



BATTLEROCK  
COMICS



FOR TEENS

# FUTURE'S GUARDIAN



ISSUE 15  
2019



CHAMPIONS  
ONLINE

PERFECT  
WORLD

VISIT

# Millennium City

[www.VisitTheFuture.millennium.city](http://www.VisitTheFuture.millennium.city)

AN IN-GAME AD FOR CHAMPIONS ONLINE

HEROES NEED MORE THAN JUST A CAPE  
AND COWL TO FIGHT EVIL.

THEY NEED FUEL.

THEY NEED ENERGY.

THEY NEED STAMINA.

THEY NEED HEALTH.

THEY NEED RESTORATION.

THEY NEED...



# Inspiration

## Personal Boost Energy Drinks

From another time and from another world, Galatea Future arrived in the world of the Champions to do the one thing she tried so desperately to avoid before... to live.

It's not easy, though, when you're over a thousand years old and suddenly you're given a new life in more ways than one. Life is literally starting over again for her, and yet she is still doing what she does best: serving humanity as...

# **FUTURE'S GUARDIAN**

## **"LEAP"**

**- A CHAMPIONS ONLINE STORY BY DAVID 2**

**"STRENGTH OF THE MOUNTAIN.  
FORCE OF THE STORM.  
SIGHT OF THE EAGLE.  
HEARING OF THE BAT.  
BLOOD OF THE WARRIOR."**

**FOR DOZENS OF GENERATIONS, JOHN BATTLE'S FAMILY PROTECTED THE WEAK AND DEFENDED THE INNOCENT. THEIR SELFLESS ACTS OF HEROISM IN THE WEST WERE THE INSPIRATION FOR THE LEGENDARY WESTER HEROES OF TV AND MOVIES.**

**BUT NOW THE LATEST "LEGACY WARRIOR" IS IN MILLENNIUM CITY, AND IT IS HIS FAMILY'S LEGACY THAT IS ABOUT TO BE CHALLENGED.**

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MILLENNIUM CITY, MI., USA

YEAR: 2019

AFTER DETROIT WAS DESTROYED, CITY LEADERS PROMISED TO REBUILD IT BIGGER AND BETTER THAN IT EVER WAS BEFORE.

BUT THEY WANTED THE TOWERS OF THE RENAISSANCE CENTER TO BE THE TALLEST OF THEM ALL, STANDING OUT OVER THE REST OF THE CITY AS BEACONS OF THEIR RESOLVE.

AND HERE THEY DID NOT DISAPPOINT...

WHICH BRINGS ME TO MY REGULAR EXERCISE.

 JOHN BATTLE  
LEGACY WARRIOR

THIS IS THE TALLEST TOWER IN THE CITY.  
THE TALLEST IN THE CENTRAL U.S.

ONLY HEROES CAN MAKE IT UP TO THE ROOFTOP.

NO HELIPAD,  
NO STAIRWAY ENTRANCE, NO ELEVATOR.

WARNING LIGHTS AND THIS AUTOMATED BEACON WARN OFF CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT.

SO... A COUPLE OF YEARS BACK THERE WAS THIS MOVIE ABOUT A SO-CALLED "SUPERHERO".

JUMP OFF THE TOP OF SOME HIGH BUILDING AND LAND LIKE A "SUPERHERO".

I THINK THE STAR'S NAME WAS "RYAN" SOMETHING...

THE CATCH IS THAT YOU HAVE TO HAVE THE RIGHT KIND OF POWERS TO PULL IT OFF.

AND HE MAKES A BIG PRODUCTION ABOUT HOW SOME VILLAIN MAKES A "SUPERHERO LANDING" TO SHOW OFF THEIR POWERS.

FIFTEEN PEOPLE BROKE THEIR LEGS, SHATTERED THEIR KNEECAPS, SPLINTERED THEIR FEET, AND TWO PEOPLE DIED BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO DO IT OR THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE RIGHT POWERS.

SO THAT LEAD TO THE "HERO-LANDING CHALLENGE" IN SOCIAL MEDIA.



THEY WERE IDIOTS.

THE THING IS... MY FATHER TRAINED ME TO DO THIS IN ARIZONA WHEN MY POWERS FIRST MANIFESTED IN MY EARLY TEENS.

HE'D HAVE ME CLIMB UP MESAS AND BUTTES AND THEN JUMP OFF THEM TO TOUGHEN ME UP.

HELL, HOW DID YOU THINK I MADE IT UP HERE WITHOUT MY SKYBIKE?



HELL OF A VIEW.

I CAN SEE THE WHOLE STATE FROM HERE THANKS TO MY EAGLE SIGHT.





A FEW HOURS LATER...



GOOD MORNING  
MILLENNIUM CITY!  
IT'S 9AM AND I'M  
VICTORIA  
CROWNSTONE.

 **VICTORIA CROWNSTONE**  
WCOC ANCHORWOMAN



COMING UP, WE  
HAVE AN INTERVIEW  
WITH SINGING  
SUPERHERO  
SAPPHIRE ON HER  
LATEST CAMPAIGN  
TO ADOPT FERAL  
KITTIES.

BUT FIRST WE HAVE  
MERCEDES REALE  
WITH THE NEWS.



THANK YOU VICTORIA.  
GOOD MORNING  
MILLENNIUM CITY.

 **MERCEDES REALE**  
WCOC REPORTER



LONGTIME MAYOR CALVIN  
BISELLE HELD ONE OF HIS  
MANY CITY RALLIES  
YESTERDAY, WHERE HE THANKED  
THE HERO COMMUNITY FOR  
STOPPING WHAT HE DESCRIBED  
AS "THE GREATEST THREAT TO  
DEMOCRACY" IN THE CITY'S  
HISTORY.



MAYOR BISELLE FACED  
A STRONG CAMPAIGN  
CHALLENGE FROM  
WEALTHY BUSINESSMAN  
RONALD BETTERS LAST  
YEAR, WHICH WAS THE  
FIRST FOR THE  
LONGTIME MAYOR IN  
OVER TWENTY YEARS.

IT HAD APPEARED THAT BETTERS  
WON THE ELECTION LAST  
NOVEMBER, BUT AN  
INVESTIGATION BY FBI AGENT  
ANNA WEDNESDAY REVEALED THAT  
BETTERS AND HIS SECURITY  
CONSULTANT HAD INTERFERED  
WITH THE ELECTION PROCESS,  
SUBSTITUTING HUNDREDS OF  
ABSENTEE BALLOTS WITH FORGED  
BALLOTS FOR BETTERS.



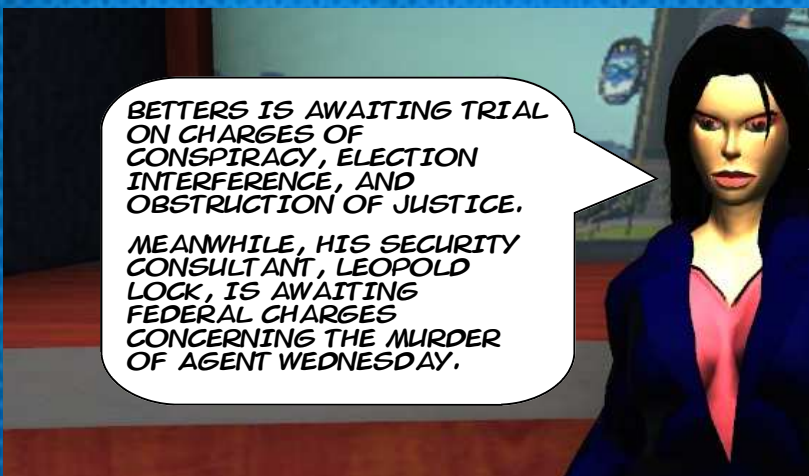


NOTHING IS MORE SACRED TO THIS CITY THAN OUR DEMOCRACY.  
I SALUTE THE FBI AND THE BRAVE HEROES WHO MOVED QUICKLY TO STOP THIS ACT OF TYRANNY.

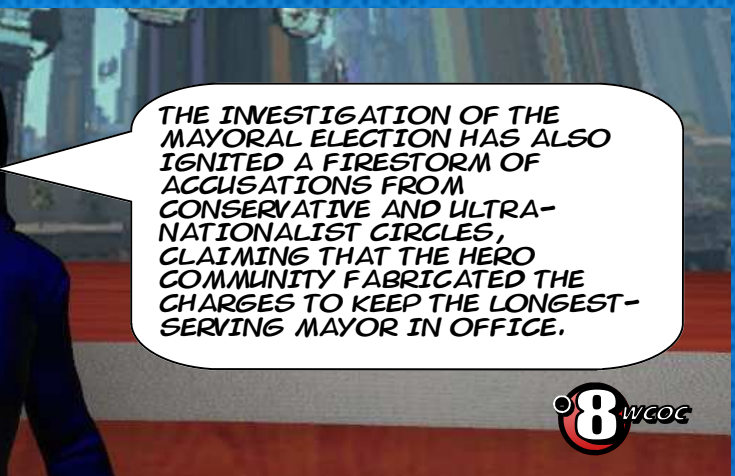
MAYOR CALVIN BISELLE - YESTERDAY



MAYOR BISELLE ALSO PRAISED AGENT WEDNESDAY, WHO WAS TRAGICALLY KILLED WHILE ATTEMPTING TO ARREST BETTERS.



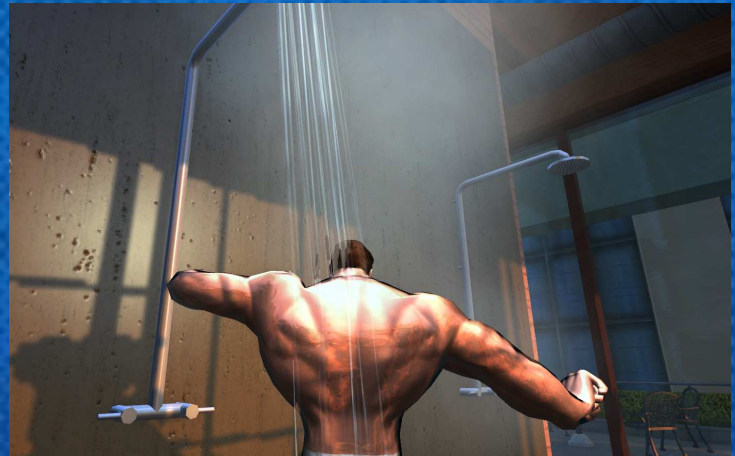
BETTERS IS AWAITING TRIAL ON CHARGES OF CONSPIRACY, ELECTION INTERFERENCE, AND OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE.  
MEANWHILE, HIS SECURITY CONSULTANT, LEOPOLD LOCK, IS AWAITING FEDERAL CHARGES CONCERNING THE MURDER OF AGENT WEDNESDAY.



THE INVESTIGATION OF THE MAYORAL ELECTION HAS ALSO IGNITED A FIRESTORM OF ACCUSATIONS FROM CONSERVATIVE AND ULTRA-NATIONALIST CIRCLES, CLAIMING THAT THE HERO COMMUNITY FABRICATED THE CHARGES TO KEEP THE LONGEST-SERVING MAYOR IN OFFICE.



JOHN BATTLE'S APARTMENT





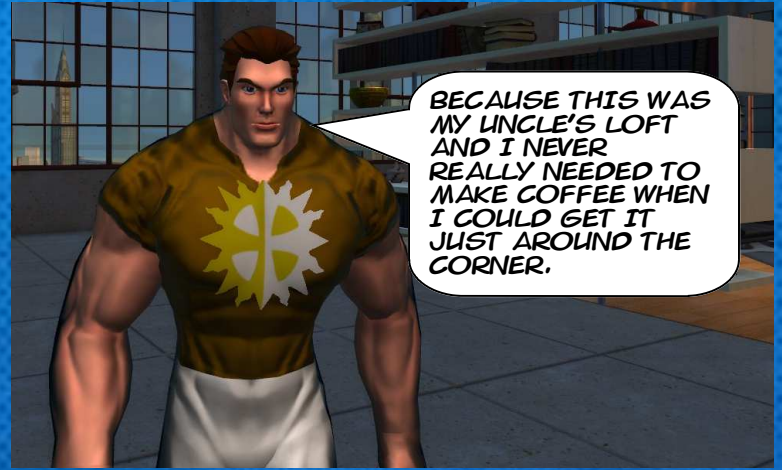


MORNING...



MORNING...  
HOW IS IT YOU CAN LIVE HERE FOR FOUR YEARS AND YOU NEVER MANAGED TO BUY AT LEAST A COFFEE MAKER?

**DEE RISK**  
AKA: STARLETT



BECAUSE THIS WAS MY UNCLE'S LOFT AND I NEVER REALLY NEEDED TO MAKE COFFEE WHEN I COULD GET IT JUST AROUND THE CORNER.



*DEE RISK*

YOU COULD HAVE JOINED ME IN THE SHOWER.



THEN WE'D STILL BE IN THERE.


AND THAT'S A BAD THING?



WELL... I DO HAVE THAT TESTIMONY I HAVE TO GIVE ON THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING RING I BROKE UP LAST MONTH.




AND I REALLY NEED TO GET MY HERO OUTFIT FROM MY PLACE FIRST.  
AFTER ALL, IT WAS STARLETT, REGISTERED VIGILANTE, THAT MADE THE BUST, NOT DEE RISK, ONE-TIME STUNTWOMAN AND PART-TIME DEE-JAY.

A man with a yellow star on his chest and a woman with red hair are in a modern apartment. The man is looking at the woman.


WHY DON'T YOU KEEP ONE OF YOUR WORK OUTFITS HERE?  
YOU ALREADY HAVE SOME OF YOUR OTHER CLOTHES HERE, AND IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T HAVE THE ROOM.

THERE'S MORE THAN JUST PUTTING ON AN OUTFIT, JOHN. I HAVE NOTES, EQUIPMENT, MY JET-PACK...


A close-up of the woman with red hair.

AND ONE OF THE REASONS WHY I LIKE WHERE I'M AT IS BECAUSE I CAN SLIP IN AND OUT WITHOUT PEOPLE ASKING QUESTIONS.

HERE, YOU HAVE NEIGHBORS, DOORMEN, AND THEY ALL KNOW WHO YOU ARE... AND WHO I AM.

A close-up of John.

AND YOU STILL WEAR A MASK WHEN YOU'RE AT WORK. I KEEP FORGETTING ABOUT THAT.  
HOW ABOUT DINNER TONIGHT?

The woman is standing in the apartment, looking towards the camera.

MAYBE... IF I CAN FINISH MY TESTIMONY BEFORE I NEED TO GO TO CLUB CAPRICE.

John is looking at the woman from behind.

AND AS LONG AS IT'S NOT IN LITTLE ITALY!

YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO KNOW WHAT THEY PUT IN THAT SAUCE.

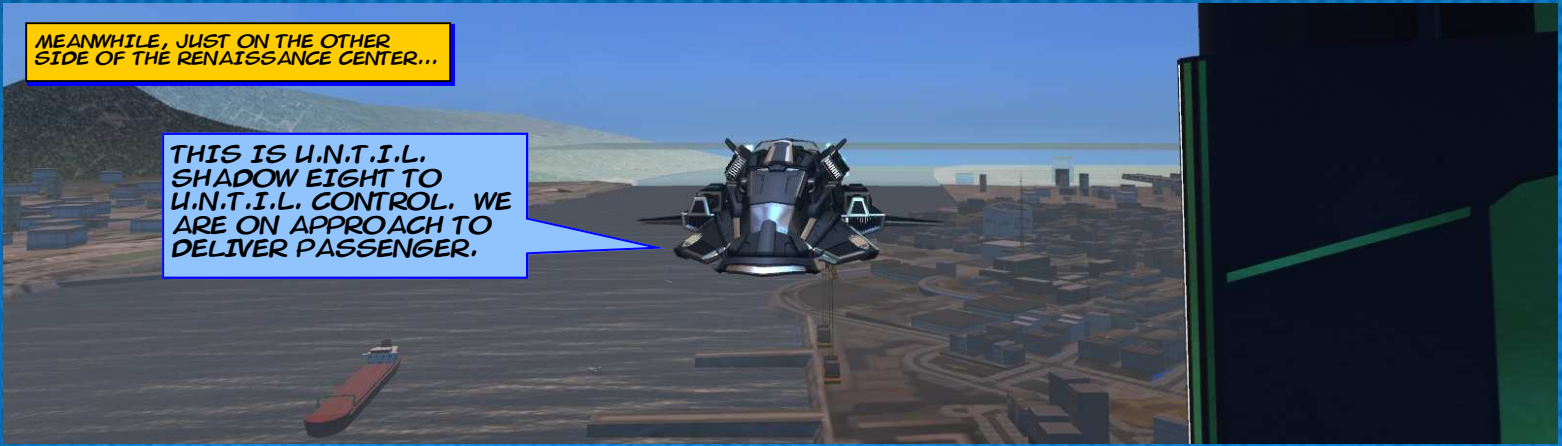
John is looking at the woman who is walking up a set of stairs in the background.

YOU'RE NOT OGLING ME, ARE YOU?

JUST ENJOYING THE VIEW OF THE CITY.  
I CAN SEE WHY MY UNCLE LOVED THIS PLACE.

MEANWHILE, JUST ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RENAISSANCE CENTER...

THIS IS U.N.T.I.L. SHADOW EIGHT TO U.N.T.I.L. CONTROL. WE ARE ON APPROACH TO DELIVER PASSENGER.



U.N.T.I.L. SHADOW EIGHT, YOU ARE CLEARED TO DELIVER PASSENGER TO THE FRONT ENTRANCEWAY.



UNITED NATIONS TRIBUNAL FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW (U.N.T.I.L.) - MILLENNIUM CITY HEADQUARTERS

COPY, U.N.T.I.L. CONTROL. DESCENDING FOR DELIVERY.



THIS IS SECURITY POINT ALPHA. YOU ARE CLEARED FOR DELIVERY.





PASSENGER DELIVERED.

MAJOR XAVIER CROSS  
PROJECT MYCROFT



NINE A.M.? I  
SEEM TO RECALL  
YOU WOULD BE AT  
WORK BEFORE THE  
SUN CAME UP.



OR HAS YOUR  
RANK MADE  
YOU SOFT?



LADY ESTHER!  
WHAT BRINGS YOU  
AWAY FROM THE  
BIG APPLE?



YOU, AND YOUR  
LITTLE HERO  
GROUP.

LADY ESTHER GLACIA  
UNITED NATIONS LIAISON



THE SECRETARY-  
MARSHALL THOUGHT IT  
BEST IF HE SENT YOUR  
FORMER MENTOR TO  
TALK WITH YOU ABOUT  
SOME OF THE RECENT  
ACTIVITIES OF  
PROJECT MYCROFT.

I PRESUME YOU KNOW  
SOMEPLACE WHERE WE  
CAN TALK PRIVATELY.

MEANWHILE...



I DON'T BELIEVE YOU VIPER CLOWNS!



I CAN'T EVEN GET A CUP OF COFFEE WITHOUT A FIGHT!



\*HUH... HUH...\*

\*DING-DING\*  
\*DING-DING\*  
\*DING-DING\*



HEY... YOU MADE IT IN? GREAT!



NO, WE CAN MEET. IT SHOULD BE SAFE RIGHT NOW.



THERE'S A PARK JUST A FEW BLOCKS AWAY FROM YOU THAT SHOULD BE PERFECT.

NO, NO OUTFITS. WE DON'T WANT TO ADVERTISE IT THIS EARLY.

OKAY, SEE YOU SOON.



THE SUB-SUB  
BASEMENT...

I SEE YOU'VE  
MADE THIS  
PLACE YOUR  
HOME.

THANKS.

BUT I DON'T THINK  
YOU CAME ALL  
THIS WAY TO SEE  
MY WORKSPACE.

THEN I'LL GET RIGHT  
TO THE POINT.

THE U. N. SECURITY  
COUNCIL HAS BEEN  
GETTING SOME  
COMPLAINTS ABOUT  
PROJECT MYCROFT  
AND HOW THEY'VE  
BEEN OPERATING.

AT FIRST WE'VE  
BEEN ABLE TO SAY  
IT'S BECAUSE  
YOU'RE A NEW  
GROUP AND  
YOU'RE GETTING  
YOUR BEARINGS.

BUT IN RECENT  
YEARS... YOU'VE  
BEEN OPERATING  
MORE LIKE A  
ROGUE AGENCY.

THAT WHOLE MESS WITH  
MALIZIA AND THE WAKE-EZ  
PILLS...\*

PROJECT MIND-GAME IS  
STILL COMPLAINING  
ABOUT BEING SHUT OUT OF  
THAT WHEN IT WAS CLEARLY  
WITHIN THEIR SCOPE.

THAT WAS  
CONNECTED TO AN  
INVESTIGATION  
WE WERE ALREADY  
INVOLVED WITH.

( SEE ISSUES 7-12 FOR DETAILS )

AND THAT SEEMS TO BE A  
COMMON EXPLANATION FOR  
YOUR ACTIVITIES.

PROJECT CITADEL SAYS YOU  
GAVE THEM CHERRY-PICKED  
INFORMATION ABOUT AN  
EXTRADIMENSIONAL THREAT  
NAMED GRIFF, WHILE  
CONVENIENTLY OMITTING THE  
PRESENCE OF SOMEONE NAMED  
"AGENT SIDESTEP".\*


THEN THERE'S YOUR  
INVESTIGATION OF PROJECT  
GREENSKIN, A JOINT  
OPERATION WITH OUR U.S.  
GOVERNMENT COUNTERPARTS.\*\*

I'M SURE YOU'RE AWARE THAT  
DIRECTOR KAUFMAN STILL  
PLAYS GOLF WITH THE  
PRESIDENT ONCE A MONTH.

AND THIS PRESIDENT IS NOT  
HAPPY WHEN HIS "LONGTIME  
FRIEND" IS NOT HAPPY.

( ISSUE #6 )

(\*\* ISSUES #13 AND 14 )



**YOU KNOW WHO I'M  
UP AGAINST.  
YOU KNOW HOW WELL  
THEY'RE CONNECTED.**

**AND HERE WE GO...  
I WAS WONDERING  
HOW LONG IT WOULD  
TAKE BEFORE YOUR  
GREAT CONSPIRACY  
WOULD COME UP.**

**VARTECH IS REAL!**

**I'VE BEEN TRACING  
THEIR ACTIVITIES  
FOR YEARS NOW.**

**EVERY TIME THEY MAKE A  
MOVE ON ONE OF MY  
PEOPLE, THEY EXPOSE A  
LITTLE MORE OF THEIR  
OPERATION.**



**DO YOU EVEN HEAR YOURSELF, XAVIER?**

**A SHADOW CABINET OF POWER-BROKERS  
AND INDUSTRIALISTS WHO HAVE BEEN  
QUIETLY MANIPULATING EVENTS SINCE,  
WHAT, WORLD WAR II? AND THEY HAVE  
THEIR HANDS IN EVERYTHING, INCLUDING  
THE DESTRUCTION OF DETROIT AND THE  
BUILDING OF MILLENNIUM CITY?**



**YOU WERE WITH ME DURING THE INCIDENT  
WITH ABLE DANGER.**

**YOU HEARD WHAT BLACK TALON SIX SAID  
BEFORE HE DIED. HE SAID "DESTROYER  
DID NOT TARGET DETROIT. HE WANTED  
WASHINGTON TO BURN! THEY WANTED  
DETROIT." "THEY"!**

**THE DESTRUCTION OF DETROIT.  
THE ACCIDENT THAT TRIGGERED MY  
POWERS AND SAVED MY LIFE WHEN  
THE OTHERS DIED. ABLE DANGER.  
THE NATIONALIST. THE QULARR.**

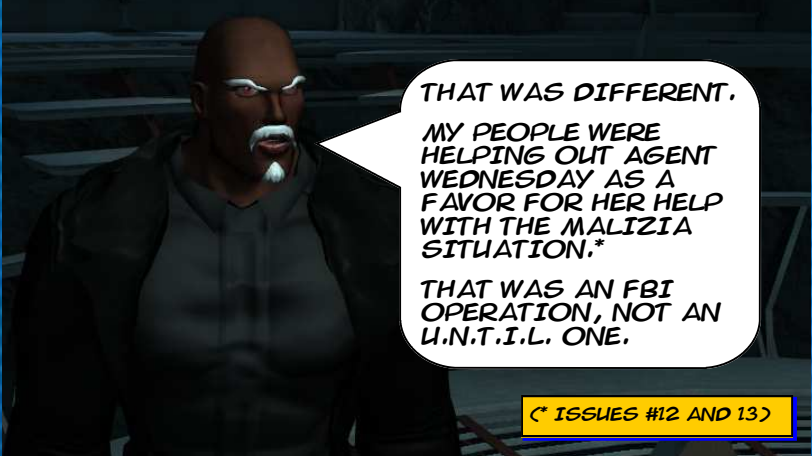
AGAIN, LISTEN TO YOURSELF.  
YOU'RE TAKING A WHOLE BUNCH OF SEPARATE EVENTS AND SAYING THEY'RE ALL CONNECTED WHEN THEY ARE NOT.



AND HOW ABOUT THE MAYOR'S ELECTION LAST YEAR?  
WAS THAT PART OF YOUR "GRAND CONSPIRACY" AS WELL?



THAT WAS DIFFERENT.  
MY PEOPLE WERE HELPING OUT AGENT WEDNESDAY AS A FAVOR FOR HER HELP WITH THE MALIZIA SITUATION.\*  
THAT WAS AN FBI OPERATION, NOT AN U.N.T.I.L. ONE.



THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE TURNED IT OVER TO PRIMUS.\*  
THAT IS THEIR JURISDICTION, XAVIER!



(\* ISSUES #12 AND 13)

(\* PRIMUS IS THE OFFICIAL HERO AGENCY FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.)

U.N.T.I.L. IS NOT SOME CATCH-ALL SUPER-IMPOSING GOVERNING BODY.  
WE HAVE TO AVOID STEPPING ON THE SOVEREIGNTY OF OTHER NATIONS, ESPECIALLY WITH THE UNITED STATES!  
THAT'S WHY WE HAVE ALL THESE VARIOUS DIVISIONS AND DEPARTMENTS TO ADDRESS SPECIFIC INSTANCES INSTEAD OF BEING A SUPER-AGENCY.



THE FACT THAT MEMBERS OF A UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION TOOK PART IN THE INVESTIGATION OF A LOCAL ELECTION GAVE THE IMPRESSION OF THE U.N. HAVING A PARTISAN BIAS IN THAT ELECTION!



SINCE WHEN DID JUSTICE BECOME PARTISAN?





WCOC STUDIO



OKAY... CAN YOU TIGHTEN IT UP..?  
PERFECT! THAT'LL LOOK GREAT FOR THE NOON SHOW.

\*BRRRRING\*



MERCEDES REALE..  
NO, ERNIE, I DON'T HAVE TIME TO TALK.



ERNIE, THE LAST LEAD YOU SENT ME WAS A PERDIDA DE TIEMPO!  
YOU BETTER--

WHAT DO YOU MEAN THIS IS DIFFERENT?

(\*WASTE OF TIME\*)



THIS BETTER BE LEGIT, ERNIE.  
I SWEAR IF YOU SEND ME TO A RUSSIAN SKIN SITE AGAIN...  
OKAY... OKAY...



JULIE, OPEN A BROWSER TO REAL-TRUTH-DOT-MILL.



THAT'S IT.



HOLA...

# INJURED?

## "Better Call Bill!"

# Bill Jones

## ATTORNEY AT LAW



**THE TOUGH LAWYER! CALL 24/7 - 555-TUFF**

This is not an ad for a real life attorney. Any comparisons to an actual lawyer in the real world are coincidental. The attorney in question operates only in the world of Champions Online MMO and even that is questionable.



*"Sure, I want to open a bank account, but I want to make sure my money is available when \*I\* need it, not when the bank decides that I should access it."*

We hear you.

That's why we offer 24-hour banking services available online, including virtual tellers that you can speak with live if you have any questions or special issues that need to be addressed.

Because National Bank believes that we're here for you, not the other way around.



The bank that truly puts you first.

National Bank is a fictional lending institution in the world of Champions Online. Not a real entity.

# Be Heroic By Looking Heroic



In the world of heroes, image is everything.

The right outfit can not only make you look confident, but it also makes you feel confident.

With so much at stake, it pays to have help from our team of experts that has years of experience coming up with a heroic look that reflects both your powers and your nature.

From the moment you walk in until the time you cash-out, Greer & Harlick will make you look and feel heroic without having to spend money like a millionaire playboy.



## Greer & Harlick

- Fine Fashions for Hip Heroes - Since 1981 -

Available exclusively for heroes inside every Powerhouse training facility. Open 24-hours a day. No appointment necessary.

NOONTIME, JUST OUTSIDE  
CITY HALL...

FIRST THEY WANT ME  
TO TESTIFY... THEN  
THEY DON'T...  
THEN THEY WANT A  
CONTINUANCE.

STARLETT  
STREET VIGILANTE

SO MUCH FOR MY  
BUSY DAY IN COURT.

I DON'T GET IT.  
IT WAS A CLEAN BUST.

WHY ARE THE  
PROSECUTORS  
MAKING THINGS  
SO COMPLICATED?

ANNA WOULD KNOW.  
SHE'D BE ABLE TO  
TELL ME.

I MISS...

WAIT.

IS THAT...  
JOHN?



AND THEN HE SAYS... IN A HUSHED VOICE...

"YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO CATCH ME, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO LET ME GET AWAY."


HAHAHA! SERIOUSLY? THAT IS SO STRAIGHT OUT OF A SATURDAY MORNING CARTOON!



THAT'S FOXBAT FOR YOU. BUT SOMEHOW THE CITY LOVES HIM.



WHO IS SHE? THEY TALK LIKE THEY'RE OLD FRIENDS... BUT JOHN NEVER SAID ANYONE WAS COMING TO VISIT HIM.



I'M A LITTLE NERVOUS ABOUT ALL THIS, JOHN. WHAT IF SOMEONE...?

LET ME WORRY ABOUT THAT, OKAY? I'VE GOT YOUR BACK ON THIS.



MAYBE I SHOULD...?

NO... I'M STILL IN MY HERO OUTFIT.

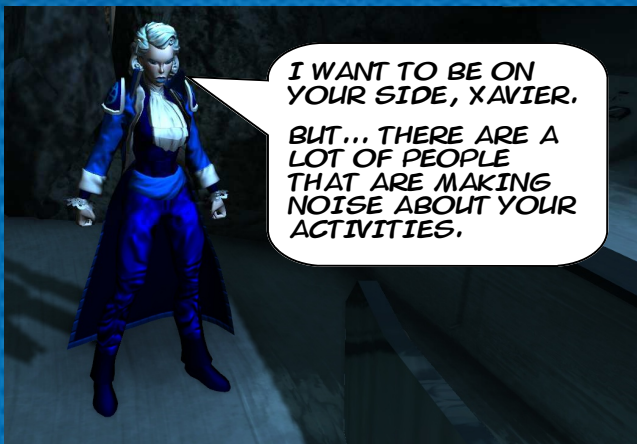
IT MIGHT BE HARD FOR HIM TO EXPLAIN IT TO HER IF SHE'S NOT A HERO.



I'LL ASK HIM ABOUT IT LATER TONIGHT.

HAVE SOME PIZZA.. SOME BEER... AND THEN ASK ABOUT HIS NEW FRIEND.

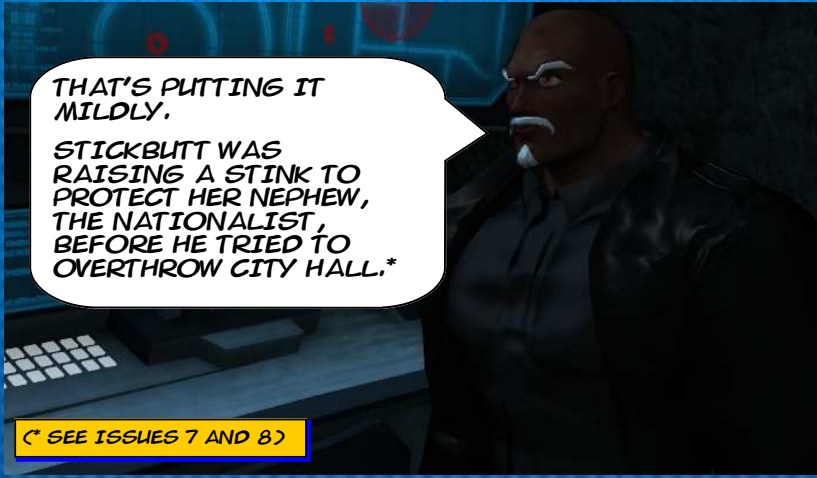
MAYBE IT'S JUST WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE. TWO OLD FRIENDS CHATTING. RIGHT...



I WANT TO BE ON YOUR SIDE, XAVIER. BUT... THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE THAT ARE MAKING NOISE ABOUT YOUR ACTIVITIES.



REMEMBER U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN SHELLY STICKBUTT? SHE'S NOW A U.S. SENATOR. I SEEM TO RECALL SHE WAS PRETTY VOCAL ABOUT THIS CITY IN THE PAST.

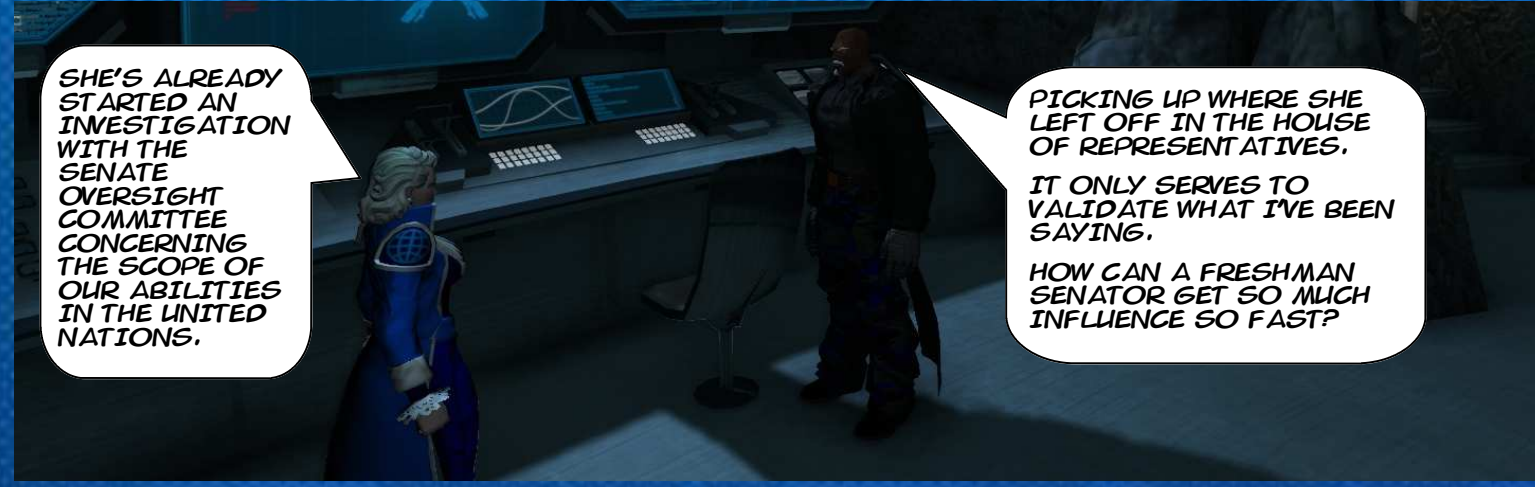


THAT'S PUTTING IT MILDLY. STICKBUTT WAS RAISING A STINK TO PROTECT HER NEPHEW, THE NATIONALIST, BEFORE HE TRIED TO OVERTHROW CITY HALL.\*



WELL SHE MAY HAVE BEEN FORCED OUT THEN, BUT THE VOTERS IN WISCONSIN JUST VOTED HER INTO THE SENATE. AND GUESS WHAT ISSUE SENT HER BACK TO D.C.?

(\* SEE ISSUES 7 AND 8 )



SHE'S ALREADY STARTED AN INVESTIGATION WITH THE SENATE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE CONCERNING THE SCOPE OF OUR ABILITIES IN THE UNITED NATIONS.

PICKING UP WHERE SHE LEFT OFF IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. IT ONLY SERVES TO VALIDATE WHAT I'VE BEEN SAYING. HOW CAN A FRESHMAN SENATOR GET SO MUCH INFLUENCE SO FAST?



THIS IS WHY PROJECT MYCROFT WAS SET UP AS AN INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING GROUP. WE NEED TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT VARTECH BEFORE WE CAN MOVE FORWARD AND TAKE ACTION. WE NEED TO SEE THE SCOPE OF THEIR ACTIVITIES, WHO TO TRUST. HOW MUCH INFLUENCE VARTECH HAS OVER THE SYSTEM.

VARTECH USED MARKMAN GOLD TO TRY TO BREAK GALATEA FUTURE WHEN HER CAREER IN THIS CITY WAS JUST STARTING.\* WHY HER? WHY FOCUS THEIR EFFORTS ON HER? WE FIND THE REASON FOR THAT AND WE FIND OUT WHO VARTECH REALLY ARE.

(\* THE LOST ADVENTURES OF GALATEA FUTURE\* #4 AND \*FUTURE'S GUARDIAN\* #1)

WELL FOR AN INTELLIGENCE GROUP, YOU HAVE STRAY--

NEWS FEED ALERT!  
NEWS FEED ALERT!

LIFF DAI\*

IT'S AN ALERT FROM MY MEDIA SEARCH ALGORITHM.

(\* NORWEGIAN EXCLAMATION)

IT'S PROGRAMMED TO ALERT ME IF THE MEDIA IS SAYING ANYTHING CONNECTED TO ANY OF THE PROJECT'S AGENTS OR THOSE UNDER OUR OBSERVATION.



"FAMED REAL TRUTH REPORTER PEDRO DUARTE REVEALS IN AN IN-DEPTH ARTICLE THAT LEGACY HERO JOHN BATTLE HAS FABRICATED HIS FAMILY'S HISTORY AND HERITAGE AS A CHAMPION OF THE NATIVE AMERICANS.

"DUARTE FURTHER ACCUSES BATTLE OF SELLING OUT TRIBAL LANDS TO CORPORATE DEVELOPERS."

JOHN BATTLE IS ONE OF YOUR AGENTS, ISN'T HE?

HIS UNCLE WAS A LEGEND ON THE EAST COAST.

IF WHAT THIS REPORT SAYS IS TRUE--

--IT'S NOT TRUE!

I PERSONALLY VETTED THE WHOLE BATTLE FAMILY BEFORE BRINGING JOHN IN.

THIS IS VARTECH LAUNCHING A NEW ATTACK ON OUR CREDIBILITY.

MAYBE.

BUT IN LIGHT OF THIS AND THE OTHER EVENTS, I HAVE NO CHOICE NOW BUT TO PUT PROJECT MYCROFT UNDER MY INQUIRY AND SUPERVISION.

I'M SORRY, XAVIER...

BUT YOU AND YOUR TEAM NOW REPORT TO ME.

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, JOHN BATTLE WAS INVOLVED WITH THE SALE OF NATIVE AMERICAN LAND TO A SHADY DEVELOPING COMPANY THAT THEN USED THE LAND FOR OIL SHALE FRACKING.



**8** WCOC **NEW STORY: JOHN BATTLE - TURNCOAT?**



OH WHAT A LOAD OF CRAP!



IS IT TRUE?  
IS WHAT SHE IS SAYING THE TRUTH?

**C** **DEFENDER**  
THE CHAMPIONS



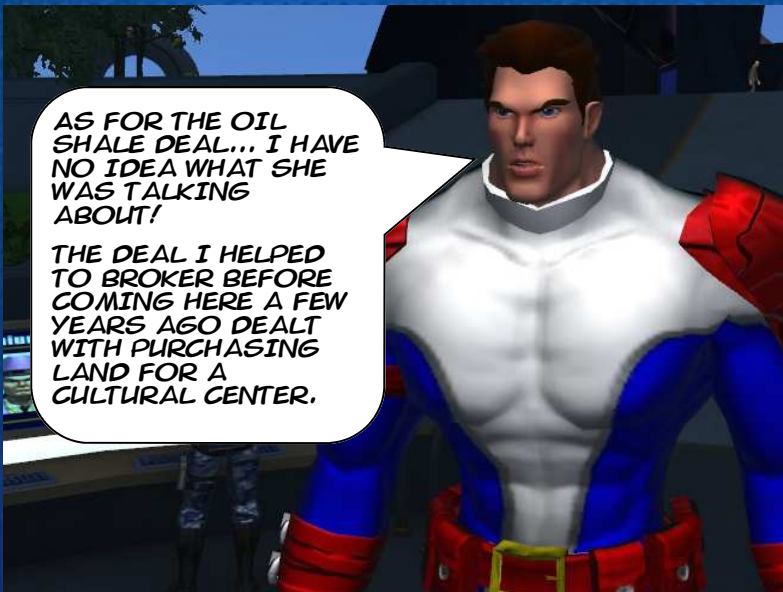
I'M GOING TO RIDE OVER THERE AND DROP A MOUNTAIN ON THAT REPORTER AND HER PACK OF LIES!



**JOHN BATTLE!**  
IS SHE TELLING THE TRUTH?



ABOUT WHAT THEY SAID CONCERNING MY FAMILY?  
**ABSOLUTELY NOT!**  
I KNOW MY FAMILY'S HISTORY.



AS FOR THE OIL SHALE DEAL... I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT!  
THE DEAL I HELPED TO BROKER BEFORE COMING HERE A FEW YEARS AGO DEALT WITH PURCHASING LAND FOR A CULTURAL CENTER.



THERE WAS NO POSSIBLE WAY THAT DEAL COULD BE USED FOR ANYTHING OTHER THAN FOR THE CULTURAL APPRECIATION OF THE YAVAPAI PEOPLE.





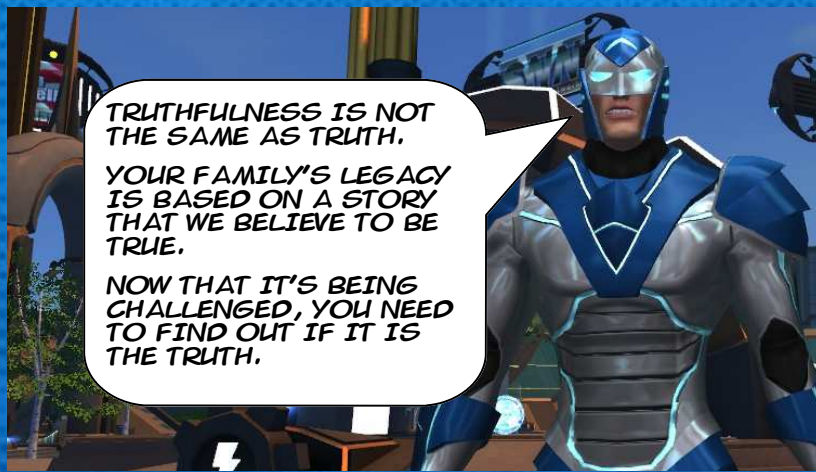
THEN SOMETHING HAPPENED TO CHANGE THAT DEAL. AND FOR SOME REASON, YOU'RE BEING BLAMED FOR IT AFTER-THE-FACT.



I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO TELL YOU HOW IMPORTANT A SUPERHERO'S REPUTATION IS. YOUR TRUTHFULNESS IS CURRENCY WITH THE PUBLIC.



SAYS THE HERO WEARING A MASK.



TRUTHFULNESS IS NOT THE SAME AS TRUTH. YOUR FAMILY'S LEGACY IS BASED ON A STORY THAT WE BELIEVE TO BE TRUE. NOW THAT IT'S BEING CHALLENGED, YOU NEED TO FIND OUT IF IT IS THE TRUTH.



I DON'T NEED TO KNOW IF IT'S TRUE. I KNOW IT IS.



THEN DEFEND IT, JOHN BATTLE. JUST REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE AND WHY YOUR FAMILY IS SO IMPORTANT. NOT JUST AS A WARRIOR. BUT AS A HERO.






# WCOG

"FIRST OFF... GREAT WORK REPORTING THAT STORY, MERCEDES."

"THANK YOU."




BUT... YOU ALSO STEPPED ON QUITE A FEW TOES GETTING IT OUT THERE FOR THE NOONTIME NEWS.




I MADE SURE EVERYTHING WAS VETTED WITH THE NEWS DEPARTMENT BEFORE I TOOK TO THE AIR.

WHICH DIDN'T INCLUDE THE SENIOR NEWS ANCHOR, WHO WASN'T IN AT THE TIME.



BECAUSE THEN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A ROB MAHOGANY STORY!

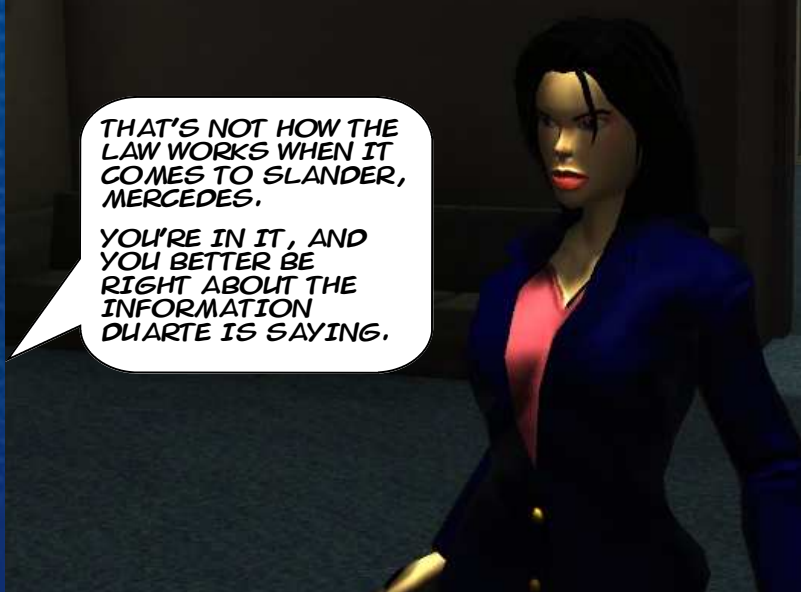
THIS WAS MY LEAD, MY STORY, NOT HIS.



WELL... ROB'S THROWING A FIT. AND I IMAGINE VICTORIA'S NOT HAPPY THAT YOU DIDN'T WAIT UNTIL THE MORNING TO BREAK IT ON HER SHOW.

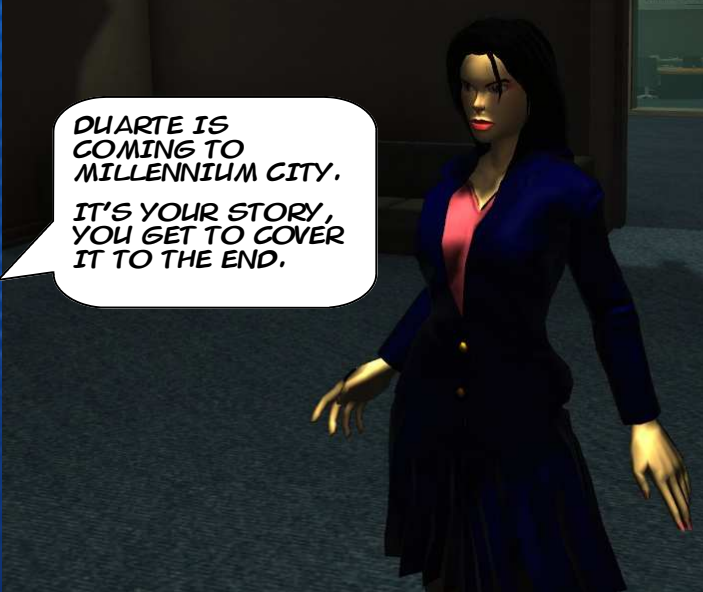
AND I GOT A CALL FROM AN ATTORNEY WHO IS READY TO FILE A SLANDER SUIT AGAINST US.

ALL I DID WAS REPORT WHAT PEDRO DUARTE REVEALED. IF HE SLANDERED JOHN BATTLE, THEN IT'S ON HIM, NOT US.



THAT'S NOT HOW THE LAW WORKS WHEN IT COMES TO SLANDER, MERCEDES.

YOU'RE IN IT, AND YOU BETTER BE RIGHT ABOUT THE INFORMATION DUARTE IS SAYING.



DUARTE IS COMING TO MILLENNIUM CITY. IT'S YOUR STORY, YOU GET TO COVER IT TO THE END.

"NO, I UNDERSTAND."

"THANKS CANDACE. YES, I'LL TELL HER."

CANDACE SINCLAIR IS ON THE CASE.

SHE SAYS I HAVE A PRETTY STRONG SLANDER SUIT AGAINST THE STATION AND THAT SO-CALLED "REPORTER".

SHE SAID I NEED TO KEEP LOW FOR THE TIME BEING.

NO HEROICS UNLESS IT'S THE END-OF-THE-WORLD SORT OF STUFF.

SHOULDN'T BE TOO BAD, RIGHT? I MEAN, EVEN WITH GALATEA OFF DOING WHATEVER SHE'S BEEN DOING.

SHE ALSO SAYS "HI".

DID YOU ORDER THE PIZZA?

TRIPLE PEPPERONI AND DOUBLE-CHEESE, JUST LIKE YOU ASKED.

JOHN, I...

I SAW YOU EARLIER TODAY AROUND NOONTIME JUST OUTSIDE MILLENNIUM MIKE'S.

REALLY? WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING?

DO ONE OF THOSE "HELLO GOOD CITIZEN" THINGS?

YOU WERE WITH SOMEONE. A YOUNG WOMAN WITH BROWN HAIR.


YOU LOOKED PRETTY FRIENDLY WITH HER, LIKE YOU KNEW HER FROM SOMEWHERE.




WELL A WOMAN DID ASK ME IF I WAS A HERO.

COULDN'T EXACTLY SAY "NO".

SO I STARTED TALKING ABOUT WHAT IT'S LIKE.

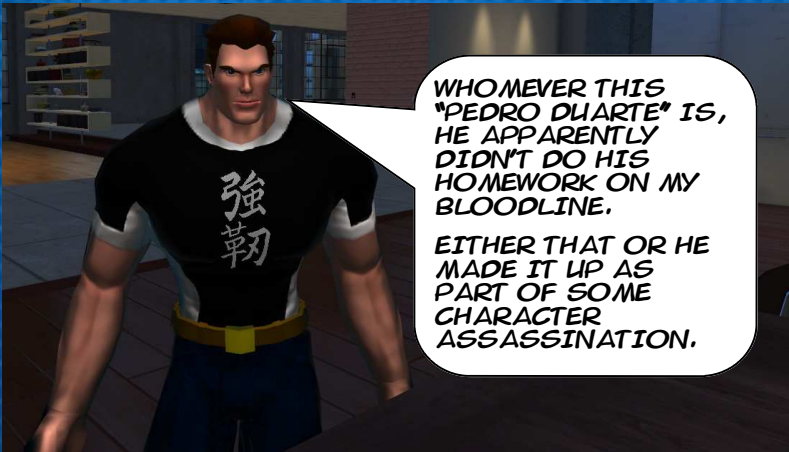


THAT'S ONE OF THE DOWNSIDES OF NOT HAVING A SECRET IDENTITY. EVERYONE KNOWS WHO I AM 24-7.



OH... OKAY... SO... THE STORY. IS IT TRUE? IS ANY OF IT TRUE?

ABOUT MY FAMILY? DEE, I'M HALF-APACHE. MY FATHER'S FAMILY HAS MORE TRIBAL BLOOD THAN EUROPEAN. THE BATTLE FAMILY IS CONNECTED TO A FEW DOZEN TRIBAL NATIONS.



WHO MEVER THIS "PEDRO DUARTE" IS, HE APPARENTLY DIDN'T DO HIS HOMEWORK ON MY BLOODLINE.

EITHER THAT OR HE MADE IT UP AS PART OF SOME CHARACTER ASSASSINATION.



I GUESS THIS SORT OF WHAT GALATEA WENT THROUGH WHEN MARKMAN GOLD TRIED TO OWN HER.\*

(\* THE LOST ADVENTURES OF GALATEA FUTURE\* #4)



AND THE OTHER PART OF IT? THE LAND DEAL?



FOR A CULTURAL CENTER, NOT AN OIL FRACKING OPERATION. EVERYTHING ABOUT THAT DEAL WAS ABOVE-THE-BOARD AND AS LEGIT AS YOUR RED HAIR.



MY HAIR IS DYED.  
I WASN'T BORN WITH THIS BRIGHT RED COLOR.



EVERY FEW MONTHS I PAY A SALON OWNER FIFTY BUCKS TO KEEP IT THIS BRIGHT.  
SO WHAT'S TO SAY THAT THE PEOPLE BEHIND THAT DEAL WEREN'T HONEST ABOUT THEIR INTENTIONS?

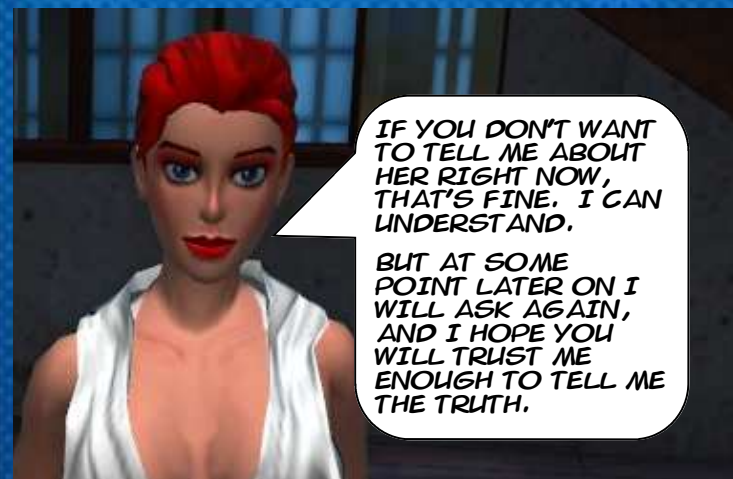


DEE... I NEED YOU TO BE ON MY SIDE. TO TRUST ME.

AND I AM... AND I WANT TO.



BUT YOU NEED TO BE HONEST WITH ME AS WELL.  
THAT GIRL EARLIER TODAY? SHE DIDN'T LOOK LIKE A CITY RESIDENT.



IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TELL ME ABOUT HER RIGHT NOW, THAT'S FINE. I CAN UNDERSTAND.  
BUT AT SOME POINT LATER ON I WILL ASK AGAIN, AND I HOPE YOU WILL TRUST ME ENOUGH TO TELL ME THE TRUTH.



DEE... I...

\*DING-DONGGG\*

THAT'S... PROBABLY THE PIZZA.



AND... ABOUT THAT THING... LATER ON... YES.

I TRUST ALL WENT ACCORDING TO PLAN.

PERFECTLY, M-MISTER VAN CLEEF.

N-NOBODY ON THE SITE QUESTIONED THE ARTICLE'S VERACITY. NEITHER D-DID THE REPORTER.

GOOD.

VARTECH INVESTED HEAVILY IN YOUR CAREER AND IN YOUR RESURRECTION.

WE TRUST YOU WILL NOT SQUANDER THAT INVESTMENT.

OH I-I WILL PR-PROVE YOU RIGHT, MISTER V-VAN CLEEF.

THEY L-LAUGHED AT ME BEFORE... MADE F-F-FUN OF ME... CALLED ME A J-JOKE.

BUT I W-WILL SHOW THEM.

I HAVE NO DOUBT YOU WILL.

P-PRETTY-BOY HEROES AND THEIR CAPED SK-SK@NKS.

I'LL B-BRING THEM ALL DOWN,

NEXT... MEET PEDRO

# GUARDIAN WORDS

Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.



UNITED NATIONS TRIBUNAL ON INTERNATIONAL LAW  
Project Mycroft - Major Xavier Cross, U.N.T.I.L. Commander



**CLASSIFIED INFORMATION - EYES ONLY**

## The Battle/Battlerock Legacy

### History:

In the early 1800's, Jordon Battalion immigrated from France to the United States. He was disgusted by the horrors of the post-Revolution society and he sought new opportunities presented by the land purchased by the United States under President Thomas Jefferson.

Much like the famed explorers Lewis and Clark, Jordon travelled deep into the tribal nations, making friends and allies along the way. However, he wasn't the only one exploring these new lands.

Reverend Nathaniel Marsh - a self-professed "crusader" - led a religious sect that firmly believed that the new territories were "given" to them by God to bring forth a new paradise. They regarded the tribal nations as "savages" that either needed to be converted or killed. To that end, they launched what would later be called "The Marsh Crusade", raiding tribal communities, ransacking them and either converting or killing the people.

According to Jordon's journal entries, around this time he began to experience nightmare visions of the conflict, and of a young woman and her grandfather standing behind a great warrior. The woman's name was Towa, and her grandfather was a holy man. She introduced Jordon to her grandfather. They discovered they had the same vision, which led Jordon to go through a special ceremony to make him "one with the land".

The various tribal nations would talk about "the lone warrior Battle", who stood his ground against Marsh's crusaders and stopped them.

In the years that followed, Jordon and Towa and their children would travel further west, visiting many other tribes. Jordon and his children would each be called "Battle", in honor of the "promise" made.

In the 1950's, Richard Battle would change his last name to Battlerock and work with the various studios in Hollywood to develop movies and TV shows that would reflect the heroism of the Battle family. His son Jonathan would eventually become a soldier and make his own fame as a hero in his own right.

Meanwhile, the main Battle family settled down in Arizona. Only recently did John Eagle Battle, the latest descendant of Jordon Battalion, venture back east to help Millennium City.

### The Creed:

The statement of belief of the Battle family is passed from parent-to-child as they develop their abilities in their early teens. As they train and learn how to harness their powers, they are given the following passage...

***"The strength of the mountain,  
The force of the storm,  
The sight of the eagle,  
The hearing of the bat,  
The blood of the warrior"***

Each line describes the abilities and attributes of the members of the Battle family, from their invulnerability (mountain), strength (storm), enhanced sight (eagle), sound (bat), and determination (warrior).

*Continues on next page...*

## Where Is Galatea?

Sufficient to say, Galatea Future is pretty busy... just not on the pages of “**Future’s Guardian**”.

Our favorite alternate-future superhero from a certain “City” is tied up with otherworld visitors Watcher Twelve and Sinnamon Kitten. As strangers to Millennium City, it really didn’t take too long for those two to get into trouble; especially when one of them wears a Navix device. They certainly could use the assist from Millennium City’s Guardian.

You can see her adventures with Twelve and SK in the pages of “**The Crucible**” starting with Issue #36, which includes a great 3D rendering of Galatea in her new outfit.

“What’s that”, you say? “A new outfit?”

Well it’s been a few years. Things have happened. Some of them seen in this issue. Some things you’ll find out in upcoming issues.

But for now, you can check out Galatea’s adventures in the pages of “The Crucible”, which you can find at [www.CoXComics.com](http://www.CoXComics.com)

And get the latest news at the official website of Battlerock Comics...



**[HTTP://BATTLE ROCK COMICS.WORDPRESS.COM](http://battlerockcomics.wordpress.com)**

**NEXT ISSUE...**

**CHAMPIONS  
ONLINE**



**JOHN BATTLE MUST DEFEND HIS FAMILY'S NAME AND HIS OWN AS PEDRO DUARTE ARRIVES TO BACK UP HIS CLAIMS.**

**AND WHO IS THE STRANGE WOMAN THAT JOHN MET WITH?  
FIND OUT!**





# 'THE CRUCIBLE'



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