

THE COSMIC BALANCE



Issue # 186

January 2002

PANAGEANEWS

This month we begin in Eastern Panagea on the Crystal Plains outside of Narga Thum where the Vulture Legion (Chaotic Kodan Raman Gnolls) and Howling Winds (Chaotic Kodan Raman Gnolls) teamed up to destroy Picayune (Lyredh worshiping Humans of the Monsties alliance). At about the same time, Silent Covenant (Chaotic Kodan Raman Gnolls), Arty's Legion (Chaotic Kodan Raman Gnolls), Brraalt's Brigade (Chaotic Kodan Raman Gnolls) and N.Y. Giants (Chaotic Kodan Raman Giants) teamed up to destroy Rampaging Dragons (Lawful Avatars Humans).

Moving to Western Panagea, we begin on the Illyrian Plain. At the city of Gildazar, Rick's Reserves (Chaotic Kodan Raman Gnolls) and S.F. Giants (Chaotic Kodan Raman Giants) united to defeat Kolaan Krafters (Lawful AIM Humans). Several weeks later Mithril Guard (Lawful AIM Humans) defeated Firebreath (Lo-kee worshiping Gnolls). At about the same time Urotsukidoji (Lo-kee worshiping CSA Humans) bombarded the poorly defended city of Hampton in an apparent probing attack to test out the city defenses.

In the Kolan Basin outside the city of Grand Snowden, Grave Robbers (Trimorph worshiping CSA Giants) defeated the fleeing Swamp Things (Lawful Terminator Humans).

In the region known as Aurumia, Thunder (Lawful Terminator Humans) smashed Ryu Kami Kantai (Lo-kee worshiping CSA Humans).

LORASIANEWS

This month we begin on the Agerian Plain outside the city of Kingston with Thunder (Titans) destroying the pitiful remnants of Nazghouls (Humans).

On the Nulean Plain outside the city of Port Royale, Ratt Skinners (Goblins) and Teutonic Knights (Humans), in possibly unrelated attacks, smashed Mournglim's Assassins (Chaotic ACE Gnolls). The two attacks, though both occurred on the same day, were not coordinated. [Ed: In other words, they both occurred on the same day but was not the result of a joint turn nor did they arrive together in the same envelope.]

PANAGEARUMORS

A former founding member of the AIM alliance has returned from exile.

Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of Orcs? The Shadow knows.

Oh the horror! Xanthor has diaper rash!

Contrary to published uninformation, the war is hardly over and Lawfuls are poised for a comeback. Chaotics, having been complacent in their overconfidence, have allowed the Lawfuls the chance to rebuild and recruit. Soon, very soon, they will feel the error (and terror) of their ways.

Where has the CSA gone? Into hiding?

The Guardians Of Balance (GOB) have been formed. Their symbol is a finger gently pressing on a green scale.

The Terminators have got the bug. Now they want to acquire more cities.

Altimux the Black has a bold, but untested, new plan for gaining control of the seas. Will it work? Is it worth the cost?

What has Nick Gnoll-tee done to his hair? It looks PINK from here.

Lex, the schemer, has caused chaos within the Kodan Raman-LOOT alliance. Internal bickering rather than hostile forces could lead to their downfall.

An Alliance between unexpected friends is brewing.

Spoink plans to be the greatest Goblin leader of the new age. Unfortunately that doesn't mean much.

The Celestial knows all.

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LORASIA RUMORS

Sounds like Attalaus plans to attack sedentary armies in the name of Trimorph.

Yes, Graybeard's mother might have been an Orc, but green is her color.

Did you know that with a special wizard spell, roads can be moved to another sector?

A neutral city on continent II has the ability to train a new Character class!

I've heard that Runefang Magekiller has unearthed an ancient weapon of incredible power.

H.A.R.M. is eyeing Kaffa for their new HQs!

K-9 Knights has fleas.

A large stash of Gems can be found on the Agerian Plain, if you know where to look, that is.

HARM has decided to crush all opposition under its heel. Quake in fear, Chaotic scum!

Kobold Khan's mother wears pink fuzzy slippers.

BULLETINBOARD

PANAGEA AND LORASIA PLAYER NOTICE

Please note new address

Michael Welch
P.O. Box 5493
Springfield, VA 22150

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LORASIA PLAYER NOTICE

To: The On-Looker

I must correct you on your misrepresentation of Lyredh. Lyredh cares not for Law or Chaos and she does not strive to maintain the eternal struggle between them. There is a difference between being Neutral and a follower of the Cosmic Balance. If Gesellschaft Narren was retaliating, which we have no reason not to believe them, then that would not be in conflict with Lyredh's teachings. Yes, her followers would rather revel in fine wine and song, but will defend themselves vigorously. If you believe that the scales have been tipped in favor of Chaos then maybe blame should be placed on Armageddon and Burial at Sea. They were Lawfuls attacking a Neutral, who in turn received their just due. I care not to get involved in your conflict with Lord Kundig, but when Lyredh's teachings are misconceived, I must rectify.

C#1967 Corvallis

LORASIA PLAYER NOTICE

On-Looker,

I don't know where you get your information from but you are sadly mistaken regarding Lyredh. The goddess doesn't care about the Balance. You're mistaking the Cosmic Balance as being the blanket religion for Neutrals. The Cosmic Balance it is kind of an Ubergott but doesn't represent the Neutral gods. Only Lo-Kee works to maintain the Balance, the rest of them have their own agendas. Neutrality is not an organized, aligned set of gods, but a bunch of independents. We did not go against the desires of Lyredh. She doesn't care if Chaos or Law dominates. She does care if I stand meekly by and allow the murderers of my people (her worshipers) to escape justice. Are you truly unable to make the inferences necessary to understand why I told Torquemada to ask Jagd?

Kundig
Gesellschaft Narren

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LORASIA PLAYER NOTICE

To: The On-Looker
From: Layter

How can you honestly say the RoC and our allies are not wielding the Sword of Justice? This is not a Chaos vs. Law war, but between those who have been wronged and those who have wronged them. Had the Guardians simply attacked us without warning it would not be a war of Justice. They agreed to work for peace as they prepared their attack. They supported the truly evil Burial at Sea, (proved by getting a Guardian army banned for aiding them against the dictates of a LAWFUL city at which BAS had previously been banned).

Ok, score 1 point for finding a Chaotic unobservant enough to choose Lord for a title.

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LORASIA PLAYER NOTICE

To: Siringo Ironheart
From: The On-Looker
Re: CB #183

I am so happy you finally went to the great Sage Webster and asked for help. It seems he told you the same thing he told me several months ago. The word "assertion" you so politely underlined means: "A statement of fact." Rumors are not fact. That is why you have the two words "fact" and "rumor". If a rumor is proven true it becomes a fact, right? If it isn't or can't be proven fact then it remains a rumor. Hints are given in the rumor to allow for some role-playing. I.e. if I read that Bard Longwinded sings of wealth and riches in the northern mountains, is that rumor or fact? Thus, you investigate to see if it is fact or not. Or leave it alone, which still makes it a rumor.

As for answering "off the cuff" as you stated, I rewrite what I want to say sometimes two or three times before I actually send it in. I do use what all players have access to. And I did not say, "Well, they are just rumors." It is you who needs to do your research, my Lord Ironheart. I said it was in the rumor section of the CB. Big Difference!

I now have a way to Continent I so I will take my scribes and head that way so I can see what is going on for myself with RoC, CW, HARM, SoB, ICON, and ACE. It seems the alliances on Cont. I are growing, except for the GoD.

Lord Ironheart, let me applaud your pointing out that sometimes it pays to investigate the rumors in the CB (or on the bathroom wall of the Inn at Isengak). Reading between the lines is a quick way to see things that are hinted at or has a hidden meaning. Believe me, I understand that. But personally, I can not check out but so many. If you are volunteering to point out things then I say, "please do". I am also being fitted for glasses as to help with my depth perception, as you said. Didn't I see your name on his list to be fitted next week also?

If you are going to get any more rumors off the bathroom walls in Isengak, you'd better hurry. "Rumor" has it they are going to paint it before the week is out.

See you in the trenches.

LORASIA PLAYER NOTICE

C.A.T. is an acronym which means "Coalition Against Terrorism". Currently it is comprised of several independent armies as well as members of four existing alliances. It was formed at the request of prominent city leaders of Lorasias who have grown weary of terrorists victimizing their city sectors and destroying commerce and trade.

It should be no surprise that the large majority of these terrorists are Lawful or pseudo-Lawfuls who preach obedience to law and order in one breath while attacking armies in city sectors showing no regard for the city leader's laws!

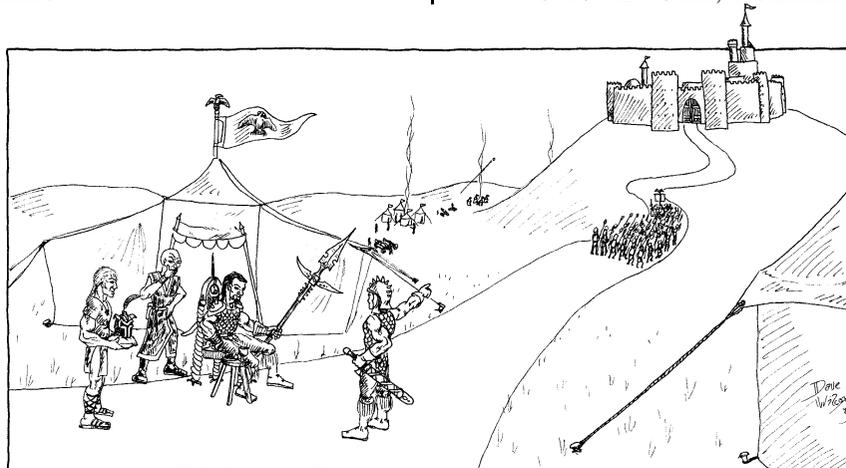
Well-known terrorists include: A179 K-9 Knights, A188 Tonatuh's Torch, A526 Dwarven Axes, A218 Lift Tail Legion, A229 Rohirrim, A446 Shadowmane to name a few. All of these terrorists have made blatant attacks in such city sectors as Port Royale, Ogton, Kingston, Isengak, and Kaffa. Some are so infamous they have been banned from trade, while the more insidious criminals have rewards posted on them.

At the behest of prominent city leaders such as Renn Goldfang, Moluck, Gordok, Hassan and Kreezna, C.A.T. forces will hunt and punish these terrorists. C.A.T. will also treat allies, friends, and anyone who would render them aid, shelter or comfort as if they are terrorists as well and would share their fate.

C.A.T. welcomes any Empire who would wage war against terrorism and actively seek to destroy this cancer. While these "Lawful" armies hide behind banners of Law and Order, C.A.T. will aggressively pursue them and publicly denounce them for what they truly are, TERRORISTS!

Any army who makes "serious" attacks against terrorists will receive a monetary reward from C.A.T. as well as the thanks of all denizens of Lorasias. For further information on how you might be considered for C.A.T. membership or up to date reports on terrorists, please contact:

C#107 B. Guile, Homeland Defense Minister



LORASIA PLAYER NOTICE

To: Bentpaw
From: The On-Looker
Re: CB #183

Bentpaw, since you decided to stick your nose into an adult conversation, accept what you get. I find you very morose, and would not feel any remorse if you acted as a lemming.

Your words make you sound as a bovine moron and are turgid. I'll bet your tongue is taupe. (Now get your thesaurus.)

You worked you way up in rank. Big deal. Is it my fault you didn't apprentice to a noble in order to reach a higher social ranking? I think not. But it seems to have taken you twice as long to get where I used to be. Why? Did you like the latrine duty? Why don't you just dig a deep pit and put a makeshift stool on it? Nothing to step over.... DUH.

And it is a shame your own father would not aid you with more responsibility besides digging latrines until later in your army career. Thus, your lack of leadership makes me wonder how you got the title Warlord. Hmm... maybe daddy did help out!

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LORASIA PLAYER NOTICE

To: The On-Looker
From: Layter
Re: CB 185

I'll take your ramblings seriatim.

The comments of yours to which I did not respond included such jibes as your soap question. Your attempt to display me as indecisive over this was childish. "The rest of us" is everyone you are speaking to (Move "Are" to the beginning of the question to make it clearer) and I didn't purport to speak for them. It was, however, in a question that you conveniently failed to answer in your zeal to paint me in a negative light. "I don't think too many people will buy it" is clearly an OPINION, not a statement of their actual state of belief. Since you like to twist people's words and make them appear to be misrepresenting others inquisitions, I'll quote you in CB 177 "Our readers would like to know". Did you take a poll of your readers before making this comment?

You think my conclusion regarding "we" meaning K-9 and you is "way out there"? The logic is sound. This is merely more of your demagoguery.

I do not remain convinced you are not connected with the Watcher. Your style is remarkably similar if you are not.

My comment regarding the status of K-9's alliance didn't mention a date, only that I have scouts showing them as Guardian, and now as CW. I scout K-9 quite often, not all of them are banner scouts. The last scout I have is from my ally Kundig showing them in 15-35 having bolted from the beating they took at Port Royale.

Rumors can be submitted by anyone. Putting a notice in the rumor section doesn't mean it's false. Is that what you are saying?

I said I try to be a Devil's Advocate of my own writings in order to improve them. A "journalist" should have better reading skills. I never claimed to be unbiased. I'm a Chaotic. Claiming an unbiased opinion is what you do.

I have "unclouded" your attempts to distort my clear statements and questions leaving me clearly with truth on my side.

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LORASIA PLAYER NOTICE

Tlatoani —

You have a real ego problem if you can't even address your notices. It must REALLLLLLLY stick in your craw to have to congratulate someone on kicking your butt and so you insult us by simply referring to us as "giants". I'd bet all the goods we got from you that you think we should all recognize your greatness immediately and that signing your notices is redundant.

Kundig
Gesellschaft Narren

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LORASIA PLAYER NOTICE

The 10 worst jobs in Lorasias

- 1) Street sweeper in the Centaur settlement of Mountainview
- 2) Proof Reader for the On-Looker
- 3) Owning a Big-N-Tall shop at Reigenhold
- 4) Changing the stick up Karl Magden's butt each morning
- 5) Morale Officer for Tonatuih's Torch (We're not running away, I just forgot my keys!)
- 6) Recruiting Officer (paid by commission) for Crystalian Warriors
- 7) Mortician for the Guardians
- 8) Policy Spokesbeing for ICoN (Breathing is permitted on Tuesdays between 3 and 7 unless the sun is blocked by clouds or there is snow on the ground)
- 9) Protecting sheep from being defiled by amorous Wolves
- 10) H.A.R.M. propagandist (But really, we're peaceful, just ignore the initials)

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.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

COD ON-LINE

Our presence on the Internet is growing rapidly with a number of resources currently available.

If you want to learn about the happenings in the CRACK OF DOOM (I and II) check out the following message boards:

<http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/conclavecodiichat>

<http://www.neosoft.com/~lanza/ICONdiscuss1.html>

<http://communities.msn.com/CODIandIIChaoticForum>

Message Boards are a great way to share ideas and pick up the latest gaming gossip. As with anything you get off the internet — don't believe everything you read! When in doubt, ask the GM. Also, if you have an important comment, question or complaint, send it to AGE rather than posting a message as AGE does not supervise or manage these sites and your comments may never reach us and will be unlikely to get an official response.

In a similar vein, the ICON alliance (COD II) has its own website that contains a wealth of useful information for members and non- members alike:

http://www.neosoft.com/~lanza/Main_Page_ICON.htm

If you want information on CTF2187 check out the following:

TALES OF CTF2187: A great new site by Shannon Muir that contains the best of her game related fiction and more! Check it out at:

<http://members.aol.com/shannonelisemuir/>

ORBO's CTF2187 HOME PAGE: Want to check out a great archive of old CTF newsletters? How about player bios, many with color photos? All that plus lots of other useful information is available at the CTF website. Special thanks to Orbo (Rob Fackler) for his efforts in setting and maintaining this cool site: Check it out at:

<http://yourpage.blazenet.net/orbomaxx/ctfhome2.htm>

Brigadier General Them Bones [PN323] of the Berserkers [TM5] has set up a Chat Room at:

<http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/ctf2187>

He also has set up an email discussion list. For those of you unfamiliar with a mailing list, here is how it works. Folks interested in a common topic must JOIN (aka SUBSCRIBE TO) the list. All of these "members" will then receive all postings to this list and can also respond and/or post their own messages. All sorts of folks can have all sorts of topics going at the same time — so long as it is strictly CTF related.

To join, send a blank email to: CTF2187-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

If you prefer to get all of the postings in one "batch" mailing a day (rather than each one sent to you individually) then immediately send a SECOND email to: CTF2187-digest@yahoogroups.com

Of course, don't forget to check out the AGE site which contains all sorts of nifty downloads (House Rules, CC/RC Form, etc.). It is still in its infancy but is expected to grow and evolve rapidly over the coming months and of course feedback and suggestions are encouraged. Check it out at:

<http://www.ageforfun.com>

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.

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.

WHAT'S NEW — COD I & II

An industrious players has set up a new website dedicated to Chaos. Be sure to check out the new Chaos Forum for COD I and II players at:

<http://communities.msn.com/CODIandIIChaoticForum>

WHAT'S NEW — COD II

Duane has set aside January as a month to concentrate on programming and game development. Already he has made extensive changes/improvements to the battle programs and hopes to add several new spells (not necessarily battle spells) as well. None of this will be blatantly obvious unless you know what to look for but it is being done. We are excited about the results.



Happy New Year!