

Dear Mr and Ms Improper-Tea:
I am having a relationship with a crewmember of Earth Station. For modesty's sake, I cannot reveal which one. Because our relationship is a secret, we have never met, but I know he cares deeply about me, and we meet often in the Metaverse. He says our love is destiny and in his timeline has already happened. My question is this: Do we have a future?
Stargazing in Schenectady

Dear Stargazing in Schenectady,

Relationships are always hard, long distance relationships are even harder. On the other hand, the beauty of the Metaverse is that you can have quality time with this guy whenever you two can work out a meeting. Heck, from what my sister who works in the Admissions department at Berkeley tells me, most of the guys you meet there have ONLY dated girls in the Metaverse. This is an important thing to understand for when things get physical.

Remember while you dream of a future together that you are talking about having a relationship with a guy who has lived most of his life in the company of only one other person, his brother! Make sure that when he talks about "brotherly love" that that isn't a euphemism. The last thing you want to be is a poor bright-eyed girl who is suckered into a relationship with a incest-loving-pervert that wants to date someone planetside in order to prove to the world that he isn't a freak.

My advice, be careful. A real physical boyfriend who you meet in your own neck of the woods certainly sounds like a better idea than some dream man who may not even be able to get it up outside of the Metaverse.

Ms. Improper-Tea

Dear Stargazing in Schenectady,

Are you even sure this guy you're dating is who he claims to be? Spoofing identities is a growing problem in the Metaverse. You can't be too sure. I once dated a nice girl from Canada for three months before I found out she was actually a man from TL7 Soviet Union. We still write from time to time, but it's never been the same. The important thing is knowing exactly who and - in some cases - what you're dealing with. Don't get me started about my brief but passionate relationship with that girl from

New Orleans

Anyway, my point is, ditch this loser and get a real man. Have you ever considered hooking up with a nice Penn State Columnist?

Clones Beat Clones, Again

by Joey Chang, The College Student Staff Writer

OAKLAND, Technosphere, April 25 -- After getting swept at the hands of the San Francisco Clones on the opening week of the season, the Oakland Clones (1-4) split a pair of games defeating the San Francisco Clones but then falling to the San Francisco Clones 13-1 at McAfee Coliseum on April 23-24.

Both teams consist entirely of people cloned from Vladimir Alvino Guerrero. After the games, the fans rioted and killed all the Vlads but one, so there was less confusion, though 243 fans also died in the riot.

"Our pitching has got to improve for sure," Oakland coach Vladimir Guerrero said before the rioters killed him. "We've been playing pretty fair defense along the way so far through five games, and we've swung it OK for four games."

After scoring 16 runs and pounding out 11 hits against the Clones to record their first win of the season, the Clones' offense went flat the following day notching only two hits and one run against the Clones.

The Oakland bullpen continued to struggle as it surrendered nine earned runs against the Clones and nine runs in the second game versus the Clones.

"It's got a long way to go," Vlad said.

The Clones relinquished three leads before a seven-run rally in the eighth inning gave Vlad his first victory as Oakland's head coach.

Oakland's offense amassed 11 hits and scored 16 times in what was a back and forth affair between two teams meeting for the first time in 12 years.

Vladimir Guerrero started for the Oakland Clones and pitched an effective five innings, allowing four hits, two runs (one earned) and three walks, while recording five strikeouts.

"He gave us five good innings," Vlad said. "You know like in football they say, 'Bend, don't break.' That's kind of what he did."

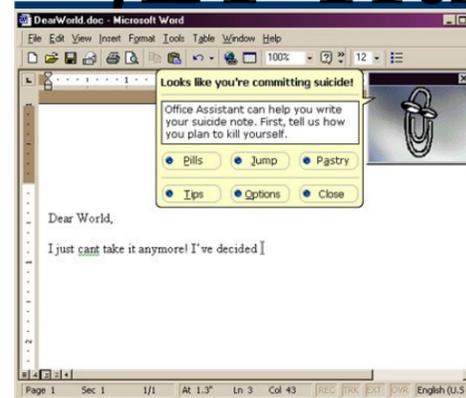
The Clones also committed three errors - two committed by shortstop Vladimir Guerrero.

**Experiment gone wrong?
Reality Busted?
Maybe your Sigma
Can be adjusted!**

Techno Mage

The

College Student JET Trainer kills Self, Staff



Screenshot of Pugh's Computer on Day of

STATE COLLEGE, March 12 -- The head mission trainer for the Joint Expeditionary Team, Dr Ray Pugh, killed himself, his entire staff, and all his ancestors for three generations back using a prototype "Reality

Weapon" called "The Rubber Eraser", which caused all the concerned persons to cease to exist and retroactively created the genre of "reality television."

The reason? No one in the JET ever used his department.

In fact, as an international organization charged with gathering the data post-Event Earth from ceasing to exist, the JET has a top-notch organization for training its members how to behave on missions... which no one has ever actually used.

When asked about the JET training department, the response of the hire-sute JET member Lance Deschene was fairly typical: "Who are you? How did you get in here? What the Hell are you talking about? And why aren't you kissing me RIGHT NOW?!"

Instead, confused and ill-trained people from a grab-bag of Threads are chosen for JET missions based on arcane criteria by the schizophrenic Silicon Valley artificial intelligence known as Jabberwocky, where they proceed to shoot dignitaries, summon dark gods, and destroy entire Threads with nuclear weapons.

LA Invades Science Fiction Convention

LOS ANGELES, March 24 —Bolstered by their recent success in invading and colonizing the small peaceful Shard of Oregon, L.A. intends to continue their imperial expansion by invading a Shard that consists entirely of a Science Fiction Fantasy Convention. A highly classified government report details the invasion plans. The bulk of the invasion force will consist of a small corp sec detachment, several really cute chicks, and a large supply of liquor.

Domestic insurgency is a constant issue for the powerful, but beleaguered government of L.A. and the recent successes in Oregon have improved the government's popularity significantly. Outside of Oregon anyway, where L.A.'s popu-

larity is – unsurprisingly - at an all-time low. In the post-Event history of L.A. no sitting Mayor has even been ousted during a military action. Although since the post-Event history of L.A. includes one mayor and one acting mayor that may not have affected policy significantly.

Colonizing a Science Fiction Convention would garner L.A. important and valuable resources such as people who can actually understand what the hell a Technomage is talking about. Additionally, documentation from the Costume Contest is expected to provide valuable intelligence on the military resources of Neo Tokyo/Rising Sun. Lastly, L.A. could rent the hotel rooms to the Hive,

maximum occupancy restrictions would be changed to 75 per single, 150 per double, and 1200 per suite.

Details of the operation reveal a dark but creditable plan. The cadre of cute chicks will challenge key convention personnel to drinking contests. After the hapless losers pass out, they will be dragged off by the corp sec agents and gated to Underhill, where it is likely they will be happier than they were in real life.

The question is, will this be an invasion or an occupation, and will the Science Fiction Fantasy fans welcome L.A. as liberators or mount a guerilla resistance? And will anyone be able to tell the difference?

A Guide To the JET

Welcome to the JET (Joint Expeditionary Team) with a few simple tips, your experience here should be both safe and comfortable. Not to downplay the possible dangers inherent in your new career. You will face supernatural monsters from god knows where, Nazis, ruthless interdimensional criminals, Nazis, random Viking attacks, numerous – if mildly amusing – French assassination attempts, and Nazis.

But you will not face these dire threats alone! Standing at your side will be your fellow JET members. The JET recruits from all of the core Threads and a few they've never heard of and probably don't actually exist. To help you – the new JET recruit find your way in the days, weeks, and (in the case of Earth Station Deployments) centuries to come..

Los Angeles

Beneath the glittering neon and shining chrome, you'll find ... pretty much nothing. Massive faceless Corporations seeking profit and power at any cost and with no restraint run L.A.. So, yeah, pretty much just like pre-Event L.A. Really, we don't think anyone even noticed the change. Oh, and it rains a lot.

Common Nicknames: Assholes, Cocksuckers, Bastards, Whores, Drug Addicts, Pornstars

How to recognize a native: Assholes, Cocksuckers, Bastards, Whores, Drug Addicts, Pornstars

Famous JET Members from L.A.: Alice Woodcliffe, Dylan Knight, Dale Jenkins

Empire of New York

What do you get when you cross the Mafia with the Catholic Church and give them the best Post-Event Military resources available? That's right! You get a bunch of really nice guys who deserve your respect and should never – under any circumstances – be made fun of. Can I go now? Please? You say my family will be released when? Thank you, Sir.

Common Nicknames: ENYiacs, Storm Troopers, Benevolent Overlords, Cosa Nostra

How to recognize a native: Dark suit, fedora, sunglasses, suspicious gun-shaped bulge in jacket. Or military uniform, sunglasses, suspicious gun-shaped bulge in jacket. Or Priest's cassock/Nun's Habit, dark sunglasses, suspicious gun-shaped bulge in jacket/dress.

Famous JET Members from Empire of New York: General Edward "The Sykes" Sykes, Nicolo "Nico" Toscani, Consiglieri Vincenzo "No Nickname" Tartalini

The Hive

A billion naked oversexed bug people, currently dying of a magickal Aztec venereal disease. Not kidding. No matter where you're from, the Hive will make you feel normal. Also: Their food sucks. For fun, ask them how they make milk in front of someone from the ENY.

Common Nicknames: Ants, Fucking Ants, Mother-Fucking Goddamn Ants

How to recognize a native: If they're not naked, they'll either be wearing an outfit like a colorblind pimp, or overalls with no underwear. Contrary to popular belief, they don't have an-tenna... at least, not the ones we've seen so far.

Famous JET Members from the Hive: Ambassador Aye, aka Honey-AAAA9993,

aka "Hey, you, the faggot in the neon green coat!"

The Technosphere

With the smartest and best equipped scientific minds of the Pre-Event world were trapped for 300 years (relative to the rest of the world) with nothing to do but invent stuff and try to get a date, they invented a whole lot of stuff. Silicon Valley re-emerged into the Post-Event world as the Techno-Sphere with science fiction gadgets and snappy leather coats that are the envy of Penn State Freshmen everywhere.

Common Nicknames: Technomages, Creeps, Creepy Technomage Guys

How to recognize a native: Long black coat, usually leather. Sporting sunglasses. High Tech Stick. No, we are not making that last part up. Or, alternately, wearing shorts, a hawaiian shirt, and a stupid hat. Easy to confuse with a Hiver, except for the stick. Fond of replying to every possible question with "It's complicated."

Famous JET Members from Silicon Valley: Doctor Devin Archibald, Doctor Morgan Aldrich, Doctor Devin Archibald's Clone, John Grayer, Doctor Narasimba Naharaj, John Grayer's future self, Doctor Devin Archibald disembodied brain, John Grayer's past self.

Post Holocaust Mid West

Between radiation, massive water shortages, a never-ending dust storm, mutants, cannibals, bandits, and mutant cannibal bandits, the "P-Poc" has had it kind of rough. But out of adversity grows greatness. Or in this case, out of adversity

grows the meanest bunch of bad asses you will ever cross the street to avoid. The Dusties of the Mid West aren't well-educated, or well-organized, or well-bathed. But they will sooner shoot you than ... well, pretty much anything else.

Common Nicknames: Dusties, Jerks, Dusty Jerks

How to recognize a native: Covered in dust. And guns. And knives. You might notice a quaint accent; if they talk before shooting or stabbing you for assuming they're some kind of Dusty Jerk.

Famous JET Members from Post Holocaust Mid West: Nick "The Preacher" Wolfwood, Lance "I don't remember that" Deschene, Jack "In denial of her gender" Burns, Reverend Jeremia "I went back in time and met Jesus" Jones.

New Orleans

You know how frustrating it is when you finally fix your place up just right, sun rising and setting and everything, and then a bunch of zombies, werewolves, and assorted monsters come boiling up out of the ground and just take it away? No? Well, the displaced people of New Orleans do. Just ask any of them about it. We're sure they'd be glad to talk about it. It might even cheer them up! Give it a try.

Common Nicknames: Zombie Chow, Really Bummed Out Guys, Refugees, Those Guys That Really Ironic Thing Happened To

How to recognize a native: Depressed, homeless, quaint accent. Awesome cosmic power, itsy bitsy living space.

Famous JET Members from New Orleans: President-in-Exile Ambrose Hall, Marie St. Croix, Angeliqie Marie De Sanma

Penn State

A Thread made up of a Pre-Event University. Most of the population is made up of either students or teachers. Well known for doing absolutely nothing, dressing casually, drinking cheap beer and complaining about nearly everything. We only included them in here at all because General Stevens comes from there and he signs all our pay checks.

Common Nicknames: Who?

How to recognize a native: Don't bother.

Famous JET Members from Penn State: Have you even been reading this?

Rising Sun/Neo Tokyo

Being mostly imaginary hasn't slowed this powerhouse of a Thread down, no Sir! Made up of a combination of mystic warrior-priests, gun-toting cybernetic street samurai, and wannabe victims with big eyes and small mouths, Rising Sun/Neo Tokyo has both political oomph and bizarre military force

to bring to the table. Oh, and they don't really like it when you call them imaginary.

Common Nicknames: Animaniacs, Toons, Comic Kamikazis, Really Scary Guys in a Fight

How to recognize a native: You're kidding, right? I mean, it's pretty damn obvious.

Famous JET Members from Rising Sun/Neo Tokyo: Takahiro Rei, Adam Starke, Kadiri Miharu

Earth Station

A huge orbiting space station from the future. Or maybe the past. But either way, it's huge. And it orbits. AI and Bud are the only two residents of Earth Station and they have been back and forth over their own past and future times lines so many times they are actually older than themselves.

Common Nicknames: Space Men, AI, Bud, Guy in Space Suite who must therefore be either AI or Bud.

How to recognize a native: They are wearing a Space Suit.

Famous JET Members from Earth Station: AI, Bud, AI's past self, Bud's past self.

Ten Nations

A haven and mecca for Native Americans from all tribes, times, and realities, the Ten Nations has been a reality chew toy lately. Changing from the peace loving Seven Nations to the war-like Ten Nations seemingly overnight and with no one noticing. Or is that everyone noticing but not remembering the Seven Nations as ever existing? No one is really sure, but when you've got a Thread made up of High Tech, High Magic, heavily organized, equipped and well-trained warriors with a serious mad-on for the White Man ... well, don't call them "injuns" because they really hate that. Also known for Talking Horses. No, we're not making this stuff up.

Common Nicknames: Injuns (from hiding)

How to recognize a native: Dark skin, dark hair, angry expression. Or, is a talking horse. Either way is a good bet.

Famous JET Members from Ten Nations: Miryam Black Fox (used to be Miryam Laughing Fox), Bear Makes Thunder (used to be Cody Drake), Chindi Ghost Wolf (used to be Rom), Agamemnon the Talking Horse (no apparent change)

And those are the Shards of the JET!