

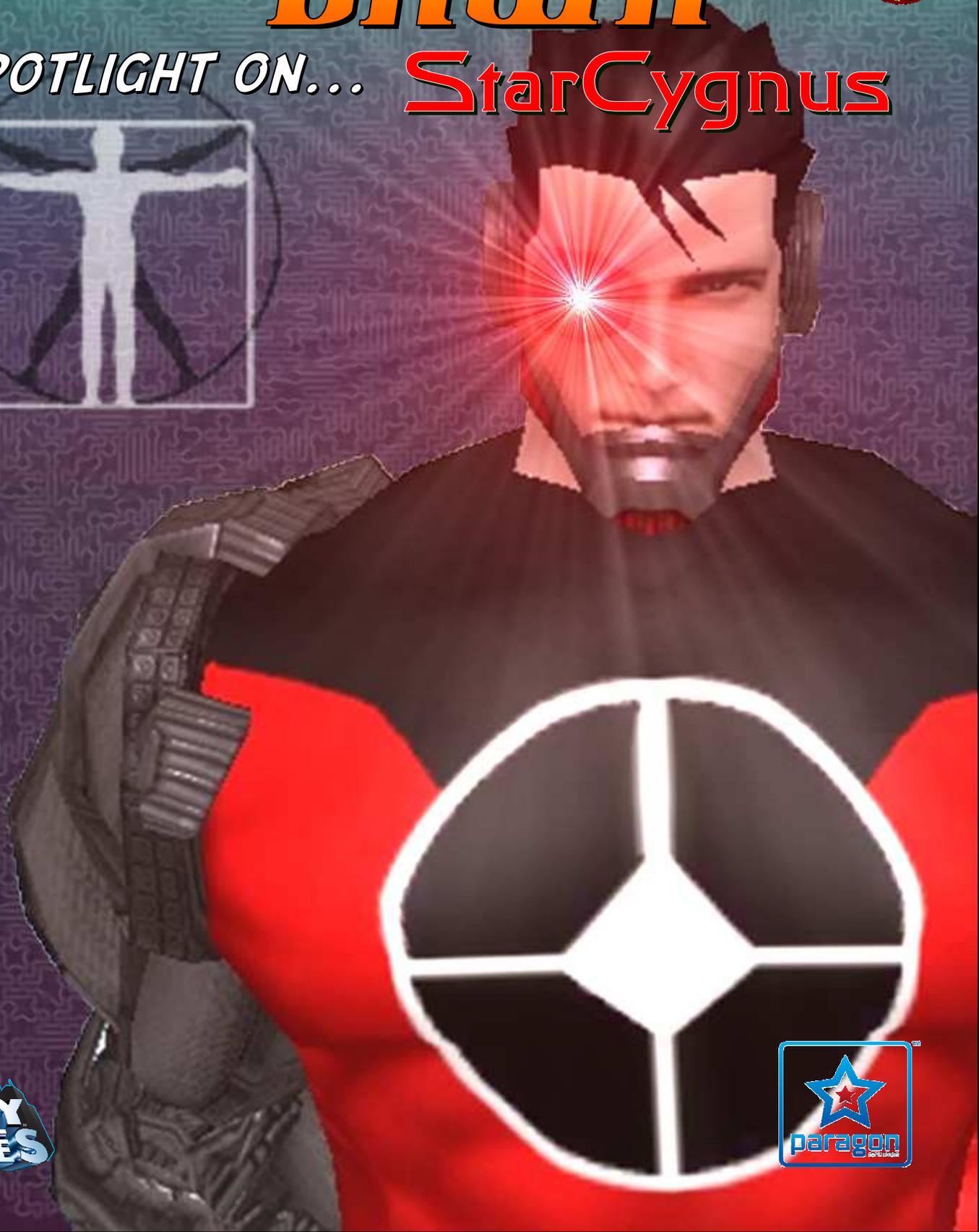
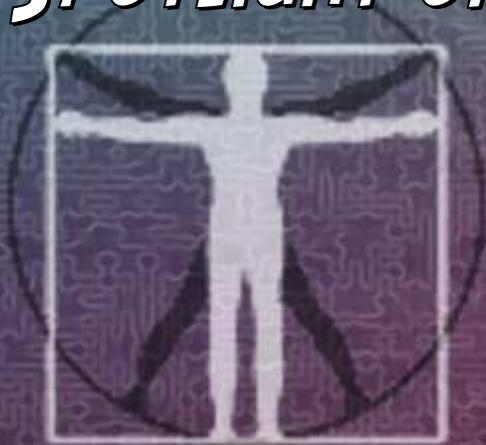
GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN



City Of
Comic Creators
ISSUE 14
2010

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SPOTLIGHT ON... StarCygnum



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:
STARCYNUS

REAL NAME: HENRY
"HANK" GEDDY

STATUS:
**REGISTERED
SUPERHERO**

ARCHETYPE:
TANKER

PRIMARY POWER:
ELECTRIC AURA

SECONDARY POWER:
ENERGY MELEE

THROUGH A SERIES OF ORCHESTRATED EMERGENCIES, THE MYSTERIOUS ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS SHADOWBORN HAS INFILTRATED THE RANKS AND THE COMPUTER SYSTEM OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN.

MEANWHILE, THE RECENT ACTIONS BY THE LEADERSHIP OF THE GUARDIANS HAS LED SOME OFFICIALS IN PARAGON CITY TO QUESTION WHETHER OR NOT A CHANGE IS NEEDED FOR THE SUPERHERO GROUP TO CONTINUE TO EXIST.

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"CONSEQUENCES"

A CITY OF HEROES STORY
BY DAVID 2

Accessing Biological Memory Packet.

IT WAS APRIL OF 2007...

I WAS A MISSION SPECIALIST FOR THE SPACE SHUTTLE CYGNUS.

IT WAS ONE OF SEVERAL NEW SHUTTLES SINCE THE RIKTI WAR.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT NASA WOULD EVER DREAM OF ABANDONING THE SHUTTLE PROGRAM BEFORE THE RIKTI WAR. WHAT WERE THEY THINKING?

OUR MISSION WAS TO LAUNCH A NEW SATELLITE AS PART OF VANGUARD'S NEW GLOBAL DEFENSE MONITORING SYSTEM.

WE ALSO COORDINATED THE SATELLITE WITH THE JUSTICE-KNIGHTS, WHO MANAGED TO SALVAGE A RIKTI MOTHERSHIP FROM THE 2002 INVASION AND WERE USING IT AS THEIR BASE.

GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN CHARACTERS BY DAVID 2.
JUSTICE-KNIGHTS, SIN STALKER, AND JULIAN
CREATED BY JOSEPH COHEN.

Crude superstructure, substandard insulation, poor maneuvering abilities, and augmented with reverse-engineered technology from another dimension.

Vanguard: United Nations Defense Force. Came to power after Rikti War of 2002. See reference file RW-2002.

OUR PRIMARY MISSION WAS COMPLETED, AND WE WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF RE-ENTRY WHEN IT HAPPENED.

THERE IS A POINT DURING RE-ENTRY WHEN THE IONIZATION CUTS OFF OUR CONTACT WITH SPACE CONTROL.

IF OUR RE-ENTRY WINDOW WAS JUST A FEW MINUTES LATER WE WOULD HAVE HAD ENOUGH WARNING TO ABORT AND RETURN TO ORBIT.

THERE WERE STRANGE LIGHTS OVER PARAGON CITY... AGAIN. ONLY THESE WERE SUPPOSEDLY DIFFERENT. MORE POWERFUL THAN THE RIKTI ONES.

ONE OF THOSE LIGHTS WAS IN OUR PATH. WE COULDN'T AVOID IT EVEN IF WE KNEW WHERE IT WAS.

THE INSTRUMENTS WENT CRAZY. WE LOST PITCH CONTROL. WE HAD NO CHANCE TO REACT TO WHAT HAPPENED.

"NO... THIS WILL NOT DO..."

THE SPACE SHUTTLE CYGNUS EXPLODED.

THE SHUTTLE CAME DOWN IN A MILLION PIECES OVER THE MIDWEST. THE BULK OF IT WAS OVER KANSAS AND OKLAHOMA.

You remember the whole incident.

I THOUGHT IT WAS A NIGHTMARE. I REMEMBER IT ALL. THE EXPLOSION, THE SCREAMS OF PANIC, THE DEATH CRIES OF MY CREWMATES...

I REMEMBER FALLING... FALLING... FALLING... WONDERING WHETHER OR NOT I WOULD BE DEAD ON IMPACT AND IF I WOULD FEEL ANYTHING WHEN IT HAPPENED.

I DIDN'T FEEL A THING ON IMPACT.

NASA OFFICIALS SAID THEY FOUND ME ON A FARM OWNED BY JOHAN AND MARTINA KENT. I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM AFTERWARDS.

Johan and Martina Kent: Ages 68 and 65, respectively. Amish religion. Farm quarantined by Vanguard and seized. Subjects relocated.

BUT I WAS STILL ALIVE.

THAT WAS WHAT SHOCKED EVERYONE. THE REALIZATION THAT THROUGH IT ALL, THE ENCOUNTER WITH THE OBJECT, THE EXPLOSION, THE FIERY CRASH, AND THE HARD IMPACT, I WAS STILL ALIVE!

THE DOCTORS COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

BUT WHY CAN'T WE SEE HIM? HE'S OUR SON!

THEY HAD AN EVEN HARDER TIME EXPLAINING IT TO MY PARENTS.

MRS. GEDDY, WHAT WE SEE ON THAT TABLE DEFIES ANY KIND OF DEFINITION OF LIFE. YOUR SON IS ALIVE ONLY IN A TECHNICAL SENSE.

WE DON'T KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING TO HIM, AND WE DON'T WANT TO TAKE ANY CHANGES.

DO WHATEVER IT TAKES, DOCTOR.

SPARE NO EXPENSE. YOU WILL HAVE THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE ROCINANTE GROUP.

MY FATHER MADE SURE EVERY RESOURCE WAS BROUGHT IN.

Lord Lee Geddy: Margrave of Niagara, CEO of Rocinante Group. US-Canadian Citizen.

MY BODY WAS MOVED TO A PRIVATE FACILITY TO STUDY WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO IT.



SHADOWBORN LORD

OFFICIALLY I WAS DECLARED DEAD.

To the Crew of the United States Space Shuttle

You were not dead.
You were adapting.

MAJOR HENRY "HANK" GEDDY, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, WAS "OFFICIALLY" KILLED WITH THE REST OF THE CREW.

CYGNUS

Your biological components were being assimilated into the new matrix code.

“Nevermore to grace the night.”

(NOTE: LYRIC IS FROM "CYGNUS X-1" FROM RUSH'S "A FAREWELL TO KINGS" ALBUM)

WE GOT A MEMORIAL IN ARLINGTON, NEXT TO THE CHALLENGER AND COLUMBIA MEMORIALS.

MY BODY WAS BEING REBUILT INTO SOMETHING STRONGER... MORE POWERFUL.

The new matrix code would be an adaptive mix of biological and technological components, able to resemble humanoid features, but still open for re-programming.

I WAS LINKED TO THE ROCINANTE DATABASE.

Fact: Rocinante Group Intelligence Database holds personal information for eighty percent of the technologically-connected world.

I WAS... AWARE OF EVERYTHING!

PARAGON POLICE HEADQUARTERS, KINGS ROW

AGENT RODGERS, IF YOU ARE READY, WE WILL BEGIN...

PARAGON POLICE DEPARTMENT

THIS IS A BOARD OF INQUIRY TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE HERO SHIELD PROGRAM AND OF ITS CURRENT OPERATIVE, AGENT STEVIE WALKER-RODGERS, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS CAPTAIN PARAGONNA.

CAPTAIN PARAGONNA

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WITH THE HERO SHIELD PROGRAM?

FOUR YEARS, THREE AS AN ACTIVE FIELD OPERATIVE.

YES. I AM A CO-LEADER WITH MIDNIGHT ARACHNIA, EVEN THOUGH OFFICIALLY I AM ITS CHAIRWOMAN.

HAS THIS RESPONSIBILITY EVER CONFLICTED WITH YOUR DUTIES WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT?

DURING THAT TIME YOU CO-FOUNDED A SUPERHERO ORGANIZATION CALLED THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN, OF WHICH YOU SERVE AS THE LEADER OF SAID ORGANIZATION. IS THAT CORRECT?

I THINK, IF ANYTHING, MY MEMBERSHIP WITH THE GUARDIANS HAS STRENGTHENED MY ROLE WITH THE DEPARTMENT. I MAINTAIN A PUBLIC FACE FOR BOTH THE DEPARTMENT AND THE HERO COMMUNITY. I DEMONSTRATE THAT HEROES AND POLICE OFFICERS CAN WORK TOGETHER.

AGENT RODGERS, DO YOU RECALL AN INCIDENT IN NOVEMBER OF 2007 WHERE YOU CONFRONTED PRECINCT CAPTAIN JAMES HORN?

YES, IT INVOLVED THE MURDER OF COMPUTER SPECIALIST SALLY BRIGHT, A NEW MEMBER OF THE GUARDIANS.*

(ISSUE #12)



SHE WAS NOT ONLY A NEW MEMBER OF THE GUARDIANS, SHE WAS ALSO A FRIEND. AND I HAD DISCOVERED...

DID YOU OR DID YOU NOT THREATEN CAPTAIN HORN WITH AN INTERNAL AFFAIRS INVESTIGATION?

LET'S TABLE THAT LINE OF QUESTIONING FOR NOW...

RECENTLY YOU WERE INVOLVED IN WHAT THE MEDIA CALLS A "BADGE WAR" BETWEEN YOURSELF, THE GUARDIANS AND THE AWAKENED DIVISION OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.*

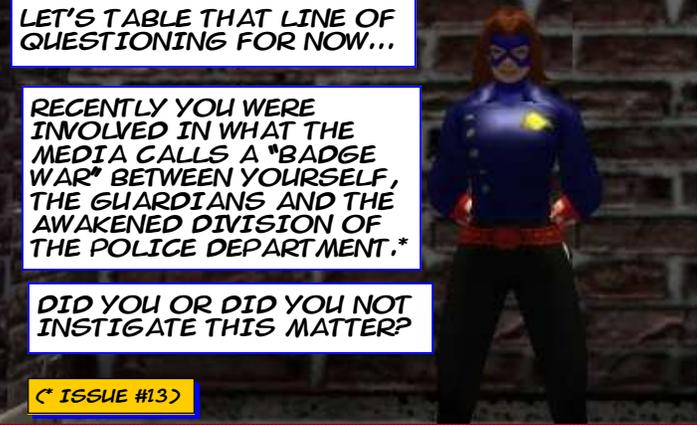
DID YOU OR DID YOU NOT INSTIGATE THIS MATTER?

(ISSUE #13)



YES, BUT THIS CAME AFTER CAPTAIN HORN REFUSED TO COOPERATE WITH MY INVESTIGATION OF THE CRIME.

A CRIME THAT YOU WERE DULY INFORMED YOU WERE NOT IN CHARGE OF INVESTIGATING.



AFTER MY MEETING WITH LADY GREY OF THE VANGUARD TO ESTABLISH JURISDICTION OF THE INVESTIGATION, I WAS INFORMED THAT ENFORCER DREADLAW HAD ATTEMPTED TO EXECUTE THE PRIME SUSPECT. I CONFRONTED HIM OVER HIS ACTIONS AND HE IN TURN THREATENED MY OWN LIFE.

THE KHELDIANS HAVE LODGED AN OFFICIAL PROTEST OVER YOUR ACTIONS, AGENT RODGERS. THEY CLAIM THAT YOU THREATENED TO, AND I QUOTE, "GO TO WAR" WITH THEM. DID YOU MAKE THAT THREAT?

THAT STATEMENT CAME AFTER ENFORCER DREADLAW THREATENED MY LIFE. I HAD ORIGINAL JURISDICTION THROUGH VANGUARD.

JURISDICTION DOES NOT JUSTIFY YOU TREATING THE HEAD OF THE AWAKENED DIVISION LIKE AN UNDERLING.

AGENT RODGERS, IT SEEMS THAT YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THE CHAIN OF COMMAND.

WHAT???

WE ALSO HAVE A REPORT OF YOU OPERATING IN UNIFORM DURING THAT TIME WHILE TECHNICALLY STILL ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE.

WE HAVE A COMPLAINT FROM WATCH COMMANDER YINDELL ABOUT FREQUENT DISRESPECT OF HIS POSITION.*

SIR, IF ANYTHING COMMANDER YINDELL WAS OPPOSED TO THE HERO SHIELD PROGRAM FROM DAY ONE. HE CONTINUALLY IMPOSED BUREAUCRATIC OBSTACLES THAT HE KNEW DID NOT APPLY TO THE PROGRAM.

WOULD YOU CARE TO EXPLAIN WHY YOU DELIBERATELY IGNORED ORDERS TO DO THAT?

(ISSUE #4)



ALTHOUGH I WAS ON LEAVE WITH THE DEPARTMENT, I WAS OPERATING AS A MEMBER OF THE GUARDIANS.



WAIT, HOLD ON... I WAS ON LEAVE BUT DEPUTY CHIEF MCMILLAN HIMSELF SAID THAT IT HAD NO BEARING ON MY ROLE WITH THE GUARDIANS.



AS LONG AS YOU WEAR THAT UNIFORM, YOU ARE REPRESENTING THE PARAGON POLICE DEPARTMENT. THAT MEANS YOU ARE BOUND TO OUR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES.

IN OTHER WORDS, CONTRARY TO YOUR EARLIER CLAIM, THERE WAS A CONFLICT BETWEEN YOUR DUTIES WITH THE DEPARTMENT AND THE GUARDIANS.

AGENT RODGERS, ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE HISTORY OF YOUR GUISE AS CAPTAIN PARAGONNA?



NO, I WASN'T AWARE...

YOUR PREDECESSOR WAS NOT MADE PUBLIC. SHE PROVED TO BE... TOO MUCH OF A RISK.



WE WILL HAVE TO CONFER OVER WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED HERE TO DETERMINE THE NEXT COURSE OF ACTION.

OF THE OPERATIVE WHO WORE THAT OUTFIT BEFORE YOU?

IT TOOK A YEAR, BUT THE RECONSTRUCTION WAS SOON COMPLETE.

IT WAS MY FATHER'S IDEA TO FASHION ME INTO A SUPERHERO.

MY FACE, MY HAIR, EVEN MY GENERAL BODY BORE NO RESEMBLANCE AT ALL TO HANK GEDDY.



 STARCYGNUS

You ceased to be Hank Gedy when the shuttle encountered the portal.

YES... THE PORTAL... THE RIPS IN THE UNIVERSE THAT DEPOSITED THREE STRANGERS HERE.*

Media reference: "Guardian Exiles".

Hero designations: Galatea Powers, Ryder Lighting, MidKnight X.

Members of the Guardians of the Dawn.

(* ISSUE #0)

MY MISSION WAS SIMPLE...

INFILTRATE THE GUARDIANS.

LEARN THEIR SECRETS.



AND WHEN I HAVE LEARNED ALL MY FATHER NEEDED TO KNOW ABOUT THEM...

I WOULD MAKE THEM ALL PAY FOR THE CYGNUS.

Revenge is a meaningless justification for action.



FASTEST CONQUERING MONKEYS OF ALL TIME!

SUPER

RIKTI-MONKEYS

THE MOST AMAZING SIGHT YOU HAVE EVER WITNESSED!

Imagine! Just put up some War-Walls, and the **Super Rikti-Monkeys** will come a running! Before your very eyes! And that's just the start, soon you will have the most adorable Rikti Drones, and Mentalists. Laughter and joy will be abound plenty, if your lucky enough, maybe even a Magus!

WAILING "FREAKS OF NATURE"!

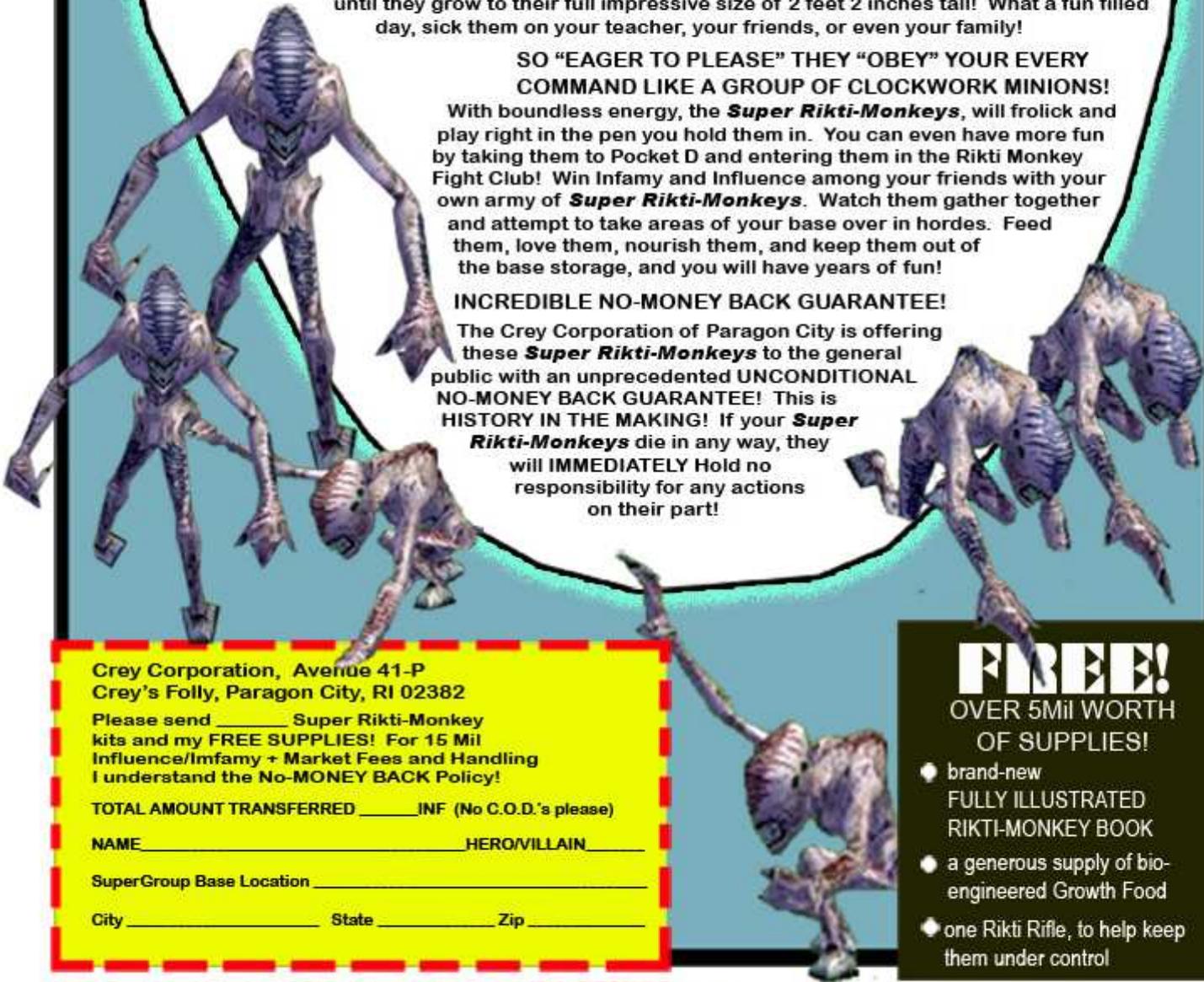
From the very start, new **Super Rikti-Monkeys** will thrill you with wonders that come from their own dimension! Born to conquer and battle, within a few days they will hatch and you will have your very own army of minions and pets. Once their claws come in, it's even more fun for all! You will see them get bigger and bigger until they grow to their full impressive size of 2 feet 2 inches tall! What a fun filled day, sick them on your teacher, your friends, or even your family!

SO "EAGER TO PLEASE" THEY "OBEY" YOUR EVERY COMMAND LIKE A GROUP OF CLOCKWORK MINIONS!

With boundless energy, the **Super Rikti-Monkeys**, will frolick and play right in the pen you hold them in. You can even have more fun by taking them to Pocket D and entering them in the Rikti Monkey Fight Club! Win Infamy and Influence among your friends with your own army of **Super Rikti-Monkeys**. Watch them gather together and attempt to take areas of your base over in hordes. Feed them, love them, nourish them, and keep them out of the base storage, and you will have years of fun!

INCREDIBLE NO-MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!

The Crey Corporation of Paragon City is offering these **Super Rikti-Monkeys** to the general public with an unprecedented UNCONDITIONAL NO-MONEY BACK GUARANTEE! This is HISTORY IN THE MAKING! If your **Super Rikti-Monkeys** die in any way, they will IMMEDIATELY Hold no responsibility for any actions on their part!



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Please send _____ Super Rikti-Monkey
kits and my FREE SUPPLIES! For 15 Mil
Influence/Infamy + Market Fees and Handling
I understand the No-MONEY BACK Policy!

TOTAL AMOUNT TRANSFERRED _____ INF (No C.O.D.'s please)

NAME _____ HERO/VILLAIN _____

SuperGroup Base Location _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

FREE!
OVER 5MIL WORTH
OF SUPPLIES!

- ◆ brand-new FULLY ILLUSTRATED RIKTI-MONKEY BOOK
- ◆ a generous supply of bio-engineered Growth Food
- ◆ one Rikti Rifle, to help keep them under control

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HOW COULD I HAVE EVER SAID NO TO SHADOWBORN?

PAY YOUR DUES, MY MENTOR ONCE TOLD ME, AND OPPORTUNITY COMES.

The Paragon Times

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Search Resumes For New District Attorney

Fifth DA In Six Months Steps Down
 (Paragon City) Paragon City once again is in need of a new lead prosecutor after the announced resignation of District Attorney Elton Vale.

Vale, who was sworn into office four weeks ago, is the fifth District Attorney to resign in the past six months, and all-time low for Paragon City government.

Although citing poor health down, rumors continue to swirl between the District Attorney's Office and the Paragon Police Union. (Continued on page 2)

SURE ENOUGH... IT DID.

death staged? - Section D3

PARAGON CITY HAS NO DISTRICT ATTORNEY... AGAIN.

ANOTHER RESIGNATION... FIFTH ONE IN SIX MONTHS!

DDA EDWARD VANCE

OF COURSE IT HELPS THAT SHADOWBORN IS BEHIND THESE SUDDEN RESIGNATIONS.

WITHOUT A DISTRICT ATTORNEY, THE DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEYS HAVE TO SHARE ALL OF THE USUAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

MISTER VANCE, LADY GREY SAYS YOU CAN MEET WITH HER IN THE AMBASSADOR CONFERENCE ROOM.

INCLUDING THE ONE THAT AFFECTS ALL THE HEROES IN PARAGON CITY.

THANK YOU. I BELIEVE I KNOW MY WAY THERE.

HERO GROUPS ARE REGISTERED WITH PARAGON CITY FOR TWO REASONS... TAX REVENUE AND TO ANSWER THE OLD LATIN QUESTION...

"QUIS CUSTODIET IPSOS CUSTODES?"
OR... "WHO WATCHES THE WATCHMEN?"

THE ANSWER IS A SPECIAL COMMITTEE THAT MEETS ONCE A MONTH THAT CONSISTS OF THE KEY MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, INCLUDING THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

AND... SINCE THE CITY HAS NO DISTRICT ATTORNEY... AGAIN... THAT DUTY GOES TO ONE OF THE DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEYS.

IN OTHER WORDS... ME.



LADY GREY, IT IS A PLEASURE, AS ALWAYS.

MISTER VANCE...



... I ASSURE YOU THE PLEASURE IS YOURS ALONE.

YOU ARE HERE ONLY BECAUSE THE CITY HAS NO DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND SOMEONE MUST REPRESENT CITY GOVERNMENT IN THIS MATTER.

 **THE LADY GREY**



IN FACT, ONE MIGHT EVEN SPECULATE THAT THE REVOLVING DOOR APPOINTMENTS OF YOUR SUPERIOR HAVE BEEN ORCHESTRATED SO AS TO EVENTUALLY PUT SOMEONE LIKE YOURSELF INTO THAT POSITION.



I CAN ASSURE YOU, LADY GREY, THAT I HAVE NO REAL DESIGNS FOR THAT ROLE. I ENJOY WHAT I DO AS DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY, AND BEING THE HEAD PROSECUTOR WOULD ONLY TIE ME DOWN.



IN ANY CASE... THE OTHERS ARE GATHERING, SO I SUPPOSE WE NEED TO GET THIS MEETING OUT OF THE WAY. WE HAVE A LOT FOR US TO DISCUSS TODAY.



ABSOLUTELY, LADY GREY.

OH YES... A LOT FOR THIS COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS TODAY.

Biological memory packet accessed.
Date: December 2009.



I DIDN'T REALIZE THE AMOUNT OF CONTROL MY FATHER HAD THROUGH SHADOWBORN UNTIL THE TIME CAME TO ESTABLISH MY CREDIBILITY AS A SUPERHERO.*

 **PRESIDENT OBAMA**

NOT ONLY DID HE ARRANGE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH TO BE TAKEN OVER BY THE FIFTH COLUMN, BUT HE MADE SURE THEY KEPT THE PRESIDENT ALIVE AND UNHARMED.

THAT FORCEFIELD WASN'T THERE TO KEEP HIM PRISONER. IT WAS THERE TO PROTECT HIM FROM HARM.

* SEE "G.C.C. COMPENDIUM #5" FOR DETAILS

THE MEDIA, OF COURSE, REPORTED THE WHOLE THING LIVE.



NOT ONE REPORTER LOOKED INTO HOW I MANAGED TO BE THERE.



HOW DID I MANAGE TO DO WHAT THE SECRET SERVICE, VANGUARD, FREEDOM CORPS, THE PARAGON NEWS NETWORK, AND TWO HERO GROUPS COULD NOT? IT WAS SIMPLE.

ALL OF THOSE CAMERAS, INCLUDING THE LIVE ROBOTIC CAMERA FROM THE PARAGON NEWS NETWORK, DID NOT SEE A ROW OF FIFTH COLUMN TROOPERS SIMPLY LET ME SLIP PAST THEM.

HIT 'EM BUBBA JOE! KILL THAT FREAK!



THE SOLDIERS ON THE PLATFORM HAD NO IDEA WHO I WAS OR THAT THEY WOULD BE TAKING THE FALL OVER THIS WHILE THEIR 'FRIENDS' WOULD MAKE A QUICK RETREAT.

I TRULY OWE YOU... A DEBT OF GRATITUDE. WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

I AM... STARCYGNUS.

THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF HAD NO IDEA THIS WAS ALL ARRANGED BY THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF.

MY CREDIBILITY WAS ESTABLISHED. I WAS THE NEW FAVORITE HERO OF THE WHITE HOUSE.

THE SPEECH, THE SECURITY DETAIL, THE FORCEFIELD, EVERYTHING... ALL THROUGH SHADOWBORN.



AND NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I AM PROUD TO INTRODUCE THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE GUARDIANS... STARCYGNUS!

Subject: Sally Carson-Ramirez, cable television personality.

MEMBERSHIP TO THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN WAS OFFERED JUST PRIOR TO MY PNN INTERVIEW.

I WAS LIKE YOU ONCE... I WAS HUMAN. I REMEMBER A FARM... SOMEPLACE IN KANSAS... I REMEMBER FIRE AND PAIN... AND THEN I BECAME WHO I AM NOW.

MY BUTCHERED ORIGIN, CONDENSED BY MEDIA CONSULTANTS, GAVE ME INSTANT PUBLIC SYMPATHY.



AGENT RODGERS, UPON EVALUATING THE INFORMATION PRESENTED BOTH HERE AND IN THE REPORTS SUBMITTED TO US, WE FIND SOME SERIOUS ISSUES WITH YOUR TENURE AS CAPTAIN PARAGONNA.

WE SHOULD NOT NEED TO REMIND YOU THAT THE GUISE OF "CAPTAIN PARAGONNA" DOES NOT EQUATE INTO AN ACTUAL RANK OF CAPTAIN IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WHILE YOUR EFFECTIVENESS IN DEALING WITH CRIME AND TACTICAL EMERGENCIES IS EXCEPTIONAL, YOUR HANDLING OF OTHER DEPARTMENTS IS ABRASIVE AT BEST AND TYRANNICAL AT WORST.

FURTHERMORE YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED A CLEAR CONFLICT OF RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN YOUR ROLE AS A POLICE OFFICER AND AS A REGISTERED SUPERHERO.



WE ARE THEREFORE TAKING YOU OFF ACTIVE DUTY AS CAPTAIN PARAGONNA.

WHAT???

FURTHERMORE, GIVEN YOUR HISTORY WITH BEING PLACED ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE, YOU ARE ORDERED TO SURRENDER YOUR UNIFORM FOR THE DURATION OF THIS RE-EVALUATION OF DUTIES.

THIS IS NOT A DISCIPLINARY ACTION AND WILL NOT BE RECORDED AS SUCH.

ANY ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS CAPTAIN PARAGONNA DURING THAT TIME WILL RESULT IN AN OFFICIAL DISCIPLINARY ACTION. DISMISSED.



VANGUARD BRANCH OFFICE

AS MUCH AS I REGRET SAYING THIS, WE MUST DEAL WITH THE MATTER OF THE LEADERSHIP OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN.

POLICE CHIEF CLAYTON

I THINK THE LEADERSHIP ISSUE IS PRETTY MUCH A MOOT POINT, CHIEF CLAYTON. THE GUARDIANS HAVE A CLEAR CHAIN OF COMMAND. IF CAPTAIN PARAGONNA IS GONE, MIDNIGHT ARACHNIA IS THE NEXT IN CHARGE.

STATESMAN



FAR BE IT FOR ME TO SAY SOMETHING ON THIS, BUT IT WASN'T THAT LONG AGO THAT MIDNIGHT ARACHNIA WAS ACCUSED OF BEING AN ARACHNOS AGENT AND A TRAITOR.*

A CHARGE THAT WAS LATER DETERMINED TO BE FABRICATED BY THAT FRAUD GARRY BECKER FOR THE SAKE OF RATINGS.

ACTUALLY THERE WAS A LITTLE MORE TO IT THAN THAT... BUT I CERTAINLY WON'T LET THEM IN ON IT.

*"LIMELIGHT" ISSUE #7 AND #8

THAT MAY BE THE CASE, CHIEF, AND I CERTAINLY REGRET MY UNWILLING PARTICIPATION IN THE WHOLE "AGENT BURKE" FIASCO.

BUT THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT MIDNIGHT ARACHNIA IS STILL STAINED BY THAT FALSE ACCUSATION.



EVEN AFTER THE POSITIVE INTERVIEW ON PNN A FEW MONTHS BACK*, AND THE RECENT ON-AIR HANDLING OF THE ANARCHY-999 RIOTS**, PEOPLE ARE STILL WARY OF SOME OF THEIR MEMBERS, INCLUDING MIDNIGHT ARACHNIA.

IT WOULD BE A CRITICAL MISTAKE FOR HER TO BE IN CHARGE OF THAT GROUP.

(* C.C.C. COMPENDIUM #5)

(** ISSUE #11)

SO SAYS "THE TRUST", RIGHT?

I SOMETIMES FORGET THAT YOU HYPE YOURSELF TO BE THIS GREAT PARAGON OF VIRTUE FOR THE CITY.



NOT ALL OF US CAN CLAIM TO CHANNEL THE POWER AND WISDOM OF A PAGAN GOD, STATESMAN.

US MERE MORTALS HAVE TO EARN THE TRUST WE ARE GIVEN.



GENTLEMEN THAT IS ENOUGH.

IF MIDNIGHT ARACHNIA IS NOT FIT TO LEAD, WHO IS NEXT IN LINE?



ARKTIC CHILL.

GREAT, THE GROUP'S HORNDOG.



I'M SORRY, BUT I'VE SEEN HIM IN ACTION. HE IS FAR FROM A LEADER. HE WAS GIVEN THAT POSITION ONLY BECAUSE HE WAS THE SECOND MEMBER TO JOIN THEM.

AND GIVEN THE GROUP'S FEMALE MAJORITY, I SERIOUSLY DOUBT THAT ANY OF THEM WOULD WANT TO FOLLOW UNDER HIS LEAD.



WELL THEN WHO ELSE WILL LEAD THE GUARDIANS?

GALATEA POWERS? HER COUSIN? JIMMY HELLFIGHTER? THE LIBERTARIAN AVENGER?





NO! ABSOLUTELY NOT THE LIBERTARIAN AVENGER!

IF HE GETS INTO ANY KIND OF LEADERSHIP ROLE THERE THE POLICE UNION WILL GO ON A WILDCAT STRIKE!



MAYBE THE PROBLEM IS THAT WE ARE LOOKING AT THIS FROM AN INTERNAL PERSPECTIVE.

I SEEM TO RECALL THIS COMMITTEE ONCE PLACED A SUPERGROUP UNDER ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP WHEN THEIR LEADER DIED.



YES, IT WAS DONE ONCE BEFORE...



AND IT WAS A HORRENDOUS MISTAKE THAT SHOULD NEVER BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN AGAIN.

THE PERSON THAT WAS SELECTED TO SUPERVISE THAT GROUP ENDED UP DRIVING IT INTO OBLIVION AND KILLED EVERYONE THERE!



WELL I DON'T SEE ANY OTHER WAY TO RESOLVE THIS MATTER, LADY AND GENTLEMEN.

UNLESS YOU'RE WILLING TO LET A NON-HERO RUN THAT GROUP, OR AN ACCUSED SPY AND TRAITOR, OR...



EXCUSE ME, MISTER VANCE, BUT I BELIEVE THAT I HAVE A MUCH BETTER SOLUTION.

WAIT... WHO IS HE? I KNOW HE'S SUPPOSED TO REPRESENT THE AVERAGE CITIZEN... BUT WHO IS HE?



BY ALL MEANS, JULIAN, WE'D WELCOME YOUR INPUT ON THIS PROBLEM.



THANK YOU LADY GREY. AS YOU KNOW, THE FREEMASONS HAVE BEEN KEEPING AN EYE ON THE HERO COMMUNITY AND HELPING THEM WHEN NEEDED.*

THERE IS A MEMBER OF THE GUARDIANS THAT HAS BEEN KEEPING A RELATIVELY LOW-PROFILE, BUT STILL HAS SOLID LEADERSHIP SKILLS.

I THINK THIS PERSON WOULD BE THE KIND OF LEADER THE GUARDIANS NEED.

<* SEE "JUSTICE-KNIGHTS" #4 >

Beware, Dr. Lore...

You're tangled in the spider's web...

And you swim in shark infested waters...

Never a good combination...

But you wouldn't have it any other way...

Would you?

ANGEL FISH

<http://user.drunkduck.com/Masq>



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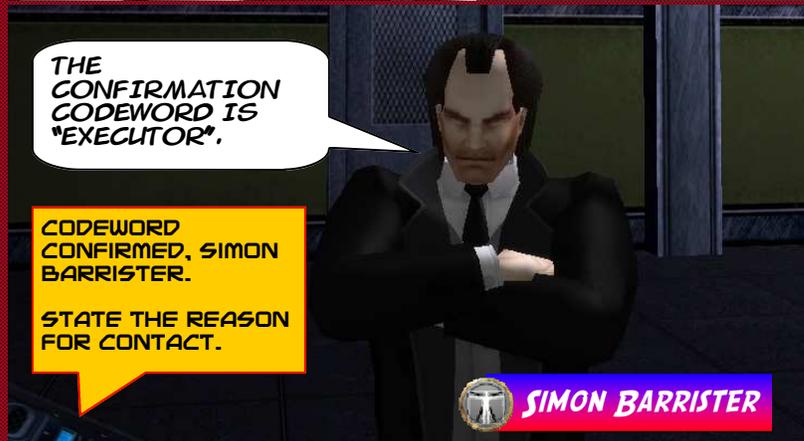
MOST OF MY TIME I AM HERE AT THE GUARDIAN BASE.

THEIR TACTICAL CONTROL ROOM UTILIZES AN ADVANCED QUANTUM SCANNER, WHICH ALLOWS ME TO MONITOR THE CITY NETWORKS FOR TROUBLE.

MOST MEMBERS HAVE TO USE THE TERMINALS. I CAN ACCESS THE NETWORK DIRECTLY THROUGH THE SCANNER.

BUT THAT IS ONLY PART OF THE REASON WHY I REGULARLY CHOOSE THIS DETAIL.

Incoming encrypted communication.



THE CONFIRMATION CODEWORD IS "EXECUTOR".

CODEWORD CONFIRMED, SIMON BARRISTER.

STATE THE REASON FOR CONTACT.

SIMON BARRISTER



I'VE BEEN GOING OVER THE GUARDIAN CPCU DATABASE*, AND I'VE DISCOVERED A DRIVE THAT IS LOCKED WITH AN ADDITIONAL LAYER OF ENCRYPTION. I WILL NEED YOU TO BREAK THE ENCRYPTION.

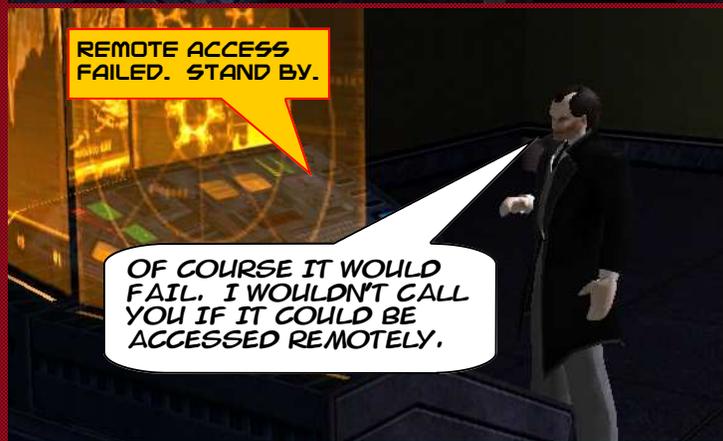
(* WHICH HE GOT ACCESS TO IN ISSUE #11)



STAND BY. WILL ATTEMPT TO ACCESS THE DRIVE FROM THIS LOCATION.

Accessing drive designated XHTS7

Access denied. Invalid identification.



REMOTE ACCESS FAILED. STAND BY.

OF COURSE IT WOULD FAIL. I WOULDN'T CALL YOU IF IT COULD BE ACCESSED REMOTELY.



A COMMON MISNOMER IS THAT I AM A "TRADITIONAL" CYBORG.

PART-MAN, PART-MACHINE.

Direct connection of CPCU commencing.

MY BIO-MATRIX IS FAR MORE THAN THAT.

THE COMPONENTS THAT PEOPLE SEE, BOTH METAL AND FLESH, ARE FOR APPEARANCES ONLY.

Direct connection established. Initiating encryption decoding sequences one-to-fifty.



Sequence forty-two successful.

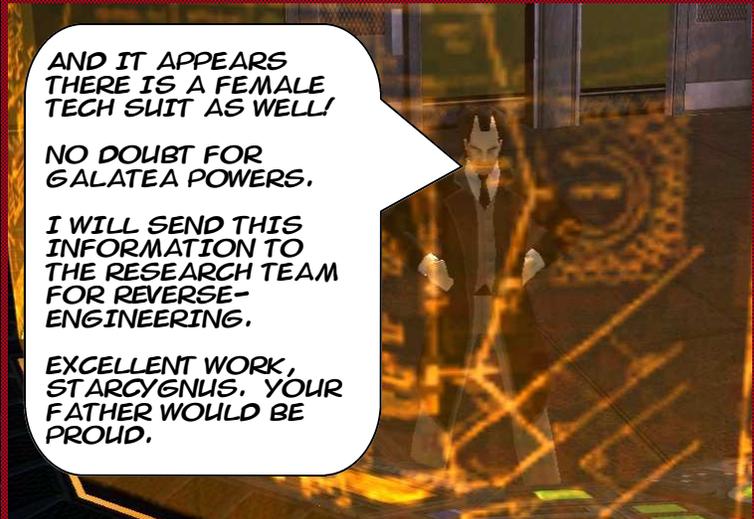
Access to drive XHTS7 granted.



I HAVE ACCESS TO THE DRIVE.
I AM TRANSMITTING THE KEY TO GIVE YOU ACCESS.



EXCELLENT! THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR!
THE TECHNICAL SCHEMATICS TO THE TECH SUIT WORN BY ICON POWERS.



AND IT APPEARS THERE IS A FEMALE TECH SUIT AS WELL!
NO DOUBT FOR GALATEA POWERS.
I WILL SEND THIS INFORMATION TO THE RESEARCH TEAM FOR REVERSE-ENGINEERING.
EXCELLENT WORK, STARGYENUS. YOUR FATHER WOULD BE PROUD.



GALATEA POWERS, ONE OF THE THREE PEOPLE THAT CAME TO EARTH FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE.

ONE OF THE THREE PEOPLE WHO CAME HERE THROUGH THE PORTALS THAT RIPPED THROUGH THE CYGNUS, THAT KILLED EVERYONE. THAT KILLED ME.

Correction: You have advanced.

THE GREAT SECRET OF HER "THIRD IDENTITY", THE TECH SUIT, IS NOW IN THE HANDS OF SHADOWBORN.

THIS ONE ACT SERVES AS A CRIPPLING BLOW TO THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN.

Correct.

AND YET... I FIND NO SATISFACTION IN THIS.

WHY?

POLICE HEADQUARTERS, KINGS ROW

This is an automated CPCU message to all members of the Guardians of the Dawn.

Effective immediately, Captain Paragonna has been removed from active duty with the Paragon Police Department and will no longer be able to serve as the leader of the Guardians.

Midnight Arachnia is currently in meetings with City Officials and will address the Guardians via CPCU at 6pm to discuss the future of the supergroup.

End of message.



SIGH

IF YOU'RE GOING TO BURN A HOLE THROUGH MY HEAD WITH YOUR BEAM VISION, YOU MIGHT AS WELL DO IT NOW INSTEAD OF WAITING FOR ME TO REACT TO YOU STARING AT ME LIKE A STATUE.

MENDER TESSERACT

OH! WAIT... I JUST FORGOT ONE LITTLE DETAIL...

YOU DON'T HAVE THAT PARTICULAR POWER YET, DO YOU?



WELL I'M SURE YOU'D ENJOY IT IF I PLAYED THAT WHOLE "IF YOU REALLY KNOW THE FUTURE THEN YOU KNOW WHAT I'M GOING TO SAY NEXT" BIT WITH YOU, BUT I'M GOING TO CUT RIGHT TO THE CHASE HERE...

GALATEA POWERS



OH BY ALL MEANS PLEASE DO!

DOC TOR FIGURED IT OUT.

WE KNOW YOU WERE THE ONE THAT ORDERED GHOSTLYNK TO BE MURDERED.*



WE KNOW THAT YOU ALSO SENT AGENT SHADOW AHEAD THREE YEARS TO TRY TO KILL GHOSTLYNK AGAIN ONCE SHE WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A PEACEBRINGER.*

DOC TOR ASKED ME TO SEND YOU A MESSAGE:

THIS ENDS NOW!

← ISSUE #12

← ISSUE #13

"NOW"?

"NOW" IS A RELATIVE CONCEPT FOR A MENDER.

OF ALL PEOPLE, A TIME MANIPULATOR SUCH AS THIS "DOC TOR" SHOULD KNOW AS MUCH.

YOU THINK THAT JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN REACH ME HERE THAT SOMEHOW YOU COULD THREATEN ME? ME?

YOU FORGET YOUR PLACE, CHILD.



I AM MENDER TESSERACT. I DO NOT SCARE EASILY, BY YOU OR BY ANYONE, AND ESPECIALLY NOT BY A FAILED TIME EXILE.

THE LIFE OF SOMEONE LIKE SALLY BRIGHT WAS AS MEANINGLESS TO THE GRAND SCHEME OF THINGS AS AN ANT'S LIFE IS TO AN AARDVARK. SHE WAS MERELY A MEANS TO AN END.

I DO NOT KNOW HOW A TEMPORAL VERGENCE COULD RUIN AN OTHERWISE PERFECT EXPERIMENT IN TIME OBSERVATION, BUT WHETHER OR NOT THAT PARTICULAR PROJECT ENDS IS ENTIRELY UP TO ME, NOT TO YOU AND CERTAINLY NOT THIS "DOC TOR".



YOU'VE DONE YOUR LITTLE ERRAND GIRL BIT. NOW GO RUN OFF AND SEE WHAT THE OTHER APES HAVE FOR YOU. I'M BORED WITH YOU ALREADY.

YOU KNOW... THE DOC SAID YOU'D PROBABLY PULL AN ATTITUDE LIKE THIS.

THAT'S WHY HE WANTED ME TO LET YOU KNOW THAT EVEN THOUGH HE CAN'T "REACH" YOU, HE CAN STILL DESTROY YOU WITH JUST FOUR WORDS.

HE DIDN'T TELL ME WHAT THEY WERE, BUT WHEN A TIME MANIPULATOR LIKE HIM MAKES THAT KIND OF BOAST, YOU SHOULD HEED IT.



WE'LL BE WATCHING YOU...

HUMPH!

PRETENTIOUS LITTLE COW!

THERE SHE GOES...

BACK TO THE YEAR 2010.

EXACTLY AS I REMEMBERED THE DAY BEFORE...

AND THE DAY BEFORE THAT.

AND THE DAY BEFORE THAT.

AND THE DAY BEFORE... WELL YOU GET THE PICTURE.

AND EVERY TIME WISHING JUST ONCE I COULD JUST STEP IN...

KICK MY YOUNGER SELF IN THE BUTT AND GET HER TO PUT TESSERACT IN HER PLACE.

MAYBE THEN WE COULD HAVE AVERTED THE TRAGEDY THAT WAS TO COME.

MAYBE THEN I WOULDN'T BE THE LAST SURVIVOR OF THE GUARDIANS...

AND THE LAST SURVIVOR OF THE PLANET EARTH.

VANGUARD BRANCH OFFICE

MIDNIGHT ARACHNIA DIDN'T EXACTLY TAKE THE NEWS TOO WELL.

ARE WE SURE ABOUT THIS, JULIAN? IS THIS THE BEST OPTION AVAILABLE?



I SEEM TO RECALL YOU EXPRESSED SIMILAR DOUBTS ABOUT SIN STALKER AND THE JUSTICE-KNIGHTS A FEW YEARS AGO.*

THEY TURNED OUT JUST FINE... AND SO WILL THE GUARDIANS.

TRUST ME ON THIS.



(* SEE "JUSTICE-KNIGHTS" SERIES)

PARAGON CITY, 6PM EASTERN

This is an automated CPCU message to all members of the Guardians of the Dawn.

Stand by for a live message from Midnight Arachnia in the Guardian Headquarters.

MEMBERS OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN...

NO DOUBT YOU'VE SEEN THE NEWS CONCERNING CAPTAIN PARAGONNA.

IT IS TRUE THAT SHE HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM ACTIVE DUTY WITH THE PARAGON POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WE HAVE EVERY HOPE THAT THIS WILL BE JUST A TEMPORARY SITUATION AND THAT SHE WILL RETURN TO ACTIVE DUTY SHORTLY.

BUT, IN THE MEANTIME, A QUESTION OF LEADERSHIP HAS ARISEN.



THERE ARE SOME DOUBTS THAT I COULD CARRY ON AS LEADER OF THE GUARDIANS IN THE CAPTAIN'S ABSENCE.

WHILE I APPRECIATE THE CONFIDENCE OF MY FELLOW GUARDIANS, I ALSO UNDERSTAND THIS IS MORE THAN JUST "OUR" LITTLE GROUP.

WE HAVE THE PUBLIC'S TRUST TO MAINTAIN AS WELL.



MIDNIGHT ARACHNIA

WE EACH JOINED THE GUARDIANS FOR DIFFERENT REASONS. NOT ALL OF THEM ARE NOBLE OR SELFLESS REASONS.

BUT FOR WHATEVER REASON, WE ARE HERE AS A GROUP FOR ONE GOAL... TO HELP BRING PARAGON CITY TO THAT BRIGHT AND SHINING FUTURE JUST OVER THE HORIZON.

WE CANNOT DO THAT IF THE PUBLIC IS CONTINUALLY WONDERING IF I AM AN ARACHNOS AGENT JUST BECAUSE I CAME FROM THE ROGUE ISLES.



I HAVE CONSULTED WITH CITY OFFICIALS, INCLUDING LADY GREY FROM VANGUARD... I HAVE TALKED WITH STATESMAN FROM THE FREEDOM PHALANX... AND I HAVE SPOKEN WITH BOTH ARKTIC CHILL AND GALATEA POWERS ON THIS MATTER.

WE HAVE ALL AGREED THAT, AS THINGS ARE RIGHT NOW, I AM NOT THE PERSON TO BE LEADING THE GUARDIANS.

BUT THERE IS SOMEONE IN OUR RANKS WHO IS QUALIFIED TO LEAD US.

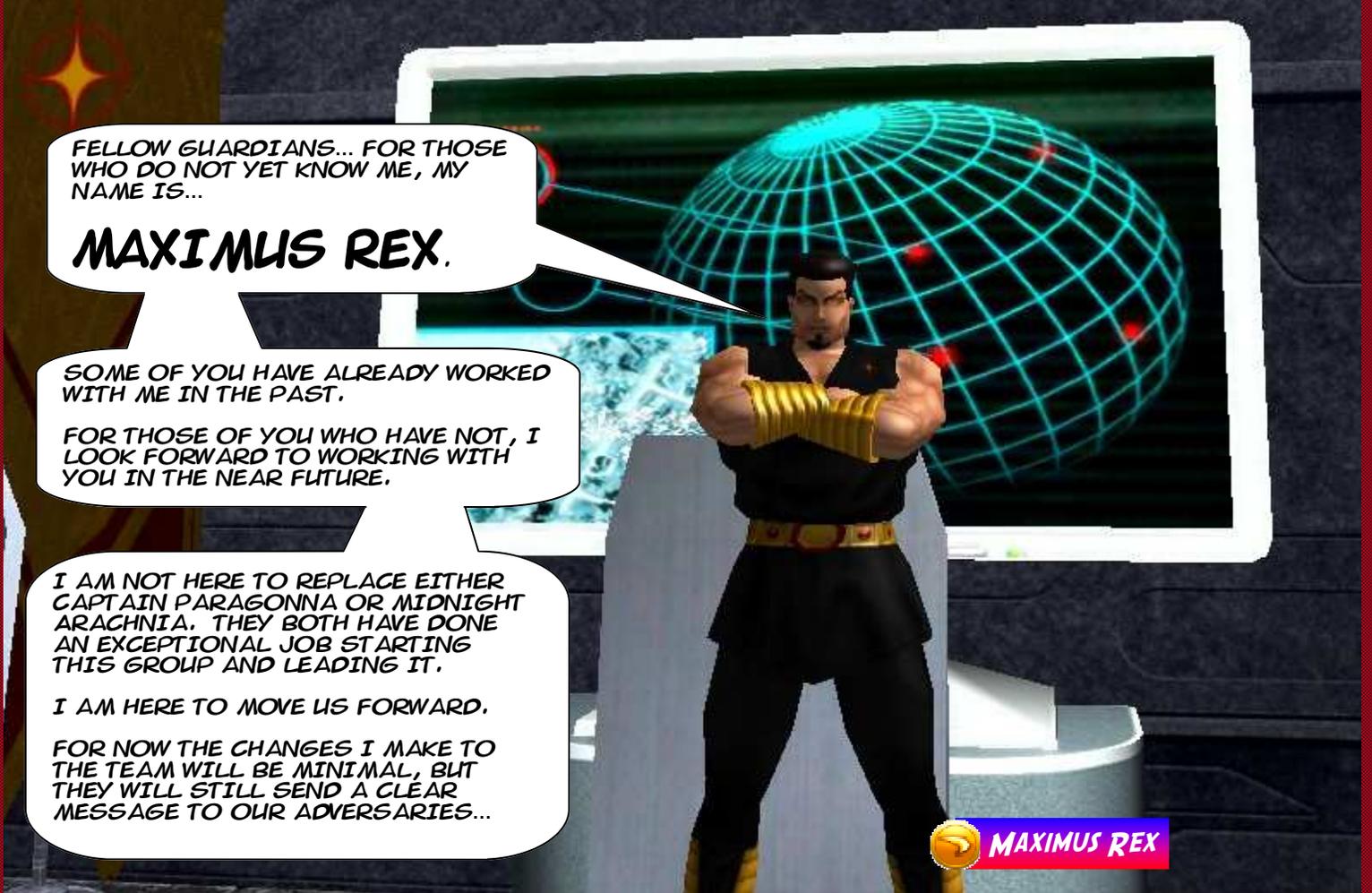


LIKE MANY OF YOU WILL NO DOUBT BE... I WAS SURPRISED WHEN THIS PERSON'S NAME WAS BROUGHT UP.

BUT THEN AS WE ALL KNOW, PART OF WHO WE ARE IS NOT JUST WHAT WE DO, BUT ALSO WHERE WE COME FROM. AND WHILE MY HISTORY IS QUESTIONABLE, THIS PERSON'S HISTORY WAS FAR FROM IT.



GUARDIANS, PLEASE GIVE YOUR NEW LEADER AS MUCH SUPPORT AS I ALREADY HAVE...



FELLOW GUARDIANS... FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT YET KNOW ME, MY NAME IS...

MAXIMUS REX.

SOME OF YOU HAVE ALREADY WORKED WITH ME IN THE PAST.

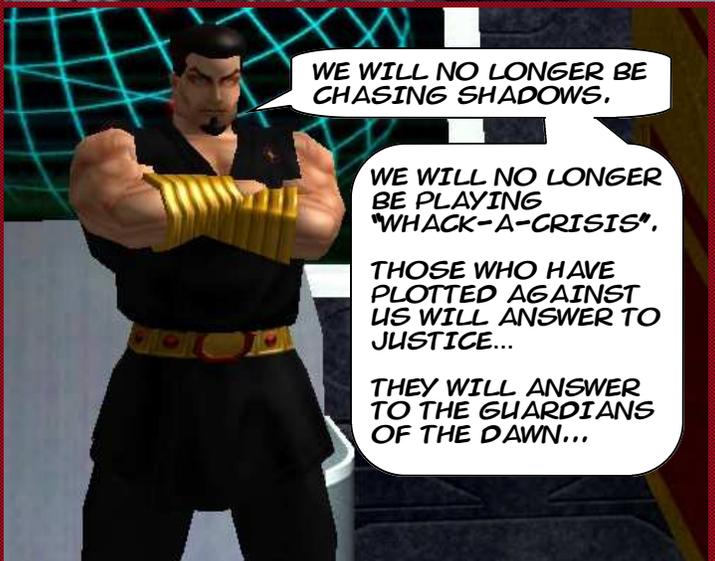
FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE NOT, I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

I AM NOT HERE TO REPLACE EITHER CAPTAIN PARAGONNA OR MIDNIGHT ARACHNIA. THEY BOTH HAVE DONE AN EXCEPTIONAL JOB STARTING THIS GROUP AND LEADING IT.

I AM HERE TO MOVE US FORWARD.

FOR NOW THE CHANGES I MAKE TO THE TEAM WILL BE MINIMAL, BUT THEY WILL STILL SEND A CLEAR MESSAGE TO OUR ADVERSARIES...

MAXIMUS REX



WE WILL NO LONGER BE CHASING SHADOWS.

WE WILL NO LONGER BE PLAYING "WHACK-A-CRISIS".

THOSE WHO HAVE PLOTTED AGAINST US WILL ANSWER TO JUSTICE...

THEY WILL ANSWER TO THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN...



AND THEY WILL ANSWER TO MAXIMUS REX...

THE ONCE AND FORMER KING OF THE EARTH!

**NEXT ISSUE:
HAIL TO THE NEW BOSS!**



Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.

As you can tell, this issue has been about consequences.

Nothing happens in a vacuum, especially in the City of Heroes. Your actions, your attitude, they all have consequences down the road.

In the City of Heroes MMO, your choices dictate the future course of actions for your character.

Hero or Villain? That determines if you're going to operate in Paragon City or the Rogue Isles. By the way, those initial choices will get much bigger when "Going Rogue" comes out in August. Much, much bigger.

What kind of hero or villain will you be? Will you fight from a distance? Will you face threats head-on? Will you be more of a support or mastermind? That choice determines what kind of abilities you can choose from.

What is the origin of your powers? For the hero, that determines the contacts you first encounter. For the villain, your choices are smaller but you still get to choose, and whom you choose for that first encounter determines what kind of assignments you get and what kind of future contacts you'll find.

Will you follow through with the Hollows missions? Take the newspaper assignments? Go on the Task Force? Take part in a PvP zone? Say "no" at the wrong time and you'll miss out on certain other opportunities down the road.

Your actions, your choices, have consequences.

The same applies to the Guardians of the Dawn.

In recent issues, I noticed that Captain Paragonna had become a little more confrontational with certain people, specifically with authority figures. This was seen in flashback in Issue #12 with the death of her friend Sally Bright, and then again when she tried to bully around Dreadlaw in Issue #13.

Being a hero is not a license to be a bully, no matter the gender

Continues on next page...

or the cause. Eventually that kind of abuse will have consequences, as the Captain herself found out. At some point, DDA Vance learn that lesson as well.

This issue closes a few storylines that were left hanging, such as Mender Tesseract's involvement from Issue #12. How do you deal with a Mender who knows more about time than you do? And what are the consequences to it? As you just saw, the consequences to such a confrontation could be dire indeed.

The ongoing storyline with Simon Barrister's access to the CPCU system will have some serious consequences for the Guardians in the future, specifically to Galatea Powers and Icon Powers. Speaking of which, you will see more from Icon Powers as well, especially as the new leader of the Guardians turns to him for insight.

All The World's Indeed A Stage!

You may or may not have caught on the subtle references to the Canadian group **RUSH**. The Shuttle Cygnus, the quote from "Cygnus X-1", the Rocinante Group, even the name of the leader of Shadowborn is a play on Rush lead singer Geddy Lee.

There will be more references to the rock group, but understand that this comes as a sign of respect for the group and the decades of inventive and insightful music.

<http://GuardiansOfTheDawn.wordpress.com>

NEXT ISSUE...



Who is this man called Maximus Rex?

And why does he call himself "The Once and Former King of the Earth"?





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