



T FOR TEENS

FUTURE'S GUARDIAN



**ISSUE 24
2023**

**The Fate
of Agent
Wednesday**



**CHAMPIONS
ONLINE**



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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 alongside her friends as...

FUTURE'S GUARDIAN

"WEDNESDAY FALLS"

- A CHAMPIONS ONLINE STORY BY DAVID 2

ANNA WEDNESDAY WAS A TELEPATHIC SPECIAL AGENT WITH THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS. ONE OF THE FEW LAWYERS ALLOWED TO OPERATE AS A TELEPATH, AGENT WEDNESDAY INVESTIGATED ALL MANNER OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY.

SHE WAS ALSO A GOOD FRIEND AND ALLY OF THE HEROES OF PROJECT MYCROFT.

BUT THEN THERE WAS ONE CASE THAT WOULD NOT ONLY COST HER DEARLY, BUT IT WOULD ALSO AFFECT HER FRIENDS AND ALLIES. A CASE THAT WOULD DAMAGE THE MUTUALLY-BENEFICIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS DIVISION AND MILLENNIUM CITY.

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LIVE

AND NOW WE HAVE A LIVE VIEW OF CITY HALL, WHERE A VERY IMPORTANT SENTENCING HEARING IS SCHEDULED TO START.

FOR MORE ON THIS, WE TAKE YOU TO WCOC'S OWN JULIE MORGAN IN FRONT OF CITY HALL. JULIE?

8 WCOC GOOD MORNING MILLENNIUM CITY WITH VICTORIA CROWNSTONE...

LIVE

THAT'S RIGHT, VICTORIA.

THE SENTENCING HEARING FOR LEOPOLD LOCK, AKA "LUNK", IS ABOUT TO COMMENCE RIGHT BEHIND ME.

8 WCOC WCOC JULIE MORGAN - CITY HALL

LIVE

LOCK WAS HEAD OF SECURITY FOR THEN-MAYOR-ELECT RONALD BETTERS, WHOSE SURPRISE ELECTION IN 2018 WAS STAINED BY CHARGES OF VOTER FRAUD AND BALLOT TAMPERING.

8 WCOC CITY HALL - SENTENCING HEARI

LIVE

LOCK WAS CHARGED WITH THE CAPITAL MURDER OF FBI AGENT ANNA WEDNESDAY, WHO WAS ATTEMPTING TO ARREST BETTERS FOR HIS PART IN THE BALLOT TAMPERING.

LOCK HIMSELF WAS EVENTUALLY ARRESTED BY MILLENNIUM CITY'S OWN GALATEA FUTURE, BUT ONLY AFTER A PROLONGED BATTLE THAT WENT FROM ONE END OF THE CITY TO THE OTHER.

8 WCOC SENTENCING HEARING FOR LEOPOLD "LUNK" LOCK UNDERWAY SHORTLY

RECORDED

"EARLY TODAY A HEAVILY RESTRAINED LOCK WAS ESCORTED FROM THE JAIL TO THE COURTHOUSE HOLDING CELL."

8 WCOC LEOPOLD "LUNK" LOCK BEING TRANSFERRED

RECORDED

"ALTHOUGH IT'S UNKNOWN IF LOCK WILL EVEN PARTICIPATE IN THIS HEARING."

8 WCOC TO COURTROOM HOLDING FACILITY

LIVE

ALTHOUGH LOCK PLED NOT GUILTY, LOCK'S ATTORNEYS OFFERED NO DEFENSE WHATSOEVER DURING THE TRIAL, SUPPOSEDLY AT HIS BEHEST.

LEGAL EXPERTS HAVE SPECULATED THAT IT WAS LOCK'S INTENTION TO FORCE THE PROSECUTION TO GO THROUGH THE WHOLE PROCESS OF A TRIAL SO A JURY WOULD HAVE TO CONVICT HIM.

8 WCOC WCOC JULIE MORGAN - CITY HALL - SENTENCING TRIAL TO BEGIN SOON FOR LEPO

RECORDED

"STILL AHEAD IS THE CRIMINAL TRIAL FOR LOCK'S BOSS, DISGRACED MAYOR-ELECT BETTERS, WHO FACES EVEN MORE CHARGES INCLUDING RACKETEERING."

"LOCK'S ATTORNEYS HAVE REPEATEDLY TOLD WCOC THAT LOCK WILL NOT BE MAKING ANY DEALS WITH PROSECUTORS AND WILL NOT PROVIDE ANY TESTIMONY AGAINST BETTERS."

8 WCOC FORMER MAYOR-ELECT RONALD BETTERS, STILL AWAITING CRIMINAL TRIAL

THE ONLY THING THAT IS CERTAIN IS THAT LOCK WILL NOT BE FACING THE DEATH PENALTY FOR THE CAPITAL MURDER OF A FEDERAL AGENT.

DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY JUSTINE JAZMIN SAYS THAT THE DECISION TO NOT CALL FOR THE DEATH PENALTY WAS AT THE BEHEST OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

AND, MUCH LIKE THE MAIN TRIAL ITSELF, THE HEARING WILL BE CLOSED DUE TO SECURITY CONCERNS, SO WE CAN ONLY WAIT OUTSIDE FOR ANY DECISIONS AFTERWARD.

FOR WCOC, I'M JULIE MORGAN.

8 WCOC WCOC JULIE MORGAN - CITY HALL - SENTENCING TRIAL TO BEGIN FOR LEOPOLD LOCK

GOOD MORNING EVERYONE.
THIS IS THE SENTENCING
HEARING FOR PEOPLE VERSUS
LEOPOLD LOCK.

I PRESUME BOTH SIDES ARE
READY FOR THE HEARING TO
PROCEED.

I'LL REMIND EVERYONE THAT THE
DEFENDANT HAS ALREADY BEEN
FOUND GUILTY. THIS IS MERELY
TO DETERMINE THE PUNISHMENT.
MISS JAZMIN, CALL YOUR FIRST
WITNESS.



HON. ROBERT ULYSSES
MILLENNIUM CITY JUDGE

YOUR HONOR,
THE PEOPLE
FIRST CALL THE
REGISTERED
HERO STARLETT.



JUSTINE JAZMIN
DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

I FIRST MET AGENT
WEDNESDAY IN 2014
AFTER A CASE
INVOLVING TAINTED
OVER-THE-COUNTER
STIMULANTS.*

SHE HELPED ME
WITH AN UNRELATED
PROBLEM.

(* SEE THE "PSILENCE OF THE
CONSCIENCE" STORY, ISSUES #7-12)



STARLETT
STREET VIGILANTE

IT TOOK A BIT OF
CONVINCING, BUT I
GOT HIS CLEANING
STAFF TO BRING
YOUR FILE TO ME.
THOSE ARE ALL OF
THE PHOTOS AND
THE NEGATIVES AND
THE DVD DISC.



AGENT WEDNESDAY
FBI TELEPATH

(* ISSUE #13)

THE STIMULANTS
CASE REQUIRED HER
TO STAY IN
MILLENNIUM CITY
FOR A FEW MONTHS,
SO I SHOWED HER
THE SIGHTS.

DURING THAT TIME,
WE BECAME FRIENDS.

RENAISSANCE CENTER
DECEMBER 2015

HE'S BEEN HERE OVER A
YEAR AND HE STILL
LOVES COMING HERE.
HE'S LIKE A BIG KID
DURING CHRISTMAS.

NOTHING WRONG
WITH THAT.
IT'S ACTUALLY
QUITE REFRESHING
TO COME ACROSS
SOMEONE LIKE HIM.



ELSEWHERE DOWNTOWN...

HELLO? RONIN?

IN HERE, BY
THE KITCHEN.



PERI PIPER
FBI/PROJECT MYCROFT



MISS LADY
RONIN'S TRAVEL CAT



RONIN OMEGA
COSMIC TRAVELER

LINK'S
SENTENCING
HEARING IS
TODAY.

YES, I'M
AWARE
OF THAT.

SO WHY AREN'T YOU
THERE?

THE OTHER MEMBERS
OF PROJECT
MYCROFT ARE THERE
GIVING TESTIMONY.

I'VE ALREADY GIVEN MY
TESTIMONY DURING THE
ACTUAL TRIAL.
ANYTHING MORE WOULD
BE IRRELEVANT.

BUT... WHAT ABOUT YOUR
RELATIONSHIP WITH
AGENT WEDNESDAY?
CERTAINLY YOU COULD
GIVE TESTIMONY ABOUT
WHO SHE WAS.



AGENT PIPER, MY "RELATIONSHIP" WITH YOUR PREDECESSOR WAS ONLY ON A PROFESSIONAL BASIS.



HER CONNECTIONS TO OTHER MEMBERS OF PROJECT MYCROFT DID NOT TRANSLATE INTO ONE WITH ME.



THAT'S...
THAT'S RATHER COLD.

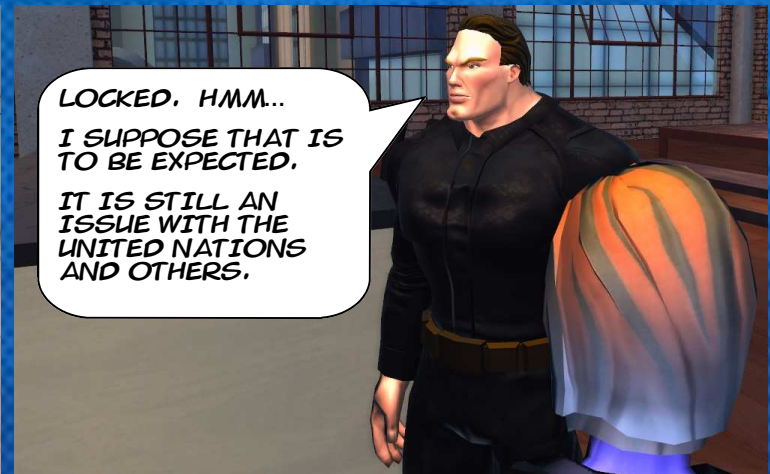
AS THEY SAY...
IT IS WHAT IT IS.



WELL, MAYBE
YOU CAN TELL
ME ABOUT THE
CASE ITSELF.



THE CASE FILE
IS LOCKED AND
MAJOR CROSS
ONLY SAID
THAT I SHOULD
ASK YOU
ABOUT IT.



LOCKED. HMM...
I SUPPOSE THAT IS
TO BE EXPECTED.
IT IS STILL AN
ISSUE WITH THE
UNITED NATIONS
AND OTHERS.



VERY WELL. I'LL TELL
YOU WHAT I KNOW.
THIS ACTUALLY
STARTED BACK IN
2016.

AS YOU MAY KNOW, CALVIN BISELLE
WAS THE LONGEST-SERVING MAYOR
OF MILLENNIUM CITY.

ACTUALLY HE WAS THE ONLY MAYOR
FOR THIS CITY SINCE IT WAS
FOUNDED AFTER THE DESTRUCTION
OF DETROIT.

THAT'S NOT TO SAY THAT
THERE WERE CHALLENGERS.

THERE HAVE BEEN PLENTY
OF PEOPLE WHO RAN
AGAINST HIM OVER THE
YEARS, AND THEY ALL
LOST.

DECEMBER 2016

"BUT THEN RONALD BETTERS CAME TO MILLENNIUM CITY."

THIS CONSTRUCTION SITE HAS BEEN UNFINISHED FOR FAR TOO LONG.

 **RONALD BETTERS**
BUSINESSMAN

"HE WAS A BUSINESSMAN FROM CHICAGO WHO MADE HIS MONEY IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

THERE WERE SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS BUSINESS PRACTICES BUT NOTHING THAT COULD BE PROVEN."

IN CHICAGO, THE MAYOR WOULDN'T LET A PROJECT LIKE THIS SIT AROUND FOR YEARS.

IF IT WAS ME, I WOULD HAVE HAD THIS BUILDING UP AND FINISHED ALREADY.

THIS JUST SHOWS HOW INEPT MAYOR BISELLE IS.

BETTERS STARTED AN INTENSE MEDIA CAMPAIGN OF ATTACKING MAYOR BISELLE ON PRETTY MUCH EVERY ISSUE HE COULD BEFORE PUTTING HIS NAME UP FOR MAYOR.

OF COURSE HE HAD PLENTY OF HELP WITH PUBLIC EXPOSURE.

"SHERMAN ADAIR RUNS ADAIR MEDIA, AND HE'S BEEN A LONGTIME CRITIC OF MAYOR BISELLE EVER SINCE HE ARRIVED IN THE CITY WITH HIS CABLE CHANNELS AND TALK RADIO CHANNELS AND ENTERTAINMENT PUBLICATIONS."

"ADAIR TRIED TO RUN FOR MAYOR ONCE AND LOST BADLY. EVER SINCE THEN HE VOWED HE WOULD DO WHATEVER IT TOOK TO SEE BISELLE OUT OF OFFICE. THERE WAS SOME SPECULATION THAT IT WAS ADAIR HIMSELF THAT BROUGHT BETTERS OVER FROM CHICAGO FOR THAT PURPOSE."



SHERMAN ADAIR
CEO ADAIR MEDIA

BETTERS WINS MAYOR RACE!



Businessman Ronald Betters celebrating his election victory after coming from behind to defeat longtime Mayor Calvin Biselle. (Image by Michael Scott Beck.)

CALVIN BISELLE SUFFERS FIRST LOSS IN HIS CAREER IN DECADES

Article by Julie Morgan

(MCFP) Millennium City, MI - Millennium City's longest-serving mayor was defeated in a surprise turnout on Election Day.

With 100% of the precincts reporting, businessman Ronald Betters has come from seemingly nowhere to defeat Calvin Biselle, who has served as the city's first and only mayor since the founding of Millennium City in 1992.

Betters, a construction magnate from Chicago, came to the city in 2016 and began an instant campaign against Biselle's policies, garnering quick media attention as well as support from many in the city who were tired of Biselle's tenure.

"The people of this fine city have spoken," Betters said in his victory speech at the Millennium City Western Inn.

"The people are tired of Biselle's failed policies, his rehashing of old days, and the retelling of old ghost stories about supervillains long since dead. The people want clear leadership from someone with experience in getting things done!"

Betters was considered a longshot candidate when he first announced his candidacy early in the year. Since

then, he managed to win over the support of a surprising number of voters, especially in the Westside district.

"The old mayor has ignored us for years," said Curtis Suss of Westside, one of many supporters of Betters in attendance.

"Biselle gave lip service to us down here. He'd promise better days, but did nothing about the gangs and nothing about the broken streets and broken buildings."

In his concession speech, Calvin Biselle thanked his supporters, including many in the superhero community who have come to his rescue over the years.

"It was a good run," Biselle said. "We've done so much for this city. And now it appears the people have said they want someone else."

Betters campaigned strongly in the Westside district, pointing out the decaying conditions and the stagnant growth of the area which many in the community have attributed to criminal activity as well as a lack of attention from City Hall.

"Biselle hasn't come down here in years," said Suss. "He talks the game but..." [\(CLICK HERE TO CONTINUE\)](#)

NOVEMBER 10, 2018

"AGENT WEDNESDAY
SHOWED UP HERE
NOT LONG AFTER
THE ELECTION."

"SHE WANTED ME TO
HELP HER INVESTIGATE
BETTERS AND TO
BRING HIM DOWN."

IT'S NOT THAT
I'M UNWILLING
TO HELP YOU,
BUT... I'M
CURIOUS WHY
YOU CAME TO
ME.

YOU HAVE A
WHOLE SUPER-
AGENCY OF
FEDERAL AGENTS
THAT WOULD BE
BETTER SUITED
TO HELP YOU.

NO, I DON'T.
I'M BEING SABOTAGED
BY MY SUPERIORS.
EVERY REQUEST IS BEING
DENIED. EVERY TIME I
TRY TO GET MORE
INFORMATION I GET
SHUT DOWN.

I NEED SOMEONE
WITH YOUR
SKILLS.
SOMEONE WHO
CAN WORK
OUTSIDE THE
NORMS AND GET
TO THE TRUTH.

KNOWING HOW HUMAN
NATURE WORKS AND
BEING ABLE TO INTUIT
THINGS IS FAR FROM
HAVING SOUND EVIDENCE
THAT CAN BE USED IN A
COURT OF LAW.

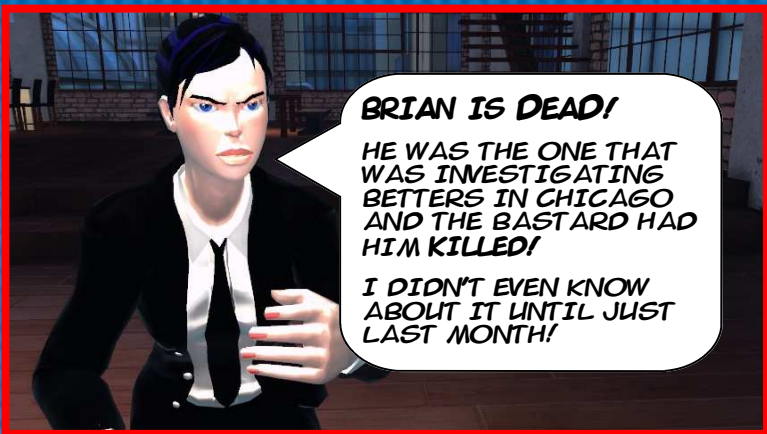
THIS IS SOMETHING
I'VE TOLD MAJOR
CROSS ON NUMEROUS
OCCASIONS.

YOU WOULDN'T BE
WORKING FOR
MAJOR CROSS.
YOU'D BE
WORKING FOR ME.



IF THAT WERE THE CASE THEN I WOULD BE BOUND TO PRIMUS* AUTHORITY JUST LIKE YOU ARE. SOMETHING YOUR EX-HUSBAND WOULD--

(* PRIMUS IS THE SUPREME UNITED STATES LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY IN THE WORLD OF CHAMPIONS.)



BRIAN IS DEAD!

HE WAS THE ONE THAT WAS INVESTIGATING BETTERS IN CHICAGO AND THE BASTARD HAD HIM KILLED!

I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT IT UNTIL JUST LAST MONTH!



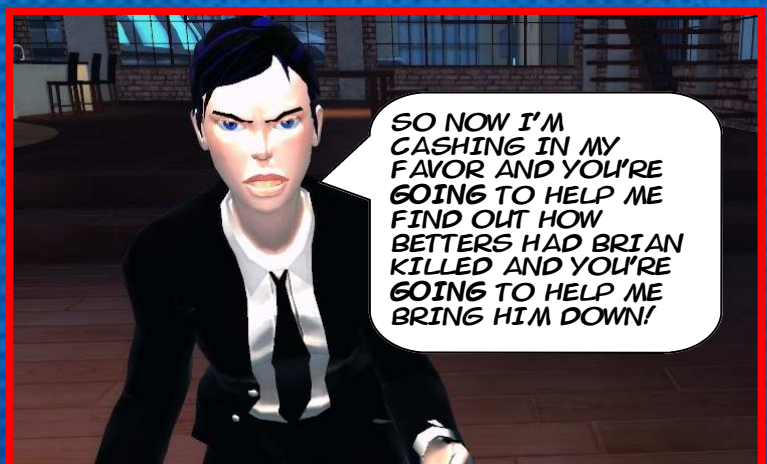
I'M SORRY. I KNOW YOU STILL HAVE FEELINGS FOR YOUR EX-HUSBAND.

BUT IF MEMORY SERVES, HE WAS ALSO A TELEPATH, SO HOW COULD HE BE KILLED AND YOU NOT KNOW IT?



I DON'T KNOW!

ALL I KNOW IS THAT HE WAS INVESTIGATING BETTERS, AND NOW HE'S DEAD, AND MY BOSSES ARE SHUTTING ME DOWN!



SO NOW I'M CASHING IN MY FAVOR AND YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME FIND OUT HOW BETTERS HAD BRIAN KILLED AND YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME BRING HIM DOWN!



"I HAD ASKED AGENT WEDNESDAY TO HELP STARLETT WITH A PROBLEM CONCERNING MARKMAN GOLD AS A FAVOR TO ME.**"

"AS A TRAVELER, I WAS HONOR-BOUND TO AGREE TO HER FAVOR IN RETURN.*"

"AGENT WEDNESDAY INSISTED I KEEP THIS INVESTIGATION BETWEEN US.

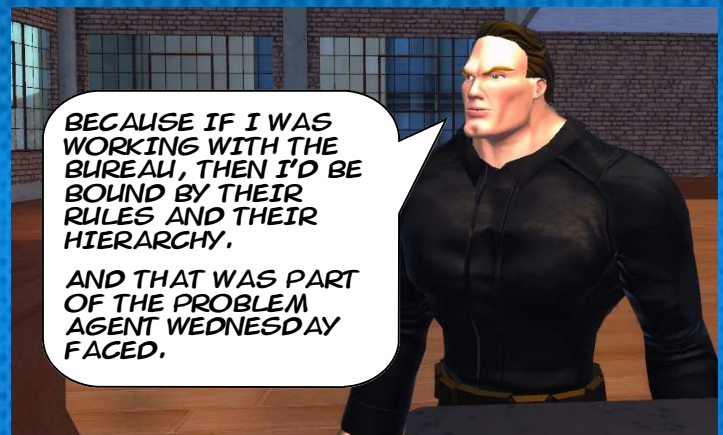
THE FEWER THAT KNEW ABOUT IT, THE BETTER, SHE SAID.

THAT INCLUDED KEEPING MAJOR CROSS IN THE DARK ABOUT MY WORK WITH HER."

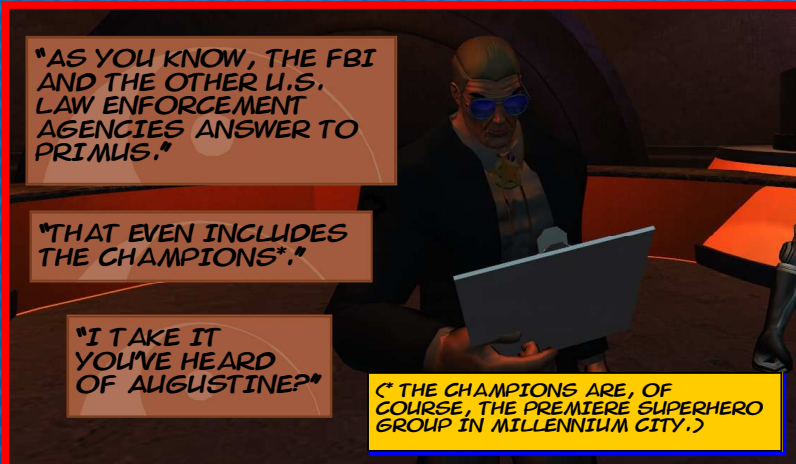
(* ISSUE #13)



I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
WHY KEEP IT A SECRET?
WHY DIDN'T YOU LET THE
MAJOR KNOW THAT
YOU'D BE WORKING WITH
THE BUREAU ON THIS?



BECAUSE IF I WAS
WORKING WITH THE
BUREAU, THEN I'D BE
BOUND BY THEIR
RULES AND THEIR
HIERARCHY.
AND THAT WAS PART
OF THE PROBLEM
AGENT WEDNESDAY
FACED.

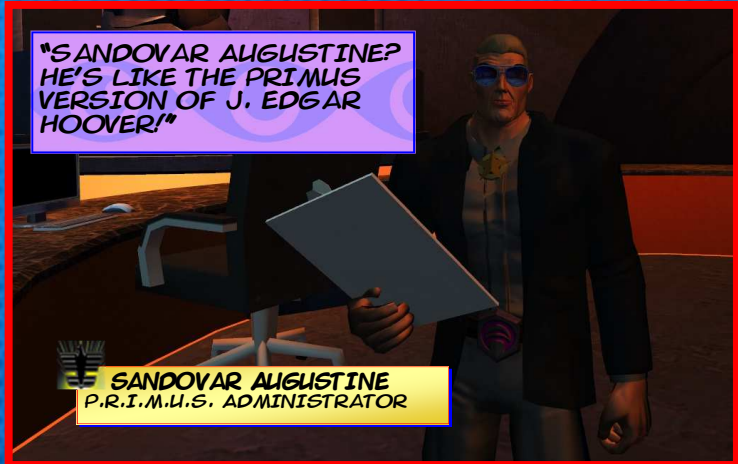


"AS YOU KNOW, THE FBI
AND THE OTHER U.S.
LAW ENFORCEMENT
AGENCIES ANSWER TO
PRIMUS."

"THAT EVEN INCLUDES
THE CHAMPIONS*."

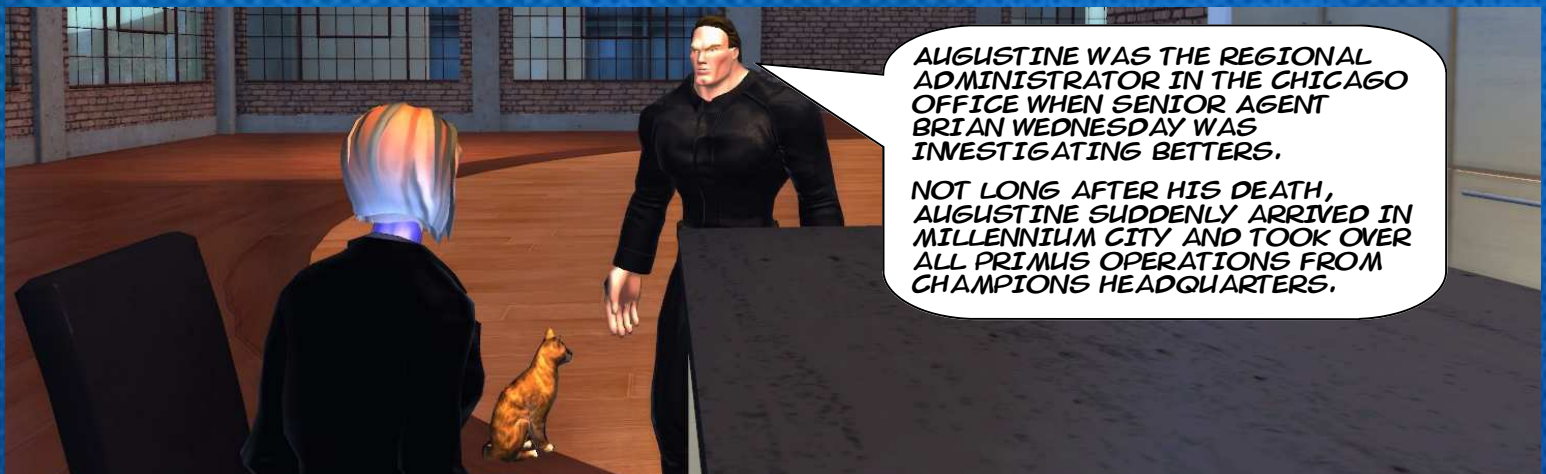
"I TAKE IT
YOU'VE HEARD
OF AUGUSTINE?"

(* THE CHAMPIONS ARE, OF
COURSE, THE PREMIERE SUPERHERO
GROUP IN MILLENNIUM CITY.)



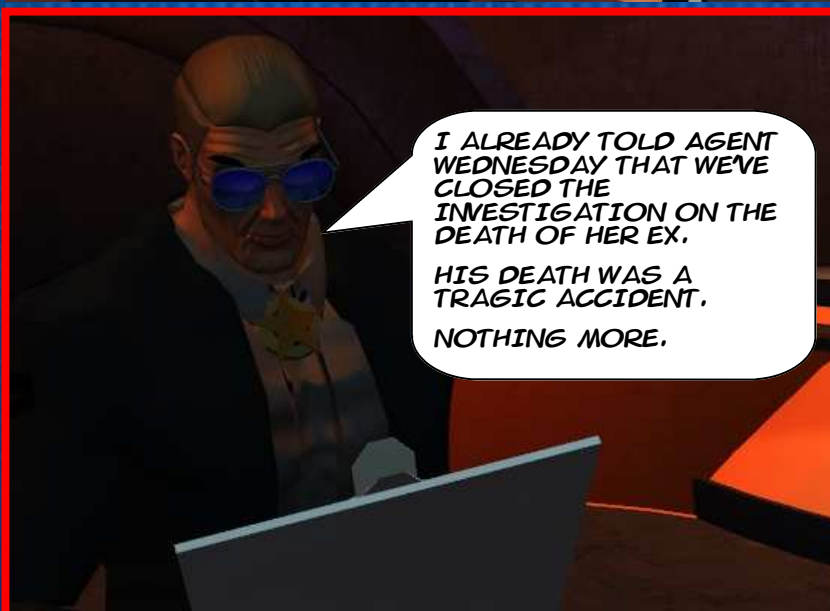
"SANDOVAR AUGUSTINE?
HE'S LIKE THE PRIMUS
VERSION OF J. EDGAR
HOOVER!"

SANDOVAR AUGUSTINE
P.R.I.M.U.S. ADMINISTRATOR

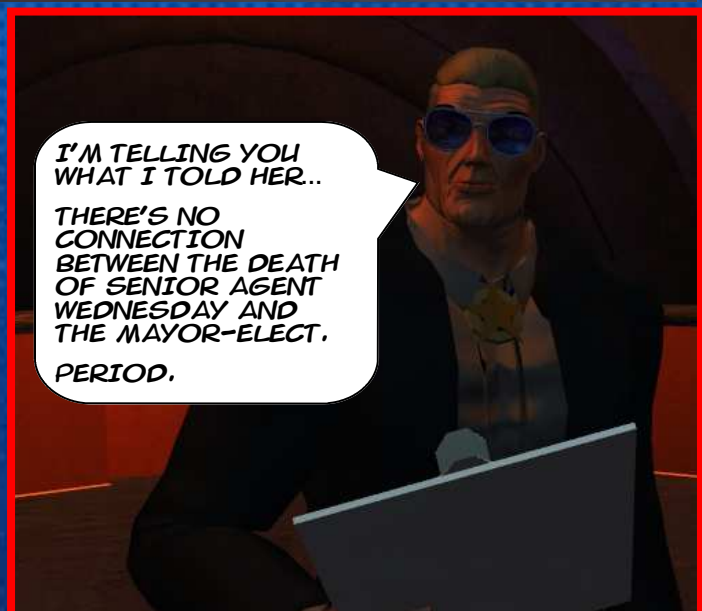


AUGUSTINE WAS THE REGIONAL
ADMINISTRATOR IN THE CHICAGO
OFFICE WHEN SENIOR AGENT
BRIAN WEDNESDAY WAS
INVESTIGATING BETTERS.

NOT LONG AFTER HIS DEATH,
AUGUSTINE SUDDENLY ARRIVED IN
MILLENNIUM CITY AND TOOK OVER
ALL PRIMUS OPERATIONS FROM
CHAMPIONS HEADQUARTERS.



I ALREADY TOLD AGENT
WEDNESDAY THAT WE'VE
CLOSED THE
INVESTIGATION ON THE
DEATH OF HER EX.
HIS DEATH WAS A
TRAGIC ACCIDENT.
NOTHING MORE.



I'M TELLING YOU
WHAT I TOLD HER..
THERE'S NO
CONNECTION
BETWEEN THE DEATH
OF SENIOR AGENT
WEDNESDAY AND
THE MAYOR-ELECT.
PERIOD.



AUGUSTINE MADE IT CLEAR
THAT THE MURDER OF ANNA'S
EX WAS OFF-THE-TABLE.

SO WE WENT AFTER WHAT HE
WAS INVESTIGATING. THE
CASE THAT GOT HIM KILLED.

AUGUSTINE LOCKED HIS
COMPUTER FILES, BUT
BRIAN'S WRITTEN NOTES GAVE
US ENOUGH TO FIGURE OUT
WHERE WE NEEDED TO LOOK.

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?




RONALD BETTERS WAS A
BUILDER IN CHICAGO.

ONE OF THE WORST THINGS A
BUILDER HATES IS A UNION,
AND BETTERS PRIDED
HIMSELF IN RUNNING A NON-
UNION OPERATION IN A CITY
KNOWN FOR UNIONS.

SO HOW DID BETTERS KEEP
HIS BUSINESS UNION-FREE?

IT WASN'T BECAUSE OF BEING
A GOOD BOSS. HE WAS AS
RUTHLESS AS ANYONE ELSE IN
THE BUSINESS.

IT WAS BECAUSE EVERY UNION
ELECTION HIS WORKERS HELD
WOULD MYSTERIOUSLY FAIL.



SO YOU'RE SAYING
BETTERS WOULD
SOMEHOW... FIX... ALL
THOSE ELECTIONS?

OR HAVE THEM FIXED?



IT WOULD
EXPLAIN HIS
SUCCESS.

BUT IT WAS STILL
ALL SPECULATIVE.

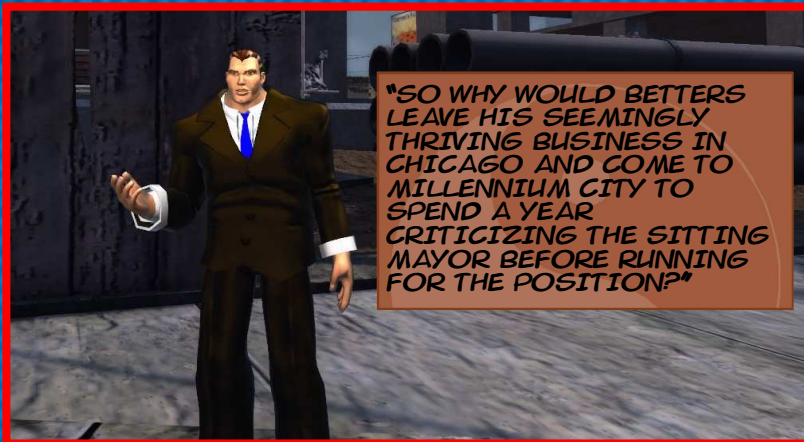


AGENT WEDNESDAY HAD A SEARCH
DONE ON ALL THE BUSINESSES
BETTERS WAS CONNECTED TO.

IT WAS RATHER EXTENSIVE. A LOT OF
CONNECTING LIMITED LIABILITY
CORPORATIONS.

TURNED OUT SOME OF THEM WERE IN
THE BUSINESS OF PROVIDING
SECURITY FOR THINGS LIKE PUBLIC
AND PRIVATE ELECTIONS.

LIKE THE KIND THAT
INVOLVE UNION
ELECTIONS.



"SO WHY WOULD BETTERS LEAVE HIS SEEMINGLY THRIVING BUSINESS IN CHICAGO AND COME TO MILLENNIUM CITY TO SPEND A YEAR CRITICIZING THE SITTING MAYOR BEFORE RUNNING FOR THE POSITION?"



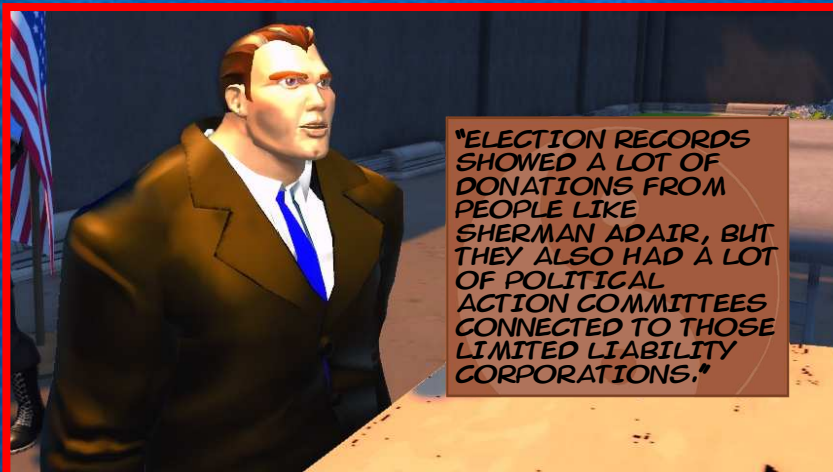
"AT THE TIME, HE HAD NO BUILDING CONTRACTS WITH THE CITY."



HE DIDN'T COME TO THE CITY TO BUILD. HE CAME TO THE CITY TO RUN FOR MAYOR.. AND WIN.



AND THAT WAS WHERE WE NEEDED TO GO.



"ELECTION RECORDS SHOWED A LOT OF DONATIONS FROM PEOPLE LIKE SHERMAN ADAIR, BUT THEY ALSO HAD A LOT OF POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES CONNECTED TO THOSE LIMITED LIABILITY CORPORATIONS."



THE SAME LLC'S THAT OPERATED OUT OF CHICAGO.

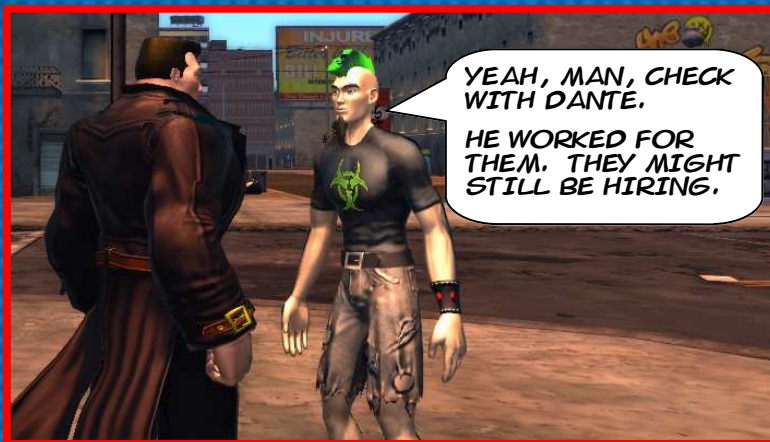
LLC'S THAT SUDDENLY OPENED UP SHOP IN MILLENNIUM CITY.



"WE HIT THE STREETS IN WESTSIDE AND TALKED WITH THE PEOPLE."

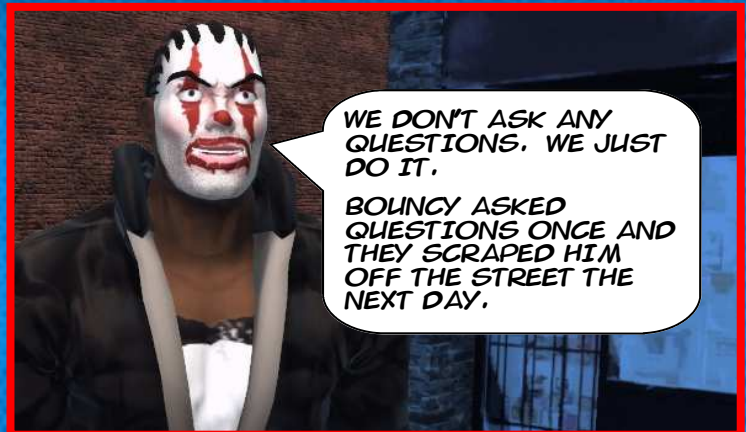
"THERE WAS AN INFLUX OF NEW BUSINESSES LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TO WORK TEMPORARY POSITIONS FOR A LOT OF MONEY."

"WE ALSO FOUND PLENTY OF RESISTANCE TO ANYONE ASKING ABOUT THOSE JOBS."





SOME GUY WITH A WEIRD ACCENT HANDS US MONEY AND SAYS TAKE CARE OF SOMEONE, AND THE CREW JUST DO IT.



WE DON'T ASK ANY QUESTIONS. WE JUST DO IT.
BOUNCY ASKED QUESTIONS ONCE AND THEY SCRAPED HIM OFF THE STREET THE NEXT DAY.



"THEN I GOT A BREAK."

HEY, I HEAR YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOME WORK.
THERE'S SOMEONE LOOKING FOR SOME QUICK HELP AT THE DOCKS.



I NEED A DRIVER.

I'M LICENSED.



"SHE TOLD ME WHAT WAREHOUSE TO LOOK FOR AND TO WAIT UNTIL THE LOADING WAS DONE BEFORE TAKING THE TRUCK TO THE LOCATION WRITTEN IN THE CAB."

"ARE YOU REALLY A LICENSED TRUCK DRIVER?"

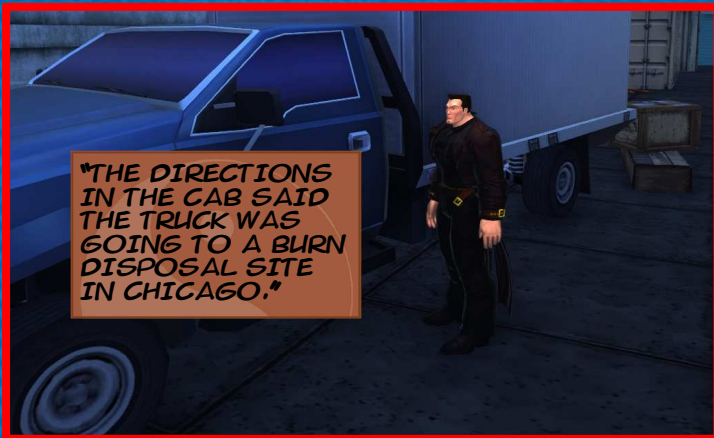
"NO, BUT SHE NEVER ASKED FOR MY CREDENTIALS."



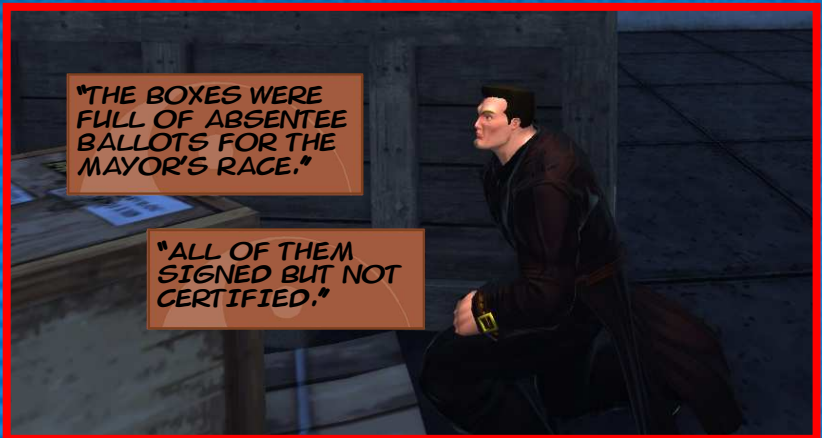
"THE WAREHOUSE HAD A TEMPORARY SIGN AT THE DOOR OF ONE OF THE LLC BUSINESSES LINKED TO BETTERS."

"MANIAC GANG MEMBERS WERE DOING SECURITY, BUT THEY WERE A BIT SLOPPY."

"NOBODY SAW ME APPROACH THE ENTRANCEWAY."



"THE DIRECTIONS IN THE CAB SAID THE TRUCK WAS GOING TO A BURN DISPOSAL SITE IN CHICAGO."



"THE BOXES WERE FULL OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR THE MAYOR'S RACE."

"ALL OF THEM SIGNED BUT NOT CERTIFIED."



HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?



"THE GANG MEMBERS WERE SLOPPY AND EASILY BEATEN."

"I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO DRAW BLOOD."



"I LOCKED UP THE GANG MEMBERS IN THE BACK OF THE TRUCK AND TRANSPORTED IT TO A HOLDING AREA THAT U.N.T.I.L. RUNS."

"U.N.T.I.L.? WASN'T THAT A CONFLICT OF JURISDICTION?"

"IT WASN'T THE FIRST TIME THAT U.N.T.I.L. RESOURCES WERE USED FOR A JOINT OPERATION WITH EITHER THE FBI OR PRIMUS."

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It's gonna be fresh.

And it's gonna be GREAT!

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A fictional business in the world of Champions Online



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BY APPOINTMENT ONLY - REFERENCES REQUIRED

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This is a fictional realtor in the world of Champions Online. Not a real business. Not a real ad.

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?

JANUARY 4TH., 2019

"AGENT WEDNESDAY AND I LAID EVERYTHING OUT IN A BASEMENT THAT SHE RENTED UNDER AN ASSUMED NAME."

"THE PRIVATE COMPANIES, THE TEMPORARY JOBS, THE BOXES OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS, INTERVIEWS WITH WITNESSES, ALL OF IT."

HE SWAPPED THE ABSENTEE BALLOTS IN WESTSIDE.
ONE COMPANY MADE THE FAKE BALLOTS, COPIES THE VOTER SIGNATURES...

THE COMPANY THAT HANDLES ELECTION SECURITY THEN SWAPS THOSE BALLOTS WITH THE REAL ONES THAT WERE SUBMITTED.
THOSE BALLOTS GET CERTIFIED...

BETTERS GETS DECLARED THE WINNER WITH JUST ENOUGH OF A MARGIN TO NOT CALL FOR AN AUTOMATIC RECOUNT.
MEANWHILE THE COMPANY YOU RAIDED WOULD DISPOSE OF THE REAL BALLOTS.

OR THEY WOULD HAVE IF THEY DIDN'T NEED A LAST-MINUTE DRIVER.
I THINK WE HAVE ENOUGH EVIDENCE FOR YOU TO MAKE AN ARREST.

NOT YET.
I STILL NEED TO RUN THIS BY MY SUPERIORS, WHICH MEANS AUGUSTINE WILL BE ALERTED.
IF I'M RIGHT... HE WILL TRY TO BLOCK THE ARREST.

THEN YOU WILL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING TO FORCE THE ISSUE.
AND WE'LL NEED HELP WITH THAT.



WAS THAT WHEN YOU BROUGHT THE OTHERS IN?

NOT YET.

FIRST, WE NEEDED A PROSECUTOR WILLING TO TAKE THE CASE AND APPROVE THE ARREST WARRANT.



YES, YES I'LL DO IT!

"FORTUNATELY THE COUNTY PROSECUTOR WAS EASILY CONVINCED TO BE THE ONE."



GEORGE KRUGER
COUNTY PROSECUTOR



JANUARY 5TH, 2019

CHAMPIONS HQ

"MEANWHILE, I PAID AUGUSTINE A VISIT TO UPDATE HIM ON THE STATUS OF OUR INVESTIGATION."



THIS IS...
INCREDIBLE.



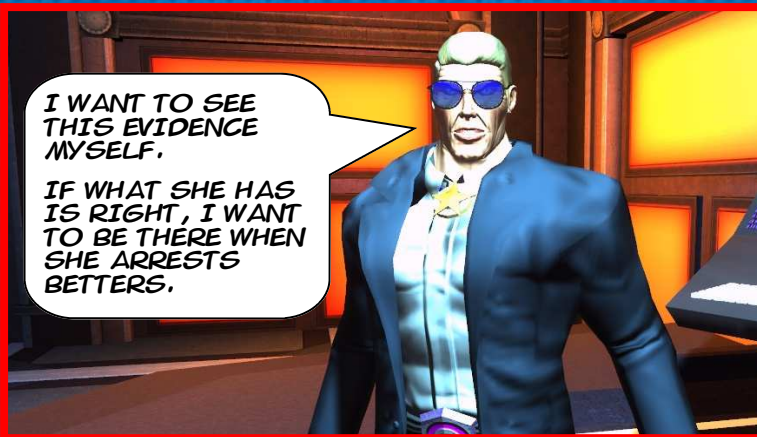
AND SHE CAN
BACK ALL
THIS UP?

SHE HAS
ENOUGH FOR
A WARRANT?



WITNESS STATEMENTS,
SIGNED CONFESSIONS,
A PAPER TRAIL A MILE
LONG SHOWING BETTERS
WAS INVOLVED WITH
EVERY PART OF THE PLAN.

"WHAT I DIDN'T MENTION WAS THAT, WHILE I WAS TALKING WITH HIM, WEDNESDAY WAS ALREADY MEETING WITH THE JUDGE TO SIGN OFF ON THE ARREST WARRANT."



I WANT TO SEE THIS EVIDENCE MYSELF.

IF WHAT SHE HAS IS RIGHT, I WANT TO BE THERE WHEN SHE ARRESTS BETTERS.



CAN YOU TAKE ME TO WHERE YOU HAVE ALL THIS?

OF COURSE.



I'VE ALWAYS HAD MY SUSPICIONS ABOUT BETTERS...

THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN SHADOWING HIM ALL THIS TIME.

"I KNEW HE WAS LYING. I COULD HEAR THE CONCERN IN HIS VOICE. HIS WALK WAS ALSO A LITTLE BRISKER THAN USUAL."

"HE WAS AFRAID. HE WAS FEARFUL THAT WE WOULD ARREST BETTERS AND THAT MIGHT LEAD TO HIS OWN CONNECTION."



NNH/

"I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO AMBUSH ME WHILE STILL IN CHAMPIONS HEADQUARTERS."



NOTHING PERSONAL... BUT I CAN'T LET YOU TAKE BETTERS IN.



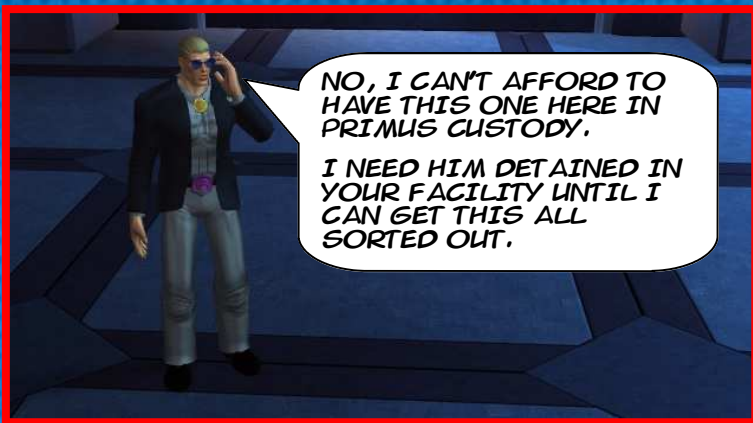
"WHILE I HAVE EXPERIENCE AGAINST MYSTICAL ENEMIES, EVEN I COULD NOT WITHSTAND A MYSTIC ASSAULT THAT SOMEONE LIKE AUGUSTINE COULD DISH OUT."

"I WAS OVERWHELMED BEFORE I COULD FINISH DRAWING ONE OF MY SWORDS."



THIS IS AUGUSTINE...

SEND ONE OF YOUR UNITS TO CHAMPIONS HQ FOR A QUICK RETRIEVAL.



NO, I CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE THIS ONE HERE IN PRIMUS CUSTODY.

I NEED HIM DETAINED IN YOUR FACILITY UNTIL I CAN GET THIS ALL SORTED OUT.



SO WHO DID HE CALL?

AND WHY DIDN'T ANYONE INSIDE CHAMPIONS HQ HEAR THE ATTACK?



THAT, I WISH I KNEW.

REMEMBER I WAS UNCONSCIOUS AT THAT POINT.



CALL YOUR NEXT WITNESS.



OUR NEXT WITNESS IS THE REGISTERED HERO GALATEA FUTURE.




I FIRST ENCOUNTERED AGENT ANNA WEDNESDAY WHEN SHE WAS INVESTIGATING THE ORGANIZATION I WORK WITH ON BEHALF OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.*

EVENTUALLY, THOUGH, SHE WAS BROUGHT INTO OUR INVESTIGATION OF PEOPLE SUDDENLY GETTING TELEPATHIC POWERS.




GALATEA FUTURE
OTHERWORLD GUARDIAN

(* ISSUE #11)




I DIDN'T GET THIS CASE TO GO AFTER CANDACE SINCLAIR.

I WAS UNDER ORDERS TO SCRUTINIZE YOUR GROUP'S HANDLING OF THE NATIONALIST.




CONGRESSWOMAN STICKBUTT MAY BE ON THE "OUTS" IN WASHINGTON, BUT SHE STILL HAS PLENTY OF POLITICAL PULL IN THE GREAT LAKES AREA.

WHEN SOMEONE LIKE HER SAYS TO PULL OUT ALL OF THE STOPS TO DISCREDIT SOMEONE, YOU DO IT.




"AFTER THE INCIDENT WITH THE TAINTED PILLS, AGENT WEDNESDAY STAYED IN THE CITY FOR A FEW MONTHS TO FOLLOW-UP ON THOSE WHO WERE AFFECTED."

"EVENTUALLY SHE ASKED ME TO HELP HER ON OTHER CASES FOR THE FBI AS A JOINT PRIMUS-U.N.T.I.L. AGREEMENT."



I KNOW YOU'VE ALREADY GIVEN YOUR TESTIMONY ON THIS IN THE MAIN TRIAL, BUT TAKE US THROUGH THE EVENTS OF JANUARY 5TH, 2019 FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE.



SIGH

I WAS COMING BACK FROM AN EMERGENCY CALL. MUDSLIDE IN NEW YORK.

I WAS BEING BRIEFED ON WHAT WAS GOING ON FROM MAJOR CROSS.



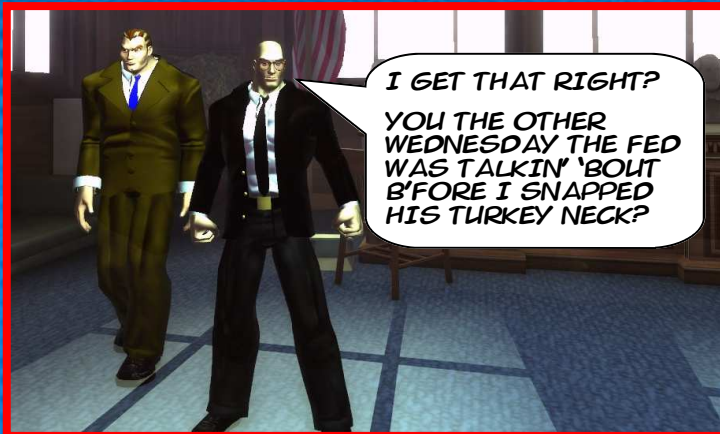
RONIN HAS BEEN WORKING WITH AGENT WEDNESDAY ON A CASE INVOLVING THE MAYOR-ELECT. APPARENTLY BETTERS RIGGED THE ELECTION SO HE'D WIN.

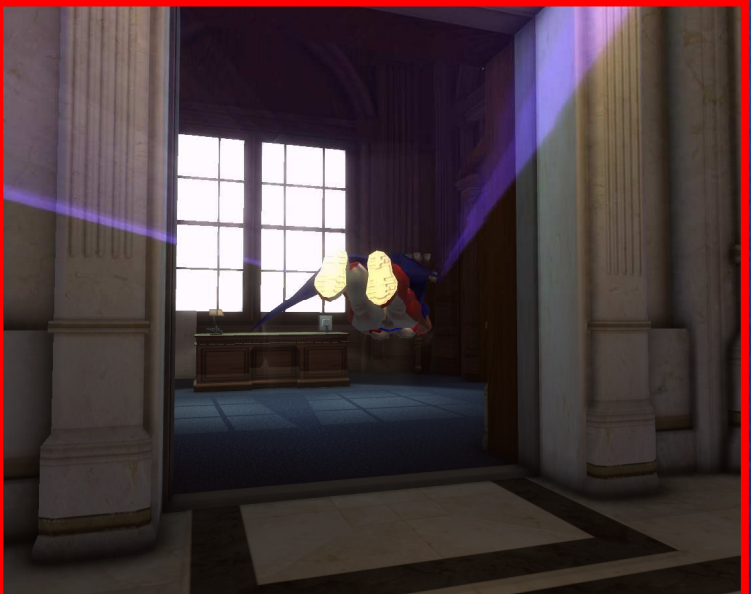
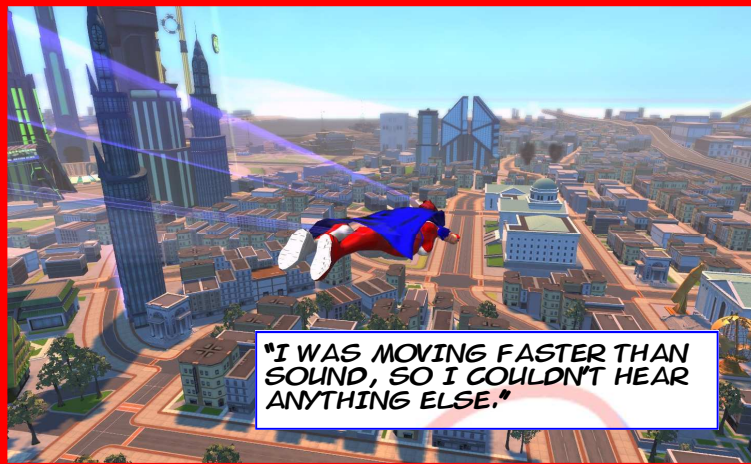
WEDNESDAY IS ON HER WAY TO CITY HALL NOW TO ARREST BETTERS. RONIN WAS SUPPOSED TO ASSIST BUT HE'S BEEN CAPTURED AND DETAINED BY ARGENT* AGENTS.

MAJOR XAVIER CROSS
PROJECT MYCROFT

(* ARGENT IS THE WORLD'S BIGGEST ENERGY CORPORATION IN THE WORLD OF CHAMPIONS ONLINE. THEY ALSO HAVE THEIR OWN PRIVATE SECURITY FORCE THAT RIVALS MOST NATIONS.)







"... IT WAS
TOO LATE."



"AGENT WEDNESDAY
WAS ALREADY DEAD."



I COULDN'T HEAR HER
HEARTBEAT OR HER
RESPIRATION WITH
MY HYPER-SENSES.



"AND THE MAN THAT
KILLED HER WAS RIGHT
IN FRONT OF ME,
FULLY TRANSFORMED."

I WARNED THE LITTLE
CHICKIE THAT 'ER
TRICKS WOULDN'T
WORK ON ME.

NOW SHE'S WITH
'ER EX HUSBAND.







A FRIEND AND
ALLY WAS DEAD
AND HER
KILLER WAS IN
FRONT OF ME.

I WAS
ANGRY.



"I DON'T KNOW HOW
LONG WE FOUGHT."



I WAS PUSHED
HARDER THAN I
EVER WAS IN...
... IN YEARS.
AND HE TOOK
EVERYTHING I
DISHED OUT.



"WE FINALLY ENDED UP IN
THE MIDDLE OF WESTSIDE."



"IT WAS A GUTTER
FIGHT BETWEEN US."

"THERE WERE NO WORDS
AT THAT POINT. IT WAS
ALL BRUTE VIOLENCE."

"THE BUILDING AROUND
US WAS IN FLAMES AND
COLLAPSING BUT WE
DIDN'T CARE."



"AND THEN...
IT WAS OVER."



★THUD★





I DON'T UNDERSTAND... WHY WOULDN'T THE POLICE HELP GALATEA?



BECAUSE THE POLICE UNION WAS ONE OF THE BIG SUPPORTERS OF BETTERS.

THE RANK-AND-FILE COPS SAW GALATEA AS THE ENEMY, NOT HIS ENFORCER.



"WHILE ALL THAT WAS GOING ON... JOHN BATTLE WAS SECURING MY RELEASE FROM ARGENT."



"RATHER FORCEFULLY, I'M TOLD."



YOU HAVE A FRIEND OF MINE IN YOUR CUSTODY.



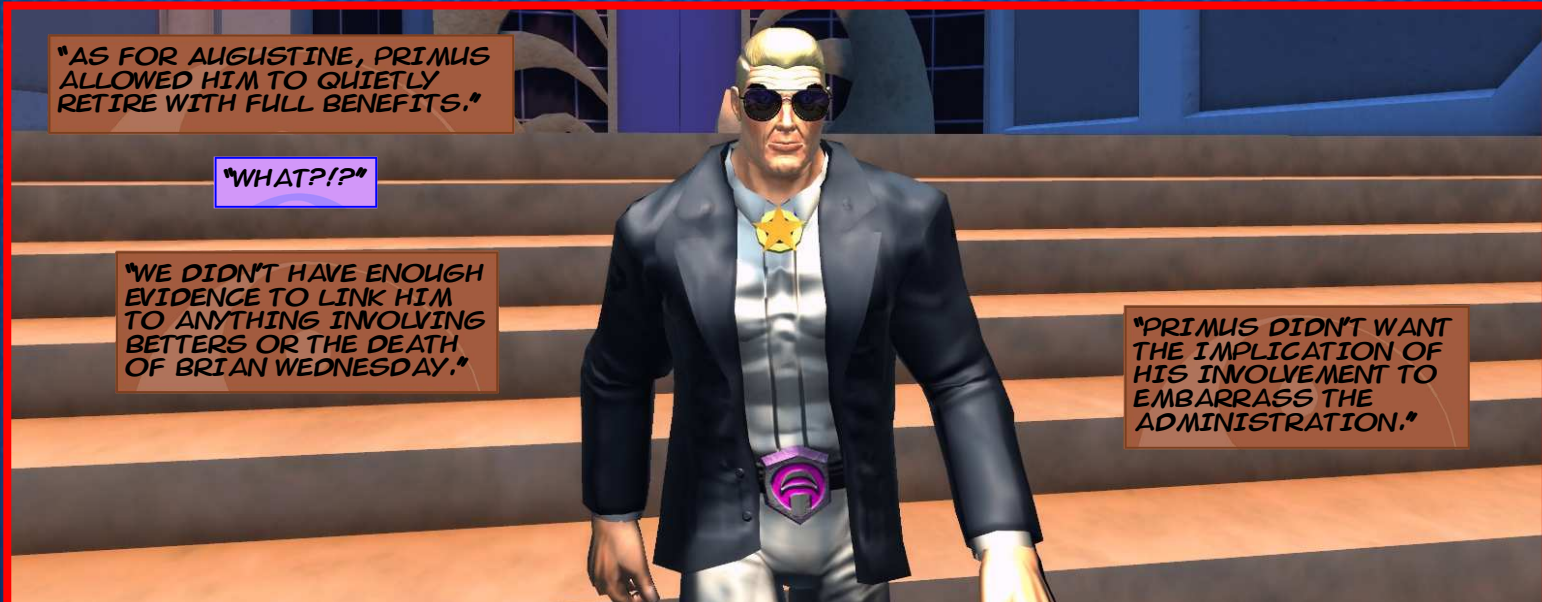
YOU CAN HAVE HIM. WE'RE DONE DOING AUGUSTINE'S WORK.




ARGENT GAVE UP ON TRYING TO HOLD ME BECAUSE OF WHAT WAS GOING ON AT CITY HALL.


BUT THEY HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN WHAT JOHN DID. I'M TOLD THEY STILL HOLD A GRUDGE WITH HIM.

WHAT ABOUT BETTERS? AND AUGUSTINE?





BEFORE I PASS
SENTENCE, DOES
MISTER LOCK HAVE
ANYTHING TO SAY
TO THE COURT?



YOUR HONOR, I
DID WHAT I DID
B'CAUSE IT WAS
ME JOB.

NOTHIN' MORE.

S'ALL.




SO BE IT.

LEOPOLD LOCK, YOU HAVE BEEN
FOUND GUILTY OF THE CRIMES
OF WITNESS TAMPERING,
ELECTION FRAUD, CONSPIRACY
TO COMMIT ELECTION FRAUD,
AND THE CAPITAL MURDER OF A
FEDERAL AGENT.

HAVING HEARD THE WITNESSES
AND YOUR SEEMING INDIFFERENCE
TO THE CRIMES YOU ARE
CONVICTED OF, THIS COURT SEES
NO CHOICE BUT TO SENTENCE YOU
TO A MINIMUM OF THREE HUNDRED
YEARS IN A MAXIMUM SECURITY
FACILITY WITH NO POSSIBILITY
OF PAROLE.

SENTENCE TO BE CARRIED OUT
IMMEDIATELY.

COURT IS ADJOURNED.



WELL, THAT'S IT.
LUNK IS GOING AWAY.
WE DID IT.

WE ONLY SENT
ANNA'S KILLER TO
PRISON.

BETTERS IS NEXT.

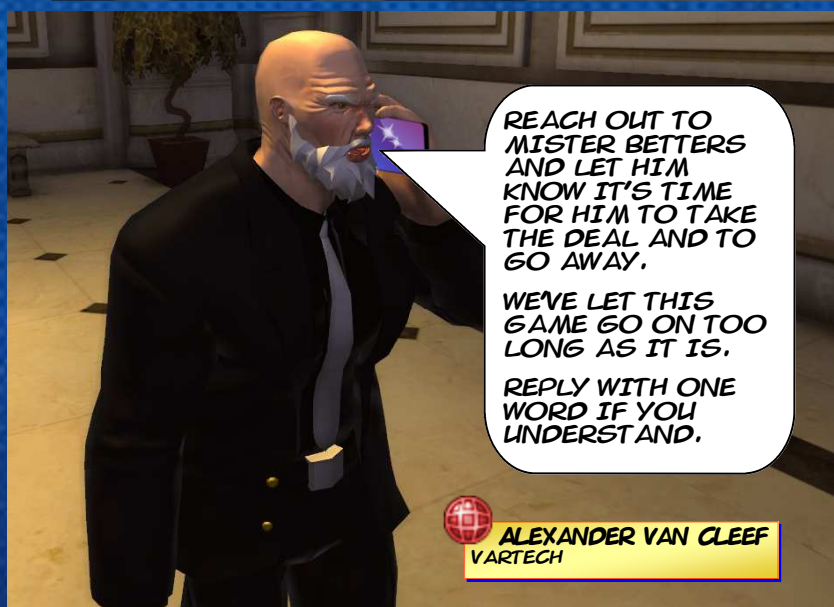


WE'LL GET HIM TOO.
HE'LL JOIN LOCK IN
PRISON.

YEAH...

LISTEN, I HAVE TO GO
CHECK ON FURBALL.

I'LL MEET UP WITH YOU
AND JOHN FOR PIZZA
LATER.





MEOWWW...

OH HOW PRECIOUS!



SHE'S LETTING ME KNOW THAT SHE'S READY FOR DINNER.



DO YOU WISH TO STAY?
I BELIEVE WE HAVE CHICKEN AND RICE ON THE MENU FOR TONIGHT.
OR CHICKEN AND RICE CAT FOOD FOR HER AND GRILLED CHICKEN AND STEAMED RICE FOR ME.

NO, I SHOULD BE GETTING BACK TO MY PLACE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S EVENING ALREADY.



I HOPE I ANSWERED YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EVENT.



YOU DID... AND NOW I HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THAT INCIDENT AND WHY EVERYONE ACTS SO WEIRD ABOUT IT.



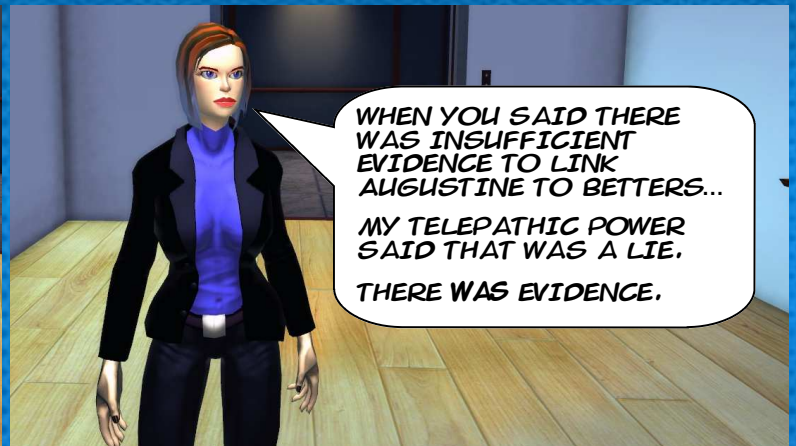
RONALD BETTERS WAS A CORRUPT BUSINESSMAN WHO WAS BROUGHT IN TO OVERTHROW THE MAYOR.

AND WHILE THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE IN THIS CITY SUPPORTED CALVIN BISELLE, THERE WERE ENOUGH IN CERTAIN FACTIONS OF THE CITY TO SEE SOMEONE ELSE TAKE OVER, BY HOOK OR BY CROOK.

AND BECAUSE OF THAT, AND BECAUSE OF WHAT WE HAD TO DO, THERE'S NOW DISTRUST AND HOSTILITY BETWEEN THE CITY AND U.N.T.I.L.



THERE'S JUST ONE THING...



WHEN YOU SAID THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO LINK AUGUSTINE TO BETTERS... MY TELEPATHIC POWER SAID THAT WAS A LIE. THERE WAS EVIDENCE.



YES, THERE REALLY WAS.

BUT THAT IS NOT WHAT THE ADMINISTRATORS IN PRIMUS SAW... OR WANTED TO SEE.

THEY SAW A MAN WHO WAS BY ALL ACCOUNTS A LEGEND IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT LINKED TO AN ORGANIZED CRIME BOSS.

A "LEGEND" WHO HAD NO QUALMS HAVING A FEDERAL AGENT LIKE BRIAN WEDNESDAY KILLED TO PROTECT THAT CRIME BOSS.

OR LET ANOTHER AGENT DIE RATHER THAN HELP HER BRING JUSTICE TO HER EX.



SO... THEY LIED. PRIMUS LIED TO PROTECT AUGUSTINE.

THEY LIED TO PROTECT THEMSELVES, NOT AUGUSTINE. THEY WOULD MUCH RATHER HAVE GALATEA ON THE HOT SEAT IN CONGRESS THAN THEIR OWN PEOPLE.



O-KAY...

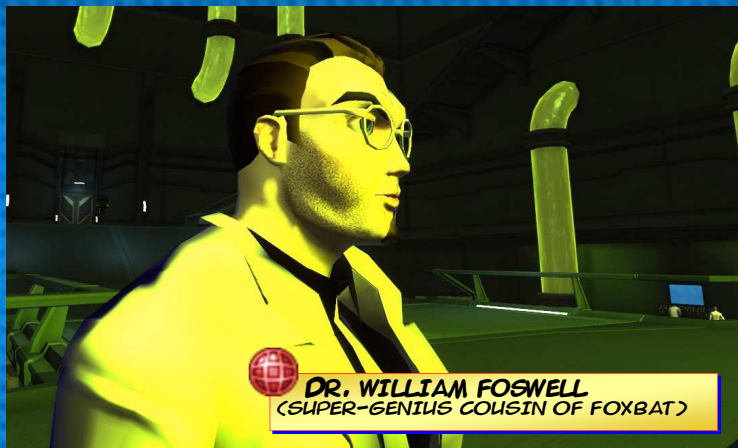
WELL, GOOD NIGHT... AND THANK YOU.



GOOD NIGHT, AGENT PIPER.

EPILOGUE

IN A LEASED LABORATORY
IN WESTSIDE...



DR. WILLIAM FOSWELL
(SUPER-GENIUS COUSIN OF FOXBAT)



NANO-INSERTION AND
GENETIC SEQUENCING
PROGRAM SCHEDULED.
DO YOU WISH TO
ENGAGE SCHEDULE?

SEQUENCE SCHEDULE
COMMENCING.
TIME UNTIL COMPLETION:
FORTY-EIGHT HOURS.

YES, YES,
OH YES!



IT'S BEGUN.
NOW ALL I HAVE
TO DO IS GET
ADAM READY TO
DO HIS PART.
AND THEN MY
GALATEA WILL BE
READY TO MAKE
HER DEBUT!



NEXT:
A NEW
GALATEA?

GUARDIAN WORDS

Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.

Ronald Betters And The Mayor That Never Was



Billboard image for Ronald Betters running for Mayor of Millennium City.

When the decision was made to skip five ahead years in “Future’s Guardian” between issues 14 and 15, we couldn’t just say “oh, five years skipped”. Things change, and we had to come up with some of those changes.

Obviously one of the big changes was the relationship between John Battle and Starlett. This became clear right from the cover of Issue 15 with them being a couple. But then there was “an incident”. Something that would bring Project Mycroft under scrutiny and poison the relationship between the heroes of Mycroft and the rest of the city. Something that would bring in someone like Lady Glacia to oversee the group.

Borrowing a page from the real world, the decision was made for the “incident” to be an election. A race for the mayor’s office where someone unexpected would win, but then be revealed to have cheated.

When it comes to politics in the world of Champions Online, there has been only one mayor for Millennium City, and that’s Calvin Biselle. Calvin has been mayor since the city began in 1993 from the ruins of Detroit. And while there have been real-world mayors across America that have served longer than him (*the longest was just over 63 years*), it would be hard to think that someone like Biselle could just sail through election after election for twenty-five years with everyone loving him. Obviously there are some in-game that don’t, i.e. Sherman Adair, but you have to wonder who else would want someone else in City Hall, especially after twenty-five years.

Bear in mind that when these changes came up, it was late 2018 and early 2019. It would be another year before a certain real-world narcissist and his gang of fascistic followers and enablers would spin the idea of switching ballots and voter fraud. If anything, life imitated art in this situation, not the other way around.

The character of Ronald Betters obviously was inspired to a limited extent by a certain real-world celebrity and former President, but with this character coming from Chicago, I also wanted him to be more like Al Capone, if Capone went into building things instead of bootlegging. But Betters really wasn’t the big story here. Rather, it was the underlings who worked for him.

Continues on next page...

The first character I came up with for this “incident” was Lunk. A character who would be an old-school thug. Someone who would break legs or snap necks without a second thought. But there needed to be more to him than just muscle. He needed to be someone who could not only overpower and murder a seasoned telepath like Agent Wednesday, but also give Galatea Future a run for her money.

The idea that a thug like Lunk would be that powerful and be immune to telepathy was an interesting twist, but it would also make him really stand out. So Lunk became a Jekyll/Hyde figure. Most people would see a bald guy with a British accent, like Jason Statham. But then, when he’s really unleashed, he’d be this huge figure of uncontained muscle. Someone that would almost be Galatea’s Domsday monster.

The other character that needed to come about was Augustine. Originally dubbed “Saint Augustine”, he needed to be a figure that would work within the system and keep groups like the Champions and like the Paranormal Research and Investigation Mission of the United States (P.R.I.M.U.S.) from interfering. Because you have this figure like Betters with questionable credentials, with a dubious reputation as a builder that came from a city like Chicago with a history of corruption and organized crime, and suddenly he’s considered “respected”? Suddenly he’s “mayoral material”? There needed to be someone that would be considered unchallengeable who would run interference from prying agents like Anna Wednesday or her ex. Someone with authority in PRIMUS that could shut down investigations. Augustine would be that corrupted authority figure that would protect Betters. And the only way one could get around that level of interference would be if there was some kind of authority that overrode that, and that would be, of course, the United Nations and the United Nations Tribunal on International Law (U.N.T.I.L.).

So now, after so much said and hinted, we’re finally able to give you “the incident”. The one that poisoned the relations between the police and U.N.T.I.L. and put Major Cross and his Project Mycroft group under the direct supervision of Lady Esther Glacia. The incident that required Galatea to get a new outfit just in time for her role in the pages of “The Crucible”. And now an incident that has been explained and we can move on to the future for Galatea Future and the rest of her associates.

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

NEXT ISSUE...



ANOTHER GALATEA?

WHAT HAS THE MAD DOCTOR FOSWELL BEEN WORKING ON?

AND WHO IS "ADAM"?

FIND OUT IN OUR 25TH ISSUE!



From the creator of “GGRRR”

They were a group of nobodies.

The media dubbed them the “Missing Heroes”.

They saved the city, then they disappeared.

What happened to them? Where have they been?



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