

GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN



SPECIAL
2012



"THE OTHER TALES"

The First Encounter



Origin of a Supervillain



The Stories Untold



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



THERE ARE MANY STORIES OF THE HEROES AND HEROINES THAT ARE MEMBERS OF THE SUPERHERO GROUP KNOWN AS THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN. AND WHILE "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT" AND "THE GUARDIAN POWERS" COVERED SOME OF THOSE STORIES, MANY OTHERS STILL ARE UNTOLD. THESE ARE BUT A FEW OF THOSE STORIES...

"WALKAROUND" - NEW GUARDIAN FURIA POWERS GETS A TOUR OF THE TEAM'S BASE AND IS GIVEN THE HISTORY BEHIND IT.

"THE MAKING OF A WOMAN SCORNE" - THE ORIGINS OF SCORNE, THE VOLATILE SUPERVILLAIN WITH AN OBSESSIVELY DESTRUCTIVE HATRED OF GALATEA POWERS.

"FIRST GUARDIANS" - THE ARREST OF JUSTICE-KNIGHTS MEMBER DARK SYNAPSE BRINGS THREE DIFFERENT HEROES TOGETHER IN THE FIRST UNOFFICIAL MEETING THAT WOULD EVENTUALLY GIVE WAY TO THE BIRTH OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN.

"THROUGH THE DOOR" - A FINAL MEETING FOR A CERTAIN GUARDIAN THAT WAS PRESUMED LOST, AND THE FINAL CONSEQUENCE FOR THE CHOICE THAT WAS MADE.

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THE GUARDIAN POWERS



Cover Art by Tech/KK

A GIFT FROM TECHSPIDER/KINETIC KITTEN, WHO ALSO REDESIGNED THE GUARDIAN STAR AS SEEN IN "THE GUARDIAN POWERS".

"WALKAROUND"

- BY DAVID 2



NOTE: THIS STORY IS TOLD FOLLOWING THE EVENTS SEEN IN "THE GUARDIAN POWERS" #15.



TIKI ROOM - ELITE VIP SECTION

SO... THIS IS ALL THAT GOES ON IN THE VIP AREA? SERIOUSLY?



WELL, BESIDES THE SPECIAL TAILOR, WE DO HAVE OUR FEATURE ALL-MALE DANCE TROUPE.



AH! THEY ARE TAKING THE STAGE NOW... MAC AND THE ZOMBIES!



YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? PLEASE TELL ME YOU'RE KIDDING! THIS IS WHAT PASSES FOR RISQUÉ ENTERTAINMENT AROUND THERE?

I DID SAY IT WAS "ALL-MALE". I JUST DIDN'T SPECIFY THAT THEY WERE STILL LIVING.



BEEP
CPCU ALERT

SAVED BY THE CPCU...

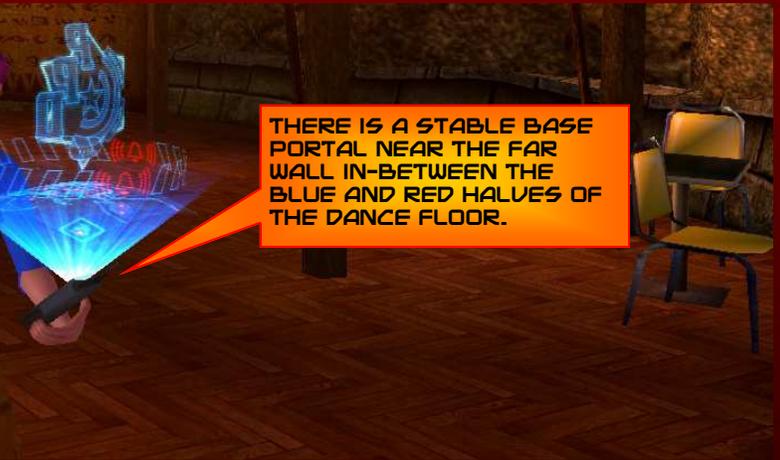


THIS IS FURIA POWERS, RESPONDING TO PAGE.

FURIA POWERS, PLEASE REPORT TO GUARDIAN BASE FOR MONITOR DUTY.



IT'S EIGHT A.M. ALREADY?
WOW, TIME REALLY DOES FLY HERE IN POCKET D!
UM... HOW DO I ACCESS THE BASE FROM HERE?
THERE'S A TELEPORT JAMMER IN POCKET D.



THERE IS A STABLE BASE PORTAL NEAR THE FAR WALL IN-BETWEEN THE BLUE AND RED HALVES OF THE DANCE FLOOR.



COME BACK ANYTIME.

GOTT A GO... THANKS FOR THE TALK.



HOW DID THAT TRUCK GET OUT THERE?

SOMEDAY I'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND OUT.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SUPERGROUP



WELCOME BACK TO GUARDIAN BASE.

THANK YOU.
SO, HOW DOES THIS MONITOR DETAIL WORK?



ONE MOMENT...

SINCE YOU ARE NEW TO THE GUARDIANS, AN INTERACTIVE TUTORIAL HAS NOW BEEN ACTIVATED TO ASSIST YOU.

OKAYYYY...

I AM THE VOICE INTERFACE FOR THE CENTRAL PROCESSOR AND COMMAND UTILITY SYSTEM, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CPCU.

THE CPCU IS AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM DESIGNED BY SALLY BRIGHT, THE DECEASED GUARDIAN KNOWN AS GHOSTLYNK.

THE CURRENT VERSION WAS DESIGNED BY THE KHELDIAN HYBRID DAYBRIGHT, WHOSE HUMAN HALF IS ALSO SALLY BRIGHT.



SO DAYBRIGHT USES SALLY BRIGHT'S BODY? THAT'S RATHER MACABRE!

DAYBRIGHT'S STATUS AS PEACEBRINGER REDEEMER IS A COMPLEX STATUS AND AN IRRELEVANT SUBJECT TANGENT.



PLEASE PROCEED OFF THE MAIN ACCESS PLATFORM SO WE CAN CONTINUE WITH THE TUTORIAL.



TALOS ISLAND - PARAGON CITY, RI, U.S.A.

THE GUARDIAN BASE IS SITUATED ON TALOS ISLAND, INSIDE THE BASE OF THE LIFE-SIZED STATUE OF TALOS.

"THAT'S PRETTY DANGEROUS, ISN'T IT?"

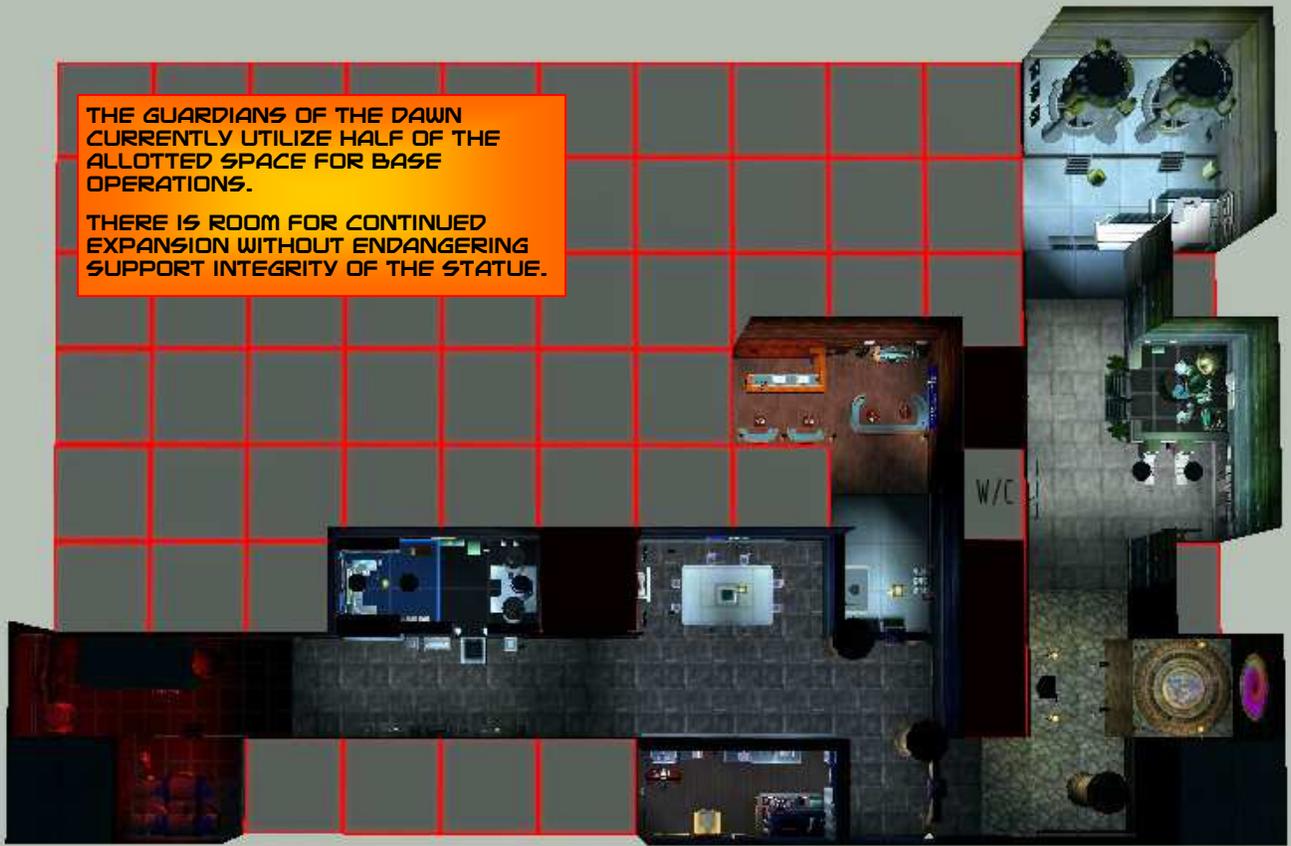
THE STATUE BASE IS MADE OF COMPRESSED CONCRETE WITH ACCOMMODATIONS PROVIDED FOR UTILITY TUNNELS AND BASE FUNCTIONS.

BASE PERMISSION WAS ACQUIRED BY FOUNDING MEMBERS CAPTAIN PARAGONNA AND MIDNIGHT ARACHNIA IN DECEMBER OF 2007.



THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN CURRENTLY UTILIZE HALF OF THE ALLOTTED SPACE FOR BASE OPERATIONS.

THERE IS ROOM FOR CONTINUED EXPANSION WITHOUT ENDANGERING SUPPORT INTEGRITY OF THE STATUE.



YOU ARE CURRENTLY IN THE MAIN ENTRANCE ROOM, WHICH USES DIMENSIONAL PORTALS TO PROVIDE ACCESS.

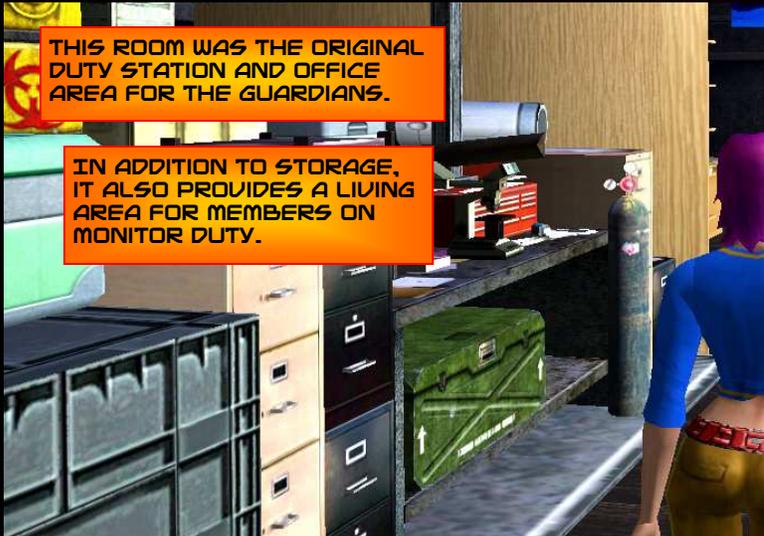


YOU HAVE NOW ENTERED THE ASSEMBLY ROOM.



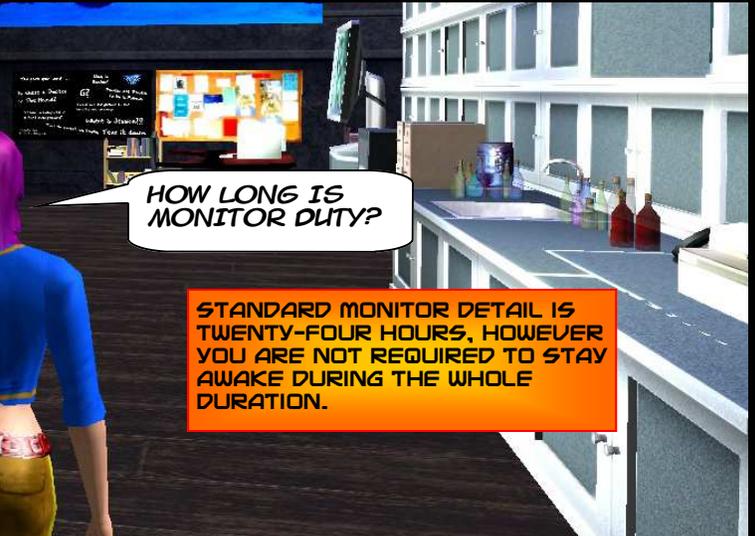
THIS ROOM WAS THE ORIGINAL DUTY STATION AND OFFICE AREA FOR THE GUARDIANS.

IN ADDITION TO STORAGE, IT ALSO PROVIDES A LIVING AREA FOR MEMBERS ON MONITOR DUTY.



HOW LONG IS MONITOR DUTY?

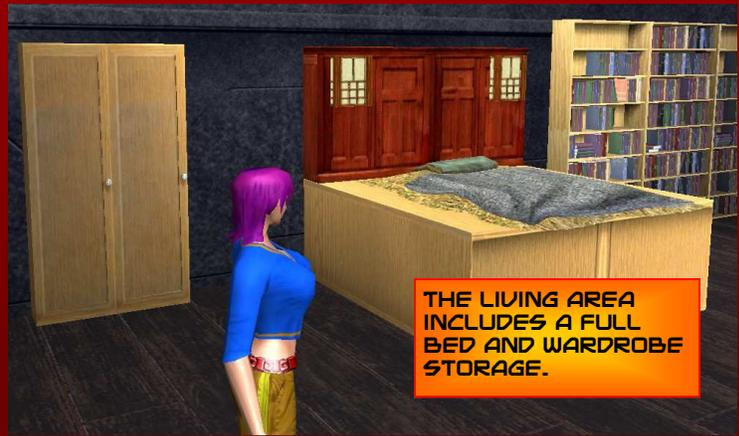
STANDARD MONITOR DETAIL IS TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, HOWEVER YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO STAY AWAKE DURING THE WHOLE DURATION.





REALLY? IN PRAETORIA, IF YOU WERE CAUGHT SLEEPING ON THE JOB, YOU'D OFTEN BE EXECUTED ON THE SPOT.

THANKFULLY THIS IS NOT PRAETORIA.



THE LIVING AREA INCLUDES A FULL BED AND WARDROBE STORAGE.

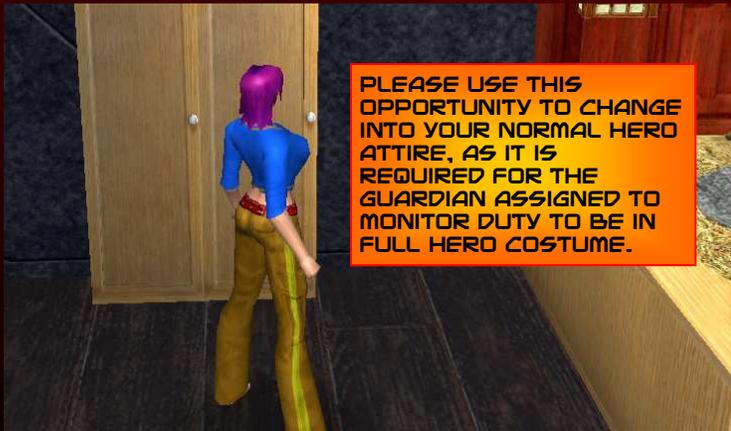


AND A LOT OF BOOKS! DID YOU GUYS PULL A RAID ON A LIBRARY?

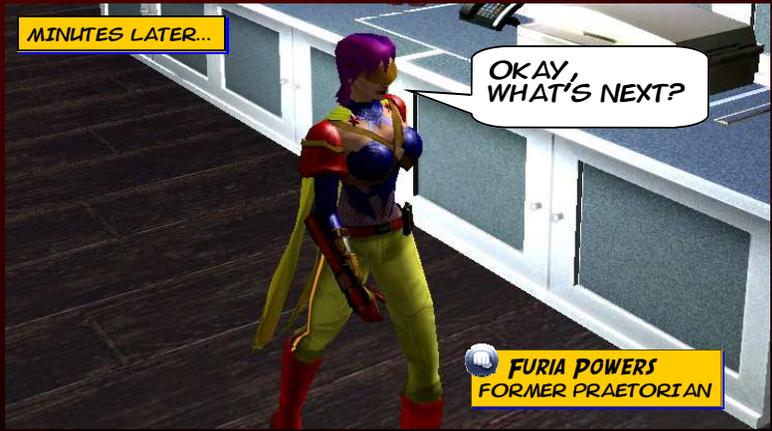
--AND I HATE TO INTERRUPT, BUT I PRESUME THAT I'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO PROPERLY REVIEW THE FULL LIST OF THESE BOOKS DURING MY TIME HERE.

SEVERAL OF THE BOOKS ARE REQUIRED READING FOR REGISTERED HEROES. SUBJECTS INCLUDE CPCU OPERATIONS, PARAGON CITY CRIMINAL STATUTES, VANGUARD SECURITY PROTOCOLS, UNITED NA--

CORRECT.



PLEASE USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE INTO YOUR NORMAL HERO ATTIRE, AS IT IS REQUIRED FOR THE GUARDIAN ASSIGNED TO MONITOR DUTY TO BE IN FULL HERO COSTUME.



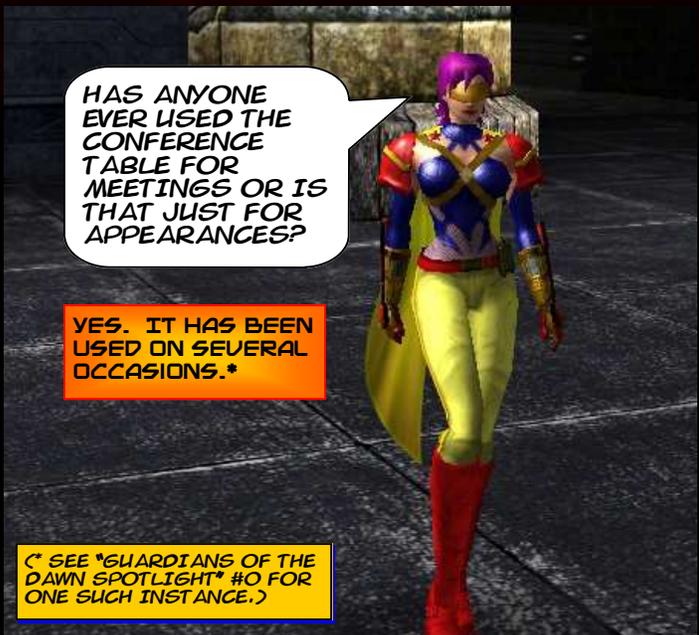
MINUTES LATER...

OKAY, WHAT'S NEXT?

FURIA POWERS FORMER PRAETORIAN



NOW THAT YOU ARE PROPERLY DRESSED TO BEGIN MONITOR DUTY, PLEASE PROCEED TO THE COMMAND-AND-CONTROL AREA PAST THE CONFERENCE TABLE.



HAS ANYONE EVER USED THE CONFERENCE TABLE FOR MEETINGS OR IS THAT JUST FOR APPEARANCES?

YES. IT HAS BEEN USED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS.*

(* SEE "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT" #0 FOR ONE SUCH INSTANCE.)

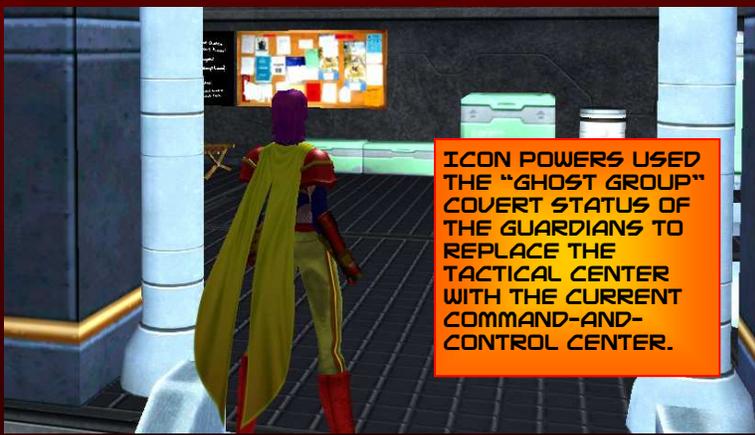


THE HALLWAY THAT CONNECTS THE ASSEMBLY ROOM WITH THE GENERATOR AND THE COMMAND-AND-CONTROL CENTER WAS RECENTLY TURNED INTO A TROPHY AREA BY ICON POWERS.

PRIOR TO THE COMMAND-AND-CONTROL CENTER, THE GUARDIAN BASE UTILIZED A TACTICAL CONTROL CENTER.



IT HAD TO BE TAKEN DOWN WHEN SECURITY WAS COMPROMISED BY FORMER MEMBER STARCYNUS.



ICON POWERS USED THE "GHOST GROUP" COVERT STATUS OF THE GUARDIANS TO REPLACE THE TACTICAL CENTER WITH THE CURRENT COMMAND-AND-CONTROL CENTER.



NICE!

I AM GLAD THAT YOU APPROVE.

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COULD APPRECIATE A COMPLIMENT.

THE CPCIU SOFTWARE UPGRADE INCLUDES A PERSONALITY PROGRAM PROVIDED BY FREEDOM PHALANX MEMBER CITADEL.

THE COMMAND-AND-CONTROL CENTER INCLUDES ITS OWN MAINFRAME AND DATABANK CENTER AND IS CONNECTED TO THE NETWORKS OF THE FREEDOM CORPS, VANGUARD, PARAGON POLICE, FEDERAL BUREAU FOR SUPER-POWERED AFFAIRS, INTERPOL, THE MIDNIGHT SQUAD, TITAN NETWORK, HOMELAND SECURITY, AND THE DAWN PATROL IN EUROPE.

SO WHO'S THE COT FOR IF IT'S NOT FOR ME?
AND WHAT'S WITH THE MESSAGES ON THE CHALKBOARD?

THE COT WAS ORIGINALLY PROVIDED FOR A SPECIAL CONSULTANT THAT MUST REMAIN ANONYMOUS.

We are HEROES! This is what we do!

Phase 1 - Regroup

Phase 2 - Reactivate

Phase 3 - Recruit

Phase 4 - Restore

The Curtain Calls For Everyone Eventually

Do Ouroboros Members REALLY work together?

Unfinished stories

The Queen Doesn't Know!

OTHER Angels?

Redemption?

Hinted power FINALLY unleashed!

Ancient Warrior Ancient Tech

I HAVE NO INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHALKBOARD MESSAGES OTHER THAN THEY HAVE PROVIDED HINTS TO THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED.

THE NEXT PLACE TO VISIT IS THE REACTOR ROOM.

THIS BASE IS POWERED BY A HADDON 1185 REACTOR.

IT IS A SELF-SUSTAINING MINI-FUSION REACTOR MANUFACTURED IN GERMANY.

IT CAN PROVIDE UNINTERRUPTABLE POWER FOR ALL BASE OPERATIONS FOR AT LEAST FIFTY YEARS WITHOUT REPLACEMENT.



PLEASE RUN THE DIAGNOSTIC TEST ON THE CONSOLE. THIS IS PART OF YOUR NORMAL MONITOR DETAIL.



ALL THE DIAGNOSTIC LIGHTS ARE GREEN. NO ERROR MESSAGES REPORTED.

DIAGNOSTIC TEST COMPLETED. THANK YOU.

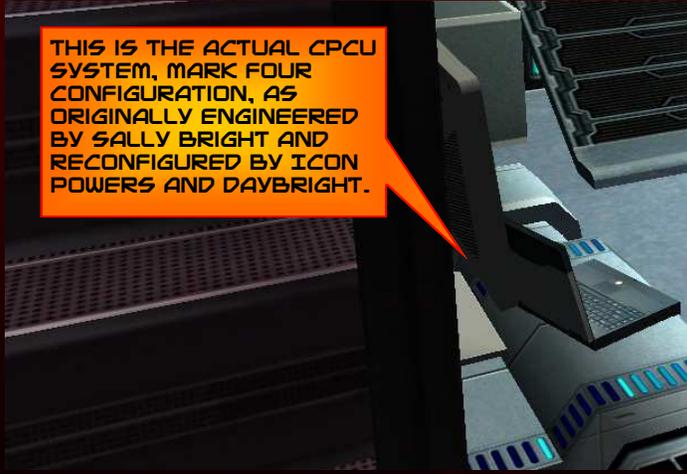


PLEASE RETURN TO THE ASSEMBLY ROOM TO CONTINUE THE TOUR.

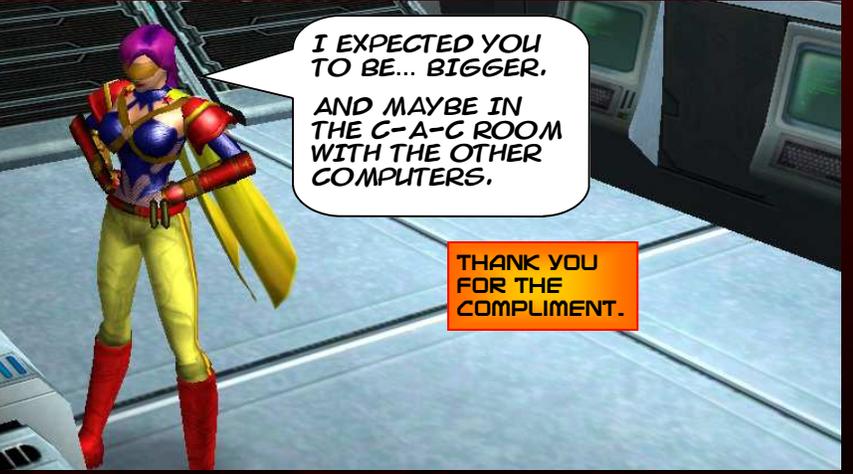


WHAT IS THIS? IT LOOKS LIKE A MINI-REACTOR.

ACTUALLY, IT IS ME.

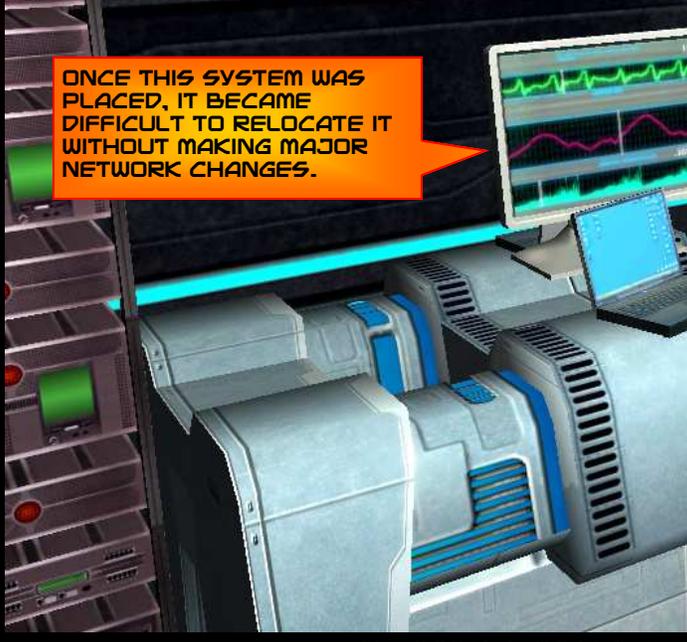


THIS IS THE ACTUAL CPCU SYSTEM, MARK FOUR CONFIGURATION, AS ORIGINALLY ENGINEERED BY SALLY BRIGHT AND RECONFIGURED BY ICON POWERS AND DAYBRIGHT.



I EXPECTED YOU TO BE... BIGGER. AND MAYBE IN THE C-A-C ROOM WITH THE OTHER COMPUTERS.

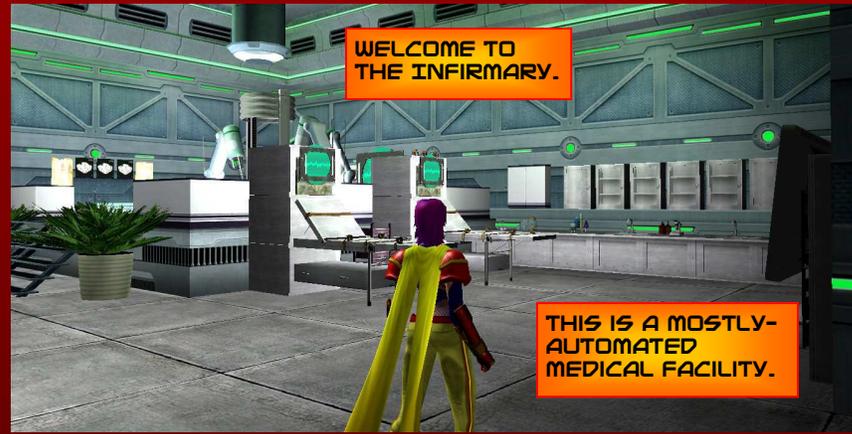
THANK YOU FOR THE COMPLIMENT.



ONCE THIS SYSTEM WAS PLACED, IT BECAME DIFFICULT TO RELOCATE IT WITHOUT MAKING MAJOR NETWORK CHANGES.



PERHAPS AT SOME POINT SUCH A TRANSITION WILL BE POSSIBLE, BUT NOT IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. PLEASE PROCEED TO THE INFIRMARY NEXT.

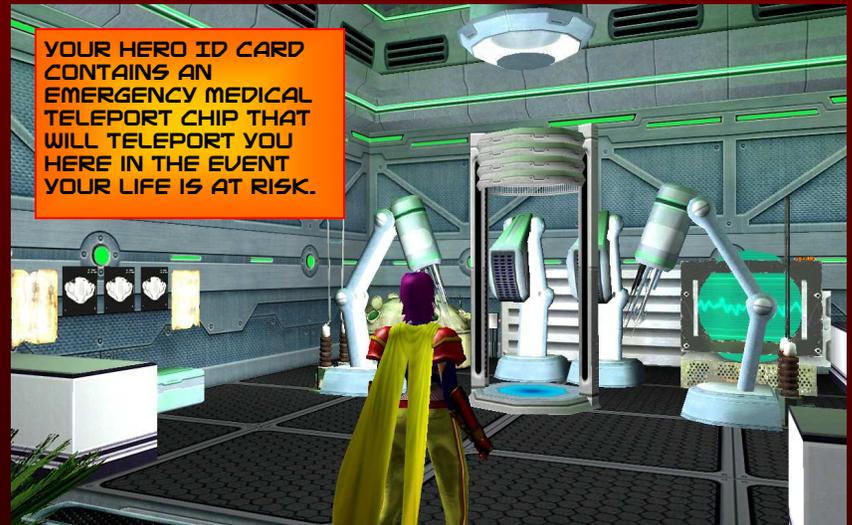


WELCOME TO THE INFIRMARY.

THIS IS A MOSTLY-AUTOMATED MEDICAL FACILITY.



THE DIAGNOSTIC BEDS ARE A RECENT ADDITION.



YOUR HERO ID CARD CONTAINS AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL TELEPORT CHIP THAT WILL TELEPORT YOU HERE IN THE EVENT YOUR LIFE IS AT RISK.



I PRESUME THAT IT WORKS LIKE THE HOSPITAL TELEPORTERS.

IT OPERATES ON THE SAME PREMISE AND UTILIZES A MIRRORED NETWORK SYSTEM.



WHAT ABOUT THE VENT DOORS BEHIND THE TELEPORT CHAMBER?

EMERGENCY ACCESS IN THE EVENT THE TELEPORT SYSTEMS ARE SHUT DOWN.



THE VENTS LEAD TO A DISCHARGE TUBE THAT EMPTIES OUT NEAR THE TALOS STATUE.*

(* DEMONSTRATED IN "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT" #7.)



THE PEOPLE HERE PUT A LOT OF EMPHASIS ON TELEPORTERS AND NETWORK SYSTEMS.

DOESN'T THAT GET COMPLICATED AFTER A WHILE? HAVE THERE BEEN ANY ACCIDENTS FROM ALL OF THESE DIFFERENT SYSTEMS?

THERE WAS A RATHER COMPLICATED INCIDENT WITH DAYBRIGHT IN 2010, BUT YOU WILL HAVE TO ASK ICON POWERS FOR THE DETAILS OF THAT.*

(* OR READ THE 5-PART "TIME AND CHANGES" STORYLINE IN "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT".)

YOU ARE NOW FACING THE TELEPORT ROOM.

THESE TELEPORTERS ARE CAPABLE OF TRANSPORTING SEVERAL PEOPLE TO ONE OF TWELVE SPECIFIC LOCATIONS IN PARAGON CITY AND POCKET D.

AND YOU KEEP WEAPONS TOO.

MOST OF THE WEAPONS SEEN WERE SEIZED FROM ARACHNOS AND OTHER CRIMINAL GROUPS.

WE DO KEEP THEM READY IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY.

YOUR TASK HERE AS PART OF YOUR MONITOR DUTIES IS TO RUN A DIAGNOSTIC TO ENSURE THE PADS ARE FUNCTIONAL.

AND ALSO TO VERIFY THAT THE BEACONS FOR THE TWELVE LOCATIONS ARE STILL OPERATING.

EACH TELEPORT PAD CAN TRANSPORT PEOPLE TO SIX PRE-SET LOCATIONS.

EVERYTHING APPEARS TO BE WORKING ACCORDING TO THE CONSOLES.



WHERE NEXT?

ONLY ONE LAST LOCATION.
THE MOST POPULAR AREA FOR THE GUARDIANS.



WELCOME TO THE GUARDIAN LOUNGE.



THIS IS WHERE THE GUARDIANS SOCIALIZE WITH EACH OTHER, EVEN WHEN THEY ARE NOT ON ACTIVE MONITOR DETAIL.

SO IT'S A LOUNGE AREA, MINUS THE BARTENDER AND THE BAD ZOMBIE DANCING SHOW.

OR, AS THE CABLE CHANNELS CALL IT, A "CAPE-CAVE".



TALOS

General Indomus WANTS YOU

September 2012
Never Forget!

I'M SURE THERE HAVE BEEN SOME GOOD MEMORIES HERE.



I BELIEVE A FEW FRIENDSHIPS WERE KINDLED AND RE-KINDLED IN THE LOUNGE.



THE BAR AREA IS FULLY-STOCKED WITH NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES...

INCLUDING ALL THE SMOOTHIE MIXES THAT GALATEA POWERS CONSUMES.



SMOOTHIES?
WELL THEN GALATEA AND I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE IN COMMON BESIDES OUR NAMES.

THE OTHER PRIDE-AND-JOY OF THIS ROOM IS THE ENTERTAINMENT CENTER.

THIS PLASMA SCREEN TV SYSTEM IS CONNECTED TO PARAGON CABLE'S MAIN LINE, PROVIDING ACCESS TO EVERY CABLE CHANNEL OTHER THAN PAY-PER-VIEW.

WE DIDN'T HAVE TOO MANY CHANNELS IN PRAETORIA, AND ALL OF THEM WERE HEAVILY CENSORED.

I SEE YOUR PERSONALITY PROGRAM INCLUDES SARCASM.

YOU WILL ALSO FIND OUR VAST ARRAY OF "MINDLESS ENTERTAINMENT" ARE FREE OF SUBLIMINAL MESSAGES SUGGESTING YOU WORSHIP EMPEROR COLE.

I BELIEVE IT IS REQUIRED ACCORDING TO THE SUPERHERO HANDBOOK REGARDING A.I. ASSISTANTS.

OKAY... SO... BASE TOUR IS DONE, DIAGNOSTIC CHECKS HAVE BEEN MADE... WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

AND HOW OFTEN DOES THAT HAPPEN?

THAT IS UP TO YOU. YOUR ROLE HERE IS MOSTLY TO MONITOR THE VARIOUS HERO SERVICES AND COORDINATE GUARDIAN ASSISTANCE WHEN ASKED FOR OR WHEN NEEDED.

THAT DEPENDS IF THERE IS A RIKTI INVASION, ARACHNOS INVASION, ZOMBIE INVASION, OR PRAETORIAN INVASION.

AND ALL THOSE HAPPEN OFTEN?

MORE FREQUENTLY THAN ONE WOULD LIKE THEM TO.

THIS WOULD BE THE OPTIMAL TIME TO GO OVER SOME OF THE PROCEDURES AND CASE FILES.

SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA. TELL YOU WHAT... GIVE ME SOMETHING RANDOM.

ENGAGING RANDOMIZER.

"THE MAKING OF A WOMAN SCORNE"

- BY DAVID 2



IS THAT HER?

HEY, IT'S GALATEA POWERS!

WHERE'S MY CELLPHONE? I GOTTA SNAP A PIC OF HER!

HEY GALATEA! LOOK DOWN HERE!

IS THAT A NEW OUTFIT SHE HAS ON?

WOW!

LOOK AT HER FLY!

NOTE: THE FOLLOWING STORY TAKES PLACE IN 2010, PRIOR TO THE EVENTS SEEN IN "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT" #16



THAT'S A WOMAN ON A MISSION IF THERE EVER WAS ONE!

MAYBE SHE'S GOT A HOT DATE.

YEAH, WITH ME... IN MY DREAMS!

DEAR DIARY... I SAW HER AGAIN.

STEEL CANYON - PARAGON CITY, RHODE ISLAND, USA

JUNE, 2010



THAT COW IN A CAPE! FLYING ABOUT LIKE SHE OWNS STEEL CANYON!

IT'S BAD ENOUGH THAT SHE HAS TO BE IN THIS CITY; WHY DOES SHE HAVE TO SPEND SO MUCH OF HER TIME IN THIS PART OF THE CITY?

WHY CAN'T SHE JUST GO BACK TO WHATEVER UNIVERSE SHE CAME FROM IN THE FIRST PLACE?

OR BETTER YET, WHY CAN'T WE JUST PICK ANOTHER UNIVERSE AND SHOVE HER THERE AND TELL HER TO NOT COME BACK?!?

LIFE WAS JUST SO MUCH EASIER FOR ME BEFORE SHE SHOWED UP HERE!

I MEAN, YEAH, WE HAD HEROES, BUT THEY WEREN'T ATTENTION-W#ORES LIKE HER, FLAUNTING IT ABOUT!

WELL, EXCEPT FOR WHEN MISS LIBERTY DID THAT SWIMSUIT MAGAZINE THING IN THE 70'S, BUT THAT WAS AGES AGO!

ONCE UPON A TIME, THE LINES WERE EASILY DIVIDED FOR ROLE MODELS.

YOU HAD HEROES AND THEN YOU HAD MODELS.

BEAUTY PAGEANT CONTESTANTS DIDN'T CALL THEMSELVES HEROES, AND HEROES DIDN'T ENTER INTO PAGEANTS.

IT WAS THAT SIMPLE!

THEN THAT SK@NK HAD TO SHOW UP AND RUIN IT FOR EVERYONE...

The Paragon Times



New Hero Accidentally Upstages Beauty Pageant

WITH THAT GOLDEN-BLONDE HAIR OF HERS AND THOSE OVER-INFLATED PONTOONS ON HER CHEST!

AND SHE SAYS THEY'RE "REAL"? YEAH, AND I'M REALLY GHOST WIDOW!

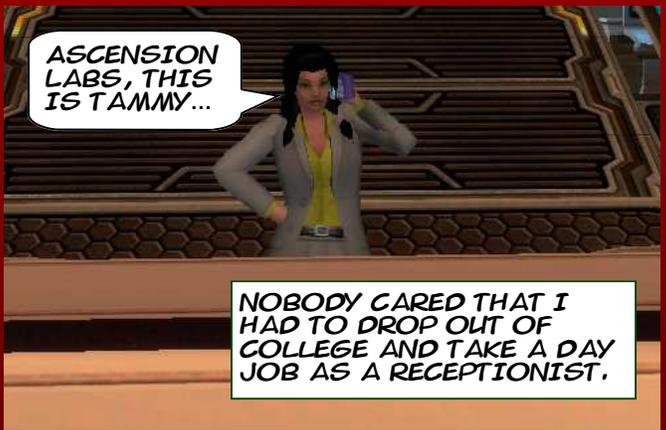
most beauty pageants, all eyes are on that several of the major banks in the country are

SUDDENLY NOBODY WANTED TO HEAR ABOUT TAMMY LYNN VOSS, MS. RHODE ISLAND 2008!

I WAS ROBBED OF MY LIMELIGHT! I WAS NEVER GIVEN MY DUE!

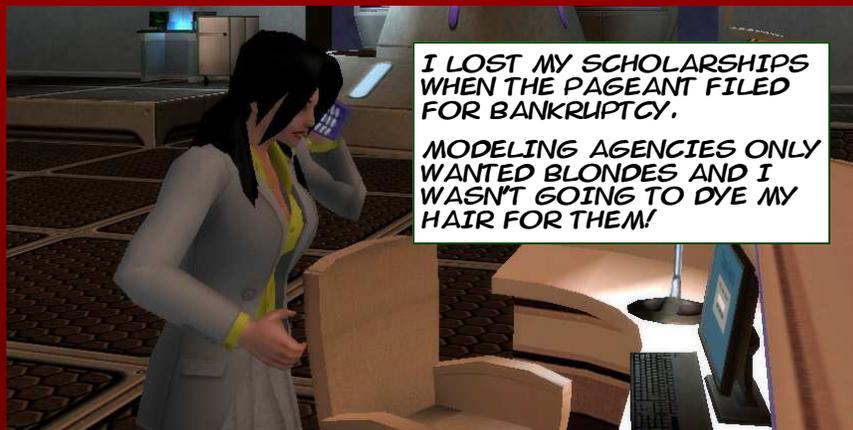
NOBODY CARED THAT I WOULD GO ON TO MAKE IT TO THE SEMI-FINALS OF THE MS. UNITED STATES PAGEANT.

WORSE YET, THE COW THAT WON THE TITLE HAD HER HAIR DONE JUST LIKE GALATEA POWERS! THEY EVEN CALLED IT THE "POWERS CUT"!



ASCENSION
LABS, THIS
IS TAMMY...

NOBODY CARED THAT I
HAD TO DROP OUT OF
COLLEGE AND TAKE A DAY
JOB AS A RECEPTIONIST.



I LOST MY SCHOLARSHIPS
WHEN THE PAGEANT FILED
FOR BANKRUPTCY.

MODELING AGENCIES ONLY
WANTED BLONDES AND I
WASN'T GOING TO DYE MY
HAIR FOR THEM!



I WORK LONG HOURS HERE
ANSWERING PHONES,
SORTING THE MAIL, AND
TELLING PEOPLE THAT
THEIR CHILDREN MAY OR
MAY NOT BE MUTANTS.

AND, OF COURSE, I
WOULD HAVE TO TELL THEM
"NO, YOUR CHILD WILL
PROBABLY NOT HAVE ALL
OF THE POWERS THAT
GALATEA POWERS HAS."

GALATEA POWERS...

GALATEA POWERS...

ALWAYS GALATEA POWERS!



BUT THAT'S GOING
TO COME TO AN
END SOON.



BECAUSE EVEN
BEAUTY QUEENS
HAVE THEIR
LITTLE SECRETS
OF STAYING SO
BEAUTIFUL.



HEY, I MAY NOT HAVE
IMPLANTS...

BUT I NEVER SAID THAT I
DIDN'T USE A LITTLE BIT
OF GENETIC ULTRA-
SCIENCE HERE AND THERE.

BESIDES, GENETIC
ENHANCEMENTS AREN'T
THE SAME AS IMPLANTS
OR PLASTIC SURGERY.

YOU'RE JUST TWEAKING
WHAT YOU WERE BORN
WITH, THAT'S ALL.



I'M SORRY,
BUT I HAVE TO
SAY "NO" TO
THIS.
I'M SURPRISED
YOU EVEN KNOW
IT EXISTS!



COME ON CARL, I
WORK AT ASCENSION
LABS! I KNOW WHEN
STUFF LIKE THIS IS
IN THE STORES!
YOU STILL OWE ME.
HELP ME OUT ON
THIS AND WE'LL CALL
IT EVEN.



YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND
WHAT THIS
STUFF DOES!

IT DOESN'T
PREVENT ACNE
OR WRINKLES
OR MAKE
YOUR TEETH
WHITER.



NIXALL-15 IS
ESSENTIALLY A BIG
"RESET" BUTTON FOR
THE HUMAN BODY ON
A GENETIC LEVEL!
WE ONLY KEEP A
SUPPLY HERE AS A
BACK UP FOR THE
HOSPITALS.



I KNOW PRECISELY WHAT
NIXALL-15 DOES, CARL.
I WOULDN'T ASK YOU
FOR IT IF I DIDN'T.
I KNOW THAT IT'S
NORMALLY USED FOR
MUTANTS WHEN THEIR
INBORN ABILITIES
DEVIATE TO A POINT
WHERE IT BECOMES
FATAL TO THEM.

I ALSO KNOW THAT FOR A SIZABLE
PERCENTAGE OF SUBJECTS IN THE
CLINICAL TRIALS, NORMAL PEOPLE
WHO WERE GIVEN NIXALL ENDED UP
WITH META-HUMAN ABILITIES.
I'VE SPOKEN WITH SOME OF THE
DOCTORS AT THE LAB ABOUT THIS
AND THEY SAID THAT MY OWN
PHYSIOLOGY WOULD BE IDEAL FOR
SUCH A SIDE-EFFECT.



"SIZABLE" DOES NOT
MEAN "CERTAIN", TAMMY.
AND IT DOESN'T MEAN
THAT YOU COULD GET
META-POWERS EITHER!
YOU COULD GET REALLY
SICK. YOU COULD
RAPIDLY AGE TO DEATH.
YOU COULD EVEN DEVOLVE
INTO A FISH OR A PUDDLE
OF PROTOPLASM.

I MEAN, MY GOD, THIS IS
HOW DR. HAMIDON ENDED
UP BEING TRANSFORMED
INTO A GIANT MONSTER!

L-LOOK, I DON'T CARE IF I
STILL END UP INDEBTED TO
YOU. I WOULD RATHER OWE
YOU FOR THE REST OF MY
LIFE THAN TO RISK MY
CAREER IF SOMETHING
LIKE THAT HAPPENED.

DEAR DIARY...

I THOUGHT I HAD A FRIEND THAT COULD HOOK ME UP WITH THE RIGHT STUFF.



BUT IT TURNED OUT HE WAS MORE CONCERNED WITH THE COMPANY'S "REPUTATION" THAN WHETHER I'D KEEP SILENT ABOUT A LITTLE "INCIDENT" HE WAS INVOLVED WITH PREVIOUSLY.



EVENTUALLY THE STORE MANAGER TOLD ME THAT I HAD TO LEAVE.

SOMETHING ABOUT SOME STUPID "MAD SCIENTIST POLICY".

I'LL HAVE TO REMIND MYSELF TO GIVE THE POLICE AN ANONYMOUS TIP ABOUT CARL'S LITTLE "ENHANCEMENT PARTIES" THAT PUT A GIRL IN THE HOSPITAL.

WHAT GOOD IS BLACKMAIL MATERIAL IF YOU'RE NOT WILLING TO FOLLOW THROUGH?

HEY, IT'S UP TO YOU.

YOU WANT IT? I CAN GIVE IT TO YOU.

STILL... HE WASN'T THE ONLY MAN I COULD CALL ON TO GET WHAT I WANT.

...TCH!...

FIINE!

OKAY, I'LL DO IT!

EXCELLENT.

YOU DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I'VE WANTED TO DO THIS WITH YOU.

THE ONLY QUESTION WAS HOW MUCH WAS I WILLING TO GIVE UP TO GET WHAT I WANT FROM ERIC.

COME ON, RIGHT HERE.

I WANTED SOMEONE TO COME DOWN AND CATCH US. NOBODY DID. D@MMIT!

THE ICON, TAILOR STORE

STEEL CANYON STORE

ON THE PLUS SIDE, THE MONEY I WOULD HAVE SPENT IN SUBGENETICS COULD BE SPENT ON THE KILLER OUTFIT I WOULD BE WEARING TO SHOW OFF MY NEW POWERS.

IT'S NOT VERY COMPLEX, I KNOW, BUT IT IS THE LATEST IN DESIGNER HERO ATTIRE FROM SERGE.

KYM CORDOBUITT WORE THAT VERY OUTFIT TO THE HERO TV AWARDS WITH THE ZIPPER DOWN TO HER NAVEL.

WE DON'T RECOMMEND THAT, OF COURSE, BUT IF YOU CHOOSE TO DO SO, WE DO SELL WARDROBE TAPE TO PREVENT "WARDROBE MALFUNCTIONS".

PERFECT!
I'LL TAKE IT!

THE CLERK GAVE ME SOUR LOOKS WHEN I PAID FOR THE OUTFIT WITH MY CREDIT CARD INSTEAD OF WITH HERO ID CREDIT, BUT IF KYM CORDOBUITT COULD WEAR THIS WITHOUT BEING A REGISTERED HERO, THEN SO CAN I.

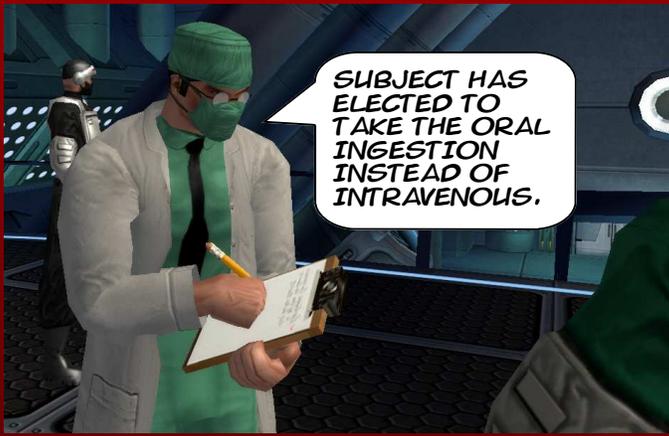
AND WITHOUT LOOKING LIKE A STREET WALKER!

GREY RESEARCH LAB

DEAR DIARY... THIS IS IT. THIS IS THE DAY I FINALLY GET MY DUE!
THE DOGS SCOFFED AT MY DESIGNER OUTFIT, BUT I'LL BE THE ONE THAT GETS THE LAST LAUGH.

OKAY, THE SUBJECT IS READY, SO LET'S BEGIN WITH THE PROCESS.

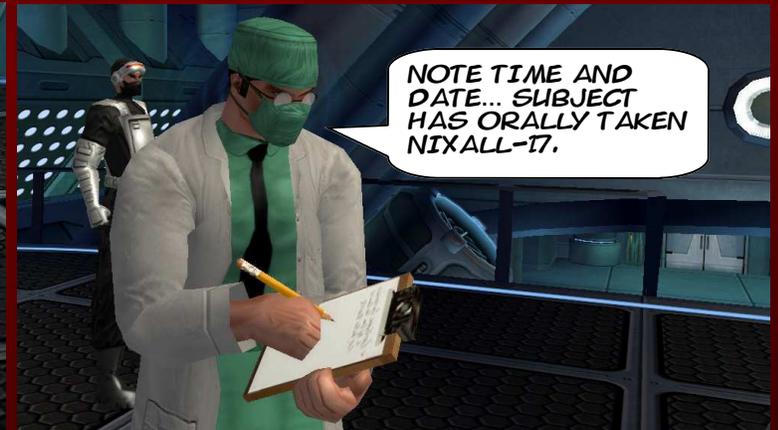
SOON I'LL HAVE META-POWERS AND GALATEA POWERS WILL HAVE NOTHING BUT EGG ON HER FACE WHEN I'M DONE!



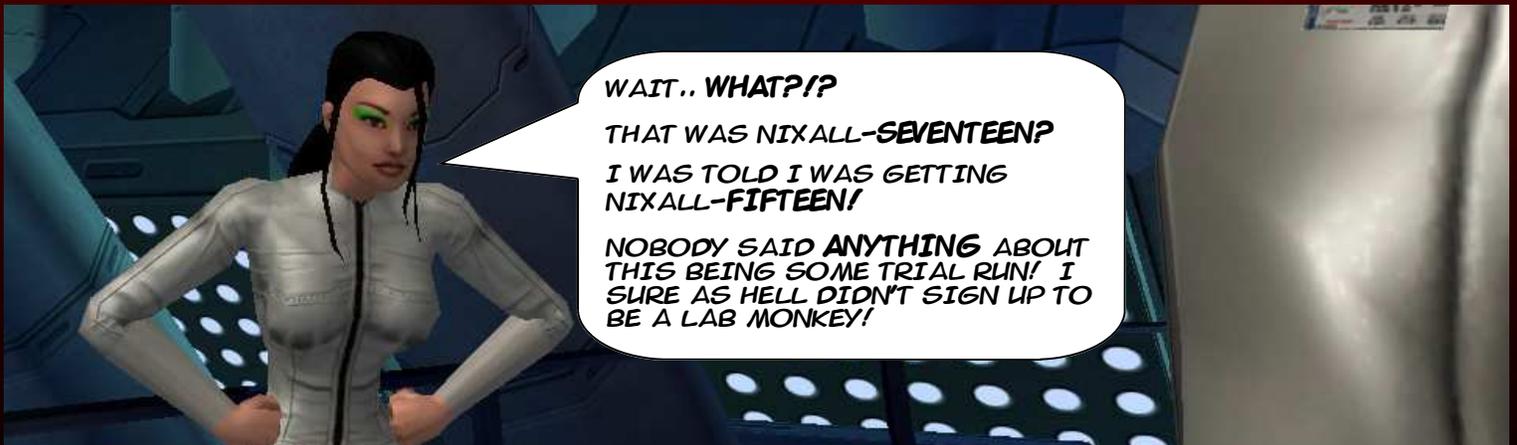
SUBJECT HAS ELECTED TO TAKE THE ORAL INGESTION INSTEAD OF INTRAVENOUS.



BOTTOMS UP!



NOTE TIME AND DATE... SUBJECT HAS ORALLY TAKEN NIXALL-17.



WAIT.. WHAT?!?
THAT WAS NIXALL-SEVENTEEN?
I WAS TOLD I WAS GETTING NIXALL-FIFTEEN!
NOBODY SAID ANYTHING ABOUT THIS BEING SOME TRIAL RUN! I SURE AS HELL DIDN'T SIGN UP TO BE A LAB MONKEY!



IN FACT I'M GOING TO SUE YOU... AND YOU... AND ERIC... AND... AND... *URRP*



SUBJECT IS SHOWING A DISTINCT NEGATIVE REACTION.



SUBJECT SHOWS STRANGE TWITCHES.

I'M GONNA... I'M GONNA... K-KILL... YOU...

SUBJECT SHOWS SIGNS OF HOSTILITY. POSSIBLY PSYCHOTIC.

BODY TEMPERATURE UP TO 105.



SUBJECT...

YAAAAAAA!!

OH GOD! WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME?

SPLOOSH!



SUBJECT HAS SHOWN GENETIC MUTATION.

MY BODY! WHAT THE HELL DID YOU DO TO MY BODY?!

I'LL NEED SEDATIVES, STAT.



SUBJECT IS SHOWING VIOLENT BEHAVIOR.

ANSWER ME YOU Q UACKS!

NEUTRALIZE AND CONTAIN.

AAAKK!!
SPLASH!



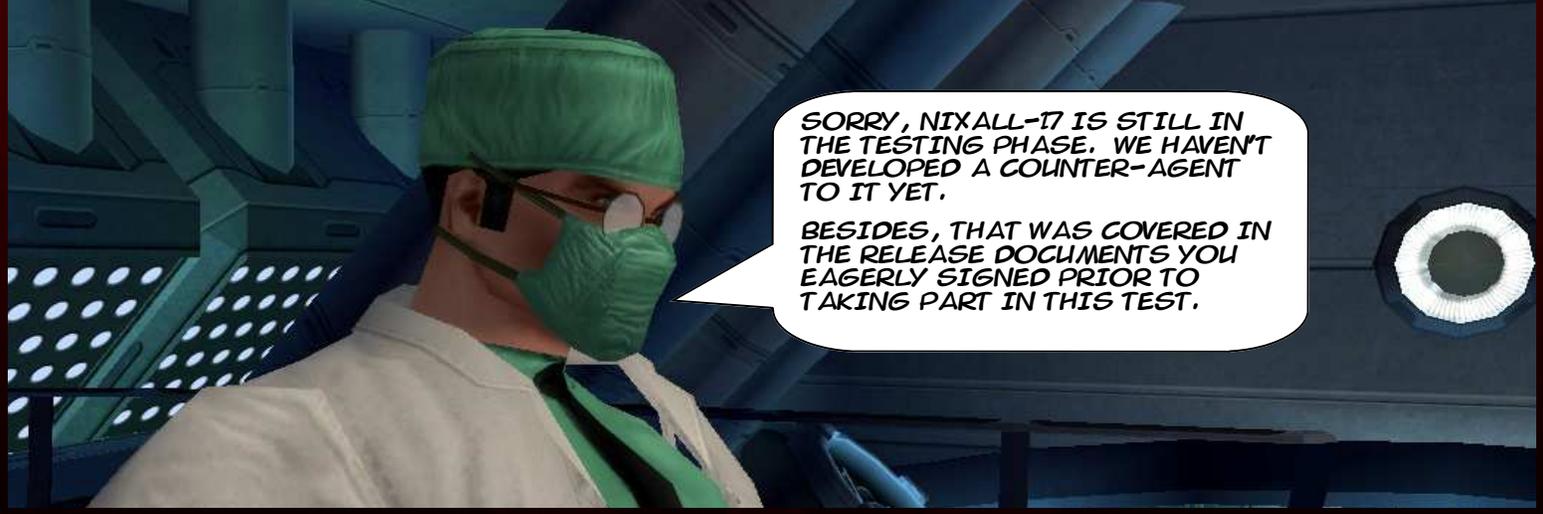
I WANT ANSWERS!



YOOOOOHHU...
YOU DID THIS TO ME!
YOU'RE GOING TO FIX THIS NOW!



SORRY, NIXALL-7 IS STILL IN THE TESTING PHASE. WE HAVEN'T DEVELOPED A COUNTER-AGENT TO IT YET.
BESIDES, THAT WAS COVERED IN THE RELEASE DOCUMENTS YOU EAGERLY SIGNED PRIOR TO TAKING PART IN THIS TEST.



IF I HAD TO VENTURE A GUESS, I'D SAY THAT YOUR CHANGES ARE STILL PROGRESSING.
IF YOU COULD STAY STILL, WE HAVE A TEAM ON THE WAY WITH A GURNEY SO WE CAN BETTER MONITOR THESE CHANGES TO THEIR CONCLUSION.



URP! WHAT... WHAT IS... HAPPENING... TO... M-MEEE...
SPLOOSH!

MINUTES LATER...



BEEP
CPCU
ALERT!



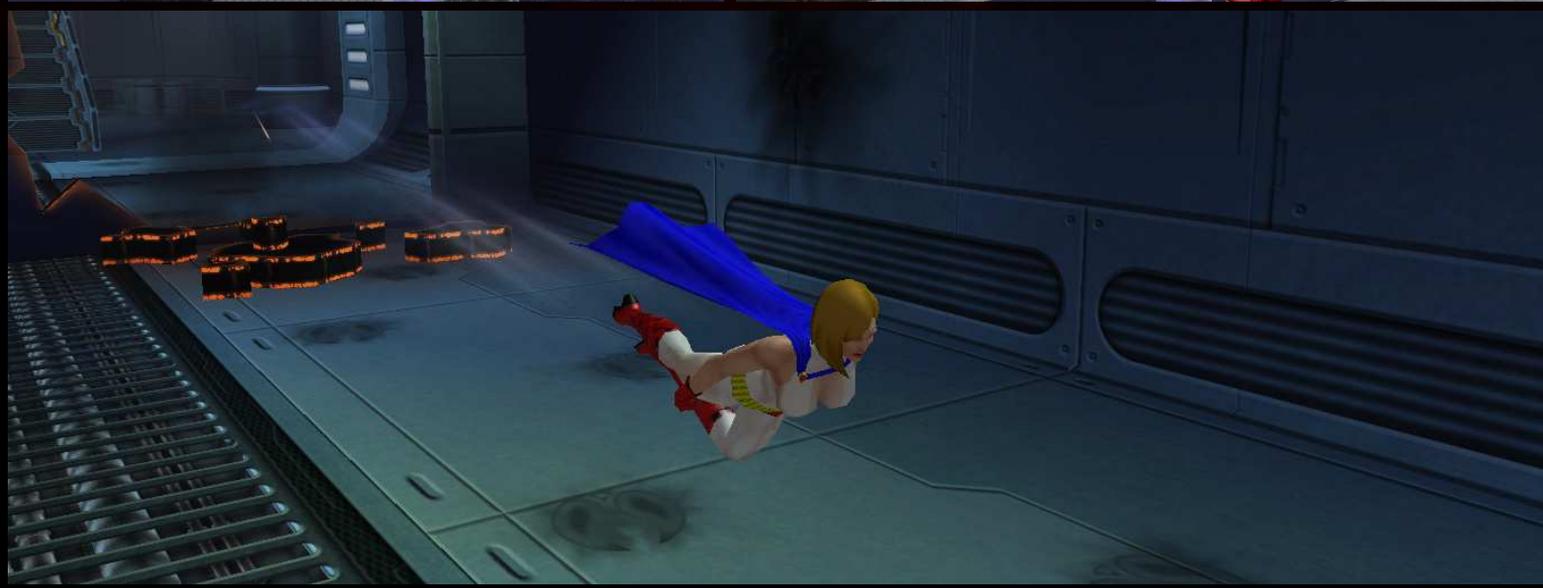
THIS IS
GALATEA
POWERS
RESPONDING
TO PAGE.

PANIC ALARM HAS
SOUNDED AT CREY
RESEARCH FACILITY
IN FOOLS GOLD
DISTRICT.

ANY AVAILABLE
HERO PLEASE
RESPOND.



I'M NEARBY.
I'LL BE THERE
IN TWO
MINUTES.





LOOK AT ME!
LOOK AT WHAT YOU
DID TO ME!
MY BEAUTIFUL HAIR,
MY BEAUTIFUL HANDS
AND FEET...



P-PLEASE... I'M JUST
A RESEARCHER...
I ONLY DID WHAT I
WAS PAID TO DO.



YOU'RE GOING TO FIX
ME... YOU'RE GOING
TO RESTORE MY
BEAUTIFUL LOOKS
RIGHT NOW!

OR SO HELP ME I'LL
SHOVE THESE SPIKES
SO FAR UP YOUR--

NO!



WHATEVER HE DID, IT'S
NOT WORTH YOU GOING
TO PRISON OVER.

LOOK, WHY DON'T WE
JUST TAKE A FEW STEPS
BACK AND TALK ABOUT
THIS, OKAY?



OH THIS IS PERFECT!

YOU OF **ALL** PEOPLE
COME HERE TO MAKE
MY RUIN COMPLETE!



I-I'M SORRY... BUT
SHOULD I KNOW
YOU?

YOUR VOICE IS A
LITTLE FAMILIAR.



TAMMY LYN VOSS!
MS. RHODE ISLAND
2008!

YOU RUINED MY LIFE
THEN AND YOU'RE
RUINING MY LIFE NOW...
AND I'M GOING TO MAKE
YOU **PAY** FOR DOING
THAT TO ME **TWICE!**



SPLOOSH!



POW!



YOU HAVE TO GET HER OUT OF HERE!
THE GAS PIPE HAS RUPTURED!



KA-POW!



NO!



FWOOSH!

HOURS LATER...

DEAR DIARY... IT IS HARD FOR ME TO WRITE THIS. NEW FINGERS MAKE WRITING DIFFICULT...

STOLE A CLIPBOARD WHEN I FLED FROM THE LAB SO I CAN CONTINUE TO ~~WRITE~~ WRITE DOWN WHAT ~~H~~ HAPPENED TO ME.

ERIC ~~SKREWED~~ SCREWED ME OVER! HE PROMISED ME THE DRUG THAT WOULD GIVE ME POWER... BUT HE ONLY MADE ME INTO A MONSTER!

AND THEN THAT ~~BITCH~~ GALATEA HAD TO SHOW UP!

MY DESIGNER OUTFIT IS RUINED

MY FACE AND MY BODY AND MY FEET ARE RUINED.

I HAVE BONY SPIKES POPPING IN AND OUT OF MY BODY.

I CAN'T GO HOME LIKE THIS.

I AM AN EMBARRASSMENT NOW. I'M A FREAK.

AND IT'S ALL GALATEA'S FAULT! IT'S ALL ~~HER~~ HER FAULT THAT I'M THIS WAY!

ALTHOUGH THERE WAS ONE GOOD THING THAT I GOT OUT OF THIS.

I HAVE POWERS NOW.

AND I'M GONNA ~~USE~~ USE THEM!

SOMEONE ONCE SAID... HELL HATH NO FURY LIKE A WOMAN SCORNE

WELL I ~~AM~~ THAT WOMAN NOW. I AM SCORNE

AND NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES, I'M GOING TO MAKE GALATEA ~~POWERS~~ PAY FOR RUINING MY LIFE!

END.

DAVID 2'S NOTES ON SCORNE

THE IDEA FOR SCORNE CAME WHEN I STARTED WORK ON "THE GUARDIAN POWERS" #10, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "GALATEA'S BAD DAY".

IN THAT ISSUE, GALATEA POWERS WAS CHALLENGED BY JUST ABOUT EVERY VILLAIN SHE EVER CAME ACROSS IN HER TIME IN PARAGON CITY, AND THEY WERE COMING AFTER HER ONE AFTER ANOTHER AFTER ANOTHER AFTER ANOTHER TO REALLY TEST HER RESOLVE.

I HAD ALREADY PLANNED ON INCLUDING SOME OF THE VILLAINS THAT READERS WOULD REMEMBER OR RECOGNIZE SUCH AS AEGEA AND DOCTOR VAHZILOK AND GOLDEN HAWKFIRE (WHO REALLY WASN'T A VILLAIN PER SE BUT STILL TORMENTED HER). I HAD EVEN PLANNED ON HAVING BOTH LIONEL AND LEONA POWERS SHOW UP, ALTHOUGH I COULD ONLY AFFORD TO PUT ONE OF THEM IN. (AND THE MYSTERY WITH LIONEL POWERS WOULD BE PART OF A WHOLE DIFFERENT STORYLINE THAT NEVER GOT OFF THE GROUND BECAUSE OF NCSOFT'S DECISION TO PULL THE PLUG ON CITY OF HEROES.)

BUT I NEEDED A FEW MORE VILLAINS TO SHOW THAT SHE'S REALLY DEVELOPED THIS WHOLE ROGUES GALLERY OVER THE YEARS. I HAD ALREADY COME UP WITH A RADIOACTIVE CHARACTER THAT I NEVER REALLY USED... AND NOW PROBABLY NEVER WILL AGAIN... BUT THEN I CAME UP WITH THE IDEA OF HAVING SOMEONE INSANELY JEALOUS OF GALATEA. I DIDN'T WANT HER TO BE LIKE GALATEA IN THE SAME WAY THAT LEONA POWERS WAS. I WANTED THIS VILLAIN TO BE A REAL ANTI-GALATEA CHARACTER.



Scorne as seen in "The Guardian Powers" #10

SO I STARTED WITH ONE OF THE TEST MODELS FOR GALATEA THAT I USED FOR THE "GALATEA DAWNING" STORYLINE FOR WHEN SHE WOULD TURN "EVIL" AND I TWISTED IT EVEN FURTHER. SHE HAD THIS INSECT-HYBRID ARMOR, WHICH I KEPT. THEN GAVE HER A SUPERNATURAL FACE AND SPIKY BLACK HAIR. GALATEA HAD A CAPE, SO THIS VILLAIN HAD TO HAVE THESE DEMONIC WINGS TO FLY. SHE HAD UGLY BLOOD-STAINED CLAW-LIKE HANDS AND INSECT FEET AND CHAINS WRAPPED AROUND HER. AND THEN THE PROTRUDING SPINES INSTEAD OF SUPER-STRENGTH.

BY THE WAY, THE VERSION OF GALATEA IN THE INSECT-HYBRID ARMOR WAS PARTIALLY SEEN IN THE "TIME AND CHANGES" ADVERTISEMENT FOR "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT".

I NEVER REALLY WORKED WITH A CHARACTER WITH SPINES, SO TO SEE THEM POP OUT OF HER IN THE FIRST RUN-THROUGH WITH THE GREEN ACID-LIKE OOZE REALLY COMPLETED THE TRANSFORMATION OF SCORNE INTO A REAL ANTI-GALATEA FIGURE.

THEN CAME THE HARD PART... FIGURING OUT HER BACKSTORY. WHAT WOULD DRIVE SOMEONE TO DISFIGURE HERSELF IN THE WAY THAT SCORNE DID JUST TO GO AFTER GALATEA?

I DECIDED THAT THIS YOUNG WOMAN HAD TO BE SOMEONE WHOM GALATEA JUST PISSED OFF, BUT GALATEA DIDN'T KNOW THAT SHE DID IT. WE ALL DO THIS SOMETIMES. WE ALL SOMETIMES JUST PISS PEOPLE OFF AND WE NEVER REALIZE THAT THIS IS WHAT WE DID, BUT THAT OTHER PERSON KNOWS, AND THEY TAKE IT VERY PERSONALLY.



Galatea versus Scorne as seen in "The Guardian Powers" #10

GALATEA IS CONSIDERED VERY BEAUTIFUL AND POPULAR, SO THE IDEA TOOK SHAPE THAT SCORNE WOULD BE A FORMER BEAUTY PAGEANT CONTESTANT THAT WAS DONE WRONG. AND NOW THE UGLINESS AND THE RESENTMENT AND THE JEALOUSY IN HER IS JUST BUBBLING UP BOTH PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY.

I INITIALLY PLANNED ON TELLING THIS STORY IN A FUTURE RELEASE OF "CITY OF COMIC CREATORS COMPENDIUM", BUT OBVIOUSLY THAT WILL NEVER COME TO BE BECAUSE OF NCSOFT, SO I DECIDED TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THE ORIGIN STORY ANYWAY AND RELEASE IT HERE.

THEY SAY THAT BEAUTY IS ONLY SKIN-DEEP, BUT UGLINESS CUTS RIGHT TO THE BONE. WELL SCORNE NO LONGER HAS TO WORRY ABOUT THE PRETENSES OF BEING BEAUTIFUL. SHE'S FREE TO BE EVERY BIT AS BITTER AND RESENTFUL AS SHE DEMONSTRATES.

HMM... SO A BITTER BEAUTY QUEEN BECOMES A FREAK AND SOMEHOW IT'S ALL GALATEA'S FAULT?

I BELIEVE THE CLINICAL TERM IS "PROJECTION".

IN PRAETORIA, SCORNE WOULD BE EITHER MIND-WIPED OR ELSE SHE'D BE QUIETLY EXECUTED.

IT DOES EXPLAIN WHY ONE DOES NOT HEAR OF A "ROGUES GALLERY" OF VILLAINS IN PRAETORIA.

WELL, THERE ARE ALSO NO SEPARATE HERO GROUPS THERE EITHER.

MAKES ME WONDER HOW THIS GROUP GOT ITS START IN THE FIRST PLACE.

WOULD YOU PREFER THE OFFICIAL OR UNOFFICIAL STORY?

THERE'S AN "UNOFFICIAL" STORY TO THE GUARDIANS? THIS I HAVE TO HEAR!

THERE IS NOTHING SCANDALOUS ABOUT EITHER ORIGIN STORY. THE GUARDIANS WERE FORMED IN NOVEMBER OF 2007, BUT THEIR REAL ORIGINS WERE TRACED BACK TO THE END OF DECEMBER IN--

VANGUARD ALERT! VANGUARD ALERT!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

VANGUARD REPORTS RIKTI MOTHERSHIP EN ROUTE TO TALOS ISLAND. ESTIMATED TIME UNTIL ARRIVAL: FIFTEEN MINUTES.

WHAT DO I DO? DO I TELEPORT OUTSIDE AND HELP FIGHT THE RIKTI?

NEGATIVE. YOUR ROLE IS TO COORDINATE WITH THE OTHER GUARDIANS.

PREFERABLY IN THE COMMAND AND CONTROL ROOM.

PULL UP THE LIST OF AVAILABLE GUARDIANS.

BUT I STILL WANT TO HEAR THAT ORIGIN STORY AFTERWARD.

I AM BUBBLING WITH DIGITAL ANTICIPATION.

"FIRST GUARDIANS"

- BY DAVID 2

LISTEN UP, PEOPLE!

**YOU KNOW WHO WE ARE!
WE KNOW YOU'RE LISTENING,
SO LISTEN GOOD!**

**YOU KNOW THAT "PROTECT
AND SERVE" COMES WITH A
PRICE AROUND HERE!**

(THE FOLLOWING STORY TAKES PLACE IN 2006, PRIOR TO THE FORMATION OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SUPERGROUP. STORY OCCURS DURING THE "OBEY" STORYLINE OF THE "JUSTICE-KNIGHTS" SERIES.)

**ONE OF YOU
THOUGHT
OTHERWISE!**

**IN CASE YOU THINK
SOME HERO IS GOING
TO COME TO HIS
RESCUE, YOU'RE
SADLY MISTAKEN!**

***ALL THE HEROES ARE EITHER
HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD
ON SOME WILD GOOSE CHASE,
OR ELSE THEY'RE BUSY WITH
SOME GIANT SNOW MONSTER!***

***THAT LEAVES US DOING
WHAT WE DO DAY IN AND
DAY OUT... PROTECTING YOU
UNGRATEFUL CITIZENS IN
THIS HELLHOLE DISTRICT!***

***AND ALL WE ASK IN RETURN
IS A LITTLE GRATITUDE.**

**WELL THIS BUSINESSMAN
FAILED TO SHOW US THAT
GRATITUDE AND NOW WE
HAVE TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE
OUT OF HIM SO THE REST
OF YOU WILL LEARN.***

**^ FOR MORE ABOUT THAT,
SEE "JUSTICE-KNIGHTS"
#4&5 AT JKCOMICS.COM.^**



COPS.

THEY THINK THEY CAN GET AWAY WITH EVERYTHING.

THEY THINK THAT THEY'RE ABOVE THE LAW JUST BECAUSE THEY ENFORCE IT.



THIS IS THE SO-CALLED "BLUE DOG" UNIT OF THE PARAGON POLICE.

SPECIAL S.W.A.T. UNIT DESIGNED TO GO AFTER SUPERADINE DEALERS.

NO-HOLDS BARRED, NO LIMITS, JUST BUST THE DEALERS AND TAKE THEIR ASSETS AS A REWARD.



ONLY THE SUPERADINE BUSINESS WAS CHASED OUT OF KINGS ROW A LONG TIME AGO BY REAL COPS LIKE BLUE STEEL.

THEY'RE NOT COPS. THEY'RE CRIMINALS WITH BADGES.

NOW THE SO-CALLED "WAR ON DRUGS" IS JUST AN EXCUSE TO SHAKE THESE PEOPLE DOWN FOR WHAT LITTLE MONEY THEY HAVE LEFT.

THE POLICE UNION KEEPS THEM ON THE STREETS BECAUSE OF SOME SICK SENSE OF "CAMARADERIE".

CHIEF BOCHCO KEEPS THEM AROUND BECAUSE HE ONLY CARES ABOUT ARREST NUMBERS.



NOBODY ASKS ABOUT THE LIVES RUINED OR LOST BECAUSE OF THESE RABID "BLUE DOGS".

I'VE LET THEIR LEADER RAMBLE ON AND ON BECAUSE IT GIVES HIM A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY.

NOBODY WANTS TO TAKE ON THE POLICE, EVEN WHEN THEY HAVE DONE WRONG.

MEANWHILE ALL OF IT IS RECORDED ON THE DIGITAL CAMERA ON MY SCOPE.

WELL... THAT'S WHERE I COME IN.

IT'S THE PROOF THAT SHOULD PUT THEM AWAY FOR A LONG TIME.



IT'S TIME THESE CRIMINALS WITH BADGES ARE INTRODUCED TO THEIR WORST NIGHTMARE.

JUSTICE THAT GOES BY THE NAME OF...

JUSTICE THAT WON'T TURN A BLIND EYE TO CORRUPTION AND ABUSE.

THE LIBERTARIAN AVENGER!



THEY ATTACK IN NUMBERS. TYPICAL.



GLUE ARROW SLOWS THEM DOWN.

FLASHBULB ARROW BLINDS THEM.



GAS ARROW FOR GOOD MEASURE.

COPS ONLY GET ONE EXPOSURE TO TEAR GAS IN THE ACADEMY.
INMATES IN THE ZIG GET IT EVERY OTHER MONTH.



YOU LEARN TO ADAPT TO THE GAS.

ICE ARROW KEEPS OFFICER JONES FROM CALLING FOR BACKUP.

NETTING ARROW KEEPS SERGEANT SMITH FROM PULLING HIS THROWAWAY GUN.

YEAH, YOU HEARD ME RIGHT... I WAS IN THE ZIG, BUT NOT BECAUSE I WAS A CRIMINAL. I WAS THERE BECAUSE A CORRUPT PROSECUTOR WANTED A "CELEBITANT" TO TAKE THE FALL FOR A REAL CRIMINAL.



I WAS THERE FOR YEARS WITHOUT A TRIAL. NO CHANCE TO CLEAR MY NAME.

MY UNCLE HAD TO GET INVOLVED. AND THAT COST ME DEARLY.

AND I PROMISED THEN THAT I WOULD DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO MAKE SURE THOSE CORRUPT COPS AND PROSECUTORS ARE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.



YOU OKAY?

YEAH, I'M GOOD.



YOU DIDN'T KILL THEM BY ANY CHANCE, DID YOU?



NAH... THEY'RE NOT WORTH IT.

I TAGGED THEM WITH A JAIL TELEPORT PATCH, THOUGH, SO THEY'LL BE SPENDING THE REST OF THE NIGHT THERE.

WHAT **WOULD** HELP IS YOU GOING TO THE STATIONHOUSE AND FILING A COMPLAINT WITH DETECTIVE FREITAG. HE'S A FAIR GUY AND WILL LISTEN TO WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THOSE THUGS.



HE SAID THAT HE WOULD... BUT HIS TONE TOLD ME THAT HE WON'T.

LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, HE'S AFRAID OF RETALIATION.

THAT'S HALF THE REASON WHY THE DIRTY COPS GO FREE IN THE FIRST PLACE.



THE DIGITAL EVIDENCE I GATHERED WILL BE ENOUGH TO KEEP THEM IN JAIL FOR NOW.

BUT HIS STATEMENT WOULD HAVE GUARANTEED PRISON SENTENCES.

I'LL JUST HAVE TO DO ANOTHER ANONYMOUS CONTRIBUTION TO PNM LIKE THE OTHER ONES I'VE DONE... TO MAKE SURE THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY FOLLOWS THROUGH WITH CRIMINAL CHARGES.

A FEW HOURS LATER...

I COULD REALLY USE SOME SL--

JUST WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE ARRESTING COPS?

GREAT.

THE LAST GUY THAT I WANTED TO TALK TO TODAY.

THEY'RE NOT COPS; THEY'RE THIRD-WORLD DICTATORS.

THE BLUE DOG UNIT WAS SHAKING PEOPLE DOWN FOR PROTECTION MONEY.

EVERYONE HERE KNOWS IT. I'M JUST THE ONLY ONE THAT DID SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT, THEN LET'S GO. I HAVE NO QUALMS THROWING IT DOWN WITH SOMEONE THAT NAIVELY THINKS THAT COPS CAN DO NO WRONG!

I'LL PHRASE THE QUESTION A LITTLE BETTER.

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE STEPPING ALL OVER MY INVESTIGATION?

"YOUR"?

MINE!

CITY HALL ASKED ME TO INVESTIGATE THE BLUE DOG UNIT FOR SOME SUSPECTED POLICE ABUSE.

THEY WANTED IT DONE QUIETLY, WITHOUT GETTING THE MEDIA INVOLVED OR GETTING THE POLICE UNION P#SSED OFF.

THE TWO THINGS THAT YOU MANAGED TO PULL OFF QUITE EASILY LAST NIGHT WITH YOUR ACTIONS.



RIGHT, BECAUSE THE LAST THING WE SHOULD DO IS P#SS OFF THE VERY PEOPLE THAT HAVE BEEN KEEPING THUGS ON THE GOVERNMENT PAYROLL!

MEANWHILE THE BLUE DOGS WERE READY TO GIVE A MOB-STYLE "DEMONSTRATION" IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET LIKE THIS WAS SOUTH AMERICA!



YOU WANT TO TELL ME THAT SOMEHOW YOU WERE GOING TO STOP THAT FROM HAPPENING BY WORKING COVERTLY?

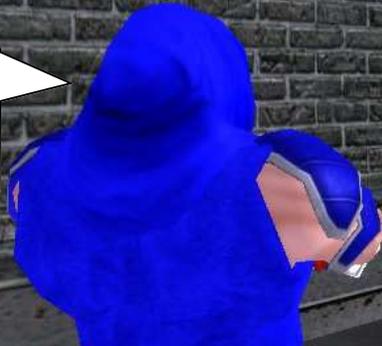


LOOK, I ADMIT THAT WE DIDN'T EXPECT THEM TO TAKE THINGS TO THAT EXTREME.

BUT IF YOU WORKED WITH US, WE COULD HAVE FOUND A WAY TO PREVENT THAT SCENE FROM HAPPENING IN THE FIRST PLACE.



BUT I SUPPOSE THAT'S ASKING TOO MUCH FROM A CRUSADING LIBERAL LIKE YOU, HUH?



EX-CUSE ME?

WHERE THE HELL DO YOU GET OFF MAKING THAT KIND OF ASSUMPTIONS?



YOU HATE COPS. THAT'S PRETTY CLEAR WITH WHAT YOU DO. THAT MAKES YOU A PINKO-COMMIE LIBERAL IN MY BOOK.

SO FAR YOU'VE BEEN GOING AFTER BAD COPS, BUT NOW YOU'RE CUTTING INTO LEGITIMATE EFFORTS TO CLEAN UP THE FORCE, AND I HAVE A PROBL--



-- HEY! WHERE THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?



YOU WANT TO RAMBLE ON, GO TELL IT TO TALK RADIO.

MEANWHILE, THERE ARE SIRENS AROUND THE CORNER AND I'M GOING TO SEE WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE.



--HERE WHERE ONE MEMBER OF THE JUSTICE-KNIGHTS, A DARK SYNASPE, HAS BEEN ARRESTED.

(SCENE COURTESY OF JUSTICE-KNIGHTS #9 BY JOSEPH COHEN.)

AGAIN, WHILE AUTHORITIES ARRIVE ON SCENE NOW, ALL JUSTICE-KNIGHTS MEMBERS EXCEPT FOR DARK SYNASPE, HAVE FLED ALONG WITH MR. CYRIL OF CYCORP.



THIS IS WRONG...



THIS IS JUST PLAIN WRONG. THERE'S NO REASON FOR THIS!



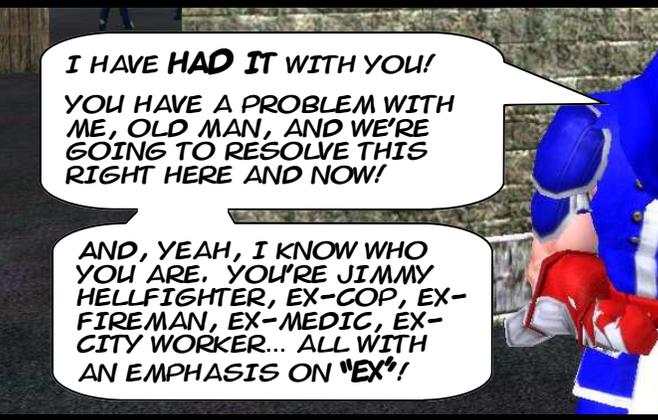
THEY'RE JUST DOING THEIR JOBS. HE COULD FIGHT THEM, BUT HE CHOOSES NOT TO.



YOU BETTER NOT BE GOING WHERE I THINK YOU'RE GOING.



I NEED TO HEAR THAT FROM YOU. I NEED YOU TO TELL ME YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TRY TO FREE HIM!



I HAVE **HAD** IT WITH YOU! YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH ME, OLD MAN, AND WE'RE GOING TO RESOLVE THIS RIGHT HERE AND NOW!

AND, YEAH, I KNOW WHO YOU ARE. YOU'RE JIMMY HELLFIGHTER, EX-COP, EX-FIREMAN, EX-MEDIC, EX-CITY WORKER... ALL WITH AN EMPHASIS ON "EX"!



YOU MAY KNOW COPS, BUT YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE NIGHTSTICK LIKE I HAVE!

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE RAILOADED BY BEAT COPS LOOKING TO FILL A QUOTA, OR A PROSECUTOR LOOKING TO MAKE A NAME FOR HIMSELF! I'VE BEEN THERE, AND I'M NOT GOING TO STAND BY AND WATCH THAT HERO BE CRUCIFIED FOR NO D@MN REASON!



THERE ARE RIGHT WAYS AND WRONG WAYS TO DO THAT.
 YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE DARK SYNASPE'S CAREER RUINED? WELL NEITHER DO I. THE WHOLE THING STINKS LIKE THE LIBERAL MEDIA.
 BUT IF YOU TRY TO FREE HIM NOW, YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE THOSE COPS EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT HE IS GUILTY!



YOU WORK WITH ME AND WE'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THAT WHOLE THING!
 I MAY NOT BE A COP ANYMORE, BUT I STILL HAVE SOME PULL WITH THE BRASS THERE.

OR WE COULD GO AT IT RIGHT HERE AND NOW, AND I PROMISE YOU THAT ONE OF US WOULD BE GOING TO JAIL AND ONE OF US WOULD BE DEAD WHEN IT'S DONE.
 YOU REALLY WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE? OR DO YOU WANT THE CITY TO LOSE THREE HEROES INSTEAD OF ONE?

BUH-BEEP
BUH-BEEP



TALK.
 NO, I WAS THERE.
 ON PNN? SWELL.
 REALLY? NO,
 NO, THANKS FOR THE HEADS-UP.

WHAT'S THAT ABOUT PNN?



MY SOURCE AT THE STATION SAID HE SPOTTED US ON THE AIR WHEN THAT JACK@SS JASON SMITH COVERED THE ARREST LIVE.

HE TOLD ME THAT THE HELICOPTER THAT IS TRANSPORTING DARK SYNASPE WAS JUST FORCED DOWN OVER IN SKYWAY CITY.

WE GO TOGETHER TO SAVE HIM, HE STAYS IN POLICE CUSTODY UNTIL THIS IS SORTED OUT. UNDERSTOOD?

WE GO THERE AND SAVE HIM, WE DEAL WITH THE REST AFTER THAT.

CLOSE ENOUGH.
 LET'S GO.

THERE IT IS!

YEAH, AND SO ARE THE MALTA GROUP.

D@MN HI-TECH MERCS!

GOT THE GUNNER. HE'S TAGGED.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP. IS ANYONE HURT? WHERE'S THE HERO YOU HAVE IN CUSTODY?

I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE. THE MALTA GROUP TOOK OFF WITH DARK SYNASPE BEFORE WE COULD GET ANOTHER 'COPTER HERE.

I'M ACTUALLY SURPRISED ANYONE SHOWED UP, WITH ALL OF THE OTHER HEROES SCATTERED AROUND THE WORLD.

NOT ALL OF US LIKE CHASING WILD GEESE OR GIANT SNOW-MONSTERS. WHICH WAY DID THEY HEAD OFF TO?

I'M SURPRISED YOU'RE WILLING TO SHAKE DOWN A MALTA GOON FOR INTEL. THAT'S NOT VERY LIBERAL.

THAT'S BECAUSE I'M A LIBERTARIAN, NOT A LIBERAL. THERE'S A DIFFERENCE.

NO SUCH THING AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED. YOUR LITTLE TOY SPOT THEM?

MY TARGETING SIGHT HAS THEM UP AHEAD.

THIS SUCKS! WHY DO WE HAVE TO WATCH OVER HIM OUT IN THE OPEN LIKE THIS?

BECAUSE WE'RE ORDERED TO, THAT'S WHY! OUR 'COPTER WILL BE HERE SHORTLY.

WE'RE GETTING PAID A HUGE WAD OF CASH FOR THIS OPERATION, SO YOU DO WHAT YOU'RE TOLD, AND YOU STOP BIT*#ING ABOUT IT!

TACTICAL MODE

PRIMARY TARGET

PRIMARY TARGET

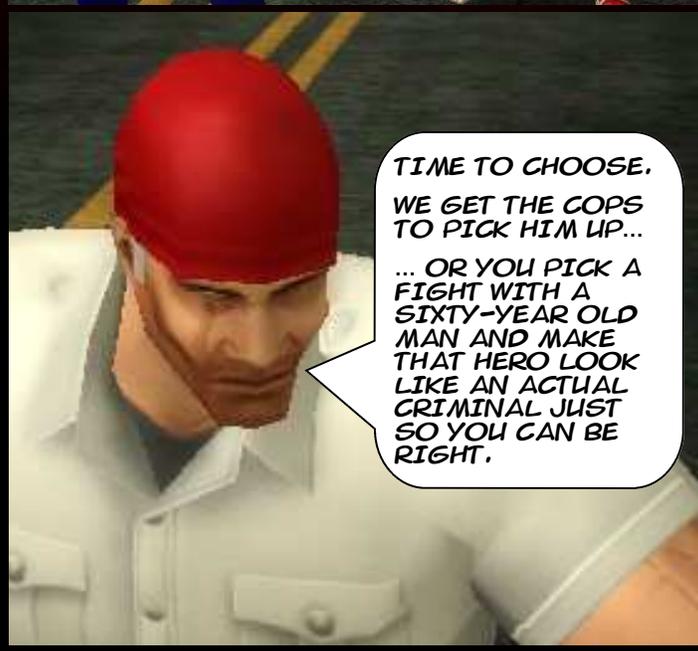
SECONDARY TARGETS

I'M NOT BIT*#ING... JUST POINTING OUT A TACTICAL ISSUE.

HE'S STILL ALIVE, BUT THEY'RE GETTING READY TO MOVE HIM.

SUBJECT: DARK SYNASPE
STATUS: UNCONSCIOUS

WE HAVE TO ACT NOW, BEFORE THEIR RIDE SHOWS UP.



LATER...

I LET HELLFIGHTER TAKE CUSTODY OF DARK SYNASPE.

WHAT KICKS ME IS THAT HE WAS RIGHT.

I WAS SO SWEEPED UP INTO HELPING OUT A HERO IN TROUBLE THAT I DIDN'T THINK OF THE CONSEQUENCES.

SOME "LIBERTARIAN" I AM MAKING THAT KIND OF MISTAKE!

EXCUSE ME...

YOU'LL NEED TO SPEAK WITH JIMMY HELLFIGHTER. HE'S THE ONE IN CHARGE. I JUST HELPED.

ACTUALLY I'M HERE TO SPEAK WITH YOU.

I'M CAPTAIN PARAGONNA WITH THE PCPD. MISTER HELLFIGHTER ALREADY FILLED ME IN ON WHAT REALLY WENT ON.

I WANTED TO SAY THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELPING US RETRIEVE DARK SYNASPE.

I DIDN'T DO THAT FOR YOU, CAPTAIN, OR FOR THE POLICE. I THOUGHT HE WAS GETTING A BUM RAP.

HELLFIGHTER CONVINCED ME THAT SPRINGING HIM FROM CUSTODY WOULD HAVE MADE HIM LOOK GUILTY.

WELL, IN THIS CASE, MISTER HELLFIGHTER WAS RIGHT. THERE WERE SOME BAD CALLS MADE ABOUT THE CASE THAT WE'RE STILL SQUARING AWAY.

I'M SURE YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO HEAR THAT ALL CHARGES HAVE JUST BEEN DROPPED AGAINST DARK SYNASPE AND THE OTHER JUSTICE-KNIGHTS MEMBERS.

APPARENTLY THE CALLS FOR THEIR ARREST WERE PART OF SOME TABLOID MEDIA HYPE BY A PNN REPORTER WHO'S NOW LOOKING FOR A NEW JOB.

WE'RE TRYING TO FILL IN THE REST OF WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON, BUT THINGS WOULD HAVE BEEN A LOT MORE COMPLICATED IF YOU DIDN'T DO THE RIGHT THING.

LADY, I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU GET OFF TELLING ME ABOUT WHAT "THE RIGHT THING" IS.

MOST OF THE HEROES HERE WENT OFF ON A GLOBAL WILD GOOSE CHASE.

WHY? BECAUSE MANTICORE TOLD THEM TO!

MEANWHILE THE PEOPLE ARE LEFT TO THE MERCY OF THE GANGS AND CORRUPT COPS.

WHAT'S "RIGHT" ABOUT ANY OF THAT?

I'M NOT GOING TO APOLOGIZE FOR WHAT SOME BAD COPS HAVE BEEN DOING... BUT THAT STILL DOESN'T MEAN WE SCRAP THE WHOLE SYSTEM.

I'M STILL NEW TO THIS WHOLE HERO THING... BUT I CAN STILL TELL YOU THAT THERE'S A LOT MORE TO THE POLICE FORCE THAN A FEW BAD COPS.

WELL MAYBE YOU NEED TO OPEN YOUR EYES A LITTLE WIDER, "CAPTAIN", AND TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT YOUR FELLOW COPS, BECAUSE THEY'RE PART OF THE REASON WHY BAD COPS ARE ABLE TO THRIVE.

I GUESS WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO AGREE TO DISAGREE ON THAT SUBJECT.

BUT I'M GLAD YOU HELPED US OUT THIS TIME AROUND.

LIKE I SAID EARLIER, I DIDN'T DO IT FOR YOU.

I DID IT TO TRY TO HELP OUT A FELLOW HERO.

THIS CITY NEEDS AS MANY HEROES AS THEY CAN GET.

WE LEFT IT LIKE THAT.

BUT MAYBE IF SHE DOES OPEN HER EYES A BIT...

SHE'S SPUNKY AND IDEALISTIC, AND I DON'T BLAME HER FOR NOT SEEING THE CORRUPTION FOR WHAT IT IS.

... MAYBE THEN SHE'D BE SOMEONE I'D BE WILLING TO WORK WITH TO HELP MAKE THIS CITY BETTER.

END

THE NEXT MORNING...
(IN THE HERE AND NOW)

SO WHO AM I
RELIEVING FOR
THIS MONITOR
DETAIL?

REALLY? Hmm...

WELL I HOPE SHE
ISN'T TOO MAD
AT ME.

FURIA POWERS IS
CURRENTLY IN THE
GUARDIAN LOUNGE.

CYNTHIA DI GHIACCIO
AKA ELITE ICE QUEEN

FURIA?

HEY, SORRY I'M
A LITTLE LATE
TO RELIEVE YOU.

I DIDN'T EVEN
REALIZE THAT PART
OF THIS WHOLE
"GUARDIANS" THING
IS PULLING THIS
KIND OF DUTY.

YOU'VE PROBABLY
BEEN BORED TO
DEATH WAITING FOR
ME TO GET HERE.

IT'S OKAY...

I'VE BEEN WATCHING
SOME TV.

HOPE YOU DON'T
MIND, I'M GOING
TO STICK AROUND
FOR A WHILE.

NO, NOT A PROBLEM.

NEVER FIGURED YOU TO
BE A COUCH POTATO,
THOUGH.

MAYBE YOU CAN GET
ME UP TO SPEED ON
WHAT I'M SUPPOSED
TO REALLY DO HERE.

ACTUALLY... YOU
PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE
THE CPCU GIVE YOU THE
FULL TOUR.

IT CERTAINLY OPENED MY
EYES ABOUT ALL THE
HISTORY THIS BASE HAS.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, CPCU?

ABSOLUTELY,
FURIA POWERS.

OH WHAT THE HELL?

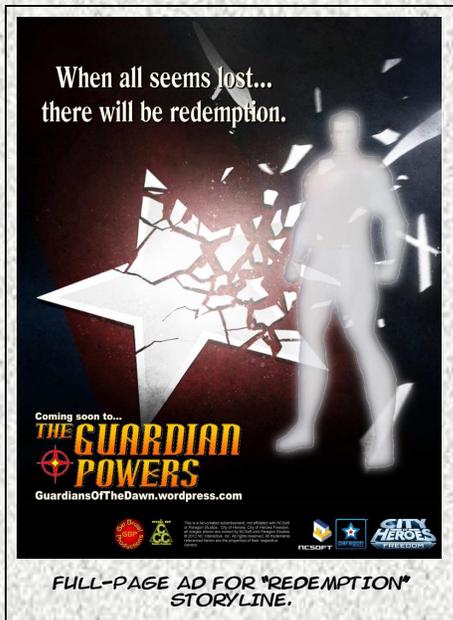
OKAY CPCU, GIVE ME
THE GRAND TOUR!

ONE MOMENT...

LOADING
TUTORIAL...

END

DAVID 2 ON PATHS OF REDEMPTION...



WHEN I FIRST STARTED "THE GUARDIAN POWERS", I STARTED OUT WITH THE FIVE CORE CHARACTERS... GALATEA POWERS, LYON POWERS, ICON POWERS, CAPATAIN PARAGONNA, AND ALEX WENTWORTH (AKA LIBERTARIAN AVENGER). BUT THERE WERE TWO CHARACTERS THAT I ALSO WANTED TO EVENTUALLY INTRODUCE INTO THE SERIES AS REGULARS.

THE FIRST WAS JOHN COLE, THE ILLEGITIMATE SON OF MARCUS COLE (AKA STATESMAN). THIS WAS A CHARACTER WHOSE CONNECTION TO THE GUARDIANS WAS MADE BACK IN THE "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT" SERIES AND THEN REVISITED IN "THE GUARDIAN POWERS". THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION ABOUT HIS ORIGINS AND WHETHER OR NOT HE REALLY IS THE SON OF STATESMAN, AND IF SO, HOW HE ENDED UP IN THE ROGUE ISLES, NEVER MIND AS A FORMER MEMBER OF ARACHNOS.



JOHN COLE IN ONE OF HIS "TEMPORARY" HERO OUTFITS.

A WHOLE STORYLINE CALLED "REDEMPTION" WAS GOING TO TRY TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS, AS WELL AS TRANSITION JOHN OVER TO BEING A FULL-FLEDGED SUPERHERO. THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST "OFFICIAL"

STORYLINE FOR "THE GUARDIAN POWERS". THERE WAS EVEN A FULL-PAGE AD TO PROMOTE IT.

THE STORY WOULD FOCUS ON JOHN'S ATTEMPT TO REBUILD HIS LIFE IN PARAGON CITY AND EARN THE RESPECT OF THE OTHER HEROES, INCLUDING HIS NIECE, MS. LIBERTY. THIS WOULD BE THE HARDEST CHALLENGE FOR HIM, ESPECIALLY SINCE MS. LIBERTY HAD AT THAT TIME LOST BOTH HER MOTHER AND GRANDFATHER IN THE "WHO WILL DIE" STORYLINE, AND NOW HERE IS THIS FORMER ARACHNOS AGENT CLAIMING TO BE HER UNCLE.

BUT EVENTUALLY HE WOULD SUCCEED IN PROVING HIS CLAIM OF BEING THE SON OF STATESMAN, AND IN DEVELOPING HIS OWN HERO COSTUME AND NAME AS "REDEMPTION".

THE OTHER CHARACTER THAT I WANTED TO BRING OVER, OBVIOUSLY, WAS FURIA POWERS.

IN "SPOTLIGHT" #25, I MENTIONED CREATING A PRAETORIAN VERSION OF GALATEA POWERS CALLED "FURIA". THE IDEA WAS ALWAYS TO HAVE HER IN RESERVE AS A BACK-UP CHARACTER SHOULD THE POWERS-THAT-BE DECIDE THAT I CAN'T HAVE GALATEA POWERS AT ALL.

AND WHILE GALATEA WAS A FAN-FAVORITE, I KIND OF GOT USED TO HAVING FURIA AROUND SINCE SHE WAS AN ORIGINAL CREATION WITH AN ORIGINAL HISTORY.

THE "PRAETORIA" STORYLINE IN "THE GUARDIAN POWERS" WAS ORIGINALLY SUPPOSED TO BE A LONGER STORY THAT FOCUSED ON TWO SEPARATE STORIES. THE FIRST WAS ICON POWERS AND EXGEMINI GOING TO PRAETORIA TO FIND MIDNIGHT ARACHNIA, AND THE SECOND WAS FURIA POWERS MEETING LYON POWERS, WITH HER KNOWING MORE ABOUT PARAGON CITY AND COMING TO THE REALIZATION THAT WHAT SHE WAS TOLD ABOUT HER WORLD WASN'T THE COMPLETE TRUTH.



FURIA POWERS IN A POSSIBLE HERO OUTFIT.

THE EVENTUAL PLAN WAS TO HAVE FURIA ALSO BECOME A FULL-BLOWN HERO AND ABANDON HER PRAETORIAN ASSOCIATIONS. THAT WOULD INCLUDE HER POSSIBLY GIVING UP HER PRAETORIAN OUTFIT FOR SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE "HEROIC".

SADLY, NEITHER STORY COULD BE TOLD LIKE I WANTED THEM TO BE TOLD BECAUSE OF THE CLOSING OF CITY OF HEROES. BUT I WAS THANKFUL TO AT LEAST COME UP WITH AN ABBREVIATED VERSION OF FURIA'S STORY SO SHE COULD BE INCLUDED IN THE GRAND FINALE... NOT TO MENTION BE INCLUDED IN THIS SPECIAL.

"THROUGH THE DOOR"

- BY DAVID 2

IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO EXIST... BUT IF YOU HAVE A SPECIAL KEY, THEN YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND THE SPECIAL DOOR.

THE DOOR THAT LEADS YOU TO THE WHITE HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF TIME AND SPACE.

A HALLWAY THAT IS FILLED WITH OTHER DOORS.

BUT ONLY ONE OF THOSE DOORS REALLY MATTERS.

KLA-CLICK

THE DOOR THAT LEADS TO THE ONE THAT MADE ALL THIS POSSIBLE.

WELCOME BACK.

THOUGH I SUPPOSE I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED TO SEE YOU HERE.

WELL IN ALL HONESTY, I HALF-EXPECTED YOU TO JUST LET ME DIE IN THAT LITTLE TIME ECHO.

I LIKE THE NEW OFFICE, BY THE WAY. IT HAS LOTS OF SPACE.

"DOC" TOR
EXILED MANIPULATOR

DON'T GET USED TO IT.

THIS IS ONLY TEMPORARY.

SO WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO "KILL" YOURSELF OFF LIKE THAT?*

WELL I COULD HAVE CROSSED OVER WITH GALATEA AND THE OTHERS... BUT THEN THERE'S THAT WHOLE MATTER OF ME BEING BLAMED FOR THE NEO-SHIVAN ATTACK. MY "DEATH" CLEANS ALL THAT UP.

(* THE GUARDIAN POWERS #15)

WITH EVERYONE THINKING I'M DEAD, THEY WON'T HAVE LINGERING DOUBTS ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT I'M REALLY INNOCENT.

THEY'LL ACCEPT THE TRUTH FROM GALATEA AS I'VE TOLD IT TO HER.

BESIDES, I'VE BEEN A LITTLE TOO PUBLIC DURING THIS WHOLE SITUATION. WAY TOO MANY PEOPLE THERE KNEW THAT I EXIST.

ONE OF THE FIRST RULES OF BEING A MANIPULATOR IS THAT YOU SHOULD NEVER ATTRACT ATTENTION.

I THINK IT WAS THAT "OTHER" SPECIALIST THAT SET THAT RULE.

SO... NOW THAT I'M "DEAD", WHAT ELSE DO YOU HAVE FOR ME?

NOTHING.

EXCUSE ME?

I TOLD YOU BEFORE, GALEN, THAT YOUR TIME IN THAT WORLD WAS NOT GOING TO BE TEMPORARY.*

YOU'RE "DEAD", SO I REALLY HAVE NOTHING ELSE FOR YOU TO DO NOW.

(* "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT" #19)

WELL THEN WHAT WAS THE WHOLE POINT OF BRINGING ME HERE IF YOU WERE JUST GOING TO TELL ME I'VE GOT NOTHING LEFT TO DO NOW THAT I'M "DEAD"?

I MEAN, I COULD AT LEAST PAY THE "OTHER" GALATEA A VISIT OVER--

NO YOU WON'T.

THERE'S ALREADY AN OMNIVERSE AGENT WATCHING OVER HER ACTIONS. YOU'LL ONLY COMPLICATE THINGS.

I SEE...
SO THAT'S HOW IT'S GOING TO BE.

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING, GALEN?

WHEREVER THIS DOOR TAKES ME.

AND WE'LL SEE YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE.

**FIND OUT WHERE
THAT DOOR LEADS...**



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