

T+ FOR TEENS PLUS

TASK FORCE TWILIGHT



Issue 03
2018



WITH
JASON KNIGHT
GONE...

... CARDINAL SYN
STEPS UP!



Why CreyWare?

That's a question I keep on hearing.

They say, "G.R., why? Why do you want us to use CreyWare instead of the competition? It's buggy, it's full of spyware, it just doesn't work."

And I tell them that, one, I'm an important-sounding futurist, so of course you should listen to me.

And, two, because CreyWare is constantly evolving and adapting, just like the Internet.

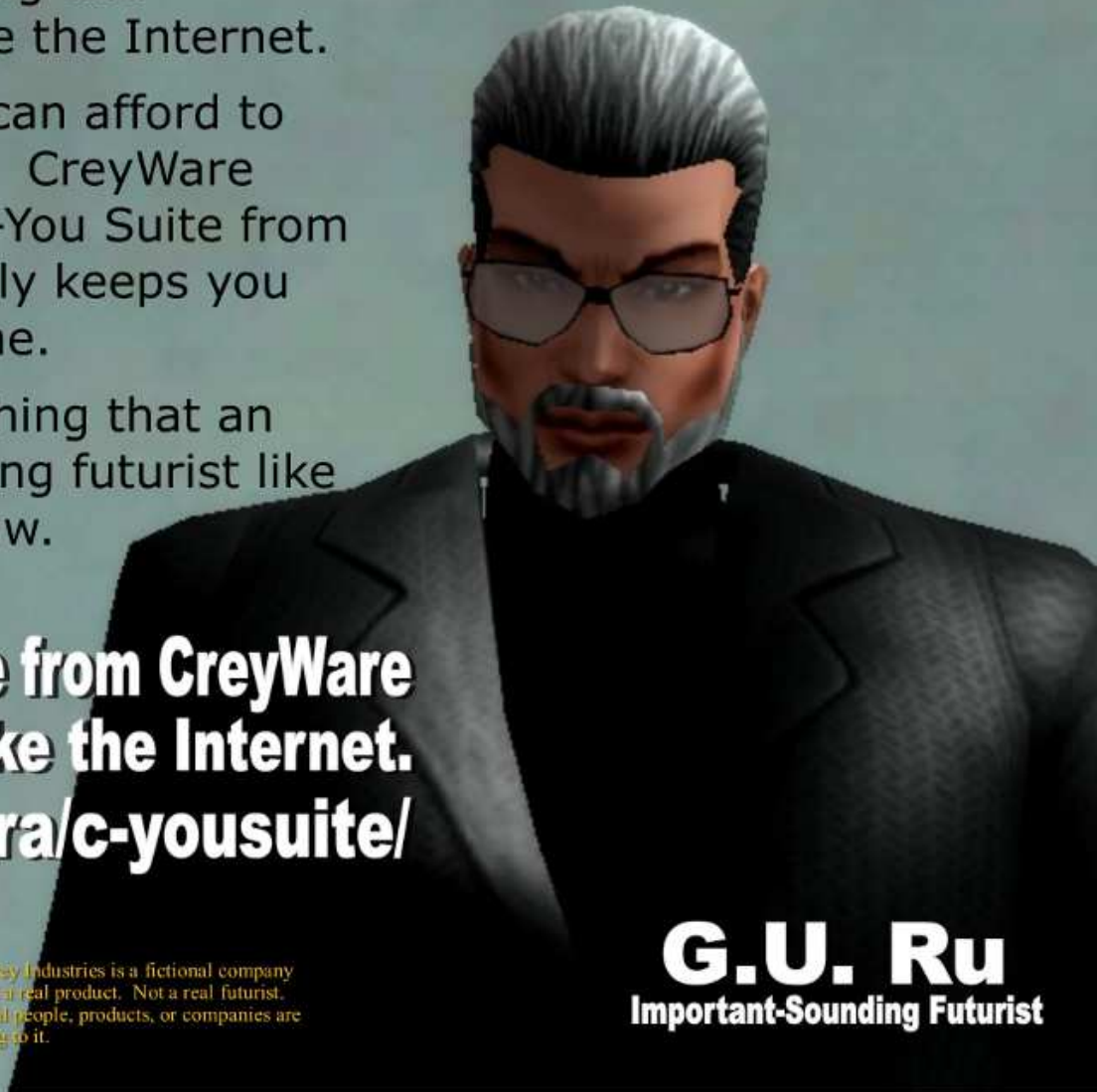
The competition can afford to remain stagnant. CreyWare can't. And the C-You Suite from CreyWare certainly keeps you ahead of the game.

And that's something that an important-sounding futurist like myself would know.

The C-You Suite from CreyWare
Evolving just like the Internet.
www.crey.para/c-yousuite/

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G.U. Ru
Important-Sounding Futurist



In the City of Heroes, masked and caped heroes are seen as the tireless protectors of the helpless. In the eyes of law enforcement, though, they will always be seen as vigilantes and criminals, no different than the evil that they fight.

But when power corrupts the men and women of law enforcement, these vigilantes are all that prevent the city from falling into a fascist police state. Now they must stand together and fight for justice.

TASK FORCE 'TWILIGHT'

The hostilities between the registered heroes of Paragon City and the police escalated with the addition of the mercenary enforcer Despair.

Jason Knight, the self-appointed “Guardian of Kings Row”, was the first target of Despair. Overpowered, abducted, and seriously wounded, he was unable to stop Despair from brutally murdering the corrupt “fixer” Lawdog in a way that would frame Jason and brand him a cop-killer. The only way out for Jason was to seemingly take his own life.

That leaves Jason’s protégée and one-time sidekick, Cardinal Syn, to take on both Despair and the corrupt “Blue Dog Squad” of the police department and keep Kings Row from being the first district in the city to fall into a fascist police state.

But thanks to the mechanizations set in motion by Jason Knight, the female street vigilante also knows that she doesn’t have to fight this battle alone.

"COME TOGETHER" - A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2

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WELCOME BACK! THIS IS THE PNN AFTERNOON NEWS AND I'M ROBIN STEED...

AND WE ARE CONTINUING WITH TODAY'S MAJOR STORY: THE MURDER OF ACCUSED CORRUPT POLICE OFFICER BENJAMIN "BEAR" LAWTON, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LAWDOG".

FOR MORE INFORMATION, WE GO TO FAITH NOTTINGHAM IN INDEPENDENCE PORT...

AND FAITH? I UNDERSTAND THIS WAS AN... ILLEGAL BAR AND CASINO?

PNN AFTERNOON NEWS WITH ROBIN STEED



THAT'S RIGHT, ROBIN. THE BODY OF OFFICER LAWTON, A.K.A. "LAWDOG", WAS FOUND HERE AT THIS PRIVATE BAR AND ALLEGED UNDERGROUND CASINO.



FAITH NOTTINGHAM · INDEPENDENCE PORT



PATRONS OF THE BAR SAY THAT OFFICER LAWTON WAS A REGULAR HERE AT THE "HOOK AND ANCHOR", AND THAT HE WAS KNOWN FOR BEING SOMEONE WHO, QUOTE, "GOT THINGS DONE."



MURDER OF "LAWDOG"



THE POLICE HAVE NOT COMMENTED ON HOW OFFICER LAWTON WAS FOUND OR WHETHER OR NOT THEY HAVE ANY SUSPECTS, HOWEVER SOURCES SAY THAT THE DEATH WAS TOO GRAPHIC TO DESCRIBE ON TV.



MURDER OF "LAWDOG"



OFFICER LAWTON'S DEATH COMES JUST A DAY AFTER HE WAS RELEASED ON BAIL PENDING TRIAL ON FEDERAL CHARGES OF THE PREMEDITATED MURDER OF A REGISTERED HERO.



"HOOK AND ANCHOR" BAR



NOW JUST PRIOR TO GOING LIVE, I SAW DEPUTY CHIEF THOMAS WIELD ENTER THE CRIME SCENE, SO HOPEFULLY WE'LL HAVE SOMETHING NEW TO REPORT SOON.

WE'LL SHARE THAT WITH YOU WHEN WE DO.



OFFICE LAWTON DEAD



REPORTING LIVE FROM INDEPENDENCE PORT, I'M FAITH NOTTINGHAM.

BACK TO YOU, ROBIN.



FAITH NOTTINGHAM · PNN NEWS



INSIDE...



DO YOU HAVE WHAT YOU NEED YET TO GIVE ME MY ARREST?



Deputy Chief Thomas Wield
PARAGON CITY POLICE

CRIME SCENE ANALYSIS IS NOT THAT QUICK OR PRECISE, DEPUTY CHIEF. COLLECTING ALL THE EVIDENCE TAKES TIME.



I EXPECT YOUR REPORT ON MY DESK IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, IF NOT SOONER. AND IT BETTER SAY THAT JASON KNIGHT WAS THE KILLER.

OR ELSE YOU'LL FIND YOUR DEPARTMENT OUTSOURCED TO GREY TECH!



ONE OF OUR BROTHERS-IN-BLUE IS DEAD, PEOPLE!

GIVE ME HIS KILLER!





ARCHITECT ENTERTAINMENT BUILDING

(TEMPORARILY CLOSED)

KINGS ROW, PARAGON CITY, RI

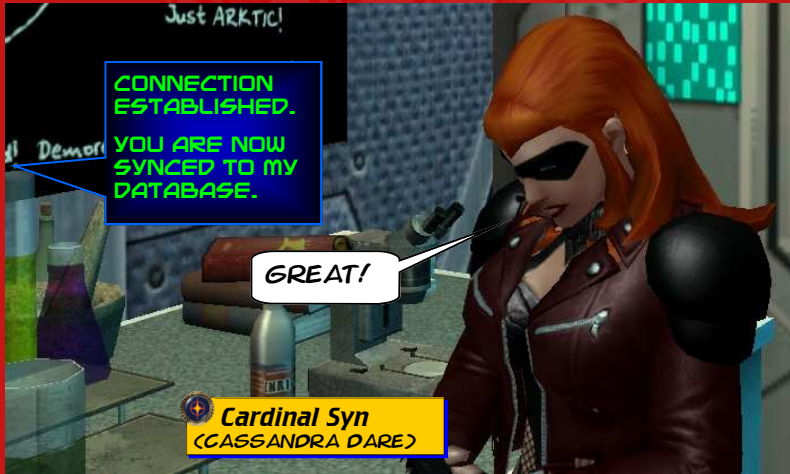


"LEVEL THIRTEEN", AKA THE HIDDEN LAIR OF JASON KNIGHT

TRY IT NOW, SENTRY.

CONNECTING.

Ryder's Run
we are HEROES! This is what we do!
New Guardians!
Revenge will be mine!
Redemption
As HEROES!
Dark Hero's have the weakness!
By the...
of might!
Re-record! Re-record! Re-record!



Just ARKTIC!
CONNECTION ESTABLISHED.
YOU ARE NOW SYNCED TO MY DATABASE.

GREAT!

Cardinal Syn
(CASSANDRA DARE)



he wheelchair!
The Margrave of Niagara!
Just ARKTIC!
re-record! Demorecord!
re-record! Demorecord!

NOW I HAVE REAL-TIME ACCESS TO JASON'S NOTES THROUGH MY HANDS-FREE COMMLINK.

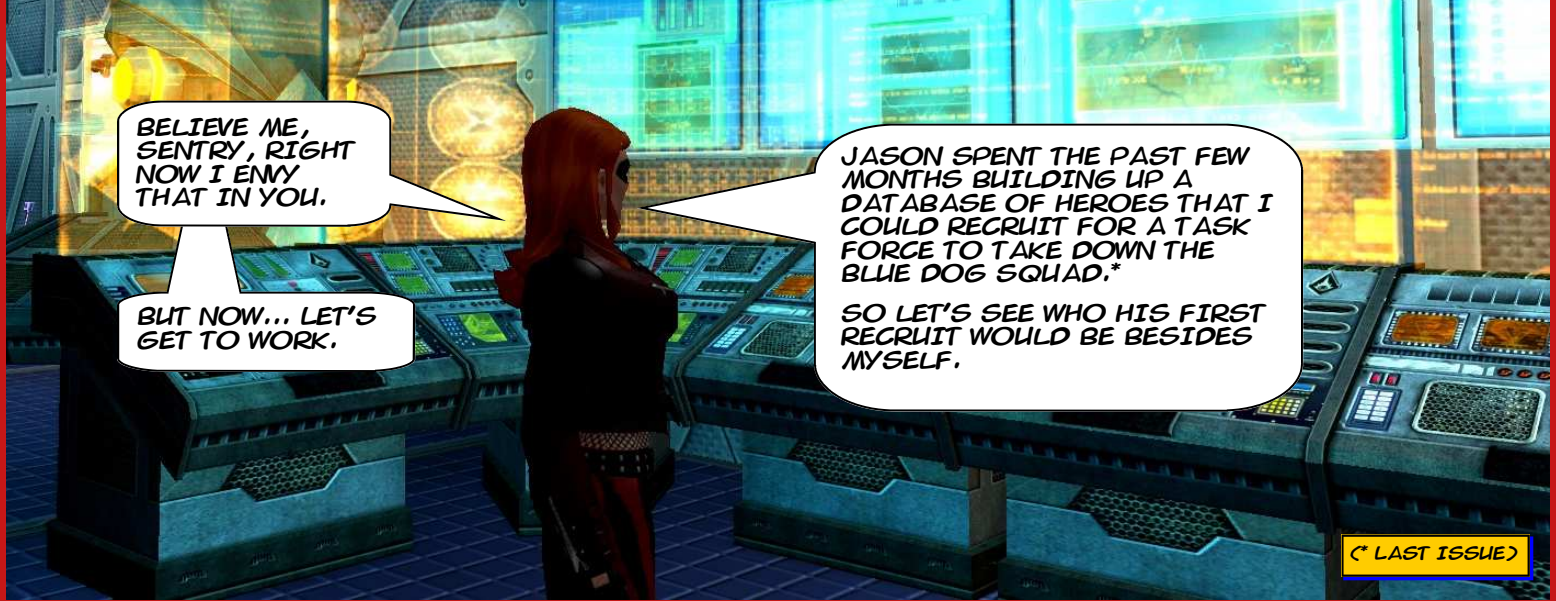


YOU HAVE ALWAYS HAD ACCESS THROUGH YOUR COMMUNICATOR.

YEAH... BUT NOW IT WILL BE LIKE JASON IS STILL ALIVE AND TALKING DIRECTLY TO ME. YOU... WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.



AS AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE USING THE PERSONALITY PROGRAM DESIGNED FOR ANOTHER UNIT, I SUPPOSE THAT I WOULD NOT.



BELIEVE ME, SENTRY, RIGHT NOW I ENVY THAT IN YOU.

BUT NOW... LET'S GET TO WORK.

JASON SPENT THE PAST FEW MONTHS BUILDING UP A DATABASE OF HEROES THAT I COULD RECRUIT FOR A TASK FORCE TO TAKE DOWN THE BLUE DOG SQUAD.*

SO LET'S SEE WHO HIS FIRST RECRUIT WOULD BE BESIDES MYSELF.

(* LAST ISSUE)

PLAYING JASON KNIGHT'S NOTES...

CARDINAL SYN...

YOUR TASK FORCE NEEDS TO BE ABLE TO COUNTER THE BLUE DOGS WITH STRENGTH AND PRECISION.

Koldfront
Real Name: Geoff McDaniels
Aeromancer

Powers: mastery over wind, water, air, cold, electricity.

Can fly

Practiced mystic from West Coven

THAT'S WHY YOUR FIRST RECRUIT SHOULD BE SOMEONE ALREADY WELL-TRAINED.

WHILE I HAD MY SUSPICIONS ABOUT KOLDFRONT BECAUSE HE WAS FIRST RECRUITED BY ANDREW WENTWORTH*, I HAVE HAD TIME TO REVIEW HIS ACTIONS WITH THE GUARDIANS AND FOUND HIM TO BE HONEST AND EARNEST.

(* "FURIA AND THE GUARDIANS" #4)

HIS YOUTH AND RELATIVE INEXPERIENCE AS A HERO MAY BE A DETRIMENT, BUT HIS LEVEL OF CONTROL ALONG WITH HIS TRAINING WITH THE WEST COVEN SHOULD PROVE HIM BETTER THAN THE ALTERNATE.

Can fly

Practiced my

HE IS YOUNG. MAYBE TOO YOUNG. AND BEING DISCIPLINED MAY WORK AGAINST US.

I'LL NEED SOMEONE WILLING TO BUTT HEADS WITH THE COPS IF NEEDED, AND I DON'T KNOW IF HE COULD DO THAT.

SENTRY, DID JASON HAVE A FILE ON WHOM HE WOULD CONSIDER THE "ALTERNATE"?

MISTER JASON COMPILED DETAILED FILES OF BOTH HIS RECOMMENDATIONS AND ALTERNATES.

GOOD. PULL UP THAT PERSON'S FILE. I THINK I KNOW WHO THAT PERSON IS... AND, IF I'M RIGHT, SHE'S DUE FOR HER CHANCE TO SHINE.

MIRACLE BIO-LABS

STEEL CANYON

LET ME SEE IF I GOT THIS RIGHT...

CYNTHIA DI GHIACCIO, AKA, THE ELITE ICE QUEEN.

YOU BREAK INTO A BIO-LAB DESIGNED TO CURE THE VAHZILOK...

SO YOU CAN RECRUIT MORE VAHZILOK?

Elite Ice Queen
(CYNTHIA DI GHIACCIO)

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE UNDEAD, NOT DUMB!

KRAKOOM!

ICE-BASED ELECTRICAL MYSTIC.

Crackle

A VERY POTENT COMBINATION OF MYSTICAL ORIGINS.

WELL THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT I DON'T HAVE TO ARREST YOU.

INSTEAD, I JUST TELL THE DOCS HERE THEY HAVE A NEW UNDEAD SUBJECT FOR THEIR STUDIES.

AND THEY EVEN HAVE A ROOM READY FOR YOU.

BUT WITH THAT POWER AND TRAINING COMES A STREAK OF SELF-ENTITLEMENT AND ARROGANCE.

HER TIME WITH THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN HAS HAD A POSITIVE EFFECT ON HER ATTITUDE.

SYN... I GOT THIS ALL WRAPPED UP. I APPRECIATE YOU OFFERING TO HELP THOUGH.

BUT I STILL THINK HER ARROGANCE MAKES HER LESS OF A TEAM PLAYER THAN OTHER MORE INEXPERIENCED HEROES.

A TASK FORCE? IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU RECOGNIZED MY SKILLS!

I WOULD BE CAREFUL ABOUT WORKING WITH HER.

PARAGON CITY POLICE HEADQUARTERS

KINGS ROW



Stevie Walker-Rodgers
AKA CAPTAIN PARAGONNA



CAPTAIN, THE
WATCH
COMMANDER
IS LOOKING
FOR YOU.

THANK YOU.
I'LL FIND
HIM.



FAKE.



WHAT DID
YOU JUST SAY,
PATROLMAN?



TOURETTE'S
SYNDROME, MA'AM.
JUST ASK THE
UNION REP.



COUGH-COUGH
FAKE.
COUGH-COUGH
TOURETTE'S



FAKE.

FAKE-ASS.

FAKE.



I'M SORRY THEY'RE DOING THAT, CAPTAIN. I'VE TALKED TO THEIR SUPERIORS AND THEIR UNION REP, AND, WELL, YOU KNOW HOW IT IS.



RIGHT... BECAUSE I'M A HERO-COP AND I USED TO BE A GUARDIAN... SO I'M "THE ENEMY", RIGHT?



ALL DUE RESPECT, MA'AM, I KNOW YOU WENT THROUGH THE SAME TRAINING AS THE OTHER COPS. YOU WOULDN'T HAVE THAT BADGE IF YOU DIDN'T EARN IT AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED.



THESE OTHER GUYS... WELL... WE JUST LOST ONE OF OUR OWN YESTERDAY. THEY CAN ONLY SEE THE "HERO", NOT THE "COP".



EXCEPT THEY WERE DOING THIS EVEN BEFORE LAWDOG WAS KILLED. I GET THERE'S NOTHING YOU OR I CAN DO ABOUT IT... BUT SOMEONE BETTER BEFORE SOMETHING ELSE HAPPENS.



WELL THEN MAYBE THIS WILL HELP. BRASS UPSTAIRS HAVE YOUR NEW ASSIGNMENT. THEY WANT YOU AT THE REACTIVATED STATIONHOUSE IN INDEPENDENCE PORT NORTH.



THAT'S THE BEST NEWS I'VE HEARD ALL WEEK! WHEN DO THEY WANT ME THERE?

THEY ASKED THAT YOU GO THE STATIONHOUSE THIS AFTERNOON FOR A PRESS CONFERENCE, SO BE SURE TO BRING YOUR HERO SUIT.

OH, AND GRATZ.

SOMEWHERE IN THE SEWERS OF PARAGON CITY...

MY FRIEND IS NOT HAPPY WITH HOW MISTER KNIGHT WAS HANDLED.

THAT WAS NOT SOMETHING I COULD CONTROL.

THERE WAS NOTHING TO SUGGEST HE WOULD COMMIT SUICIDE AS AN ESCAPE OPTION.

STILL IT DOESN'T MATTER. I LEFT MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR THE POLICE TO DAMN HIM.

YES, BUT KNIGHT'S BATTERED CORPSE WOULD HAVE BROUGHT A FINALITY TO THE CASE. BATTERED, NOT CHARRED. NOW THEY CAN'T USE IT TO PROVE HE IS DEAD.

I HAVE STILL DONE WHAT YOU ASKED. I TOOK DOWN THE KNIGHT, AND I SHOWED HIM DESPAIR BEFORE HE DIED.

YES... YES YOU HAVE DONE THAT, MY FRIEND. AND NOW YOU MUST LAUNCH THE NEXT PHASE.

 **Despair**
PROBLEM-SOLVER

IT IS TIME FOR THE OTHERS TO KNOW DESPAIR.

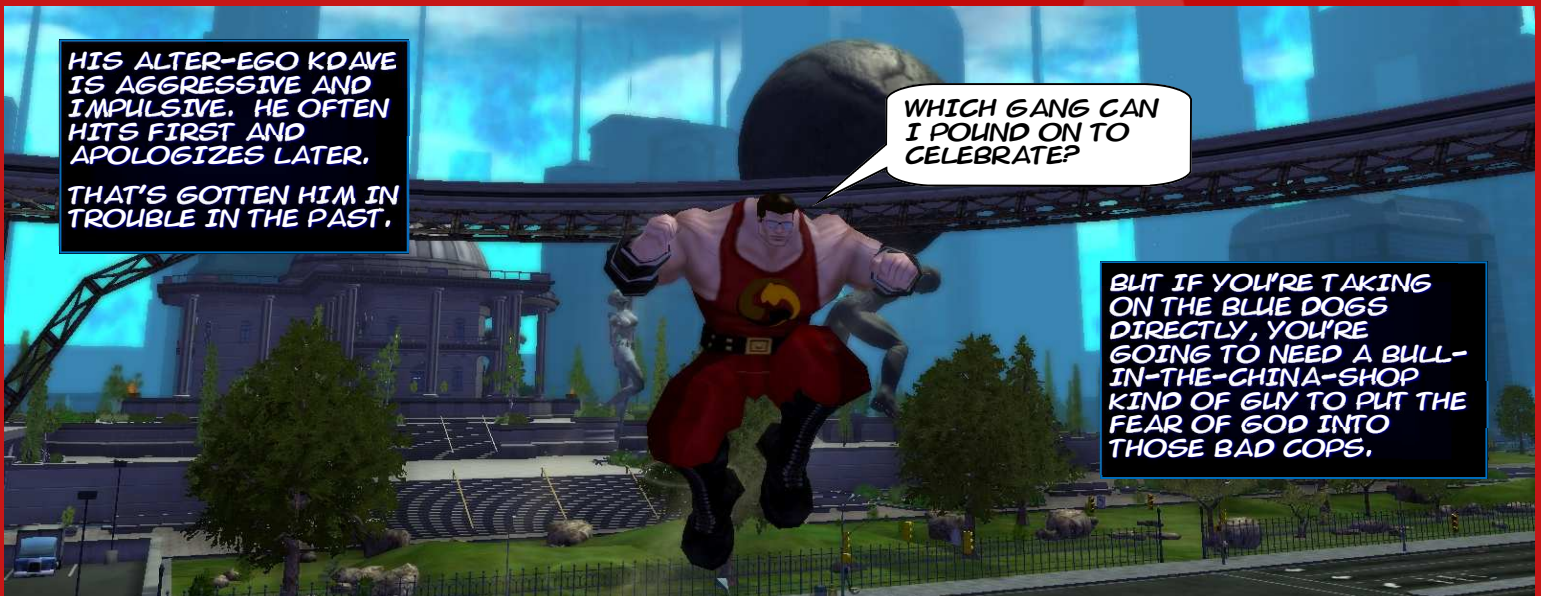
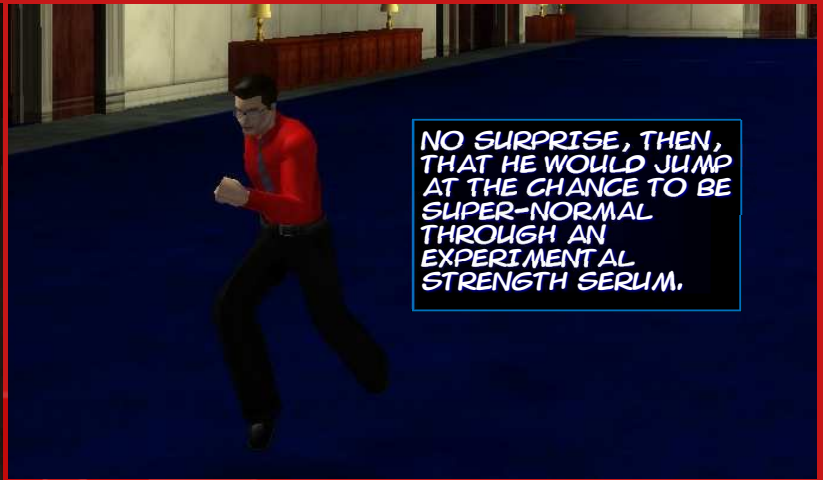
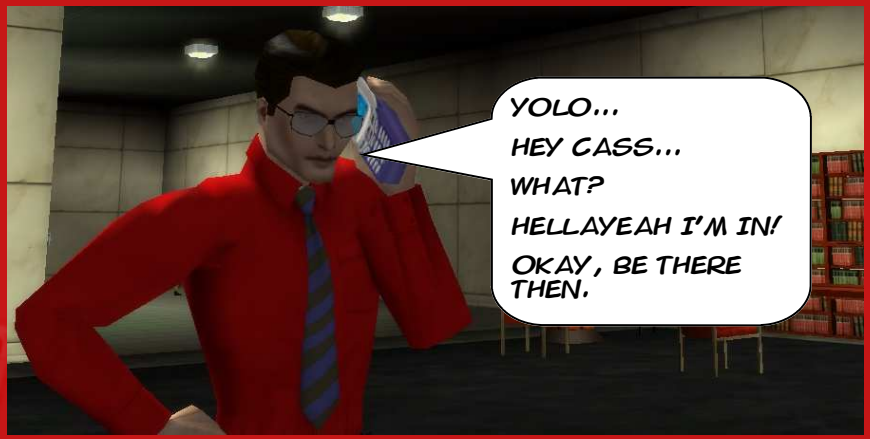
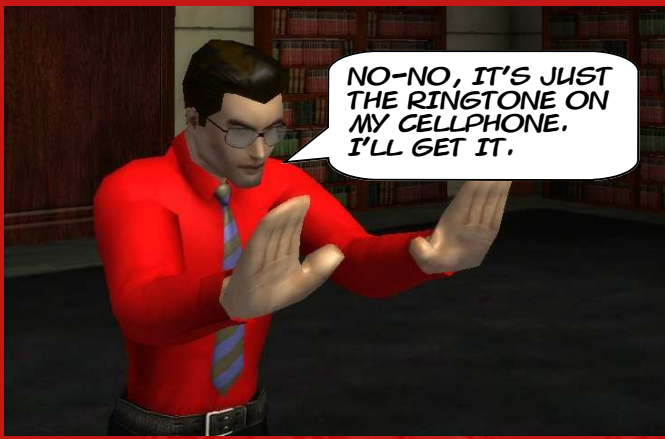
PRECISELY.

THE POLICE, THE HEROES, THE CIVILIANS...

MAKE SURE EVERYONE KNOWS DESPAIR AS YOU BRING DOWN KINGS ROW.

DO NOT STOP UNTIL I TELL YOU TO.

THEN THEY'LL BE READY FOR ME TO SAVE THEM.



MEANWHILE...



WHERE IS IT,
YOU BASTARD?
WHERE DID
YOU GODDAMN
HIDE IT?



BOX 1813, HE
SAID. 1813!
I SHOULD HAVE
KEPT HIM ALIVE
UNTIL AFTER I
GOT IT!

Punchline
(JUDITH PUNCH)



AWWW... LET ME
GUESS... BOYFRIEND
HAS A SECRET CASH
STASH?
BLACKMAIL NEKKID
PICS?



ALTHOUGH WITH YOUR
PALE SKIN, I DON'T
KNOW WHO WOULD WANT
TO SEE YOU NEKKID.

BY THE WAY, YOUR
RENT-A-BOT
MINIONS ARE CRAP.



NOW I'LL NEVER
GET THE DEPOSIT
BACK ON THEM!
WHO THE HELL ARE
YOU ANYWAY?



THE
NAME IS
ARTEMA.



AND I DON'T
FIND CLOWNS
FUNNY AT ALL.

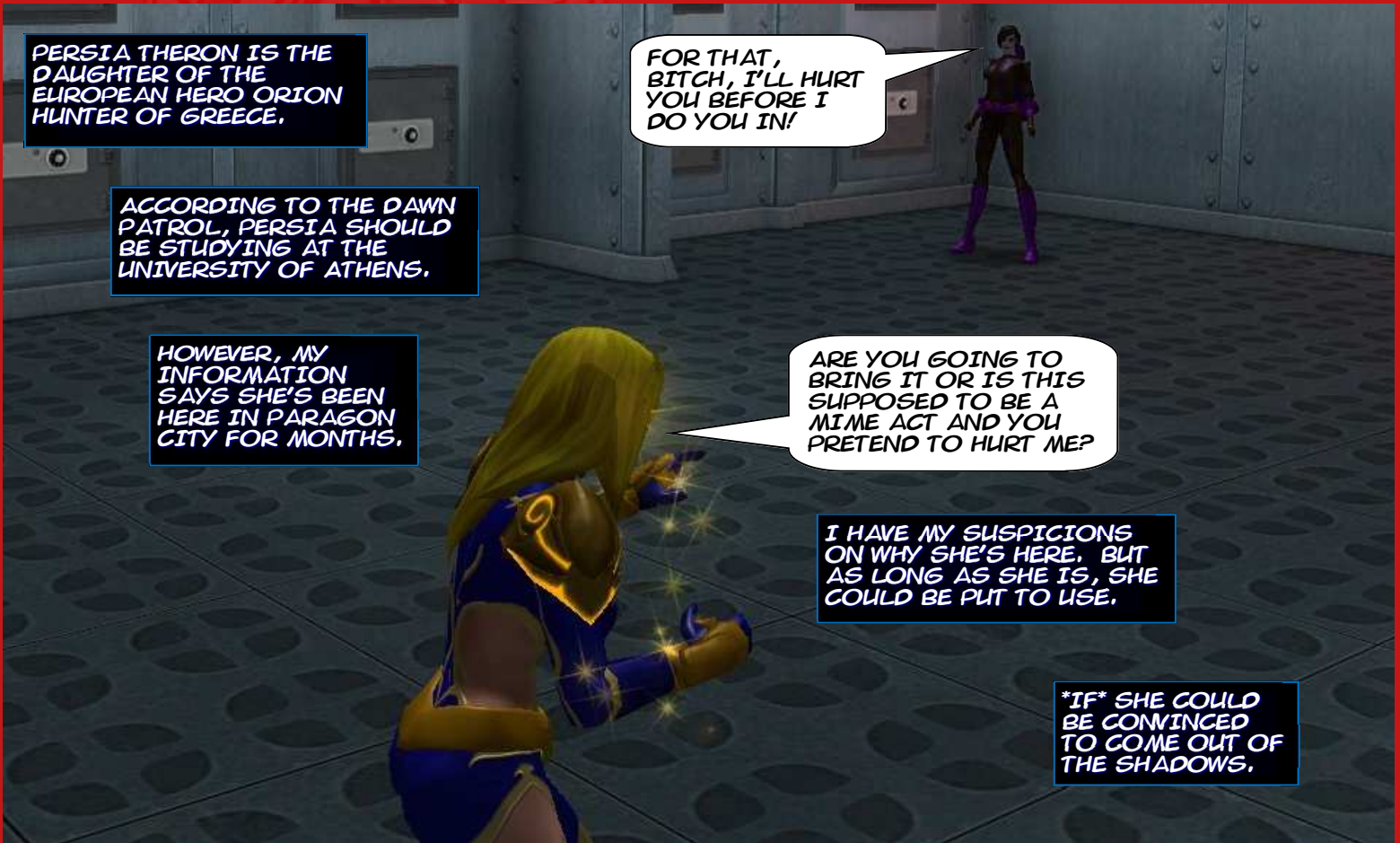
Artema
(PERSIA THERON)



THEN I'LL GIVE YOU MY PUNCH -AND-JUDY SHOW...
IT'S A KILLER!



IF IT'S LIKE YOUR CHEAP CARNIVAL COSTUME, I'M ALREADY BORED.



PERSIA THERON IS THE DAUGHTER OF THE EUROPEAN HERO ORION HUNTER OF GREECE.

FOR THAT, BITCH, I'LL HURT YOU BEFORE I DO YOU IN!

ACCORDING TO THE DAWN PATROL, PERSIA SHOULD BE STUDYING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS.

HOWEVER, MY INFORMATION SAYS SHE'S BEEN HERE IN PARAGON CITY FOR MONTHS.

ARE YOU GOING TO BRING IT OR IS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE A MIME ACT AND YOU PRETEND TO HURT ME?

I HAVE MY SUSPICIONS ON WHY SHE'S HERE, BUT AS LONG AS SHE IS, SHE COULD BE PUT TO USE.

IF SHE COULD BE CONVINCED TO COME OUT OF THE SHADOWS.



BUT IF SHE'S LIKE HER FATHER, SHE CAN BE EASILY CONVINCED.

DOES THIS LOOK LIKE A MIME ACT, BARBIE?



WHERE'S YOUR "MEAN GIRLS" COMEBACK?



PRETTY BARBIE DOLL THINKS SHE'S A BADASS!!







PARAGON POLICE STATIONHOUSE

INDEPENDENCE PORT



HELLO?



WHERE THE HELL IS EVERYONE?

Captain Paragonna
(STEVIE WALKER-RODGERS)



STRANGE BOX...

A BOMB THREAT?



OH GOD... IT'S NOT A BOMB.

THIS IS ALL MY STUFF FROM MY DESK AND LOCKER!

SOMEONE PACKED UP ALL MY STUFF FROM POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND BROUGHT IT HERE. AND... IT'S ALL TORN UP AND DAMAGED.



BUT... WHY? WHY REASSIGN ME TO A RE-OPENED STATIONHOUSE AND THEN TRASH MY BELONGING?

UNLESS... OH SHIT!



CAREFUL CAP... YOU HAVEN'T HAD A BIOMED BOOSTER IN MONTHS.

YOU'VE GOT NO POWERS.

JUST GET OUT NOW AND COME BACK WITH THE GUARDIANS...

WELCOME TO YOUR OWN
RETIREMENT PARTY
"CAPTAIN PARAGONNA".

WE'VE ALREADY CLEARED
OUT ALL OF YOUR
BELONGINGS.

WE'VE EVEN TAKEN THE
TIME TO WRITE YOUR
RESIGNATION LETTER
AND FILED IT FOR YOU.

THEN COME ON OUT
SO I CAN DRAG YOUR
ASS TO INTERNAL
AFFAIRS AND THEN
WE'LL SEE WHO IS OUT
OF THE FORCE.

SURE THING, FAKE
COP! LET'S GET THIS
PARTY STARTED!

SURPRISE!

Tough As Nails... But Still Needs Help.

Time are getting tough for Paragon City, and your police officers are getting tough as well.

We can give our officers the latest in technology, the most advanced weapons, and the toughest of body armors. We can turn every officer into a walking, talking, super-powered tank.

And all of that will still not be enough.

Because the police still need loyalty and support from you, the public.

They put their lives on the line for you, fighting the worst of the worst.

Heroes in spandex are fleeing. They're here today and gone tomorrow.

The real heroes are the ones that are out there each and every day, fighting the good fight not for glory, but because you're worth it.



Support Your Local Police Officer!

Paid for by the Paragon City Police Union. Support the police and obey the police.



Change Your Costume With A Click!



If you're a hero, then you know that embarrassing moment when some big crisis happens and you don't have your hero outfit with you.

Sure, you can try to wear your hero outfit under your clothes, but that gets too uncomfortable really fast. And carrying them around in a purse or knapsack invites you to either leave it behind or to have it stolen by some punk.

Now you don't have to worry about changing into your hero attire thanks to the **icon** costume pack.

The **icon** costume pack allows you to change to and from your hero outfit with just a click of a button. Within seconds, your civilian attire is gone and you are in your hero gear, ready to fight evil. And after the day is saved, another click will restore you to your civilian attire like nothing ever happened.

So why worry about whether or not you can change into your hero attire in time? Head on over to your nearest **icon** tailor store today and you can be just one click away from ready.

Atlas Park * Steel Canyon * Independence Port * Founders Falls

i c o n

-- ADVERTISEMENT --

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



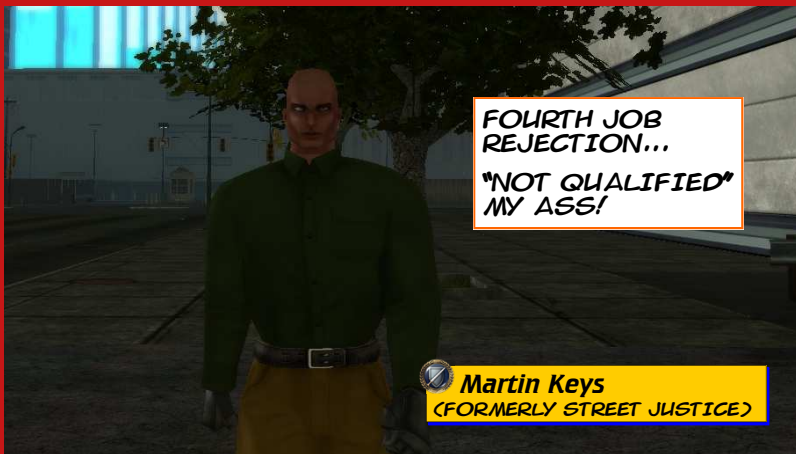
If the answer isn't "today", then it might as well be "never".

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

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

DUBYA'S Steakhouse Restaurant

Not a real ad. Not an actual in-game restaurant in Paragon City.





STEVIE? STEVIE
IT'S MARTIN.
CAN YOU HEAR
ME?



MMM...
MISSY... WAL...
WALKER...

WHAT?
WHAT ARE
YOU TRYING
TO SAY?



NEED TO USE MY
SISTER'S NAME...
NO POLICE...
BLUE DOGS...



PLEASE...
MARTIN...
FOR ME...



ALRIGHT... ALRIGHT...
JUST LET ME GET YOU A
COAT OR SOMETHING.
THE HOSPITAL IS JUST
UP THE STREET.

SKYWAY CITY

YOU KNOW YOU DO HAVE A FREE TICKET WITH YOUR NAME ON IT.

Alison Kane
AKA ALLY KAZAM

WELL, THAT'S FOR FUN. THIS IS FOR WORK.

I DON'T HAVE TO USE MY GIFT TO FIGURE THAT. THE OUTFIT SORTA GAVE IT AWAY.



YOU AND I DID WELL AGAINST A MUTANT CAT.* HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT DOGS?

(*FURIA AND THE GUARDIANS #14)



DOGS? I... OH GOD... OH GOD I'M SO SORRY...

ALLY KAZAM IS A MYSTICAL-BASED TELEPATH.



I DON'T KNOW HOW TO KEEP THOUGHTS OUT LIKE YOU DO... BUT WHAT YOU SAW IN MY HEAD... THAT STAYS BETWEEN US, OKAY?

NO, OF COURSE, I UNDERSTAND... AND, YES, OF COURSE I'LL HELP.

SHE IS A TRAINED MIND-DANCER WHO CAN CUT THROUGH LIES AND GET TO THE TRUTH.



I TAKE IT THAT THIS IS NOT A GUARDIAN ACTIVITY.

NO, BECAUSE IF THEY KNEW WHAT HAPPENED... WELL, IT WOULD GET MESSY.

I'LL HAVE THE FULL DETAILS AT THE MEETING.

SHE HAS A PAST, THOUGH, THAT HAS KEPT HER OUT OF MOST SUPERGROUPS IN THE CITY.

HOWEVER, YOU KNOW FROM WORKING WITH HER THAT SHE IS THE BEST AT WHAT SHE DOES.



BEEP-BEEP-BEEP

THIS IS THE ANSWERING SERVICE OF...



MARTIN? NO, I REMEMBER YOU, BUT HOW DID YOU GET THIS NUMBER?
WAIT, WHAT HAPPENED?



NO, STAY WITH HER. DON'T TELL THE OTHERS.
I'M HEADING THERE NOW.



USE YOUR GUARDIAN SUPERGROUP TELEPORT. IT'LL GET YOU THERE CLOSER.
I'LL MEET YOU AT THE MEETING PLACE TONIGHT AND WE'LL TALK THEN.



WPNN RADIO

THE NEW GARRY BECKER EXPERIENCE

ALRIGHT, HOLD ON, RADIO LISTENERS, BECAUSE WE HAVE SOME BREAKING NEWS FOR YOU!

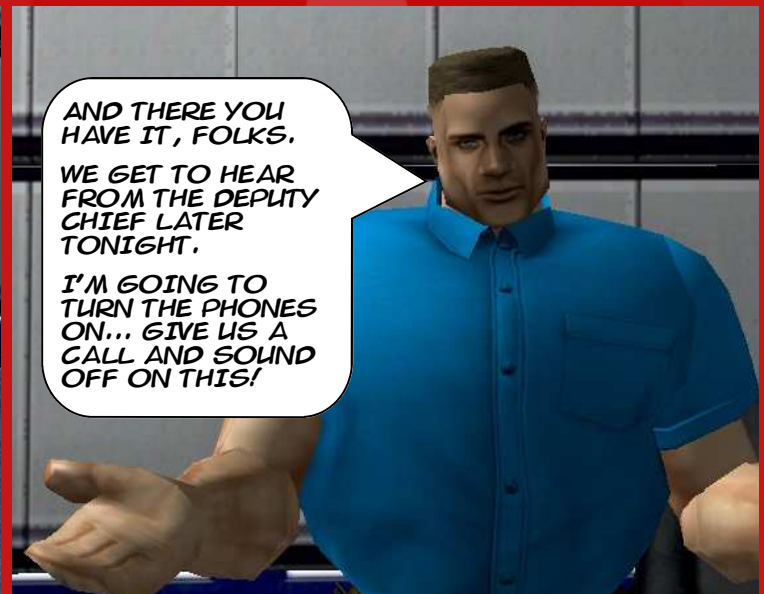
Garry Becker
PNN RADIO HOST



THIS THE REAL DEAL, FOLKS.
MY PRODUCER JUST SENT ME THIS NEWS RELEASE FROM STUDIO A...



DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF THOMAS WIELD WILL BE HOLDING A PRESS CONFERENCE LATER TONIGHT CONCERNING THE MURDER OF OFFICER BENJAMIN LAWTON.
THE BROADCAST WILL BE COVERED LIVE HERE ON P-N-N.



AND THERE YOU HAVE IT, FOLKS.
WE GET TO HEAR FROM THE DEPUTY CHIEF LATER TONIGHT.
I'M GOING TO TURN THE PHONES ON... GIVE US A CALL AND SOUND OFF ON THIS!

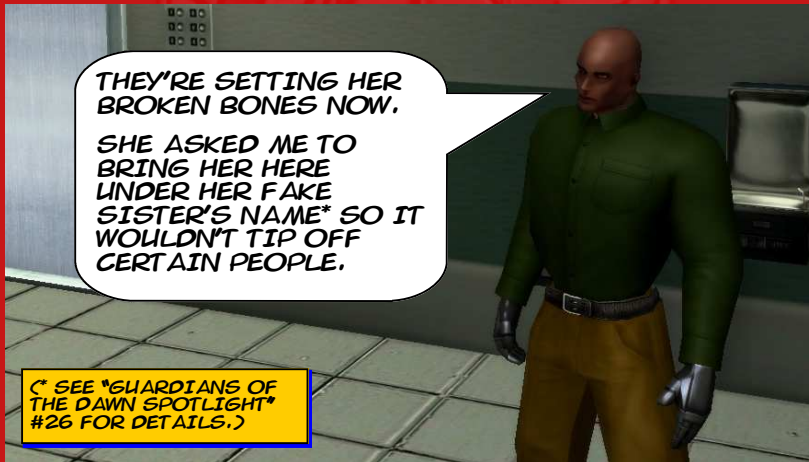
INDEPENDENCE PORT



BELL
MEDICAL CENTER



WHERE IS SHE?
WHY AREN'T YOU
WITH HER?



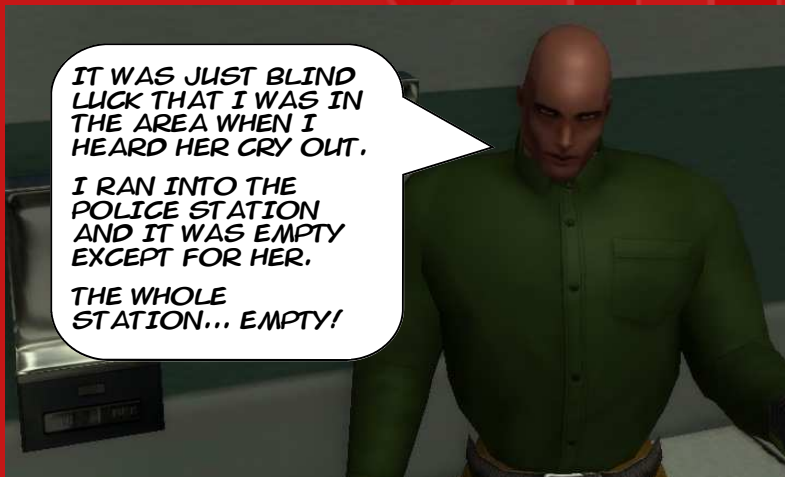
THEY'RE SETTING HER
BROKEN BONES NOW.
SHE ASKED ME TO
BRING HER HERE
UNDER HER FAKE
SISTER'S NAME* SO IT
WOULDN'T TIP OFF
CERTAIN PEOPLE.

(* SEE "GUARDIANS OF
THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT"
#26 FOR DETAILS.)



RIGHT... "TIER TWO".
SO... WHAT
HAPPENED TO HER?
HOW DID YOU COME
ACROSS HER LIKE
THAT?

(* ALL THE WAY BACK IN
"GUARDIANS OF THE
DAWN SPOTLIGHT" #4)

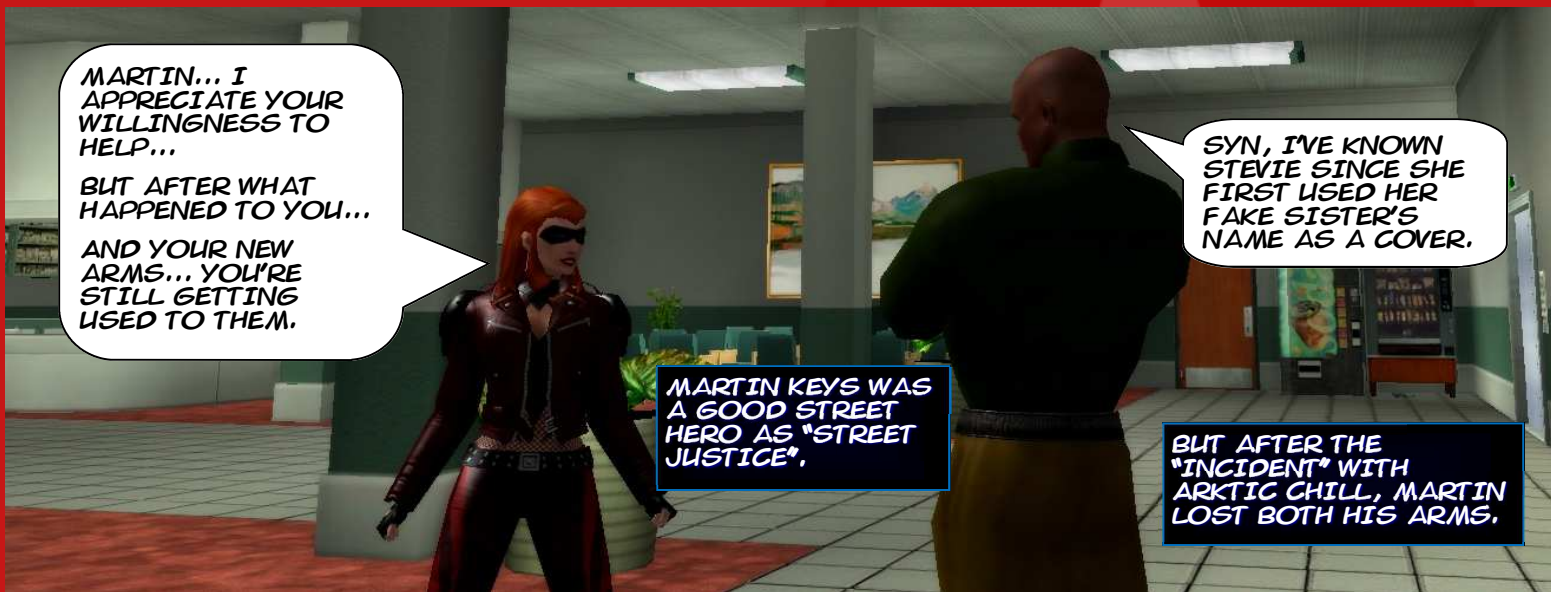


IT WAS JUST BLIND
LUCK THAT I WAS IN
THE AREA WHEN I
HEARD HER CRY OUT.
I RAN INTO THE
POLICE STATION
AND IT WAS EMPTY
EXCEPT FOR HER.
THE WHOLE
STATION... EMPTY!



SHE TOLD ME THE
BLUE DOGS DID
THAT TO HER... THAT
IT WAS THEIR
"RETIREMENT PARTY"
FOR HER!

WHATEVER YOU HAVE
PLANNED... I'M IN.



MARTIN... I
APPRECIATE YOUR
WILLINGNESS TO
HELP...
BUT AFTER WHAT
HAPPENED TO YOU...
AND YOUR NEW
ARMS... YOU'RE
STILL GETTING
USED TO THEM.


SYN, I'VE KNOWN
STEVIE SINCE SHE
FIRST USED HER
FAKE SISTER'S
NAME AS A COVER.

MARTIN KEYS WAS
A GOOD STREET
HERO AS "STREET
JUSTICE".

BUT AFTER THE
"INCIDENT" WITH
ARKTIC CHILL, MARTIN
LOST BOTH HIS ARMS.



WHEN I RAN IN THAT STATIONHOUSE... I SAW MY FRIEND AND TEAMMATE STRIPPED TO HER UNDERWEAR LIKE IT WAS SOME SICK HAZING RITUAL.



THEY DESTROYED HER UNIFORM, SYN!
THEY DESTROYED IT AND THEN THEY THREW THE SHREDS INTO THE TRASH CAN!

COPS DID THAT!
COPS!




I'M NOT ASKING TO BE IN WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING.

I'M ALREADY IN, WHETHER YOU WANT ME THERE OR NOT.


HIS SKILLS WITH HIS NEW CYBERNETIC ARMS ARE, AT BEST, QUESTIONABLE.

BUT WHEN HE PUTS HIS MIND ON SOMETHING, HE'S FOCUSED ON IT.


IF YOU HAVE TO INVOLVE HIM, BE SURE TO KEEP HIS MIND ON THE MISSION AND NOT LOOKING FOR REVENGE.




OFFICIALLY WE'VE GONE WITH A FAKE "BIOHAZARD CALL" TO EXPLAIN WHY THE STATION WAS EMPTY.



PERFECT.
THEN YOU CAN CLAIM THAT HER DESTROYED BELONGINGS WERE "MISTAKEN" FOR THE "SUSPECT BOX".



I HAVE TO TELL YOU, SIR, EVEN THOUGH WE COULDN'T GO THROUGH THE FULL HERO-SHAMING ON HER, IT WAS... ALMOST CATHARTIC TO DESTROY HER AND HER UNIFORM LIKE THAT.



YOU WERE THERE WHEN SHE FIRST DISRESPECTED THE FORCE, YINDELL.*
IT WAS ONLY RIGHT FOR YOU TO PERSONALLY SEND HER OUT.

SHE WAS NEVER REALLY A COP TO BEGIN WITH.

(* AGAIN, SEE "SPOTLIGHT" #4)

A FEW HOURS LATER...

WHEN YOU DO GET YOUR TASK FORCE TOGETHER, YOU'LL NEED A PLACE TO MEET AND SHARE INFORMATION.

THAT PLACE MUST NOT BE THE LAIR.

FORTUNATELY, THERE IS AN OLD FREEDOM CORPS TACTICAL TRAINING CENTER NOT FAR FROM POLICE HEADQUARTERS THAT WOULD BE PERFECT FOR YOUR TEAM.

MARTIN, ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO THIS?

LIKE I SAID BEFORE, I'M ALREADY IN THIS.

AND YOU CAN START CALLING ME...

HARD JUSTICE!

Hard Justice
(MARTIN KEYS)

MY CYBERNETIC ARMS ARE BATTLE-CERTIFIED, AND MY BODY ARMOR IS ALMOST AS DURABLE AS MY NEW SHIELD.

OKAY. WELL HOPEFULLY WE WON'T HAVE TO FIND OUT JUST HOW DURABLE. LET'S CATCH UP WITH THE OTHERS.

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING.

MOST OF YOU ALREADY KNOW WHY WE'RE HERE, OR YOU HAVE SOME IDEA OF WHY WE'RE HERE.

THE PARAGON CITY POLICE FORCE HAVE BEEN RUNNING A RENEGADE UNIT CALLED THE BLUE DOG SQUAD THROUGH KINGS ROW.

SOME OF US, INCLUDING MYSELF AND STREET ANGEL, KNOW THEM FIRST-HAND.



THEY HAVE BEEN TARGETING HEROES THAT OPERATE HERE IN KINGS ROW, TAKING THEM DOWN ONE-BY-ONE.

THEY USE FEAR, INTIMIDATION, VIOLENCE, HUMILIATION, AND THEY ARE NOT ABOVE KILLING INNOCENT PEOPLE TO GET THEIR WAY.



THE BLUE DOGS WERE ORIGINALLY AN ANTI-DRUG UNIT IN THE 1980'S.

EXCEPT THEY DIDN'T DISBAND ONCE THE DRUG DEALERS WERE TAKEN DOWN.

AFTER THE RIKTI INVASION, THEY RAN A PROTECTION RACKET AND TERRORIZED THE STREETS LIKE ANY OTHER GANG.

TWO HEROES STOOD UP TO THEM AND TOOK THEM DOWN...

THE LIBERTARIAN AVENGER... AND THE LATE JIMMY HELLFIGHTER.

WELL... NOW THEY'RE BACK. AND THEY'RE PICKING UP WHERE THEY ORIGINALLY LEFT OFF, ONLY NOW THEY'RE DOING IT IN THEIR OWN CUSTOM OUTFITS.



I'M SORRY, BUT
WOULDN'T JASON
KNIGHT BE HERE
FOR THIS?

WOULDN'T THIS
BE HIS TEAM?

Streetangel
(KAREN MANNING)

REMEMBER TO KEEP
MY DISAPPEARANCE
A RUMOR. CONFIRM
OR DENY NOTHING.



I'M SORRY, STREET ANGEL...
BUT JASON WON'T BE ABLE
TO HELP US ON THIS.

WE NEED TO STOP THE BLUE
DOGS IN HIS ABSENCE.



MOST OF YOU KNOW JASON
TOOK ME UNDER AS HIS
SIDEKICK.

HE TRAINED ME LIKE HIS
MENTOR AND PREDECESSOR
TRAINED HIM.

HE TRAINED ME SO THAT
WHEN THE TIME CAME, HE
KNEW KINGS ROW WOULD BE
WATCHED OVER WITHOUT HIM
THERE ALL THE TIME.

I HAVE HIS TRAINING... I
HAVE HIS RESOURCES...
AND I ALSO HAVE YOU.

JASON TOOK THE TIME TO
EVALUATE YOUR SKILLS AND
ABILITIES. I KNOW FROM
WHAT HE'S RESEARCHED WHAT
YOU CAN BRING TO THIS
TASK FORCE.

I KNOW THAT WE
CAN STOP THE
BLUE DOGS
TOGETHER.



BUT STOPPING THE BLUE
DOGS IS NOT ENOUGH.

WE NEED TO KNOW WHY
THEY'RE COMING BACK
WITH A VENGEANCE.

A DECADE AGO THEY
WERE CONSIDERED AN
EMBARRASSMENT TO
THE DEPARTMENT.

NOW THE POLICE UNION
AND THE DEPARTMENT
ITSELF IS BACKING
THEM UP.

WE NEED TO KNOW WHY, OR
ELSE THEY'LL DOUBLE-DOWN
ON THEIR SUPPORT EVEN
FURTHER.



OUR FIRST TASK IS TO MAKE A STAND AND GET THEIR ATTENTION. KEEP THEM FOCUSED ON US SO THEY DON'T GO AFTER THE CIVILIANS AND THE OTHER HEROES. WHILE WE'RE DOING THAT...

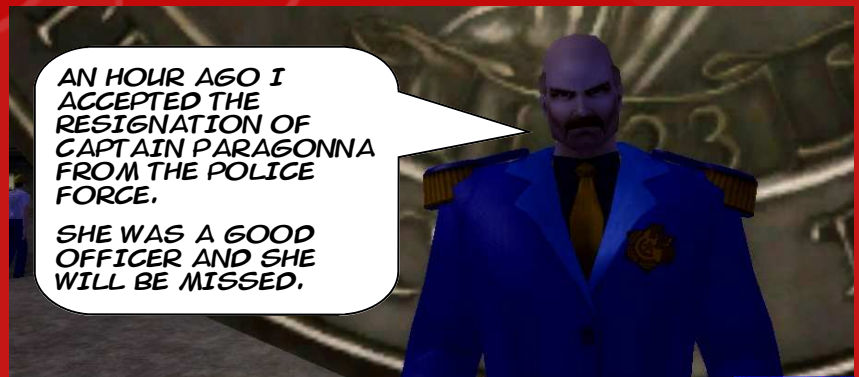


I'M SORRY TO INTERRUPT, CARDINAL SYN, BUT DEPUTY CHIEF WIELD IS HAVING HIS PRESS CONFERENCE.

UNDERSTOOD SENTRY, SEND THE FEED OVER HERE.



BEFORE I BEGIN, I HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE...



AN HOUR AGO I ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATION OF CAPTAIN PARAGONNA FROM THE POLICE FORCE. SHE WAS A GOOD OFFICER AND SHE WILL BE MISSED.

LIVE · POLICE HEADQUARTERS 

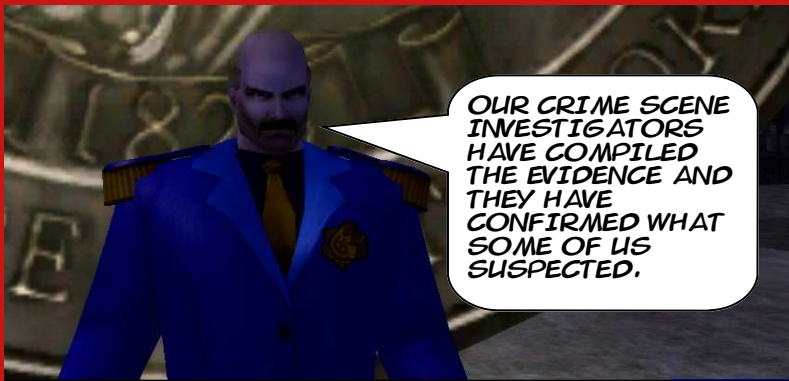
DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF THOMAS WIELD 



BUT HER DEPARTURE HIGHLIGHTS THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE THREAT POSED TO MEMBERS OF THE WHOLE POLICE DEPARTMENT BY THOSE WHO CLAIM TO BE OUR "COMRADES IN ARMS".

AS YOU MAY HAVE HEARD ON THE NEWS, SUSPENDED OFFICER BENJAMIN "BEAR" LAWTON WAS BRUTALLY MURDERED JUST A DAY AFTER HE WAS RELEASED FROM A FEDERAL DETENTION FACILITY.

BREAKING NEWS: DEPUTY CHIEF WIELD LIVE ANNOUNCEMENT 



OUR CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATORS HAVE COMPILED THE EVIDENCE AND THEY HAVE CONFIRMED WHAT SOME OF US SUSPECTED.

LIVE · POLICE HEADQUARTERS



OFFICER LAWTON WAS BRUTALLY MURDERED...
... BY THE RENEGADE STREET VIGILANTE JASON KNIGHT.

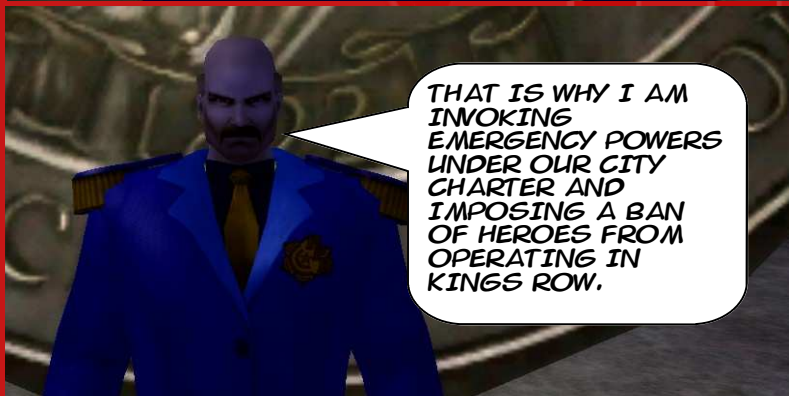
DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF THOMAS WIELD



A WARRANT HAS BEEN ISSUED FOR JASON KNIGHT'S IMMEDIATE ARREST ON THE CHARGE OF CAPITAL MURDER.

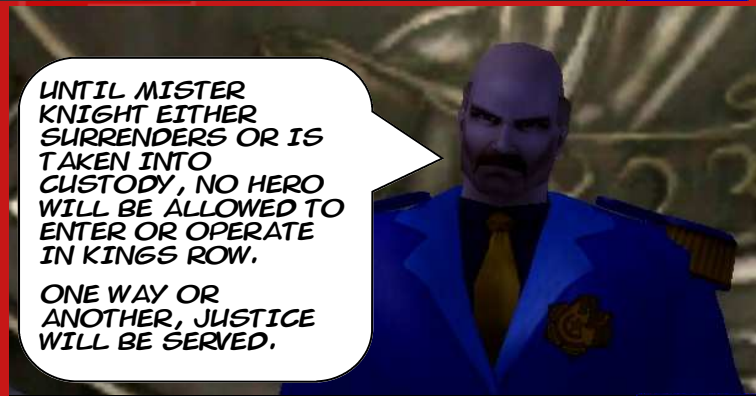
HOWEVER, GIVEN THE HOSTILITY BETWEEN THE HERO COMMUNITY AND THE POLICE FORCE, WE FEAR MISTER KNIGHT MAY HIDE WITH THE HELP OF HIS ASSOCIATES.

BREAKING NEWS: POLICE ACCUSE JASON KNIGHT OF MURDER



THAT IS WHY I AM INVOKING EMERGENCY POWERS UNDER OUR CITY CHARTER AND IMPOSING A BAN OF HEROES FROM OPERATING IN KINGS ROW.

WIELD ACCUSES JASON KNIGHT



UNTIL MISTER KNIGHT EITHER SURRENDERS OR IS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY, NO HERO WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER OR OPERATE IN KINGS ROW.

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, JUSTICE WILL BE SERVED.

LIVE · POLICE HEADQUARTERS



AS IF THINGS COULDN'T GET WORSE... WE GOT OUR WORK CUT OUT FOR US NOW.

Next: Standing Up To The Dogs

TASK FORCE NOTES

Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.

April 21, 2014
Section B, Page 1

The Paragon Times Metro

**HE'S BACK!
"THE NEW GARRY BECKER EXPERIENCE"
IS NOW ON PNN RADIO!
WEEKDAYS NOON-4PM.
WWW.PNNRADIO.PARA**

Judge Rejects Punch Defense - Brutal Spouse Found Guilty

Judicial Center, Paragon City, RI - (PCN) 34-year old Judith Punch claimed that she was only acting in self-defense when she brutally bludgeoned her husband to death in 2012.

A Paragon City judge disagreed and convicted her of first-degree manslaughter.

Ever since she called 9-1-1 to report her husband's death, Punch proclaimed that she was only defending herself when she used a sledgehammer against her then-husband, Rodney Punch. However, the police at the scene could not match her claims with their own observations, and the subsequent investigation into the couple revealed a disturbing pattern of physical and emotional abuse by the assailant.

"Judith Punch wants people to think that she is the helpless victim of a monster," said Deputy District Attorney Edward Vance. "But the truth is that she is the real monster."

Vance called on the testimony of Rodney Punch's friends to contradict Judith Punch's claims of abuse.

"This was a kind soul that was extinguished by a vindictive and narcissistic woman," said Vance. "You will not find one person who will say anything bad about the victim. On the other hand, you will find scores of people who describe Ms. Punch herself as someone that is petty, mean-spirited, and quick to punish the man she claimed to love for the slightest perceived fault."

Ms. Punch's defense attorney, Carla Meen, continues to proclaim that her client was a victim of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse that was long ignored by her husband's friends.

"Judith is the real victim here. She was the one subjected to continual abuse and humiliation until finally she snapped. And now she is being victimized all because of her enablers and by this court."

Her defense was not swayed by Ms. Punch's continual

friends and coworkers to demonstrate the petty and vindictive nature of the defendant.

One friend, Soshon Williams, testified that Rodney Punch would show up at work every week with at least one new injury that he would claim would come from an accident.

"Every time he would have some smashed finger or smashed foot or smashed kneecap, he'd say he accidentally dropped something or he was working on some project and accidentally hit himself with a hammer."

Williams, however, couldn't believe that.

"If you're that clumsy with a hammer, why are you being asked week after week to use one?"

The prosecution used Judith Punch's own small business running a custom wicker-basket enterprise to hammer home her demeanor following the incident.

"This is someone who used was allegedly physically and sexually assaulted, who then was showing off bikinis at work and boasting about where she was going once she gets the life insurance money off his death," said Vance in his closing argument. "Does that sound like someone still coping with the trauma of their abuse or the decision to kill the man she supposedly loved?"

Meen countered Vance's claims by saying that people deal with trauma differently, and that Punch's way was to pretend it didn't involve her.

Court observers say that Meen had an uphill case to begin with, made even more complicated by her client's refusal of a jury trial, believing that an older male would accept her claim of self-defense without any evidence to support it. She also could not provide any expert witness testimony to support her client's



Judith Punch, owner of Basket Cases, as pictured in a promotional picture taken hours after the brutal death of her husband.

"Punchline" Killer Given Early Release

Brickstown, Paragon City RI - (PCN) It was a day that Judith Punch thought would never happen.

Only three years after being convicted of the brutal murder of her husband, the 37-year old widow walked out through the front doors of the Zigurysky Correctional Facility, thanks in no small part to a special psychological program designed to treat abusive personality disorder. **FREEDOM!!**

Punch was convicted in 2014 of the murder of her husband, Rodney Punch. At the time, she claimed that she was acting in self-defense from a pattern of abuse that she said was from her husband. The evidence, however, pointed to her as being the real abuser. This earned Punch the nickname "Punchline" in the media, in reference to the "joke" she tried to play on the legal system.

Ms. Punch has refused to say anything about her release, relying instead on her attorney, Carla Meen, to speak on her behalf.

Meen says that her client is far from a free woman. "My client still will have to undergo years of therapy session, and, of course, under the state's parole system, she will still have to adhere to the rigid guidelines set by her parole officer in terms of what she can do. Ms. Punch is aware that any infraction no matter how slight can result in her return to custody to serve the remainder of her sentence. However, she is convinced that she will prove that she is worthy of a second chance in society."

enrolled in this program a year into her 5-to-20-year prison sentence for first-degree manslaughter. **08/14/17**

Two years later, program supervisors convinced the Rhode Island Board of Pardons and Paroles that Punch had progressed enough to where she was no longer a threat to others and could resume the rest of her treatment outside the correctional facility.

Although the board was convinced of her progress, many others are not, including Deputy District Attorney Edward Vance, who successfully prosecuted her.

"Judith Punch is a very dangerous woman" said Vance. "Three years behind bars certainly doesn't change that."

Meen says that her client is far from a free woman.

"My client still will have to undergo years of therapy session, and, of course, under the state's parole system, she will still have to adhere to the rigid guidelines set by her parole officer in terms of what she can do. Ms. Punch is aware that any infraction no matter how slight can result in her return to custody to serve the remainder of her sentence. However, she is convinced that she will prove that she is worthy of a second chance in society."

Tick-Tock Rent-a-Bots

REPURPOSED CLOCKWORK
DRONES FOR RENT.



19 AXEL ALLEYWAY, PARAGON CITY, RI 401-555-9955

TASK FORCE NOTES

Continued from previous page...

Task Force Evaluation Notes

(Submitted by Jason Knight)

Streetangel

Real Name: Karen Elizabeth Manning

Street Vigilante

Powers: Normal human. Defensive combat. Infiltration and Adaptation.

Karen Elizabeth Manning grew up in a single-parent household in Connecticut. Her mother had slept with her boss, a rich New York financial “wizard”, and, because of that, he set Karen and her mother up with a generous “hush” package to where she would be financially cared for until she turned 18. However, that support ended at age 13 when her father suddenly died and his widow ended all payments. This forced Karen and her mother to move to Ledyard, Connecticut, where her mother worked at the local tribal casino. It was here that Karen learned that beautiful women could lure men to do what they wanted. She saw how to use the power by watching the “hunters”, as she referred to them. She saw how they dressed, how they moved, how they feigned ignorance and stupidity. And, soon, she started copying them, much to her mother’s objections.

Karen learned self-defense from the casino security staff, which were from some of the best in the world. Mossad, Secret Service, Hero Corps, Army Rangers. Each had their unique moves for situations, and Karen learned them all by the time she was 18. While she lacked formalized training, the training she did receive from her teachers gave her the edge she needed to defend herself.

After an encounter with a predatory photographer, she was approached by a private investigator to become a professional “decoy agent”. Private investigators would hire her to lure men into being unfaithful, as long as it did not involve sex. She had to be careful and document her cases. She was good at what she did, but it was not something that she wanted to brag about.

When she was 22, she was contacted by her usual intermediary for an unusual mission: pretend to be a superhero to catch bad cops in Paragon City. This led to her encounters with the corrupt Blue Dog Squad. She was eventually convinced to join the Guardians of the Dawn and I volunteered to further her training as a registered hero.

Streetangel was re-made to utilize her skills as a “decoy agent” in more of an infiltration and intelligence-collecting capacity. Rather than be “noticed”, she was trained to blend in a crowd and collect information. I’ve found her ability to assume a disguise to be almost second-nature to her.

Evaluation: Streetangel would be an essential member of the task force. Her chameleon-like talent to play a role is key to getting information where it would be difficult, such as in a police station. Her youth and inexperience to a physical crisis could pose a threat, but with enough time and just a little encouragement, she should be able to hold her own when the situation demands it.



<http://BattlerockComics.wordpress.com>

NEXT ISSUE...



IT'S TIME FOR THE
TASK FORCE TO TAKE
A STAND.

BUT WILL THEY BE ABLE
TO WHEN THE POLICE
HOLD ALL THE CARDS?

'THE CRUCIBLE'



**APRIL
2018**

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THE GAME IS GONE...



...BUT THE STORIES GO ON!

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