTWORTH'S? IT'S SOMEWHERE IN THE TUNE OF 20,000 PERCENT!

THEY'RE SUPER-CHEAP TO MAKE, BUT THEY'RE LIKE GOLD TO YOU IDIOTS, SO OF COURSE WE'RE GONNA MILK IT UP.



EVERYONE GETS A CUT, OF COURSE. THE TUATHA, THE RED CAPS, THE WINTER HORDE... SNAPTOTH MAKES SURE OF IT. PLUS HE GETS OFF ON GETTING HIS BUTT KICKED, SO THE MONEY IS JUST GRAY TO HIM.

YOU OUGHT TO SEE WHAT THE ELF GETS OUT OF IT! HE'S THE ONE WHO REALLY MAKES OFF LIKE A BANDIT!



SO, YEAH, WE PUT ON THE WHOLE "RESCUE BABY NEW YEAR" SCAM EVERY YEAR AND YOU GUYS COME A-RUNNING.

YOU GO GA-GA OVER THE CANDY CANES, WE GET A CUT FROM ALL THE ONES REDEEMED, AND EVERYONE IS HAPPY. GOT IT?

NOW... IF YOU DON'T MIND... WE HAVE TO MOVE THINGS ALONG FOR THE NEXT BUNCH OF SUCKERS...



THIRTY MINUTES LATER...

I DON'T LIKE BEING PLAYED FOR A FOOL!

EXCUSE ME?

THE KID EXPLAINED IT ALL TO ME.

HE DID, DID HE?
WELL I GUESS WE'LL JUST HAVE TO REPLACE HIM FOR NEXT YEAR'S FESTIVITIES.

IN THE MEANTIME, MORTAL, THANK YOU AND FEEL FREE TO TAKE PART IN THE RESCUE AGAIN IF YOU SO DESIRE.

HECK OF A RACKET YOU GOT GOING...

YUP.

THE KID'S NOT REALLY A KID, YOU KNOW.

HE WAS DOING MIDGET WRESTLING BEFORE WE HIRED HIM. WENT BY THE RING-NAME "BABY THUNDERCLES".

GIVE HIM SOME AMBROSIA AND "PRESTO"... IT'S BABY NEW YEAR!

 CANDY KEEPER



SO HOW ABOUT THE OLD MAN? WHAT'S HIS DEAL?

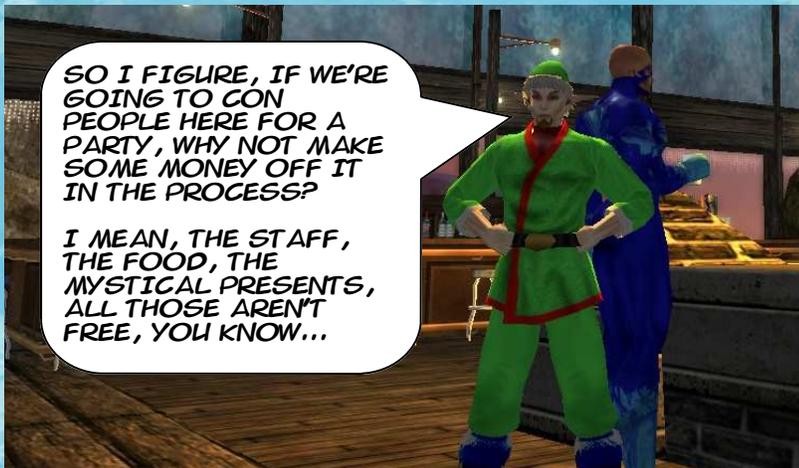
HIM? OH HE'S THE REAL DEAL. CHRONOS HIMSELF, THE GOD OF TIME PERSONIFIED, LIKE THE OLD GREEK LEGENDS.

THIS IS ALL HIS PLACE, YOU KNOW. LOVES TO HAVE PARTIES, BUT NOBODY COMES HERE WITHOUT A GOOD REASON.



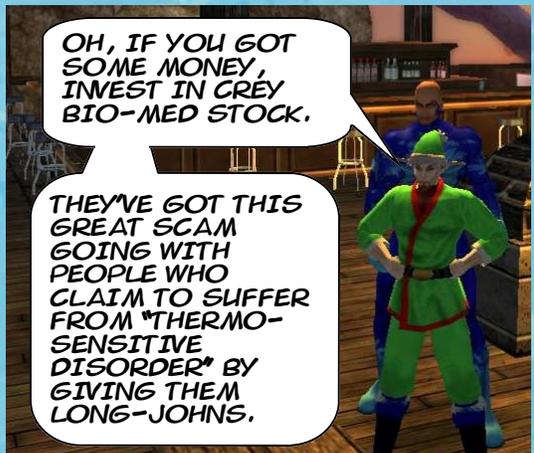
HECK, WE EVEN OFFERED TO HOST WEDDING RECEPTIONS, LIKE THE BIG ONE LAST YEAR*, BUT NOBODY WANTED TO COME OVER UNLESS THE UNIVERSE WAS THREATENED.

(* THE WEDDING OF MANTICORE AND SISTER PSYCHE)



SO I FIGURE, IF WE'RE GOING TO CON PEOPLE HERE FOR A PARTY, WHY NOT MAKE SOME MONEY OFF IT IN THE PROCESS?

I MEAN, THE STAFF, THE FOOD, THE MYSTICAL PRESENTS, ALL THOSE AREN'T FREE, YOU KNOW...



OH, IF YOU GOT SOME MONEY, INVEST IN GREY BIO-MED STOCK.

THEY'VE GOT THIS GREAT SCAM GOING WITH PEOPLE WHO CLAIM TO SUFFER FROM *THERMO-SENSITIVE DISORDER* BY GIVING THEM LONG-JOHNS.



I MEAN... SERIOUSLY! WHAT A PATHETIC JOKE THAT ONE IS!



THWAP!



DUDE, YOU ARE SO BANNED FROM THIS PLACE.

GET HIM OFF MY MOUNTAIN!

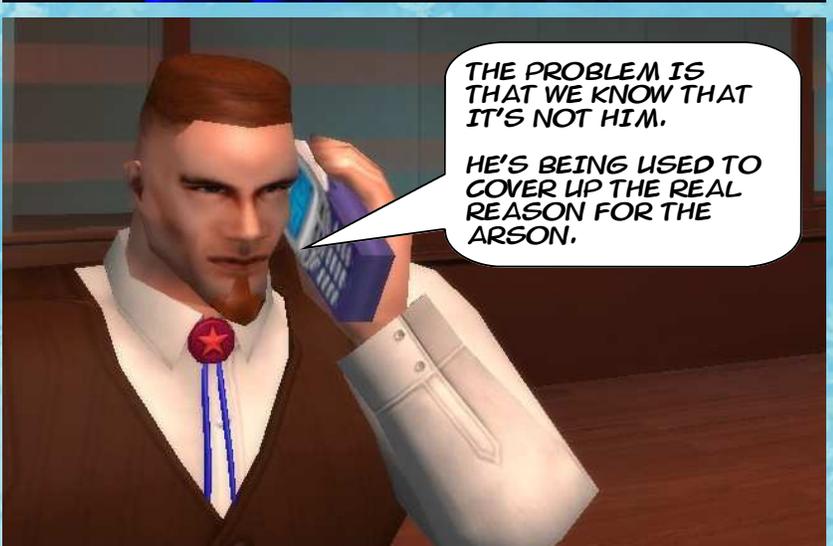
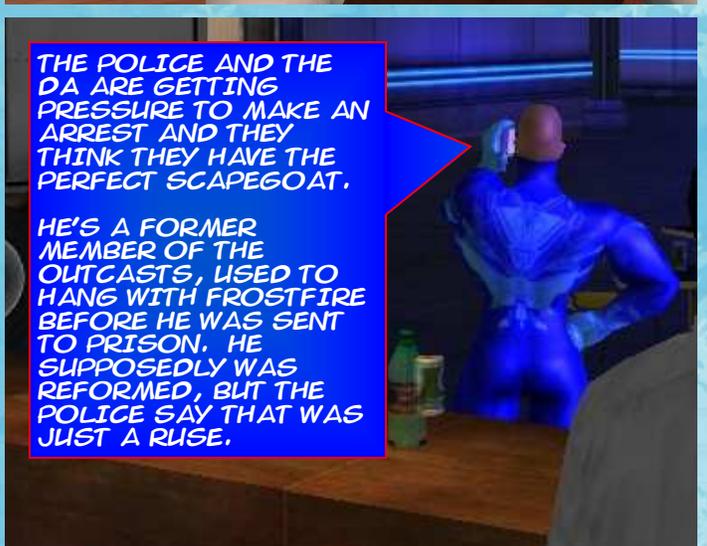
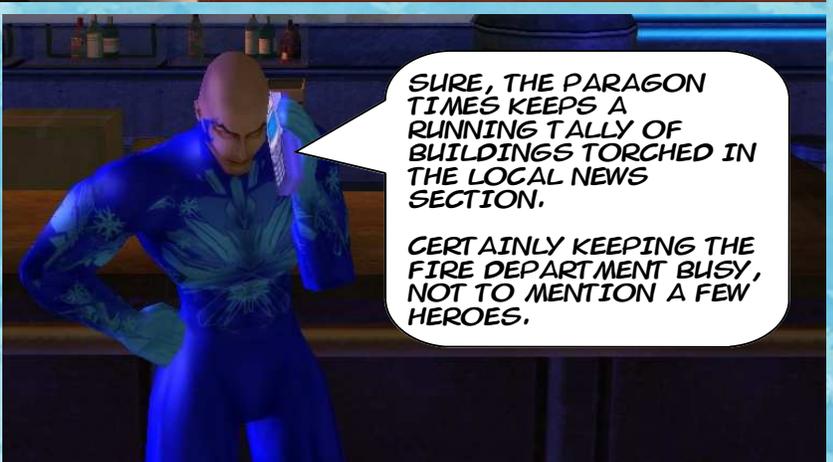
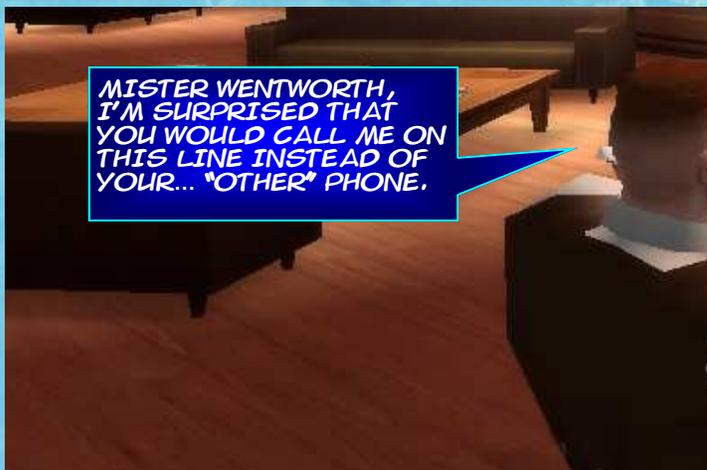


BACK TO THE HERE AND NOW...

SO THAT'S THE DEAL... THAT'S WHY I CAN'T BE OVER THERE ANYMORE.

I SO DID NOT WANT TO HEAR THAT STORY...

Beep-Beep





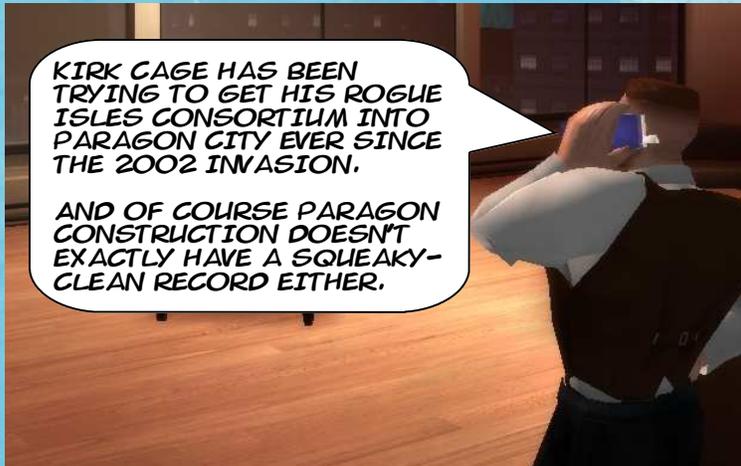
OKAY, IF YOU DON'T THINK HE DID IT, THEN WHO DO YOU THINK IS BEHIND IT AND WHY?



AS A MUTUAL NOCTURNAL FRIEND OF OURS LIKES TO ASK... "QUISNAM CONTRADICO?"

WHO GAINS?

IF I WERE STILL A GAMBLING ADDICT, I'D SAY EVEN MONEY IS ON THE DEVELOPERS.



KIRK CAGE HAS BEEN TRYING TO GET HIS ROGUE ISLES CONSORTIUM INTO PARAGON CITY EVER SINCE THE 2002 INVASION.

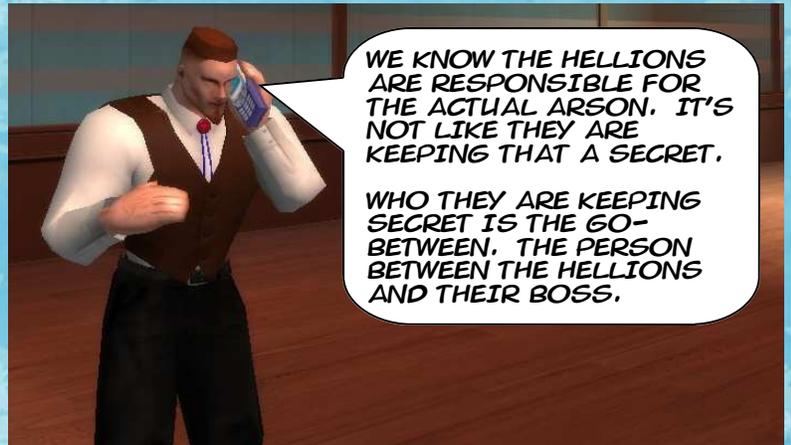
AND OF COURSE PARAGON CONSTRUCTION DOESN'T EXACTLY HAVE A SQUEAKY-CLEAN RECORD EITHER.



OKAY, SO WHY IS THIS A "PERFECT" SITUATION FOR ME? IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU ALREADY HAVE THE BAD GLYS NAMED.



HUNCHES WON'T GET OUR CLIENT OUT OF JAIL, AND THE DA IS LOOKING TO MAKE THIS AN OPEN-AND-SHUT CASE.



WE KNOW THE HELLIONS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTUAL ARSON. IT'S NOT LIKE THEY ARE KEEPING THAT A SECRET.

WHO THEY ARE KEEPING SECRET IS THE GO-BETWEEN. THE PERSON BETWEEN THE HELLIONS AND THEIR BOSS.



SO YOU WANT ME TO GO AFTER THE HELLIONS AND CHASE DOWN THE REAL GO-BETWEEN?

THAT'S THE IDEA.

BEST NEWS I'VE HEARD ALL DAY.

I'M IN.

ATLAS PLAZA - ATLAS PARK

I'M NOT A DETECTIVE. I LEAVE THAT SORT OF STUFF TO ALEX AND JASON.

BUT AS VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE GUARDIANS, I CAN BRING IN SOMEONE WITH A LITTLE MORE EXPERIENCE IN THIS SITUATION...



IF HE ISN'T TRYING TO GET HIMSELF KILLED FIRST.

COME ON! YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE AN OLD MAN LIKE ME? BRING IT PUNKS!



MIND IF I PLAY THROUGH?

YOU'RE THE BOSS...



FIVE MINUTES LATER...

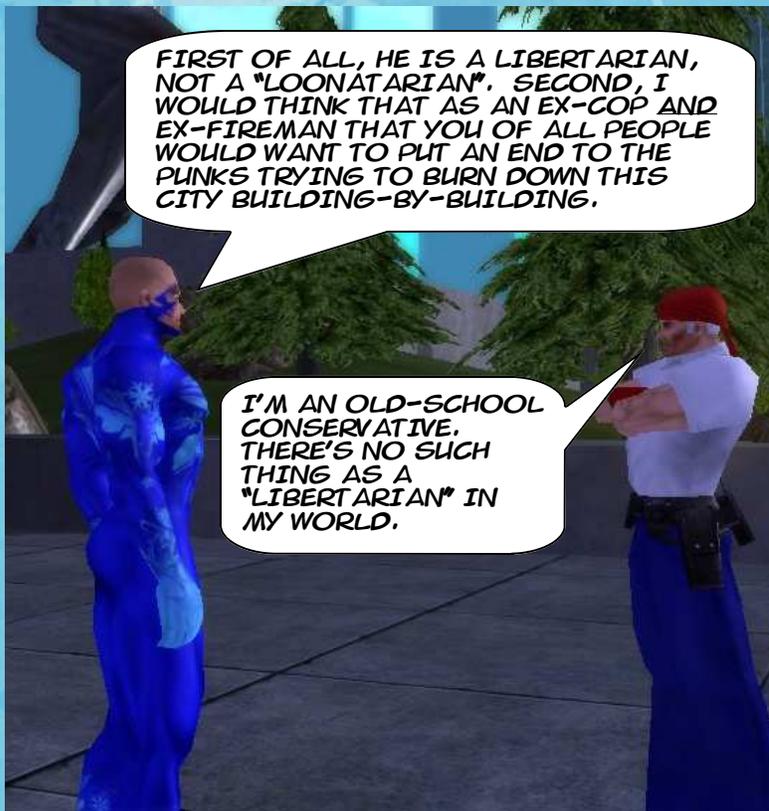
SO THE LOONATARIAN PUT US UP TO THIS, HUH?



 JIMMY HELLFIGHTER

FIRST OF ALL, HE IS A LIBERTARIAN, NOT A "LOONATARIAN". SECOND, I WOULD THINK THAT AS AN EX-COP AND EX-FIREMAN THAT YOU OF ALL PEOPLE WOULD WANT TO PUT AN END TO THE PUNKS TRYING TO BURN DOWN THIS CITY BUILDING-BY-BUILDING.

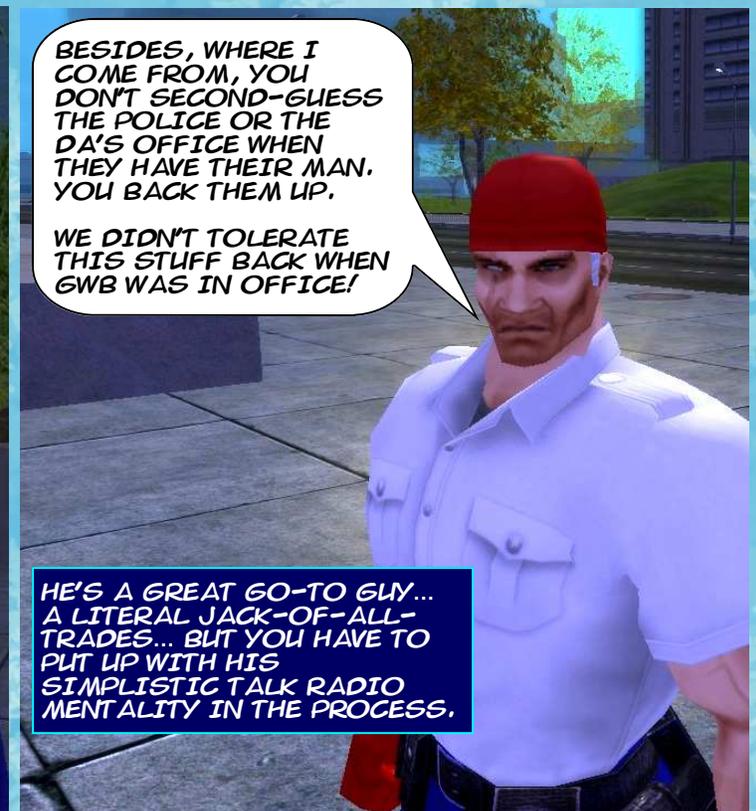
I'M AN OLD-SCHOOL CONSERVATIVE. THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A "LIBERTARIAN" IN MY WORLD.



BESIDES, WHERE I COME FROM, YOU DON'T SECOND-GUESS THE POLICE OR THE DA'S OFFICE WHEN THEY HAVE THEIR MAN. YOU BACK THEM UP.

WE DIDN'T TOLERATE THIS STUFF BACK WHEN GWB WAS IN OFFICE!

HE'S A GREAT GO-TO GUY... A LITERAL JACK-OF-ALL-TRADES... BUT YOU HAVE TO PUT UP WITH HIS SIMPLISTIC TALK RADIO MENTALITY IN THE PROCESS.





OKAY, IF YOU THINK THAT THE POLICE ARE RIGHT, THEN LET'S MAKE SURE THEIR CASE IS AS OPEN-AND-SHUT AS THEY SAY IT IS.

WE KNOW THE HELLIONS ARE GETTING PAID TO TORCH BUILDINGS IN STEEL CANYON, BUT NOT EVERY BUILDING... JUST CERTAIN ONES.

WHY? WHAT'S THE REASON WHY YOU WOULD PAY AN ARSONIST?

THESE AREN'T JUST ARSONISTS. THEY'RE CULTISTS.

HELLIONS BELIEVE THAT FIRE AND BLOOD GIVE THEM MAGICAL POWER. THE MONEY IS JUST A BONUS FOR THEM.

AS FOR WHY... THERE'S ALWAYS THE INSURANCE ANGLE. QUICK BUCK IF YOU'RE NOT CONNECTED TO IT.



DO ALL THESE BUILDINGS HAVE THE SAME OWNER?

I'D HAVE TO LOOK INTO THAT, BUT I THINK THEY WERE DIFFERENT OWNERS. THAT WAS WHAT STUMPED THE POLICE PREVIOUSLY.



THEN I KNOW WHO WE CAN ASK ABOUT THAT.

HER NAME IS TESS MEISER. SHE'S ON THE PARAGON CITY BOARD OF DEVELOPERS. I USED TO WORK FOR HER HUSBAND BACK WHEN I DID CONSTRUCTION WORK IN THE 70'S.



IS THERE ANYTHING YOU DIDN'T DO BACK IN THE 70'S?

YEAH, ALL THE DRUGS AND SEX THAT THE LIBERALS WERE HOPPED UP ON.

SOMEONE HAD TO PAY THE BILLS AND BRING HOME THE BACON.



THAT'S HER...

IT'S THE CAPES... WASTE HER!

YOU! STEP AWAY FROM THE WOMAN **RIGHT NOW!**



THOSE ARE THE WRONG WORDS TO SAY AROUND THE GUARDIANS!



ARE YOU OKAY, MRS. MEISER?

I AM NOW THAT YOU TWO ARE HERE, JIMMY.

AND, PLEASE, CALL ME TESS. I'M NOT THE SAME TROPHY WIFE YOU KNEW SINCE BURT PASSED ON.



MA'AM WE WERE HOPING YOU'D BE ABLE TO ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BUILDINGS IN...

IF YOU'RE TALKIN' 'BOUT STEEL CANYON, THEN YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES ASKING TODAY. 'FACT THAT'S ALL THAT I'VE BEEN TALKIN' 'BOUT.



THAT WHOLE DISTRICT HAS BEEN A NIGHT MARE FOR US SINCE '05!

CAN'T REALLY FINISH ANY WORK OVER THERE BECAUSE WE'RE RUNNING AROUND REBUILDING THE BUILDINGS THAT GET BURNT DOWN.

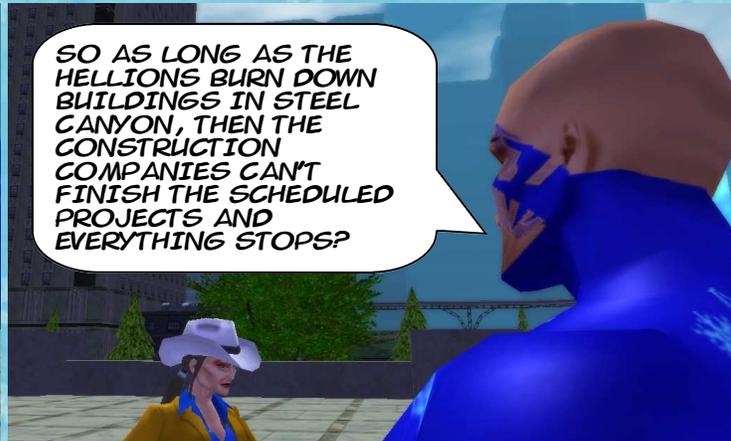


SEE... THE ORIGINAL DEAL WITH THE INSURANCE COMPANIES IS TO REBUILD HOMES FIRST AND FOREMOST. SO ANYTIME ONE GETS KNOCKED DOWN, THE BUILDERS HAVE TO DROP EVERYTHIN' AND REBUILD IT.



WE'VE ALREADY LOST SO MUCH WORK BECAUSE OF THAT D@MNED CLAUSE. FAULTLINE, BOOMTOWN, THE HOLLOWES...

EVERYTHING WE WANTED TO DO HAS BEEN ON HOLD 'CUZ OF STEEL CANYON.



SO AS LONG AS THE HELLIONS BURN DOWN BUILDINGS IN STEEL CANYON, THEN THE CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES CAN'T FINISH THE SCHEDULED PROJECTS AND EVERYTHING STOPS?



IT'S WORSE THAN THAT. GREY BROUGHT IN THEIR OWN CREWS TO BUILD THE AE BUILDINGS*. WE'RE NOW GETTING PRESSURE TO ALLOW THE CAGE CONSORTIUM TO BID ON PROJECTS.



I WASN'T HAPPY THAT MY HUSBAND'S COMPANY WAS BOUGHT UP BY PARAGON CONSTRUCTION, BUT THE LAST THING I EVER WANT TO SEE IS KIRK CAGE'S BLOOD MONEY IN THIS CITY!

(* AE: ARCHITECT ENTERTAINMENT)

MINUTES LATER...

ANYTHING ABOUT THAT WHOLE INCIDENT SEEM OFF TO YOU?

ACTUALLY A FEW THINGS SOUND OFF... LIKE HOW THOSE PUNKS GOT PAST THE POLICE DRONES GUARDING THE PLAZA.

THIS MIGHT EXPLAIN IT... PULLED IT OFF THE HELLIONS BEFORE THEY WENT TO JAIL.



THESE ARE THE SAME KINDS OF SECURITY PERMITS THAT CONSTRUCTION WORKERS WERE GIVEN WHEN THEY REBUILT THE PLAZA AFTER THE RIKTI INVASION OF '02. I HAD TO GET ONE OF THESE WHEN I WORKED FOR BURT AND TESS.

YOU HAVE ONE OF THESE ON YOU AND YOU GET PAST ALL THE DRONES.

BUT THOSE CARDS ARE BLANK...

EXACTLY! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ISSUED ONE WITH YOUR NAME AND PHOTO AND WHO YOU'RE WORKING FOR. BUT A DIRTY LITTLE SECRET IS THAT THE CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES WOULD GET A WHOLE STACK OF THESE AND THEN WERE ALLOWED TO FILL IN THE BLANKS THEMSELVES.

I DON'T SUPPOSE WE'LL BE LUCKY AND BE ABLE TO TRACE THE CARDS BACK TO WHICH COMPANY WERE ISSUED THEM...

INFO TERMINAL IS RIGHT OVER YOUR SHOULDER.



YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? THESE THINGS HAVE BEEN ABOUT AS USEFUL AROUND PARAGON CITY AS THE HERO CORPS.

PFFT... YOU JUST DON'T KNOW HOW TO WORK 'EM.



WATCH AND LEARN...

PARAGON CITY INFO TERMINAL

STATUS OF PUP ZONES

STATUS OF SHADOW SHARD

STATUS OF RECLUSE VICTORY

STATUS OF ARENA GAMES

PLEASE SELECT SERVICE

YOU SEE, ONCE UPON A TIME, THESE THINGS TIED IN WITH THE FREEDOM CORPS DATABASE AND WITH CITY HALL, UNTIL SOME LIBERALS DECIDED THAT WAS TOO MUCH INFORMATION FOR US LITTLE PEOPLE TO HAVE AT OUR DISPOSAL.



BUT IF YOU KNOW THE RIGHT TRICK, YOU CAN GET THE ORIGINAL INTERFACE.



PARAGON CITY INFORMATION



THIS IS A "SMART TERMINAL" SYSTEM.

PLEASE TYPE IN THE QUESTION YOU WISH TO ASK AND OUR DATABASE WILL PROVIDE THE RIGHT ANSWER.

I found a security card on the street and I need to know who it belongs to. The name and photo are badly damaged.

NOW I CAN ASK THE SYSTEM WHAT I WANT TO KNOW...



NOW I JUST LET THE TERMINAL SCAN THE BARCODE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BADGE AND IT SHOULD TELL US WHICH COMPANY WAS ISSUED IT.



PARAGON CITY INFORMATION



QUERY STOPPED

PLEASE TURN SECURITY BADGE OVER TO NEAREST PARAGON CITY POLICE STATION IMMEDIATELY!

THIS TERMINAL SESSION HAS BEEN LOGGED AND REPORTED.



SO MUCH FOR THAT IDEA...

NO, IT JUST MEANS THERE IS AN ACTIVE POLICE INVESTIGATION ON IT. AND I KNOW WHO TO CALL NEXT...



HEY GLEN, IT'S JIMMY... LISTEN, YOU HAVE AN ACTIVE CASE ON THOSE MISSING SECURITY CARDS? YOU DO, HUH?

I KEEP FORGETTING WE HAVE THAT LITTLE TIE-IN WITH THE POLICE. THANKFULLY JIMMY DOESN'T FORGET THESE THINGS.

IN AN HOUR, WE MEET WITH THE DETECTIVE WORKING UNDERCOVER INSIDE THE HELLIONS.

THE BOYS ARE WATCHING. YOU BETTER MAKE IT LOOK LIKE YOU'RE SHAKING ME DOWN.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE STOLEN SECURITY CARDS?





THEY'RE NOT STOLEN. THEY NEVER WERE. THOSE WERE ISSUED TO A COMPANY CALLED ABC CONSORTIUM.

NEVER HEARD OF THAT COMPANY.



I AIN'T TALKIN' TO YOU PIGS!

THAT'S JUST IT. NOBODY HAS. IT'S A SHELL COMPANY.



IT HAS AN OFFICE AND A POSTAL BOX, BUT THAT'S IT. THEY DIDN'T EVEN USE THE SECURITY PERMITS UNTIL JUST LAST MONTH.

YOU BETTER TALK OR I'LL FROST YOUR SORRY A\$\$!



SO WHAT WAS GOING ON ON LAST MONTH?

NICE TOUGH THERE...



ARE YOU KIDDING? CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN CITY HALL AND PARAGON CONSTRUCTION. THEIR CURRENT CONTRACT EXPIRES SOON, AND OUR NEW *BENEFACTOR* HAS US PUTTING ON THE HEAT WITH THE BOARD OF DEVELOPERS TO ALLOW ABC CONSORTIUM IN ON SOME OF THE PROJECTS.

SO THAT EXPLAINS THE SUDDEN PUSH FROM THE DA'S OFFICE TO GO AFTER THE ARSONS AFTER FIVE YEARS OF DOING NOTHING ABOUT THEM.

WHO'S THE CONTACT FROM YOUR *BENEFACTOR*?

GOES BY THE STREET NAME *CRUCIBLE*. HE HOLED HIMSELF UP IN THE HOLLOW.

THE HOLLOWES

THE SIGN ON THE ZONE ENTRANCE SAYS "EASTGATE"... THE ORIGINAL NAME FOR THIS DISTRICT.

IT USED TO BE A BEAUTIFUL DISTRICT, FULL OF SHOPS AND MALLS AND WELL-OFF NEIGHBORHOODS.

THE TROLLS DESTROYED ALL THAT IN 2000 BY TUNNELING THE HEART OUT, HOLLOWING IT, GUTTING THE DISTRICT.

THIS THIS PLACE EARNED ITS NEW NICKNAME... "THE HOLLOWES".

PERFECT HIDING PLACE FOR A FIREBUG-FOR-HIRE.

OR... AT LEAST IT WAS.

WHAT'S THE PLAN, BOSS?

LET'S BAG US SOME FIREBUGS.

I CAN TELL HE HATES THIS PLACE, TOO HOT, TOO SMOKY, TOO MANY FIRES.

MEP I LOVE IT! IT'S THE ONLY TIME I CAN ENJOY THE HEAT WITHOUT MY THERMO-SENSITIVE DISORDER KICKING IN.

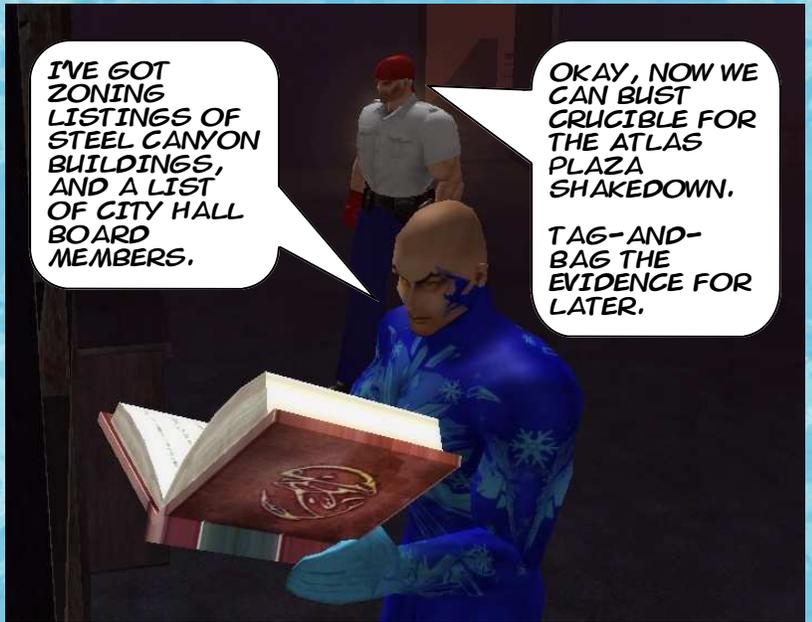
JIMMY'S A FIRE-BASED SCRAPPER. HE'S ALSO A FIREFIGHTER, SO HE HATES HIS POWERS JUST AS MUCH AS I HATE MY OWN.

I GUESS THAT EXPLAINS WHY WE MAKE FOR A PRETTY EFFECTIVE TEAM. A FIREMAN WHO HATES FIRE, AND AN ESKIMO WHO HATES ICE. WEIRD, HUH?



BINGO! HERE'S THE PROOF!

WHAT DID YOU FIND?



I'VE GOT ZONING LISTINGS OF STEEL CANYON BUILDINGS, AND A LIST OF CITY HALL BOARD MEMBERS.

OKAY, NOW WE CAN BUST CRUCIBLE FOR THE ATLAS PLAZA SHAKEDOWN. TAG-AND-BAG THE EVIDENCE FOR LATER.



STILL DOESN'T MEAN THE LOONATARIAN WAS RIGHT.

WE'LL FIND OUT SHORTLY.



MAGIC CULT CIRCLE, NOT GOOD...

So... you dare to tread into my realm!



AND YOU MUST BE CRUCIBLE.



It doesn't matter how you found me. What matters is that you will not leave here alive! This place will be your crematorium!



THEN YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW WHO YOU'RE MESSING WITH!

Minions... to me NOW!

NOT HERE, KID... NOT HERE!



OUTSIDE, CHILL! GET THEM AWAY FROM THE HELLION CIRCLE!

Time to die, hero!

AAARGH!!!

NO!



What are you...? NO!

YOU WILL NOT HARM ANYONE ELSE EVER AGAIN!



The cold! The freezing cold! Stop it! Stop IT!

YOU'RE FINISHED!



My fire... where is my fire? I can't feel it anymore...



JIMMY WAS RIGHT. CRUCIBLE GOT HIS POWER FROM MAGIC. AWAY FROM THE HELLION CHARMS, HE WAS NO MATCH FOR MY ARCTIC POWER.

CHILL-OUT, CRUCIBLE!

S-s-sooo c-c-col ddddd...



HASSAN JOURDAN

THE ARREST OF AMON CRUZ COMES AS CHARGES WERE DROPPED AGAINST 31-YEAR OLD HASSAN JOURDAN, A FIRE-BASED MUTANT AND FORMER MEMBER OF THE OUTCAST STREET GANG.

CIVIL LIBERTIES GROUPS, INCLUDING THE **PARAGON LIBERTARIAN SOCIETY**, HAD ACCUSED PROSECUTORS OF RUSHING TO JUDGMENT AGAINST JOURDAN BASED SOLELY ON HIS CRIMINAL PAST AND HIS FIRE-BASED MUTATION.

DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY **EDWARD "THE TRUST" VANCE** REJECTS ALL SUCH CRITICISM OF THE CITY'S HANDLING OF THE CASE, SAYING THEY WERE ONLY GOING ON THE EVIDENCE THEY HAD... EVIDENCE THAT POLICE NOW SAY WAS SUPPLIED BY CRUZ.

ACCUSED SUSPECT CLEARED



I JUST WANTED TO SAY THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO STUCK BY ME, WHO BELIEVED IN ME WHEN NOBODY ELSE DID...

HASSAN JOURDAN FREED



AND I ESPECIALLY WANT TO THANK THE **GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN** FOR MAKING SURE THAT THE TRUTH FINALLY CAME OUT.

JOURDAN SPEAKS OUT



ATLAS PARK

REALLY? INTERESTING. OKAY, I'LL LET HIM KNOW. THANKS ALEX.



ALEX SAYS CRUCIBLE HAS AGGRAVATED TSD.

HE GETS NO SYMPATHY FROM ME. THE PLUNK TRIED TO BARBEQUE ME... HE GETS WHAT HE DESERVES.

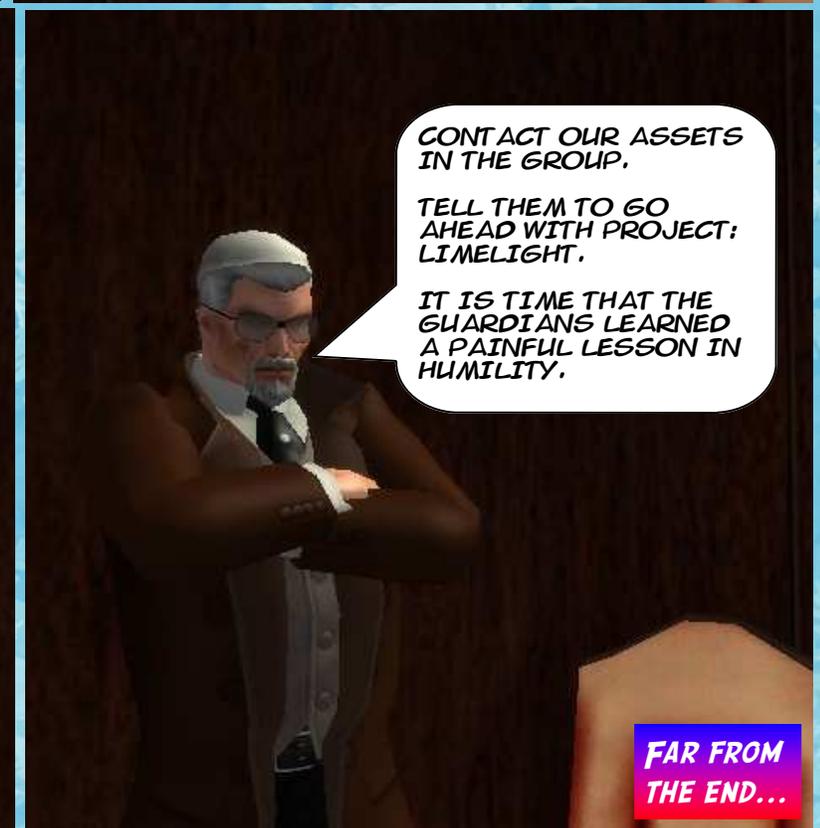
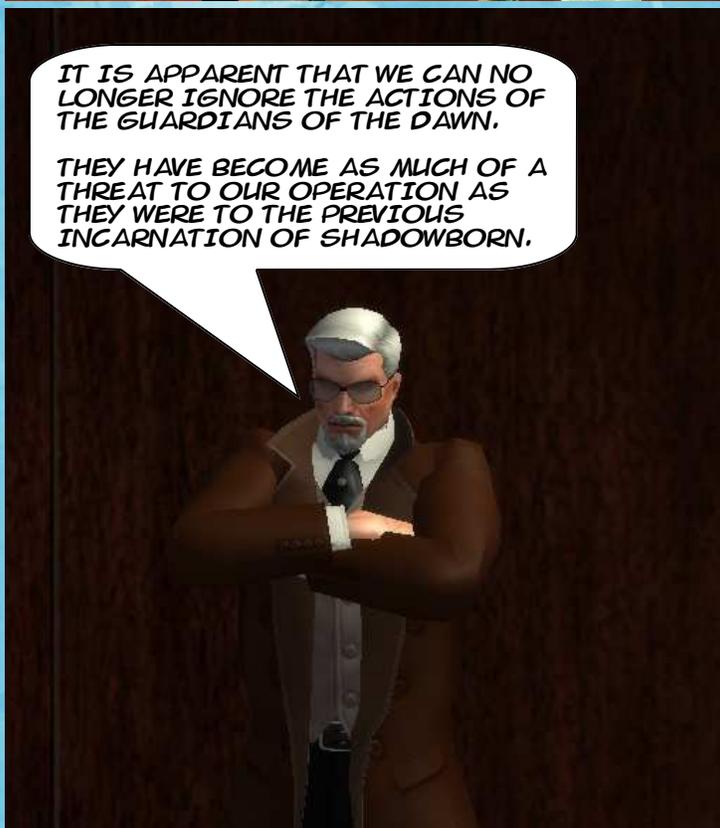
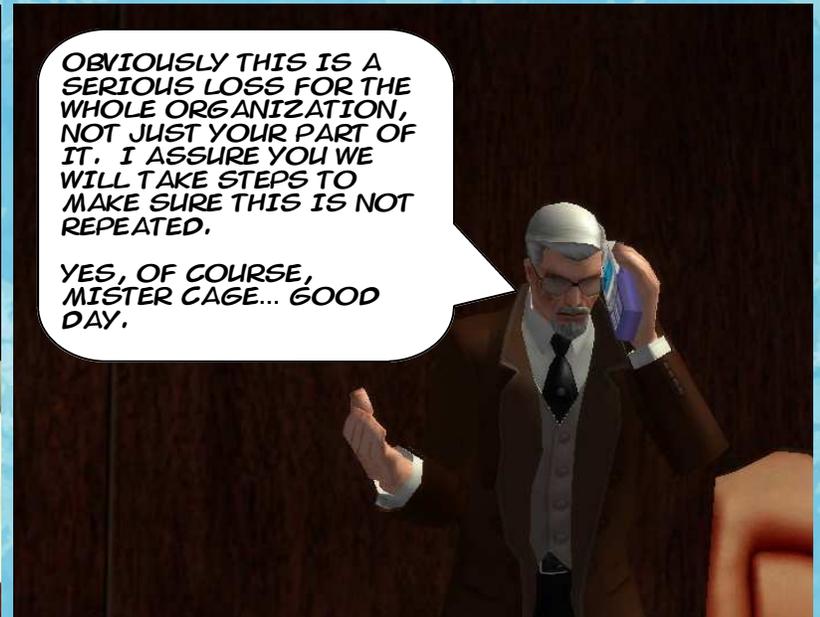
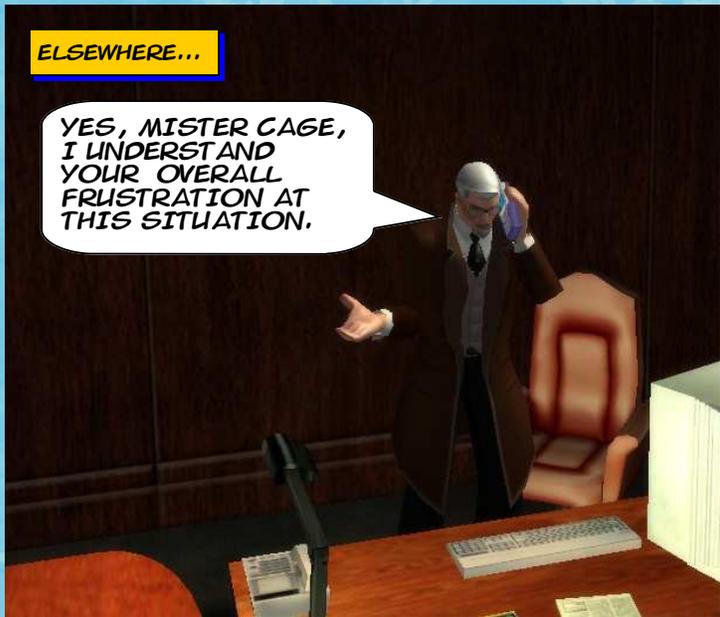


YOU REALIZE, OF COURSE, THAT THIS WON'T STOP ALL THE FIRES IN STEEL CANYON.

OH I KNOW...



BUT AT LEAST WE CLOSED UP A SERIOUS SECURITY HOLE AND FREED AN INNOCENT MAN IN THE PROCESS. I SAY THAT'S SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT.



FAR FROM THE END...



Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.



Paragon City

Department of Paranormal Health



September 7, 1979

Thermo-Sensitive Disorder and its Effects on Superhuman Behavior

Submitted by: Arthur A. Story - Director, DPH

In December of 1937, a Greek-immigrant by the name of Roman Kristol was admitted to the Chiron Medical Center complaining of chills and a numbing sensation in his extremities. Although he kept himself warm at all times, including consuming nothing but hot liquids, he began to exhibit all the typical signs of hypothermia. Keeping his body covered in blankets provided short-term solutions, but eventually he lapsed into a coma and died several hours later.

Doctors did not realize in time that Kristol was a low-level mutant, and that his specific mutation, which was based on heat, was the real source of his hypothermia.

Kristol was the first documented case of a person suffering from a physiological condition called Thermo-Sensitive Disorder, or TSD. This condition is sometimes mockingly called "Freeze Disease" because of the connection to a certain super-powered criminal from the 1950's named "Freeze Meister".

TSD is caused by the body's attempt to adapt to elemental powers that would not be normal to the human condition. In the case of Kristol, his body adapted to his heat-based mutation by raising his tolerance for heat. This had the adverse reaction of making him hyper-sensitive to lower temperatures. This was not a problem for him as long as he stayed in Greece, where the warmer Mediterranean climate kept his body temperatures normal. But once he came to the northeastern portion of the United States, where the temperatures were noticeably colder in the wintertime, his body had an adverse - and ultimately fatal - reaction.

It should be noted that not all those with elemental-based abilities end up with TSD. The condition is specific to those whose abilities are internalized through mutation or scientific means or through low-level magic.

Changes in one's environment, such as going from warmer climates to

Continues on next page...

colder ones (as in the case of Kristol) will often be the catalyst for TSD. Sometimes, this can be a drastic change, such as a situation encounter with a person with an opposite elemental-based ability, or it can happen over time in a geographic change.

The symptoms are also dependant on the person's ability and the change in environment they undergo. For a heat-based power, their TSD reaction resembles hypothermia. For a cold-based power, their TSD reaction has all the signs of hyperthermia or heat stroke. In each instance it depends on the ability in question, and the opposing situation that they encountered that served as the catalyst.

TSD has several degrees. The most moderate levels are often behavioral, such as a preference for eating hot food for a heat-based ability. For long-term intermediate levels, a physical change in the environment is required. In extreme cases, however, the TSD takes a physical change, sometimes changing a person through skin pigmentation or requiring them to live in extreme environments.

The more challenging aspect of TSD is in how to treat one suffering from either intermediate, aggravated, or extreme cases. In the lowest, more moderate forms, treatment can be handled through personal behavior. In more intermediate forms, a geographic limitation may be needed. But for more severe or aggravated cases, a more drastic form of containment may be needed to simulate the conditions that would be required.

Work is currently underway between Vambrace Industry and a new expansion company from the Crey Corporation to provide a suitable portable containment device.

<http://GuardiansOfTheDawn.wordpress.com>

NEXT ISSUE...



Midnight

Arachnia:

TRAITOR?



When did you have good **TEXAS** food?



If the answer isn't "today", then it might as well be "never".

Why waste your time with posers when you can be shock-and-awed by a REAL-American steakhouse?

Whether it is our rib-sticking-ribs, our Cold War Beer, our Gitmo Enchiladas, our Improvised Edible Deserts, or our new **Four-Alarm FIREHOUSE CHILI**, we guarantee to help you put food on your family, and do it in a compassionate, conservative way that won't require a federal bailout!

DUBYA'S Steakhouse Restaurant