

THE VERY FIRST RUN

give general date, life-status and daily routine for each PC, esp. Strobe's girl; general question is, Who is Patternmaster? Does he exist?

1) Banzai, Riplash, and Plastique get Raptor, Russian-sleeping in a plexiglass life-support Russian-sleep device, out of a hospital and away to his base. They're bringing along Redline who's tracked them down and wants to join.

2) **Irie:** he's being trailed by Serpentine, who's trying to get him to talk to Hamilton but keeps missing him through bad luck. Think of the Molly-Case scene in Neuromancer. He's wandering around D.C. because that's where the high-powered energy transmission from the weird little space station was targeted and he's figuring out what's up with this hospital.

3) **Cortex:** Patternmaster's mole in Coretex informs him that age-research company is playing financial games in a nearby hospital and even maybe experimenting on a patient (it's Raptor, who's there on purpose of course). If he sends someone, he or she disappears; if he goes himself, bump up time to correspond with others' movements. Cortex knows damn well that Patternmaster exists.

4) **Strobe:** Soundchaser, having tracked down Sam Paine to this area, is speeding through the night to help his friend. Strobe has tracked him from the Citadel and is lucky enough to see him. Also knows something isn't kosher at the Citadel: weekly media release is edited together from old ones. Also, his old professor is involved in the age/metabolism research.

5) **She-Dragon** and Serpentine; she's asked to be an example of how the media company can help beginning supers. ~~Again~~, he proves elusive and with any luck the two women will get suspicious, especially if he keeps casing the hospital (remember, they won't know he's a good guy for sure). Gwen gets a date at a sculpture/artsy thing too.

6) It all kicks off when Strobe catches up to the bad guys and Raptor's casket, because he's just in time to see Riplash choke the life out of Soundchaser ("But -- why you? Whyyy -- gurgle"; "Suppose I should say I'm sorry, Dave, but I won't"). Redline will kick off with a major explosion (probably just to say hello or nail Strobe) that should bring everyone else running fast; Strobe thus has a basic idea of the relationship of Redline to the Reapers.

7) The best part is that they're fighting in the cruddy loading area which is of course right next to the emergency entrance, and the second floor through the tenth above is all patients. The poor patients helplessly watch the whole battle. After three or four phases (enough to scope each other's powers and do some damage all around), Raptor's cask gets busted. He'll gather the Reapers ("I'll hear your explanation later") and SC's cooling corpse and buzz off into the stratosphere. Any attacks on him, of course, fail miserably

at this point. Redline is left behind to prove himself; he gets really mad and starts trashing the hospital.

8) Finally, they all get to meet Hamilton and he offers them support for a major super-hero team. The idea is that they're contracted or employed to investigate and perhaps deal with Raptor. Of course anything else they get up to is cool as well as long as it's not a waste of time. He also tells them of the disappearance of Le Fauve from prison and shows he knows a little bit about Raptor.



