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Issue #8

gallery

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Mech's on Rubi-Ka.

Borealis: A City Under Siege

Cyborg Issues and more.



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**SPECIAL
FEATURE**



ARRIENNE PORTMAN
MESSIAH OR MADMAN?



*Herman Theodore
TAG Technology Editor
June 14th, 29481*

It's a dark night in my apartment in Borealis, when the phone rings... On answering, a male voice tells me to wait by the grid terminal for an 'exclusive' I won't want to miss...

Naturally, my journalistic senses went haywire. I hurriedly got dressed, and made my rendezvous with the mysterious voice on the phone. Identifying himself as only 'Paul', he sends me into the fixer grid, and we exit somewhere in Southern Artery Valley, I believe... I'm not entirely sure, as he kept our grid exit location very hidden.

However, on my exit directly into a warehouse of some description, I'm greeted by something I had only heard rumors of. Right in front of my eyes, was a behemoth of a structure.

Paul whispered in my ear. "This is our first prototype. It's called a personal 'Mechanized Scout Vehicle'."

Never in all my years of following the developments of Yalmahas, had I seen anything like it! It stood about 25 feet in the air, and immediately commanded respect. And if its size didn't do that, the twin assault weapons mounted under each arm sure would!

This thing was immense. The operator strode it around the warehouse, showing its agility, speed and strength. The vehicle was able to move faster than the average Solitus, and could negotiate tight turns and tricky maneuvers with ease. The sound of the footsteps of this machine was like the sound of a thousand Ottous' pounding the ground at once!

Paul summoned his colleague in the mechanical monster, and instructed him to open fire on a life size model Yalmaha in the distance. The deafening noise from the twin turrets was unbelievable! By the time I regained my sense of hearing and my bearings, the Yalmaha was no longer there.

"This is the Scout model, designed for reconnaissance only..." He chuckled, "Next in line is the Assault model, designed for combat!" I can only imagine the power they'll contain. I spent at least 10 minutes going through the cockpit, the fuselage and every nut and bolt on the craft, and I tell you, it's an immaculate piece of machinery. Strong, durable, and definitely a step up from the Yalmaha I'd been driving for the last 4 years.

"We begin shipping within the next 24 hours. Tell the world what you just saw..." Paul said. At that point, I was gridded out back to Borealis, still in disbelief about what I just saw... All I know is that I want one.





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- Mantis Times



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*By C&C Craver
TAG Reporters
June 17th, 29481*

Anti corporation slogans, speeches against Henry Radiman and the old Council of Truth, and general hatred towards the neutrals. Those were the best known things which could be associated with the Red Freedom clan, formed in late 29475.

What started as a mere movement against the lack of actions from the Council of Truth, quickly evolved into a fully fledged conflict between Red Freedom and everyone else whom they did not meet eye to eye with. Armed with heavy weaponry and plastered in blood red armor, the forces of Red Freedom openly attacked Omni-Tek employees and clan interests, without any regards for anyone in the area. Their simple goal was to establish a clan nation, but in the end, it was foiled.

This article is an attempt to uncover the truth behind the many rumors about this clan, which by many, are the main reason why the conflict escalated after several years of relative peace. In order to do this, one must look at the reasons as to why Red Freedom even came into existence. It all began during the summer of 29475, when the ICC lifted the immigration ban on the planet of Rubi-Ka. As thousands of people flocked to the planet to join under the banner of the clans or Omni-Tek, a small group of people also arrived. These people, regardless of affiliation can only be described as radicals.

These radicals often showed no regards for the Tir Accord, signed a few years earlier, and bluntly opened fire at anything they considered an enemy. Forming new clans and factions, the radical elements quickly managed to bring the flames of hatred back to the planet.

Meanwhile, within the Council of Truth, tension rose between Henry Radiman and those who supported him, and Adrienne Portman, a guard commander of Tir and one of the many spokes persons of the Council. Portman, wanting to welcome the radicals within the council, was faced head on by Radiman's inactivity to make a decision in regards to these minor clans.

Nonetheless, Portman held a series of sessions between herself and the minor clans. Many people present at the sessions questioned why the council refused to acknowledge the righteousness in the fight for freedom. The majority of the new arrivals did support the council in any regard, and refused to take a side in the internal struggle which were beginning to unfold.

As time passed by, and the council remain unresponsive to the demands of the minor clans, Portman gathered more people under her banner, promising them gold and glory in the future ahead. Seeing the time as right, Portman formed the Red Freedom clan as an open response to Omni-Tek radicals, who kept swarming towards the north, attacking anyone with a clan tag.

At first, Red Freedom was saluted as heroes of the clans, but public support quickly withdrew as it became apparent that Red Freedom not only prevented Omni-Tek from

attacking clansmen, but they also carried out a series of pre-emptive strikes against Omni-Tek gathering points. While these attacks were minor, then it was different from what Portman had promised them. But the main fact which caused most of the commotion was that Red Freedom members had also attacked some of the pro-peace clansmen, hurting several of them.

A short time later, Henry Radiman set out to meet with Philip Ross, with the dream of finally achieving permanent peace, but there was evidence that someone might try and assassinate Radiman, so a decoy was used instead. As it was feared, then the decoy was shot dead while walking up the steps in Omni-1 HQ.

What happened over the next few days, have never been confirmed, neither by Omni-Tek or the former council members. Rumors say that clansmen, loyal to Radiman, lead the attack on Red Freedom strongholds in the north, while Omni-Pol forces moved in from the south. Within a short time, Red Freedom bases were overrun and Portman was located. It is still unclear if she was arrested by Omni-Tek directly, or handed over by the council of truth. It could be either.

With Portman away, Red Freedom suffered from internal power struggles, and quickly became unable to mount any serious attacks ever again. Within two months, Red Freedom was officially dissolved, and ceased to exist, or so it was thought.



Jaunay Curtis, the only known face of Red Freedom, besides Portman

Much to everyone's surprise, a series of coordinated attacks, performed by clans, loyal to the current council, seem to have been planned and support by Red Armor

wearing commandos. While they were reported to have appeared shortly before the bombing in 20k, then no one could have known who they really were.

In mid December, 29480, a massive clan attack against a hidden Omni-Pol jail took place. It resulted in the loss of countless cannons, heavy building damage, and 3 Omni-Pol Juggernauts, where of, one was a command class. The total worth of damages is yet to be made public.

During this attack, Red Freedom sent a fully equipped strike force to aid the clans. The Omni-Pol defences were quickly over run, as the clans quickly took out the cannon installations and killed the commanding officers. Shortly after, the clans entered the jail cells and cleaned out any remaining Omni-Pol soldiers.

When the clan forces finally returned outside, they were met by an elite team of Omni.Pol Juggernauts, two Titan class and one command class Juggernaut. All were destroyed within a short time, as they took heavy fire from the combined strength of the clans.

The clans were finally forced to withdraw as heavy OTAF reinforcements arrived at the area, and opened fire at the clans, but the damage had already been done, as Adrienne Portman managed to escape from her holding cell, and was not seen by anyone, be it clan or Omni-Tek. She simply vanished.

With Portman free, all information, except a few leads, have vanished, records have been deleted or destroyed. Recently, Omni-Pol Director Ivan Sergeyich issued an official arrest warrant against several key clansmen, accused of being involved in the escape of Portman, but so far it have turned out to be a laughing stock, of both the clans, and Omni-Tek employees. Some people say that Ivan Sergeyich is simply venting air, but others, more shady sources simply say that it is not for nothing Ivan got his nickname, The Terrible.

The lack of information makes it hard to figure out what has happened since the fall of Red Freedom, and their sudden return from the shadows. Are they the same group of people? Or are they a brand new group? Did they really die with the dust brigade, or is that corporate propaganda? We may never know.

What we do know, are compiled into a short list below this article. Please take your time and reflect.

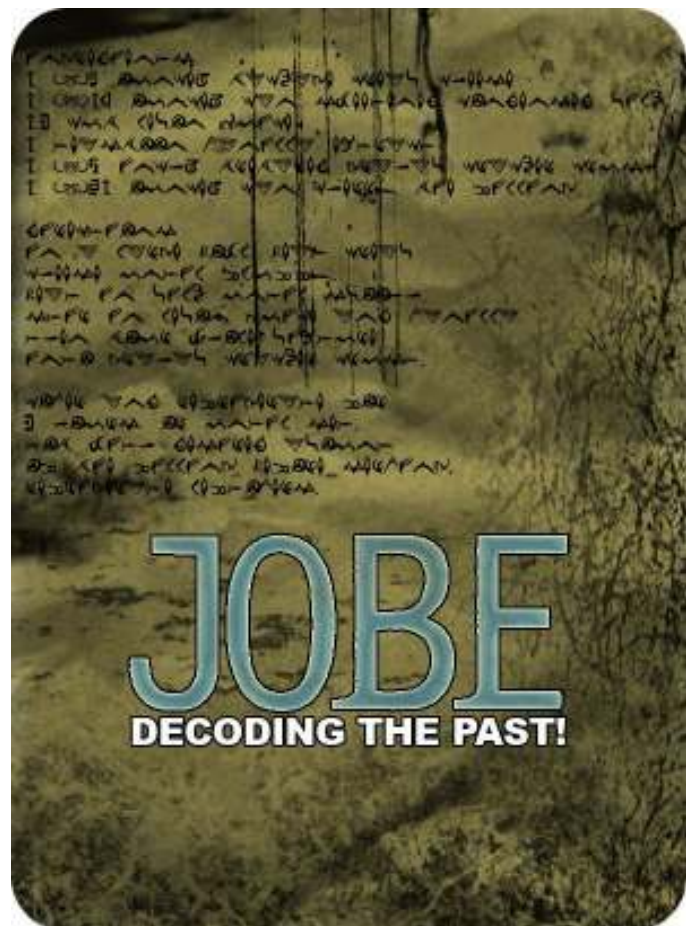
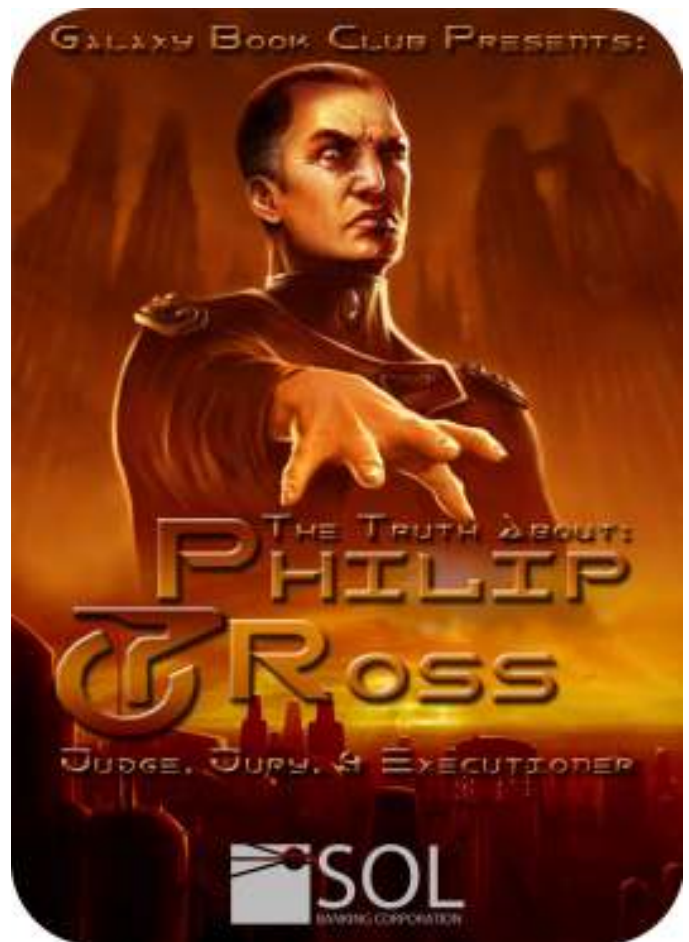


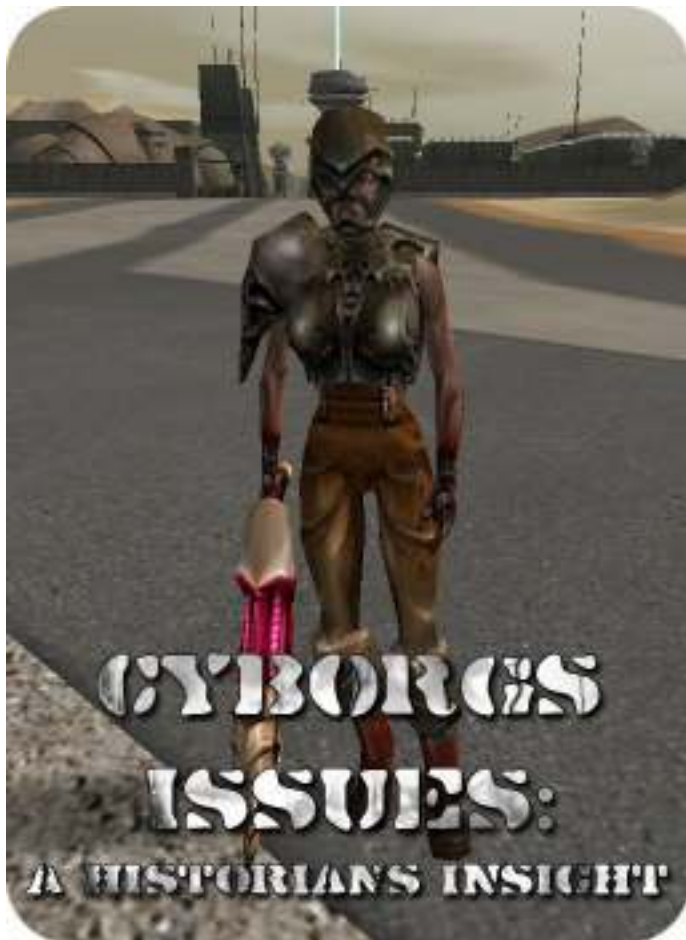
The few facts, we know about Red Freedom are:

- Red Freedom are die hard fanatics in the fight against Omni-Tek, and take little regards for who or what comes in their way. Civilian status does not guarantee safety.
- Their hatred towards the neutrals is at the same highs as that of the Sentinels, if not more.
- The number of members of Red Freedom is unknown, but they appear to work in cell structure, all independent of each other.
- Red Freedom rarely use other armor then Red meta-plast armor.
- Red Freedom appears to be using old tech weaponry, which still packs quite a punch. The Hellspinner seems to be their weapon of choice.
- The Red Freedom will do anything to complete their mission, including bombing, kidnapping and assassination.

We can only wait, and see what the future will bring. But one thing is sure. They will fight for their freedom...

And it will be a blood red freedom...





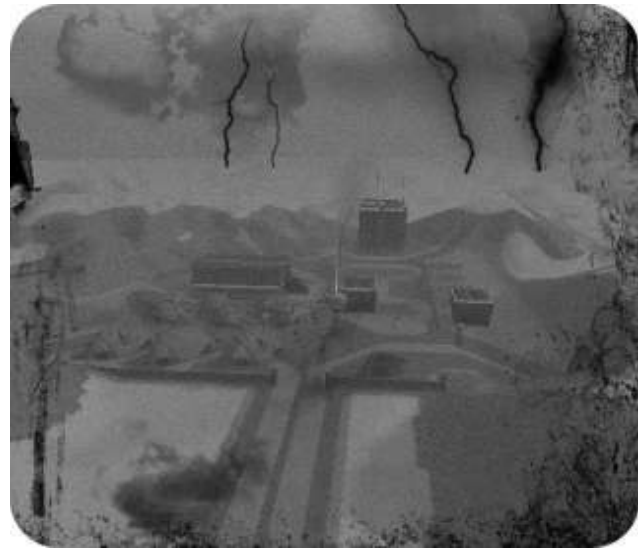
*By Morgan McDoo
TAG Historian
June 16th, 29481*

Cyborgs. The name alone is enough to engulf fear into the heart of even the most seasoned warrior. Not because the cyborgs are hard to defeat with modern technology or their seemingly endless numbers, but due to the fact of what they represent: The Stupidity of humanity.

We, humans, created the cyborgs. For what reasons, by whom or when, seems to have been lost in time, or deep within the database in Omni-1 HQ. This historian would assume that the cyborgs came into creation during one of the many Omni-Med experimentations in the history of Rubi-Ka, but some sources claim that it was one man, who built the first ones in a goal to achieve immortality.

Some say that the cyborgs are mere drones, lead by a single super computer somewhere on the planet; others say that each cyborg is capable of thinking on their own. My guess is that they are somewhere in between the two ideas.

Cyborgs can manage to operate independently, as seen in late December, 29476, when cyborg forces managed to launch several successful raids against Omni-Tek installations, and field bases. Their apparent goal, was to gain control of the, at that time, faulty weather control system.



Abandoned Omni-Tek Mine, Perpetual Wasteland.



Lost Omni-Tek refining station, Perpetual Wasteland.



Destroyed Town, Perpetual Wasteland.

Some locals say that it was pure luck that the cyborgs failed in their goals, which, officials, on both sides, was

quick to take the credit. The truth is that, it was the citizens of Rubi-Ka, who defend Borealis against the cybernetic invaders.

This incident led to an intense talk, amongst leading scientists and engineers. How could the cyborgs even manage to hack through the Omni-Tek security grid, and learn how to access the mainframe of the weather control system?

Before anyone could answer this question, the cyborgs made a second appearance, in March, 29477. A clan patrol, discovered a group of cyborgs, trying to gain access to Old Athens, through the old sewer lines. With the aid of local clansmen, these cyborgs were quickly sent to the recycler.

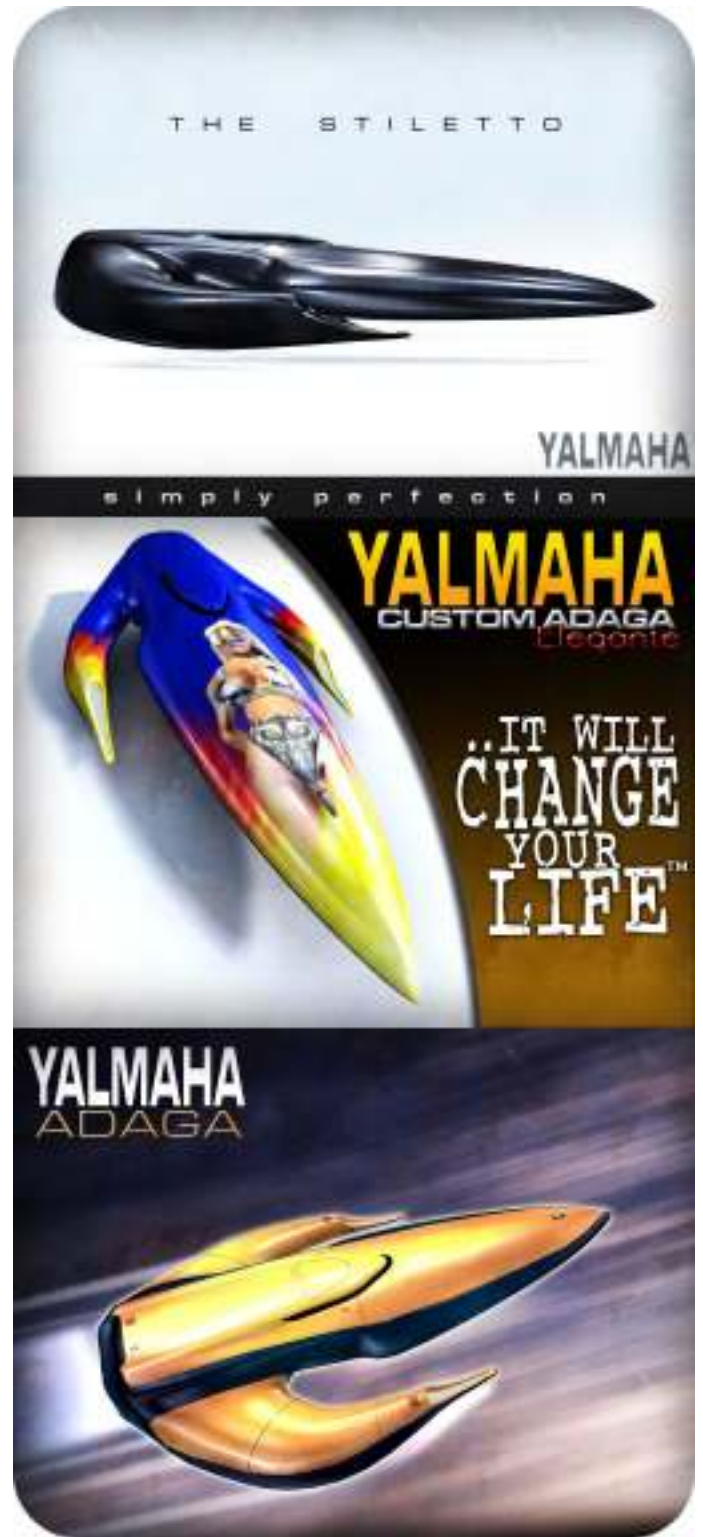
Omni-Tek forces attacked, and destroyed the cyborg production factories in Perpetual Wasteland, with the goal of preventing further incidents, like the one in December, the year before, but little did they know, that this was just the first step in an overall plan, set forth by a Cyborg Mastermind.

The entire incident ended in a massive battle in Wailing Wastes, on March 14, 29477, as Omni-Tek forces and clansmen joined together, and assembled a force over 200 men strong. Against them, there was an army of approximately 400 cyborgs, entrenched and with a new weapon at their side, cannons. The battle waged for hours, before the cyborgs lines were finally penetrated, and coalition devastated the entire cyborg army, but the cyborg general, the only one known to have an individual name, managed to beam out, using Omni-Tek created beaming technology. This cyborg was named Ispal, and must be the most dangerous cyborg ever engaged by humans.

After the battle, it was revealed that the cannons used by the cyborgs, had been produced by themselves, using human technology as a base. There are even rumours to this day that the cyborgs had managed to build a massive cannon, capable of destroying the walls about Old Athens, but I have not been able to find any evidence of this, as all the files, seems to have been sealed off by Omni-Tek, for reasons unknown.

Over the years, there have been many more engagements between cyborgs and humans, but nothing much in recent years. It is clear that the cyborgs see us humans, as inferior, yet who is it that has been winning all this time? Us! But before we go pat ourselves on our backs, then we must remember, that the cyborg general, Ispal, and those like her, are still out there, and we do not know, when they will strike again.

It is only a matter of time.





*By Rian Castle
TAG's Political Correspondent
May 30th, 29481*

May 30th, 29480 was one of the saddest days for the neutral population of Rubi-Ka. While the citizens of Borealis were discussing who of the four candidates for the position of Borealis Mayor would be the best.

The glamorous Mitzy, the considerate Felkios, the hardliner Derringer or the travelled politician Laikki? Omni-Tek had other plans. In order to strengthen the defenses of Rubi-Ka against the Alien Invaders Omni-Tek decided to become invaders themselves and took over Borealis. Against the dispatched Unicorn Company, not even the well-fortified inhabitants of Borealis could make a difference.

On May the 30th 29480 Omni-Tek Armed Forces and Unicorns under the command of Brigadier General Stephen Charles Nelolius invaded the peaceful neutral city of Borealis and put it under control of Administrator Jessica Lonare. Sounds like the Omni way of winning a democratic election.

But the people of Borealis don't believe in the omni version of democracy. Some decided for peaceful protest and blockade of key areas of the city, some decided to engage the hostile forces by force. For the first weeks and month Borealis became a war zone. During some nights the streets were so full of ozone, bullets, flame and various other byproducts of discharged weapons that people couldn't even see who or what they are aiming at.

After a while it appeared that Omni-Tek would have the longer breath. But then the corporation made a surprisingly smart move, for Omni-Tek standards. In order to counteract the flood of bad media feedback and to take out some wind out of the peaceful protesters they move the Unicorn forces to the area of the Borealis satellite dish only.

Until this day Administrator Lonare rules over Borealis with the backing of OTAF personal.

Over the last year we have seen many Omni-Tek employees overstepping even the loose regulation set by Jessica. Constant harassment of the local civilians, interfering with various businesses and constantly throwing away trash in the formerly clean streets of Borealis. That is the grim side of the last year, but on the bright side, the neutrals don't give up. The Omni-Tek Recruiting Officer near the Whom-Pah is a constant target of peaceful protest by the citizens.

The Juggernaut needs to be daily cleaned from the anti OT slogans. Even the heavily OTAF guards patrolling the streets don't have an easy job. They are prime targets for the more extremist neutrals like 'our' black armored soldiers from the Borealis Freedom Fighters and others. The offices of Omni-Admin and Omni-AF in Borealis is fighting on a regular basis with power outtakes and problems with there grid connections. And the barkeepers serve special drinks with a personal greets to omnis.



The neutrals will never back down against the Omni-Tek oppression. They will keep up their fight for as long as it takes until Omni-Tek moves back down south to where they belong. Every neutral that keeps up the fight and does not fall back to inactivity is a hero. Be it those that hold it like Zephrem King and continuously speak about the unrightful occupation of Borealis and urge everyone for a peaceful solution. Or be it those that are like Hephas Derringer and call for a more straight forward approach.

For Those About To Act, I Salute You.



Club Listings:

Omni-Tek

Baboons – Omni-1 Entertainment

All dance, all night. Wednesday is Ladies Night! DJ Garfield Barnaby in the house. Come and get your groove on.

Rompa Bar – Omni-1 Entertainment

Come take a load off and chill with the smooth jazzy sounds in Rompa. Vixen Entertainment has returned to ensure you have the best service in the best lounge on Rubi-Ka.

Relax (The Dancing Atrox) – Omni-1 Screening Area

The latest in laser light technology on our state of the art dance floor! Looking for an intimate dance club to meet that special someone? Come to Relax, and enjoy good tunes, good drinks and good times. Always featuring our world famous Atrox dancers!

Neutral

Neuters R Us – Newland City

Proud sponsor of the Newland City Council Elections. Come down to Neuters to cut loose from the dogs of war for a while.

Reets Retreat – Last Ditch,

Rubi-Ka's Number 1 all in one club paradise. Fireplace lounge, restaurant, dance club, warehouse party in one convenient location. All factions welcome. Our gas levels are now more secure than ever. For a safe, peaceful night, fly high at Reets.

Mack's Beer and Booze – Hope

OK sure, we have had some Cyborg attacks, and alright we admit our suppression gas generators haven't worked in years, but at least here you can beat the crap out of that guy hitting on your girl. Mack's Beer and Booze, the only bar you can kill each other at!

Clan

The Happy Rebel – Tir City

You've had a hard day. You've killed your share of Omni's, fought an alien ship from your city, and travelled through the farthest reaches of the Shadowlands. Come on down to The Happy Rebel, and take a load off. Private rooms, meeting rooms, and pub all in one well-protected

location! No need to go anywhere, spend the night and make some memories at The Happy Rebel!

Enjoy It While It Lasts – Tir City

Guys and Ladies! Do you need something different? Some place where you can have a drink and watch two women beat the crap out of each other. Enjoy It While It lasts! Alan Jacobi's Favourite hot-spot. The most unique club in all clan territory. Friday night is 2 on 2 Night!

The Cup – West Athen

Relax with our world famous cup of coffee. A great place in West Athens. Meet friends, have a meeting or just chill out. Now under new management. All drinks are at a reasonable price.

