

THE COSMIC BALANCE



Issue # 187

February 2002

PANAGEANEWS

We begin this month in Central Panagea where fighting erupted on the isle of Mycenea. In a joint attack, Trekkers (Lawful Terminator Humans) and Smashers (Lawful Terminator Humans) all but destroyed Foaming Sands (Shhvoon worshipping Lizara).

Moving to Western Panagea....

In the Tarakeen Forest, Disembowellers (Trimorph worshipping CSA Giants) defeated the fleeing Holding Pattern (Lawful Terminator Humans).

In the region known as Aurumia outside the city of Alloy Kove, Foresters (Lawful Terminator Humans) defeated the fleeing Daojissaiwa (Lo-kee worshipping CSA Humans) in a close battle.

In the area known as Mireland, Dragonright (Lo-kee worshipping CSA Lizara) defeated Black Lords (Lopra worshipping EGA Humans).

LORASIANEWS

It was a very quiet month with only one major engagement. [Ed: This is a little surprising since the game is really growing and is now our top selling product.] This occurred on the Nulean Plain outside the Gnoll city of Port Royale. In an exceedingly lopsided battle the Ratt Skinners (Goblins) smashed Colossal (Lawful Guardians Giants). For their efforts the Ratt Skinners captured a modest amount of loot and were banned from further trade at the city.

PANAGEARUMORS

I haven't heard a peep out of Hampton. No one's coming in or out. What can it mean?

The CSA has delivered the EGA d.o.a.

The Terminators have been Terminated.

The Terminator Alliance has struck back and Chaos is on the run once more.

Where has Nick Gnoll-tee gone? He's shackled up with Shkaa Foamfrowner in a cozy little cottage near Gnashville.

More immigrants entering Panagea are sure to shake up the political scene and may disrupt the balance of power.

LORASIARUMORS

The City Leader of Ez'zak is wooing a mighty Kobold champion.

Cosmopolis is under assault by their former K.I.L. allies!

Who is HARMing the roads on the Vardian Plains?

Guardians + HARM + CW = more dead Lawfuls.

The Reign of Chaos is upon us!

No HARM will come to the RoC!

Who's not playing with a full deck? 9th Diamond.

K-9 Knights, NEUTERED.

HE whose name cannot be mentioned is here.

C.A.T. is an acronym which actually means "Chaotics Are Terrorist." Brilliant piece of misinformation by the Chaotic Coalition.

C.A.T.G.U.T. is a new acronym which means "Chaotics Are Terrorist - Gutless, Unprincipled Thugs."

The High Priest Azereth of 1st Veil and Trimorphia has brought his followers out of darkness and now serves the light by helping Lawful Alliances.

Rumors abound of the Death of Kobold Khan.

Tlatoani - it's what's for dinner.

The Dark Priest Hsub is a follower of Trimorph.

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BULLETINBOARD

LORASIA PLAYER NOTICE

With blood still dripping off his dagger, the Thief named Forulat looked upon the dead body of Prince Attalaus. Never before had he killed unless it was for self defense. Yet somehow the High Priest Azereth convinced him to do so in the name of Trimorph. Quickly he fled from the palace and returned to the High Priest to give his report.

The High Priest Azereth dismissed Forulat after he finished his report. Azereth now found himself in command of the settlement of Trimorphia and the army 1st Veil. His first act as leader was to declare the Empire is no longer a member of ICON. He then declared all government and military officers to be in control of the Church. From this day forward under the command of High Priest Azereth, all things shall be done for the glory of Trimorph!

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LORASIA PLAYER NOTICE

AN ENCYCLICAL TO WORSHIPERS OF THE COSMIC BALANCE

Question: Is the Cosmic Balance "Neutral"?

Ave Brother Pax C#1487, greetings and well met. I applaud you on your initiative. As a faithful member of the Cosmic Balance Religion (CBR), I have read your letter and see it fit to reply. I believe that such religious dissertations on the CBR are important as they let all of Lorasias better understand us. Moreover, they enable the various sects of the CBR to take some time and endeavor to better harmonize our beliefs.

My sect agrees with most of what you stated. Our sect agrees that we need to maintain the Eternal Struggle for the entertainment of the Greater Ones. We are not opposed to political manipulations, occasional aid or even direct military action. However, we interpret the wording to state the unspoken obvious meaning of seeking to do these things in a way that also benefits us. After all, even though the Greater Ones like to see some lively struggle, they also want to see their own followers leading the way so as to be better able to control the programming of the Eternal Struggle.

However, we would state that we are Neutral. The difference between us is all a matter of how you define being "Neutral". Our sect believes that being "Neutral" is not leaning toward or actively taking a side in the struggle between Law and Chaos, that does not benefit us. We do not belong to either side, but rather occupy a third position. Many would call us a middle position, but we call it a third corner in a triangle of Lorasian

power. We are not the gray in a blending of the black and white of Chaos and Law, but rather a third color, our own color of red. We are not for or against either Law or Chaos, but rather for ourselves.

We would not expect others outside of our sect to understand our actions from what they read in the public printings, nor do we understand the actions of other Balancers. Yet we all do what we feel best to promote the struggle. Many of our acts are enigmas on the surface, but have their Balance benefiting end. They are hard to judge from someone else's point of view. Therefore we do not criticize them. Our Balance brothers have their reasons.

Despite our sects' differences, I completely agree that the body of the Brothers and Sisters of the Balance need to communicate and cooperate with one another. We are all siblings of the same Greater family. The whole is greater than the sum of the parts. It is not a judgmental issue, but rather that by sharing of information and resources, we may better be able to promote the struggle. Having said all of this, my sect puts its hand forward to clasp yours and encourage others to do the same.

C#727 Galianos

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LORASIA PLAYER NOTICE

Any notices posted prior to this one by the now dead Prince Attalaus should be disregarded. A#111 1st Veil and S#210 Trimorphia are now under Theocratic control by the High Priest of Trimorphia, Azereth. In following with the commands of the great god Trimorph, High Priest Azereth shall begin to claim all the unused wealth in Lorasias and put it to use in the cause of Trimorph.

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LORASIA PLAYER NOTICE

On the timeless plains, the mighty feline foe will begin their reign. All will fall before their might.

As new allies unite to fight familiar foes, they will face a terrible fate from ghosts from the past.

As the great Dwarven/Centaur Alliance gains victories, events abroad shall create panic amongst the allies.

Twice raised only to fall again, the cabal shall shake Lorasias with its mass. Warfare forever changed.

Nostradamus

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LORASIA PLAYER NOTICE

To: Tlatoani

I am so sorry for confusing you with the On-Looker. However, I'm sure anyone could make the same mistake. After all, you both claim to be neutral yet everyone knows you're Lawfuls afraid of the stigma. And you both attack Chaotics; Tlatoani on the battlefield and the On-Looker in the CB. Also you both ramble aimlessly about what "he said, she said..." My outhouse is well stocked from your writings. Of course the Elves have a bounty on your heads for destroying vast forests.

And yes, I did notice your pitiful excuse for congratulations to the "Giants" for crushing your AVERAGE Kobolds. Of course the congratulations was nowhere as elaborate as your criticism and "offer to teach Warlords how to REALLY command their armies in battle." I imagine that you're quite full right about now. By the way, what does crow taste like?

As for me being "just" another Chaotic without the guts to sign my name... I assure you I am not "just" another Chaotic by any stretch of the imagination. "HE" whose name cannot be mentioned has told me to tell you your time draws near!

C#107 B. Guile

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LORASIA PLAYER NOTICE

Kundig,

You indeed have an over-inflated ego when you believe I had to eat crow to congratulate you. I congratulated you on your undeserved victory because I knew a small-minded person like you or your low-life pals would write in the CB about this battle. And lo and behold, I was proven correct. An unsigned message appeared in the same CB as my message (see the Nov. 2001 CB). Just in case you're too dumb to find it, it's the one that said "You seem to comment on things..." Did that help? Speaking of unsigned messages, I sign my messages (read my Dec. 2001 message again — the one with my signature). For the benefit of you and your mentally-challenged allies, the On-Looker and myself are two different people. Do you dummies need me to come over and hit you over your collective heads with a 2x4? I realized that most of you are somewhat slow on the uptake but didn't think you'd be so dense.

If you and your allies still think the On-Looker and I are related, I'm not going to waste any more time dispelling that belief. I don't want to be accused of extinguishing the first signs of collective intelligence from your group. Congratulations! You have evolved from the amoeba stage. Keep on evolving.

Would you like to name a place and time for a showdown between our group and your group? I'll see whether we can work you into our busy schedule.

Your superior,

Tlatoani

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LORASIA PLAYER NOTICE

Prince Attalaus of the mighty tree-hugging Empire sat in his vault room pondering on why it was so empty. Why was it REALLY empty? Poor management? Theft? Brownies? NO! It's because you can't spin straw into gold, and since all tree-hugging, cattle raising, lumber cutting armies don't make lots of gold, it all went for food and fodder. He suddenly saw a lonely gem. It started to glow then it spoke to him. "Reclaim wasted wealth." He knew what had to be done. He would reclaim all the wasted gold he had squandered on food and fodder. He is now opening the first manure ranch on Lorasias!

The End

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LORASIA PLAYER NOTICE

To: The Prophet of the Cosmic Balance

It was refreshing to read something of substance for a change. I'm so tired of all the mindless drivel by such bores as the ON-LOOKER or the WATCHER. Your manuscript on the Cosmic Balance was masterful. I checked your references and you were right on. I have discussed your article with several friends in the Cosmic Balance and are going to start doing various things to promote the struggle. We eagerly await more news from the Prophet.

Embrace the Balance
C#454 Maggot

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LORASIA PLAYER NOTICE

To: All Lorasias and Beyond

There's a new Chaotic in Lorasias above and beyond anything you've seen before! And he is a member of the mighty A.C.E. Alliance! He's here to free all Lorasias from the laws and regulations imposed on them by the Lawfuls!!! Let ALL learn the Truth and be Freed.

C#2277 Fareye Truth Sayer
A#487 Fareye Flyers

SCORE CARD

Can't tell the players (ie. alliance abbreviations) without a score card? Here it is:

Panagea (COD I)

A.I.M. — Aegis In Malum (Latin for Shield Against Evil).

C.S.A. — Circle of Steel Alliance.

D.O.A. — Defenders of Aldaryn.

E.G.A. — Elderwood Guard Alliance.

L.O.O.T. — League of Orcs Ogres and Trolls. Sometimes also referred to as L.O.O.(G.)T. when Gnolls are included.

P.T.L. — Panagea Trade League.

R.P.A. — Royal Panagean Alliance.

S.N.A.P. — Society of Neutrally Allied Peoples.

S.W.A.R.M. — Shhvoon Worshipers And Respected Mariners.

Lorasia (COD II)

A.C.E. — All Chaos Explorers.

C.W. — Crystalian Warriors.

F.R.C. — Fourth Reich of Chaos.

Guardians — Guardians of Destiny. Sometimes referred to as G.O.D.

HARM — Heroes and Raving Maniacs.

ICON — Independent Confederation Of Neutrals.

K.I.L. — Kobolds Invade Lorasia.

N.W.O. — New World Order.

R.O.C. — Reign Of Chaos.

R.O.T. — Raging Odious Terror.

S.O.B. — Soldiers Of Balance.

REMINDER

It is important to remember that the newsletter now covers two different game worlds: PANAGEA (COD I) and LORASIA (COD II). All newsletter submissions (Player Notices or Rumors) should clearly be labeled indicating to which world they refer. Not only does this make the information more useful to the reader but it also helps to avoid confusion between two positions with the same ID Number (one in each game). As stated in the House Rules, materials for the next newsletter must be received by the 21st of the month. Diplomatic messages should also clearly indicate what world they are for.

COMPANYNEWS

Shannon Muir has another of her outstanding bits of CTF fiction published in the February issue of Sabledrake (online) magazine. Entitled "Black Hearts and Broken Dreams" it is an excellent addition to her ongoing saga. Check it out at:

<http://www.sabledrake.com/2002/0202cover.htm>

WHAT'S NEW — COD II

Duane's been busy programming again. Recently he added two new Battle Spells that are sure to be popular. He also has plans for at least two new non-Battle Spells which he hopes to add in the coming weeks. What are they? We can't tell you. But certain NPCs might... for a price.

WHAT'S NEW — COD I & II

Having trouble keeping track of all the latest rule changes, hints and strategy articles published in the Cosmic Balance? Now available: "The Best Of The Cosmic Balance" covering Issues #126-#180 (more will be added as time permits). This publication is FREE for the asking when your request is accompanied by a turn or a payment to your account otherwise we ask \$1.00 to cover postage and handling. Another great service from your friends at ADVANCED GAMING ENTERPRISES.

SPREAD THE WORD

Do you know someone who might be interested in Play-By-Mail? Better yet, how about someone who might be interested in playing one of the games run by AGE (CTF, COD I, COD II)? If so, send us their name and address and we will send them our massive information package along with a special free gift. It's a great way to recruit a friend into the hobby.

