

# GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN



*SPOTLIGHT ON...* **Midnight Arachnia**



**HERO?**



**OR TRAITOR?**



*PARAGON CITY: THE CITY OF HEROES! THE ONLY PLACE IN THE WORLD WHERE THE HERO-TO-PROBLEM RATIO IS ALMOST ONE-TO-ONE. IF YOU NEED A HERO IN THIS CITY, YOU JUST HAVE TO LOOK AROUND THE CORNER.*

*BUT NOT ALL HEROES ARE THE SAME. SOME ARE MORE MERCENARY THAN THE OTHERS. BUT THERE ARE SOME WHO SEE THE CALLING AS A SIGN OF BRIGHTER DAYS AHEAD FOR ALL MANKIND. THESE ARE THE HEROES WHO FIGHT FOR SOMETHING BETTER. THEY ARE THE...*

# GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN



**NAME:**  
**MIDNIGHT  
ARACHNIA**

**REAL NAME:**  
**JESSICA DANVERS**

**STATUS:**  
**REGISTERED  
SUPERHERO**

**ARCHETYPE:**  
**SCRAPPER**

**PRIMARY POWER:**  
**DARK MELEE**

**SECONDARY POWER:**  
**DARK ARMOR**

FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS, THE **GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN** HAVE ACHIEVED SOME MODEST RECOGNITION FOR THEIR CONTINUAL EFFORTS TO HELP KEEP PARAGON CITY SAFE FROM CRIME AND CORRUPTION.

BUT NOW THE FORCES THAT HAVE PROFITED FROM AND MANIPULATED THAT CORRUPTION HAVE REGARDED THE GUARDIANS TO BE A THREAT TO THEIR OPERATIONS.

NOW THEY ARE TAKING STEPS TO NEUTRALIZE THE HEROES.

Guardians of the Dawn Spotlight #07 is created using original characters in the City of Heroes Multiplayer Online Roleplaying Game. Copyright © 2004-2010 This story is an independent derivative work of the City of Heroes Game. All original rights are reserved by NCsoft and Paragon Studios. NCSoft, the interlocking NC logo, Paragon Studios, City of Heroes, City of Villains, and all associated logos and designs are trademarks or registered trademarks of NCsoft Corporation and Paragon Studios. Cryptic Studios is a trademark of Cryptic Studios, Inc. All other trademarks are property of their respective owners.



DAY 1: 3:00PM

AND NOW IT'S TIME FOR THE MOST OUTSPOKEN AND CONTROVERSIAL MAN IN PARAGON CITY!

# THE GARRY BECKER EXPERIENCE

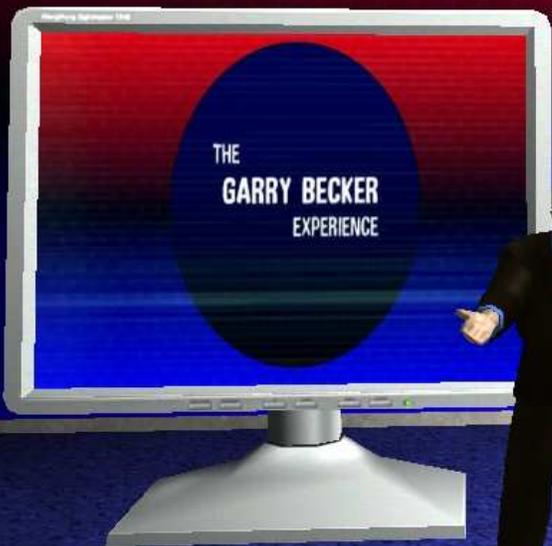
IT'S TIME FOR THE *GARRY BECKER EXPERIENCE!*

AND NOW HERE'S YOUR HOST, THE MAN WHO SHEDS TEARS OF PATRIOTIC BLOOD FOR PARAGON CITY, THE MAN WITH THE BIGGEST HEART IN RHODE ISLAND... HERE... IS... *GARRY BECKER!*



## "LIMELIGHT"

- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2



HELLO EVERYONE AND WELCOME TO THE EXPERIENCE, I AM, OF COURSE, GARRY BECKER, YOUR OH-SO HUMBLE HOST.

TODAY I WANT TO DISPENSE WITH THE USUAL DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE PROBLEMS WITH PARAGON CITY, THE ONGOING HEDONISM OF THE "SIDECHICK BRIGADE" OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE VINDICATORS, AND ALL OF THAT USUAL STUFF, BECAUSE SOMETHING HAS COME ACROSS MY DESK THE OTHER DAY THAT YOU REALLY NEED TO SEE...

IT INVOLVES A GROUP OF SUPERHEROES THAT YOU MAY HAVE HEARD ABOUT... A GROUP THAT HAS BEEN IN THE NEWS LATELY... A GROUP CALLING THEMSELVES THE...

**GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN**





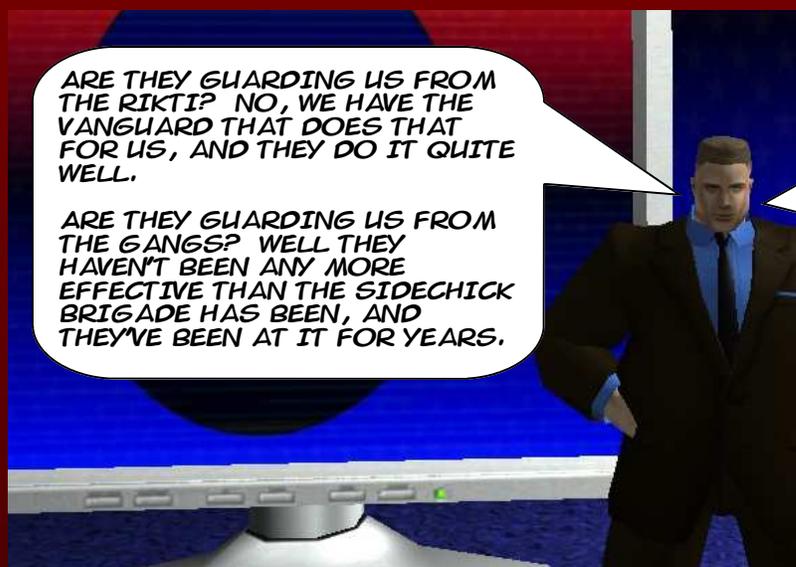
IT'S GOT THAT NICE, POWERFUL, MASCULINE TONE TO IT, DOESN'T IT? THE GUARDIANS... OF... THE DAWN!

Wentworth stock down 5 points as the rumors persisted of



ONLY... I HAVE TO ASK WHAT ARE THEY REALLY GUARDING? BECAUSE IT'S NOT "THE DAWN".

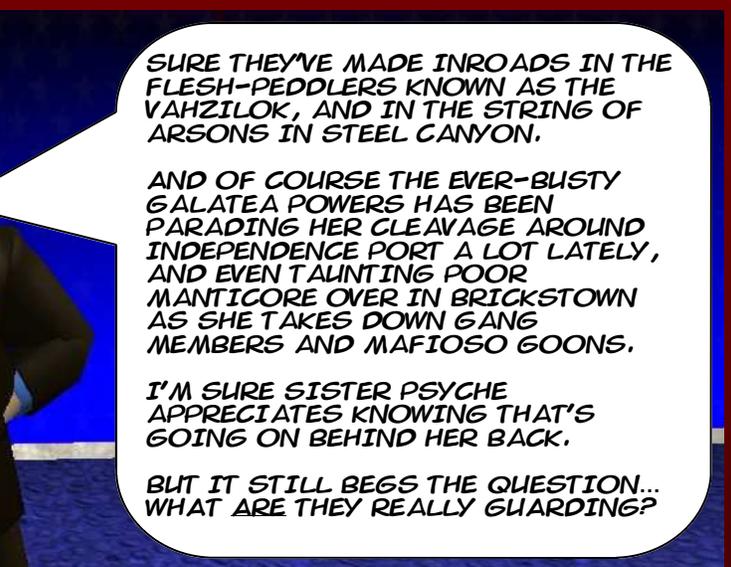
rampant bid-rigging of rare items in auctions. \*



ARE THEY GUARDING US FROM THE RIKTI? NO, WE HAVE THE VANGUARD THAT DOES THAT FOR US, AND THEY DO IT QUITE WELL.

ARE THEY GUARDING US FROM THE GANGS? WELL THEY HAVEN'T BEEN ANY MORE EFFECTIVE THAN THE SIDECICK BRIGADE HAS BEEN, AND THEY'VE BEEN AT IT FOR YEARS.

\* WENT -5 \$2789.95 \* Crey Industries unveiled the latest attempt to resurrect Crey Cola. \* Product originally recalled due to the



SURE THEY'VE MADE INROADS IN THE FLESH-PEDDLERS KNOWN AS THE VAHZILOK, AND IN THE STRING OF ARSONS IN STEEL CANYON.

AND OF COURSE THE EVER-BUSTY GALATEA POWERS HAS BEEN PARADING HER CLEAVAGE AROUND INDEPENDENCE PORT A LOT LATELY, AND EVEN TAUNTING POOR MANTICORE OVER IN BRICKSTOWN AS SHE TAKES DOWN GANG MEMBERS AND MAFIOSO GOONS.

I'M SURE SISTER PSYCHE APPRECIATES KNOWING THAT'S GOING ON BEHIND HER BACK.

BUT IT STILL BEGS THE QUESTION... WHAT ARE THEY REALLY GUARDING?



BUT THEN, THANKS TO A CONCERNED CITIZEN OF PARAGON CITY, THE ANSWER CAME TO ME.

AND WHEN IT DID, IT JUST KNOCKED ME OVER LIKE ONE OF GALATEA'S HAYMAKERS!

WHAT ARE THE GUARDIANS GUARDING?

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT IT IS...

discovery of malicious nanites. New Crey Cola promises to



SECRETS.

have less than .001% nanites. \* CREY +9 \$567.50



TALOS ISLAND - DAY 1: 12:35PM

TALOS ISLAND... I LOVE IT.

OF ALL OF THE DISTRICTS  
IN PARAGON CITY, THIS IS  
MY ALL-TIME FAVORITE.

BLUE SKIES, CLEAN AIR,  
THE SMELL OF THE OCEAN,  
THE BOARDWALK...

BUT THIS IS MY FAVORITE SPOT,  
RIGHT HERE BY THE FREEWAY OVERPASS  
THAT LEADS TO SKYWAY CITY.



MIDNIGHT ARACHNIA

IT'S NOT HARD TO WONDER WHY WHEN  
STANDING BEFORE ME IS THE LIFE-  
SIZED STATUE OF THE GIANT TALOS.

HE GAVE HIS LIFE TO SAVE THE CITY  
FROM A HUGE MONSTER. THIS  
WHOLE DISTRICT WAS NAMED AFTER  
HIM BECAUSE OF IT.

OF COURSE WHAT MOST PEOPLE  
DON'T REALIZE IS THAT THIS  
STATUE ALSO PLUGS UP THE  
HUGE RIFT THAT THE CREATURE  
IS BURIED IN.

THEY SAY THAT HIS SPIRIT STILL  
PROTECT THIS AREA... BECAUSE THIS  
WAS THE ONLY PLACE THAT WAS NOT  
DESTROYED BY THE RIKTI IN 2002.

THE PERFECT PLATFORM TO PUT  
IN A SUPERGROUP BASE, LIKE  
THE ONE THAT I HELPED TO BUILD  
ALONG WITH CAPTAIN  
PARAGONNA AND ARKTIC CHILL.

MOST HEROES HAVE DAY JOBS... LIVES THEY LIVE WHEN THEY'RE NOT DOING HERO STUFF.

GALATEA POWERS IS AN ICON EXECUTIVE-IN-TRAINING. LIBERTARIAN AVENGER HELPS RUN ARCHITECT ENTERTAINMENT AND PUTS UP LIBERTARIAN BILLBOARDS FOR HIS LITTLE POLITICAL ACTION GROUP.

I'M TOLD RYDER LIGHTNING HAS DECIDED TO GO BACK TO BEING A WRITER AND TEACHING LITERATURE PART-TIME.



ME? I JUST DO HERO STUFF.

I'M IN GOOD COMPANY, THOUGH. ARKTIC CHILL DOES THIS FOR A LIVING. SO DOES THE CAPTAIN. AND MIDNIGHT X... WELL, HE'S ALWAYS IN HERO-MODE. I GUESS BEING A NIHILISTIC INSOMNIAC DOES THAT.

THE PAY THING IS A LITTLE COMPLICATED, BUT BETWEEN THE GUARDIANS AND CITY HALL, I MANAGE TO MAKE DO.



AND WHENEVER I'M NOT DOING HERO STUFF, I'M FREE TO ENJOY MY TIME DOING THINGS LIKE SITTING IN FRONT OF THE TALOS STATUE AFTER A GOOD LUNCH.

ALL-IN-ALL, NOT A BAD WAY TO SPEND YOUR TIME HERE.

\* BEEP-BEEP \*



This is an automated CPCU emergency notice from the Paragon Police Dispatch System.

Panic Alarm has been triggered in the Diamond Exchange store on Talos Island. Suspects are armed and are extremely dangerous.



THIS IS MIDNIGHT ARACHNIA IN THE NEW THEBES REGION. I AM RESPONDING TO THE CALL.

THE DIAMOND EXCHANGE IS OVER BY THE ARENA IN NEW CORINTH. IT HASN'T EVEN OPENED YET. THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE A STORE SIGN.

Confirmed. All units, all units, be advised Midnight Arachnia of the Guardians of the Dawn is en-route to the scene.

SO MUCH FOR A QUIET AND PEACEFUL LUNCH HOUR...





HATE TO EAT-AND-RUN,  
BIG GUY...  
BUT YOU KNOW HOW  
THESE THINGS ARE IN  
OUR LINE OF WORK.



STEP INTO  
MY PARLOR...

I DON'T REALLY NEED TO SAY THE WORDS...  
BUT IT HELPS ME GET INTO THE MOOD.



AS FREDDIE MERCURY  
ONCE SAID...



... IT'S A KIND  
OF MAGIC.



ALTHOUGH IN MY CASE...



IT'S ALL ABOUT MAGIC.

DAY 1: 12:42PM

OKAY...  
NOW I'VE SEEN EVERYTHING!

HUH? WHO ARE...?

NO GANG MARKINGS, NO PARAMILITARY UNIFORMS, JUST ACTUAL GOOD-OLD-FASHIONED ROBBERS! HOW CLASSIC!

YOU IDIOT!  
THAT'S MIDNIGHT ARACHNIA!  
SHOOT HER!  
SHOOT HER!

I'M TRYING! I'M TRYING!  
IT'S NOT WORKING!

\* BRAAAP \*  
\* BRAAAP \*

OKAY, HERE'S THE DEAL... I HAVE THIS THING CALLED A "SPELLWEB". WHEN I CAST IT, IT PROTECTS ME FROM MOST THINGS... LIKE BULLETS.

OOOOOFFF!!!!

THE SPELLWEBS ALSO MAKE ME HIT FASTER AND HARDER, SO MISTER FOUL-MOUTHED ROBBER WON'T BE MOUTHING FOR VERY LONG.

DIE B\*TC#!

\* BRAAAP \*  
\* BRAAAP \*  
\* BRAAAP \*  
\* BRAAAP \*

AND THAT'S ENOUGH OUT OF YOU.

NO DOUBT THE NOISE ALERTED THE OTHERS IN THE BACK WHERE THE VAULT IS.  
PITY... DON'T GET TOO MANY CHANCES TO SEE THE WARES BEFORE THE STORE OPENS.



I CAN ALSO USE THE SPELLWEBS TO SAP THE STRENGTH FROM MY OPPONENTS AND USE IT TO BOLSTER MY OWN.  
IT'S A PRETTY INTIMIDATING POWER.



AFTER THAT, A COUPLE OF TAPS WILL USUALLY SEND THEM TO DREAMLAND.



THE BLACKWAND... A POWERFUL MYSTICAL ARTIFACT THAT WAS GIVEN TO ME WHEN I WAS BORN BY MY BIRTHPARENTS. ONLY I CAN SUMMON THIS ONE, AND ONLY I CAN USE IT. AND IT DISHES OUT A LOT OF HURT WITH EVERY USE.



LIKE I SAID, IT'S ALL ABOUT MAGIC.

DAY 1: 3:15PM

GROWING UP, WE ALL IDOLIZED OUR HEROES. WE LOOKED UP TO THEM LIKE WE WOULD OUR PARENTS OR THE NEIGHBORHOOD POLICE OFFICER.

I KNOW I DID WHEN I WAS A CHILD...



THAT WAS WHAT MADE AMERICA SO GREAT A NATION... IT WAS BECAUSE OF OUR HEROES.

WELL, THAT AND GOD OF COURSE.



UN funding for Vanguard at all-time high - estim



estimated cost for Rikti containment project now at \$45 trillio



SO IMAGINE MY SURPRISE WHEN I CAME ACROSS THIS LITTLE PIECE OF INFORMATION CONCERNING ONE OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN"... SOMEONE WHOM WE IN PARAGON CITY TRUSTED WITH OUR VERY LIVES.



THIS FOOTAGE WAS PROVIDED TO ME THE OTHER DAY BY A PROUD AMERICAN WORKING FOR THE WYVERN GROUP, A TEAM OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS IN THE ROGUE ISLES.



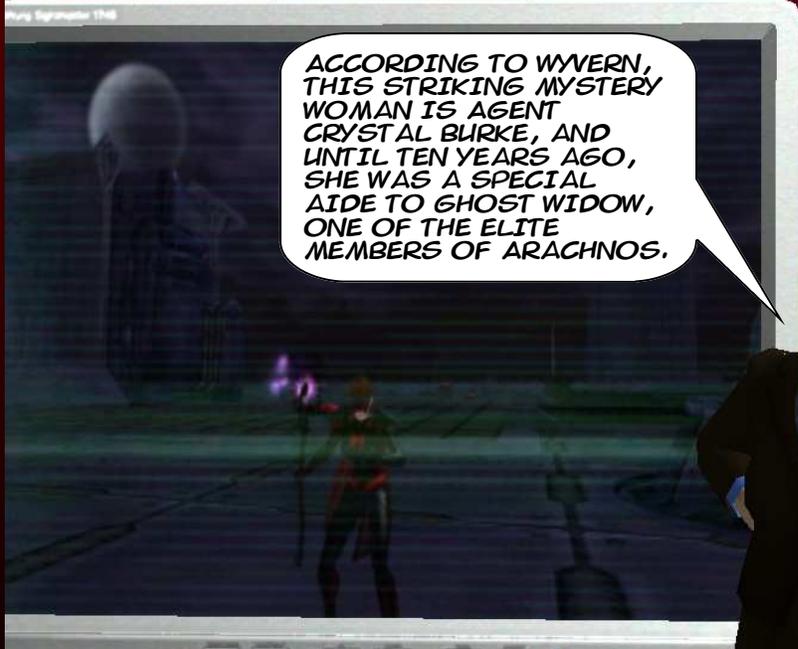
Lady Grey says funding is essential for world survival. - Criti



Critics say Vanguard is wasting time containing th



ACCORDING TO WYVERN, THIS STRIKING MYSTERY WOMAN IS AGENT CRYSTAL BURKE, AND UNTIL TEN YEARS AGO, SHE WAS A SPECIAL AIDE TO GHOST WIDOW, ONE OF THE ELITE MEMBERS OF ARACHNOS.



FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE UNFAMILIAR WITH ARACHNOS HIERARCHY, WORKING DIRECTLY FOR GHOST WIDOW IS LIKE WORKING FOR THE SPEAKER OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

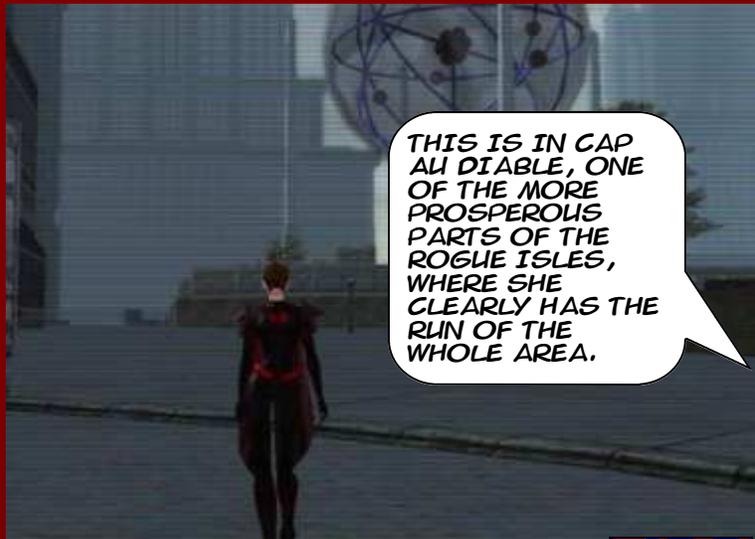
AND BEAR IN MIND THAT THIS GIRL WAS REPORTEDLY STILL A TEENAGER WHEN THIS FOOTAGE WAS TAKEN!

SO TO HAVE HER BE GIVEN THIS MUCH AUTHORITY AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE IS A TESTAMENT TO HER POTENTIALLY MALICIOUS NATURE.



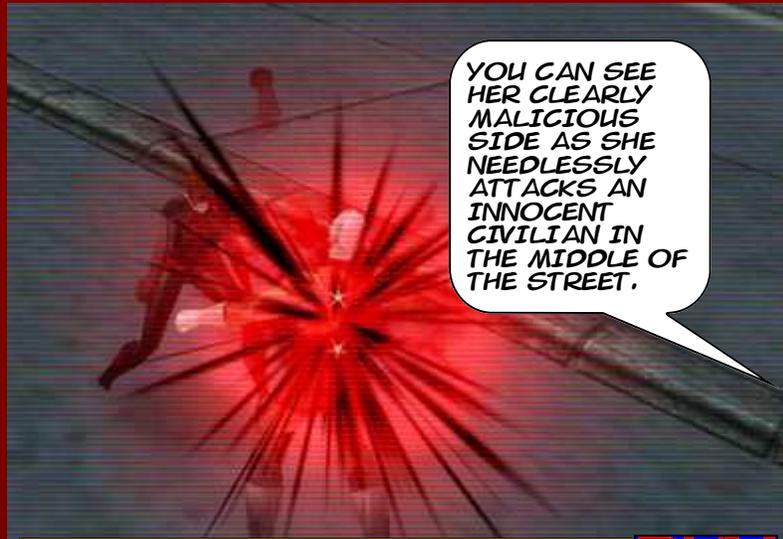
the Rikti threat and instead must focus efforts on more serious "End Game" tactics such as extermination. - Vanguard spokeswom





THIS IS IN CAP AU DIABLE, ONE OF THE MORE PROSPEROUS PARTS OF THE ROGUE ISLES, WHERE SHE CLEARLY HAS THE RUN OF THE WHOLE AREA.

PNN SPORTS - Rhode Island Congresswoman Leona Ch



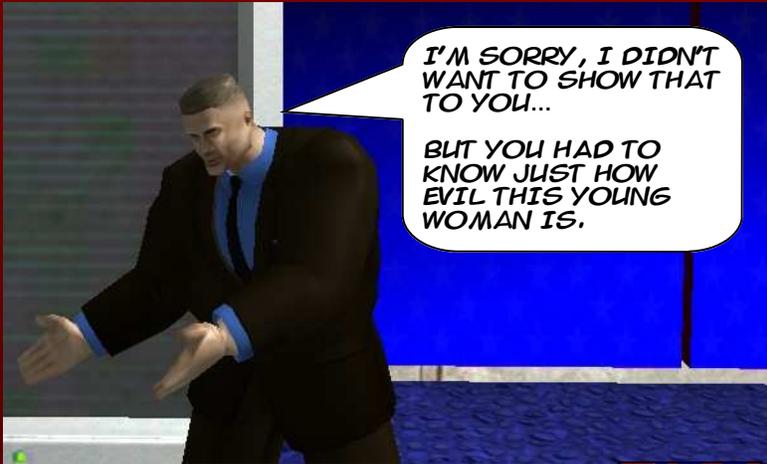
YOU CAN SEE HER CLEARLY MALICIOUS SIDE AS SHE NEEDLESSLY ATTACKS AN INNOCENT CIVILIAN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET.

Chafee has renewed her plea for a congressional hearing o



AND THEN RIPPING HIS SOUL OUT FROM HIM.

on the subject of why professional sports refuse to retur



I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T WANT TO SHOW THAT TO YOU... BUT YOU HAD TO KNOW JUST HOW EVIL THIS YOUNG WOMAN IS.

to Paragon City even years after the Rikti invasion ended.



NOW THE WYVERN AGENT WHO PROVIDED THIS INFORMATION SAYS THAT IT DIDN'T COME FROM HIS ORGANIZATION. IN FACT, THEY WEREN'T EVEN AROUND WHEN THIS WAS TAKEN TEN YEARS AGO. THIS FOOTAGE ALL CAME FROM A GROUP CALLED THE LEGACY CHAIN, A MYSTERY GROUP THAT DEDICATES ITS TIME WATCHING GHOST WIDOW AND HER OPERATIVES. SO THE QUESTION THEN BECOMES... WHY? WHY KEEP THIS A SECRET? WHAT HAPPENED TO THIS EVIL, TWISTED, YOUNG WOMAN? AND I'M SURE YOU'RE ALSO ASKING... WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN? WELL, YOU'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT...



Representatives of the major sporting leagues say that Paragon City is still too badly damaged to facilitate a franchise team at th



TALOS ISLAND - DAY 1: 6:25 PM

HELLO?

KINGS ROW

JESSICA... IT'S  
JASON KNIGHT.  
HAVE YOU BEEN  
WATCHING TV?

 MIDNIGHT X

ACTUALLY, NO, I HAD  
TO RESPOND TO A  
BURGLARY AT A  
JEWELRY STORE THIS  
AFTERNOON, AND THEN  
I HAD TO HELP TAKE  
THE HOSTAGES TO THE  
HOSPITAL. WHY?

I DON'T HAVE TOO MUCH TIME  
TO EXPLAIN... BUT  
SOMETHING HAPPENED  
TODAY ON TV THAT HAS THE  
POLICE ON EDGE.

I WANT YOU TO KEEP TWO  
WORDS IN THE BACK OF YOUR  
MIND, OKAY?

PROTOCOL FOURTEEN.

WHAT ARE YOU  
TALKING ABOUT,  
JASON? WHAT'S  
PROTOCOL  
FOURTEEN?

JUST KEEP THAT IN THE  
BACK OF YOUR MIND.

PROTOCOL FOURTEEN.

YOU MAY HAVE TO  
INVOKE IT SOON.

OH, AND YOU MAY  
WANT TO LAY LOW FOR  
A WHILE. KEEP YOUR  
ACTIVITIES TO A  
MINIMUM.

I'LL CALL YOU BACK  
WHEN I HEAR MORE.

I SWEAR HE'S GETTING  
WEIRDER AND WEIRDER  
BY THE DAY...

BUT... WHAT'S  
PROTOCOL FOURTEEN?

DAY 1: 3:31 PM



THIS IS SECURITY FOOTAGE TAKEN TODAY FROM A ROBBERY AT A JEWELRY STORE ON TALOS ISLAND.

THE ROBBERS TOOK THE STORE EMPLOYEES WHO WERE GOING THROUGH PRE-OPENING TRAINING HOSTAGE AND HELD THEM IN THE VAULT.

WHILE THEY WERE OPENING UP THE CASES, THEY WERE ATTACKED BY MIDNIGHT ARACHNIA, ONE OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN.

PNN FINANCIAL NEWS - Dow Jones Averages rising on news of lower unemployment numbers. DJI +4.35 \$10895.99 - NASDAQ tr



NOW I'M SURE YOU'RE THINKING NO BIG DEAL, RIGHT? JUST WATCH...



THERE! SEE? IT ALMOST LOOKS LIKE SHE'S... RIPPING OUT HIS SOUL, DOESN'T IT?

trailing after news of Kordtech filing for Chapt



Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. - NAS -14 \$4556.56 - Kordtec



AND THEN THE COUP DE GRAS... THE BLACKWAND.

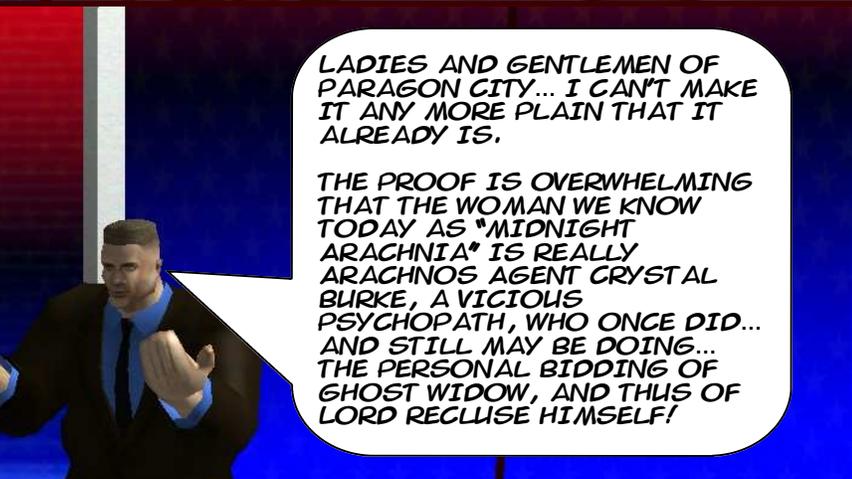


THE SAME KIND OF BLACKWAND WIELDED BY ARACHNOS AGENT CRYSTAL BURKE TEN YEARS AGO!

Kordtech CEO Tony Kord says the filing was neccess



necessary after Sky Raiders attacked his corporate offices



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF PARAGON CITY... I CAN'T MAKE IT ANY MORE PLAIN THAT IT ALREADY IS.

THE PROOF IS OVERWHELMING THAT THE WOMAN WE KNOW TODAY AS "MIDNIGHT ARACHNIA" IS REALLY ARACHNOS AGENT CRYSTAL BURKE, A VICIOUS PSYCHOPATH, WHO ONCE DID... AND STILL MAY BE DOING... THE PERSONAL BIDDING OF GHOST WIDOW, AND THUS OF LORD RECLUSE HIMSELF!

last month, destroying vital records. - PNN BREAKING NEWS - President Obama refutes claim that the Secret Service has been tak



SOMETHING MUST BE DONE. I KNOW IT, YOU KNOW IT...

THIS SO-CALLED "HERO" NEEDS TO BE PULLED FROM THE STREETS AND FORCED TO EXPLAIN HERSELF AND HER ACTIONS.



taken over by Vanguard forces. White House Press Secretary



MEMBERS OF MY STAFF TRIED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH MEMBERS OF THE GUARDIANS, AND EVEN WITH THE PARAGON POLICE DEPARTMENT, TO GET SOME SORT OF RESPONSE.

THEY WERE ALL TOLD "NO COMMENT".



Robert Gibbs says that the claim is unfounded. - PNN



NO COMMENT! A CLEAR THREAT TO THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THIS CITY... IF NOT THIS WHOLE COUNTRY... AND WE GET "NO COMMENT!"

A SADISTIC SOCIOPATH RUNS LOOSE IN THIS CITY AND ALL WE GET IN RESPONSE IS "NO COMMENT"...



PNN News Ticker - Sponsored by Crey Industries - Making y



WHAT MORE DO THEY NEED? PROOF? THERE'S YOUR PROOF!

WYVERN HAD IT FOR OVER A YEAR BEFORE A PROUD AMERICAN BROUGHT IT TO MY ATTENTION!

A WHOLE YEAR OF NEEDLESS RISK!



your day brighter and righter through technology -



\*SNIFF\* I'M SORRY... I DON'T... \*SNIFF\* I DON'T MEAN TO FLY OFF THE HANDLE LIKE THAT...

IT'S JUST THAT... I REALLY LOVE MY PARAGON CITY. I REALLY DO. AND I DON'T LIKE TO SEE IT THREATENED LIKE IT IS BEING THREATENED RIGHT NOW.



PNN WEATHER - Paragon City: Sunny 74 - Providence: Sun



SOMETHING NEEDS TO BE DONE TO SAVE OUR CITY FROM THIS THREAT!



Sunny 76 - Boston: Partly Cloudy 73 - New York City:



THEREFORE I AM CHALLENGING CITY HALL OFFICIALS, POLICE CHIEF CLAYTON, LADY GREY OF VANGUARD, GUARDIANS LEADER CAPTAIN PARAGONNA... EVEN THE FREEDOM PHALANX THEMSELVES... TO DO THE RIGHT THING AND BRING THIS WOMAN INTO CUSTODY!



Raining 65 - Washington DC: Raining 70 - Philadelphia:



AND IF YOU CAN'T DO THAT, THEN I CHALLENGE YOU ALL TO COME DOWN HERE ON THIS SHOW AND EXPLAIN TO MYSELF... AND TO THE CITIZEN OF PARAGON CITY... WHY YOU CANNOT!

IT'S TIME FOR US TO TAKE BACK OUR CITY! WE WANT OUR PARAGON CITY BACK!



Raining 65 - Cleveland: Partly Cloudy 60 - Atlanta: Su



KINGS ROW - DAY 2: 7:30 AM

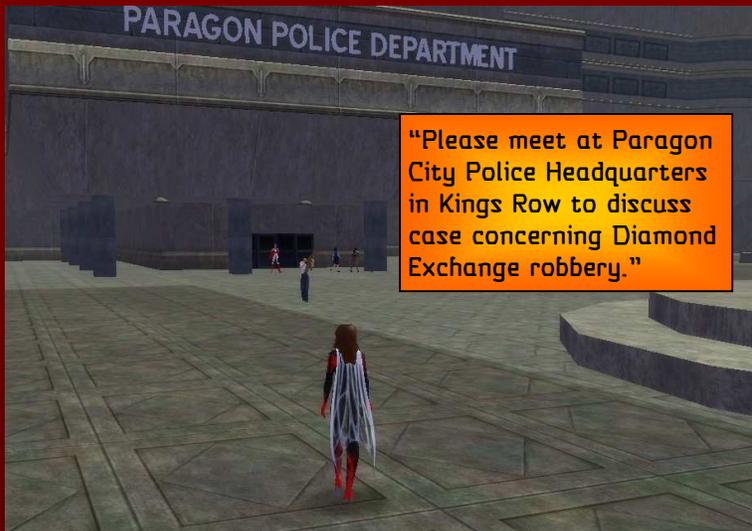
"HELLO?"

"This is an automated CPCU message for Midnight Arachina from Captain Paragonna. Please confirm."

"CONFIRM"

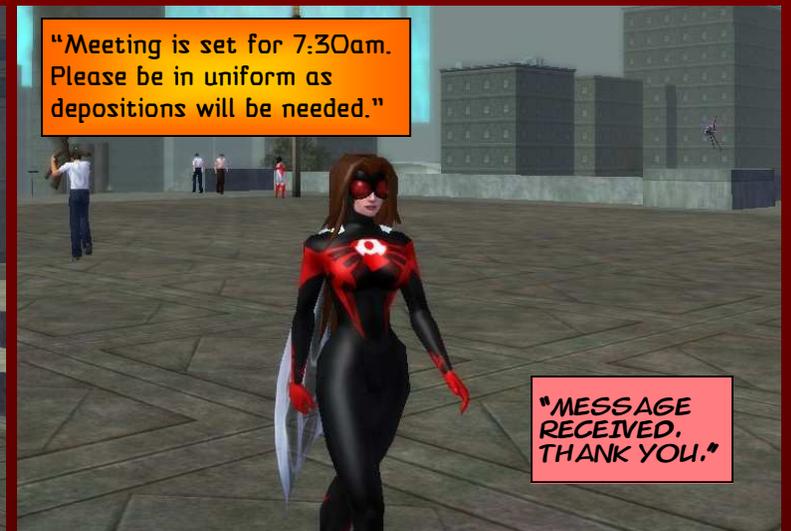
"Message is as follows..."

PARAGON POLICE DEPARTMENT



PARAGON POLICE DEPARTMENT

"Please meet at Paragon City Police Headquarters in Kings Row to discuss case concerning Diamond Exchange robbery."



"Meeting is set for 7:30am. Please be in uniform as depositions will be needed."

"MESSAGE RECEIVED. THANK YOU."

7:45 AM

THIS IS TURNING OUT TO BE A HUGE WASTE OF MY TIME.

MAYBE STEVIE'S GETTING FRESH DONUTS? SHE'S NORMALLY NOT...



HELLO? WHAT'S THIS?

"CITY COUNCILMAN DEMANDS ARREST FOR MIDNIGHT ARACNIA FOR TREASON?"



"COUNCILMAN STEVENS' COMMENTS COME AFTER PNN TALK SHOW HOST GARRY BECKER REVEALED ARACHNIA'S IDENTITY AS THAT OF AN ARACHNOS AGENT..."

WHAT?? THAT'S A LOAD OF BULL!



WHO..?

NOT EXACTLY THE KIND OF STATEMENT THAT I REALLY WANTED TO HEAR FROM YOU.



I WAS HOPING TO GET A CONFESSION... AN ADMISSION OF GUILT. IT WOULD MAKE THINGS A WHOLE LOT EASIER FOR EVERYONE.

DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY EDWARD "THE TRUST" VANCE... THE LIBERTARIAN AVENGER HAS HAD SOME RUN-INS WITH HIM RECENTLY.\*

(\* GOTO SPOTLIGHT #5)



I DO WANT TO APOLOGIZE FOR THE LITTLE MISDIRECTION, OBVIOUSLY YOU WOULDN'T HAVE SHOWN IF I REVEALED THE TRUE REASON FOR THIS LITTLE MEETING.



WHAT... YOU WANT TO QUESTION ME BECAUSE OF SOME WILD ACCUSATIONS MADE BY A MEDIA FLAKE?

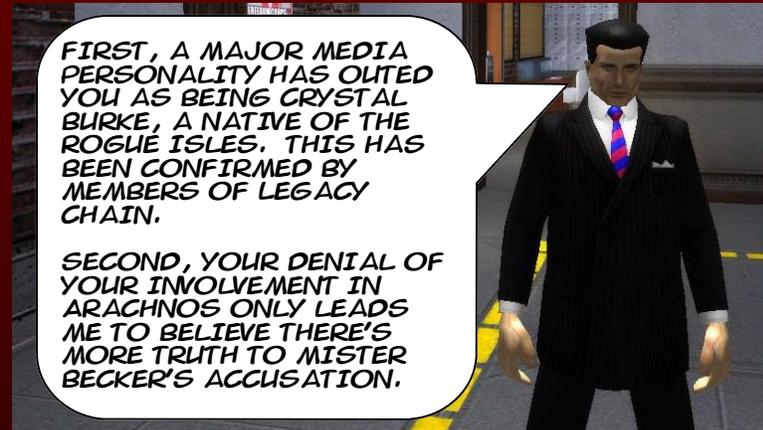
I HAVE NOT NOR HAVE I EVER BEEN AN ARACHNOS AGENT!



YES I CAME FROM THE ROGUE ISLES, BUT I CAME HERE AS A CHILD UNDER POLITICAL AMNESTY AND I BECAME AN AMERICAN CITIZEN.



THAT'S A NICE LITTLE PATRIOTIC SPEECH, BUT YOU'RE MISSING THE POINT...



FIRST, A MAJOR MEDIA PERSONALITY HAS OUTED YOU AS BEING CRYSTAL BURKE, A NATIVE OF THE ROGUE ISLES. THIS HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY MEMBERS OF LEGACY CHAIN.

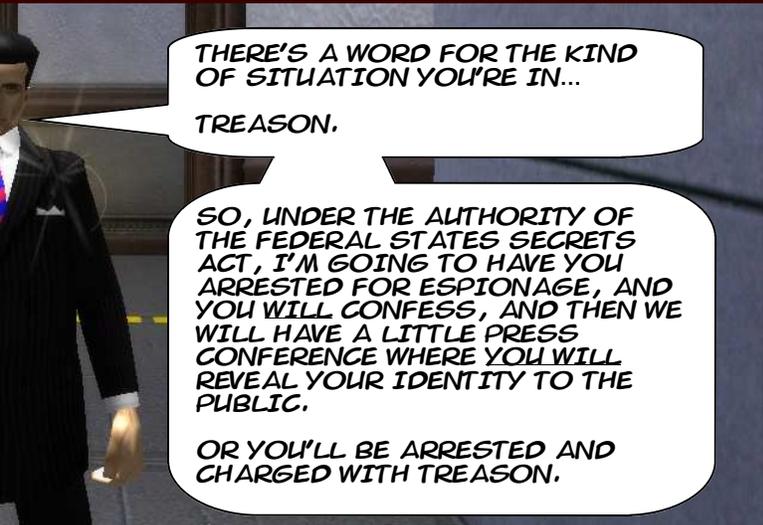
SECOND, YOUR DENIAL OF YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN ARACHNOS ONLY LEADS ME TO BELIEVE THERE'S MORE TRUTH TO MISTER BECKER'S ACCUSATION.



THIRD, EVEN IF YOU ARE TELLING THE TRUTH, IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER BECAUSE AT THIS POINT YOUR NAME AND YOUR CAREER ARE RUINED.

I BELIEVE THERE ARE PROTEST GROUPS GETTING PICKET SIGNS READY FOR CITY HALL AS I SPEAK.

AND FOURTH, AS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN AND AS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF A REGISTERED SUPERHERO ORGANIZATION, YOU'RE PRIVY TO CERTAIN SECRETS PERTINENT TO THE SECURITY OF THIS COUNTRY.



THERE'S A WORD FOR THE KIND OF SITUATION YOU'RE IN...

TREASON.

SO, UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE FEDERAL STATES SECRETS ACT, I'M GOING TO HAVE YOU ARRESTED FOR ESPIONAGE, AND YOU WILL CONFESS, AND THEN WE WILL HAVE A LITTLE PRESS CONFERENCE WHERE YOU WILL REVEAL YOUR IDENTITY TO THE PUBLIC.

OR YOU'LL BE ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH TREASON.

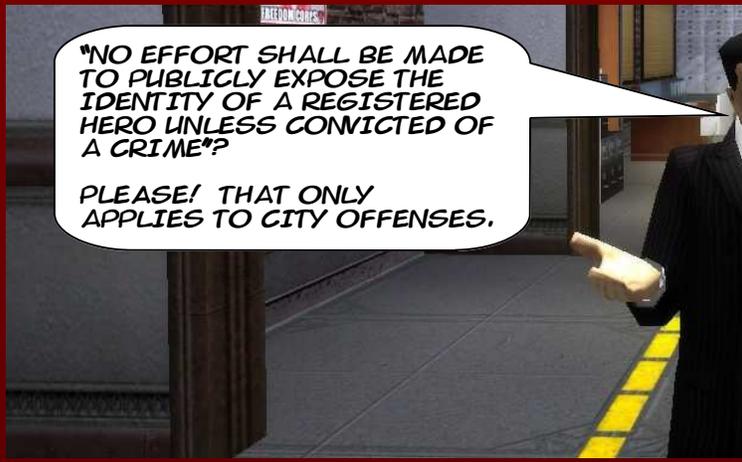


GO TO HELL.  
 YOU'RE NOT ARRESTING ME AND I'M CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO REVEAL MY IDENTITY TO THE PUBLIC.



HUMOR ME...  
 GIVE ME A REASON WHY.

HOW ABOUT PROTOCOL FOURTEEN?



"NO EFFORT SHALL BE MADE TO PUBLICLY EXPOSE THE IDENTITY OF A REGISTERED HERO UNLESS CONVICTED OF A CRIME?"  
 PLEASE! THAT ONLY APPLIES TO CITY OFFENSES.



WE'RE TALKING TREASON HERE. THAT'S A FEDERAL OFFENSE.  
 SO I'LL SEE YOUR "PROTOCOL FOURTEEN" AND RAISE YOU WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE!  
 OF WHICH, BY THE WAY, I'VE JUST BEEN MADE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR.



SO, DO YOU REALLY WANT TO GO DOWN THAT ROAD?  
 I'LL WIN EITHER WAY.  
 YOUR CALL.



Protocol Fourteen engaged. Stand by for emergency teleport.



WHAT??  
 NO! STOP THAT! I ORDER YOU TO CEASE AND DESIST!  
 YOU ARE SIGNING YOUR OWN DEATH WARRANT IF YOU RUN!



FINE.  
 TREASON IT IS.  
 YOU JUST MADE MY WHOLE DAY BY DOING THIS.

**GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN BASE**

**OW! OW! OW!  
OW!**

**THAT HURTS!**

**WHY DID IT  
HAVE TO BE  
SO ROUGH?**

Normal dimensional teleport was not designed to be used for emergencies. Protocol Fourteen overrides safety procedures.

**OKAY, I GET IT. SO WHY NOT USE THE MEDICAL TELEPORTER?**

That is for members in good standing. Your status is currently suspended.

**WHAT???**

Please proceed to the infirmary. All answers will be provided there.

Protocol Fourteen procedures are in effect.

**THIS IS A PRE-RECORDED MESSAGE DESIGNED IN CASE PROTOCOL FOURTEEN HAS BEEN INVOKED.**

**GOOD OLD JASON, ALWAYS THINKING AHEAD...**

**THIS PROGRAM IS CUSTOM DESIGNED TO RESPOND TO THE SPECIFIC MEMBER INVOLVED.**

**JESSICA...**

**IF YOU ARE WATCHING THIS THEN YOUR INTEGRITY AND/OR YOUR IDENTITY HAVE BEEN COMPROMISED.**

**IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU FOLLOW THIS ADVICE TO THE LETTER IF YOU WISH TO SURVIVE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.**

**FIRST OF ALL, DO NOT USE YOUR HERO ID AFTER YOU LEAVE THIS BASE. LEAVE IT BEHIND IF YOU HAVE TO. IT WILL NOT WORK AS LONG AS YOU'RE ON THE RUN.**

**DO NOT CHANGE INTO MIDNIGHT ARACHNIA. BURN THE COSTUME IF YOU HAVE TO. REFRAIN FROM USING YOUR MAGIC WHENEVER POSSIBLE.**

**IF YOUR CIVILIAN GUISE HAS NOT YET BEEN REVEALED YOU CAN STAY ANONYMOUS AS LONG AS YOU STAY AWAY FROM SECURE AREAS LIKE WENTWORTH'S AND CITY HALL.**

**MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANYTHING, YOU MUST REFRAIN FROM CONTACTING EITHER MYSELF OR ANY OTHER MEMBER OF THE GUARDIANS UNTIL THIS MATTER HAS BEEN CLEARED.**

**WE WILL BE UNDER ORDERS TO ARREST YOU ON SIGHT, AND YOU KNOW HOW SOME OF OUR MEMBERS FEEL ABOUT FOLLOWING THOSE ORDERS.**

**STAY ALIVE, AND STAY OUT OF SIGHT. AS LONG AS YOU'RE NOT IN JAIL, WE CAN WORK TO CLEAR YOUR NAME AND KEEP YOUR GUISE AS JESSICA DANVERS INTACT.**

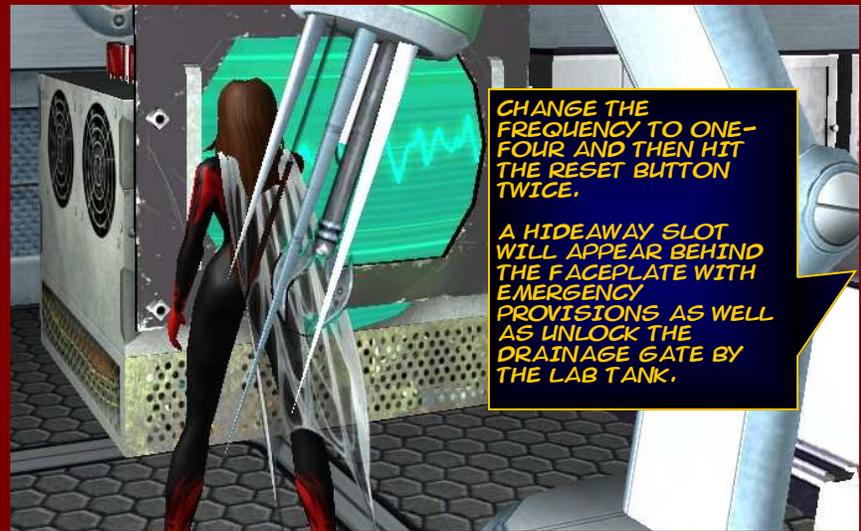
SINCE YOUR HERO ID CARD WILL NO LONGER WORK, YOU WILL NEED TO USE THE EMERGENCY ESCAPE ROUTE JUST BEHIND THE MEDICAL TELEPORTER.

THE CONTROL IS INSIDE THE OLD CRT MONITOR.



CHANGE THE FREQUENCY TO ONE-FOUR AND THEN HIT THE RESET BUTTON TWICE.

A HIDEAWAY SLOT WILL APPEAR BEHIND THE FACEPLATE WITH EMERGENCY PROVISIONS AS WELL AS UNLOCK THE DRAINAGE GATE BY THE LAB TANK.



ONE MORE THING...

I MAKE IT MY BUSINESS TO KNOW WHO I'M WORKING WITH IN ANY GROUP I'M A MEMBER OF.

I KNOW YOUR HISTORY...

I WOULDN'T BE TRUSTING YOU WITH ALL OF THIS IF I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE WORTH TRUSTING.

NO MATTER HOW BLEAK IT MAY SEEM, DO NOT STRAY FROM WHO YOU REALLY ARE. YOU ARE MORE THAN YOUR HISTORY. STAY STRONG AND STAY ALIVE.



Message ended.

Commencing with phase two of Protocol Fourteen.

All access codes and procedures concerning Midnight Arachnia are being purged from system.

\*FWOOSH...\*



8:30 AM

WHAT DO YOU MEAN SHE'S NOT THERE?



I MEAN SHE'S NOT HERE IN THE BASE.

CAPTAIN PARAGONNA



HOW THE HELL CAN YOU TELL ME THAT SHE'S NOT IN THE BASE WHEN VANGUARD IS REPORTING THAT SHE IS?



BECAUSE SHE LEFT HER COSTUME AND HER HERO ID BEHIND.



8:00 AM

\*GASP\*



ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, IT WAS BETTER THAN THE EMERGENCY TELEPORT...



I JUST WISH I WASN'T DOING THIS IN MY UNDERWEAR.

"YOU DO REALIZE THAT YOU'RE FORGING MY HAND HERE, CAPTAIN."

"HOW SO?"



"IF YOUR PEOPLE HAD ANY PART IN HER ESCAPE FROM CUSTODY..."



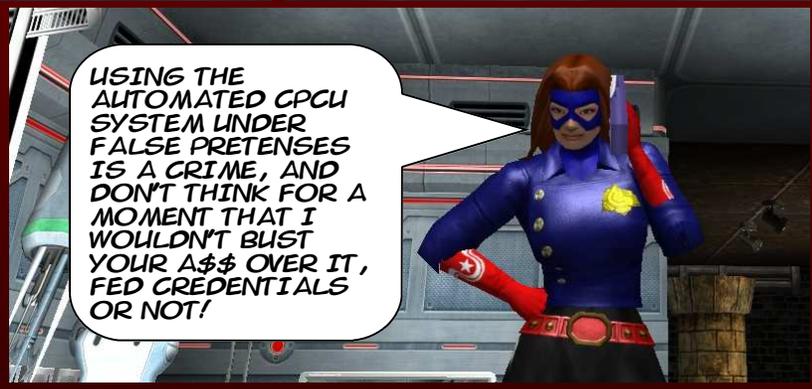
"I'LL CHARGE THE WHOLE GROUP WITH AIDING AND OBSTRUCTION."



"IF YOU WANT TO GO THAT ROUTE, MISTER VANCE, THEN YOU BETTER HEAR THIS..."



USING THE AUTOMATED CPCI SYSTEM UNDER FALSE PRETENSES IS A CRIME, AND DON'T THINK FOR A MOMENT THAT I WOULDN'T BUST YOUR A\$\$ OVER IT, FED CREDENTIALS OR NOT!



OUR PEOPLE WILL DO OUR JOBS. WE WON'T LIKE IT, BUT WE'LL DO IT ANYWAY. THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO RIGHT NOW IS TO SHUT UP AND LET US DO IT.



I WILL PERSONALLY HOLD YOU TO THAT, CAPTAIN.





DAY 2: 3:05 PM

AS YOU ALL KNOW, YESTERDAY I EXPOSED THE FACT THAT WE HAVE AN ARACHNOS SPY IN PARAGON CITY, MASQUERADING IN PLAIN SIGHT AS A SUPERHERO.



Breaking News: Captain Paragonna of the Guardians o



WELL IT WAS BECAUSE OF YOUR PERSISTENCE THAT CHARGES HAVE NOW BEEN FILED AGAINST MIDNIGHT ARACHNIA FOR TREASON AND FOR RESISTING ARREST!



of the Dawn has announced that Midnight Arachnia has b



BUT THIS IS ONLY HALF THE BATTLE, MY FRIENDS.

WE MAY BE ABLE TO PROSECUTE HER AND EVEN CONVICT HER IN ABSTENTION, THANKS TO THE DILIGENCE OF OUR PROSECUTORS, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT THE THREAT ITSELF IS OVER WITH!

SHE MAY HAVE FLED, BUT SHE WASN'T ABLE TO DO IT BY HERSELF. SHE HAD TO HAVE HELP. WE NEED TO FIND THE PEOPLE HELPING HER AND BRING THEM TO JUSTICE. WE NEED TO PROSECUTE THEM JUST AS SWIFTLY AS WE ARE PROSECUTING HER!

OUR CITY'S SAFETY DEMANDS NO LESS! OUR COUNTRY'S SECURITY DEMANDS NO LESS!



been officially suspended from the group following charges filed by Deputy District Attorney and Special US Prosecutor Edward "Th



TALOS ISLAND - DAY 2: 6:25 PM

I HAD TO USE MY SPELLWEBS ONE LAST TIME HERE... I COULDN'T WALK AROUND IN MY SKIWIES AND NOT GET SOMEONE'S ATTENTION.

FORTUNATELY I WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BEING NOTICED SOON...



YOU LOOKIN' FER A JOB OR FER A RIDE?

HOW CLOSE CAN YOU GET ME TO MERCY ISLAND?

MERCY'S UNDER A BLOCKADE BY WYVERN...

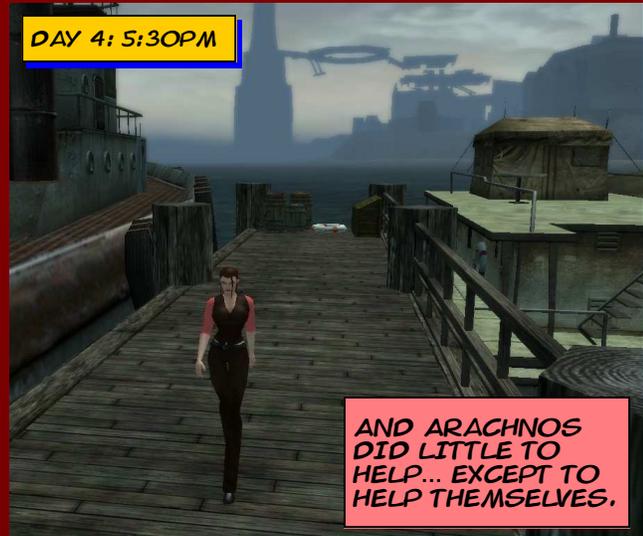
I KNOW THAT, HOW CLOSE CAN YOU GET ME TO IT?

WE'LL GET YOU THERE... BUT THIS AIN'T NO PLEASURE BOAT... IT WILL TAKE TWO DAYS AT A THOUSAND A DAY.

FINE.  
LET'S DO THIS.



IT'S NOT LIKE I REMEMBER IT... THE RIKTI DID SO MUCH DAMAGE TO THIS PLACE.



AND ARACHNOS DID LITTLE TO HELP... EXCEPT TO HELP THEMSELVES.



MOMP IS THAT YOU?



WOW, YOU REALLY FILLED OUT SINCE YOU WERE LAST HERE!

WHO...?



WELCOME BACK, LITTLE SISTER. ALTHOUGH... YOU PROBABLY WILL REGRET COMING BACK HERE.

 MATTHEW BURKE

TO BE CONTINUED ...



*Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.*

---

## Birth of a Supergroup Base

*(The following is a conversation between Captain Paragonna of the Guardians of the Dawn, and Turgis McRae, chief engineer and designer of Pan-Dimensional Construction, the chief construction company for supergroup bases in Paragon City. The conversation occurred in November of 2007, immediately after the creation of the Guardians of the Dawn supergroup.)*

**Captain Paragonna:** So how exactly does this work?

**Turgis McRae:** Well we have several options open for you. The most popular is the basic Tesseract model. That's where we create a dimensional pocket and then you're free to build inside that pocket. It's cheap, easy to redesign on the fly, but there are some drawbacks, such as if the main Tesseract fails. You don't want to be in the base if that should happen.

**CP:** I don't think we would want to go that route. That sounds too risky.

**TMcR:** Well that leaves a physical structure, such as a building rental, a cave, or, if you're lucky, a downed Rikti warship. But I've only heard of one group that managed to pull that particular feat off. There are also some derelict ships that you can use on the ocean, but the whole "Ghost Ship" thing usually turns people away from it. Or there's our specialty, which is a solid-room creation, using dimensional manipulation to bore out a base from inside a solid object without all of that old-fashioned drilling and excavation, and then put in a Tesseract access point.

And if you want to go that route, then there is one place that I have been eager to set up that I'll be willing to do for you at a huge discount...

**CP:** Where?

**TMcR:** Talos Island. Specifically inside the base of the statue of Talos himself.

**CP:** Why there?

**TMcR:** Because nobody has done it yet. It's one of the most iconic structures in Paragon City next only to the statue of Atlas in Atlas Plaza, and yet everyone is afraid of the "spirit" of Talos.

**CP:** Do they have any reason to be concerned?

**TMcR:** Well there's the whole "protection" myth, that the spirit of Talos protected the island from the Rikti in 2002. You have the whole ghost ship thing too. Then there's

*Continues on next page...*

the reason why the statue is where it is. You see, that's where the Chimera monster was buried. That statue keeps the magma rift that originally created the island sealed.

**CP:** And you want us to put a base *there*?

**TMcR:** I'll let you in on a little secret. When the statue was first commissioned, my grandfather's company had monitoring equipment was in to measure seismic readings to make sure that Chimera stayed dead and that the rift is stable. They were crude at the time, but the facilities are still intact. Your base could be designed to make use those facilities and help monitor the equipment for the city instead of turning to Hero Corps all the time.

**CP:** I like the idea, but I think I'll have to speak with the others first before I say yes to it.

**TMcR:** Fair enough.

**CP:** One more thing... I am concerned about the whole idea of having a base inside a solid object, even if it is as safe as you say it is. I would want to have some sort of emergency exit... a physical entry and exit point that we could use if something were to happen and the dimensional portal doesn't work.

**TMcR:** Absolutely! I make it a point to provide at least one physical access for emergencies in all of my physical-based constructions.

<http://GuardiansOfTheDawn.wordpress.com>

***NEXT ISSUE...***



***Part 2...***  
***Midnight***  
***Arachnia in the City***  
***of Villains!***





The dawn of a new era - The need for a new team of heroes!

# GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN

<http://GuardiansOfTheDawn.wordpress.com>