



T FOR TEENS



ISSUE 17
2020

FUTURE'S GUARDIAN



**CHAMPIONS
ONLINE**

PERFECT
WORLD

It does not matter if it drives or flies.
Whether it is old or new.
Your vehicle still has to run on fuel.
Someone has to get that fuel.
Someone has to make it into fuel.
Someone has to bring that fuel to you.
Someone has to make it available and
affordable so you can fuel your vehicle.
Why not us?



ARGENT

MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE... FOR EVERYONE!

Argent is a fictional business in the MMO world of Champions Online. Any comparisons to filthy, greedy, money-grubbing, polluting, real-world private corporations that get tax breaks from corrupt politicians in Washington while screwing over the taxpayers and denying the consequences of their actions are just coincidental. It's fiction, okay?

corporate exploitation evil empires greed
fraud
WHAT IS THE
REAL TRUTH?
lies
corrupt politicians fake heroes
www.Real-Truth.Mill

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

"THE REAL 'REAL TRUTH'"

- A CHAMPIONS ONLINE STORY BY DAVID 2

ACCUSED OF BETRAYING THE YAVAPAI NATION IN THE NAME OF EXPLOITATION, JOHN BATTLE HAS STRUGGLED TO GET TO THE TRUTH BEHIND THE DAMNING ARTICLES IN THE "REAL TRUTH" WEBSITE. BUT NOW, WITH THE HELP OF ATTORNEY CANDACE SINCLAIR, THE ACTUAL TRUTH IS READY TO COME OUT.

Future's Guardian #17 is created using original characters in the **Champions Online** Multiplayer Online Roleplaying Game. Copyright © 2009-2020, Perfect World Entertainment, Inc. This story is an independent not-for-profit derivative work of the Champions Online Game. All original rights are reserved by Cryptic Studios and Perfect World Entertainment, Inc. Cryptic Studios is a trademark of Cryptic Studios, Inc. Perfect World Entertainment is a trademark of Perfect World Entertainment, Inc. All other trademarks are property of their respective owners. Battlerock Comics is a subsidiary of Get Brutal Productions and makes no claim on the intellectual property owned by either Cryptic Studios or Perfect World Entertainment. Keira Fyre was created by Theresa Setting and David 2.



WASHINGTON D.C.

"SO WHAT'S UP?"

"WELL... RIGHT NOW TRYING TO GET A FINICKY TRAVEL CAT TO EAT HER FOOD BEFORE I GO ON PATROL."

"NO, I MEAN WHAT'S GOING ON WITH JOHN."

WAIT... YOU'RE TRYING TO FEED FURBALL? I THOUGHT CANDACE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE DOING THAT!"

"SHE IS. OR RATHER SHE IS NOW."

NO, I'M OVER AT RONIN'S LOFT TRYING TO GET MISS LADY TO EAT."

RONIN OMEGA'S LOFT, MILLENNIUM CITY, MI

CANDACE HAD TO TRAVEL TO ARIZONA FOR A WHILE, SO I ENDED UP WATCHING BOTH CATS.

BUT... SHE'S BACK NOW AND SHE SHOULD BE TAKING CARE OF THINGS OVER AT YOUR PLACE.

DEE RISK
AKA: STARLETT



MISS LADY
RONIN'S TRAVEL CAT

OOOOKAY.

WELL THE REASON WHY I CALLED WAS BECAUSE THE WHOLE MESS WITH JOHN AND THE YAVAPAI DEAL REACHED WASHINGTON.

I HAVE SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN ASKING ME ABOUT IT.

I'VE BEEN ANSWERING QUESTIONS FOR THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION OVER THE WHOLE MESS WITH THE MAYORAL ELECTION... AND NOW I HAVE HALF OF CONGRESS CALLING ME ABOUT THIS!



GALATEA FUTURE
OTHERWORLD GUARDIAN



WELL I WISH I HAD SOME ANSWERS FOR YOU, TAYA.

JOHN AND CANDACE HAVE BEEN BUSY ON WHATEVER SHE DUG UP IN ARIZONA.



I IMAGINE IT'S BEEN FRUSTRATING FOR YOU.

I MEAN, I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH A PROBLEM THAT YOU JUST CAN'T PUNCH YOUR WAY OUT.



YOU MEAN WHEN YOU HAD THAT INTERNET BLOGGER HARASSING YOU? WHAT WAS HIS NAME? SOCKS? JOCKS?

VOX. VOX POPULII.*

(* ISSUE #3)



YEAH, I BARELY REMEMBER HIM.

WOW, YOU REALLY HAVE A GREAT MEMORY.



NO, I'M GOOD. REALLY. IF I HEARD CANDACE RIGHT, THEY SHOULD BRING THIS WHOLE MESS TO A HEAD REAL SOON.



THAT'S GOOD.

WELL... YOU WATCH YOUR BACK OVER THERE, DEE, AND I'LL BE HOME SOON.



OKAY. SEE YOU SOON. AND GIVE THOSE POLITICIANS HELL.

OKAY. AND GIVE CAN MY BEST.



COME ON, MISS LADY... CAN YOU AT LEAST TRY A LITTLE OF THE FOOD BEFORE I GO?

GRRMEOW?

RENAISSANCE CENTER, MILLENNIUM CITY, MI.

I PRESUME YOU ARE DEFENDER?

I AM.
SOMETHING I CAN HELP YOU WITH?

 **DEFENDER**
THE CHAMPIONS

MY NAME IS
LUCAS
THUNDERWOLF.
I AM HERE ON
BEHALF OF THE
YAVAPAI TRIBE.

JOHN BATTLE IS
ACCUSED OF
BETRAYING THE
YAVAPAI PEOPLE
AND VIOLATING
HIS SACRED BOND
WITH THE LAND.
I HAVE BEEN
AUTHORIZED TO
BRING HIM TO THE
ELDERS FOR TRIAL.

MEANWHILE... A FEW BLOCKS AWAY...

BIENOS DIAS*,
PEDRO.

 **KEIRA FYRE**
ELEMENTAL ARCHER

(*GOOD DAY*)

PERDON*, SENORA...
DO I KNOW YOU?

ME? NO... I'M NOT
SOMEONE YOU'D REMEMBER.
I'M JUST A REALLY BIG FAN
OF YOUR WORK.

FROM ONE PROFESSIONAL
TO ANOTHER, I REALLY LOVE
HOW YOU'RE ABLE TO REALLY
BRING SOMEONE DOWN.

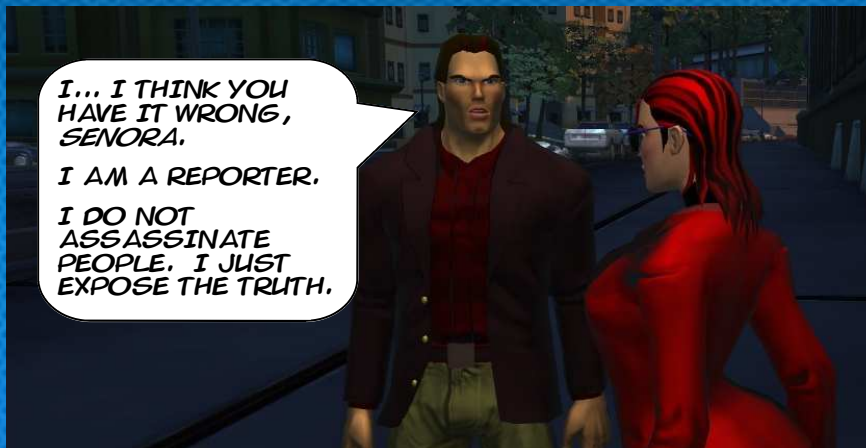


PEDRO DUARTE
INTERNATIONAL REPORTER

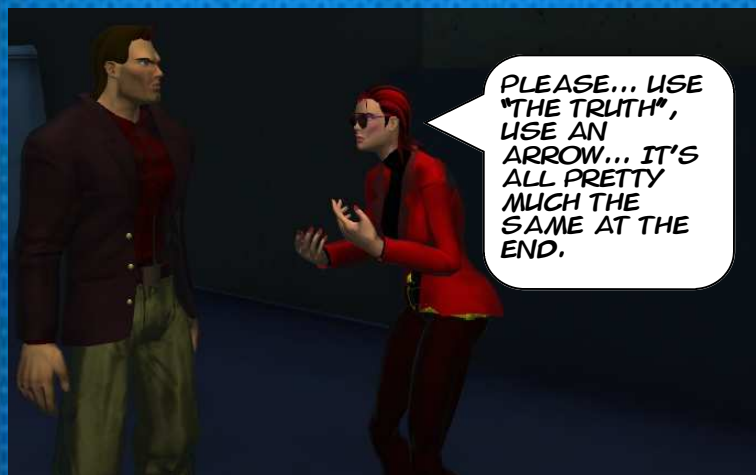
(*EXCUSE ME*)



YOU KNOW...
ASSASSINATE
THEM.



I... I THINK YOU
HAVE IT WRONG,
SENORA.
I AM A REPORTER.
I DO NOT
ASSASSINATE
PEOPLE. I JUST
EXPOSE THE TRUTH.



PLEASE... USE
"THE TRUTH",
USE AN
ARROW... IT'S
ALL PRETTY
MUCH THE
SAME AT THE
END.



YOU HAVE AN...
INTERESTING
VIEW, SENORA.
BUENOS DIAS.



OH, EL DÍA ACABA DE
EMPEZAR, SEÑOR.

YOUR DAY IS
JUST STARTING.



WESTSIDE

WCOC STUDIO



I WAS
TOLD YOU
WANTED TO
SEE ME?

MERCEDES REALE
WCOC REPORTER



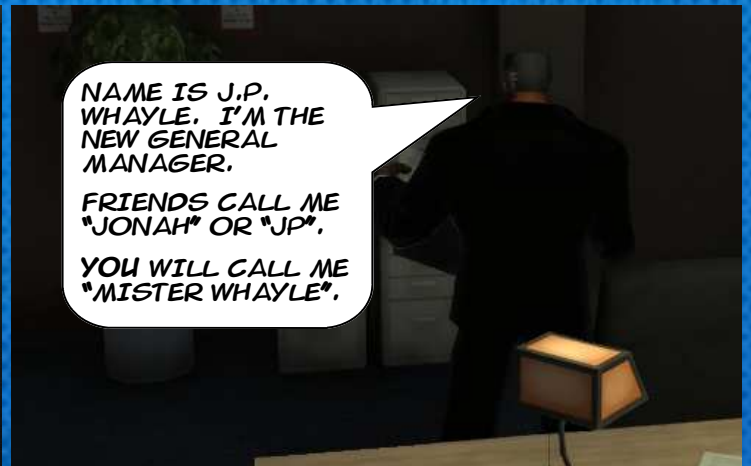
HEY!
YOU'RE
NOT--



NOPE. HE'S NOT
HERE ANY MORE.

AND, YES, I AM
THE ONE WHO
ASKED FOR YOU.

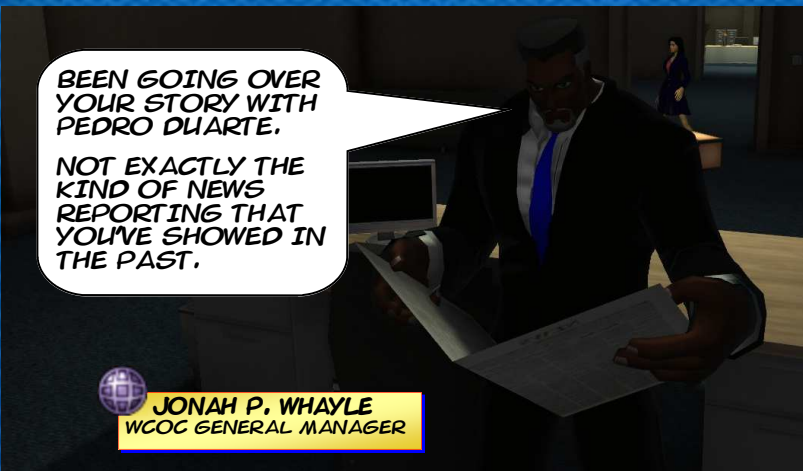
COME IN AND GRAB
A CHAIR. WE HAVE
SOME STUFF TO
DISCUSS.



NAME IS J.P.
WHAYLE. I'M THE
NEW GENERAL
MANAGER.

FRIENDS CALL ME
"JONAH" OR "JP".

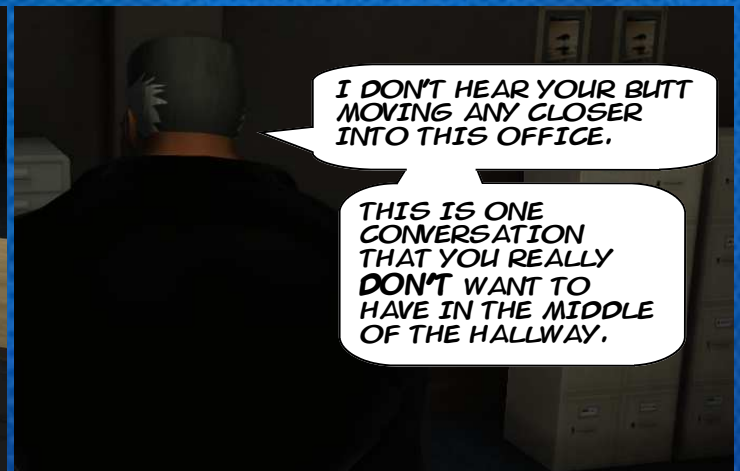
YOU WILL CALL ME
"MISTER WHAYLE".



BEEN GOING OVER
YOUR STORY WITH
PEDRO DUARTE.

NOT EXACTLY THE
KIND OF NEWS
REPORTING THAT
YOU'VE SHOWED IN
THE PAST.

JONAH P. WHAYLE
WCOC GENERAL MANAGER



I DON'T HEAR YOUR BUTT
MOVING ANY CLOSER
INTO THIS OFFICE.

THIS IS ONE
CONVERSATION
THAT YOU REALLY
DON'T WANT TO
HAVE IN THE MIDDLE
OF THE HALLWAY.



I'LL START BY
ASKING AN EASY
QUESTION:

I PRESUME THAT
YOU CROSS-
VERIFIED YOUR
INITIAL STORY.
WHO WITH?



YES... YES I
CROSS-VERIFIED
THE STORY FIRST.

I FIRST GOT THE
STORY FROM
ERNIE... HE'S
SORT OF AN
"INTERNET
SCROUNGER" WHO
CAME ACROSS
THE WEB ARTICLE.



AND YOUR
SECOND
SOURCE?



ROBERT ACORN
FROM THE UNITED
PRESS.



"ROBERT ACORN",
YOU SAID?

YES, WHY?



THEN WE HAVE A
REAL PROBLEM
ON OUR HANDS.



I DON'T
UNDERSTAND. I'VE
HEARD OF ROBERT
ACORN BEFORE.



WE ALL HAVE.

BECAUSE "ROBERT
ACORN" IS THE PEN
NAME FOR SHERMAN
ADAIR, CEO OF
ADAIR MEDIA.

HE USES IT WHEN HE
NEEDS TO PRESENT
A SUPPOSEDLY
"IMPARTIAL" VIEW,
OR TO "VERIFY" ONE
OF HIS OWN FAKE
NEWS STORIES.



IN OTHER WORDS...
YOU GOT PLAYED BY
OUR COMPETITION.

PROJECT MYCROFT

I TOLD DEFENDER THAT I WOULD RELAY HIS MESSAGE TO YOU AND THAT YOU WOULD CONTACT HIM ABOUT WHETHER YOU'D SURRENDER YOURSELF.

HOWEVER... I DON'T THINK HE WILL WAIT FOREVER.

AT SOME POINT HE WILL TAKE IT UPON HIMSELF TO BRING YOU IN.

MAJOR XAVIER CROSS
PROJECT MYCROFT

JOHN BATTLE'S LOFT

THAT'S OKAY, MAJOR.
WE'RE ABOUT READY TO OPEN THIS WHOLE THING UP.

I REMEMBER THUNDERWOLF... HE WAS A YOUNG MAN WHO SEEMED TO BE RATHER... INVESTED... IN THE DEAL FOR THE CULTURAL CENTER.

I THOUGHT IT WAS WEIRD HE WOULD BE THAT EXCITED.

JOHN BATTLE
LEGACY WARRIOR

SOUNDS LIKE HE HAD MORE THAN JUST A PASSING INTEREST.
WHAT I'VE FOUND DURING MY TRIP OVER THERE--

BEEP-BEEP

CANDACE SINCLAIR
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

HOLD ON...

I'M GETTING A DATA PACKAGE FROM AN ASSOCIATE THAT I CALLED IN TO HELP.*

(* LAST ISSUE)

IT SEEMS THE F.B.I.* HAVE A FILE ON PEDRO DUARTE THAN MY ASSOCIATE WAS ABLE TO SHARE WITH US.

AND... IF I'M READING THIS RIGHT...

(* FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION)

... EVERYTHING WE KNEW ABOUT PEDRO DUARTE IS WRONG!

IN AN INTERVIEW
WITH OUR OWN
JULIE MORGAN,
THUNDERWOLF SAID
THAT THE TRIBAL
ELDERS COULD
REVOKE JOHN
BATTLE'S POWERS
THROUGH AN
ANCIENT RITUAL
SHOULD HE BE
DEEMED GUILTY.

8 WCOC WCOC MID-MORNING NEWS - VICTORIA CROWNSTONE

WHILE HE DID NOT
GO INTO DETAIL
ABOUT HOW THIS
WOULD TAKE PLACE,
THUNDERWOLF DID
SAY THAT THE
MARSH FOUNDATION
PLAYED A HUGE
ROLE IN BRINGING
THE CASE UP WITH
THE TRIBAL ELDERS.

8 WCOC WCOC MID-MORNING NEWS - VICTORIA CROWNSTONE

IT'S ALL C-COMING INTO
PLACE... EXXXX-ACTLY AS
I... P-P-PLANED IT.

BY THE E-E-END OF THE D-
D-DAY, THAT OVERHYPED K-
KEN DOLL WILL BE GONE!

I W-W-WONDER WHERE
MERCEDES IS.

VICTORIA IS TOO O-O-
OLD FOR MY T-TASTES.

A RECENT POLL BY
THE MARSH
FOUNDATION SAYS
THAT FIFTY-THREE
PERCENT OF THE
POPULACE BELIEVE
BATTLE SHOULD
SURRENDER
HIMSELF AND FACE
TRIBAL JUSTICE.

8 WCOC JOHN BATTLE - GULTY? LET US KNOW IN OUR FORUM!

WE ARE WAITING TO
HEAR FROM JOHN
BATTLE HIMSELF...
HOLD ON...

8 WCOC JOHN BATTLE - ACCUSED OF PRIVATEERING - DISCUSS NOW!

I'VE JUST BEEN
INFORMED THAT OUR
NEW GENERAL
MANAGER WILL BE
MAKING AN
ANNOUNCEMENT
CONCERNING THIS
STORY LATER TODAY.

8 WCOC WCOC MID-MORNING NEWS WITH VICTORIA CROWNSTONE

STAY TUNED TO WCOC
FOR THE LATEST NEWS
AS WE GET IT.

8 WCOC JOHN BATTLE - GULTY? LET US KNOW IN OUR FORUM!

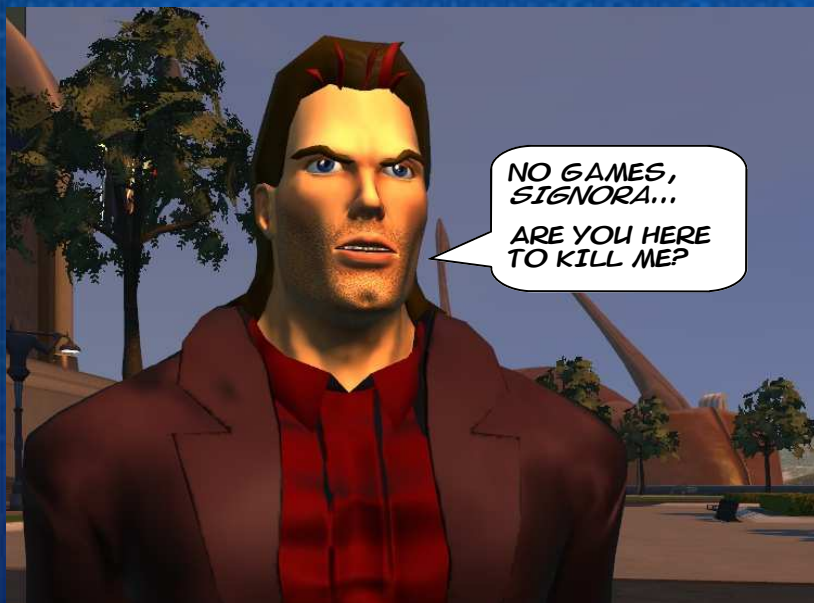
IN THE COMMON AREA JUST OUTSIDE
OF THE RENAISSANCE CENTER...



WHY ARE YOU
FOLLOWING ME?
WHAT DO YOU
WANT?

OH... HI! SMALL WORLD.

CAN YOU BELIEVE THE
TIGERS? I SWEAR THEY
DON'T EVEN WANT A SUPER
BOWL RING ANYMORE.
OR ARE YOU MORE A FAN
OF THE OTHER FOOTBALL?



NO GAMES,
SIGNORA...
ARE YOU HERE
TO KILL ME?



PLEASE! IF I WAS
HERE TO DO THAT,
YOU WOULDN'T
EVEN SEE ME.



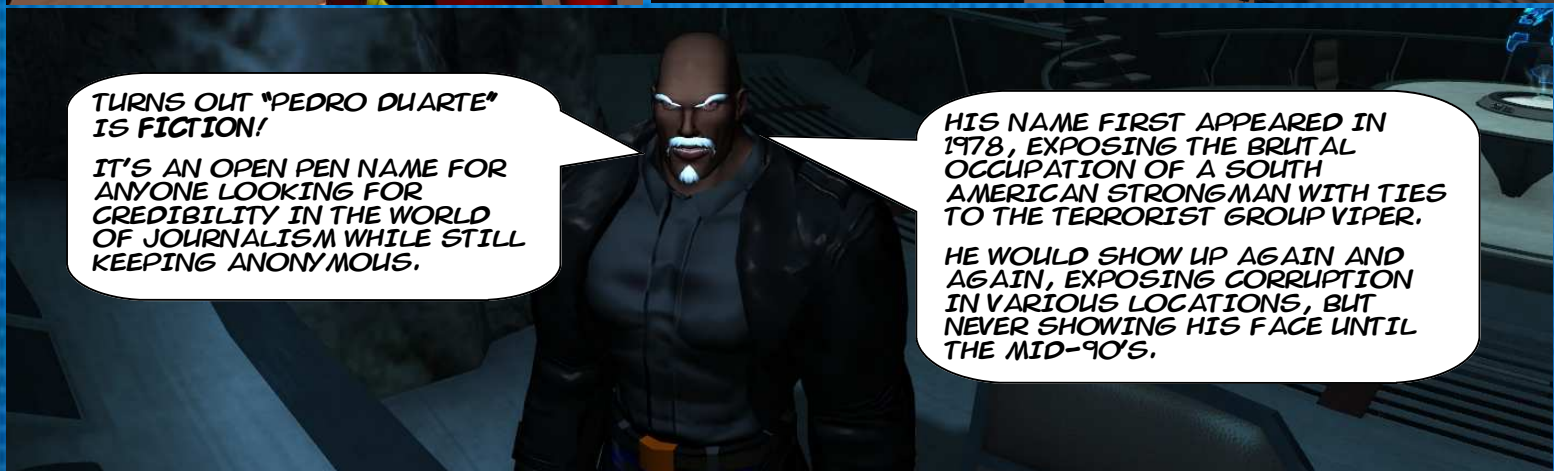
I'M JUST HERE TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU DON'T GO ANYWHERE JUST YET.

NOT UNTIL I GET THE WORD FROM MY BOSS.



OH, AND I ALSO KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT YOU.

YOU KNOW... THE "REAL TRUTH"... ABOUT "PEDRO DUARTE".



Turns out "PEDRO DUARTE" IS FICTION!

IT'S AN OPEN PEN NAME FOR ANYONE LOOKING FOR CREDIBILITY IN THE WORLD OF JOURNALISM WHILE STILL KEEPING ANONYMOUS.

HIS NAME FIRST APPEARED IN 1978, EXPOSING THE BRUTAL OCCUPATION OF A SOUTH AMERICAN STRONGMAN WITH TIES TO THE TERRORIST GROUP VIPER.

HE WOULD SHOW UP AGAIN AND AGAIN, EXPOSING CORRUPTION IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS, BUT NEVER SHOWING HIS FACE UNTIL THE MID-90'S.

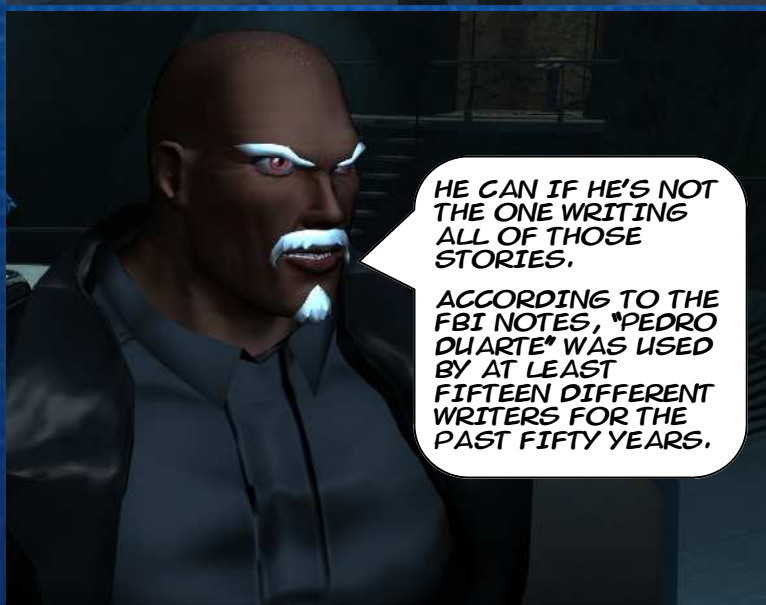


YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?

I WISH I WERE, COUNCILOR.

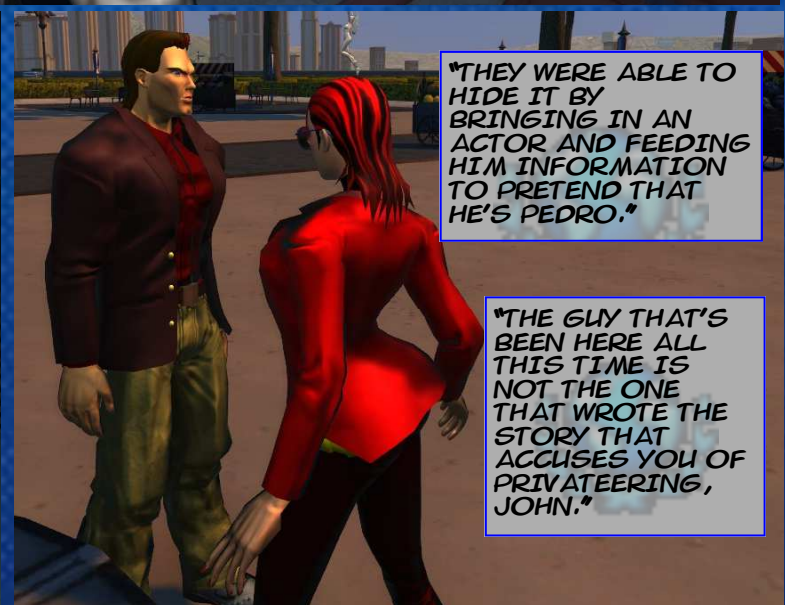
MAJOR, THE GUY ON TV DOESN'T EVEN LOOK LIKE HE'S IN HIS THIRTIES.

HOW THE HELL CAN HE BE RUNNING AROUND THE WORLD FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS?



HE CAN IF HE'S NOT THE ONE WRITING ALL OF THOSE STORIES.

ACCORDING TO THE FBI NOTES, "PEDRO DUARTE" WAS USED BY AT LEAST FIFTEEN DIFFERENT WRITERS FOR THE PAST FIFTY YEARS.



"THEY WERE ABLE TO HIDE IT BY BRINGING IN AN ACTOR AND FEEDING HIM INFORMATION TO PRETEND THAT HE'S PEDRO."

"THE GUY THAT'S BEEN HERE ALL THIS TIME IS NOT THE ONE THAT WROTE THE STORY THAT ACCUSES YOU OF PRIVATEERING, JOHN."


Victoria is sitting at a desk in a dimly lit office. She is wearing a dark blue blazer over a pink top. Behind her is a bookshelf filled with books.

PEDRO IS... A PEN NAME?

BUT... HE'S REAL! HE WAS JUST HERE IN THE STUDIO YESTERDAY!*

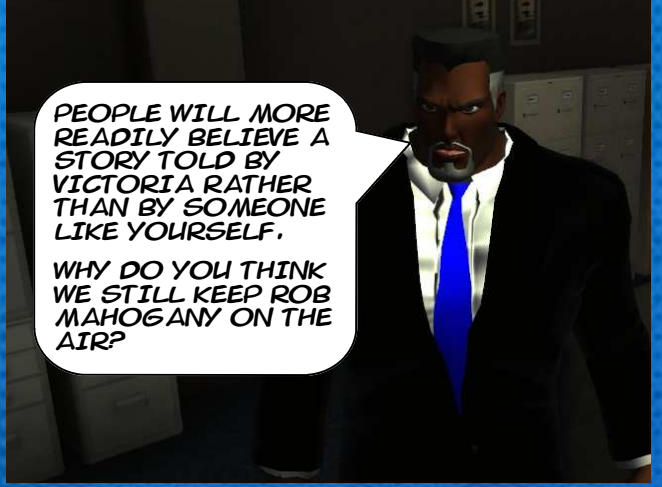
I REMEMBER READING HIS ARTICLES WHEN I WAS A CHILD! I WANTED TO BECOME A REPORTER **BECAUSE** OF HIM! WHY? WHY WOULD SOMEONE EVEN DO THIS?

(*** LAST ISSUE**)

Rob Mahogany is standing in an office, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and blue tie. He has a goatee and is looking serious.

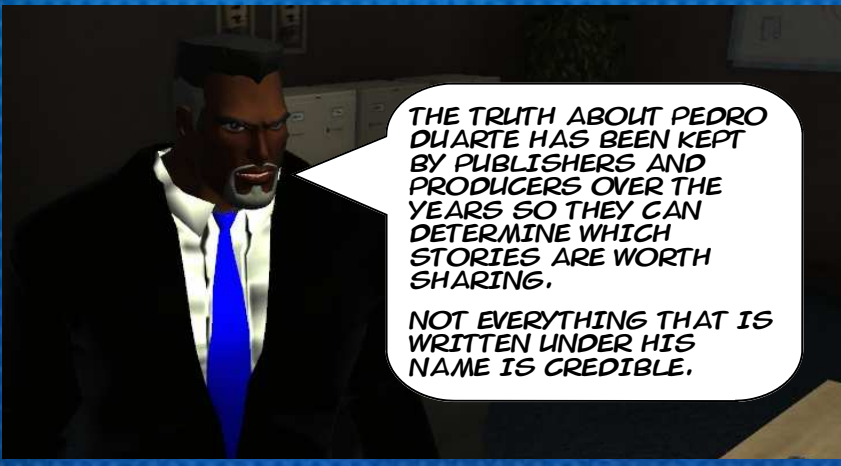
BECAUSE SOMETIMES A STORY NEEDS TO COME OUT, AND, IN THE WORLD THAT WE LIVE IN, IT SOMETIMES CAN ONLY BE TOLD BY SOMEONE THAT PEOPLE RESPECT.

OR AT LEAST SOMEONE THAT THEY RECOGNIZE.

Rob Mahogany is standing in an office, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and blue tie. He has a goatee and is looking serious.


PEOPLE WILL MORE READILY BELIEVE A STORY TOLD BY VICTORIA RATHER THAN BY SOMEONE LIKE YOURSELF.

WHY DO YOU THINK WE STILL KEEP ROB MAHOGANY ON THE AIR?

Rob Mahogany is standing in an office, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and blue tie. He has a goatee and is looking serious.

THE TRUTH ABOUT PEDRO DUARTE HAS BEEN KEPT BY PUBLISHERS AND PRODUCERS OVER THE YEARS SO THEY CAN DETERMINE WHICH STORIES ARE WORTH SHARING.

NOT EVERYTHING THAT IS WRITTEN UNDER HIS NAME IS CREDIBLE.

Victoria is standing in a dark office, wearing a dark blue blazer over a pink top. She has a serious expression.

YOU MEAN... SOME OF THE STORIES...
...ARE LIES?

Rob Mahogany is standing in an office, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and blue tie. He has a goatee and is looking serious. Victoria is visible in the background, sitting at a desk.

SOMETIMES THEY ARE.

SOMETIMES THEY ARE HALF-TRUTHS DESIGNED TO TEAR DOWN ONE SPECIAL INTEREST FOR THE BENEFIT OF ANOTHER.

MY PREDECESSOR DIDN'T REALIZE THE TRUTH ABOUT THE "REAL TRUTH" STORY UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE.

HAD YOU RUN IT BY HIM FIRST, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO STOP YOU FROM GETTING THIS STATION INVOLVED IN IT.

AND NOW... I HAVE TO FIX THIS.



SO WHAT'S YOUR
REAL NAME?
THE NAME YOU
WERE BORN WITH?



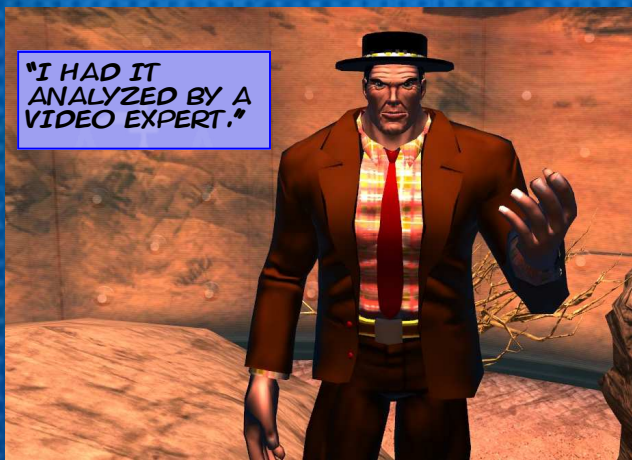
ANTONIO MORA.
AND I'M SPANISH,
NOT MEXICAN.
IT'S JUST THAT I'VE
BEEN "PEDRO" FOR SO
LONG, IT'S WHO I'VE
SEEN MYSELF AS.



WELL YOUR LITTLE
SURPRISE FITS IN
WITH WHAT I FOUND
IN ARIZONA.
YOU KNOW THAT
VIDEO OF CHIEF
CROW TALKING
ABOUT ALL THE
DAMAGE TO THE
TRIBE BY FRACKING?



IT'S FAKE.
IT'S ALL FAKE!



"I HAD IT
ANALYZED BY A
VIDEO EXPERT."



"CHIEF CROW WAS
JUST A COMPUTER-
GENERATED AVATAR."

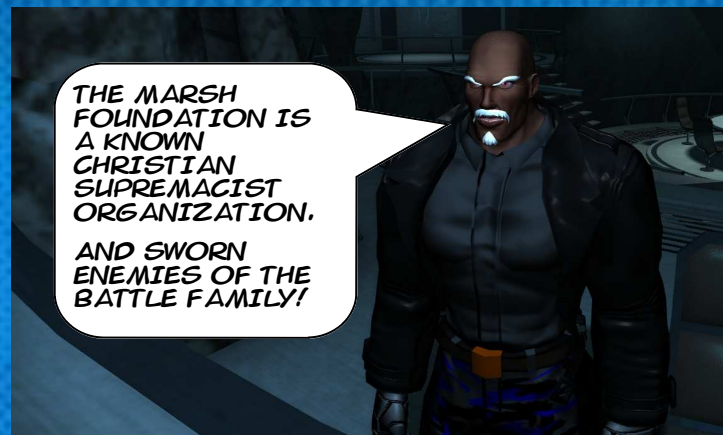
"THE LATEST IN
DEEP-FAKE
TECHNOLOGY."



I ALSO MANAGED
TO GET THE TECHS
TO IDENTIFY WHERE
THE FAKE VIDEO
CAME FROM.



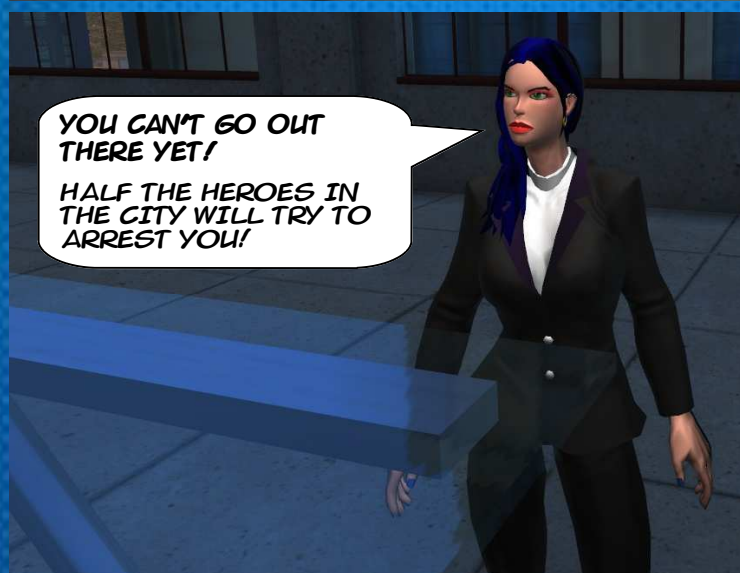
THEY'VE BEEN
MENTIONED ON
THE AIR A LOT
LATELY.
IT'S THE MARSH
FOUNDATION.





WHERE ARE
YOU GOING?

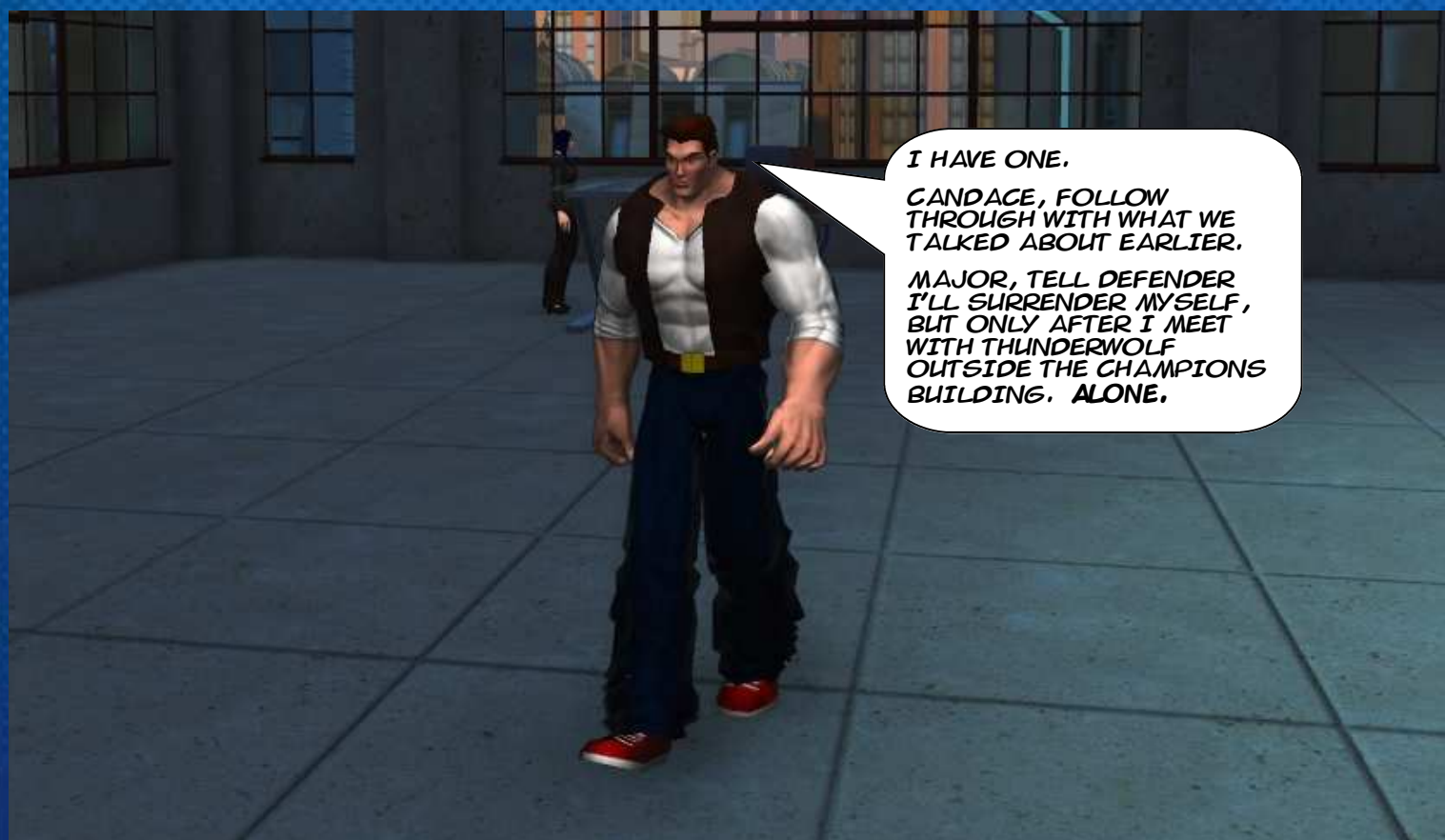
TO SUIT UP.
I KNOW WHO KILLED
SAM ARKIN.



YOU CAN'T GO OUT
THERE YET!
HALF THE HEROES IN
THE CITY WILL TRY TO
ARREST YOU!



LISTEN TO YOUR
LAWYER, JOHN.
YOU NEED A PLAN!



I HAVE ONE.

CANDACE, FOLLOW
THROUGH WITH WHAT WE
TALKED ABOUT EARLIER.

MAJOR, TELL DEFENDER
I'LL SURRENDER MYSELF,
BUT ONLY AFTER I MEET
WITH THUNDERWOLF
OUTSIDE THE CHAMPIONS
BUILDING. ALONE.

We're here...

When you get your first automobile.

When you buy your first home.

When you welcome your child into the world.

When you get sick.

When a super-villain destroys your neighborhood.

When the Qularr invade the planet.

When monsters attack.

When terrorists raid your workplace.

When a hero saves the day...

And especially when the hero can't.

We're here for you for all of these reasons and many, many more... because we know that someone needs to be there for those moments.

Millennium Insurance

We're here when you need someone the most.

Hungry? Need your pizza fast and hot?

That's the only way we know how!

SPEED-E PIZZA

THE ONLY PIZZA MADE AND DELIVERED BY SPEEDSTERS!

We promise that if your order isn't delivered to you still piping hot in 5 minutes or less, the next one is on us!

313-SPEED-ZA

WWW.SPEDEPIZZA.MILL

Only applicable to locations within Millennium City. Redeemable order must be of the same or lesser amount. 5-minute guarantee not applicable during alien or multidimensional invasions, giant monsters, or supervillain rampages. Not a real business. This kind of business only exists in the world of Champions Online MMO. Not a real ad.

CLEAN CAPE DRY CLEANING

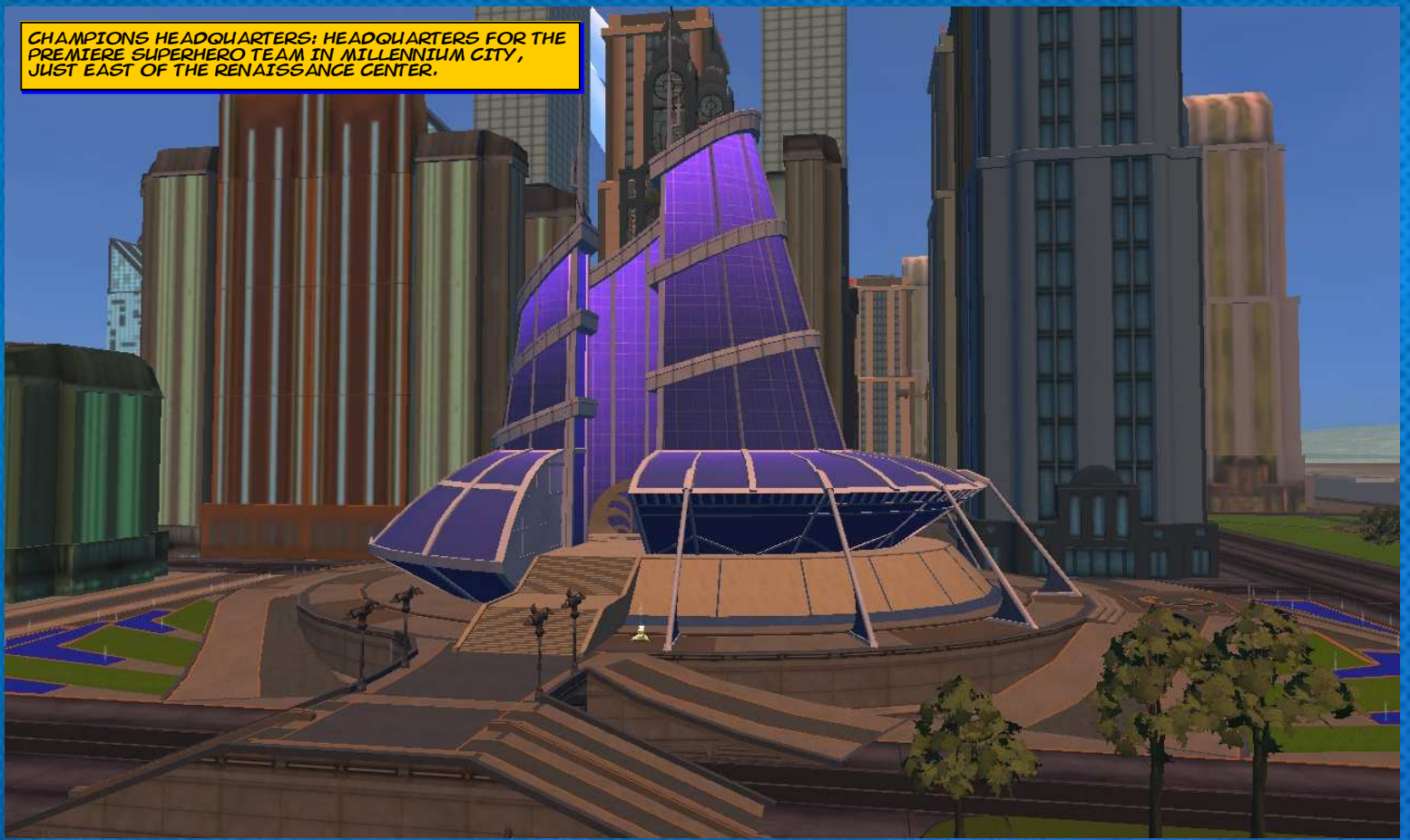
**BECAUSE THIS SHOULDN'T
END UP BEING YOUR
HERO HEADQUARTERS!**

www.CleanCape.Millennium.City

A fictional business in the world of Champions Online. Not a real business or website.



CHAMPIONS HEADQUARTERS: HEADQUARTERS FOR THE PREMIERE SUPERHERO TEAM IN MILLENNIUM CITY, JUST EAST OF THE RENAISSANCE CENTER.





WELL... I'M HERE.
ALONE.
AS YOU
REQUESTED.



GOOD TO SEE
YOU, LUCAS.
YOU'VE COME A
LONG WAY SINCE
I LAST SAW YOU.



THIS IS A WEIRD
LOCATION TO
SURRENDER
YOURSELF,
BATTLE.
CLOSED IN... NO
PLACE FOR YOU
TO FLEE.



I'M NOT PLANNING
ON RUNNING,
LUCAS.
I JUST WANTED
SOMEPLACE WHERE
THERE CAN BE NO
INTERFERENCE.



AND THIS CONTAINMENT FIELD
MAKE SURE THAT NEITHER OF
US WILL RUN UNTIL WE FINISH
WHAT WE'RE HERE TO DO.


SPLOSH!



BE HONEST, LUCAS.
YOU WEREN'T REALLY
PLANNING ON TAKING
ME TO THE YAVAPAI
ELDERS, WERE YOU?
WE BOTH KNOW THAT I
DIDN'T DO ANY OF THE
THINGS THAT WAS
SAID ABOUT ME.




OF COURSE YOU
DIDN'T.
BUT THAT'S HOW
ARGENT WANTS
IT TO LOOK.




WHEN I FIRST ARRIVED AT THE TRIBE, THERE WAS AN OLD MAN WHO COULD CARVE A LOG INTO A TOTEM WITH TWO HATCHETS IN FIVE MINUTES.




MY FATHER... REDUCED TO DOING NOVELTY ACTS FOR A FEW BUCKS A DAY.




AND THEN HE PASSED THAT SKILL TO YOU.
AND YOU USED IT TO KILL SAM ARKIN.
WHY? WHY KILL HIM?



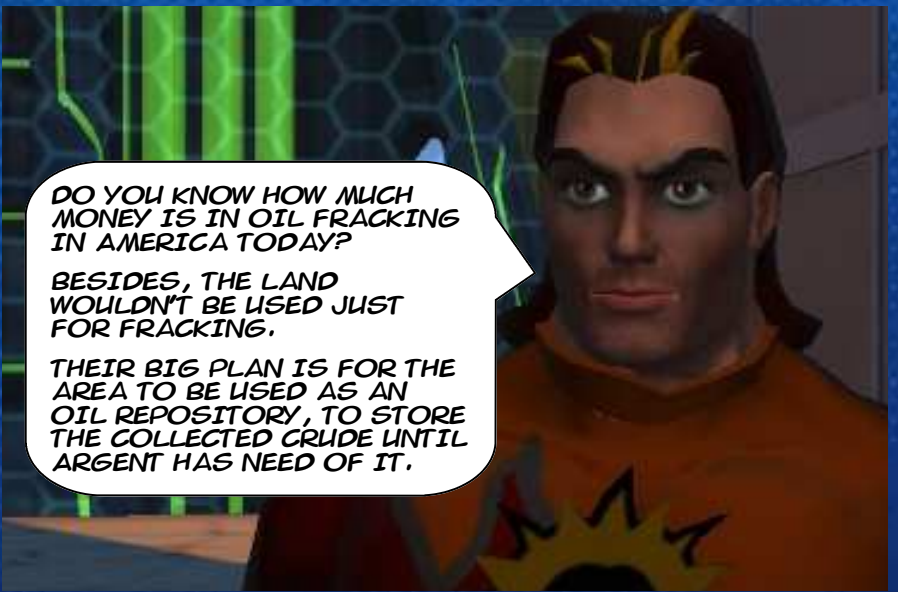
BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT ARGENT WANTED AS WELL.
ONE OF THEIR RECRUITERS PAID ME A VISIT IN THE TRIBAL CASINO WHERE I WAS WORKING SECURITY.




HE SAW WHAT I SAW.
THE CASINO WAS A DEAD-END GIMMICK THAT DEGRADED THE TRIBE AS A TOURIST TRAP.
HE SAW POTENTIAL IN ME.
HE OFFERED ME A PLACE WITH ARGENT IF I COULD HELP TURN THE WHOLE AREA OVER TO THEM.




FOR AN OIL SHALE FRACKING OPERATION THAT KILLS THE LAND AND THE TRIBE?




DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH MONEY IS IN OIL FRACKING IN AMERICA TODAY?
BESIDES, THE LAND WOULDN'T BE USED JUST FOR FRACKING.
THEIR BIG PLAN IS FOR THE AREA TO BE USED AS AN OIL REPOSITORY, TO STORE THE COLLECTED CRUDE UNTIL ARGENT HAS NEED OF IT.



SO THIS WHOLE
THING... THE FAKE
STORY OF THE
TRIBE BEING
DEVASTATED...
FRAMING ME...
WAS TO DROP THE
LAND VALUE SO
ARGENT CAN BUY
THE WHOLE AREA
FROM THE TRIBE
CHEAP.



FRAMING YOU
WAS THE ICING
ON THE CAKE.
AND ARKIN?
KILLING HIM
WAS MY FINAL
AUDITION.



WHEN WE'RE DONE HERE,
I'LL BE BRINGING YOUR
LIFELESS BODY TO THE
ELDERS AND CONVINCE
THEM THAT THEY PLACED
THEIR TRUST IN A FRAUD
NAMED JOHN BATTLE.

IN FIVE YEARS, I'LL BE SITTING
IN A LUXURY OFFICE SUITE
OVERLOOKING ARGENT'S LATEST
CORPORATE ENTERPRISE IN THE
SOUTHWEST, PAVED OVER ANY
MENTION OF THE BATTLE FAMILY!



KA-POW!





A FEW BLOCKS AWAY ALONG
THE RIVERSIDE...



I'M AFRAID
THERE'S BEEN
A CHANGE
OF PLANS.



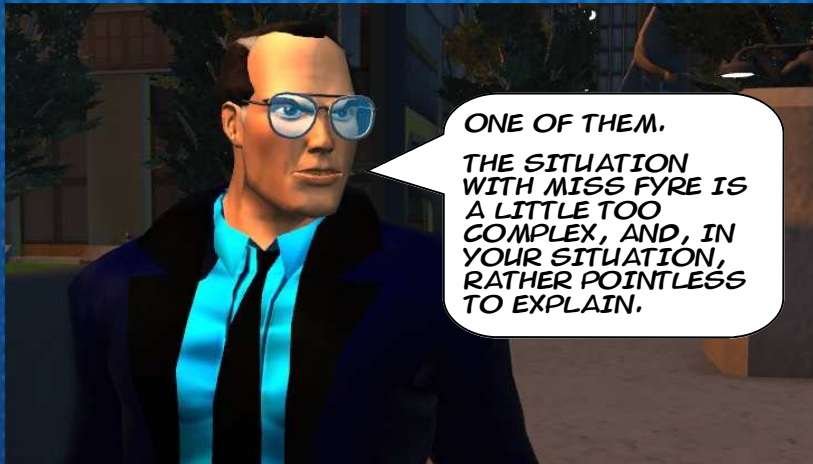
THE BOAT THAT WAS
SUPPOSED TO PICK YOU UP
AND TAKE YOU DOWNRIVER?
WE'VE CALLED THEM OFF.



MIKE MESSENGER
X-TEND SERVICES



SO YOU'RE "THE BOSS"...
THE ONE THE YOUNG LADY
SAID SHE WAS WAITING
TO HEAR FROM.



ONE OF THEM.
THE SITUATION
WITH MISS FYRE IS
A LITTLE TOO
COMPLEX, AND, IN
YOUR SITUATION,
RATHER POINTLESS
TO EXPLAIN.



SO... THIS IS IT?
THIS IS HOW
PEDRO DUARTE
MEETS HIS END?

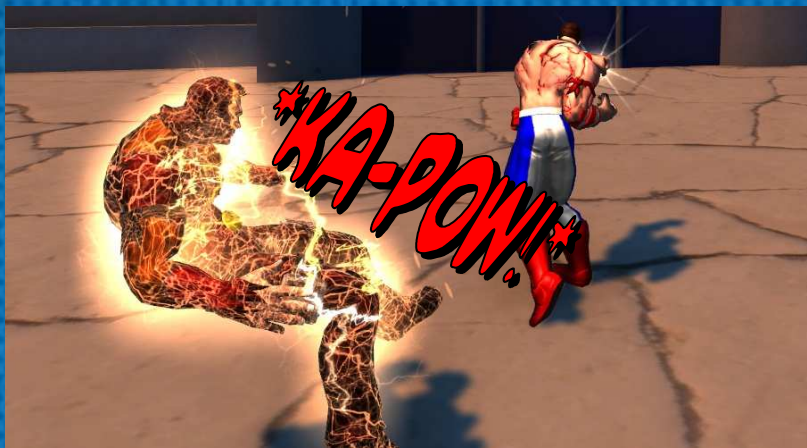
FOR "PEDRO"? OH, NO,
"PEDRO" WILL BE BACK
IN A FEW YEARS.
THERE WILL ALWAYS A
NEED FOR SOMEONE
LIKE HIM IN OUR WORLD.

BUT I PROMISE YOU
THIS, MISTER MORA:
YOUR RELATIVES WILL
FIND THEMSELVES WELL
TAKEN CARE OF FOR THE
SERVICE YOU PROVIDED
OVER THE YEARS.



NOW...
COME WITH
ME PLEASE.

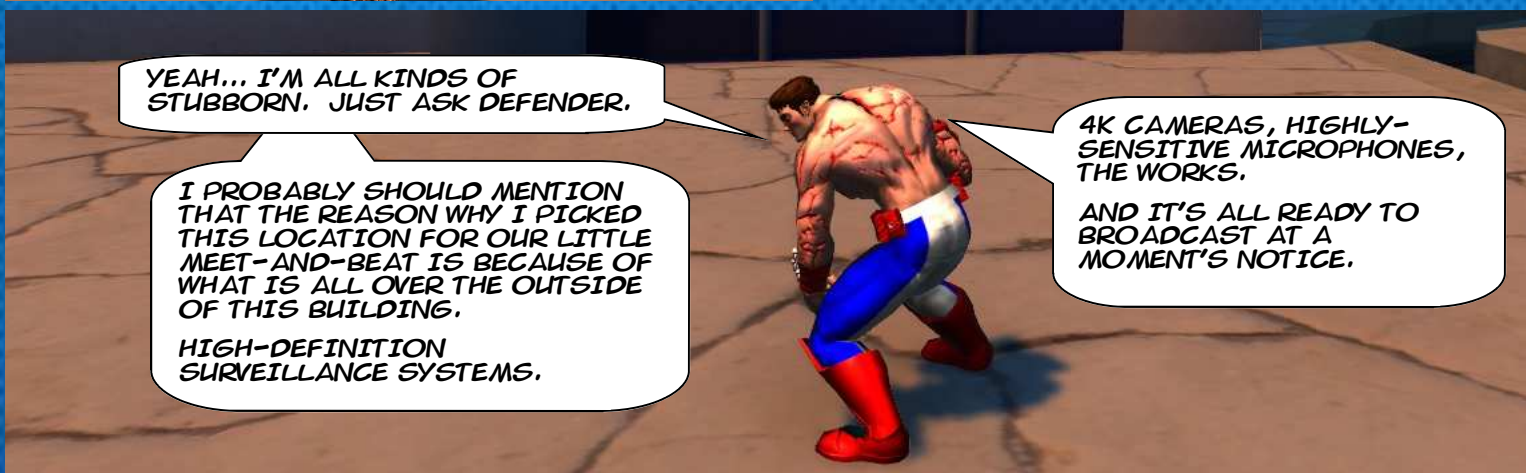




***KA-POW!**



YOU... YOU SHOULD BE DEAD BY NOW!



YEAH... I'M ALL KINDS OF STUBBORN. JUST ASK DEFENDER.

I PROBABLY SHOULD MENTION THAT THE REASON WHY I PICKED THIS LOCATION FOR OUR LITTLE MEET-AND-BEAT IS BECAUSE OF WHAT IS ALL OVER THE OUTSIDE OF THIS BUILDING.

HIGH-DEFINITION SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS.

4K CAMERAS, HIGHLY-SENSITIVE MICROPHONES, THE WORKS.

AND IT'S ALL READY TO BROADCAST AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE.

LIVE



IN FACT, OUR FIGHT HAS BEEN BROADCAST ON LIVE TV EVER SINCE I TURNED ON THE CONTAINMENT FIELD.

8 WOC BREAKING NEWS - BATTLE VS THUNDERWOLF! - CHAMPIONS HEADQUAR



IT CAUGHT EVERYTHING! YOUR CONFESSION... YOU FRAMING ME... THE LAND SWINDLE FOR ARGENT... YOU'RE GUILTY AS SIN AND NOW EVERYONE KNOWS IT.

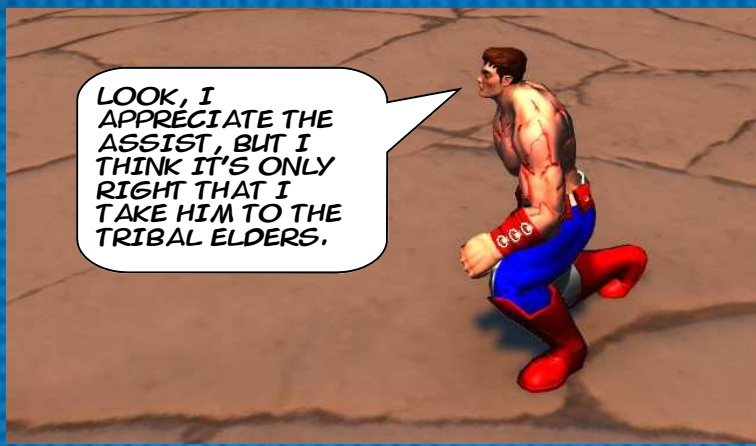


Y... YOU'RE DEAD!

CRACKLE







A FEW HOURS LATER...

AND WE'RE
LIVE IN
THREE...
TWO...

LIVE

GOOD EVENING
LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN.

MY NAME IS
JONAH P. WHALE,
WCOC'S NEW
GENERAL
MANAGER.

8 WCOC SPECIAL STATEMENT FROM WCOC GENERAL MANAGER

I HAVE ASKED TO CUT
INTO YOUR NORMAL
NEWS PROGRAM TO
ADDRESS A NEWS
STORY THAT HAS
BEEN ON THE AIR THE
PAST FEW DAYS.

THIS STATION,
ALONG WITH A FEW
OTHER FORMS OF
MEDIA, HAVE BEEN
REPORTING ON
ALLEGATIONS OF
FRAUD AND
PRIVATEERING
AGAINST JOHN
BATTLE, A HERO
WITH A LONG
FAMILY HISTORY
OF SERVICE.

ALLEGATIONS THAT
WERE MADE AGAINST
MISTER BATTLE AND
HIS WHOLE FAMILY...
... THAT TURNED OUT
TO BE COMPLETELY
BASELESS.


THIS STATION AIRED
A VIDEO REPORTEDLY
FROM CHIEF CROW OF
THE YAVAPAI NATION
TALKING ABOUT THE
DAMAGE CAUSED BY
A RECENT OIL
FRACKING FACILITY.
A VIDEO THAT WE HAVE
DISCOVERED IS FAKE.

FILE FOOTAGE

"IN AN AFFIDAVIT SUBMITTED
BY THE YAVAPAI NATION, THE
ARGENT FACILITY SHOWN IN
THE VIDEO WAS NOT FROM
THEIR TRIBAL LANDS IN
ARIZONA, BUT, IN FACT, WAS
IN NEVADA."

"WE HAVE ALSO DISCOVERED
THAT 'CHIEF CROW', SEEN IN
THE ACCUSATORIAL VIDEO,
WAS A COMPUTER-GENERATED
AVATAR; NOT A REAL PERSON."

8 WCOC FOOTAGE OF ARGENT OIL FRACKING IN VIDEO FAKE - BREAKING NEWS




IN A QUEST FOR A STORY, THIS STATION ENDED UP RELYING ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY QUESTIONABLE SOURCES, AND ON AN ACTOR PRETENDING TO BE A WORLD-RENOWN JOURNALIST.

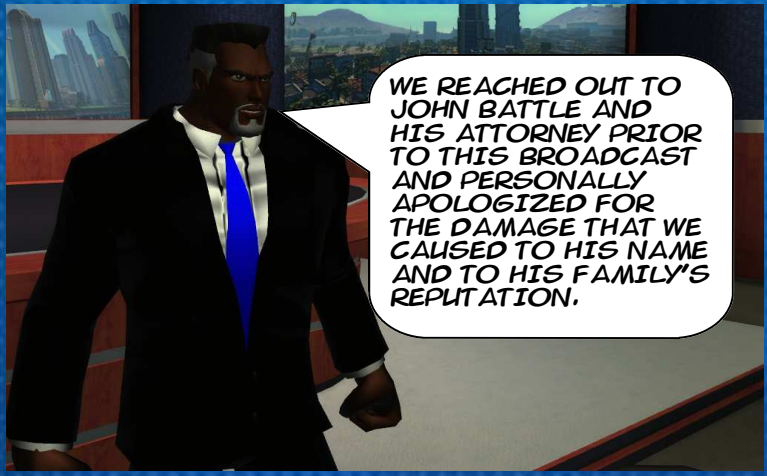
ONLY TODAY WAS IT MADE KNOWN TO US THAT THE PERSON YOU SAW IN THIS STUDIO WAS AN ACTOR WHO WAS HIRED TO PLAY PEDRO DUARTE.

HIRED TO RELAY INFORMATION FED TO HIM BY THE MARSH FOUNDATION, A RELIGIOUS EXTREMIST ORGANIZATION.

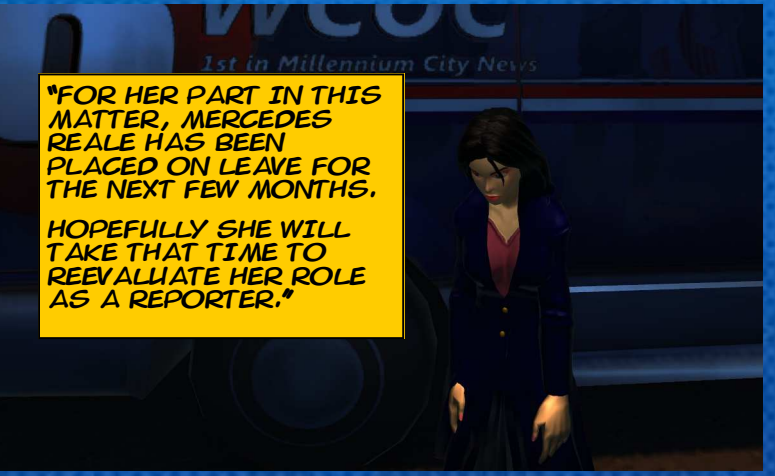
"AUTHORITIES ARE NOW SEARCHING FOR THIS ACTOR WHO CLAIMED TO BE PEDRO DUARTE, BUT IT IS BELIEVED HE HAS ALREADY FLED THE STATE."



"THE 'REAL TRUTH' WEBSITE WHERE THE ACCUSATORY INFORMATION WAS STORED HAS SINCE BEEN SHUT DOWN."



WE REACHED OUT TO JOHN BATTLE AND HIS ATTORNEY PRIOR TO THIS BROADCAST AND PERSONALLY APOLOGIZED FOR THE DAMAGE THAT WE CAUSED TO HIS NAME AND TO HIS FAMILY'S REPUTATION.



"FOR HER PART IN THIS MATTER, MERCEDES REALE HAS BEEN PLACED ON LEAVE FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

HOPEFULLY SHE WILL TAKE THAT TIME TO REEVALUATE HER ROLE AS A REPORTER."



BUT WE DID MORE THAN JUST CAUSE HARM TO A HERO'S NAME AND REPUTATION.

WE ALSO DAMAGED OUR OWN CREDIBILITY.

YOU RELY ON US TO PROVIDE YOU THE NEWS, AND THAT THE NEWS WE PROVIDE IS HONEST AND ACCURATE. THIS STATION HAS FAILED YOU ON BOTH COUNTS.



IN THE WEEKS TO COME, THIS STATION WILL ENDEAVOR TO DO RIGHT TO BOTH THIS CITY, AND TO YOU, OUR VIEWERS.

THANK YOU.

WE WILL TAKE A SHORT BREAK AND THEN OUR REGULAR NEWS WILL CONTINUE WITH ROB MAHOGANY.

ELSEWHERE IN THE CITY...

I-I-I AM... S-SORRY,
M-M-MISTER VAN C-
CLEEF.

I-I-I DON'T N-N-KNOW
WHERE I WENT WR-R-
ONG ON THIS.

YOU OVERPLAYED YOUR
HAND AND PUT TOO MUCH
EMPHASIS ON THE
MARSH FOUNDATION.

NOW THEY ARE
DISCREDITED, AND SO
IS PEDRO... FOR NOW.

B-B-BUT THE PROGRAM...
IT W-W-WORKS!

THEY C-C-COULD ONLY
TRA-TRACE IT TO THE M-
M-MARSH FOUNDATION.
N-NOT TO ME.

YES. YOUR ABILITY TO HACK
INTO THE MEDIA AND PLANT
THE RIGHT INFORMATION
WITHOUT BEING DETECTED IS
USEFUL TO VARTECH.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE
USE OF IT AND OF YOUR
SERVICES IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

WE WILL BE
CONTACTING YOU
SOON FOR FUTURE
WORK, VOX POPULII.

V-VOX POPULII IS
DEAD, S-SIR.

HE D-D-DIED IN
THE H-H-HOSPITAL.
I WAS R-RE-
REBORN THANKS T-
T-TO YOU.

I-I'M BETTER.
S-SM-SMARTER.
VOXPOP 2.0



VOXPOP 2.0
FORMERLY VOX POPULII

THE "POWERHOUSE", A
SOCIAL AREA FOR HEROES...
BUT CIVILIANS ARE ALSO
WELCOMED.

POWER HOUSE THEATER

AND HERE I THOUGHT
YOU DIDN'T GO
ANYWHERE WITHOUT
YOUR GOON SQUAD.

THE POWERHOUSE
FROWNS ON MY
SECURITY DETAIL.
WELCOME BACK,
JONAH. I SEE
YOU'RE THE MAN
OF THE HOUR.

SHERMAN ADAIR
CEO ADAIR MEDIA

NO THANKS TO
YOU, "ROBERT".
YOU ALMOST
RUINED A
HERO'S CAREER
WITH YOUR
LITTLE STUNT.

"MY" STUNT? OH, NO, NO,
NO, JONAH, THAT'S ALL
YOUR LITTLE CHICA'S MESS.
ALL I DID WAS CONFIRM
THE STORY, JUST LIKE ANY
OF US DO WITH A PEDRO
DUARTE "EXPOSE".

AND IF YOU TRY TO
CLAIM OTHERWISE ON
AIR YOU'LL HAVE TWO
SLANDER LAWSUITS
ON YOUR HANDS.

OH, PERISH
THE THOUGHT,
SHERMAN.

YOU KNOW, YOU
REALLY SHOULD BE
FOCUSING YOUR
ATTENTION MORE
ON HOW A GROUP
LIKE THE MARSH
FOUNDATION WAS
ABLE TO GET THEIR
GARBAGE THROUGH
YOUR PRIZED NEWS
DIVISION.

BEING THE
"PROFESSIONAL"
JOURNALISTS AND
ALL THAT STUFF.

IF YOU'LL EXCUSE
ME, I HAVE A
COSTUME CONTEST
TO GUEST JUDGE.

LET ME KNOW IF
YOU NEED A
HAND SOLVING
THAT PROBLEM.

DAMN YOU
ADAIR...

A FEW HOURS LATER AT THE TALLEST BUILDING IN THE CITY...

I'M SURPRISED TO FIND YOU UP HERE.

I WOULD THINK YOU'D BE OVER AT CLUB CAPRICE, CELEBRATING WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND.

DEE AND I AGREED WHEN WE FIRST STARTED DATING THAT THE LESS I'M THERE, THE BETTER FOR HER AS "DJ RISQUE".

BESIDES, I'LL SEE HER AFTERWARDS.

YOU'RE NOT REALLY PLANNING ON MAKING THE LEAP AFTER ALL THE INJURIES YOU SUSTAINED TODAY, ARE YOU?

WHEN I WAS A CHILD, RIGHT AFTER MY POWERS FIRST MANIFESTED, I BROKE MY LEG LEAPING FROM THE ROOF OF MY HOME.

THE DOCTOR SET IT, AND THEN THE NEXT NIGHT, MY FATHER SENT ME BACK UP THERE AND HAD ME LEAP AGAIN. THIS TIME NOTHING WAS BROKEN, AND IT NEVER BROKE AGAIN.

I MAY HAVE A CHEST FULL OF STITCHES, MAJOR, BUT I STILL HEAL PRETTY FAST, AND MY LEAPING FROM THE TALLEST TOWER JUST REMINDS ME OF THAT.

YOU HAVE A WEIRD WAY OF SPENDING YOUR TIME.




WELL YOU KNOW ARGENT
DENIED ANY INVOLVEMENT
IN THE FRAME-UP.

THEY'RE PUTTING THE
BLAME ON THUNDERWOLF.

I'M SURE YOU'LL BE
GETTING A PRETTY PENNY
FROM WCOG AND THE
MARSH FOUNDATION IN
THE CIVIL COURTS.

ANY MONEY I GET FROM THOSE
LAWSUITS GO TO CHARITY.

MY FAMILY HAVE CHARITY
ORGANIZATIONS THAT WE RUN
TO HELP THE NATIVE TRIBES.



SPEAKING OF
WHICH, WHAT CAN
YOU TELL ME
ABOUT YOUR
FRIEND WHO MADE
THE ARREST?

MS. ARIZONA?



LET'S JUST SAY...

... I KNOW HER
JUST ENOUGH TO
BE TRUSTED.

WELL, I'M ABOUT
READY TO DROP
ON DOWN.

CARE TO FOLLOW?



ONE HELL OF A
VIEW... I CAN SEE
WHY YOU ENJOY
COMING UP HERE.

BUT... IF IT'S
ALL THE SAME
TO YOU...




I'LL GO DOWN
THE SAME WAY
I CAME UP.

MEANWHILE, AT CLUB CAPRICE...

SHE'S UP THERE...

JOHN BATTLE'S
GIRLFRIEND.

 **DJ RISQUÉ**
AKA: DEE RISK/ST ARLETT

DANCING AWAY
LIKE NOTHING
HAPPENED WHILE
HER BOYFRIEND
GETS AWAY WITH
HIS CRIMES.

 **HOMETOWN HERO**
STREET VIGILANTE

AND WHAT DO I GET FOR
DOING THE RIGHT THING?

TWO BROKEN HANDS
AND A JAW WIRED SHUT.

AND MY HERO CREDENTIALS
ARE SUSPENDED FOR
"UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT".

IT'S TIME FOR
SOMEONE TO
MAKE JOHN
BATTLE PAY FOR
HIS ACTIONS...

... AND I'LL
START WITH
HIS PRECIOUS
GIRLFRIEND!

NEXT ISSUE:
BACK TO
BASICS

GUARDIAN WORDS

Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.

Epilogue

In the weeks following this story, the following articles appeared online...

Millennium City Free Press

WCOC, FOUNDATION, SETTLE LAWSUITS WITH SLANDERED HERO

Article by Tyree Jones

(MCFP) Millennium City, IL - Attorneys for local television station WCOC and a Texas political think tank have come to a settlement in their respective slander and libel lawsuits initiated by John Battle, the "Legacy Hero" whose name and his family's reputation were maligned in the "Real Truth" website and repeated on WCOC.

"These settlements will bring some measure of closure to the malicious damage done to my client and his family," said attorney Candace Sinclair.

"John Battle and his family are good people, dedicated to fighting for justice and the betterment of all Americans, including Native Americans."

In 2019, an article posted on the "Real Truth" website reportedly by famed reporter Pedro Duarte claimed that Battle was involved in a fraudulent deal that gave tribal lands belonging to the Yavapai Tribe in Arizona to the corporate conglomerate ARGENT.

This was followed by a video reportedly by "Chief Crow" claiming that the land in question was being used for an oil fracking center and was causing ecological and seismic damage to the area.

Both the article and the video were then broadcast on WCOC by local reporter Mercedes Reale. A follow-up interview by WCOC with the person claiming to be Duarte then accused Battle's family of falsely claiming to have Native American heritage.

It was later determined that all three articles were created by the Marsh Foundation, an ultra-religious political think tank.

Under the terms of their respective settlements, both WCOC Studios and the Marsh Foundation will each be making an undisclosed financial donation to the Bloodfeather Foundation, a non-profit organization created and managed by the Battle family to help the Native American tribes and their various social issues.

Ownership of the "Real Truth" website has also been surrendered and transferred to the Bloodfeather Foundation as part of the settlement with the Marsh Foundation.

ALLEGED MURDERER IN COMA AFTER FALL

Article by Jerry Jellic

(MCFP) Burning Sands, NM - Admitted murder and disgraced hero Lucas Thunderwolf is currently in a comatose state following an incident at the Stronghold supermax prison.

Thunderwolf, 23, was held in the Stronghold facility while he awaited trial for the murder of Arizona developer Samuel Arkin following a fraudulent deal that temporarily surrendered land belonging to the Yavapai Tribe to the corporate energy resource company known as ARGENT.

Stronghold officials say that holding accused criminals prior to trial rather than at a local jail is normal when dealing with certain super-powered individuals, who can easily overpower normal detention facilities.

Thunderwolf was held in a wing of the facility that houses only pre-trial individuals and are under power restrictions at all times. Prison officials say that the incident is still being investigated and would not be able to provide any details until their investigation is complete.

IDENTITY OF JOHN DOE VICTIM STILL A MYSTERY

Article by Julie Morgan

(MCFP) Millennium City, MI - Millennium City Police are still unable to identify the body that was found face-down on the riverside docks just across from police headquarters.

The body was reported to police in November of 2019. The coroner's office said that the body was found with no identifying marks such as fingerprints or dental imprints, and whatever killed the unknown male also changed his DNA and burned his retinas.

If you have any information as to the identity of the unknown individual, you are asked to contact the Millennium City Police Department immediately so they can contact the next of kin.

Continues on next page...

ARGENT CLAIMS “CONFUSION”, PLEDGES NEW CULTURAL CENTER FOR TRIBE

Article by Ellen Lynn Dion

(MCFP) Prescott, Az - For the past few months, the presence of ARGENT construction trucks and a makeshift construction area has served as a conflict of messages for the members of the Yavapai Indian Tribe.

Originally promised as a cultural and community center to highlight the proud tribe, ARGENT agents were seen scouting out natural resources and began sending offers to buy whole neighborhoods far beyond the proposed center.

Then, a story was released on the “Real Truth” website allegedly by famed reporter Pedro Duarte that the agreement for a cultural center became a backdoor agreement for an oil fracking site for the energy conglomerate. An agreement that was allegedly made with the help of the “Legacy Hero” John Battle, formerly a regional hero before moving to Millennium City.

A follow-up video posted on the “Real Truth” website by someone claiming to be “Chief Crow” claimed the oil fracking site was causing widespread devastation for the tribe.

Now ARGENT officials have cleared up the confusion.

“Obviously there was some miscommunication,” said ARGENT regional representative Myron Edo. “Our development team received the wrong information and began work on a refinery construction instead of a community resource project.”

Edo did not comment on the erroneous reports posted on the “Real Truth” website, or on the video from “Chief Crow”, which was later revealed to be a computer-generated forgery. Edo did put the blame for the confusion entirely with a local resident of the tribe, Lucas Thunderwolf.

Thunderwolf, 23, was arrested by local hero Ms. Arizona after a protracted fight with John Battle himself, where he confessed on live television to being behind what Edo called the “miscommunication”. Thunderwolf also confessed on air to the murder of local developer Samuel Arkin, whom Thunderwolf had approached to arrange the development deal and had requested Battle to help sell it to the tribal elders.

“Mister Thunderwolf was an overly-ambitious individual,” said Edo. “ARGENT was unaware of the duplicitous activity. Had we known his planned deception, we would not have consulted him in the first place.”

[\(CLICK HERE TO TONTINUE\)](#)

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

NEXT ISSUE...

**CHAMPIONS
ONLINE**



AFTER BEING AWAY FROM THIS COMIC FOR SEVERAL ISSUES GALATEA FUTURE IS BACK TO WORK IN MILLENNIUM CITY.

AND WE GO BACK TO BASICS.



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