

GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN



SPOTLIGHT ON... *The Libertarian Avenger*



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:
**LIBERTARIAN
AVENGER**

REAL NAME:
**ALEXANDER "ALEX"
WENTWORTH**

STATUS: **REGISTERED
SUPERHERO**

ARCHETYPE:
DEFENDER

PRIMARY POWER:
TRICK ARROWS

SECONDARY POWER:
ARCHERY

IN 1931, A MASKED VIGILANTE WHO CALLED HIMSELF **STATESMAN** DECLARED A ONE-MAN WAR ON ORGANIZED CRIME IN PARAGON CITY.

SOON OTHERS FOLLOWED HIS LEAD. MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAD ONE THING IN COMMON... A DESIRE TO SEE JUSTICE SERVED AND CRIMINALS PUT BEHIND BARS.

IN 1932, STATESMAN ORGANIZED THE HEROES INTO A GROUP CALLED THE **FREEDOM PHALANX**, AN ORGANIZATION THAT IS STILL ACTIVE TODAY, SERVING AS THE INSPIRATION FOR OTHERS.

SINCE THEN, PARAGON CITY HAS BECOME KNOWN AS **THE CITY OF HEROES**, A PLACE WHERE HEROES OF VARIOUS ORIGINS AND POWERS ARE WELCOMED TO HELP KEEP THE STREETS SAFE AND MAKE THE CITY ITSELF A SAFER PLACE TO BE.

BUT THE CALL FOR JUSTICE COMES TO SOME HEROES IN A DIFFERENT FORM. FOR SOME, THE BIGGEST ENEMIES TO JUSTICE ARE THOSE WHO CLAIM OPERATE IN ITS NAME.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOUR ENEMY IS A PART OF THE GOVERNMENT? WHO CAN YOU THEN TURN TO FOR JUSTICE?

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GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME TO **"WHERE ARE THEY NOW?"** OUR LOOK AT THE PEOPLE WHO MADE THE NEWS AND WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THEM SINCE THEN...

PARAGON NEWS NETWORK

"Where are they Now?"

TONIGHT WE FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO PARAGON CITY'S INFAMOUS PLAYBOY... THE YOUNG MAN WHO ALMOST LITERALLY INVENTED THE BUZZWORD **"CELEBUNAUGHTY"** FROM HIS ACTIONS...

TONIGHT WE ASK... **"WHERE IS ALEX WENTWORTH NOW?"**

"ENTITLED" - A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2



ALEXANDER WENTWORTH IS THE GREAT-GREAT-GRANDSON OF THE FOUNDER OF WENTWORTH'S FINE CONSIGNMENTS, THE LARGEST TRADING HOUSE IN PARAGON CITY.

ALEX STAYED OFF THE SOCIAL RADAR UNTIL HE TURNED EIGHTEEN. THEN HE HIT THE NIGHTCLUB SCENE WITH A PROVERBIAL VENGEANCE!



CLOSE FRIENDS SAID THAT ALEX WOULD SPEND WHOLE WEEKENDS IN THE CASINOS IN VEGAS, MONTE CARLO, AND EVEN A FEW IN THE ROGUE ISLES, SPENDING ANYWHERE UP TO A HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS PER WEEKEND.



ALEX LIVED THE HIGH LIFE, AND COULD AFFORD TO THROUGH THE GENEROUS TRUST FUND THAT WAS SET UP ON HIS BIRTH BY THE WENTWORTH ESTATE. FINANCIAL EXPERTS ESTIMATED THAT THE TOTAL SUM OF AVAILABLE CASH AT ALEX'S DISPOSAL WHEN HE TURNED EIGHTEEN WAS IN THE HIGH-SEVEN FIGURES.

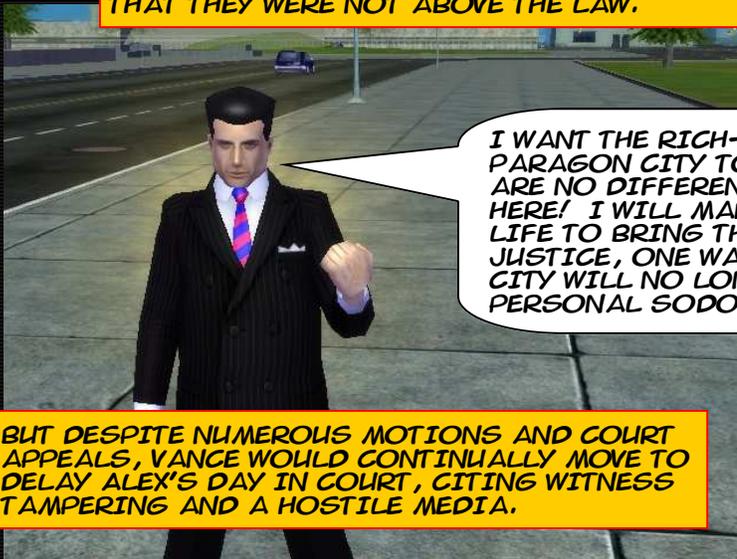
WITH THAT MUCH MONEY AT HIS DISPOSAL, IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE WOULD GO TOO FAR.



IN DECEMBER OF 2003, ALEX WAS CHARGED WITH THE ASSAULT AND KIDNAPPING OF 19-YEAR OLD COLLEGE STUDENT **HANNA GORDON**. DESPITE THE LACK OF EVIDENCE, ALEX WAS ARRESTED AND HELD WITHOUT BAIL PENDING TRIAL.

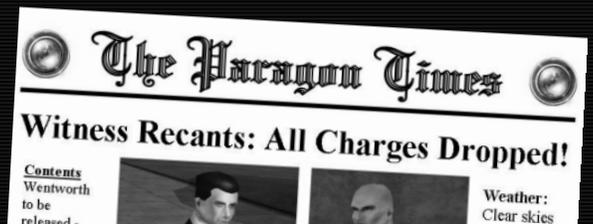


DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY **EDWARD T. VANCE** PLEDGED THAT HE WOULD MAKE AN EXAMPLE OUT OF ALEX, TO SEND A MESSAGE TO OTHER WEALTHY PARTY-GOERS THAT THEY WERE NOT ABOVE THE LAW.



I WANT THE RICH-AND-PAMPERED IN PARAGON CITY TO KNOW THAT THEY ARE NO DIFFERENT THAN ANYONE ELSE HERE! I WILL MAKE IT MY MISSION IN LIFE TO BRING THESE PEOPLE TO JUSTICE, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. THIS CITY WILL NO LONGER SERVE AS THEIR PERSONAL SODOM AND GOMORRAH.

BUT DESPITE NUMEROUS MOTIONS AND COURT APPEALS, VANCE WOULD CONTINUALLY MOVE TO DELAY ALEX'S DAY IN COURT, CITING WITNESS TAMPERING AND A HOSTILE MEDIA.



THEN, FOUR YEARS AFTER THE ORIGINAL COMPLAINT WAS MADE, HANNA GORDON RECALLED HER STATEMENT AND ALL CHARGES AGAINST ALEX WERE DROPPED. HE WAS FREED FROM JAIL ON MARCH 4TH, 2008.

BUT HIS FREEDOM CAME AT A PRICE. THE COSTLY LEGAL DEFENSE DEPLETED HIS TRUST FUND ACCOUNT, AND THE NOTORIETY WAS ENOUGH FOR THE WENTWORTH FAMILY TO PUBLICLY DISOWN HIM.



ALEX BEGAN TO APPLY HIS EFFORTS INTO SOCIAL CAUSES, SUCH AS THE **PARAGON LIBERTARIAN SOCIETY**, AN ORGANIZATION THAT WORKS TO PROMOTE FREEDOM FOR ALL CITIZENS.

THEN FORTUNE FAVORED HIM AS HIS ONE INVESTMENT IN A COMPANY CALLED **ARCHITECT ENTERTAINMENT** STARTED BRINGING IN HUGE PROFITS. HIS STAKE IN THE BOOMING OPERATION SOON RESTORED A PORTION OF THE MONEY HE HAD LOST BEHIND BARS TRYING TO CLEAR HIS NAME.



TODAY, ALEX WENTWORTH IS A CHANGED MAN. ALTHOUGH HE OCCASIONALLY VISITS THE SOCIAL SCENE, YOU'LL MORE LIKELY FIND HIM FIGHTING FOR SOCIAL CAUSES THAT BENEFIT ALL MANKIND.

POCKET D: MONKEY FIGHT CLUB

THIS USED TO BE MY PLAYGROUND...

**MAYBE NOT THIS CLUB.
MAYBE NOT THIS BAR.
BUT THIS WAS THE KIND
OF PLACE I USED TO
HANG AROUND...**

**THE LIGHTS, THE
SOUNDS, THE SMELL OF
BOOZE AND MONEY AND
POWER AND SWEAT...**

**I REMEMBER THOSE DAYS QUITE
CLEARLY... BACK WHEN I WAS YOUNGER.**

**A DRINK IN MY HAND AND A GIRL
IN MY HOTEL ROOM. THAT'S ALL
THAT I CARED ABOUT BACK THEN...**

BACK WHEN I WAS RICH AND STUPID.

**BUT THOSE
DAYS ARE GONE.**

**I'M NOT HERE TO
PARTY...**

**I'M NOT EVEN HERE TO
GAMBLE...**

**I'M HERE FOR
INFORMATION.**

**AND THE ONLY
PLACE FOR ME TO
GET THE REAL
INFORMATION...**

... IS UNDERNEATH THE POCKET D CLUB.

**HERE, MODIFIED RIKTI MONKEYS ARE
SENT DOWN TO FIGHT FOR SPORT.**

**WE'RE TOLD THAT IT'S HUMANE. AND IF YOU BELIEVE
THAT THEN I'LL TELL YOU ANOTHER ONE JUST LIKE IT.**

**BUT AFTER THE RIKTI INVASIONS, NOBODY
REALLY CARES ABOUT THEM, EXCEPT FOR
THE DIEHARD LIBERAL GROUPS. BETTER
HERE THAN OUT ON THE STREETS, THEY SAY.**

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS...

THE ELITE PARTY UP TOP.

THE ADDICTS STAY ON THE MIDDLE LEVEL.

THE REST COME DOWN HERE TO THE CAGE ITSELF.

THE SERIOUS GAMBLERS WILL STAY DOWN HERE...

CHECKING THE MONKEYS, SEEING WHICH ONES WILL LAST THE NEXT ROUND...

THEY'LL MAKE THEIR MONEY, AND THEN GAMBLE IT ALL AWAY LATER ON.

THAT'S HOW IT WORKS. IT'S A SUCKER'S GAME. ALWAYS HAS BEEN.

NOT EVERYONE COMES DOWN HERE TO GAMBLE, THOUGH.

ALEX...

LEON... HOW'S THE GAME?

USUAL.

WORD HAS IT YOU'RE GOING AFTER "THE TRUST".

YUP.

YOU'RE PLAYING WITH FIRE ON THIS ONE... VANCE HAS SOME SERIOUS PEOPLE ON HIS SIDE, ESPECIALLY AFTER WHAT HE DID TO YOU.

WHO'S THE CLIENT THIS TIME?

ME.

JEEE-BUS!

YOU WEREN'T THERE, LEON.

YOU WEREN'T IN THE ZIG LIKE I WAS, TALKING WITH THE GLYS THAT HE BURNED. YOU DIDN'T SEE HIM DANGLE THAT SO-CALLED "DEAL" IN FRONT OF ME THAT WOULD HAVE PUT ME AWAY FOR LIFE LIKE HE DID THE OTHERS.

VANCE IS WORSE THAN ANY OTHER CRIMINAL. HE DESTROYS LIVES WITH COMPLETE IMPUNITY, LIKE HE ALMOST DESTROYED MINE. HE HAS TO GO DOWN, BEFORE ANOTHER LIFE IS LOST.



HEY, I WORKED WITH HIM BEFORE I WENT TO THE S.A.G.*, I KNOW HOW HE'S LIKE.

SO... WHAT DO YOU NEED FROM ME?

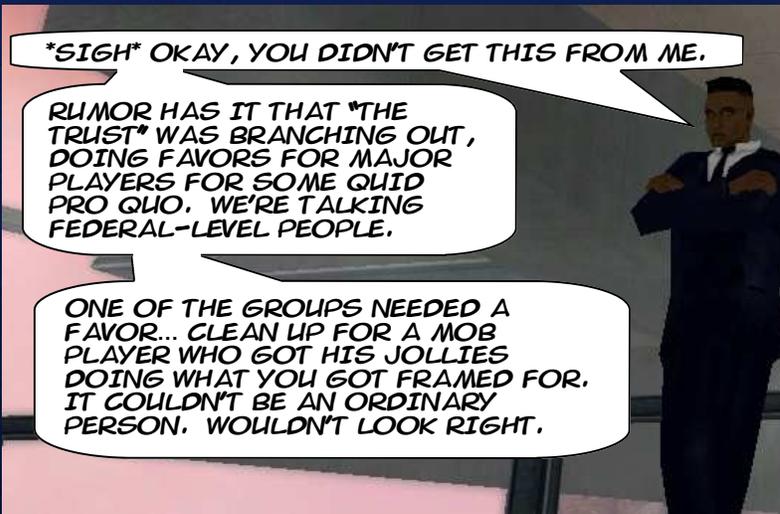
(* STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL)



RIGHT NOW SOME INTEL.

BEFORE ME, HE WAS FRAMING AVERAGE JOES. NOBODY BIG. THAT'S HOW HE MANAGED TO GET THAT HIGH CONVICTION RATE.

SO WHAT CHANGED? WHY SUDDENLY MAKE ME THE EXAMPLE?



SIGH OKAY, YOU DIDN'T GET THIS FROM ME.

RUMOR HAS IT THAT *THE TRUST* WAS BRANCHING OUT, DOING FAVORS FOR MAJOR PLAYERS FOR SOME QUID PRO QUO. WE'RE TALKING FEDERAL-LEVEL PEOPLE.

ONE OF THE GROUPS NEEDED A FAVOR... CLEAN UP FOR A MOB PLAYER WHO GOT HIS JOLLIES DOING WHAT YOU GOT FRAMED FOR. IT COULDN'T BE AN ORDINARY PERSON. WOULDN'T LOOK RIGHT.



SO IT WAS CONVENIENCE.

SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING THAT A FRIEND OF MINE RECENTLY HAD TO DEAL WITH.* THANKFULLY THAT GROUP WAS QUIETLY DISMANTLED.

SO YOU GOT A NAME FOR OUR MYSTERY VIP?

(* *SHADOWBORN* - SEE GOTD #4)



JUST A LAST NAME... *PETRAS*.



IT'S GOT TO END, LEON. I FIND PETRAS, HE'LL POINT TO VANCE. I JUST NEED TO KNOW WHEN WE GET HIM THAT YOU'LL PROSECUTE HIM.



YOU GOT IT.

THANKS.

LEON KNOWS THE PAIN I WENT THROUGH BECAUSE OF EDWARD *THE TRUST* VANCE.

LEON DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE WHAT VANCE WAS WILLING TO DO UNTIL MY FATHER SHOWED HIM THE PROOF THAT I WAS INNOCENT.

THAT NIGHT, FOUR SKULL GANG-MEMBERS PAID LEON'S FATHER A VISIT AND PUT HIM IN THE HOSPITAL. A MESSAGE FROM VANCE TO STAY OUT.

THAT NIGHT, LEON PROMISED MY FATHER THAT HE WOULD DO ANYTHING IT TAKES TO WORK WITH ME TO STOP VANCE.

GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN BASE

GETTING PETRAS TO TALK WILL BE HARDER THAN JUST FINDING HIM.

LIBERTARIAN AVENGER

"THE TRUST" DIDN'T GET WHERE HE IS TODAY WITHOUT CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE.

Beginning Targeting Calibration

HE THREW THE EYE-WITNESS IN MY CASE IN AN ASYLUM RATHER THAN HAVE HER TELL THE TRUTH IN COURT.

Synchronize eyepiece with Bow Sights

I'D STILL BE BEHIND BARS IF NOT FOR MY FATHER FINDING HER.

Bowsight

Adjust Targeting Crosshairs

Eyepiece

I HAVE TO MAKE SURE WE HAVE A SOLID CASE AGAINST VANCE, OR HE WINS.

Targeting Calibration Completed

Bowsight

Eyepiece

THERE'S NO OTHER WAY TO EXPLAIN HOW IMPORTANT THIS IS.

TAKING ON A GOVERNMENT CRIMINAL IS NOT LIKE TAKING ON YOUR AVERAGE STREET THUG.

THESE GUYS OPERATE IN BROAD DAYLIGHT WITH IMPUNITY, CONVINCED THEY CAN DO NO WRONG, AND ANSWERABLE TO SEEMINGLY NO-ONE. NOT TO THE LAW AND CERTAINLY NOT TO THE PEOPLE THEY CLAIM TO REPRESENT.



THEY GET AWAY WITH THEIR CRIMES BECAUSE THEY SAY THAT THEY DON'T PERSONALLY GAIN FROM THEM. THAT THEY'RE JUST DOING "THE PEOPLE'S WORK".

IT'S A LIE, OF COURSE, BUT AS LONG AS COURTS BUY IT, THEY CAN PLAY THAT CARD FOREVER.

Incoming Guardian transmission

WHAT DO YOU HAVE?

PARAGON CITY POLICE HQ

A PHONE NUMBER AND FIVE HARD LOOKS WHEN I TOLD THEM WHY I WAS HERE.

LET'S STICK WITH THE JOB AT HAND.

RIGHT. I'VE DUG UP WHAT I CAN ABOUT THE NAME "PETRAS" AND I CAME UP WITH A REAL WINNER.

WHYSPERA



PARAGON CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Radomil Maxsimilian Petras

Address: None

Nationality: Russian

Known Associates: Dimitri Krylov, Palo Marcone, Frankie Frost

Wanted for: Kidnapping (35), Assault (57), Money Laundering (150), Stalking (12), Burglary (2), Conspiracy to Kidnap (2), Possession of Kidnapping Tools (1), Fugitive Warrant (35), Failure to Appear (40)

I'M SENDING THE INFO TO THE GUARDIAN UPLINK NOW. YOU SHOULD HAVE IT ON THE BIG SCREENS.

No Photo

RADOMIL PETRAS
STATUS: AT LARGE



GOT IT. THANKS WHYSPERA...



SO... NEW GIRL DONE GOOD, RIGHT? NEED A HAND BRINGING HIM DOWN?



APPRECIATE IT BUT...

BLIT...



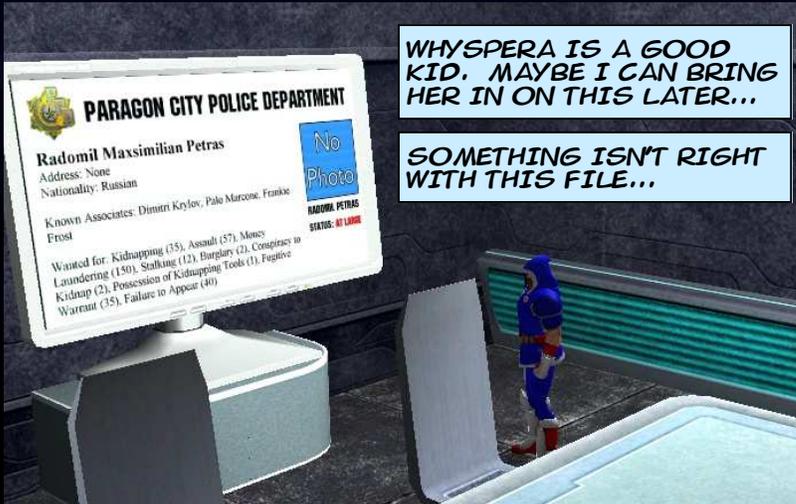
BUT I'M NOT READY YET? OR I'M NOT EXPERIENCED ENOUGH?

YOU KNOW HOW OLD THOSE LINES GET FOR ME?



HEY, I DID MY SHARE OF PAPER-CHASING AS WELL WHEN I STARTED OUT.

DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL GET YOUR SHOT SOONER THAN YOU KNOW.



WHYSPERA IS A GOOD KID. MAYBE I CAN BRING HER IN ON THIS LATER...

SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT WITH THIS FILE...



FUGITIVE WARRANTS, FAILURE TO APPEAR, HE'S BEEN ARRESTED AT LEAST ONCE BUT THERE'S STILL NO PHOTO OF HIM, NOT EVEN A MUG-SHOT!

I SMELL VANCE'S HANDIWORK ON THIS!



LEON WAS RIGHT, THIS GUY DOES GET HIS JOLLIES KIDNAPPING WOMEN. AND VANCE WANTS TO PROTECT HIM? THAT'S SICK!

MOST OF HIS ASSOCIATES ARE MARCONE'S PEOPLE... AND AFTER THE WHOLE "SHADOWBORN" INCIDENT* THEY'RE NOT GOING TO BE TOO HELPFUL.

BUT THERE IS ONE NAME THAT STANDS OUT THAT IS NOT PART OF THE FAMILY...

DMITRI KRYLOV.

(* AGAIN, SEE GOTD #4)

ATLAS PARK

KRYLOV IS A GENETICIST FROM THE FORMER SOVIET UNION. HE HELPED TO CREATE THE SOVIET METAS BACK IN THE 80'S. THEN AFTER THE FALL OF THE USSR, HE SET UP SHOP IN THE ROGUE ISLES SO HE COULD WORK WITHOUT LIMITS.

BUT HE STILL COMES TO AMERICA FOR THE CONFERENCES TO BRUSH UP ON HIS SKILLS AND TO GET THE LATEST NEWS ON GENE RESEARCH.

AND AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT...



Paragon City GenoMed Conference

HE'S HERE IN ATLAS PARK FOR ONE OF THEM.





SORRY ABOUT THE MESS DOCTOR KRYLOV.

SORRY? HMMPH!



DO YOU KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO GET INTO THIS COUNTRY FROM THE ROGUE ISLES? TO ARRANGE FOR SECURITY FOR MY STAY?



I REALLY DON'T THINK THOSE GOONS WERE CHECKING TO MAKE SURE YOUR SUITE WAS TIDY.



I THINK THEY WERE HERE TO KEEP YOU QUIET ABOUT A MUTUAL FRIEND OF YOURS... RADMIL PETRAS.



PETRAS IS NO FRIEND OF MINE.

WE LEFT RUSSIA TOGETHER BUT WE ARE NOT FRIENDS.

HE IS A FLESH HUNTER, THAT ONE IS... WORSE THAN THE KGB!



THEN I SUPPOSE YOU WOULDN'T KNOW HOW TO FIND HIM?

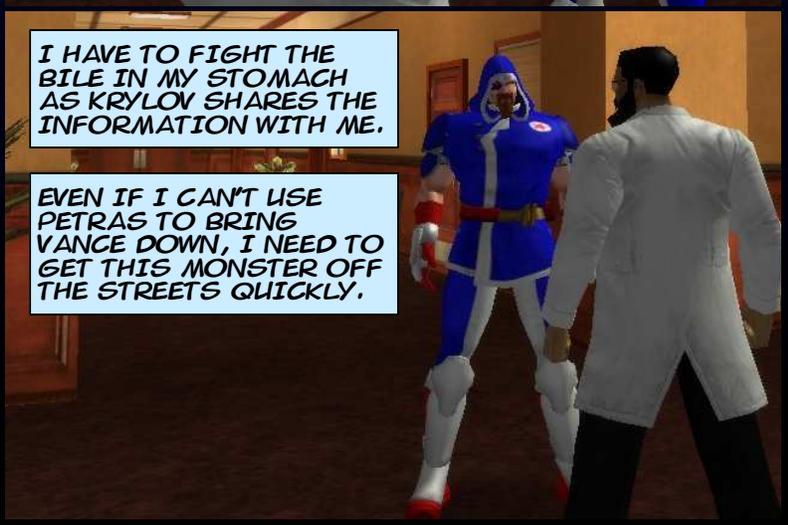
OF COURSE I DO!



EVERY TIME I COME HERE I GET E-MAIL FROM HIM...

ALWAYS INVITING ME TO HAVE DRINKS AND SEE HIS NEW *TROPHY*.

I ALWAYS DECLINE... AS YOU AMERICANS SAY, IT IS... "NOT MY THING". BUT HE STILL SENDS ME HIS MESSAGES. I WILL GET MY POD-PHONE AND I WILL SHARE IT WITH YOU...



I HAVE TO FIGHT THE BILE IN MY STOMACH AS KRYLOV SHARES THE INFORMATION WITH ME.

EVEN IF I CAN'T USE PETRAS TO BRING VANCE DOWN, I NEED TO GET THIS MONSTER OFF THE STREETS QUICKLY.

REPEATING TONIGHT'S BREAKING NEWS... TWENTY-YEAR OLD STUDENT **ASHLEY NESTER** WAS REPORTEDLY ABDUCTED EARLY THIS MORNING FROM HER COLLEGE DORM ROOM.

PARAGON NEWS NETWORK BREAKING NEWS

POLICE ARE ASKING THAT ANYONE WHO KNOWS THE WHEREABOUTS OF ASHLEY TO CALL 9-1-1...

KINGS ROW

PETRAS SET UP SHOP IN ONE OF THE ABANDONED WAREHOUSES... TURNING IT INTO HIS HUNTING GROUND.

BIG MISTAKE FOR PETRAS...

I'M IN. WHERE ARE YOU?



BECAUSE NOW I CAN BRING IN OUR PREDATOR.

I'VE GOT EYES ON THE VICTIM.

 MIDNIGHT X

KINGS ROW IS THE KNIGHT'S DOMAIN. I WOULDN'T DARE MAKE A MOVE WITHOUT HIM.

SHE'S ALIVE, BUT OUT. THERE ARE TWO GUARDS WATCHING OVER HER.

AND PETRAS?

GETTING READY FOR THE HUNT.

THESE AMERICANS ARE SOFT. WEAK.

THEY RELY ON THEIR CORRUPT POLICE TO PROTECT THEM. THEY ARE FOOLS!

I'VE BEEN HUNTING THEIR WOMEN FOR YEARS NOW.

I DON'T DO THIS FOR MONEY OR FOR NOTORIETY OR FOR GRATIFICATION. I DO THIS... BECAUSE I CAN!

SHE IS MINE TO PREY ON, AND WHEN I AM DONE WITH HER, SHE WILL BE RETURNED, KNOWING THAT SHE IS JUST ANOTHER ONE OF MY TROPHIES.

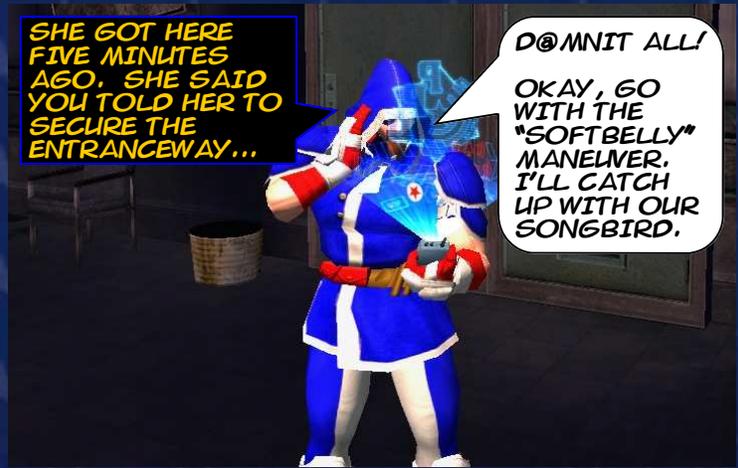
BY MY COUNT WE HAVE THIRTY-THREE FORMER SPETSNAZ TROOPERS, HEAVILY ARMED, JUST TO WATCH HIM HAVE HIS HUNT.



OKAY, I'M JUST WAITING ON WHYSPERA TO JOIN US...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN WAITING? SHE SHOULD BE THERE WITH YOU.

WHAT???



SHE GOT HERE FIVE MINUTES AGO. SHE SAID YOU TOLD HER TO SECURE THE ENTRANCEWAY...

D@MNIT ALL!

OKAY, GO WITH THE "SOFTBELLY" MANEUVRER, I'LL CATCH UP WITH OUR SONGBIRD.



LOOK, I TOLD YOU I WAS HIRED BY THE SERVICE TO GIVE YOUR BOSS A FANTASY SHOW... A GIFT FROM... FROM...

OF ALL THE STUPID ROOKIE LINES TO PULL WHEN CAUGHT...



SO GIVES US THE SHOW AND MAYBE WE'LL LET YOU REPLAYS IT FOR OUR BOSS.

BOW VERSUS UNSLING GUNS... FIRST STRIKE HAS TO BE SPLASHY.



NAPALM ARROW...

THAT'LL MESS WITH THEIR FIRING PINS.

SHE IS A CAPE! KILL THEM ALL!

MY GUN IS JAMMED!



ICEBLOCK ARROW...



GLUE ARROW...

FORGET THE GIRL, KILL HIM!

MY FEET ARE STUCK!



AND THE KID IS SMART ENOUGH TO STAND STILL SO THEY ALL FOCUS ON ME.



THE GLUE DOESN'T LAST, THOUGH.

ONCE WE'RE CLOSE ENOUGH, SHE LETS LOOSE WITH HER ULTRASONICS.



WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING? WHAT PART OF "WAIT FOR ME" DID YOU NOT GET?

I'M SORRY! I JUST... I JUST COULDN'T WAIT ANY LONGER...



THIS IS A TEAM OPERATION. AN INNOCENT LIFE IS ON THE LINE. WE HAVE TO DO THIS RIGHT OR SHE'S DEAD.



POINT TAKEN. SO... BACK TO THE BASE AND MORE PAPERS?



WE'LL DEAL WITH THIS LATER. RIGHT NOW WE HAVE A GIRL TO RESCUE.



WHYSPERA IS GOOD, BUT SHE NEEDS A LITTLE MORE EXPERIENCE UNDER HER BELT.

MEANWHILE, MIDKNIGHT X SHOULD BE CLEARING THE PATH BETWEEN THE GIRL AND PETRAS SO WE CAN RESCUE HER WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT REINFORCEMENTS.

Whoa-oh-oh!

YOU SHOULD HAVE A CLEAR RUN FOR THE GIRL NOW. TWO GUARDS OVER HER AND PETRAS IS STILL UNAWARE THAT WE'RE HERE... WAIT...



I'VE GOT MOVEMENT. TWO SOLDIERS ARE RUNNING. I SEE COP LIGHTS OUT THE TOP WINDOW. SOMEONE ELSE JUMPED THE GUN. GET THE GIRL! I'LL KEEP THEM FROM GETTING TO PETRAS!



FLASH ARROW...



SOMEONE TIPPED THE POLICE TO WHERE SHE IS...

I CAN PROBABLY GUESS WHO.

IF WE DON'T MOVE NOW, THIS WILL GET VERY COMPLICATED VERY QUICKLY.



IT'S OKAY ASHLEY, YOU'RE SAFE NOW.

DON'T HURT ME!!! DON'T...



I'VE GOT AN EMERGENCY TELEPORT DEVICE. SHE'LL TELEPORT TO CROWNE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

ASHLEY'S SAFE. THAT'LL BUY US FIFTEEN MORE MINUTES FROM THE COPS COMING IN.



IF THE FAMILY PHONED IN VANCE, THEN VANCE IS GOING TO USE THE POLICE RAID TO SILENCE PETRAS.



"If you like it then you shoulda put a ring on it..."

CHTOYTO!

YOU'RE LATE.

NOT ALL THE COPS IN PARAGON CITY ARE HONEST. SOME BELIEVE THE BADGE GIVES THEM THE POWER TO DO WHATEVER THEY WANT. THEY HAVE NO PROBLEM KILLING A SUSPECT AND THEN PLANTING A THROW-AWAY GUN.

YOU A BIG "MARIAH" FAN?

NOT NOW!

ASHLEY IS IN CROWNE MEMORIAL. SHE'S OKAY.

WE HAVE MAYBE TEN MINUTES BEFORE THE S.W.A.T. TEAM GETS HERE.

UUNHHH...

THE KNIGHT IS ALL-BUSINESS. HE HATES CAMPY BANTER. REMINDS HIM OF THAT ADAM WEST TV SHOW OF THE 1960'S...

WHAT'S SHE STILL DOING IN THIS?

MY CALL ON THIS. SHE'S REDEEMING HERSELF.



TIME IS NOT ON OUR SIDE...

I'VE SEEN LONG-TERM PROVISIONS IN THE WAREHOUSE.

THAT MEANS HE'S BEEN USING THIS AS HIS BASE OF OPERATIONS.

HE COULD HAVE ALL THE EVIDENCE WE WOULD NEED TO BRING VANCE DOWN, AND IT'S EVIDENCE THAT WILL BE DESTROYED IF THE POLICE GET TO PETRAS BEFORE WE DO.



THEN LET'S DO THIS!



I CAN'T SEE!!

AH, SO IT BEGINS...



WHAT THE HELL? HE'S NOT HURT?

ARRGH!

SO PREDICTABLE.



THAT CAN ONLY MEAN...

AS YOU DEDUCTED BY NOW, I AM QUITE BLIND. YOU CAN THANK THE COLD WAR FOR THAT LITTLE GIFT.

THAT'S WHY HE'S THE BEST FINANCIAL ADVISOR FOR ORGANIZED CRIME!

YES. BECAUSE ALL OF MY NUMBERS ARE IN A BRAIL CODE OF MY OWN INVENTION.

THAT'S ALSO WHY I REALLY ENJOY MY LITTLE "HUNTS", BECAUSE IT ALLOWS ME TO IMPROVE ON MY SENSORY SKILLS.

THIS COMPLICATES THINGS.

STANDING BEFORE ME IS THE MONSTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CRIMES THAT I WRONGLY LOST FOUR YEARS OF MY LIFE OVER.

EIGHT MINUTES.

FOUR YEARS OF MY LIFE WASTED IN A JAIL CELL.

NO HOPE OF EVER HAVING MY DAY IN COURT...

FIGHTING TO STAY ALIVE.

TRAINING MY BODY...

AND MY MIND...

TO BE WHO I AM TODAY.

YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE US ACCESS TO THAT CODE.

YOU ARE DELUSIONAL, MY WORD IS IRON. I WILL NOT BREAK.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I AM CAPABLE OF DOING TO YOU!

YOU ARE BLUFFING! I AM A BLIND MAN, YOU WILL NOT HURT SOMEONE WITH A HANDICAP.

NORMAL INTIMIDATION TACTICS WON'T WORK ON HIM. THEY'RE ALL VISUAL-BASED.

THAT'S HIS MISTAKE! HE JUST GAVE ME THE KEY TO GETTING HIM TO TALK!



THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG. I KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN HURT YOU. REMEMBER JACKSON CAZE?

NYET!
NOT HIM!



I'M HERE BECAUSE OF A BLIND RUSSIAN.

THE MAN BETRAYED ME. LEFT ME TO ROT HERE SO HE COULD CONTINUE TO PLAY HIS GAMES. I'VE GOT A DEBT FULL OF HURT WITH HIS NAME ON IT.



AS SOON AS I REALIZED HE WAS BLIND THE PIECES ALL FIT RIGHT IN.

AND THAT MEANT I HAD LEVERAGE OVER HIM.



YOUR CHOICE, PETRAS. YOU CAN HELP ME, OR YOU GET REUNITED WITH CAZE AND PAY HIS IOU OF PAIN IN FULL.

WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE?



WITHIN MINUTES I WAS COPYING HIS DECRYPTED HARD DRIVE DATA OVER TO AN EVIDENCE LAPTOP.

SHE SMELLS GOOD...

YOU DON'T WANT TO GET ON MY BAD SIDE.

EVEN IF HE LATER REFUSES TO TESTIFY AGAINST VANCE, THERE'S STILL ENOUGH HERE TO SECURE AN INDICTMENT.

NAMES, DATES, PLACES... PETRAS KEPT A RUNNING TALLY ON ALL OF THEM. WHO TO CONTACT, HOW TO CONTACT, WHAT EACH CONTACT CAN DO... AND "THE TRUST" IS LISTED HERE BY NAME!

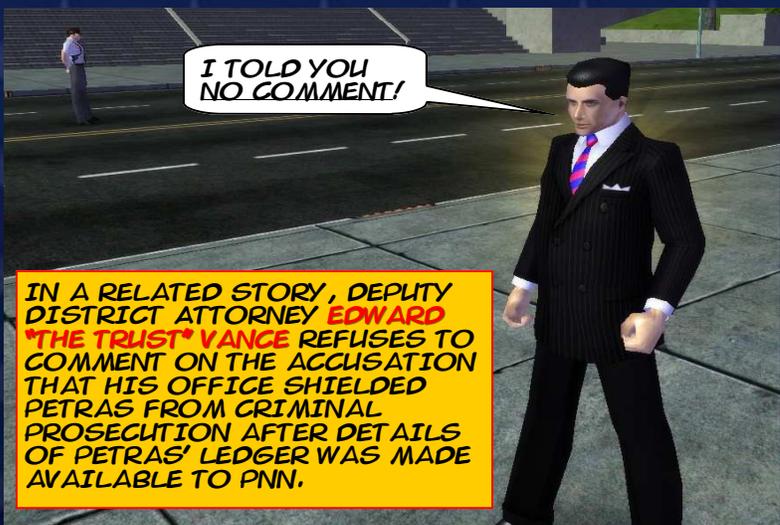
REPEATING TODAY'S TOP STORY... TWENTY-YEAR OLD **ASHLEY NESTER** IS SAFE AFTER BEING ABDUCTED YESTERDAY MORNING FROM HER COLLEGE DORM ROOM.

PARAGON NEWS NETWORK

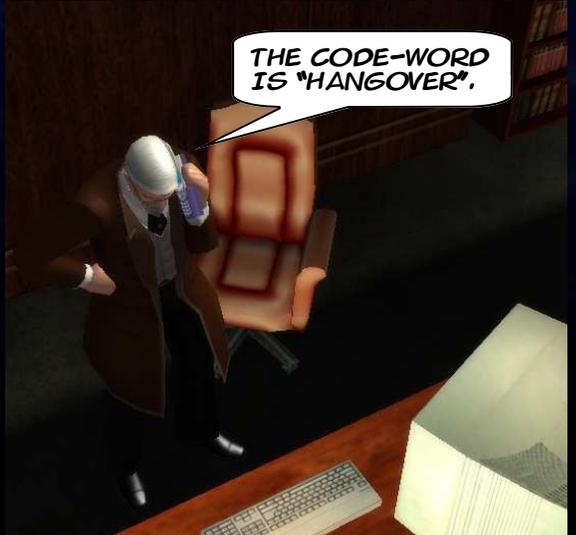
POLICE CREDIT THE **GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN** FOR HER RESCUE AND THE QUICK APPREHENSION OF HER ABDUCTOR.

THE ALLEGED SUSPECT, FIFTY-SEVEN YEAR OLD **RADOMIL PETRAS**, IS CURRENTLY IN CUSTODY AWAITING ARRAIGNMENT. PROSECUTORS SAY THAT PETRAS WILL BE PLEADING GUILTY AND WILL SPEND THE REST OF HIS LIFE BEHIND BARS IN THE SUPER-MAX PENITENTIARY IN COLORADO.

POLICE HEADQUARTERS - KINGS ROW

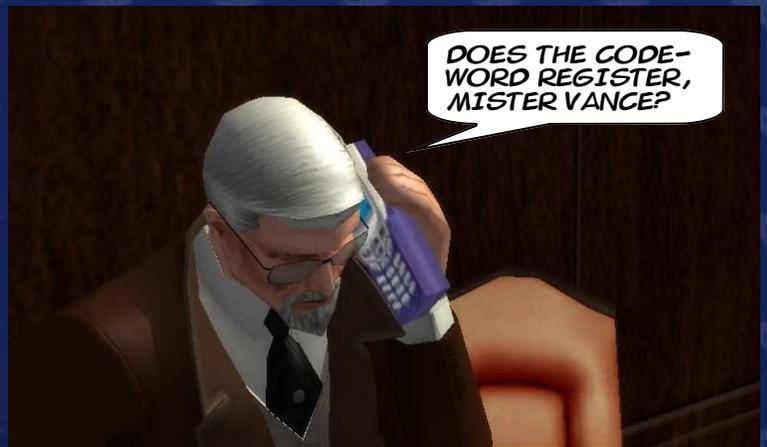


IN A RELATED STORY, DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY **EDWARD "THE TRUST" VANCE** REFUSES TO COMMENT ON THE ACCUSATION THAT HIS OFFICE SHIELDED PETRAS FROM CRIMINAL PROSECUTION AFTER DETAILS OF PETRAS' LEDGER WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO PNN.





... WHO IS THIS?



DOES THE CODE-WORD REGISTER, MISTER VANCE?



IS IT SUPPOSED TO?

IT SHOULD...



YOU DID A LITTLE FAVOR FOR OUR OPERATION FIVE YEARS AGO...

AND NOW WE'D LIKE TO RETURN THE FAVOR AND DO ONE FOR YOU.



YOU CAN'T BE THEM! SHADOWBORN IS DEAD! THE U.S. MARSHALS DISMANTLED IT!*

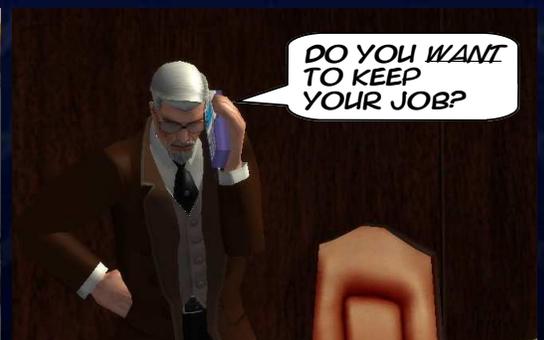
(* AGAIN, SEE GOTD #4)



WE ARE THE NEW SHADOWBORN... AS IN "UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT",



MISTER VANCE, WE ARE IN A VERY UNIQUE POSITION TO HELP YOU. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TO SAY "YES" TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTION...



DO YOU WANT TO KEEP YOUR JOB?



... YES.



WISE CHOICE...

... WE'LL BE IN TOUCH.

TWO WEEKS LATER...

MONKEY FIGHT CLUB

"The Trust" Escapes Charges

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Petras sentenced for life - goes to Super-Max prison - Page 3

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District Attorney's Office has some more explaining to do - Page 25

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Victim of "The Trust" speaks out on latest announcement - Page 26

Living:
Base Crafting for the Winter Event, what should you do? - Section D1



Deputy District Attorney Cleared In Internal Probe (Paragon City) Deputy District Attorney Edward "The Trust" Vance was cleared of charges of corruption after an internal probe announced that they could not prove his connection to serial stalker Radomil Petras.

The probe members said that the evidence against Vance was purely circumstantial and could not directly link him to the man responsible for dozens of kidnappings over the past decade. Legal experts are...

(Continued on page 2)

Local: Warriors rampage, police refuse to comment - Section B3

Sports: Arena Stars face new restrictions on game enhancements - Section E1

TV: WSPDR airs recycled drama from 1960's for kicks - Section D3

WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED, LEON?

WISH I KNEW... ONE MINUTE WE WERE READY TO GIVE HIM THE PERP-WALK...

NEXT THING WE KNOW, THE STATE BAR IS CALLING UP THE GOVERNOR AND INVOKING SOME OLD LAW THAT HASN'T BEEN HEARD OF SINCE THE DAYS OF THE PURITANS.

I WAS TOLD THAT THE EVIDENCE YOU HAVE ON HIM WAS ROCK-SOLID!

IT STILL IS.

THEN WHY IS HE STILL OUT THERE?

BECAUSE LIKE IT OR NOT, HE STILL IS A PART OF THE SYSTEM AND THE SYSTEM PROTECTS ITS OWN!

YOU THINK I LIKE KNOWING THAT HE'S STILL WORKING?

THE EVIDENCE WILL CONVICT HIM, BUT THE SYSTEM WILL NOT LET HIM BE CHARGED.

IT SUCKS, BUT THAT'S HOW IT IS RIGHT NOW.

THE ONLY GOOD THING IS THAT RIGHT NOW HE'S ON PINS AND NEEDLES.

THIS THING WILL HANG OVER HIS HEAD LIKE THE PROVERBIAL SWORD OF DAMOCLES... AND IF HE'S NOT CAREFUL, THAT THREAD WILL BE CUT.

AND I PROMISE YOU I'LL STILL BE THERE WAITING WHEN IT DOES.

YOU AND ME BOTH, MY FRIEND.
YOU AND ME BOTH.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

IS THERE SOMETHING I CAN HELP YOU WITH?

YOU'RE SLIME!

IF YOU SAY SO...

BY ALL RIGHTS YOU SHOULD BE IN THE ZIG...

... HAVING TO ANSWER TO ALL OF THOSE PEOPLE THAT YOU'VE WRONGLY CONVICTED JUST SO YOU CAN MAKE A NAME FOR YOURSELF!

YOU MAY HAVE THE MASSES FOOLED...

...THINKING THAT YOU'RE THEIR WHITE KNIGHT... "THE MOST TRUSTED MAN IN THE CITY"...

BUT THEY NEVER SAW YOUR REAL SIDE... THE PREENING, POMPPOUS, SELF-RIGHTEOUS, DO-ANYTHING-TO-MAKE-THE-NEWS SIDE OF YOU!

I'VE SEEN THE LIVES THAT YOU'VE RUINED TO GET HERE.

AND SOMEDAY SOON, YOU WILL ANSWER FOR THEM!

WELL I HOPE YOU GOT THAT OUT OF YOUR SYSTEM...

... BECAUSE AS LONG AS WE'RE NOT IN THE PUBLIC EYE RIGHT NOW, I HAVE A FEW THINGS TO SAY TO YOU AS WELL.



I KNOW YOUR DEAL. YOU GO AFTER CROOKS AND COPS ALIKE...

YOU BUY INTO THIS MYTH THAT COPS AND PROSECUTORS AND JUDGES SHOULD ALL "PLAY FAIR" BECAUSE THIS SEPARATES US FROM THE BAD GUYS.

IT'S ALL BULL\$#*T!



YOU THINK THAT THE MASSES CARE WHETHER OR NOT WE PLAY BY THE RULES?

THEY ONLY CARE ABOUT WHAT'S ON TV AND ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT THEY FEAR FOR THEIR LIVES.

THEY DON'T CARE WHO WE THROW IN PRISON FOR THE CRIMES, ONLY THAT THEY ARE THROWN IN PRISON.



IN FACT, IF ANYTHING, YOU HEROES HAVE ONLY YOURSELVES TO BLAME FOR THE WAY THINGS ARE RIGHT NOW...

STATESMAN AND THE FREEDOM PHALANX OPENED THE DOOR TO ABUSE OF THE SYSTEM IN THE 1930'S. THEIR "NEED" TO HELP CREATED THE NOTION THAT THE SYSTEM SHOULD BE BENT TO ACCOMMODATE THEM, AND IT DID.

IF THE SYSTEM SHOULDN'T CARE WHO IS MAKING THE ARRESTS, THEN WHY SHOULD IT CARE IF THEY ARREST THE RIGHT PERSON? OR FOLLOW POLICE PROCEDURE? OR BREAK A FEW RULES TO SECURE THE CONVICTION?

THOSE ARE THE CONSEQUENCES TO LETTING YOU HEROES RUN RAMPANT.



I DIDN'T MAKE THIS SYSTEM WHAT IT IS. I JUST FIGURED OUT HOW TO USE IT TO MY ADVANTAGE.

THIS IS A GAME, MISTER "LIBERTARIAN AVENGER"...



AT THE END OF THE DAY, THAT'S ALL THAT THIS WHOLE THING IS...

JUST A GAME.



I'LL BE WATCHING.

STEEL CANYON

"I'LL BE WATCHING..."

I SHOULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING MORE THAN THAT, BUT I THINK THE MESSAGE WAS MADE LOUD AND CLEAR THAT HE'S ON NOTICE.

OF COURSE I COULDN'T TELL HIM HOW I KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT HIM AND HIS TRUE NATURE. HOW I KNOW ALL ABOUT HIS DIRTY DEALINGS AND HIS BACKSTABBING WAYS. HOW HE USED THOSE TRICKS TO RUIN MY OWN LIFE.

I AM REMINDED OF THAT EVERY TIME I SEE ONE OF THESE STORES WITH MY FAMILY'S NAME ON THEM.

IT MAY HAVE MY LAST NAME ON THE STORE...

BUT LEGALLY I CAN'T STEP TWO FEET INSIDE IT.

THAT WAS THE PRICE THAT I HAD TO PAY FOR MY FAMILY STEPPING IN TO HELP CLEAR MY NAME.

I HAD TO SIGN AWAY ANY CLAIM TO THE FAMILY ESTATE.

THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO WEAR A DISGUISE TO DO BUSINESS IN THERE.

THE FAKE BEARD, THE LASER SCOPE, THE VOICEBOX CHANGER...

ALL OF IT SO PEOPLE WON'T KNOW THAT I AM ALEX WENTWORTH, PARIAH OF THE FAMILY DYNASTY.

OF COURSE IT'S EASY TO SAY THAT I'M JUST DOING THIS FOR REVENGE. TO MAKE THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY PAIN HURT IN THE SAME WAY THAT I WAS HURT.

BUT THERE'S SOMETHING MORE INVOLVED THAN A PERSONAL NEED FOR PAYBACK.

MY EXPERIENCE BEHIND BARS... THE FEELINGS OF FRUSTRATION AND DESPAIR... MEETING THE HARDENED CRIMINALS AND THOSE WHO BECAME HARDENED BECAUSE OF THE SYSTEM. ALL OF THAT CHANGED ME.

HEY CHICKIE CHICKIE... WHAT'S YOU GOT UNDER THAT COAT, CHICKIE?

HELP! OH GOD
HELLLLLP!!!

THAT'S WHY I BECAME A LIBERTARIAN. THAT'S WHY I DO WHAT I DO IN THIS OUTFIT. AND THAT'S WHY I STILL WORK TO GET THEIR MESSAGE ACROSS WHEN I'M NOT IN THIS OUTFIT.

SUPPORT
Libertarians!
They support You!

I BECAME AWARE OF THE FREEDOMS THAT WE ALL TAKE FOR GRANTED. THE VERY SAME FREEDOMS THAT I HAD SQUANDERED BACK WHEN I WAS YOUNG, RICH, AND STUPID.

I CERTAINLY KNOW MORE THAN MOST PEOPLE JUST HOW ABUSIVE GOVERNMENT CAN BE IF LEFT TO RUN ITSELF UNCHECKED.

MAYBE VANCE IS RIGHT ABOUT THE SYSTEM...

YOU THUGS ARE FIVE SECONDS AWAY FROM MAKING THE BIGGEST MISTAKE OF YOUR LIVES.

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T WORK TO FIX THAT.

YOU AND WHAT ARMY, FRIAR SUCK?

HAW! GOOD ONE ROB...

OH WELL... TIME TO GET BACK TO WORK...

... MAKING THE CITY SAFER...

... AND FREER.

FIN



Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.

There is an old joke that goes as follows...

How do you turn a liberal into a conservative? Rob him.

But it's the follow-up that is better...

How do you turn a conservative into a libertarian? Arrest him.

Actual libertarian heroes are rare. Most will stay in the liberal or conservative camps, and most are conservative in nature.

Libertarians aren't born as much as they are made. The really good ones are fashioned by fate and circumstance. Much like our patriotically-colored archer, something happens to them and they have to take a hard look at themselves and the world around them and realize that they have to actually put their money where their mouths are when they start throwing words about like "freedom".

It's very easy for a conservative to say that they're for law and order... until they find themselves on the OTHER side of that law and order. Then all of a sudden they start acting like they're the reincarnation of John Adams.



Being a libertarian does not mean being an anarchist, nor does it mean you have to constantly question everything government does. It DOES, on the other hand, believe that government is not the end-all-be-all in society. A true libertarian believes that there is a role for government, and that this role is limited to the protection and sustaining of individual freedoms.

By the way, a lot of people in the media who call themselves libertarians actually aren't. They're really conservatives trying to not be seen as conservatives.

The true test of a conservative is in their actions, regardless of who is in power at the time. It's one thing to "talk" about freedom; it is another to actually defend it.

Continues on next page...



Alternate Cover

Here's the original cover for Issue #5. It was rejected partly because of the feedback that I was getting when I showed it around.

One reviewer said he had no idea what the character is really like just from what he saw on the cover, only that the character "loved guns".

It's ironic because the Libertarian Avenger doesn't even use a gun. In fact nobody in the team uses a gun. They don't have to.

(Actually it's not that they don't... it's just that I haven't come up with a hero that needed to use one.)

<http://GuardiansOfTheDawn.wordpress.com>

NEXT ISSUE...



The Cold Touch of Arctic Chill...

(Or... "Why does this Eskimo hate ice?")



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AND save it!

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Corps



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