

T+ FOR TEENS PLUS

Can

GALATEA AND THE GUARDIANS



City Of
CC
Comic Creators
Issue 15
2016



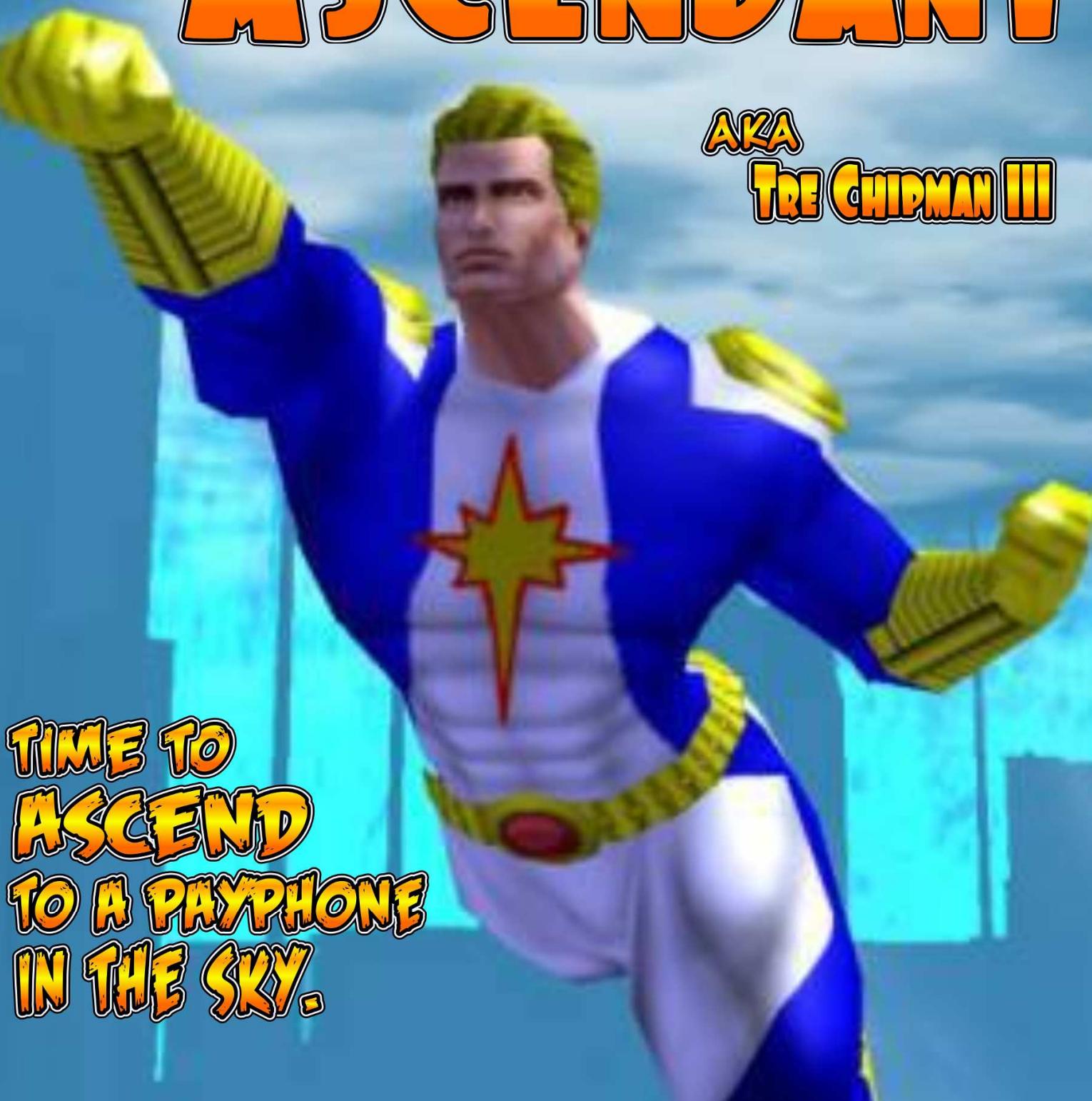
stop the
Xenonite
Man ?



IN MEMORY OF...

ASCENDANT

**AKA
TRE CHIPMAN III**



**TIME TO
ASCEND
TO A PAYPHONE
IN THE SKY.**

YOU WILL BE MISSED AND REMEMBERED.

Born in an alternate world where heroes ruled and humanity was endangered, Faith Powers was the last surviving member of the legendary Powers family. Brought up in the watchful eyes of the Praetors, she became Furia Powers, champion of the weak.

But then she became aware that all was not right in the supposed “Utopian Society”. Forced to choose between the Praetors and a chance at a new family, she chose family and left for the Primal Universe.

Now Furia Powers is a member of the Guardians of the Dawn, a superhero team dedicated to helping humanity to that bright future that is always just beyond the horizon. It is a team that is on the brink of becoming legend. They are...

FURIA AND THE GUARDIANS



What started as a case of police intimidation became a full-blown altercation between Furia Powers and the Paragon City Police Department broadcast live on TV.

Now, with Furia Powers incapacitated from her injuries sustained by the police and from her earlier encounter with the Siriens, her adopted sister, Galatea Powers, must once again resume the mantle of Paragon City's "True Guardian".

Meanwhile, the other members of the Guardians of the Dawn hero group must deal with the consequences of that altercation, including whether or not they themselves should face criminal charges.

"CONSEQUENCES"

- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2

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Qualina created by Damon H/Dam025. Ascendant is the original creation of Tre Chipman.



WELCOME BACK TO PNN AFTERNOON NEWS. I'M ROBIN STEED.

AND THE SUBJECT THAT IS ON EVERYONE'S MIND CONCERNING PARAGON CITY'S NEWEST HERO CELEBRITY, FURIA POWERS.

IT'S BEEN A LITTLE OVER TWENTY-FOUR HOURS SINCE HER BRUTAL ALTERCATION WITH THE PARAGON CITY POLICE, AND PEOPLE ARE WONDERING WHAT KIND OF CONSEQUENCES SHE SHOULD FACE.

Pnn AFTERNOON NEWS · ROBIN STEED



REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE POLICE UNION ARE DEMANDING THAT FURIA BE CHARGED WITH RESISTING ARREST AND OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE WHEN SHE TOOK ON THE COMBINED MIGHT OF THE HEAVY ARMOR AND PSI DIVISIONS.

FURIA POWERS VS POLICE · FILE FOOTAGE



FURIA IS REPORTEDLY RECOVERING FROM HER INJURIES.

MEANWHILE THE DEBATE RAGES ON AS TO WHETHER OR NOT SHE BROKE THE LAW WHEN SHE STOOD UP TO THE POLICE.

I THINK FURIA SHOULD FACE JAIL.

EVEN HEROES ARE NOT ABOVE THE LAW, AND THE POLICE ARE THE LAW.

FURIA US POLICE



ROB DOWNE · ATTORNEY



LOOK, YOU ALL KNOW THAT I HAVEN'T BEEN A BIG FAN OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN IN THE PAST...

BUT EVEN I KNOW THAT YOU DON'T IGNORE A CALL FOR HELP, AND THAT'S ALL THAT FURIA WAS DOING.

A HERO WAS IN TROUBLE, AND FURIA WAS RESPONDING TO THE CALL.

IF ANYTHING THE POLICE SHOULD'VE ALLOWED HER IN OR GONE IN WITH HER, NOT PICK A FIGHT WITH HER.

GARRY BECKER · Pnn RADIO AFTERNOON HOST





DAPHNEY LEWIS · DANCER **PNN**
Paragon News Network



QUALINA · REGISTERED HERO **PNN**
Paragon News Network



NAN BRACER · PNN LEGAL EXPERT **PNN**
Paragon News Network



FORMER FEDERAL PROSECUTOR **PNN**
Paragon News Network



FURIA US POLICE **PNN**
Paragon News Network



MS. LIBERTY · VINDICATORS **PNN**
Paragon News Network



REVEREND NEO-CON · PNN RADIO LATE-NIGHT HOST **PNN**
Paragon News Network

TALOS ISLAND, PARAGON CITY, RI, USA

HELIOS TOWERS - HERO FRIENDLY CONDOMINIUM

HOME OF GALATEA AND FURIA POWERS

IT'S UNREAL...

EVEN WHILE SHE'S SLEEPING, FURIA'S BODY IS BLEEDING PSIONIC ENERGY.

I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW MUCH PAIN SHE'S IN.

WHY DID YOU HAVE TO DO IT YOURSELF, FURIA?

I SHOULD'VE BEEN THERE WITH YOU!

Galatea Powers
(FAITH KARL)

I'VE GOTTEN USED TO HAVING HER TAKE THE MEDIA SPOTLIGHT AS THE CITY'S "NEW GUARDIAN" SO I COULD WORK ON MY OTHER PROJECTS.

I JUST FORGOT THAT SHE'S NOT LIKE ME.

SHE'S NOWHERE NEAR MY POWER LEVELS, AND YET WE'RE ALL EXPECTING HER TO DO EVERYTHING I THAT COULD DO.

UGH! I JUST FEEL SO HELPLESS!

HI.
YOU BUSY?

VANGUARD BASE - RIKTI WAR ZONE

I WAS JUST ABOUT TO CALL YOU.
VANGUARD'S BEEN KEEPING ME BUSY, BUT YOU'VE BEEN ON MY MIND ALL DAY.
HOW'S FURIA DOING?

John Cole
AKA GUARDIAN STAR





ARACHNOS ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING

AEON CITY - CAP AU DIABLE, ROGUE ISLES

"DOCTOR AEON?"

I WAS TOLD YOU
WANTED TO SEE
ME BEFORE I LEFT.

Drake Grey
AKA JASON KNIGHT

YES! I WANTED
TO WISH YOU A
SAFE TRIP BACK
TO THE STATES...

AND THERE'S
SOMEONE I
WANTED YOU TO
MEET BEFORE
YOU DEPARTED.

Doctor Aeon
ARACHNOS GENIUS

HELLO.
I'M--

LEXIE
LOTHORA.

L Lexie Lothora
LEXIETECH CEO

CEO OF LEXIETECH,
ONE OF THE
LEADING MEDIA
TECHNOLOGY
COMPANIES IN THE
WORLD.

I'M A FAN OF YOUR
CAREER, NOT TO
MENTION YOUR
EARLIER MODELING
CAREER.

I'M FLATTERED.
SADLY, THOUGH,
MY DAYS ON THAT
SIDE OF THE
CAMERA ARE
LONG GONE.

IT'S THE WORLD'S
LOSS, I ASSURE
YOU.

I WAS HOPING TO
BE ABLE TO PAY
YOUR COMPANY A
VISIT BEFORE I
LEFT.

AND I WAS HOPING THAT
YOU WOULD DO JUST THAT.
BUT... DOCTOR AEON SAYS
THAT YOU HAVE AN
EMERGENCY IN PARAGON
CITY, IS THAT RIGHT?



THERE'S BEEN A PROBLEM WITH THE SERVERS IN THE KINGS ROW FACILITY. IT'S SOMETHING THAT I THOUGHT WAS FIXED BEFORE I LEFT.

BUT THE STAFF IS TELLING ME THAT THE SERVERS ARE FAILING AGAIN, AND THAT IS CAUSING SOME SERIOUS SAFETY CONCERN WITH THE SIMULATIONS.



THAT IS STRANGE.
I HOPE YOU WILL
KEEP ME INFORMED
ON THE PROGRESS.

AND I'D LIKE TO
KNOW MORE ABOUT
IT AS WELL.

I WAS JUST TELLING
THE GOOD DOCTOR,
I'M CONSIDERING
INVESTING IN THE
COMPANY... TO JOIN
OUR TECHNICAL
RESOURCES ON
FUTURE PROJECTS.



THEN I SUPPOSE
THAT MEANS I'LL
HAVE TO MAKE
ANOTHER TRIP HERE
IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

I LOOK
FORWARD TO
GIVING YOU
THE GRAND
TOUR OF MY
FACILITY.



SAFE TRAVELS
HOME, MISTER
GREY.

CURIOS HOW
HE FORCED THE
INTRODUCTION
ON ME BEFORE
I LEFT.

BUT IT DOESN'T
MATTER...
I HAVE ALL THE
INFORMATION I
NEED FROM THE
ROGUE ISLES.

THE NEXT DAY...

... THE ALLEGED ROBBER SHOWED UP AT THE EXCHANGE BANK ON TALOS ISLAND AND ORDERED EVERYONE OUT EXCEPT FOR ONE HOSTAGE.

THE POLICE HAVE CORDONED THE AREA OFF AND THEY ARE AWAITING TACTICAL UNITS TO EVALUATE THE SITUATION.

BREAKING NEWS: BANK ROBBERY ON TALOS ISLAND

PNN
Paragon News Network

OKAY, THIS REPORT IS JUST COMING IN...

WITNESSES OUTSIDE THE BANK ARE TELLING PNN THAT GALATEA POWERS HAS BEEN SEEN APPROACHING THE AREA.

AND IT SEEMS THE POLICE ARE MAKING NO EFFORT TO STOP HER, WHICH IS STRANGE GIVEN THE ANIMOSITY RECENTLY SEEN BETWEEN THE POLICE AND HEROES.

BREAKING NEWS: BANK ROBBERY ON TALOS ISLAND

PNN
Paragon News Network

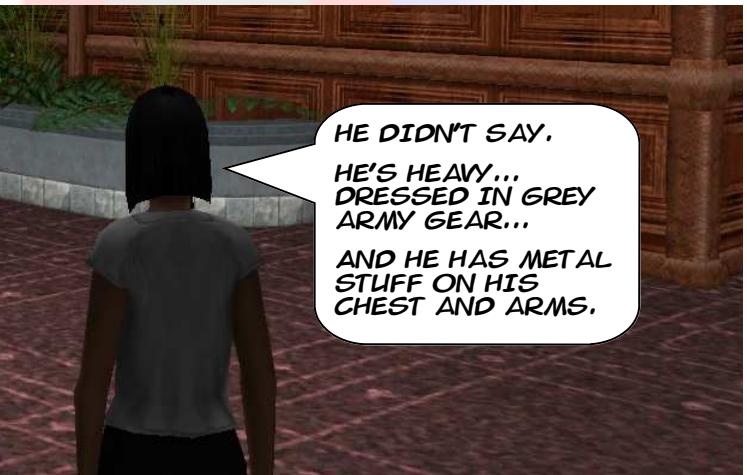
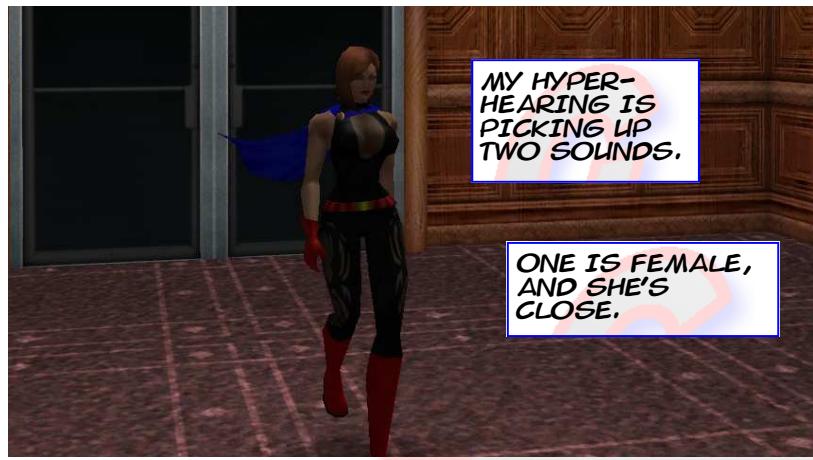
THE POLICE WERE TOO EAGER TO LET ME HANDLE THIS.

THEY KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THIS THAT I DON'T.

ONCE UPON A TIME I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THEIR BACKING OFF WAS A MATTER OF MUTUAL RESPECT.

BUT NOW, I'M NOT SO SURE.

I NEED TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT THIS.



I'M HEARING THE POLICE WHISK HER TO SAFETY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOORS.

GOOD. THAT'S ONE LESS THING TO WORRY ABOUT.

BUT TIMES LIKE THIS MAKES ME WISH I HAD X-RAY VISION.

MY HYPER-HEARING IS PICKING UP THE ROBBER. HE'S MALE, ALRIGHT. AND HE'S USING EITHER PROSTHETICS OR AN EXO-SUIT.

AND... HE'S SICK?

HIS BREATH IS LABORED, AND HE'S COUGHING.

IF HE'S USING AN EXO-SUIT, THEN MAYBE THE CORE REACTOR IS CRACKED.

HELLO?
ARE YOU
OKAY?

IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU,
YOU'LL STAY AWAY!

THAT'S NOT REALLY AN OPTION.
I CAN'T LET YOU ROB THIS BANK.

"COUGH-COUGH"
YOU'LL BE SORRRYYYYY!

WELL SEE ABO--

WHAT THE HELL?

THE WORLD HAS
IGNORED ME FOR
TOO LONG!
TOO LONG I'VE
BEEN PUSHED
ASIDE!

NOW THIS CITY WILL
HAVE TO DEAL WITH
ME!
N

NOW THEY'LL HAVE
TO DEAL WITH...

THE
**Xenonite
Man**

THE MAN WITH THE ONE
SUBSTANCE THAT IS
THE FATAL WEAKNESS
OF ANY HERO!

YOU'RE KIDDING,
RIGHT?
IS THIS A JOKE?

THE ONLY JOKE WILL
BE ON YOU IF YOU
GET ANY CLOSER.

MY BODY IS LOADED
WITH XENONITE!

COME CLOSER, AND
YOU'LL LOSE YOUR
POWERS, YOU'LL GET
SICK, AND YOU'LL
EVEN DIE!

"LOADED WITH...?"
WHY WOULD YOU
EVEN THINK OF
DOING SOMETHING
THAT STUPID!

BECAUSE I KNOW THAT
IT WILL KEEP HEROES
LIKE YOU AWAY!

SO YOU WON'T STOP ME
FROM TAKING WHAT IS
RIGHTFULLY MINE!

WAIT...

DIDN'T YOU HEAR
ME? YOU'LL DIE!
WHY ARE YOU
STILL WALKING
CLOSER?

BECAUSE I KNOW
SOMETHING
ABOUT XENONITE
THAT APPARENTLY
YOU DON'T.

XENONITE ONLY
WORKS AGAINST
ASCENDANT.
AND I'M NOT HIM.

NO! I DON'T
BELIEVE YOU!
YOU'RE BLUFFING!

I'VE EATEN OVER
THIRTY BOXES OF
ASCENDANT-O'S!
YOU SHOULD BE
ON THE GROUND
IN AGONY!

ACTUALLY, I'M THE
ONE THAT SHOULD
BE SAYING THAT
TO YOU.

RRRAHH!

WOOSH!



STATUE OF TALOS - TALOS ISLAND



HEADQUARTERS OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN



WELCOME TO
GUARDIAN BASE.
IF YOU'LL GIVE ME
A MINUTE I CAN
CALL SOMEONE TO
ESCORT YOU--

DON'T WASTE
YOUR MANPOWER,
SON.
I KNOW MY WAY
'ROUND HERE.

DING!

WHAT IS IT?

Mindy Harrison
OPERATIONS ASSISTANT

OH
NO!

COME ON...
COME ON...

IT'S MINDY.
HE'S HERE.
HE JUST WENT
PAST SECURITY.
WHAT DO YOU
WANT ME TO DO?

"The check is in the mail..."

"But I don't have a mailbox anymore!"

At Baumton Insurance, we understand that the last thing you need to hear is the slow grind of a bureaucrat keeping you from your needed settlement money.

Whether it is the Rikti, Nemesis, or Arachnos, you don't deserve to be victimized twice for a service you've already paid into.

We know from experience how painful it is to be denied the funds you need to rebuild your life. In fact, we remind ourselves every day with a photo of our former home office.

That's why we will bend over backward to make sure you get everything you deserve as soon as possible, not when some bureaucrat decides is "appropriate".

Because once upon a time, we were the ones that were told that "the check is in the mail."



BAUMTON INSURANCE
"WE KNOW IT HURTS."

MEDICAL * DENTAL * HOME *
LIFE * INVASION *
MEGALOMANIA * GIANT
MONSTER

OFFICES IN STEEL CANYON,
FOUNDER'S FALLS, CROATOA,
AND PEREGRINE ISLAND

It's So Super... It Almost Needs A Cape!



No matter if you're saving the day or taking a break, you need food that satisfies even the mightiest of hungers.

The Mighty Cheeseburger will do just that!

It's a quarter-pound of pure beef, fusion-cooked and seasoned to perfection with all-natural cheese, tomato, and lettuce on a gluten-free sesame bun.

It's guaranteed to give you enough personal rocket fuel to race through the rest of your busy schedule.

And don't forget to top your meal off with our patented Fusion Fries and an ice-cold cup of Crey Cola to make your experience truly legendary!

UP-N-AWAY BURGERS

FAST-FOOD FRANCHISE WITH VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN PARAGON CITY

"It's Not Fluff!"



When I first started covering stories here in Paragon City, I thought it would be a piece of cake. After all, we're in the "City of Heroes", right?

But I've quickly learned that when you're trying to keep up with heroes, you have to take risks, and you have to put yourself out there with them.

Can I get hurt? Sure! But it's worth it.

Because we're here to report on the greatest stories in the world, not make tabloid fluff.

Faith Nottingham
On-The-Scene Correspondent

PNN
Paragon News Network

PARAGON CITY JUDICIAL CENTER

FOUNDER'S FALLS

"SO WHAT BRINGS
YOU OUT HERE
FROM POLICE
HEADQUARTERS?"

FURIA POWERS.

I WANT TO KNOW
WHEN YOU'LL BE
FILING CHARGES.

Deputy Chief Thomas Wield
PARAGON CITY POLICE

MY OFFICE IS
STILL GOING OVER
THE DETAILS OF
THE INCIDENT
BETWEEN HER AND
YOUR OFFICERS.

SPARE ME THE COCK-AND-BULL LINE
YOU GIVE THE MEDIA. WE BOTH
KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.

SHE WAS TOLD TO STAY AWAY, SHE
REFUSED, MY MEN TRIED TO ARREST
HER, AND SHE RESISTED.

Alex Wentworth
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

AND NOW SHE'S
FREE, AND
SEVERAL OF MY
MEN ARE IN THE
HOSPITAL.

SO HOW ARE
YOU GOING TO
FIX THIS?

IF I READ THE
PRELIMINARY
REPORT RIGHT, ONLY
THREE OF THOSE
OFFICERS WERE
INJURED BY FURIA
WHEN SHE DEFENDED
HERSELF.

THE REST WERE FROM
AN ALTERCATION
WITH TASHATIGER.*

(* ISSUE #13)

DOESN'T MATTER.
POWERS BROKE THE
LAW WHEN SHE
DISOBeyed A POLICE
OFFICER.

EVERYTHING THAT
HAPPENS TO THOSE
OFFICERS IS ON HER.

SO HOW ARE
YOU GOING
TO FIX THIS?

THE CITIZEN CRIME
FIGHTING ACT OF
2003 GIVES HER THE
SAME AUTHORITY AS
YOUR OFFICERS.

LEGAL STALEMATE.

YOUR COPS TRIED TO PULL A RODNEY KING ON A REGISTERED HERO AND IT WAS BROADCAST LIVE ON THE NEWS.

BE LUCKY IF THAT'S THE WORST THAT HAPPENS.

I SUPPOSE I WAS HOPING FOR TOO MUCH WITH YOU, WENTWORTH.

YOU AND YOUR "LIBERTARIAN IDEAS".

YOU WANT TO PLAY THAT WAY? FINE.

KNOW THIS:

I'M NOT JUST THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

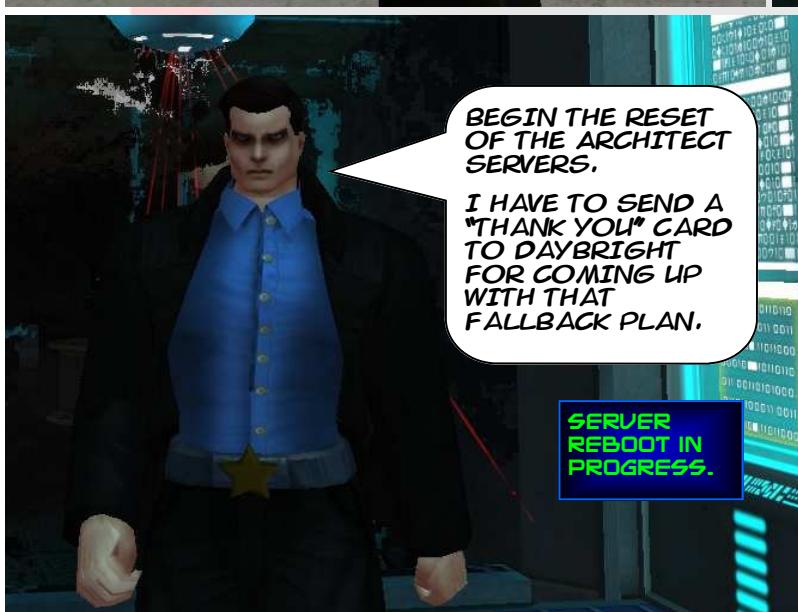
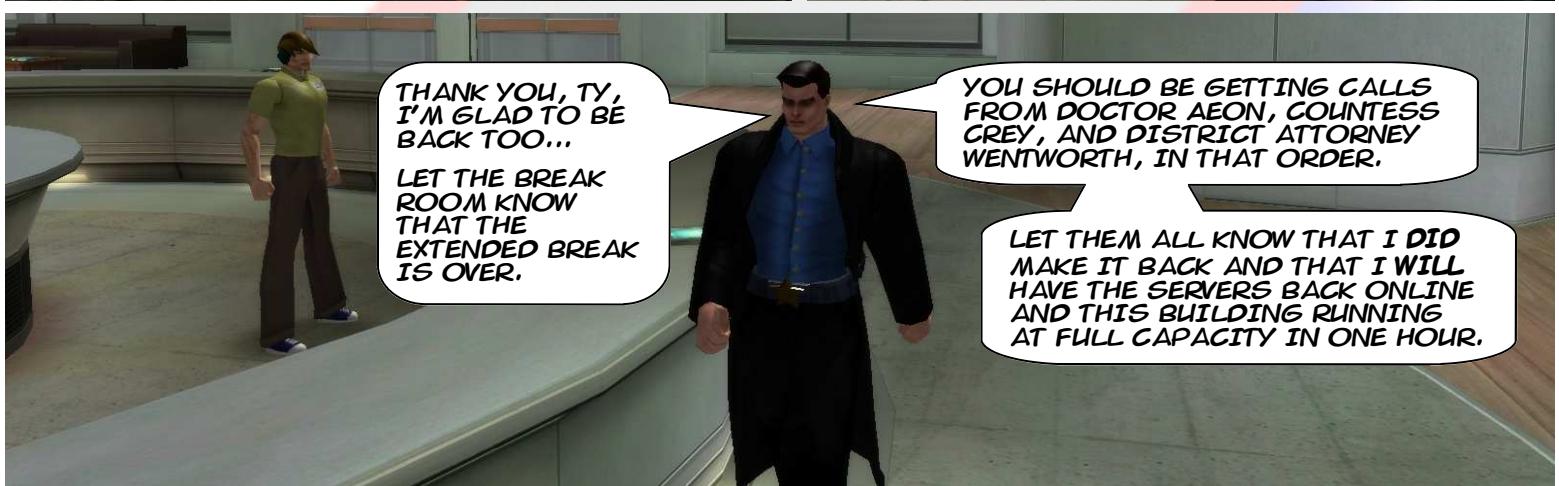
I AM ALSO THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE POLICE UNION WHO STILL HAS THE SUPPORT OF EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE OFFICERS OUT THERE ON THE STREETS.

SO I EXPECT YOU TO HAVE A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BY 4PM TOMORROW, SAYING THAT YOU WILL HAVE FURIA POWERS BROUGHT UP ON CHARGES OF ASSAULTING A POLICE OFFICER AND RESISTING ARREST.

OR AT 4:15 YOU CAN EXPECT EVERY SINGLE STREET OFFICER IN THIS CITY TO WALK AND LET YOUR PRECIOUS "HEROES" TRY TO KEEP THE CITY SAFE.

SIGH...

HERE WE GO AGAIN...



THE PARAGON CITY POLICE HAVE DECLARED THE CASE TO BE CLOSED.

THEY ALREADY HAVE A SUSPECT IN CUSTODY AND A CONFESSION ON FILE.

PROBABLY BE A CAREER PRISONER LOOKING FOR A LIFETIME STAY IN THE ZIG.

I STILL WANT THE CONFESSION ALONG WITH EVERYTHING ELSE THE POLICE HAVE ON THE CASE.

THEN YOU QUESTION THEIR HANDLING OF THE CASE.

NOBODY CLEARS A CASE UP THAT FAST UNLESS IT'S RIGGED FROM THE ONSET.

MY MENTOR TAUGHT ME THAT A WHOLE UNIVERSE AWAY.

ON A SIDE NOTE:
I'LL NEED TO YOU CHANGE THE STATUS ON THE SEARCH FILE FOR JOHN COLE.
SET IT BACK TO "SUSPECT".

STATUS CHANGED.
I PRESUME IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOUR VISIT TO THE ISLES?

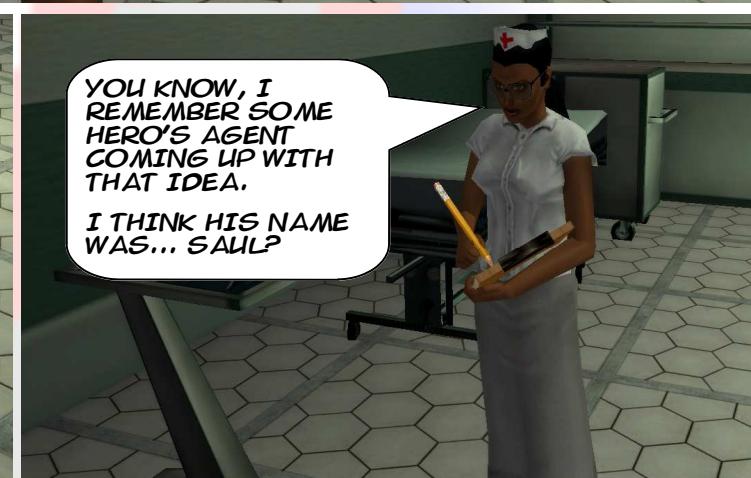
I SAW HIM THERE, SENTRY.*
JOHN COLE WAS BACK IN THE ISLES, EVEN THOUGH HE WAS SUPPOSEDLY BANISHED FROM EVER SETTING FOOT THERE AGAIN.**

(* ISSUE #11)

(** "THE GUARDIAN POWERS" #8)

IF COLE IS STILL WORKING FOR ARACHNOS, THEN WE HAVE TWO SERIOUS PROBLEMS ON OUR HANDS.

THE SECOND OF WHICH WILL BE KEEPING THE MOST POWERFUL WOMAN ON THE PLANET FROM KILLING HER LOVER.







HE SEEMS TO WANT TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OUT OF THE GUARDIANS, SPECIFICALLY.

COULD HE BE WITH SHADOWBORN? JASON THINKS HIS LIEUTENANT WAS WITH THE ORIGINAL INCARNATION.

MAYBE HE'S WITH THE BILDERBURG ALLIANCE NOW THAT THEY TOOK OVER THAT BUNCH.*

(* "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN: AFTERMATH")

WIELD WASN'T WITH THE OLD SHADOWBORN. BETWEEN MYSELF AND CAPTAIN PARAGONNA, WE BROKE THAT INCARNATION WIDE OPEN.*

AND IF HE WAS WITH THE "NEW" SHADOWBORN OR THE ALLIANCE, MY UNCLE WOULD HAVE WARNED ME ABOUT IT.

(* "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT" #4 AND 5)

HARD TO THINK SOMEONE WOULD BE GUNNING FOR US WHO ISN'T CONNECTED TO SHADOWBORN OR THE ALLIANCE.

AND I'VE HEARD THAT NAME BEFORE!
WIELD... WIELD...
WHERE DID I FIRST HEAR IT?

YOU FIND OUT, AND THAT COULD GO A LONG WAY TO FIGURING OUT WHAT HIS REAL AGENDA IS.

MEANTIME I THINK I MAY HAVE COME UP WITH A WAY TO COUNTER HIS ULTIMATUM.

BUT I'LL NEED YOU TO BRING A FEW GUARDIANS HERE TO PULL IT OFF.

AS THE SUN SETS ON TALOS ISLAND...

I'D HOPE THAT JASON WOULD CREDIT ME FOR LEARNING A THING OR TWO FROM HIM AND FROM HIS ADOPTED FATHER.

ALL I NEEDED WAS THE NAME AND HOME ADDRESS OF THE "XENONITE MAN", WHICH HE KEPT IN HIS WALLET.

JASON WAS RIGHT... MOST CRIMINALS ARE STUPID AND SLOPPY.

THE CPCU* IN GUARDIAN BASE WAS ABLE TO FIND OUT WHERE HE WORKED.

(* THE CENTRAL PROCESSOR AND COMMAND UTILITY IS THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN ALL SUPERGROUP COMPUTER SYSTEMS.)

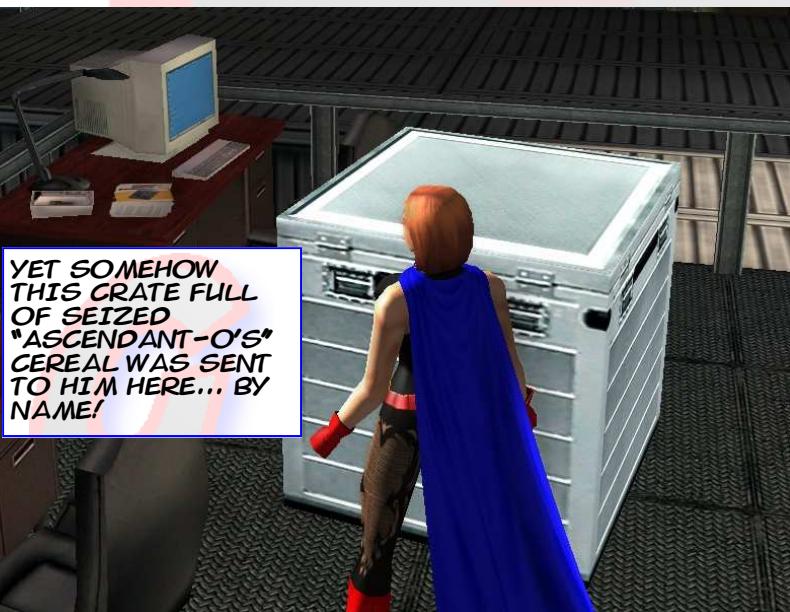
THE "XENONITE MAN" WAS REALLY A GUY NAMED ANTON MACRAY.

HE WORKED AS A SECURITY GUARD AT THIS DOCKSIDE WAREHOUSE.

BOUNCED BETWEEN JOBS; ALL LOW-PAY DEAD-END JOBS. NO WIFE, NO CHILDREN.

"WORKED", PAST TENSE, SINCE HE JUST DIED AN HOUR AGO.

EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM SCREAMED "LOSER".



YET SOMEHOW THIS CRATE FULL OF SEIZED "ASCENDANT-O'S" CEREAL WAS SENT TO HIM HERE... BY NAME!



THE CRATE IS EMPTY...

BUT THE SHIPPING LABEL TELLS ME EVERYTHING I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WHO SENT IT.

ALL THAT'S LEFT TO FIGURE OUT IS WHY IT WAS SENT HERE.

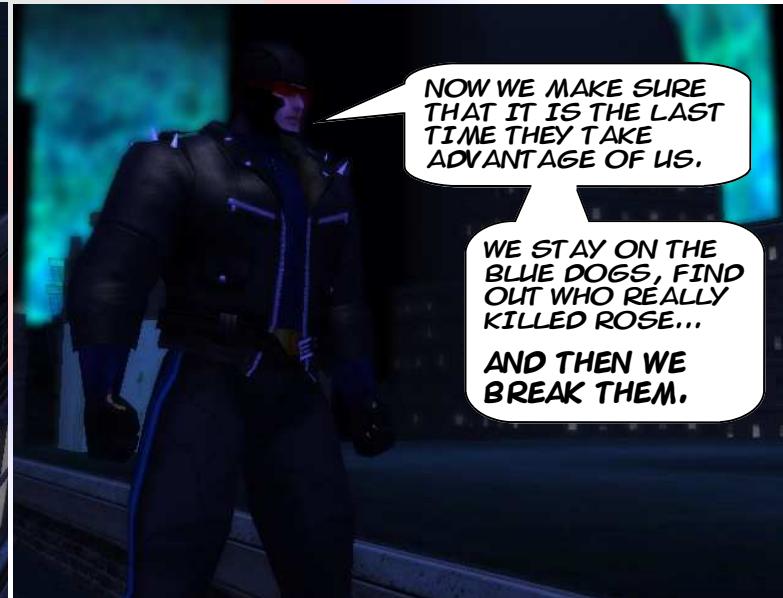
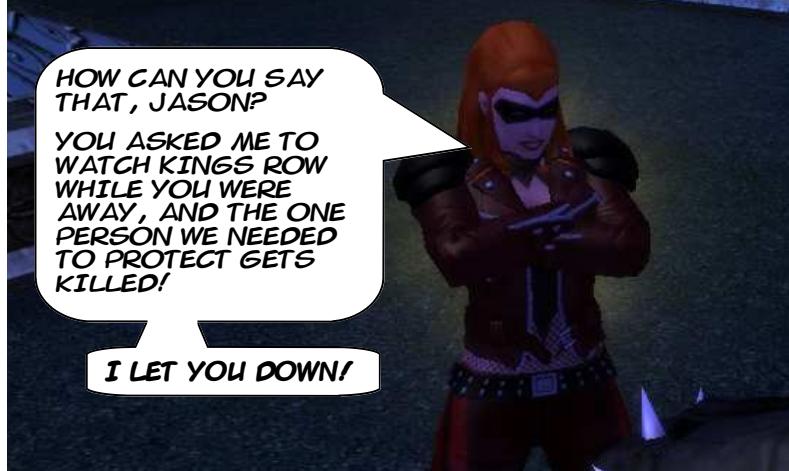
KINGS ROW - A FEW HOURS LATER...



JASON...

Cardinal Syn
(CASSANDRA DARE)

Jason Knight
(DRAKE GREY)



AEON CITY - CAP AU DIABLE

LEXIETECH INCORPORATED

THE NEXT MORNING...

OUR SECURITY
CAMERAS SHOWED
GALATEA POWERS
ENTERING THE
WAREHOUSE AND
FINDING THE
CRATE YESTERDAY.

LJ Jen Glamour
LEXIETECH ASSOCIATE

SO GALATEA DID
THE FOLLOW-UP...
INTERESTING.

SHE'S BEING A LITTLE
MORE ACTIVE THAN SHE
WAS IN THE PAST.

I GUESS FURIA'S
INJURIES WERE WORSE
THAN WE THOUGHT.

IT DOESN'T
MATTER, THOUGH.

I NEED YOU TO
TAKE THE LEAD ON
THIS PHASE OF
THE PROGRAM.

M-ME?

MA'AM, IT'S BEEN
A LONG TIME
SINCE I WAS BACK
IN PARAGON CITY.

YOU USED TO HAVE
PHOTOGRAPHERS
AND HOLLYWOOD
MOGLIS AT YOUR
BECK AND CALL.

NOBODY COULD
MATCH YOUR MIND
GAMES, JEN.

SISTER PSYCHE
IS DEAD.
J-STAR IS
RETIRIED.
NEITHER OF THEM
CAN STOP YOU.

AND... SHOULD
WORSE COME TO
WORST...
YOU KNOW THAT
YOU CAN ALWAYS
INTRODUCE
GALATEA TO ANY
CELEBRITY'S WORST
NIGHTMARE.

SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTATION RESEARCH
AND APPLICATION TO PARANORMAL
HUMANS (S.E.R.A.P.H.) - STEEL CANYON



I HAD TO DO A LITTLE RESEARCH ON THE MATTER, AND I FOUND THAT SOME THIRTY CRATES OF "ASCENDANT-O'S" WERE SEIZED BY FREEDOM CORPS AND S.E.R.A.P.H. AFTER IT WAS DISCOVERED IT CONTAINED A HIGHLY RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCE.

OVER THE YEARS, A FEW CRATES STARTED DISAPPEARING, BUT THEN SUDDENLY STOPPED.

THEN, LAST MONTH, ONE CRATE WAS RELEASED FROM OUR VAULT AND SIGNED OVER TO SOME COMPANY CALLED "VERT-PLUM LLC".

YES, MA'AM.

I THINK THEY SAID THEY WERE RESEARCHING WAYS TO COUNTERACT THE EXPOSURE.

RIGHT...

ONLY YOU DIDN'T HAVE IT SENT TO A RESEARCH FACILITY.

YOU HAD IT SHIPPED TO A WAREHOUSE ON TALOS ISLAND.

AND THE NAME OF THE PERSON RECEIVING THAT CRATE WASN'T A SCIENTIST OR AN EXECUTIVE.

HE WAS A NIGHT WATCHMAN.
CARE TO EXPLAIN THAT?



MAYBE THEY WEREN'T GOING TO WORK ON THE PROJECT RIGHT AWAY.

MAYBE IT WOULD'VE BEEN EASIER FOR THEM TO HAVE THE NIGHT WATCHMAN SIGN FOR IT INSTEAD OF THEM BEING ASKED TO COME IN ON A WEEKEND.

TO BE HONEST, MA'AM, I DIDN'T REALLY CARE.

WE GOT A REQUEST FROM AN OUTSIDE COMPANY, AND THEY ASKED US TO SHIP IT A SPECIFIC WAY.

AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, ONCE IT'S GONE, IT'S NOT OUR PROBLEM ANYMORE.

EXCEPT NOBODY EVER HEARD OF "VERT-PLUM LLC" UNTIL THE DAY OF THE REQUEST.

AND THE PERSON YOU SHIPPED THE CRATES TO JUST USED THE CONTENTS AS A WAY TO ROB BANKS.

DID ANYONE DO ANY KIND OF VETTING FOR THIS COMPANY?

WHO THEY WERE? WHAT KIND OF BUSINESS IT WAS?

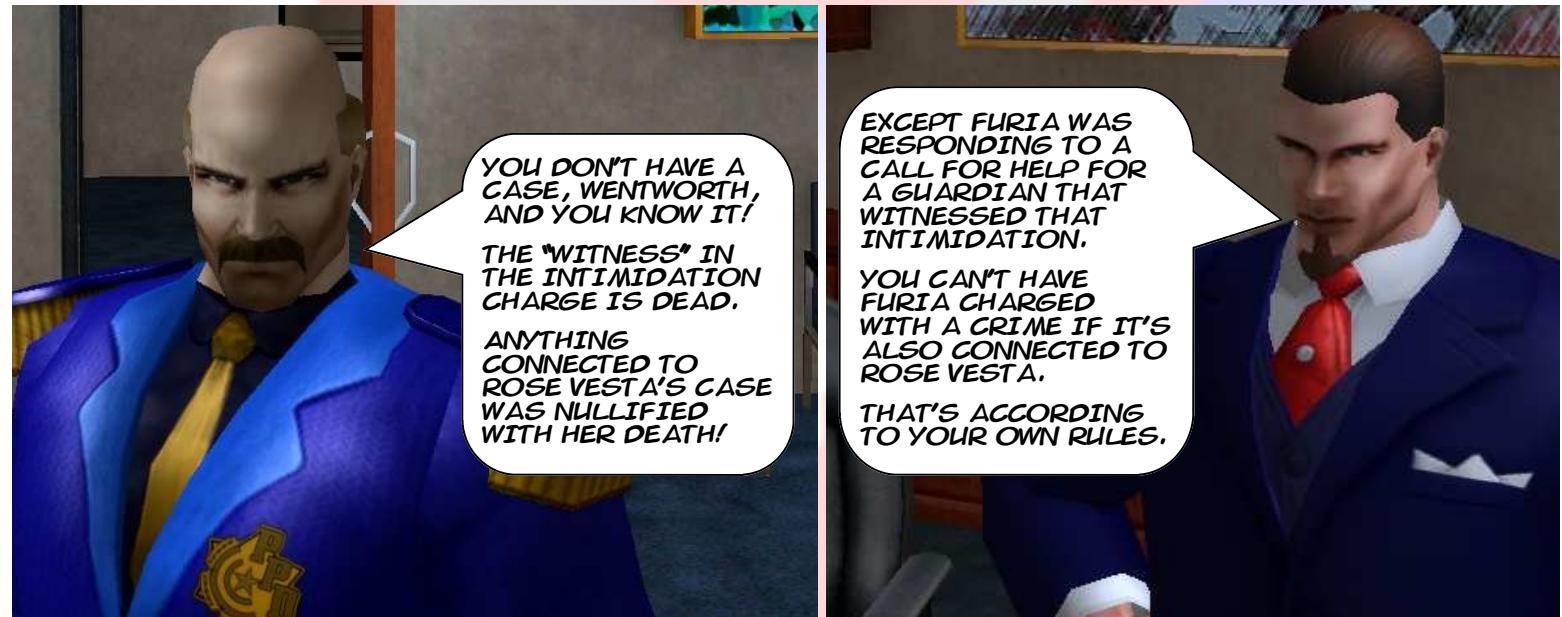
I'M GOING TO NEED EVERYTHING YOU HAVE ABOUT THAT TRANSACTION.

PHONE RECORDS, CONTACT INFORMATION, EVERYTHING.

BECAUSE IF THIS TURNS OUT TO BE A SHELL COMPANY FOR ARACHNOS OR SOME TERRORIST GROUP, I'M NOT THE ONE THAT WILL BE FIRED FOR THEIR LAX ATTITUDE.

BACK AT THE JUDICIAL CENTER...







DA: NO CHARGES AGAINST FURIA POWERS

PNN
Paragon News Network



IS A COPS VS CAPES WAR STILL INEVITABLE?

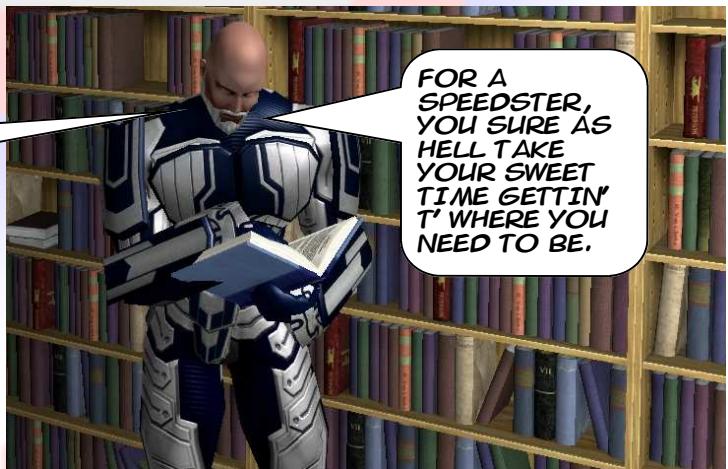
PNN
Paragon News Network



 **Ryder Lightning**
(BART WALLACE)



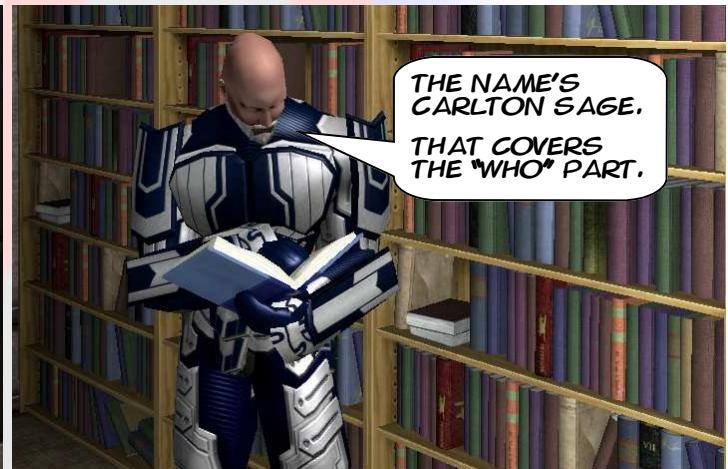
WELL, ABOUT
TIME YOU GOT
HERE, MISTER
LIGHTNING.



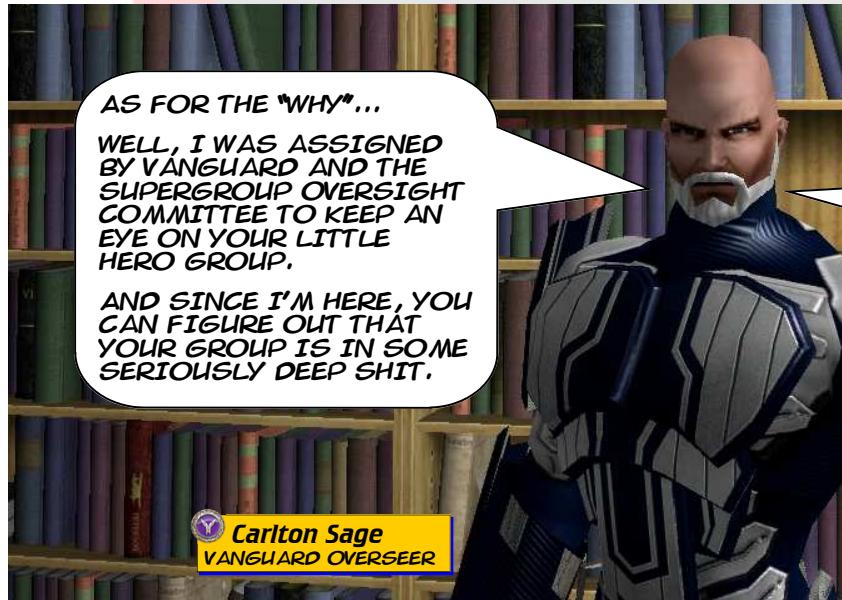
FOR A
SPEEDSTER,
YOU SURE AS
HELL TAKE
YOUR SWEET
TIME GETTIN'
T' WHERE YOU
NEED TO BE.



WHO THE HELL ARE
YOU AND WHY ARE
YOU IN MY OFFICE
LIKE YOU OWN IT?



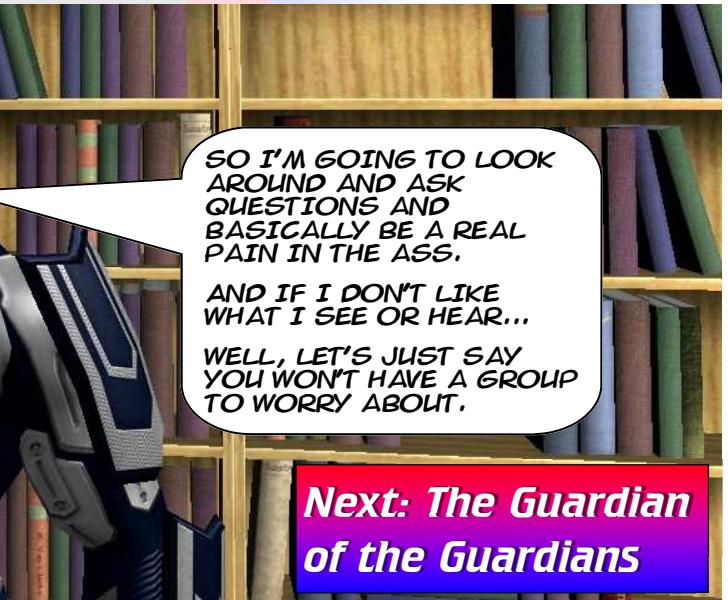
THE NAME'S
CARLTON SAGE.
THAT COVERS
THE "WHO" PART.



AS FOR THE "WHY"...

WELL, I WAS ASSIGNED
BY VANGUARD AND THE
SUPERGROUP OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE TO KEEP AN
EYE ON YOUR LITTLE
HERO GROUP.

AND SINCE I'M HERE, YOU
CAN FIGURE OUT THAT
YOUR GROUP IS IN SOME
SERIOUSLY DEEP SHIT.



SO I'M GOING TO LOOK
AROUND AND ASK
QUESTIONS AND
BASICALLY BE A REAL
PAIN IN THE ASS.

AND IF I DON'T LIKE
WHAT I SEE OR HEAR...

WELL, LET'S JUST SAY
YOU WON'T HAVE A GROUP
TO WORRY ABOUT.



Carlton Sage
VANGUARD OVERSEER

**Next: The Guardian
of the Guardians**



FURIOUS SCRIBBLINGS

Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.

Remembering Tre “Ascendant” Chipman

In the world of MMORPGs, there are legends that are created by developers, and there are legends that are created by the players.

Developers create legends all the time to serve as guides, advisors, even adversaries for players to fight.

And while the developer-created legends are built into the game and are meant to supposedly turn the player’s characters into “legends” of their own, there are some instances when a player-created character becomes an actual legend.

The biggest and most notorious player-created legend is Leroy Jenkins, created by Ben Schultz in the Worlds of Warcraft MMORPG. The character was created as part of a player-made video that parodied how serious some MMORPG players get in terms of strategy.

The legend goes as follows: A “guild” of characters are waiting outside a room full of monsters, with their players talking through an audio chat channel about calculated risks and being prepared survive the challenge when suddenly one player who was supposedly “away” getting his dinner jumps back in and charges on into the room shouting “LEEEEEEROYYYYYYY JENKINNNNS!” Everyone in the guild rush in to help him and they all get killed off, and the audio dialogue shows just how frustrated everyone is at him, to which he simply says “least I got chicken.”

That became a legend that crossed over several MMORPGs, including City of Heroes, and even appeared in a recent episode of the CW television series “The Flash”.

Well, the City of Heroes have their own “Leroy Jenkins” in the form of Ascendant.

And, yes, that’s “Ascendant” spelled with an “A”.

Ascendant is the creation of Tre Chipman III, one of the founding members of the City of Comic Creators, and he is best known not for what Ascendant “did” as for what he “said”.

Every so often, players spotting Ascendant at a train station would see him talking on the phone to his “agent”, an elderly gentleman named Saul. Often the discussion was about hero merchandising, but Saul’s ideas would have rather bizarre twists to them.

One such idea was to have an “Ascendant Action Figure” with a “burning halo action”, a laser sword, and a giant dinosaur. Another idea was to have an “Ascendant Cave Action Playset”, which basically was a mock-up of his actual apartment, but the people coming up with the packaging condensed the name of the playset from the “Ascendant Cave Action Playset” to “The A-Hole”. Another idea was to have an “Ascendant Action Hour TV Show”, which ended up being illegal rebroadcasts of the ABC show “Nightline” but with “Ascendant” dubbed over the name “Ted Koppel”.

But the biggest and most notorious of bad marketing ideas was the “Ascendant-O’s” breakfast cereal.

Despite the name, “Ascendant-O’s” are actually X-shaped. And in addition to being made from cornmeal and sugar, it is sprinkled generously with the rare radioactive substance Xenonite, which the box claims is “The secret source of Ascendant’s power”.

Continues on next page...

Actually it is his weakness. As Ascendant would describe it, one bowl of the cereal knocked him to the floor before he could even add the milk.

That wasn't the only "flaw" with the cereal. Because a radioactive substance was included to the cereal, it had to be packaged in a lead foil wrapper, which jacked up the cost of the cereal to about \$3000 per box. Strangely enough, according to the phone conversations, the cereal was a big hit... for supervillains, that is.

What was not mentioned but was later shown in fan-created pictures was that the boxes of "Ascendant-O's" also reportedly contained "Ascendant's Secret ID".

Of course, Saul would have to fire his agent... who was also his uncle. But he still wanted to give Saul another chance. As long as that did not include a Broadway musical.

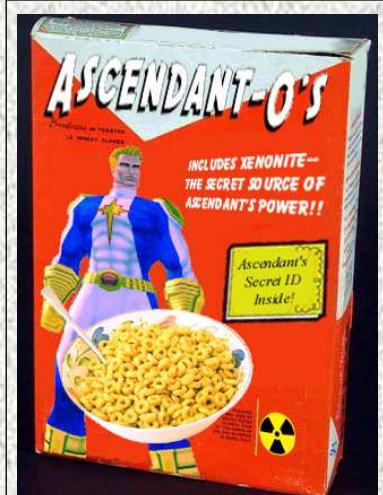
Ascendant's dialogue was a hit both with players and with the developers of the MMORPG. In fact, they even changed the dialogue with some of the non-player characters around the various rail stations to make reference to Ascendant. This marked the first time that a player-generated character became part of the City of Heroes lore.

Ascendant would have a guest appearance in the "City of Heroes" comic series when it was published by Top Cow comics, which also marked the first time that a player-generated character was identified by name in the comic series.

Ascendant's uncle, Saul Rubenstein, would also make a reference in the "Ask Captain Catastrophe" YouTube series, and also was the subject of another telephone conversation in "Tales From Paragon City" #4.

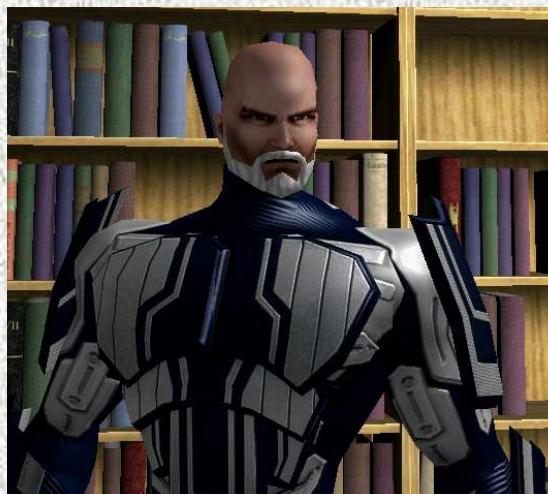
Ascendant was not the only creation of Tre Chipman. Tre would also create the online comic series "Quiver" as part of a forum contest.

Sadly, Tre passed away on June 20, 2013. But while the creator is gone, his characters live on thanks to his fellow comic creators.



(Source: Virtueverse.net)

<http://BattlerockComics.wordpress.com>
NEXT ISSUE...



WHO IS CARLTON SAGE?

**AND JUST HOW LONG HAS HE BEEN
WATCHING OVER THE GUARDIANS?**

**PLUS: WHAT DOES LEXIE LOTHORA HAVE
IN STORE FOR THE GUARDIANS AND FOR
GALATEA POWERS WITH THIS "NEW
PHASE"?**

**AND THE MURDER OF ROSE VESTA
WILL TAKE A TRAGIC TURN THAT
INFLAMES THE CONFLICT BETWEEN
HEROES AND THE POLICE.**



'THE CRUCIBLE'



Spellslinger
This June

THE GAME IS GONE...



...BUT THE STORIES GO ON!
MMOCOMICINDEX.COM
THE NEW HOME FOR THE CITY OF COMIC CREATORS

