

T.A.G.

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The Art Gallery



Why we fight...



By C&C Craver - TAG Reporters

Why do we fight? What is the purpose of the endless bloodshed of our race? For power? For honor? To push our beliefs onto someone else? Or is it the thrill of the battle itself? There are just as many reasons, as there are people on the planet.

We take it to the streets to bring you the views and opinions of the people in the trenches. From both sides of the conflict, a similar story... Why we fight.

TAG asked Jenae "Tussa" Godfray, President of the clan Assembly why she continues the fight here on Rubi-Ka. "Why I fight? I fight for humanity, to prevent Omni-Tek from playing with people's lives. I fight for the clans, for our children and for the possibility to end this war at some point in the future." She went on to state, "the corporation, who believes they own us all, do not understand any other language than the hardest language of them all, and so we must use it in the fight against them."

Ms. Godfray was then asked, "Do you think that the so called need for battle, or the rebellion, is part of human nature?" She responded, "Looking at history, I would say so. I do believe it's possible to keep peace. I come from a homeworld where there hasn't been any civil rebellion in the last five hundred years. So it *is* possible. But in the bottom of our souls, I think we humans have a basic need for freedom. And freedom comes from many things, but never from oppression."

Benjamin "Fixerben" Bacarella, a unit leader with the clan Exile, was asked why he continues to fight. He stated, "Hmm, a simple...yet profound question. I can't

say there is any one reason I fight against Omni-Tek, but if I had to pick one over the rest it would be because of my personal morals. I feel that Omni-Tek, when you look at it as a collective company has done some rather inhumane things here on Rubi-Ka. A prime example would be when the atrox workers died in the mines, and OT made a public press release saying "They are only Atrox..."

He went on to say, "Atrox, lab created or not, are still living beings. They deserve the same respect as a free born being. I guess you could say that I believe life itself is sacred."

When asked if the only reason he continued to fight Omni-Tek was for personal beliefs, Fixerbean replied, "Is there any other reason the Clans fight? The whole movement was started because the miners "believed" they deserved more than a life of servitude. Any conflict in history boils down to peoples beliefs."

Human history is full of endless bloodshed, over land, money and power. Rubi-Ka is no exception. The question was asked, "Do you think that humans are evil by nature?"

"Humans being evil by nature," Fixerben replied, "I believe that is all a matter of your personal beliefs too. Omni-Tek employees don't consider themselves to be evil. Once again, it's simply a matter of opinion as to what is good, and what is bad. Each side has their arguments, and the ability to choose what you believe to be right is what being in the Clans is all about. The freedom to have your opinion, and your own beliefs."

Elisa "Yyollanda" Alsaqri, a squad commander of Society of Salvation, is a loyal Omni-Tek employee. When she was asked why she fought, she replied "My family was butchered so I fight for a greater future, and even though some clansmen say the same, I didn't personally kill any clans, so why did they kill my family?"

Next I asked Ms Alsaqri if she thought that humans were evil by nature. She replied, "People want to profit instead of sharing together. The essence of humanity is driven by greed and personal gain, which is very sad to be honest. Someone will always have something that someone else wants and some will fight, steal or even kill for it. We are not evil by nature. Our society creates evil."

People are different; each and every one of us has a different view on what we consider freedom. Some believe in corporate control, others in diplomacy, while some support open warfare for what we believe in.

Are humans evil? Who can say? That is something that each of us must search deep within to find an answer to. Humans are rebellious, and have a need to be free. If that path to our beliefs, or our freedom, is paved in blood, then so be it.

It is human nature.



By Zalen Smith, TAG Historian.

Brutal, barbaric animals. That is what most people think when they first time meet or hear about the rhinomen race. But there is more to them than that. In this article I will try to shed some light one of the more misunderstood creatures on our planet.

As it is widely known, the rhinomen were created by Omni-Med under the directions of Rita Prestin many years ago, as a medical experiment.

By combining human DNA with that of a rhino, an animal which became extinct millennia ago, Omni-Med created one of the most strange looking creatures of all times. According to my sources, the exact date for the creation, and the goals for the rhinomen, has been withheld from the public due to security and copyright reasons.

Whatever their plans were for the rhinomen, it was foiled when environmentalists from the Eco Warriors attacked the research station and freed the few specimens that had been created. The Eco Warriors claimed that this animal had a right to be free from the grasp of Omni-Med. Strangely enough; this rescue was, by many, the only real action ever taken by the Eco Warriors.

When the creatures had escaped Omni-Med claimed, and still does, that this animal was never intended to be let loose on the planet. Instead, they claimed they should

be hunted down, as they are a danger to both humans and the other wild life. Since their escape, the rhinomen have been prime targets for hunters, setting out from Newland city and MeetMeDere, believing in the Omni-Med propaganda.

The facts are that the rhinomen are peaceful most of the time. They do not eat little leets, but grass and other vegetation. While some of them do attack humans on sight, then they are mostly peaceful unless provoked, which is fairly easy to do if one does not understand their way of life.

The rhinomen live in a tribal culture in various locations throughout the planet, mainly in the Newland desert and Upper Stert East Bank, on the borders to clan controlled lands. Their housing may seem primitive compared to ours, but one must remember that the rhinomen are fairly new to the world, and in my eyes, they are quite advanced if one looks at the age of their civilization.

The rumors about rhinomen being dumb are also foolish. There are many of them who are able to speak with humans, mainly Eco Warrior representatives, as most other humans only wish to bring pain to the rhinomen. The rhinomen are very fast learners and the fact that they attack intruders can only be blamed on us humans, as we do the same. You protect that which you hold dear, be it your wife, your friends or lands. The rhinomen do the same and their most ignored trait is their devoted loyalty to each other and those who are friendly towards the rhinomen.

During the last war, at the battle of Stret, the rhinomen aided the clans in the battle as Omni-Tek forces approached their camp. While most of their warriors were gunned down, this showed the major clans that the rhinomen were worth more than anyone had thought.

This might also be why no major clan has ever sent soldiers to attack the rhinomen camps and wipe them out. Like Omni-Med have tried.

Of course, this pledge of mutual understanding does not appear to be within the grasp of the new colonists, who mindlessly open fire at everything within range.

One of the most famous rhinomen is Professor Van Horn, who, besides being the official liaison between the rhinomen and the humans, is highly intelligent. He and Professor Jones, another rhinoman, invented a vest which taps from the loose notum in the air to the benefit of the skills of the one to wears it.

Many people seek this vest of course, and this had led to countless attacks on these two rhinomen who are already sought after, due to the fact that they are a rare type of rhinomen; albino specimens.

The continued targeting of rhinomen has caused the spokesman of the Eco warriors, Red, to issue the following comments;

“We fight for the rights of the animals and the environment above anything else. These poachers, because that’s all they are, kill these innocent beings or deprive them of their freedom.

You can’t just create a whole new species and then decide they’re a nuisance and encourage people to hunt them. It’s dispiccable, and Eco Warriors will do whatever needs to be done in order to stop this madness!”

So next time you meet a rhinoman, consider them as an individual, just like you and me, and respect their boundaries. Don’t hunt them as animals but treat them with some respect. It *is*, after all, possible to co-exist in peace.



By C&C Craver – TAG Reporters

King Toog, King Loony, Trader King – the nicknames for the recently elected mayor of Newland City are many. But little is actually known about this man. In this article I will try and answer some of the questions that I am sure most people are wondering.

Cathrin Craver: It is no secret that you won a landslide election in Newland. What have the reactions been on the election, from clan side and Omni-Tek?

Zephrem Toog King: Quite the same, each of the factions showed pretty much every sort of possible reaction, depending on the actual clan or department they are in. Some gratulated us and are looking forward to a peaceful future. Some just ignored us. Some showed concerns about our true intentions; they seem not to understand that peace is indeed a solution.

CC: It is known that you are a man who is willing to reopen trade agreements with the clans, but what do you expect the reactions from the *clan leaders* might be in the end?

ZTK: That depends on what leaders you mean. I believe Mr. Jacobi will be happy about new business opportunities. Mr. Silverstone will do what he always does and just shoot at random people, as well as all the shades between those extremes.

CC: *What is your stance on the Nanomage Liberation Front? Are they terrorists or freedom fighters?*

ZTK: The NLF, while I still like to think that their reasons are just, use means that are absolutely wrong. Violence can never be a solution.

CC: *If either a major clan or Omni-Tek factions were telling you what to do, how would you react?*

ZTK: Depends what they say. If they were just repeating what the Newland Council decided to do anyway, I would just shrug and do it. If it was something we don't intend to do in the first place... Well, I would only shrug.

CC: *There have been rumors that the Newland treasury is low on funds. If that is true, how do you plan to remedy the situation?*

ZTK: The treasury is most able to keep all current activities running as they are. Of course one can always need some more credits. The council is currently looking into various means to increase the cash flow within Newland.

CC: *What is your favorite food? Movie? Music? And what is your idea of a "good time"?*

ZTK: Hmm... That is actually not so easy to answer. I like all sorts of good food. I think the green salmon from Koatui-Bauva is one of my most favorites, preferably with a pollen-fruit-sauce, the blue and yellow one. I don't really watch many movies, so I don't have any specific movie I like the most.

Music is a whole other topic, I really like the classical electronic tunes from RifeK, perfect to relax and it always cheers me up. The personification of a good time can only be a great dinner with some old friends.

CC: *The continued attack on Newland city guards, who in the past have received help from former CEO Philip Ross, have clearly taken its toll and the citizens whisper in the shadows. How will you change this situation around?*

ZTK: We are currently discussing various actions to find out which will be the most efficient to ensure safety for everyone within Newland.

CC: *Where do you stand in the Clan-Omni-Tek rivalry? And where do the neutrals in general stand?*

ZTK: I wonder how often we have to repeat this, we are neutral. We just stay out of that conflict.

CC: *As you may be aware, people on both sides have begun to accuse the others for various attacks and minor skirmishes about the notum mining towers. These skirmishes have taken quite a few neutral towers out. What is your response to this?*

ZTK: If they like to beat the crap out of each other over some small mining sites, well all we can do is to point out that it is not worth it and just sell them medical

supplies. While we don't intend to attack any mining sites our selves, I can assure all the notum hungry thugs that we are no easy prey. What is ours will stay ours until we sell it.

CC: What are your plans for the future? In which direction will the neutrals move now?

ZTK: We will follow the path of peace, trade and wealth.

And there you have it, the words from the new man in power of Newland.