



Trinity Field Report: Oceania A Trinity Universe Update

Available free of charge, **TFR: Oceania** is an official resource for the **Trinity** game setting.

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NEPTUNE



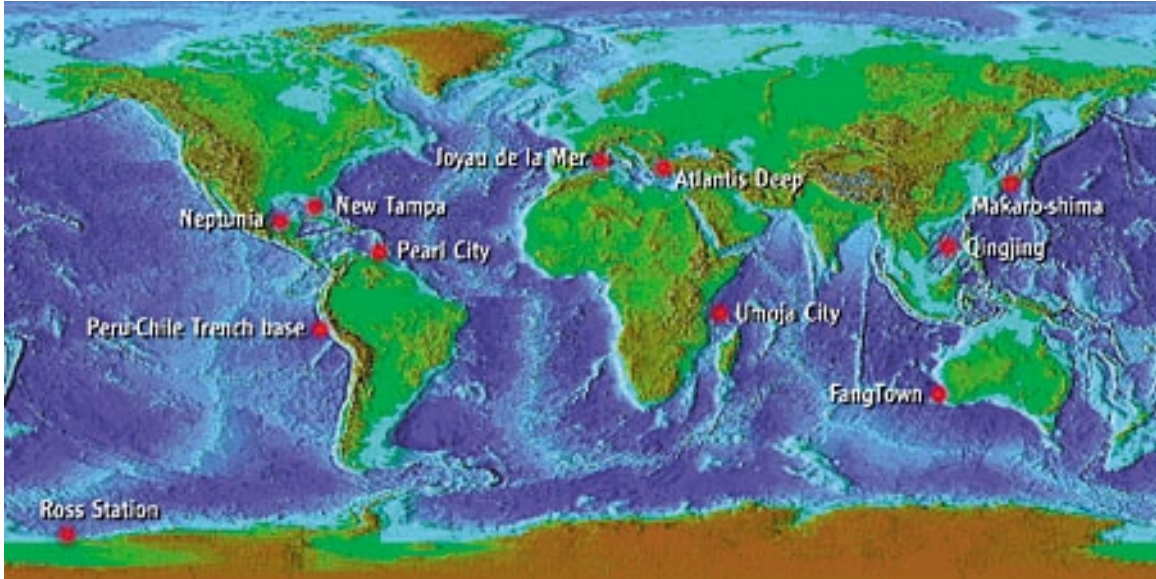
>>> BEGIN NEPTUNE TRANSMISSION <<<

From: Æon Trinity, Neptune Division
To: All Æon operatives
Transmission type: textfile
Encryption: DSE
Subject: A World Awaits

Mankind has often wondered what secrets lie hidden in the depths of Earth’s oceans. But throughout our history, this most tantalizing of mysteries remained unknown. Finally, in the 22nd century, the technology exists to explore, even colonize, the planet’s vast underwater realms. Under the Sea

The fifth Trinity Field Report: Oceania takes a look at Earth’s ocean-based societies. From the vast floating cities to the isolated deep colonies, this full-color setting dossier from the Æon Trinity itself reveals the bizarre and wondrous world that exists beneath the waves.

>>> END TRANSMISSION <<<



NEPTUNE



>>> NEPTUNE TEMPLATE <<<

Greetings, Colleague

Here there be dragons.

Those words, etched at the fuzzy edges of unexplored oceans, used to circumscribe the boundaries of mankind's world. In the ensuing centuries, the boundaries of both our universe and our knowledge have been pushed back. Only in recent decades, though, have we explored and colonized the seas with the same fervor that took us to the stars. Even today, we know more about Qinshui and Titan than we do about what goes on 50 meters below the surface of Earth's oceans.

The colonization of the seas began in the latter half of the 20th century, with the construction of petroleum-mining platforms in the Gulf of Mexico and the North Sea, among other regions. Though the development of hyper-fusion in 2022 cut into the petroleum industry, the need for other raw materials from beneath the seas did not end. In the early 21st century, Nihonjin (then referred to as "Japanese"), African and North American mineral interests developed floating versions of the ocean mining platform. Though they could be tethered to the sea floor to keep them in position during mining operations, these floating cities could also be towed albeit slowly where needed and adapted to different kinds of resources. These advantages made them more valuable than the fixed platforms. Many now-obsolete fixed platforms passed into private hands in this period, becoming the first permanent, non-commercial ocean habitats havens for isolationists, researchers, paramilitary groups, entrepreneurs and Utopianists.

The first undersea habitats were developed at this time as well. In the late 20th century, Aquarius 2000, a submersible research habitat, was home to small teams of aquanaut-scientists during 10-day research missions on the reefs of the Florida Keys. The transitory nature of Aquarius 2000's crews and of the mobile habitat itself prevents it from being considered the first true permanent undersea habitat.



Still, many of the lessons learned before it was decommissioned in 2011 proved to be quite valuable in the design of the first deep cities almost a century later.

The technologies that truly opened the oceans to permanent habitation came from space. Many of the same physical and psychological challenges facing the inhabitants of Luna transportation difficulties, environmental control, isolation, resource conservation and recycling, defense, atmospheric integrity, social privation translate directly to undersea habitats. With the development and testing of these technologies on Luna, the isolationist Nihonjin turned that technology Earthward. The Nihonjin government and the *zaibatsu* developed a ring of such undersea stations cooperatively, both to exploit the resources that surrounded their Home Islands and to build a defensive "screen" to protect them from Aberrants and other invaders during the Aberrant War. With the end of the self-imposed Quarantine in 2103, Nippon's technology was made available to other world governments and corporations, and the seas were opened to all.

We hope the enclosed information is helpful in giving you a perspective on these most unique human habitations. Be warned, though, that some of it comes from commercial sources, and some elements may not be completely accurate.

Oh, and beware of the dragons. Some of them are real.

Ad Astra

Hope • Sacrifice • Unity

**Neville Archer
Director, Neptune Division**

Æon Trinity
>>> <<<



EARTH



>>> EARTH TEMPLATE <<<

FangTown

FangTech Goes Deep for New HQ

Roger Simonson, *Business Australia* ©
09.2115 GN

When watercraft giant FangTech outgrew its shipyards in the Perth arcology, it found a new home in familiar waters. FangTown, a 62,000-person oecarology, research lab and sub-sea factory, is located approximately 100 kilometers west of Perth on the Australian shelf in the Indian Ocean. It opened for business officially on August 30.

"FangTown's position here in the Indian Ocean is more than a practical consideration," CEO Larry Newshome said in a prepared statement. "It is also a symbol, both of our commitment to our customers and of our confidence in the future."

The station, constructed in just under a year at a cost exceeding 70 billion yuan, was designed in partnership with Nihonjin metacorp Makkuronna and built in sections at FangTech's Perth yards. The 16 modules that make up the station, some as large as a space freighter, rolled off the Perth dry docks in April. After a three-month construction and shake-down period (during which equipment, data and personnel were transferred from Perth to FangTown), the new assembly lines started up.

The first vessel produced entirely at FangTown, was unveiled at the dedication ceremonies, and it was a surprise itself. The Tiger Shark, produced under contract for the Australian Navy, is a 3,400-ton light-attack aerosub intended

to replace FangTech's aging Hammerhead model.

Though the practical considerations mentioned by Newshome include the economies of reduced shipping costs and built-in submarine testing grounds, the move is first and foremost a symbolic one perhaps the most ambitious PR stunt in history.

"FangTech is a company on the cutting edge of technology, and now we have a home that says so," said company spokesperson Faye Grosvenor. "With FangTown, we're making a permanent and personal commitment to the oceans that goes far beyond a product line."

The vulnerability of surface facilities to Aberrant attack was not a consideration, said Grosvenor, who added that the FangTown project was approved eight months before the *Esperanza* disaster. "Being 70 meters underwater wouldn't be much of a defense against another *Esperanza* anyway," Grosvenor said.

The undersea station is armed against possible Aberrant attack, but Grosvenor would not reveal details. This defense presumably includes a fleet of fast attack aerosubs.

After an indefinite transition period, Perth shipyards will be retooled to produce the company's 92,600-ton Narwhal-class subcarrier, though the company currently has no contracts for the vessel.

Grosvenor denied that the FangTech has any current plans to mothball the Perth yards, but had no comment about rumors the company is planning to move its corporate offices to FangTown



TRITON



>>> OPEN TRITON ARCHIVE <<<

Subject: Security issues
From: Marla Claridge, COO FangTech
To: Larry Newshome, CEO FangTech
Encryption: DSE
Transmission type: textfile
Date: 7.30.2118

The theft of the Scorpio plans last week was the third security breach at the Fremantle base in the past year. In contrast, FangTown has proven to be quite secure against incidents of intrusion, espionage and sabotage. Personally, I don't trust those BioSystems people, and moving the whole kit and caboodle to FangTown would give us much more direct control over our projects. I know that there would be a negative public opinion impact to abandoning Fremantle, but I'm confident that there are simple steps we can take to turn it into a PR positive including tourism, ecological restoration, high-tech advancements and economic issues, such as increased employment and higher salaries. In the end, let's not forget that we can't challenge the near space market for advanced vehicle technology if we're getting ripped off all the time.

>>> CLOSE ARCHIVE <<<

TRITON



>>> OPEN TRITON ARCHIVE <<<

Subject: Scorpio project
From: Genevieve Bekker, Senior Project Development Manager, FangTech
To: Rudy Ofanengaue, VP of R&D, FangTech
Encryption: DSE

Transmission type: textfile
Date: 13:37:22 11.20.2119
I've placed all work on the Scorpio project on immediate hold and am recommending a complete shutdown of the entire biotech division. Another prototype test-pilot died today the third on this project. And more than a quarter of the development staff has come down with some kind of chronic bug that the clinic can't identify. Call me paranoid, but I wouldn't be surprised if it was an unforeseen byproduct of some kind. Allow me to be blunt. Our expertise is *hardtech*, not biotech and submarine development is not the kind of field where you can get away with learning as you go. Brigitte was a friend of mine. Let's scrap this entire line of research before it gets any further out of hand.

>>> CLOSE ARCHIVE <<<





>>> OPEN MEDIA ARCHIVE <<<

FangTown: Down Under

Dazyl Grenich, *Lifestyles* © 2119 MMI

If you're planning a luxury vacation Down Under, try a place that's *really* down under: FangTown!

This underwater station, built just over four years ago, is much more than the undersea factory you've heard of. Not many people know that FangTown maintains a small but super-plush hotel and entertainment complex on nearby Rottnest Island, designed to host visiting corporate bigwigs in style. But if you can pay your way upwards of ¥350 a day in the "off" season, not including meals and incidentals, and that's only if you can get a vacancy you won't find anything more *luxe* this side of Olympian Towers.

The highlight of the trip, though, is the visit to FangTown itself. The vistas through the windows of the aerosub are impressive; the voyage is almost all underwater, and it takes the time to afford passengers spectacular views of the extensive, vibrant marine life populating the reefs around the island. The "reef jockeys" really get you up close and personal, too asteroid-belt pilots have nothing on these guys!

When the marine metacorp recently moved its corporate headquarters here from the moth-balled Perth facility, sour notes wondered how much FangTech would have to pay its execs to get them to move to the gloomy sea floor. Weren't the naysayers surprised when the suits jumped at the chance! While the Nihonjin developed the technology that made living under the sea possible, FangTech showed everyone how to really *live* under the sea!

The most spectacular feature of the main module is the curved mylex window, which is 10 meters high by a full 50 meters wide, making up one side of the central hub. The window faces a lush section of limestone reef restored as a special FangTech project to its

original glory and biodiversity. The sunlight-sparkled ocean stretching above you, the sea fans and anemone waving in the azure currents it's a breathtaking sight, and one that no holo can do justice to. The experience feels a tad more alien than anything you'll see on Luna you don't see schools of sharks swimming by your window in Camelot! This panorama does not provide the most moving view in the station, though. The window of a special memorial chamber faces the wreckage of *Canopus*, an Australian orbital platform knocked out of orbit by Aberrants in 2057 foreshadowing the *Esperanza* disaster, some have said. When the site was discovered during a pre-construction survey of the area, FangTech spent half a million yuan to have it enclosed in a mylex dome as a permanent memorial to Aussies killed during the Aberrant War. The undersea construction facilities are impressive, matching anything you'd find in orbit. Huge automated machines bend, stamp, form, drill and extrude plasteel and mylex day and night, as industrial robots assemble them into the latest in high-tech watercraft.

My favorite stop on the tour was the "Mad Lab," where FangTechies of all kinds (from cafeteria workers to executives) are encouraged to come by and explore any submarine design or other idea they may have, no matter how off-the-wall. Any concept that makes it from holosim to production earns its creator a ¥100,000 bonus, an offer so tempting that the higher-ups had to put limits on how much free time people could spend in there. Sorry, folks. No holocams allowed inside! You'll just have to wait for the next model year to see what they're brewing up in the Mad Lab.

>>> CLOSE ARCHIVE <<<

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>>> PROTEUS TEMPLATE <<<

Makaro-shima

Psi Nippon

Analysis: Foster Parks, Proteus Division, 7.10.2120
General Commentary

Psi Nippon has been jokingly referred to as "the ninth order." While that phrase is inaccurate in that Psi Nippon does not have a proxy, a Prometheus tank or even a large number of psion members, it does resemble a psi order in many ways.

Psi Nippon was founded less than two years after the psions' first public appearance at the defense of Sydney Spaceport. Its public purpose then, as now, was straightforward to promote the rights and image of psions in Nippon.

With few exceptions, the Nihonjin attitude toward psions ranges from ambivalence to hostility. For 56 years, the Home Islands had remained isolated behind their impregnable barrier of undersea defense stations. When they finally emerged from Quarantine, the universe was very different. The Aberrant return and the revelation of the psions on top of everything else must have been too much strangeness for the Nihonjin to deal with.

Not all Nihonjin thought of psions as a new variety of Aberrants it just

seemed that way. Expressing unpopular opinions not only went against their strictly regimented society and upbringing, but supporting psions could also be dangerous. Some Nihonjin were so threatened by the bizarre Gifted that they reacted to psions and psion sympathizers violently. Vocal supporters of the psions did exist, though. One such group, a collection of students and philosophers led by Seiichi Okada, a Kobe Technical University biology professor, held public rallies and gained members even in the face of strong public resistance. The informal group incorporated in July 2108 as Psi Nippon. Within a month, the new corporation had arranged to purchase from the Nihonjin government a disused undersea station in the Tsushima Strait. Originally the headquarters for the now-discontinued Quarantine blockade, the station was rechristened "Makaro-shima" and renovated at a cost in the tens of millions of yuan. Despite speculation that one or more of the psi orders backed Psi Nippon, the source of the funds for this purchase and renovation remains undisclosed.



>>> OPEN MEDIA ARCHIVE <<<

Psion Rights Rally Turns Violent

Newsflash © 2.3.2108, Genman Enterprises

Sixteen people were hospitalized today when a crowd outside Emperor Kazuhito's palace clashed with marchers expressing support for a delegation from one of the so-called "psionic orders."

Representatives of the FSA metacorporation Orgotek, another of those eight groups of psionically gifted humans, met with the emperor this week to discuss opening the Nihonjin market to the corporation's new biotechnological products. Starting at noon, a crowd of more than 2,000 protesters gathered to chant anti-psion slogans outside the Imperial Palace, where Orgotek Proxy Alex Cassel was dining with Emperor Kazuhito. Around 4:30 p.m., a group of approximately 30 people carrying signs supporting psions as heroes and urging their acceptance arrived and confronted the protest's leaders.

Police tried to keep the groups apart, but taunts and heckling escalated to violence. Ten members of the pro-psion group and five members of the crowd were treated at Tokyo Central Hospital and released (most of them for contusions, tear gas and taser injuries). One police officer was also hospitalized. Six people, including the pro-psion faction's leader, Seiichi Okada, were charged with disturbing the peace.

"These [psions] put their lives on the line to defend us from Aberrants," Okada said. "If we turn against them in this, our hour of greatest need, we throw down our weapons in the face of the enemy."

Okada said his group would continue to speak out on behalf of integrating psions into Nihonjin society.

Cassel sent a statement to the hospital, wishing injured parties on both sides well and offering to pay their medical expenses.

"We did not come to your home to cause strife and divisiveness," the statement read. "Only by joining together are we strong. We of Orgotek are here to stand with the people of Nippon for the benefit of us all."

Cassel made no comment on the progress of the negotiations. The trade visit ends Sunday.

>>> CLOSE ARCHIVE <<<



Makaro-shima Today

In its first four years at Makaro-shima, Psi Nippon's membership rose to more than 600 members, at least 35 of whom were confirmed psions (mostly former Legionnaires and Orgotek employees of Nihonjin extraction). At present, the group has over 20,000 members, including nearly 100 psions of every aptitude. For the most part, Psi Nippon's members live and work in the demilitarized Makaro-shima station, though the group maintains offices and latency testing stations in the Tokyo, Kobe, Kitakyushu and Sapporo arcologies.

Okada and his wife Mieko still run the nonprofit group. More than half of its members are involved in the group's original PR mission: lobbying members of the Nihonjin Assembly, making public speeches, writing letters to the editor and making psion holo productions. A subgroup, the Psion Aid Society, provides financial, legal and psychological assistance to psions in Nippon, whether they belong to Psi Nippon or not. While Psi Nippon's Gifted members may be involved in either of these missions, many promote the group's agenda simply by living among the public and doing good works on a local scale. The Nihonjin military has called on Psi Nippon in cases of Aberrant incursion, and even the police have grudgingly accepted their help in several cases.

The Nihonjin government made these overtures with the requirement that psion involvement be kept as quiet as possible. Psi Nippon agreed; even a behind-the-scenes relationship between Gifted and Nihonjin

authorities still improves the government's opinion of psions. Additionally, Psi Nippon isn't above leaking information to the public from time to time.

Pursuing all of these operations can get quite expensive. Psi Nippon gets the majority of its operating funds from membership dues and donations. A large number of companies with an interest in opening Nippon to bioware are among the largest donors to Psi Nippon (for example, BioSystems, TechnoDyne, Taggac Corporation and Biocraft Incorporated). Orgotek is notably absent from that list.

TRITON



>>> OPEN TRITON ARCHIVE <<<

Mysterious Benefactors

Excerpt: textfile; source unidentified
8.25.2108

I'm telling you, our guys have no idea who, if anyone, is behind PN, or what their agenda may be. And they must have a significant backer to purchase that sub-sea base, but we don't know who that might be yet, either. We're doing our best to find out, but it's such a new organization and such a small one that infiltration is risky at this point. I suggest we adopt a wait-and-see attitude. They seem to be following our line, and we don't have all that many operatives who can pass for Nihonjin, anyway. Say, has anyone considered the possibility that they may not have ulterior motives? Just kidding. See you for golf on Thursday.

>>> CLOSE ARCHIVE <<<

>>> <<<

EARTH

>>> EARTH TEMPLATE <<<

Pearl City

Welcome to Pearl City Interactive!

Choose Your Language: [English](#) Español Français Português

>>> World Cup Playoff tonight at Memorial Arena: Rio de Janeiro Raquetes vs. Caracas Conquistadores! [Touch here](#) to reserve your seats! <<<

Welcome to Pearl City!

Pearl City is a shining, star-shaped jewel and is the cultural and entertainment heart of the Caribbean. Its design, a floating surface structure linked by transit tube to a sea-floor base, was ground-breaking in its day, and it has still not been duplicated. This unique design joins the best of two worlds, offering guests and residents a choice of surface or indoor recreations, while allowing convenient transportation via passenger sub, air shuttle or hybrid spacecraft.

In this unique "oceanology" you can find live music from opera to bang, fine cuisine from steak to sashimi, and spectator sports from football to hoverjousting. Many other diversions await the curious and adventurous: parasailing over the city; swimming with dolphins; watching popular holodramas being produced; sampling Sudamerica's finest wines; playing fantastic holosim games; touring extensive natural history, oceanographic and art museums; riding the planet's longest maglev thrill coaster; attending a lecture from a poet in residence; wagering on

exciting games of chance and skill; viewing spectacular stage shows; shopping in more than 150 duty-free stores and much, much more! And when you're done, you can relax and be pampered in one of seven luxury hotels each one rated four or five stars in Martell's Guide.

Enter a new topic to search for:
[History](#)

>>> The Hiott-Astor. In a noisy, fast-paced world, a haven of quiet civilization. Rated five stars by the *Martell Traveler's Guide*. [Touch here](#) to reserve your slice of paradise. <<<

Pearl City's History

Pearl City opened in 2105 as one of the first undersea stations constructed by Bisai Corporation, a joint FSA-Nippon concern. The Venezuelan government developed Pearl City in a public partnership with Bisai, the Caribbean Development Coalition and Novos Sudamericanos Media. The process began in June 2103 with the formation of the Pearl City Development Corporation, a coalition of visionaries, developers and

financiers with the dream of a new cultural heart for the emerging South America.

When it was dedicated May 5, 2105, Pearl City opened with one luxury hotel, two universal-class concert/event venues, three NSM Studios holostages, an empty opera house and a population of 18,500. Within five years, Pearl City exploded into the vibrant, vital city it is today, with its own amusement park, six holosim facilities, seven top-rated hotels, expanded NSM holobroadcast facilities, 32 four-star or five-star restaurants and a permanent population of 320,000.

Enter a new topic to search for:
Entertainment

>>> LIVE Tonight at CENTRESTAGE: Zubaida! "Best New Bang Artist of 2119" *floatparty*. [Touch here](#) to reserve your tickets now! <<<

Entertainment in Pearl City

Pearl City is home to a variety of cultural and recreational offerings like no other in the Solar System! The world's hottest music acts come to play Pearl City's three arena-sized stages, and tomorrow's stars can be found today in any of a dozen smaller music venues. The Pearl City Opera Hall is home to the Caribbean Philharmonic, which is one of the most acclaimed orchestras in the world. Teatro Universal hosts the greatest entertainers and the latest in live theater. Novos Sudamericanos Media broadcasts the finest entertainment and news holos from its Pearl City studios. Four casinos offer exciting gaming and star-studded gala entertainment 24 hours a day. And Panamundo offers a cosmos of fun and entertainment for

the whole family, from the maglev coasters "Azteca," "The Jaguar" and "The Black Hole" the longest, fastest holocoaster in normal gravity to fully interactive holoventures like "Lunaventura" and "Psion/RapidStrike," based on the hit holo vid. Try Pearl City once and you'll be back because you can't do it all in one day!

Enter a new topic to search for:
NSM

>>> Recording in the NSM Studios today: "Diario de Corazon" "Ciudad Estrella" "La Vida Grande" "Luisa!" "Cesar y Cecilia" "Sí, Es Mi Abuela" "Esta Noche con Javier Jiménez" Want to join our live audience? [Touch here!](#) <<<

See your favorite holovids being produced live in Novos Sudamericanos Media Studios! NSM broadcasts via 44 cellcast and satellite outlets on Earth and Luna from its studios here in Pearl City. Join the studio audience of any of 38 top holoserials, dramas, comedies, chatvids and variety vids produced in NSM Studios every day. You can also tour the NSM News studios, act in your own special holo vid to take home, maybe even meet your favorite celebrities!

Enter a new topic to search for:
Economy

>>> Live the Dream! There are currently 748 openings of all kinds full and part-time, temporary and permanent, unskilled, skilled and professional listed at the PCJobBank. Employers, are you looking for gifted workers, or even Gifted ones? Search our employee registry! [Touch here.](#) <<<

Business and Commerce in Pearl City

The tourism/ entertainment/ hospitality industries are the largest employers in Pearl City, accounting for nearly half of the work force. Other significant sectors include retail (25%); financial services (8%); information and other professional services (7%); light industry (4%); and publishing (3%).

Enter a new topic to search for: **Psions**

>>> Do you have the ambition to shape the future? Do you have the ideas to make it happen? Do you have what it takes to join the most dynamic, fastest growing company in the Solar System? <<<

>>> One World, One Mind.
ORGOTEK. One Universe, One Tomorrow. <<<

>>> See us in Azul Sector, Level 22.
[Touch here.](#) <<<

The Gifted in Pearl City

Pearl City welcomes psions as our customers and guests, and it values them as our protectors and heroes. Several of the psionic orders have offices in Pearl City, including Orgotek, the Norça and the Æsculapian Order.

Enter a new topic to search for:
Proto psions

No further information is available on that topic.

Enter a new topic to search for:
Psychomorphs

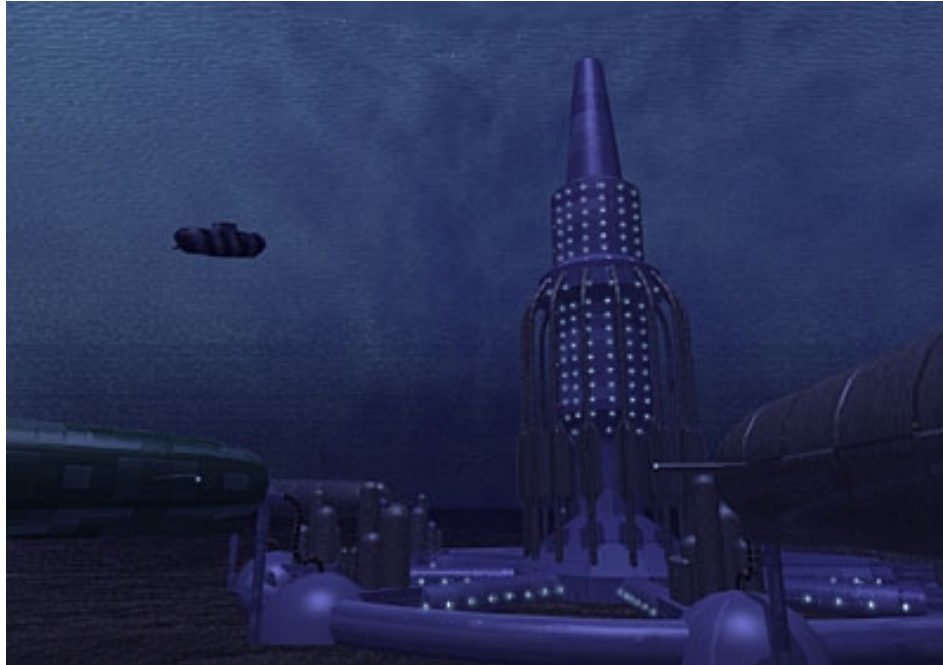
No further information is available on that topic.

Enter a new topic to search for:
Doyo

No further information is available on that topic.

>>> CONNECTION TERMINATED <<<
>>> <<<





TRITON



>>> TRITON TEMPLATE <<<

Atlantis Deep

Analysis: Jason Michalatos, Triton Division, 5.19.2121

Having spent only a few days investigating Atlantis Deep for possible Aberrant activity, I feel confident in laying this station's troubles at the feet of a completely human and, in hindsight, completely predictable conflict. I grew up under (and worked all my life to promote) the principles of Hope, Sacrifice and Unity. Given that, I have a hard time wrapping my brain around the fact that blatant and raw ethnic strife could still exist in the 22nd century. But I am convinced that sort of conflict is exactly what troubles this undersea mining station.

It's been more than 30 years since concerted UN and Æon Trinity negotiation efforts finally resulted in the settlement of the Greek and Turkish dispute over the divided island of Cyprus. Though there were celebrations and self-congratulations all around, the age-old rancor between the two cultures didn't go away apparently, it just moved underwater.

I can't imagine what possessed Ankara-based Consolidated Resource Mining to build an undersea mining facility in cooperation with the Greek government (less than 30 kilometers from the New Ottoman Empire's coast) and staff it with a mixed Greek and Turkish crew. The possibility of garnering wealth, I suppose,

but it still seems to be a deal with the devil considering the tension common between the two nations. The Greek government's share of the unprofitable station was sold to the public 15 years ago. Though CRMi still owns 51% of the station and most of its administration is Turkish, ethnic Greeks make up the majority of the workers and control the labor unions. With these two groups packed together in claustrophobic quarters, which allow little or no outlet for workers' energy and frustration and with shoreside furloughs few and far between Atlantis Deep is a tight little powder keg under the Aegean Sea. It's a good thing that most of the drilling and refinery equipment is automated, or precious little work would get done. Atlantis Deep is one of the older undersea facilities, built before the advent of advanced techniques, such as the compressed-carbon cores and gill rebreathers. Even so, the station is far from complete. It's under constant construction, reconstruction and deconstruction. It was the inexplicable disappearance and destruction of vital equipment that sent me here in the first place. Everyone in Atlantis Deep knows the actual cause well enough, but they inevitably become blind, deaf amnesiacs whenever questions are asked.

Power Balance

At first, I thought that sending an Aeon Trinity agent of Greek extraction was either a colossal tactical blunder or a bad cosmic joke. There was no way I could get to the station administration. It was just that heritage, though, that allowed me to blend in and get close to the real power brokers the union bosses. And I mean that in the most old-fashioned of senses. Alekandros Laskaris, president of the local chapter of the Metallio Ergatis Syllogikos (Mine Worker Collective), and Spiro Ontiveros, of the Enomenos Metallorychos (United Miners) union, are the real powers. Laskaris arrived here when the Metallio Ergatis Syllogikos organized the workers shortly

after Atlantis' privatization. Ontiveros' leadership during a strike six years ago gained him followers among the more moderate elements, and the Enomenos Metallorychos arose as a counterbalance to Laskaris' union. CRMi may set policies, guidelines and output targets, but whether or not they are followed depends entirely upon the goodwill of these two men.

Between the two unions, the MES is certainly more radical. Laskaris a dynamic, well-dressed, wiry man is not only physically intimidating but also powerfully charismatic. With words alone, he can whip a hundred men into frenzy, or likewise, diffuse a mob's anger. I have no doubt that he could take this station down if he wanted to. The fact is, Laskaris tells me that he is as much a creation of his union as he is its leader. As it stands, the MES has operated without a new contract for three years due to Laskaris' hard-line stance. His charisma and his followers' fervor are about all that hold the union together. Ontiveros is the more tractable of the two, but he is more loyal to his men. Pass the union leader in the corridor and you'd think he was just another deep core worker. A large and awkward-looking man with an unkempt shock of black hair, Ontiveros looks as though his body was molded out of clay by an untalented sculptor. He apparently lost an eye in a brawl while trying to settle the strike that placed him in power. The damage was too severe for a replacement implant, and the prosthesis he got instead always seems to be pointing off in the wrong direction. It makes talking to him a disconcerting experience. Still, Ontiveros is a well-reasoned man who walks a fine line between protecting his workers' interests and keeping their confidence. There is a third union, the official Collective Bargaining Unit. Meliha Seyh, the union's president, is charismatic enough, but as a Turk, she is widely and, I believe, unfairly perceived as a puppet of the administration. Her group has

attracted the support of only 15% of the workers (almost all non-Greeks).

Behind the Scenes

After only a few days in Atlantis Deep, I heard mention of some sort of clandestine action group. I did not have time to gain enough trust before my abrupt departure to be told what it's really all about. I didn't even find out if this cell has a formal name. I've only heard it referred to as "the crew" or "the group." From what I've gleaned from conversations in the mess hall, pump room and refinery, this group engages in sabotage, work slowdowns, intimidation and beatings in an attempt to push CRMi out and to keep disgruntled workers in line.

I am reluctant to ascribe the group's actions to either of the major Greek labor unions. While neither leader acknowledges "the crew's" existence directly, they each publicly and privately decry its actions as contemptible (Ontiveros' view) or counterproductive (Laskaris'). Even so, there is a significant amount of quiet sympathy for the group among Turks as well as Greeks.

I must point out that the station administration is far from blameless regarding the strife in Atlantis Deep. The company store soaks the workers by selling necessities like work boots and coveralls at exorbitant prices on credit. The cafeterias are the same. Workers often get so indebted to CRMi that it would take years of 16-hour workdays at subsistence-level living to get clear. As a result, there's quite a brisk trade in black-market necessities and luxuries, which the station security staff does its best to stop.

Speaking of the station's "security staff," which is all Turkish and three times the number than is necessary in a facility this

size. This thinly veiled goon squad relies on many of the same tactics "the group" uses to keep the workers in line. Seven workers were sent to the sickbay in three separate melees with security during my time there. One of these beatings, I learned later, was spurred by a union worker raucously insulting the food prepared by one of the cafeteria cooks. One of the beating victims had to be transferred to a mainland hospital for treatment since the sickbay lacked the proper equipment. It seems no system within Atlantis Deep is immune to sabotage and theft. I was just as unfortunate. Sixteen days after my arrival, an unknown attacker paralyzed me while I trailed a suspicious member of the pump room crew. I was subsequently beaten, waking up two days later in a small Æsculapian hospice in Athens. I did a news archive search and found that on the day of my attack, three people had been killed by an explosion in the pump room. The perpetrators could have used a taser on me and disabled the computerized safety systems by normal means. Still, we should not overlook the possibility that we have a rogue electrokinetic on our hands.

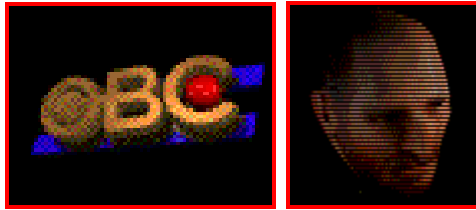
Considering the station's strategic position near the Dardanelles Strait and the recent reappearance of "Poseidon," the Aberrant who claimed responsibility for the destruction of Castor Deep, we must establish some sort of outpost on Atlantis Deep. But despite the necessity of our involvement, I fear that arming it against possible Aberrant activity will just put deadly weapons in the hands of two warring camps. Until and unless the heart of the terrorist cell on Atlantis Deep can be rooted out, and mutually beneficial contracts can be negotiated for the unions, I strongly recommend against pursuing Æon's current plans.

>>> <<<



>>> TRITON TEMPLATE <<<

Qingjing



Talk to the Animals

Qin/ Ministry Cetacean Intelligence Project Launched
Warren Shaw, *Retrospective* ©
2120 OBC

Humans have often wondered about the intelligence of dolphins. It has long been speculated that cetaceans from dolphins to the great whales possess a form of consciousness, even intelligence, different from our own. Though it took a very different intelligence (the extraterrestrial Qin) to confirm that. The enigmatic, telepathic aliens have been fascinated by dolphins and other sea life since coming to Earth, describing them as "shining intelligences." With the recent dedication of Qingjing, or "Blue City," a floating research station on the Tizard Bank in the South China Sea, China's Ministry of Psionic Affairs launched the first long-term study of cetacean sentience.

The apparent ease with which the Qin share thoughts with dolphins puzzles and frustrates human telepaths. Rare is the psion who can do so, and then only with great difficulty.

"We believe the Qin developed from an aquatic species, which is, no doubt, part

of the reason they evolved empathic, as well as verbal, communication," said Ministry official Feng Mi-Yuan. "The theory is that the similar developmental heritage of the dolphins and the Qin, evolving in the seas, led to the development of similar brain structures and thought patterns.

"Humans have a natural tendency to view space in terms of two dimensions. We divide our living space into stacks of parallel planes. Qin and dolphins, though, have an innate capacity to grasp three-dimensional space that we could never hope to fully duplicate. Three-dimensional mazes are a snap to them. This understanding is just one example of the neurological and developmental similarities that help the Qin communicate with dolphins more easily than we do."

Official Feng pointed out that they are not ready to confirm cetacean sentience at this point, however. "One of the goals of this study is to determine if dolphins do possess a true consciousness as we conceive of it, or whether what we've observed is a matter of for lack of a better word, 'perception' an effect of that rapport with the Qin."

TRITON



>>> OPEN TRITON ARCHIVE <<<

Qingjing Dedication

Transcript: Qin Ambassador Soubjur's statement at dedication of Qingjing, 12.24.2119, with telepathic notation [] included

You have cast a pebble into a sea from which waves will flow for many births [years]. The shining intelligences we have met have many songs [much enlightenment] for both our selves [peoples]. We think fantastic [are pleasantly astonished?] in encountering three such [beings? intelligences?] in one ocean [world]. Please be knowing of [we hope you will learn] much from these other ones, as also will we.

>>> CLOSE ARCHIVE <<<

Design and Function

Qingjing is small as floating cities go, having a working population of 5,500 and facilities for 3,000 more scientists, students and visitors. It is only 15 levels deep (10 of which are below the waterline). The broad, shallow design allows the station to be towed to a new location if

necessary. If a typhoon threatens the area, the upper stories are designed to seal watertight so that all of Qingjing can be submerged below the waves. In essence, Qingjing is a two-kilometer-wide submarine.

The station is designed specifically to accommodate not only humans and Qin researchers, but dolphins as well. The overall arrangement is circular below the waterline, but above water, the station divides into three broad wedge-shaped towers linked at their uppermost levels by two rings of transport tubes. The three organically shaped towers which, taken together, resemble a natural atoll shelter a shallow, kilometer-wide lagoon, which is open on three sides to the sea. Broad bioglass tubes run to tanks throughout the station for dolphins that wish to explore the interior. Feng assured me that these tanks are not to be used to confine dolphins or other sea life.

The tube system, the lagoon and its surroundings were designed to Qin specifications to be non-threatening to dolphins that choose to participate in the program which implies the study is to be as open and organic as the station itself.

The dolphins will be free to come and go as they please, according to Feng. "We view the dolphins just as we do the Qin, as equal partners in the study, not as experimental subjects," he said.



>>> OPEN MEDIA ARCHIVE <<<

Speaking with Dolphins

Transcript: telepathic "conversation" between Ministry agent Mei-Xing Ju and dolphin subject "Qiang." Whenever possible, visual concepts and emotions are translated into the closest verbal approximations. More abstract references are noted in brackets.

Mei-Xing Ju: What is your name?

Qiang: Name?

Ju: Yes. Your name.

Qiang: What is a name?

Ju: Aha... A name is a word that is yours. A word that means you and tells others who you are.

Qiang: I am dolphin.

Ju: And I am a human. But there are many humans. I am Mei-Xing Ju. That is my name.

Qiang: Mei-Xing Ju. Silly!

Ju: Why silly?

Qiang: "Name" not needed to know who I am.

Ju: Humans use names. It would help me if I had a word for you. Would you like to pick a word? Something that describes you?

Qiang: I am strong.

Ju: I will call you "Qiang." It means "strong." Do you like that?

Qiang: Qiang. Good.

Ju: How many dolphins are in your pod?

Qiang: As the small silver fish. [Several dozen? Dolphins have an abstract idea of numbers.]

Ju: What do the dolphins in the pod do?

Qiang: All have things to do. Fish turn [things change]. Herd fish for pod to eat. Watch for sharks, fight if they come. Travel, look for hungry waters [hunting grounds?], talk to other pods. Guide young.

Ju: What do you do?

Qiang: I sing.

Ju: Why do you sing?

Qiang: Must sing or songs are lost.

Ju: So these songs are old? Did you learn them from others?

Qiang: Some from others. Some I make.

Ju: Why do you make songs?

Qiang: Must make, or songs are lost.

Ju: How could you lose a song that has not been made?

Qiang: Songs made always. Songs made by life. Qiang sings to keep songs of pod alive.

Ju: You sing about the pod? So the pod won't forget what has happened before?

Qiang: Aha! Mei-Xing Ju smart! [laughter?]

Ju: [laughter] Humans call that "history." Would you sing a song for me?

Qiang: You would not hear.

Ju: I hear you now.

Qiang: Not hear. Not dolphin.

Ju: Is it forbidden for me to hear because I'm not a dolphin?

Qiang: No. Not *hear* [hear]. You would not *hear* [understand].

Ju: Humans have songs, too.

Qiang: [sigh?] I will sing when pod saved human from sharks. Maybe that you will hear [understand].

>>> "Song" not transcribeable; content exceedingly abstract and emotional. <<<

Ju: Excuse me. I have to go now. Can I talk to you later?

Qiang: I come back, you bring human song about dolphin.

>>> Mental contact broken <<<

>>> CLOSE ARCHIVE <<<

TRITON



>>> OPEN TRITON ARCHIVE <<<

Subject: Minister Bue

From: Operative Rasuna Simbolon, Triton Division

Encryption: DSE

Transmission type: textfile [holofile attachment enclosed]

Date: 21:28:50 12.24.2120

Today I attended the dedication ceremony for the Qingjing floating research center, incognito as a member of the media.

I did not appear to be the only person at the ceremony interested in Proxy Rebecca Bue Li. Due to last week's newsbrief (ref. "Is Bue Sick?," GN, 12.18.2119), half the media representatives in the hemisphere were there in person or avatar, even Warren Shaw.

Due to the crush of people, I was unable to get close enough to Minister Bue to diagnose her with kirlian eye. I regret that failure, but I endeavored to complete my mission by more casual means of observation.

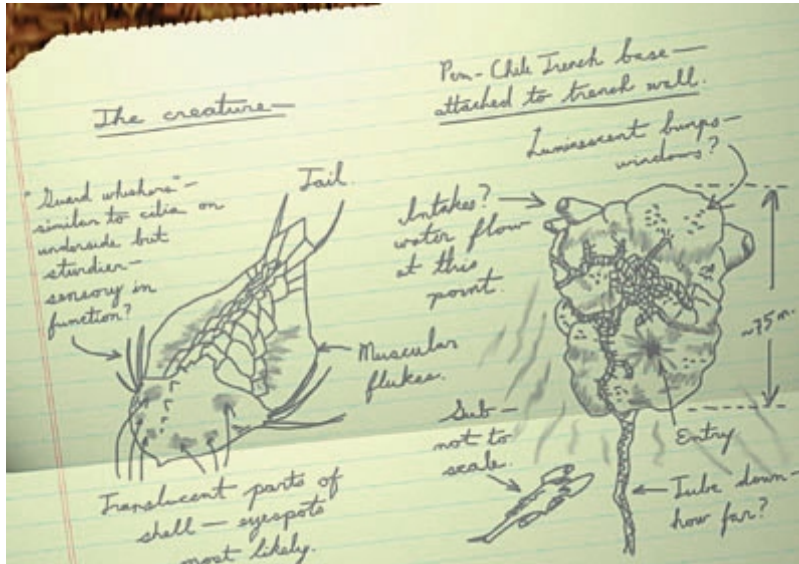
Minister Bue seemed, to all appearances, to be as young and healthy as the first day she appeared to the public at the United Nations if not younger and healthier. The Minister Bue I observed bustling about between the Qin ambassador, scientists, Ministry officials and Chinese dignitaries was a vibrant, energetic woman in her early 40s. Unlike the "gray as stone" countenance of that GN holobrief, there was a healthy flush to her cheek and a twinkle in her eye. The holo I recorded of her is attached to this message.

My conclusion is that Minister Bue has recently undergone vitakinetic treatment for whatever ailment may have troubled her last week.

>>> CLOSE ARCHIVE <<<

>>> <<<





>>> PROTEUS TEMPLATE <<<

Peru-Chile Trench

Report: 10.31.2120
Liliana Bolivar, Triton Division
Associate

Local news bulletins reported that a deep-sea trawler pulled up something interesting about 60 kilometers off the coast from Lima two days ago. Luckily, I heard rumors of the "Aberrant" fairly quickly, and I located the ship shortly after it came into port. When I told the captain I was from the university, they were more than happy to turn their catch over to me in return for a suitable reward, that is. (My requisition form is attached.)

It's a good thing I was able to secure the subject so quickly. In under an hour, I learned that the Norça were crawling all over town. Would you believe I even got

a message from BioSystems' Dan Keos? His inquiries were guileless enough, but something tickling at the back of my neck told me that there was something bigger about this, so I played dumb. A call to Paulo at the local Aeon chapter house got him to muddy the trail I left having the creature shipped back to the university. Paulo said he'd also get the story squelched from most of the megameds. Any follow-up on the initial story will identify the creature as a large coelacanth misidentified as an Aberrant. After dealing with all that propaganda, I requisitioned an isolab to study the thing. There really wasn't much more than a pile of shell bits and biopaste. I wonder if the crew decided to hack it up and burn it with a welders' torch to make sure it was dead. I must say that I've never seen anything like this. The closest thing I've

even heard of would be an unsuited Qin, though there are enough apparent physical differences to convince me that that's not the case, either. Initial examination revealed a creature approximately 2.5 meters in length, flat, whitish-gray shading to translucent in places, covered with overlapping chitinous plates on what I presumed was the "top," lined with two six-centimeter-long cilia on the underside, and with muscular flukes on either side. It was a meter wide and approximately half a meter thick at most, but there seemed to be some tissue damage and swelling, so it was probably no more than 30 centimeters thick originally. It had no apparent eyes or mouth, though the creature's armored "head" had several large translucent spots that I took for light-sensing organs. A concentration of circulatory vessels in the cilia suggests that they may be the creature's primary means of oxygen/carbon dioxide transpiration and nutrient absorption. Dissection revealed little about the creature's internal organs. Most of the

soft tissues had burst and boiled, reinforcing the impression that this was a deep-dwelling creature adapted for life in the colossal pressures and cold of the dark ocean trenches. Microscopic examination of seven tissue samples taken from different parts of the body confirmed my initial impressions of system-wide damage almost every cell in the body had burst from internal pressure.

There seems to be an error in my GenID kit, so I was unable to get an accurate genetic scan. I'll forward that information once I get the kit repaired. I feel confident in saying, however, that this is not an Aberrant. I didn't sense any taint signature, and it didn't look like it had been dead long enough for such residue to fade. I hope it isn't an unfortunate Norça. If it is, we'll have to explain why we kept it secret from them.

I think while the GenID's in the shop, I'll charter a sub to explore the area where this thing was caught.

TRITON

>>> OPEN TRITON ARCHIVE <<<

Transmission Intercept

Target: Unidentified

Date: 19:31:02 11.1.2120

Note: Transmission contents decrypted and translated from Portuguese.

Regretfully, we have lost one of our test subjects. The [209 bytes could not be decrypted] interfaced in some manner with [the airlock] biomechanism and, as a moth is drawn to a flame, surfaced before we could [intercept it. Stories] of fisherman capturing an Aberrant are starting to surface, indicating [38 bytes could not be decrypted] was recovered.

Apparently, it was already [dead] from the temperature and low pressure at this [point.] [291 bytes could not be decrypted] are being taken to recover [the subject] and suppress speculation on the topic. I suggest that no further subjects be sent to Earth until we are able to guarantee the security [312 bytes could not be decrypted]

Transmission Ends

>>> CLOSE ARCHIVE <<<

Report: 11.2.2120

Liliana Bolivar, Triton Division Associate

I've been in space before, but it doesn't hold a candle to the deep oceans. You should see some of the weird stuff that lives down there. Bug-eyed things that provide their own light and have teeth a third the length of their bodies. Meter-long worms that inhabit volcanic vents and live off the minerals and heat emitted. Like I said, strange stuff. I didn't see any sign of anything like our "Aberrant," though. This submarine isn't equipped to run really deep. There aren't too many subs that could make it to the bottom of the Peru-Chile Trench. Spaceships are easy to build in comparison: They have to withstand only one atmosphere of internal pressure. External pressure under the sea can build to several hundred times that, depending on how deep you go. The university oceanography department is rather well-equipped. I understand it has a bathyscaph that should be able to get considerably deeper.

Report: 11.3.2120

Liliana Bolivar, Triton Division Associate

Good news and bad. I have found what I believe to be the source of the creature. After several hours' fruitless scouting in the Peru-Chile Trench, I decided to turn off the sub's lights and sonar and navigate by telesthesia alone. Approximately 15 minutes later, I was able to discern a creature or vehicle of some unknown type, approximately five meters long by two meters thick, diving too deep for any known living creature. Since it exhibited a psi signature, I believe it was a biotech submarine.

I dove as deep as the bathyscaph could safely go, and I tracked it at the edge of my clairsentience range to avoid being detected. It stopped just shy of what appeared to be an organically designed undersea habitat. (It didn't look even vaguely Qin-like, though, so I don't believe it's their doing. Perhaps BioSystems' call wasn't as innocent as it first

appeared?) Then, the biosub disgorged two human-sized beings who swam to an entrance in the station, which opened like the iris of an eye and closed seamlessly behind them. I did not discern whether or not they were wearing any life-support equipment. The only things I know of that can live at that depth are Aberrants and Norça in full-adaptation mode. Since I did not sense any taint in the area, you can guess what that means.

Now, the bad news. When I returned to the university that evening, the creature's body was gone from the isolab along with all of my research recordings and my partner, Raoul Elcano. I know Raoul intimately, and he would never do this to me, so I can only assume he has become the victim of foul play. I'm requesting backup on this one Proteus, biokinetic if we can get it. Whatever I've stumbled onto didn't want to be found, and it has friends.

I've attached a sketch of the biosub and of the station I saw. Forgive me for the roughness Raoul was the artist of the two of us.

I'm shaking right now. I want to nail whoever did this.

Report: 11.3.2120

Liliana Bolivar, Triton Division Associate

It's late, but this couldn't wait. I didn't lose all my data after all.

The GenID came back, along with the recordings I made of the creature. The data says there's no error. That thing was not an Aberrant or anything else from Earth it can only be alien! The data doesn't jive with anything in our database, including Chromatics or Qin. That thing's genetic information runs on three base pairs!

Paulo said he's sending a crew in to assist me, but it'll take another day. I can't sit around that long. I take the bathyscaph back out again tomorrow. I want to get close enough to scan that station with sensory projection. I should be back by the time Paulo's team gets here.





>>> OPEN MEDIA ARCHIVE <<<

Scientist Lost in Deep-Sea Accident

Update © Nuovo Sudamericanos Media 11.6.2120

A researcher associated with the Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas in Lima, Peru died two days ago when her bathyscaph dove too deep into the Peru-Chile Trench and was crushed under the phenomenal pressures.

Liliana Bolivar de Diaz, described by Peruana de Ciencias staff as an "independent researcher attached to the university," was apparently killed when her minisub buckled at a depth exceeding six kilometers. Pressures at that level exceed 1,000 kilograms per square centimeter.

The sub was recovered today by a Peruvian Navy vessel on routine patrol.

Preliminary investigations indicate that the sub's buoyancy controls may have malfunctioned, causing the sub to descend to the crushing depths before the automatic emergency surfacing mechanisms could be triggered. University staff who spoke on customary condition of anonymity said that the researcher was exploring the area where fishermen last week reportedly caught a coelacanth (a bony-plated fish that has changed little since prehistoric days and was thought long extinct).

Memorial services will be held 11 A.M. Saturday at the university chapel.

>>> CLOSE ARCHIVE <<<

>>> <<<





Other Ocearcologies

Joyau de la Mer

This gilt-edged, spun-candy confection floating in the Mediterranean Sea off Marseilles is the result of a French capitalists' mad dream to re-create Paris as a floating cultural, entertainment and gambling center. It was an ambitious and, some say, inspired idea, but perhaps some dreams are too big to put a price tag on.

As it was, Augustin Mignard ran out of money and supporters before the interior could be finished. He died shortly afterward, and the shell of the half-completed ocearcology has been tied up in probate ever since.

As it stands now, the "Jewel of the Sea" is hardly another City of Lights. The flat top is almost devoid of structures, apart from the sad replica Eiffel Tower jutting from the center. The water- and food-production facilities are far from functional, though the sea-floor geothermal tap to which the station is tethered provides enough free power to keep the lights running. Only these lights, and the fact that the tether keeps it from drifting, prevent international authorities from ordering Joyau de la Mer to be scrapped as a navigational hazard. The city is far from abandoned, though, as an estimated 16,000 French expatriates and refugees including many of the original construction workers on the project have made the place their home. Some of the upper levels of the station are fairly pleasant, having been outfitted and decorated by the squatters, but the lower levels are home to a

bleakness, criminality and despair that rivals the Pit on Luna.

Though the majority of the squatters maintain French citizenship, they recognize no authority apart from an informal council selected by popular acclaim. This group mediates disputes between individuals and groups on the station and metes out punishment for serious transgressions, but apart from that, it wields no power. Joyau de la Mer is probably the most successful large-scale experiment in anarchy in history.

Neptunia

In the early 21st century, a flamboyant Texan billionaire who fancied himself as a prince set about building a kingdom. "Prince Leopold's" vision, a collection of nearly 400 300-by-300 meter platforms built on stilts off the Yucatan Coast, was finally completed in 2020.

New Atlantis conceived as the ultimate confidential, tax-free offshore bank attracted nearly 10,000 citizens from among the world's Utopianists, libertarianists, eco-preservationists and free-marketeers. Despite Leopold's Utopian vision, the enclave was soon controlled by the criminal cartels that were its natural customers. Leopold himself died in 2029, and the criminal colony which had become a haven for embezzlers, fraud artists, drug kingpins and sea pirates was mercifully wiped off the map by Hurricane Edna in 2033. Forty years later, another Texan, shipping magnate David Falconer, became curious about the ownership of the empty

platforms on the Misteriosa Bank. After years of arduous research through the shattered remains of the OpNet, Falconer uncovered the charter of the Sovereign Principality of New Atlantis still extant. Uneasy about the direction in which the Federated States government was moving, Falconer approached a small number of like-minded investors and drew up some contracts. For a few million yuan in legal fees, millions more in well-placed bribes and nearly a billion in payments to insurance companies, Falconer became Prince David inheritor and sovereign of the constitutional monarchy of New Atlantis. Sturdy platforms were refurbished, unsalvageable ones were dismantled, and the re-christened nation of Neptunia reopened for business in 2077. Today, the booming financial center boasts a population of more than 185,000, a gross national product of 13.3 trillion yuan, and one of the highest per-capita incomes in the hemisphere. The current prince, David II, has his father's business savvy, but he has reversed the policy of not harboring Troomer refugees from the FSA. Bribes or no bribes, the FSM only looks the other way for so long.

New Tampa

With the Aberrant Poseidon's bizarre flooding of Florida in 2058, the Federated States Military found itself with a new, undefended coastline and without a headquarters for its Southern Command, which was previously situated in Miami. When it became clear that much of the area surrounding the former peninsula was too shallow to be patrolled by subcarrier, and that the inland military installations were not up to the task, the military-corporate complex moved into action.

The result, 22 years later and 7.7 billion dollars over budget, was New Tampa. It was an aerosub base built on stilts on an undersea rise approximately 20 kilometers northeast of the former city of Tampa. Its 130,000 residents are mostly members or civilian employees of the


FSM, though a significant number of private entrepreneurs have secured contracts to supply luxury, entertainment and other goods to the personnel. Several of the FSM's corporate partners (notably, L-K Arms) have opened top-secret R&D and light manufacturing facilities in New Tampa in the past few years. You can't beat 52,000 armed FSM troops when it comes to corporate security.

But in the shadow of the city's massive platforms, tethered to their concrete and orbital steel legs, another city has grown. "Undertown," a lashed-together collection of derelict seacraft, is home to several thousand squatters, refugees and hardscrabble entrepreneurs many of them descendants of survivors of the disaster that destroyed the state. The FSA doesn't acknowledge Undertown's existence officially. Privately, though, General Jocasta Reed has allowed Undertown's inhabitants to take refuge in the station during the more severe storms that lash the area. And he has even looked the other way when surplus resources "fall through the cracks" to help them rebuild afterward.

Ross Station

Ross Station, an oceanic climate research station built in the mid-2050s on the Ross Ice Shelf in Antarctica, was the scene of one of the most severe cases of privation-induced psychosis in history. The 57 scientists stationed there had no personal contact with the outside world for up to 10 months due to the severe weather. Variety in food and entertainment were likewise at a premium.

Due to the lengthy isolation, monotonous routine, and sleep disruption resulting from the lack of day/night cycles, personality disorders cropped up at an alarming rate. Some of the scientists became aggressive and argumentative, making unreasonable demands on themselves and others until they collapsed from exhaustion. Others



withdrew from their companions, staring at the walls in nearly catatonic states, sometimes forgetting to eat. Hallucinations, delusions and obsessive-compulsive disorders were not unusual. The group developed a nearly impenetrable *patois* based on dialogue from the few holovids they repeatedly watched. Six men died in the years from 2060-2065 from simply wandering out onto the ice due to a compulsion to "get outside."

The station was shut down from 2065 until 2070, when new social theories and practices stemming from psychological study of the Ross scientists were implemented. The lessons learned at Ross Station, including the importance of large and diverse populations, were invaluable in avoiding similar psychological problems in isolated orbital and undersea stations.

Umoja City

The phenomenal growth of the Dar Es Salaam/ Zanzibar area in Tanzania following Africa's consolidation in the 2070s soon outstripped the capacity of the Zanzibar spaceport. With land costs skyrocketing anywhere within 100 kilometers of the new capital, and with the choice of a landside location

politically volatile, the answer seemed obvious: Turn to the seas.

Umoja ("Unity") City was built in the Indian Ocean near the Aldabra Islands to handle the government's orbital traffic, thus freeing up launch windows at established landside spaceports for commercial use. Cargoes were transferred to the new launch pad by sub-orbital shuttle or via the longest undersea maglev tram line ever built. The massive, privately owned Jomo Kenyatta Spaceport provided a much more economical alternative launch point, though, and Umoja never attracted the commercial traffic necessary for its survival. The arrival of the Upeo wa Macho in 2106 and a cargo sub accident that severed Umoja City's maglev lines the same year were the last two nails in the coffin. The grand experiment was over.

In January 2120, though, the mothballed floating city was purchased for an undisclosed price by starship manufacturer Nkumbe Industries. Whether Nkumbe plans to move its landside shipyards there, to have it towed to a more viable location, or to simply scrap it for materials, remains to be seen.

>>> END FIELD REPORT <<<
>>> <<<



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