

TRINITYTM FIELD REPORTTM PSI LAWS

UNION

NOETIC
LEGAL
GUARD

A Trinity UniverseTM Update

SACRIFICE

HOPE

UNITY



GREETINGS, COLLEAGUE —

It is easy to forget that the Æon Trinity has obligations other than defending humanity from Aberrants and other dangers. We devote so much of our efforts to challenges beyond our Solar System that we risk forgetting the needs of our home.

I hope that this field report serves a purpose beyond the obvious. It is primarily a guide to the legal status of psions and psionic powers in the various courts of settled space. We have prepared it in the hope that it will aid Æon Trinity operatives — both psions and neutrals — as you wend your way through the sometimes-confusing maze of legal jurisdictions.

Yes, neutrals should take care to read this report. Psi abilities are not a prerequisite for knowing the information provided here. Æon encourages neutral and psion operatives to work together whenever possible. The canny agent understands his teammates' physical and mental capabilities, and the limitations society imposes upon those talents. It's also wise to know the legal recourses available to you if a psion abuses her powers. Regrettably, psions and the Æon Trinity do not always work hand in hand.

While we do not have the space to provide you with a detailed account of every legal issue that may arise in the course of your duties, we can present guidelines useful in almost any situation. Most countries hold certain basic moral principles in common, particularly in regard to human rights. A solid grasp of these will serve you, no matter where you are.

Furthermore, I believe that by understanding the decisions that inform and shape psionic laws, we may avoid the resentment that arises from seemingly unjust restrictions. Psions sometimes forget what it was like to be neutral. I hope the case studies included in this document provide useful insights into the legal process.

Finally, I hope this document reminds us of our diversity, humanity's birthright. The Æon Trinity is dedicated to preserving *human* culture, not the culture of any one country. We must respect the unique values of all people, even as we aid our fellow human beings in growing toward greater understanding and acceptance.

That is the ultimate purpose of this field report. This document should remind you not only of Æon Trinity's progress in encouraging the development of human society, but to also indicate the changes we have yet to make. Our role on Earth as stewards of destiny is as important as our role as protectors of humanity. We must never forget.

Ad Astra

Neville Archer

Director, Neptune Division

Æon Trinity

Hope • Sacrifice • Unity

GENERAL GUIDELINES

— **Zachary Wilder, Chief Legal Counsel, Æon Trinity**

Regrettably, I do not have the space to discuss all the legal systems of Earth in the detail they deserve. I can, however, provide you a brief overview of legal matters related to noetic powers, and some general guidelines for operatives in the field. I refer those agents who wish to delve further into these matters to the Triton Division archives.

This brings us, in fact, to a paramount principle: Do your research. Each and every country has different laws regarding the use of noetic powers. Many psions assume that they can intuit local standards. They believe that they can follow their personal moral guidelines as if they were law. That is wrong.

Consider Israel. To the casual observer, it is heir to the Western legal tradition exemplified most strongly by the former United States of America. It would be all too easy for, say, a European to fail to observe the religious tenets that influence Israeli courts. He might, thus, unwittingly violate laws that derive from different traditions, which the Israelis consider just as worthy as Western regulations.

Wariness follows research. To be blunt: The average neutral, who may have never encountered a psion, generally mistrusts that which he doesn't understand. Æon is dedicated to educating, to lifting the veil of ignorance, but it still has a long way to go. Noetic powers are frightening and mysterious to much of mankind. This paranoia often engenders overly restrictive laws against psi.

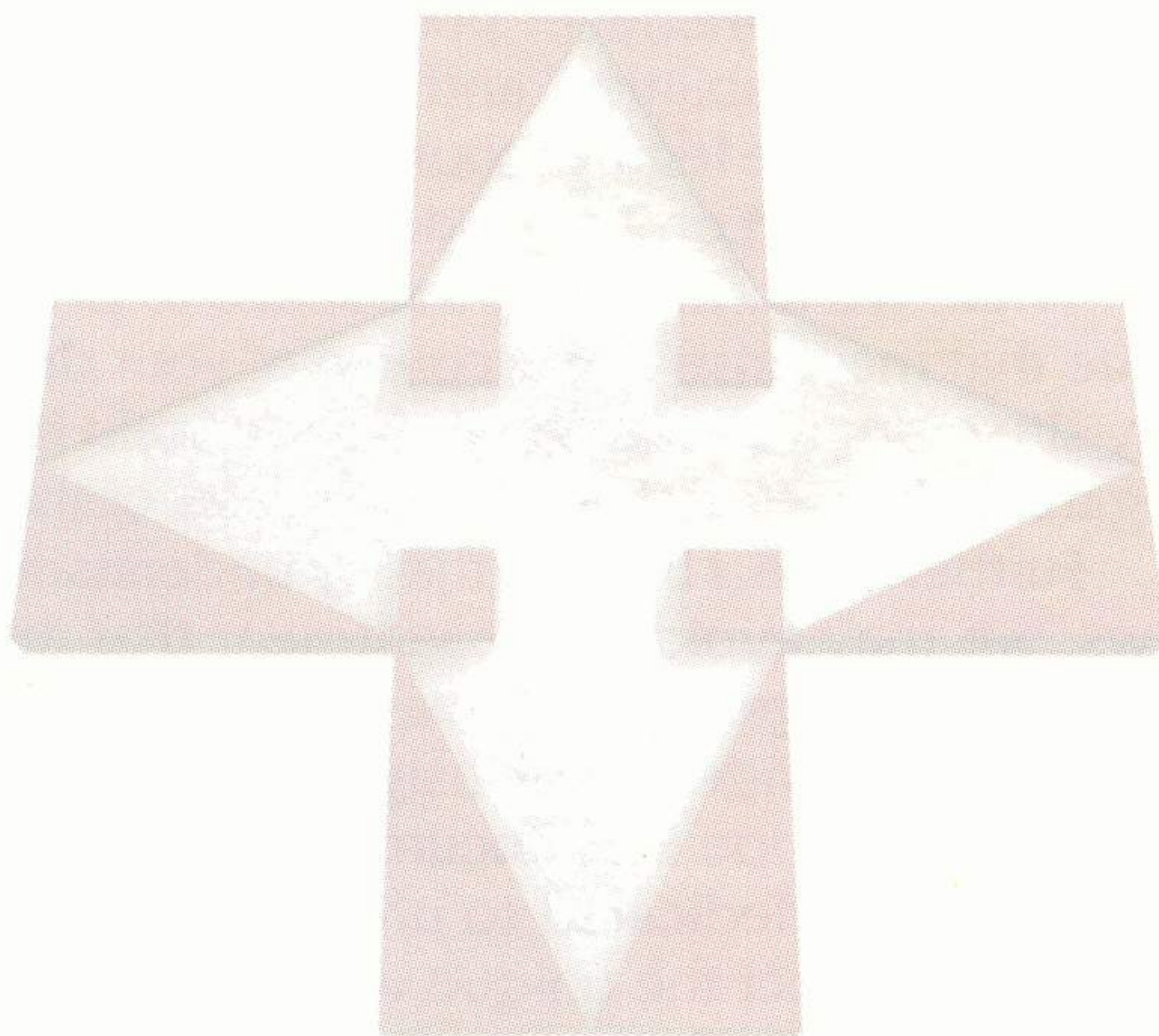
While a significant number of governments (Brazil and the UAN's first among them) have put aside this fear, and acknowledged psion rights, you are wise to err on the side of caution. A region may not uphold laws against noetic powers. Suspicion,

uncertainty or outrage may cause wary authorities to detain psions until an apparent crime or situation is resolved. Æon supports even incarcerated operatives, but it is better to not need such aid.

GUIDELINES BY APTITUDE

Vitakinesis

Vitakinetics are the least likely to encounter legal difficulties when using their powers. Most jurisdictions regulate doctors and their agencies, and typically extend associ-



ate benefits to vitakinetics in good standing with their order. Few governments risk bad public relations by prosecuting known vitakinetics. This latitude is in large part due to the goodwill the Æsculapian Order had fostered over the years — at least before the recent revelations about illicit projects that certain Æsculapians were implicated in. Arrogant or unwary docs may often be associated with the order's recent scandal, putting the individual under less-benevolent scrutiny. We recommend that vitakinetics operate in areas where they are well known to avoid persecution.

GETTING AWAY WITH IT

— **Excerpt: covert strategies analysis, Kevin Hsing, Proteus Division**

So how do you use psi without being caught?

Those countries most concerned with restricting noetic abilities are generally those with the least capability to watch you. Using your powers covertly is easy. The trick is coming up with explanations for how you gained information without psionic powers.

After all, using clairsentience can only be recognized by another psion. The same goes for telepathy. Even mindsharing is safe if used on an unconscious subject. As long as you have an appropriate explanation handy for how you got the scoop through mundane means, you're all set.

Electrokinetic control of machinery can be recognized, but only if the electrokinetic is careless. If you limit yourself to something passersby might consider natural — a power surge is easiest — they'll carry on about their business.

Bear in mind that many countries subscribe to the principle of "innocent until proven guilty." If the results of your actions can be explained by means of something other than your powers, you'll probably get off; there won't be enough evidence against you. Just don't fall back on that loop hole too often or the courts may turn your "repeated coincidences" into "sufficient grounds."

Biokinetics have a particularly easy time in jurisdictions where they must be proven guilty. If they maintain other forms and are never seen shifting between shapes — no one can charge them. Just don't get cocky, and remember that human eyes aren't the only ones you have to elude.

For those of you psions who think being an Æon operative gives you some kind of special dispensation, wake up. The Trinity doesn't have anything resembling diplomatic immunity. We operate within the law when possible and outside it when necessary, but we never flaunt it. Saying "I'm with the Æon Trinity" does not equal "get out of jail free." Still, if you get in trouble on Trinity business, we will get you out of it if at all possible. If we ask you to push the limits, we're ready to back you up.

Don't expect Strike Team Psion to come in, blazing away, though. If we think it's a winnable case, you might get the best lawyer money can buy. It might be some ex-Norça infiltrators if they're the right people for the job. Or it could be a good, old-fashioned smash-and-grab, attributed to some flavor-of-the-month radicals. We have to be as subtle as possible, and it has to work the first time.

Advice? Think twice, act once. Regrets are for those who screw up. If you're careful, you'll stay alive — and the desk jockeys in Neptune can spend their time worrying about somebody else.

It's worth noting that the good will remaining toward vitakinetics focuses on these psions' skills in healing physical ills. Æsculapians of good or ill repute must always be careful when applying the mentatis mode. Mental manipulation is regulated strongly no matter where a psion goes. Similarly, blatant use of algesis is outright dangerous and certain to diminish public opinion of the order even further.

Biokinesis

This aptitude is also relatively safe to use. Being able to alter one's body is not inherently illegal, after all. However, a biokinetic is likely to encounter prejudice related to the Norça Order, even if he is on legally solid ground. Always remember the difference

between law and custom; the law may not demand incarceration, but local custom may demand retribution.

Biokinetics should also be wary of laws concerning false identity. Several governments have established laws to prevent appearance-altering biokinetics from adopting false identities. Furthermore, Norça who specialize in battle should pay particular attention to the discussion below on psychokinetics and electrokinetics.

Psychokinesis and Electrokinesis

PK and EK users are likely to face legal difficulties wherever they use their capabilities abusively. By all means, assume that there are laws against assault anywhere you go, and act accordingly. In many countries even the *threat* of violence is a crime. Those adept at causing harm — psion or neutral —

are considered fully responsible for the results of their actions. In other words, the woman who can set someone on fire with a simple thought is expected to use that power responsibly. (The precedents for such distinctions were set long ago in regard to martial artists and other trained fighters.) Vitakinetics using the algesis mode also fall into this category, as do biokinetics who use their abilities to enhance their battle prowess.

Clairsentience and Telepathy

Finally, clairsentients and telepaths are at serious legal risk almost everywhere. Psions are often considered suspect to begin with, but the invasive nature of these two aptitudes engenders more concern than do any of the others. Such paranoia is unreasonable, considering the restrictions each order encourages its members to follow. Still



GENERAL GUIDELINES

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: Hongwen Extradition
From: Piero Thoeni, UN Security Division
To: Zachary Wilder, Æon Trinity, Chief Legal Counsel
Encryption: DSE
Transmission type: textfile
Date: 04:01:56 7.3.2120

Mr. Wilder —

Regarding the matter of the Hongwen extradition, my department has received electronic copies of internal Ministry memos indicating that the Chinese charges against Mr. Hongwen were falsified in order to extradite him and, thus, allow him to escape UAN justice. While we understand that you do not have direct influence over the Chinese government, the United Nations informally requests that you use whatever means may be convenient to ensure that this ruse is not used again.

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Subject: Re: Hongwen Extradition
From: Zachary Wilder, Æon Trinity, Chief Legal Counsel
To: Dana Boresheltov, Æon Trinity, Neptune Division
Encryption: DSE
Transmission type: textfile
Date: 10:22:01 7.4.2120

Dana, please take a look at this and deal with it appropriately. We can't react to this issue without more intelligence from the field.

it is an unfortunate reality that must be

dealt with nonetheless.

Many jurisdictions impose specific

laws against using clairsentience and telepathy at all. Other regions observe privacy-law precedents that are applied to telepathic and/or clairsentient intrusion.

SUMMATION

The above caveats aside, all operatives should know that there is a handful of governments that has decreed any psionic activity criminal. The most notable include the People's Republic of Estonia, Kashmir and Iraq. Psions should be extremely wary while in these regions.

Some psions claim that there are times when using powers are unavoidable. Certainly, the Æon Trinity never condones breaking local laws, but we can appreciate that extreme circumstances occur.



EXTRADITION

It's possible that you might become wanted for a crime in a country that you're no longer in. During the Crash, you could escape justice simply by crossing national boundaries. The United Nations has returned to a position of strength since then. It's no longer easy to evade a single country's laws.

The United Nations Principles of Extradition has been signed by almost all member nations. The only prominent exceptions are Colombia, Brazil and the other Sudamerican countries under Norça influence. Signatories guarantee that felons wanted in other nations for crimes worse than simple felony will be arrested and deported with all possible dispatch. If the wanted individual has also committed crimes in his current country of residence, or in a third country, signatories may attempt to find an acceptable solution diplomatically, or may appeal the matter to the World Court.

In practice, the Principles of Extradition is often hindered by many factors, including

differing priorities between nations to corruption within government ranks. The most common points of dispute are crimes considered serious in one jurisdiction and not so in another. For example, in the Kustra case of 2103, the United Kingdom was reluctant to extradite Werner Horengacher to the FSA for the crime of unauthorized public assembly. (The World Court ruled in favor of the FSA, with some reluctance.)

The World Court itself is under United Nations jurisdiction. Appeals to the court have led to official requests for extradition in approximately 75% of the cases. Unfortunately, the court itself has little means of enforcing its judgments beyond urging the relevant governments to comply.

Æon has volunteered its services (in the form of Proteus Division) in extraditions involving psions, both for individual nations and for the World Court. At times, our role has been to provide an escort during transportation. However, Proteus has also been instrumental in both finding psion fugitives and assisting local police forces in doing the same.





Europe

The borders of Europe are a patchwork; the Crash and the *Esperanza* disaster saw to that. The Crash tested the strength of every government between Russia and England, and refugees from France have changed political landscapes from Morocco to Sweden.

However, several elements combine to keep European culture — including its legal system — intact. The old European Union, dating all the way back to the latter portion of the 20th century, provided Europe with a common set of laws for over a hundred years. With that as a base, the United Nations, the Æon Trinity and, more recently, the Æsculapian Order have been able to pro-



vide the continent's nations with the unity that arises from a common, basic understanding of human rights.

There are, of course, local variations on legal practices. The European Union is dead, and its political successor — the European Com-

monwealth — lacks majority unity and fears infringing upon any single nation's sovereignty. Still, Europe as a whole subscribes to certain principles that have similar repercussions.

The first of these principles is the right to freedom: of person, thought and speech. In Great Britain's *Delafield-Attridge* cases, the courts determined that these rights, particularly freedom of thought, could not be diminished due to enhanced capacity. In layman's terms, it was decided that since it is not illegal to be exceptionally intelligent, it should not be illegal to have and use noetic powers.



GENERAL LEGAL TOLERANCE OF PSI



- LIBERAL
- MODERATE
- CONSERVATIVE
- RESTRICTIVE



PSI TOLERANCE DIAGRAM >>> NLG



COURT ARTIST SKETCH -11 >>> DELAFIELD V. ATTRIDGE

Case Study: Delafield v. Attridge and Attridge v. Delafield

On January 1st, 2109, Tyrel Attridge was returning to his flat near Oxford Circle after a New Year's Eve party. His path took him from the Soho district along Glasshouse Street, where he came upon Cyril Delafield around 3 AM. Without warning, Mr. Attridge assaulted Mr. Delafield, causing grievous bodily harm. He then took Mr. Delafield to a police station on Regent Street and turned the situation over to the officer on duty.

Both Mr. Attridge and Mr. Delafield were detained and questioned. In Mr. Delafield's deposition, he

claimed that he was minding his own business when Mr. Attridge attacked him. Mr. Attridge gave a deposition explaining that he had been peacefully walking along Glasshouse Street when he sensed an immediate and severe threat from Mr. Delafield and realized that Mr. Delafield intended to mug him. Mr. Attridge further explained that he had been recruited by the Interplanetary School for Research and Advancement (otherwise known as ISRA) two years before and that he was, in fact, a clairsentient.

The officer on duty elected to detain both individuals for possible crimes.

The following day, Mr. Attridge's solicitor struck an agreement with the solicitor appointed for Mr. Delafield. First, Mr. Attridge would be tried for assault and battery

in the Crown Court. Since the evidence brought to light in this trial (as well as the inevitable legal rulings) might determine whether or not Mr. Delafield should stand trial at all, a second trial would only be held if necessary. Mr. Delafield filed an official complaint against Mr. Attridge, and Mr. Attridge posted bail.

Circuit Judge Ware presided over the trial. Jury selection was, perhaps, the centerpiece of the entire affair; of the original jury pool of 45, three potential jurors were psions. Mr. Delafield's solicitor argued passionately that psions would be biased toward Mr. Attridge, but Judge Ware denied the motion to screen psion lay jurors on the basis of their capabilities.

As there were few witnesses to the events in question, the remainder of the trial went fairly quickly. Mr.



Delafield's testimony corresponded with his deposition, although Mr. Attridge's solicitor introduced Mr. Delafield's criminal record into evidence. The "victim" had served two jail sentences for robbery.

Mr. Attridge also testified in accordance with his deposition. During his testimony, he offered to undergo telepathic interrogation at Judge Ware's discretion. Judge Ware declined on the grounds that the legalities of psionic evidence were, in fact, what was in question. Four witnesses to the event collaborated Mr. Delafield's testimony. None of them were able to confirm Mr. Attridge's version of events for obvious reasons.

After two days of testimony, the jury retired to consider the case. Deliberations took over a week. When the jury returned, it declared Mr. Attridge innocent of all charges. Judge Ware departed from tradition in his final words, making the legal precedent explicit:

"If I see a man approaching me, waving a pistol, calling my name in an insulting fashion — if there is no other way to resolve the matter — it is my right to defend myself by any reasonable means. If Mr. Attridge 'sees' that a man is about to attack him, by virtue of his unique senses, he possesses the same rights. This court, quite rightly, has not denied him those rights simply because it does not possess those senses."

Subsequently, Mr. Attridge filed charges against Mr. Delafield for assault.

Judge Ware recused himself in order that this important precedent not be seen as the work of one man. His replacement, Judge Lozada, permitted Mr. Attridge's renewed request to testify under telepathic interrogation. Mr. Attridge suggested Mary Leung, a solicitor resident of London. After some consideration, Judge Lozada agreed that she would be suitable.

The telepathic testimony further confirmed Mr. Attridge's testimony; Mr. Delafield had no evidence besides the testimony already provided. Despite inflammatory and frankly sensational statements on the part of Mr. Delafield's solicitor, the jury retired for a mere hour before returning a guilty verdict.

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It's not mentioned in the case study that Mary Leung — wife of diplomat Walter Quentin and a native of China — was not publicly known as a telepath before the events of the second trial. The British Bar Council considered censuring her and removing her from its ranks, but decided against it after what is reputed to have been very heated discussion. Triton research indicates that Leung's case load has fallen off by at least 25% since the Attridge-Delafield cases — not surprising, since she is not only a known telepath but suspected by many to be a Ministry spy. Æon has no indication that this is the case, although we recommend that you exercise caution if retaining her legal services.

The points of law established by the two cases later went to the House of Lords

for consideration.

The five Law Lords appointed to consider the matter deliberated for some time.

They upheld the Crown Court decisions despite strong political pressure from the minority Labor party and the tabloids.

In 2115, a case similar to Attridge-Delafield came to trial in Holland and was decided in the same manner. Since then, most other European jurisdictions have reached comparable decisions: It is not a crime to possess and utilize psionic capabilities.

Further, the right to free thought has been extended to physical noetic aptitudes. A psychokinetic exercising the pyrokinetic mode is considered no different in principle than a savate expert using his martial-arts skills. European courts have recognized this precedent and ruled accordingly.

Although Europe's rulings in regard to psionic powers seem enlightened, they demand absolute responsibility from the individual psion. The courts expect a savateur to exercise complete discretion with his abilities; psions are no different. What might be assault in the first degree for an untrained brawler is assault with intent to kill for a psion. It is, as always, vital to learn proper control of one's powers and temper.

Ironically, Europe's precedents can also leave a psion on somewhat uncertain legal ground. While it's legal to defend yourself based on evidence gained through psionic powers, the

right to privacy still exists. Several civil suits have been filed for unwarranted psionic intrusion, and most have been decided in favor of the plaintiff. Just because you think you have a good reason to perform a psionic investigation doesn't automatically make it legal.

The Æon Trinity currently seeks to establish an international guild of telepathic observers to serve as expert witnesses in criminal (but not civil) trials. Proxy Bue has even expressed enthusiastic support for the Noetic Legal Guild (although Neptune Division fears this endorsement may hurt more than help the organization). Still, Benelux countries recognize the guild on an experimental basis. The few cases on which the guild has assisted in the few months since its probationary introduction have been great successes, despite threats of terrorism from fringe anti-psion elements.

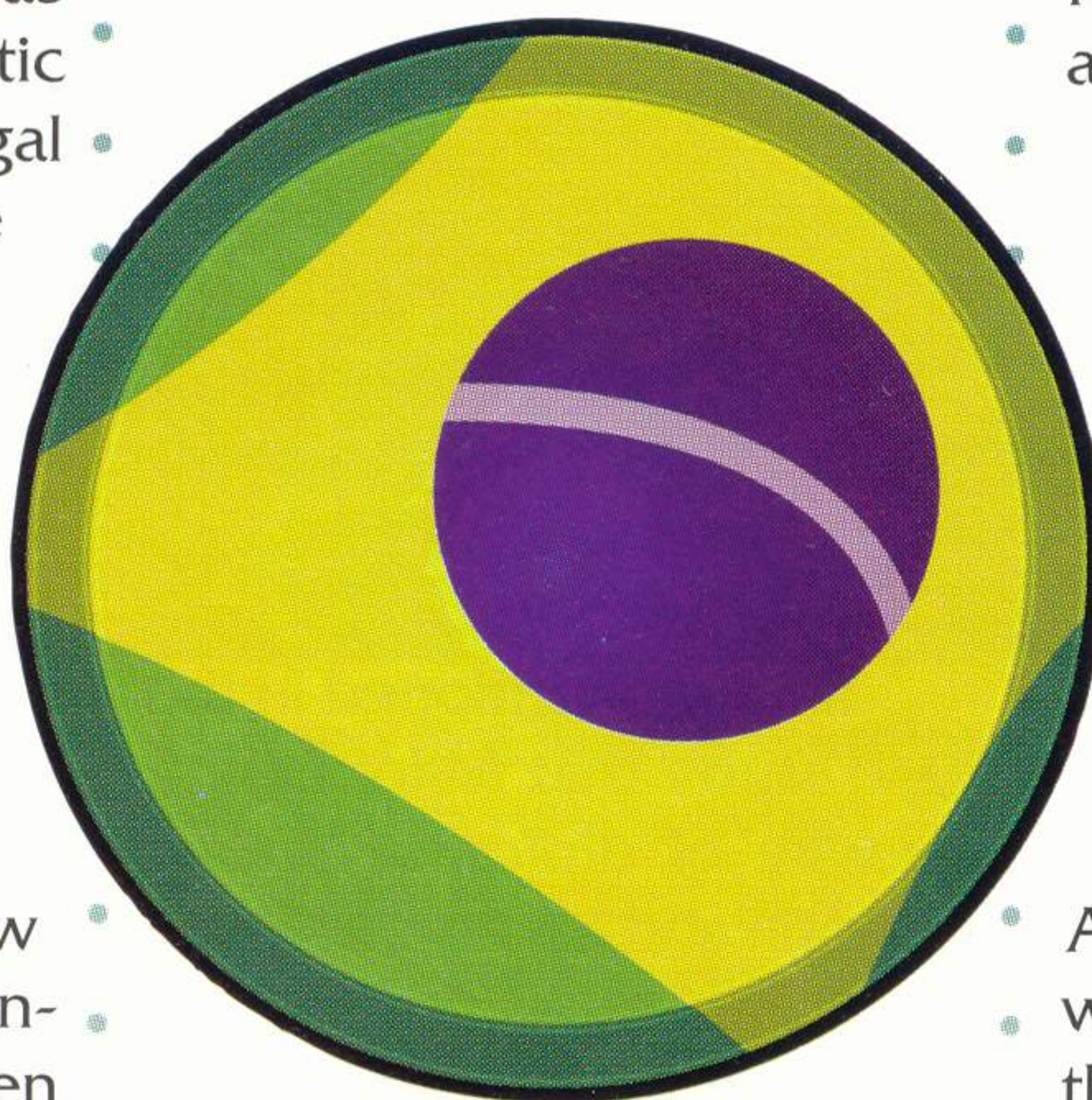
Lynn Soliden, a Danish citizen and neutral, heads the guild. It is likely that Belgium and Luxembourg would not have agreed to a single NLG trial without Soliden's skilled diplomacy. The guild currently seeks both psion and neutral recruits for a security division, given the threats it has received.

Brazil

—textfile conversion,
Javier Dano, member of
the São Paulo State Bar

I would like to express my appreciation for you taking the time to learn of my

country and my continent; our image is that of drug traffickers and criminals, and I find few who believe anything else. While the Nova Fôrça de Nacionais (or the Norça, as you know them) shapes and defines the face of Sudamerica, it is not all there is to us. The Brazilian republican tradition goes back to 1891. Today, I write of our legal system and discuss a court case that sheds light on the manner in which our courts interpret our laws.



I focus on Brazil because it is my native country, the one I know best. While the Norça exert varying degrees of control or influence on all Sudamerican countries, laws that suit those nations' cultures and histories prevail, where possible. Norça influence over Brazil is moderate, so the country is a fitting example from which to extrapolate.

Brazil has always been a loose confederation by comparison to any northern country. The Brazilian constitution delineates certain basic human rights, but each of the nation's states has the right to set its own laws as long as they remain within constitutional guidelines.

This freedom was one of the leveraging tools used by the Norça to extend their influence from Colombia into Brazil. They accumulated enough political power in the northern state of Vista Para to repeal that region's drug laws. The benefits Vista Para gained inspired other Brazilian states to follow suit. (I should point out that the Norça's intent was not simply to provide for the legal sale of recreational drugs, but to encourage further development of medical research. This is a matter for another time, however.)

The individual rights of Brazilian citizens are not unlike those in most "Western" countries. Brazil respects the right to privacy, freedom of speech, freedom of movement, freedom of work, and the ideal of innocent until proven guilty. Also, perhaps uncommonly, we have legally established the right to privacy of communication. Given that some psions can break these communication laws by mere thought, this last clause has particular application in this report.

Although I cannot speak for all Brazilian states, use of psionic abilities is generally legal except, as with any human talent, when it infringes upon existing law. Brazilian legislatures have intentionally avoided passing any laws specific to psionics; we feel that if our existing laws do not sufficiently describe preferred behavior, we must re-examine their underlying assumptions rather than simply patch them.

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**Amancio
Torres**

PROSECUTION EXHIBIT A*14*8854 >>> FARIA V. SOLANO

For example, there is no specific law prohibiting a psion from reading my emotional state or my thoughts. However, if I were to detect a psion doing so without my permission, he would be breaking Section II.3.a of the Privacy Code — which relates to eavesdropping with malicious intent. Similarly, there is no law preventing a biokinetic from assuming my form — but if a biokinetic did so, she would be culpable under the statutes that prohibit impersonation.

I like to believe that it is this liberality that makes Brazil an accommodating place for psions to live. There are many implications to our policy: Psions may become police or lawyers if they desire, and there is no ban against psions testifying in court. Our constitution does

prohibit evidence gained by illegal means, but it is legal to violate secrecy of communication laws if a court order permits it.

Despite all this egalitarianism, Brazil has its dark side, as indicated in the following case.

Case Study: de Faria v. Solano

Gaspar de Faria was a member of the Norça. In 2119, while visiting the city of São Paulo, he met Gabriella Solano, who was a model working for a small local agency. De Faria requested the pleasure of Senorita Solano's company for dinner, and she agreed. The dinner went poorly, and Solano returned to her apartment with the stated intention of calling her boyfriend soon afterward.

The following morning, she filed a charge of rape against Sr. de Faria. In her deposition, Sa. Solano stated that de Faria had followed her home after their dinner, entered her apartment and taken advantage of her. The police found a neighbor, Senora Figo, who had seen a man matching Sr. de Faria's description leaving the apartment complex the following morning. The waitress at the restaurant admitted that she had heard de Faria swear an oath that he would "show Senorita Solano her error." These two witnesses presented sufficient cause to arrest de Faria, who pleaded not guilty.

During the trial, Senorita Solano testified that she called her boyfriend Amancio Torres after returning home, and that he vis-

ited her. They argued about her right to have dinner with another man.

After about an hour, he left in anger. According to Solano's testimony, de Faria returned using Sr. Torres' shape, and pleaded forgiveness.

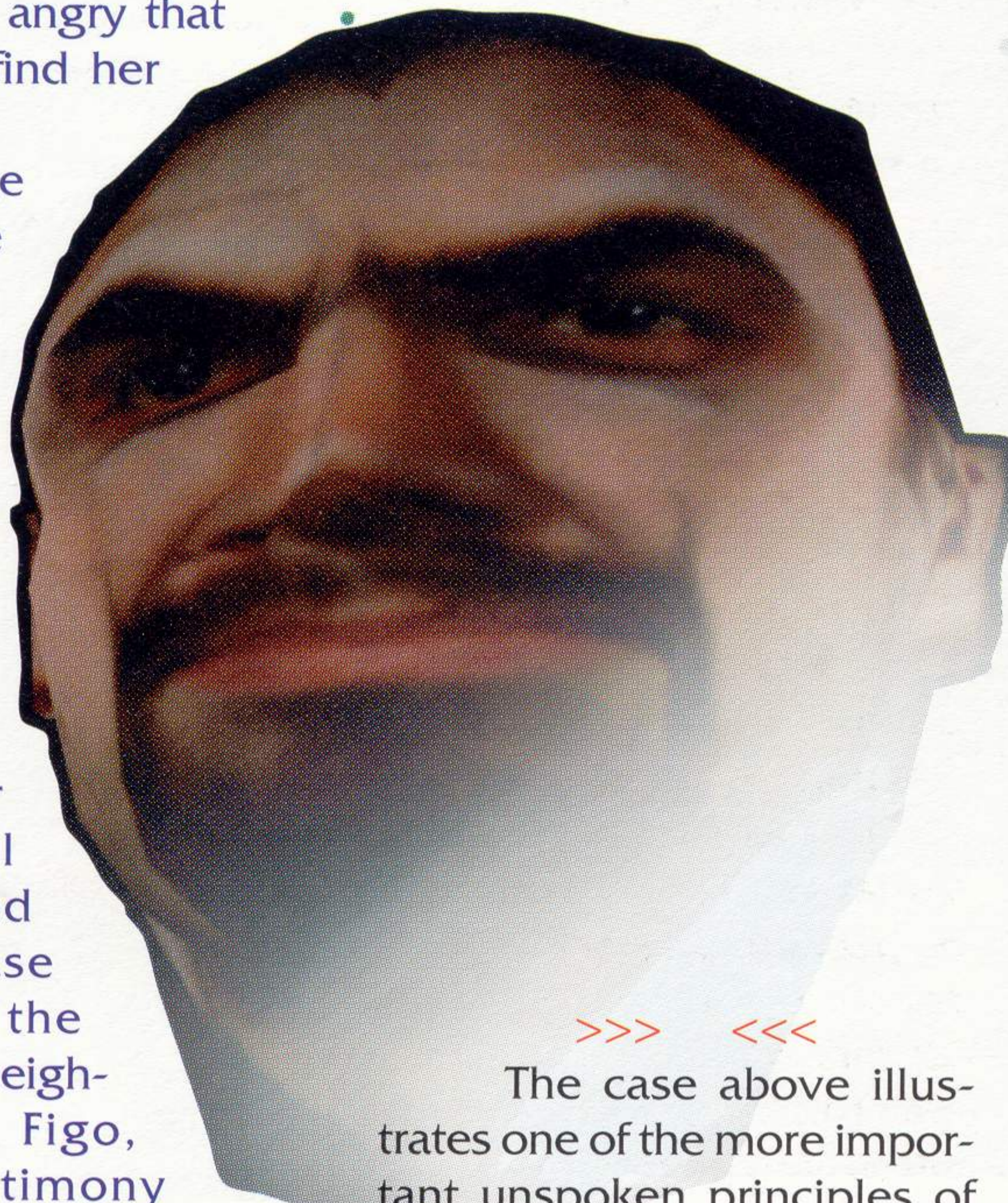
She let him in, believing that he was Sr. Torres. She further testified that their reconciliation proceeded apace, and the two spent the night together, with "Torres" leaving early the next morning. Sr. Torres' testimony agreed with Solano's story, including his assertion that he had not returned that night. Senora Figo then confirmed seeing de Faria leaving the area the next morning.

The defense called Sr. de Faria as its first witness. He testified that while he had

left the restaurant in anger, he calmed afterward. De Faria claimed he had not visited the Solano apartment, and that he presumed his accuser was angry that he did not find her attractive.

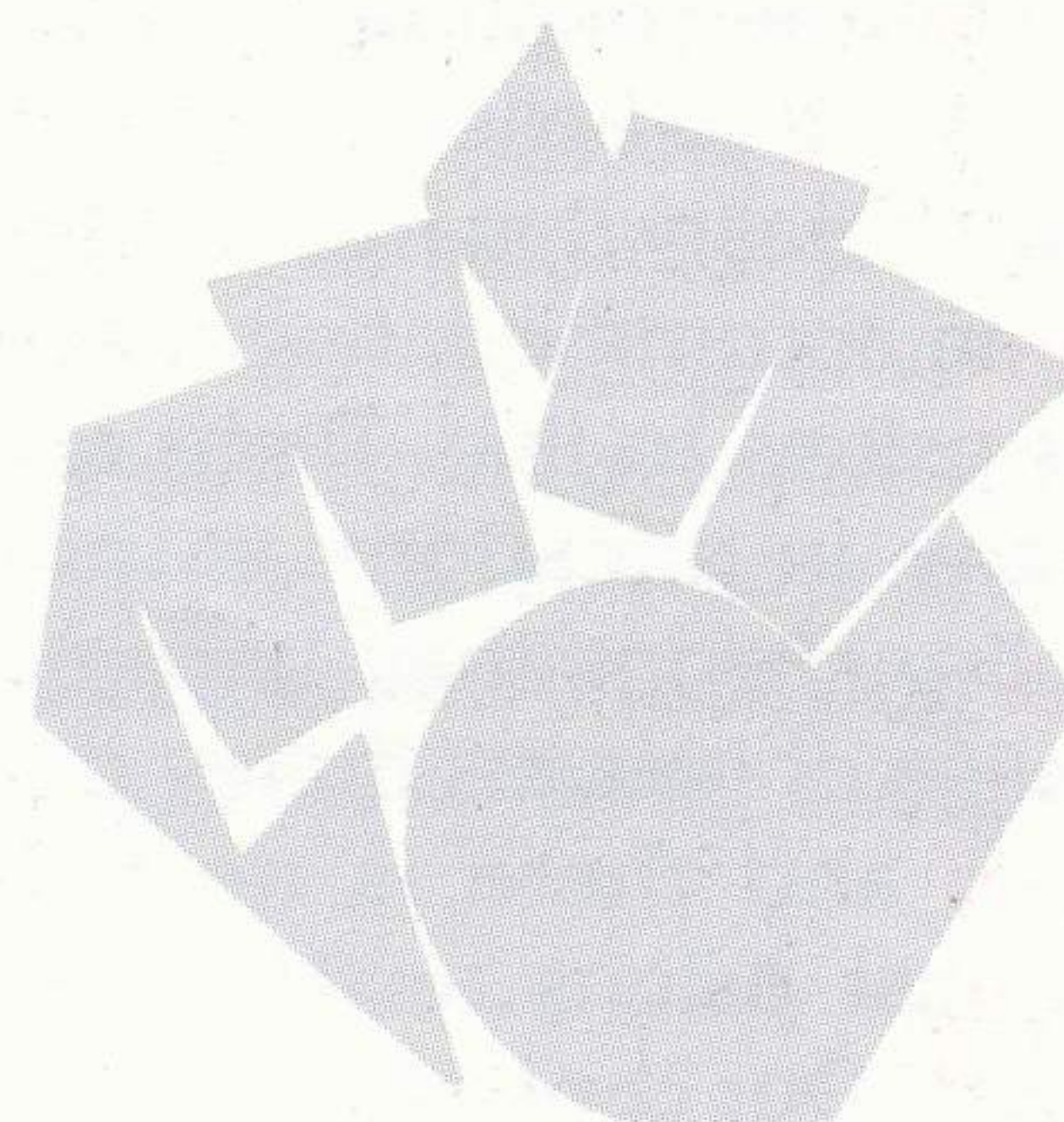
The judge sustained the defense counsel's request to dismiss charges once the prosecution made its case. The grounds for dismissal were stated that the case hinged on the word of the neighbor Senora Figo, whose testimony

could not be verified by any reasonable means.



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The case above illustrates one of the more important unspoken principles of *international* justice: The powerful make the rules, even if they do not make the laws. If the judge had followed legal precedent strictly, the eyewitness evidence would have figured much more strongly in the case — at least calling for a jury deliberation, quite possibly even leading to de Faria's conviction. It is clear (although few would say so in public) that de Faria was freed so quickly because he is one of the Norça, and the Norça protect their own.



PROTEUS ARCHIVE

Subject: Pear-Shaped Brazilian Situation
From: Jennifer Denton, Proteus Division
To: Strike Team Raider
Encryption: DSE
Transmission type: textfile
Date: 12:24:11 2.28.2120

We need a team down in Brazil ASAP. Æon tries to protect those who do us favors, and Dano took a big risk filing this report. His wife informs us that her husband hasn't been seen for over 48 hours. She's in a safehouse in São Paulo; we need you to escort her over the border within the week, whether you find Dano or not.

You have access to one of our undercover operatives down there, Cristina Salomon. She works as a clerk in the São Paulo Labor Board offices; she can get you identity papers and such at a certain risk to herself. She may be able to provide other information if it involves the government, but she doesn't have any Norça contacts. Do not blow her cover and do not allow yourselves to be identified as Proteus operatives.



China

— Excerpt: Ministry of Psionic Affairs' Guide for Visiting Psions

The people of China welcome all visiting psions. Greater understanding between cultures is one of our foremost goals, and there is no better way to reach common ground than by visiting each other in person. The noetic orders in particular must strive for unity; without our mutual strength, we cannot defend Earth from the Aberrant threat.

Just as Ministry representatives are expected to respect the laws of their host countries, China expects its visitors to observe Chinese law. This section of the guide helps you understand and follow our laws. We appreciate your consideration.

Contrary to rumor, you need not register your noetic powers before entering China. Privacy has long been important in our culture. However, unregistered use



of an aptitude is restricted. You may incur a jail sentence of up to 10 years and a fine of as much as ¥10,000 for each unregistered use. If you

have any intent of using psionic abilities, please register!

Registered psions may use any of their abilities with only minor limitations. Of course, any assault (physical or mental) upon an unwilling subject is strictly illegal. Due to the difficulty of establishing consent to telepathic intrusion after the fact, we ask that telepaths not affiliated with the Ministry refrain from mindsharing without first obtaining explicit written or verbal consent.

Clairentients are welcome to use their powers as they wish except in the vicinity of specified government installations. If necessary, you may request a list of such installations at any office of the Ministry of Psionic Affairs. Please be advised that over 80% of

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HONOR AND PRIVILEGE
As a psion, you are one of a rare breed, using your unique talents in the defense and progress of all humanity. China and her people believe that you should be rewarded for your efforts.

China's Ministry Associate Program is our way of thanking the people who risk their lives for mankind—people like you.

Register today to receive the many benefits due a person of your stature.



Sponsored by the Ministry of Psionic Affairs

MINISTRY ASSOCIATE PROGRAM START-UP PAGE>>> MINISTRY OF PSIONIC AFFAIRS

MINISTRY "ASSOCIATES"

— Excerpt: covert analysis
<deleted>, Proteus Division

As suspected, Ministry associate membership is a recruiting front. There are a lot of advantages to signing up; the hotels are better, you're lavished with attention and companionship, and you even get preferred treatment in state-owned stores. However, you're also the target of a low-key barrage of reasons why you should join the Ministry full time.

Ministry agents can already use their powers at will and invisibly. Associate membership for any psion means you can use your powers as you like and pass it off as "necessary for state security."

Is becoming a member of the elite class of China tempting? You bet. Does it come with strings? Absolutely. More to come, once I find out how many and who's pulling them.



nizable! We understand that this is an infringement upon personal freedom, but it is necessary under the circumstances. All other uses of biokinesis are allowed — after appropriate registration, of course.

Are you a psion who intends to remain in China for more than three months? If so, consider registering as an associate member of the Ministry. This program is new, and we're quite excited about it. As an associate member, you gain access to Ministry hostels and other facilities during your stay in China.

If you

Nippon

Nihonjin law has been strongly influenced by the Western legal system ever since World War II. When Japan was defeated by the old United States, the US forced its laws and government upon the loser, to the best of its ability. Over the subsequent 150 years, Nihonjin culture imposed adaptations and adjustments to the alien system. Still, old Western influences remain. Ironically, Nippon's legal system is more similar to that of the old United States' than the modern Federated States is — in practice and spirit, if not in theory.

Psions allowed into Nippon are, therefore, subject to psi laws similar to those of Europe, although considerably more strict. The Nihonjin distaste for psions is apparent in their legal system. Using noetic powers upon another person is considered assault, at the very least. Telepathic intrusion is considered a violation of privacy and is subject to civil suit. If an offender uses psionic powers in the course of committing a crime of any sort, his sentence may



10 years.

stay for

10 years.

If you

or committing a crime of any sort, his sentence may

stay for

Nihonjin law is also very tough on biotech. As you know, biotech itself is absolutely illegal in Nippon. Wise psions do not assume they can sneak bioware into the country — the infamous 2109 case is evidence enough of that. Visitors are scanned for biotech twice, once when applying for a visa and once when actually entering the country. Note that Nihonjin scanning technology can tell the difference between formatted and unformatted biotech; while there is no formal registration requirement for noetic abilities, formatted biotech betrays any such abilities.

Biotech can be brought into the country if it is immunized. This procedure is not terribly high tech. In essence, biotech must be encased in an air-tight container similar to a biohazard suit while within Nippon's borders. Formatted biotech that has been bound to a psion can be immunized, if its owner is also willing to remain inside such a container. The penalty for possession of non-immunized biotech is death.

Case Study: Harada v. Toshiko

In this civil case, Harada Rei was a business owner in the Kyoto Prefecture who managed a small chain of candy stores. She accused Toshiko Takahiro of breach of contract. In her complaint, she stated that he had entered into an agreement with her under which he would install a holodisk vending machine in each of her shops

and would pay her 10% of the net income from each machine. Harada further claimed that Toshiko guaranteed her a minimum weekly income of 15,000 yen per machine unless the net profit from that machine for a week was under 30,000 yen.

The store-owner Harada had no complaints for the first month. However, in the sixth week of operation, and for three weeks thereafter, her income from each machine averaged 2,000 yen — 10% of what Mr. Takahiro's records claimed was a net income of 20,000 yen per week. Mrs. Harada asked her clerks to keep a tally of holodisk purchases after the first week. Their rough count was over 20 disks per machine per week, at 3,000 yen per disk.

If the tally was correct, this should have meant 60,000 yen gross profit per machine each week. Reducing costs by an average 45% previously cited by Mr. Takahiro, this should have allowed for 33,000 yen net profit — more than enough for Mrs. Harada to receive the agreed-upon 15,000 yen per machine.

In court (Judge Hiyama Tansho presiding), Mr. Takahiro testified that the rough count was not inaccurate — although somewhat overstated — and produced records to prove the latter assertion. However, he claimed his operating expenses had jumped to 66% of gross profits — given the information previously documented, this allowed for a net profit of only 19,800 yen per machine each

week. When Mrs. Harada's lawyer pressed Mr. Takahiro to produce records of this change, he requested a day's recess to prepare them properly. Judge Hiyama granted this request.

Mr. Takahiro returned with the records in question. Mrs. Harada's lawyer requested and received permission to bring a new witness — Kasai Morimasa. The records showed that in the month in question, Mr. Takahiro had a 50% increase in unspecified incidental expenses. This increase, assuming the expenses were valid, explained the drop in net profits. Mrs. Harada's lawyer questioned Takahiro intensely regarding the nature of the expenses. The defendant pleaded the necessity of keeping his proprietary business practices secret. This appeal was recognized by Judge Hiyama.

Mrs. Harada's lawyer requested and received permission to bring a new witness — Kasai Morimasa. Mr. Morimasa testified that he was an electrokinetic whom Mrs. Harada had hired to monitor Takahiro's computer during the trial. Morimasa further stated that the records Mr. Takahiro submitted had been falsified during the recess. Judge Hiyama paused the trial so that order might be restored to the courtroom.

After the break, Judge Hiyama declared Mr. Morimasa's testimony invalid. Mrs. Harada's lawyer objected and was overruled. The remainder of the trial



COURT ARTIST SKETCH 37 >>> HARADA V. TOSHIKO

took only an hour. There was no further testimony. Judge Hiyama was quick to reach a decision, finding Mrs. Harada's suit baseless and denying her damages.

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This case study is of particular interest for both the precedent set and for subsequent events. The precedent is not uncommon, although it was an early one; cases involving similar issues have gone to trial in many countries, generally with the same results. One cannot expect courts to accept evidence gained by seemingly mysterious means. As noetic abilities become more a part of daily life, this will undoubtedly change.

Immediately following the trial, Mr. Takahiro turned

his business computers over to the court voluntarily, asking that they be examined carefully in order to confirm the truth of his testimony. Judge Hiyama agreed to this unusual request, given the delicate nature of the trial and the importance of the precedent he had just established.

Several top Nihonjin computer technicians spent a month examining the computers down to their physical storage media. It is possible to read the ghosts of deleted data given the proper tools. They reported finding no evidence of records other than the ones Mr. Takahiro presented in court.

In a parallel investigation, detectives of the Kyoto Prefecture discovered that Mr. Morimasa was married to

Mrs. Harada's second cousin. In the end, a seemingly valid civil case was revealed to be a base attempt at extortion.

The moral? Psions are human. At the time, many psions were outraged by the dismissal of Mr. Morimasa's testimony. They — and we — had forgotten that it is easy to lie about evidence when one thinks he cannot be found out.

Sadly, Mr. Morimasa's testimony set back the standing of noetic evidence, not only in Nippon but through settled space. This case demonstrates the vast importance of public opinion. Psions will never become accepted in court or otherwise if they are considered untrustworthy.



Federated States of America

—textfile conversion,
Jane Robinson, Neptune
Division associate

Generally speaking, the biggest problem Æon Trinity ops have in the FSA is remembering that they are in hostile territory. Most countries at least attempt to convince themselves that psions should have the same rights as other citizens. Germany, the UAN, Nippon — they may still be scared of you, but they have the nobility to rise above it — for the most part. There is no such benevolence here. You threaten the FSA, and it reacts in kind.

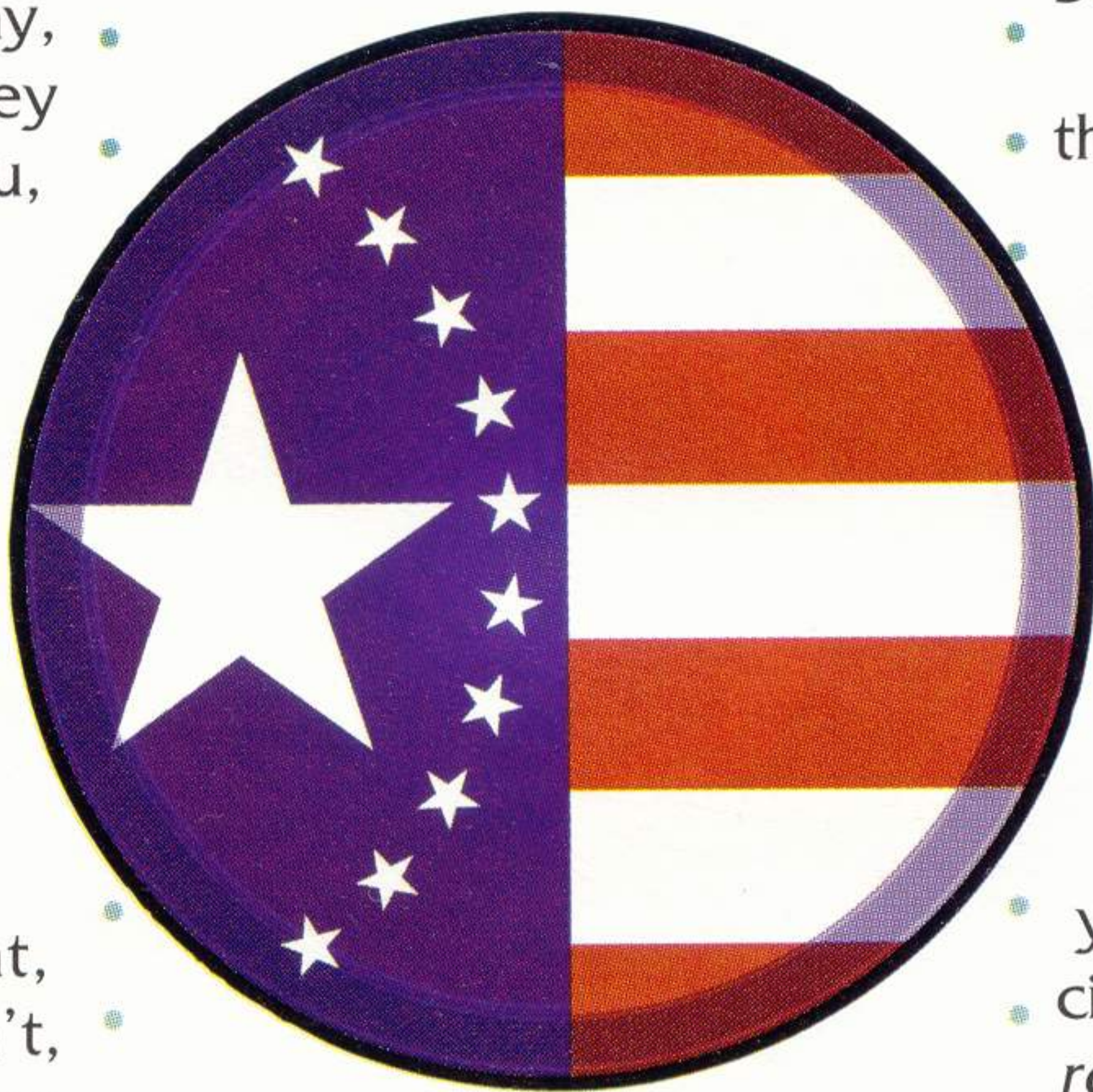
If you remember that the FSA considers use of psionic powers to be a privilege and not a right, you'll be fine. If you don't, someone's going to ask me to represent you. If you're lucky, I won't have anything pressing on my calendar. If you're really lucky, I'll win your case. But don't count on it.

The Noetic Control Act (NCA)

The FSA operates under precedents set in the landmark *People v. McClelland* case, and according to the terms of the Noetic Control Act of 2112. The former established that psions aren't allowed to do a damned thing in the courtroom. The latter has a number of rather sweeping provisions. Of particular note:

- Using psionic abilities to observe any human being is a criminal offense.
- Any assault involving psionic abilities is considered aggravated assault.
- Noetic research must be licensed by the FSA.
- Using psionic abilities to attain a competitive advantage in business is a crime, except in such cases where noetic abilities are required to do business.

The NCA is nasty. Most of you don't speak lawyer-



ese, so I'll explain some of the highlights. The first provision applies to telepaths and clears directly. It also means that an electrokinetic who runs a computer with her powers better not notice what anyone else is doing at that node. For that matter, I wouldn't recommend that a Norça admit to sensing any biofields while in the FSA. Even the simplest uses of your powers may be against the law.

The second NCA provision means that if you shove a person with your telekinesis, you're in the same boat as someone who shoots another person with a pistol.

Sentences are more severe for aggravated assault than for those of the "vanilla" variety.

The third provision means about what it says, although be careful about doing general research with psionic powers. For example, there's no clear precedent on whether it's illegal to study physics by using pyrokinetic powers. I've tried to get some cases to court that would establish cut-and-dried legality, but they've all been blocked from above.

You can thank Cassel for the fourth provision: Necessary use of psionics in business is legal. You need noetics to develop biotech. Orgotek brings enough business into the FSA and Cassel has enough influence with key figures to afford the order some latitude. Mind you, it's up to the FSA to decide what types of businesses require psionics. Orgotek currently has a very general noetic research license — which comes up for renewal in a year. The Big O has a tough road ahead of it unless the FSA's political climate undergoes a dramatic change in the near future.

The Hoffman-White Bill

The FedBoard sanctioned the Hoffman-White bill in 2118, which explicitly authorized each administrative district of the FSA to determine its own laws and policies regarding psion activity. Lawmakers spun it as a move toward deregulation, which made the gullible happy. Orgotek supported it,

SAVIOR or THREAT?



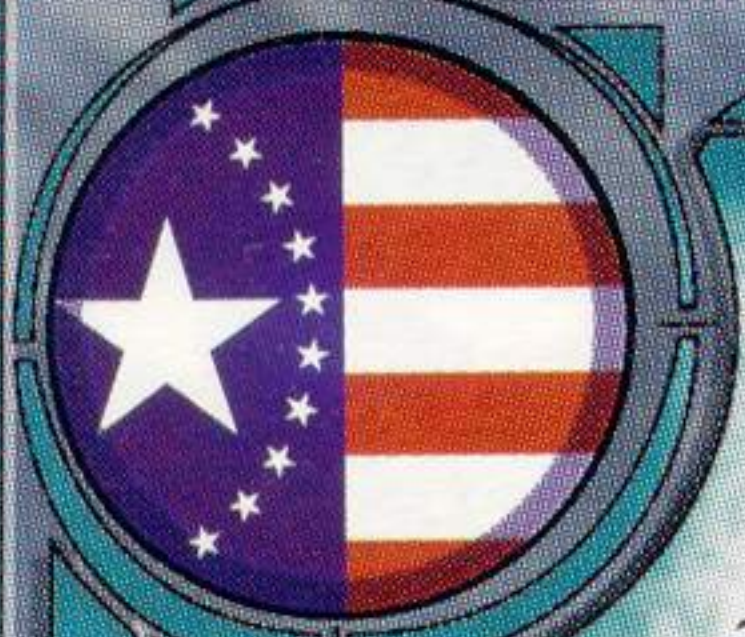
Powerful individuals appeared in the dawn of a new century. They had great powers that they claimed to use for the common good. We placed our trust in them, even though we knew nothing of their true motivations.

The first time mankind relied on powerful beings, we suffered the greatest devastation in our history- the ABERRANT WAR! Now new beings claim to act in our best interest.

**THE PSIONS SAY THEY'RE HERE TO PROTECT US.
THE PSIONS SAY THEY'RE NOTHING LIKE THE ABERRANTS.**

YOU DECIDE.

ANTI-PSION POSTER >>> EAST DISTRICT >>> FSA



which convinced even more people that it was a decent law. Don't you believe it.

First off, Hoffman-White doesn't negate the Noetic Control Act completely. A local administrative district can now override any provision of the NCA, but that won't save you from being tried by a higher court if the CSA wants to push the issue.

Second, my analysis of legislative trends following Hoffman-White indicates that laws are becoming *more* restrictive, not less so. The NCA tacitly acknowledges that psions have a legal status in the FSA. In the wake of Hoffman-White, more than one administrative district has realized it has the power to outlaw psionic abilities altogether. Tex-Mex is in the process of putting forth provisions that make it illegal to possess noetic talents. This is probably a reaction to the border war, but that doesn't mean other districts won't follow suit. I recommend that you pay very close attention to local laws.

So why did Orgotek back Hoffman-White? Because it offers some local breathing room. Cassel can't influence the governments in New York or San Francisco, but the Southwest District (which hosts Orgosoft Farms) has overridden NCA provisions regarding competitive practices and noetic research. Some say Orgotek's support of the law is a necessary pragmatism. Others say it's selling out your own kind for a buck. Make your own call.



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NEPTUNE ARCHIVE: PERSONNEL REPORT

Jane Robinson is not a full Trinity member; rather, she offers input when she feels it relevant. She is also one of Æon's greatest resources in the FSA.

In 2102, a Legion representative discovered that both of Robinson's sons were strong latents, and recruited them into the Legions. Both Robinsons have served with distinction since the Sydney battle. Since 2106, Jane Robinson has specialized in legal issues relating to psionics, making her the FSA's foremost authority on such matters.

She lives in Toronto and has not been a member of any legal firm since she was fired from Hawson and Li in 2110. Her offices are open 24 hours a day for emergency consultation. Robinson does not provide *pro bono* services, and has turned down multiple offers of employment from the Æon Trinity, but she does bill us for services rendered for Æon operatives.

While Robinson's personal opinions regarding the FSA are often extreme and in some cases, conspiratorial, her legal opinions are, without exception, excellent.

Case Study: FSA v. McClelland

Jason McClelland was arrested on May 13th, 2110, in Eugene, Oregon. The arrest took place at a Rest Stop convenience store while Mr. McClelland was in the act of striking down the cashier and emptying the register. The officer making the arrest, Sgt. Roger Bellamy, arrived on the scene after receiving a report of a robbery in progress. During the arrest, Officer Bellamy noticed blood stains on Mr. McClelland's hands, and observed that the cashier was not cut.

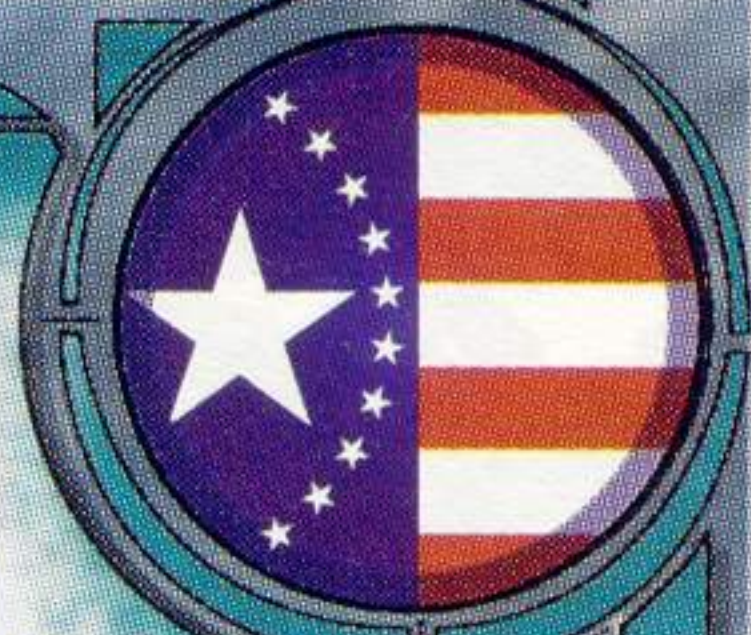
Acting according to the Richardson Act of 2065, Of-

ficer Bellamy negated Mr. McClelland's right to legal representation and interrogated him regarding the blood stains. Mr. McClelland refused to answer. After blood typing, Officer Bellamy determined that the blood matched that of Anita Hirumi, who had been beaten severely and robbed at her home in Eugene on the previous day. Mr. McClelland was unwilling to explain his whereabouts, and was placed under arrest as a suspect in the Hirumi case.

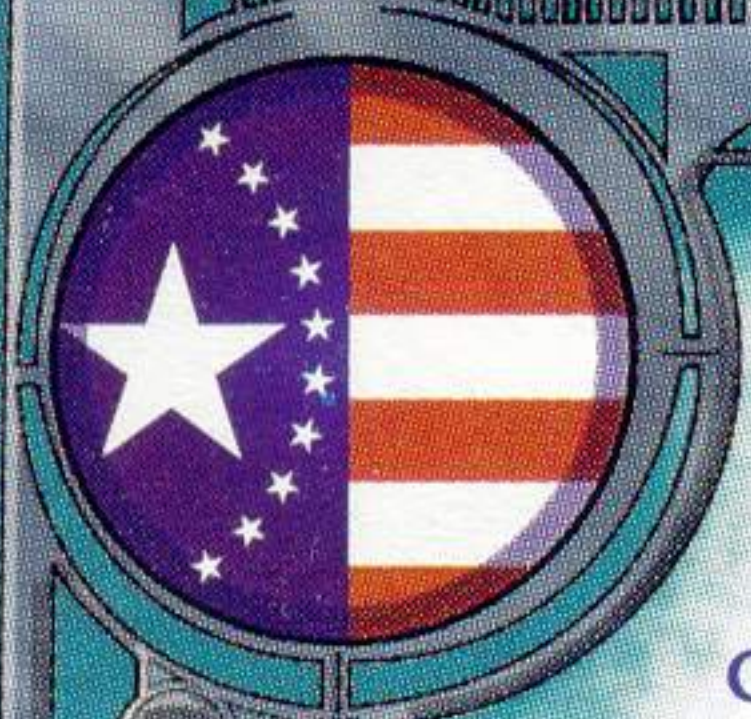
During the following week, Officer Bellamy spoke with several witnesses in the Hirumi case. One testified that he had seen a Porter-Andersen Apogee driving away from the Hirumi house at high speed after the time of the assault. Mr. McClelland

had the keys to an Apogee in his possession at the time of his arrest; they belonged to a vehicle registered to him and parked at the Rest Stop convenience store. Furthermore, when Mrs. Hirumi regained consciousness, she and her husband Shoji Hirumi picked Mr. McClelland out of a lineup.

Mr. McClelland refused to confess, despite further intensive interrogation. The presiding judge expedited the trial due to the weight of evidence. The court appointed Mr. McClelland's first lawyer. However, the day before the trial, Harold Lee, a noted criminal lawyer from San Francisco, requested and received permission to represent Mr. McClelland on a *pro bono* basis.



COURT ARTIST SKETCH 08 >>> FSA v. MCCLELLAND



Mr. Lee made no attempt to blunt the effect of the prosecution's case. His first witness was Gregor Lewandowski, a technician for PacNorBell, the telephone company serving the area. Mr. Lewandowski provided telephone records proving that the anonymous phone call about the Rest Stop robbery had come from the Hirumi home.

Mr. Lee's second witness was Merryl Black, the police secretary who took that call. She testified that Mr. Hirumi's voice was that of the person who reported the robbery. Cross-examination failed to shake her testimony.

Mr. Lee's last witness was Mr. Hirumi, who testified that he had made the report "on a hunch." Mr. Hirumi further testified that while he was a psion belonging to the ISRA Order, he had not discovered the robbery using his noetic abilities.

The defense closed, asserting that Mr. Hirumi lied in his testimony, and suggesting that Mr. Hirumi might even have mentally influenced Mr. McClelland to commit at least the robbery if not the initial assault. The prosecution attempted to refocus the trial on the question of Mr. McClelland's guilt.

The judge ruled that Mr. McClelland could not be found guilty of robbing the Rest Stop: The evidence that led to his arrest was obtained by means of invasive noetic abilities, violating the fundamental human right to privacy. Furthermore, the judge found Mr. McClelland not guilty of the assault on Mrs. Hirumi; the court could not prove that he acted of his own will.

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That's the infamous McClelland case. It provides first-hand evidence of how easy it can be to use the mere existence of psi abilities to derail a case. Harold Lee undercut the overwhelming evidence implicating McClelland simply by pointing out that Hirumi was a psion. As anyone with a basic understanding of noetics knows, clairsentients cannot influence another person's thoughts — that falls under telepathy. Hirumi admitted he was a clear, not a tel (and independent research proves this is accurate). This doesn't matter to the FSA, as I'll explain momentarily.

In the end, the simple mention of the word "psion" was enough to taint the trial, despite the prosecution's best efforts. Not only was McClelland acquitted, but Shoji Hirumi was later tried and sentenced to 10 years in prison for violating Jason McClelland's civil rights under the Noetic Control Act.

In case you're wondering, Harold Lee is on permanent retainer from Norcomm Telecommunication, a wholly owned subsidiary of HLY National Finance. PacNorBell is itself a wholly owned subsidiary of Norcomm. All of whom are key cogs in the FSA's military-corporate machine. And Jason McClelland has not worked a day since the trial, but it seems he can afford to buy all the beer he wants.

Two incredibly important legal precedents were established by the FSA v. McClelland case. The first is that you can't use psionic powers to investigate a crime. If you accidentally discover a crime with psionic powers and report it, you corrupt the evidence.

Now, you may be able to use your powers to catch a criminal *once criminal activity has been established* — but be very careful. Why? Because of the second precedent: The FSA legal system does not officially recognize that psions possess only one full aptitude. In other words, you can demonstrate your psychokinetic abilities until the cows come home, but that doesn't legally prove that you're unable to use any vitakinetic ability you please. FSA paranoia about psions is astounding at times.

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NEPTUNE ARCHIVE

JAYWALKING

— Philip Dixon, freelance psion (clairsentient), 2117

I've lived in Boston for the past six years, and I break the law — as defined by the Noetic Control Act — on a regular basis. I'm quiet; I don't make waves, and I've never gotten in trouble for it. It's like jaywalking, yeh?

But that doesn't mean I'm nonchalant about it. It's not just the government or the Central Security Agency that hates us around here. The citizens discriminate. If anyone dislikes me, and I'm not careful, they could turn me in. So I'm careful. That's just how it is.

The bottom line is, your very presence at a crime scene weakens the prosecution's case.

There's no telling what you as a psion may have "done" to influence events or individual rights.

Mind you, FSA v. McClelland precedents aren't usually abused by the court system. If a street criminal like Jason is caught because a telepath stuns his puny little brain, he goes to prison as he should. However, if you enter a criminal or civil case against someone who happens to be under the protection of the FSA, you won't win.

Really.

Cooperating with the FSA

— Arthur Bengali, *Æon Trinity, Neptune Division associate*

It may surprise you to learn that the FSA actually does have a pragmatic side when it comes to psionic powers. It turns out that the Richardson Act allows police officers to formally ignore quite a few legalities under certain circumstances. If you're an officer investigating a "heinous crime," you can fill out a simple form and get *carte blanche* to do just about anything you like. I'm not sure what the legal definition of a heinous crime is, but police seem to have a lot of latitude when invoking Richardson.

Anyhow, one of the things you can do under the Richardson Act is use psionic powers to go after criminals. Now, there are no official psion cops in the FSA —

Richardson doesn't go that far, and you'd still face a lot of discrimination if it did. (Make what you will of rumored secret psion squads and psion cops pretending to be neutrals.) However, a cop can deputize others who then fall under the Richardson exemptions.

Obviously, you can't just show up at a police station and say you want to help out with any cases they happen to have handy. I was deputized once; the local police were investigating some white-collar computer crime. An officer asked my Orgotek branch if anyone would be willing to assist them. I volunteered out of curiosity. The police fingerprinted me, had me fill out an extensive questionnaire and gave me a quick lie-detector test before they briefed me on the case.

The details weren't very interesting — I nipped into a computer node and brought back some files — but it was damn fascinating working with the police. From some comments I overheard, officers were split on the idea of resorting to "psyq" help. Some of them appreciated the ease with which I wrapped up the case. Others didn't think it was worth it. The work took about a day, and they paid me a token stipend — enough for a good dinner (depending on your definition of "good").

I asked around the office afterward. Apparently, Orgotek receives a scattering of official (though quiet) requests each year — and that number's slowly climbing. Of course, we could help a helluva lot more than that,

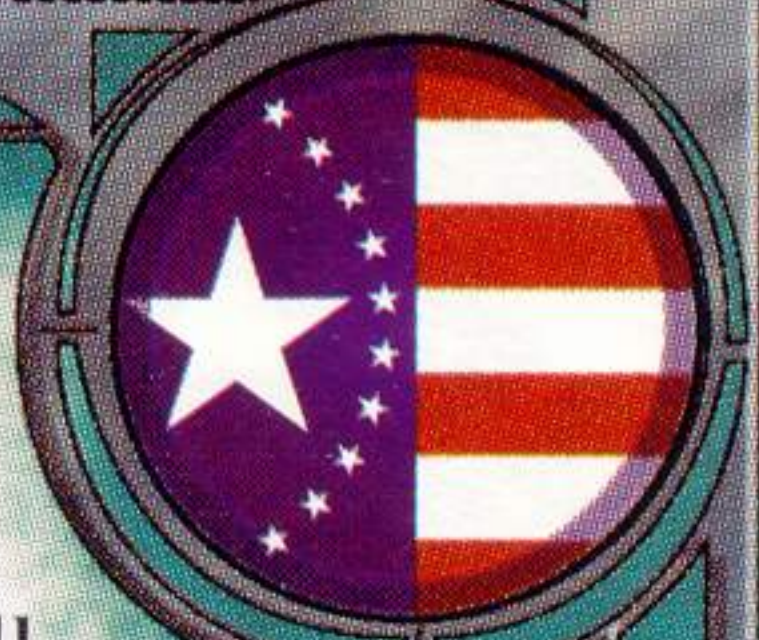
but the cops aren't too eager to engage our services every time they stall out. Just because they find psions useful doesn't mean the FSA *likes* us, yeh?

Most requests of this nature go through official channels, but there are some freelance psions out there who have relatively good relations with the law on an individual basis. You put yourself at some risk if you get involved, though. Nobody forgets that you're a "psyq", and if an officer "fails" to do his paperwork, you're up on criminal charges. Orgotek protects its own, but solos are vulnerable.

I've also heard stories about psions and the Central Security Agency — well, okay; I am. It's mostly hearsay, though. I don't know details, but I'd think CSA-sponsored Gifted don't have the problems that psion deputies do. Keep them out of the public eye, enforce a "need to know" condition for other government stooges whenever the psions are on the job — y'know, typical paranoid FSA cover-up stuff.

Also be warned that it's possible to be *forced* to cooperate with FSA authorities. If the police need a psion badly enough, they'll find someone and "ask" him or her to volunteer. Refusing is a bad idea; you'll be harassed, watched and singled out for special treatment. And that's if they're in a *good* mood. Otherwise, expect to spend a few months in the Raleigh psyq tank.

Life in the FSA....



The Frontier

— **Graduation commencement address, Canberra Third Legion Training Camp, General van der Kuijp, May 22, 2116**

A few colonies and human settlements operate in a lawless state: The asteroids and portions of what were once France and the Middle East are excellent examples. Yet only a foolish Legionnaire mistakes lack of law enforcement for permission to do whatever she pleases. The frontiers are, in a word, unforgiving.

The key to operating out there is remembering that the powerful impose their own justice. If you're stationed in what used to be Jordan and you get caught reading a warlord's mind, it doesn't matter that governments' forbid him to execute you. Chances are he'll do it anyway.

So you need to learn the political terrain, just as any soldier needs to learn the physical terrain. Here are some basic guidelines in

which to start. Remember, these are only guidelines. There's no despot-and-bandit guidebook.

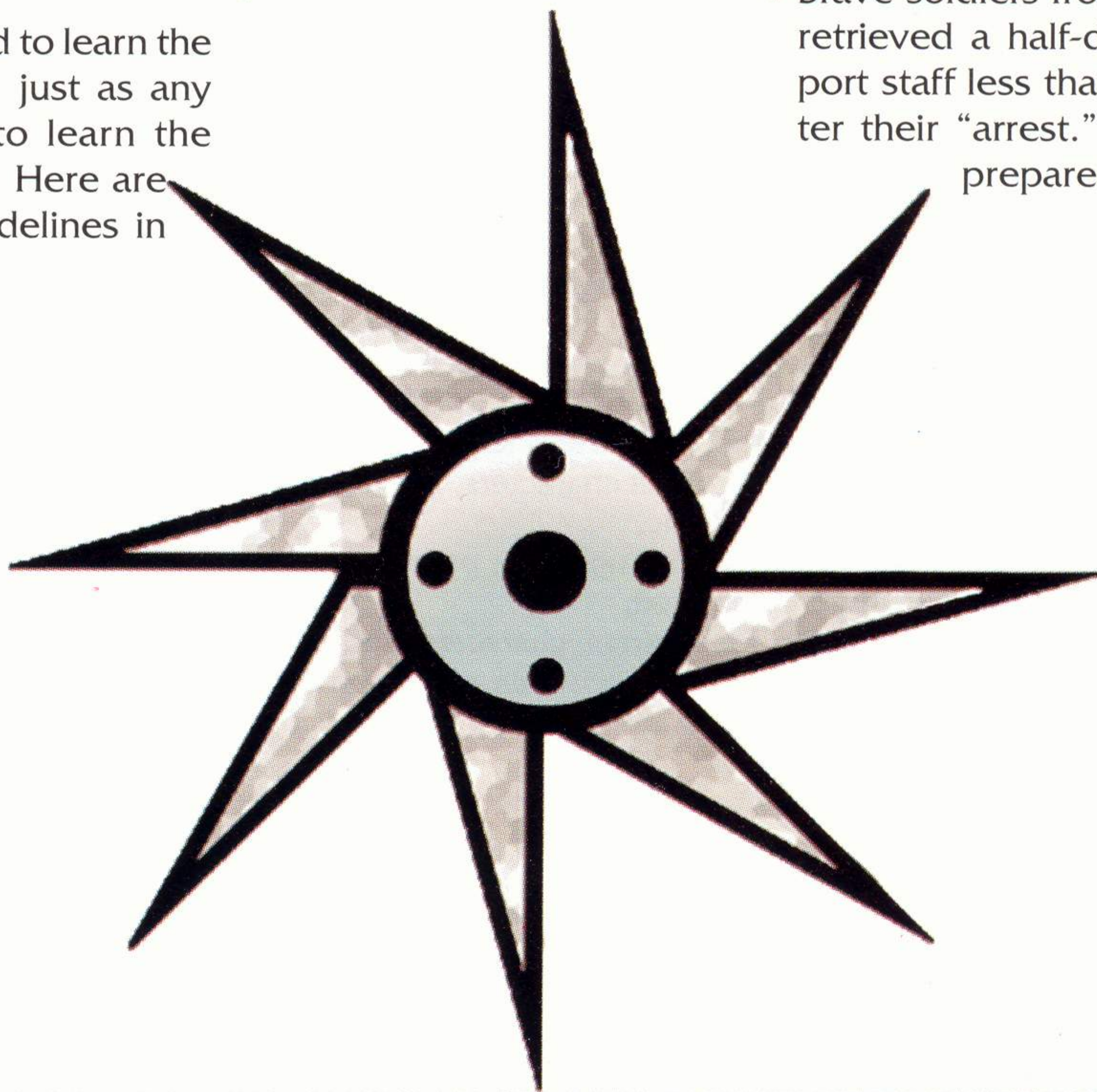
To the advantage of the Legions and the Norça, physical violence is relatively acceptable on the frontier. Men and women in the absence of law must protect themselves by whatever means necessary, and psionics is as good a weapon as any. A cryokinetic blast is no different than a gun shot. However, this is not a license to go out blasting whomever you choose. Naked aggression is not the same as self-defense.

On the other hand, privacy is valued highly on the fringe. Telepaths and clairsentients are protected by law in civilized states. That protection vanishes in anarchy. It is not wise to give anyone reason to suspect you of

mind reading. We recommend that tels and clears keep a low profile in the absence of legitimate authority.

This brings up another point: There's no due process in lawless regions. Evidence is less important than trust; if a respected member of the community accuses you of something, she doesn't need proof. Again, learn the political terrain. Learn who you should befriend and who will vouch for you.

Finally, always remember that anything I've said here may be wrong in any given situation. Even if you behave 100% accordingly to local custom, anything you do may be grounds for a mock trial, captivity or worse. If this happens to you, do not despair: The Legions stand behind you. Remember Beirut in 2112, when 10 brave soldiers from the First retrieved a half-dozen support staff less than a day after their "arrest." We stand prepared. Always.



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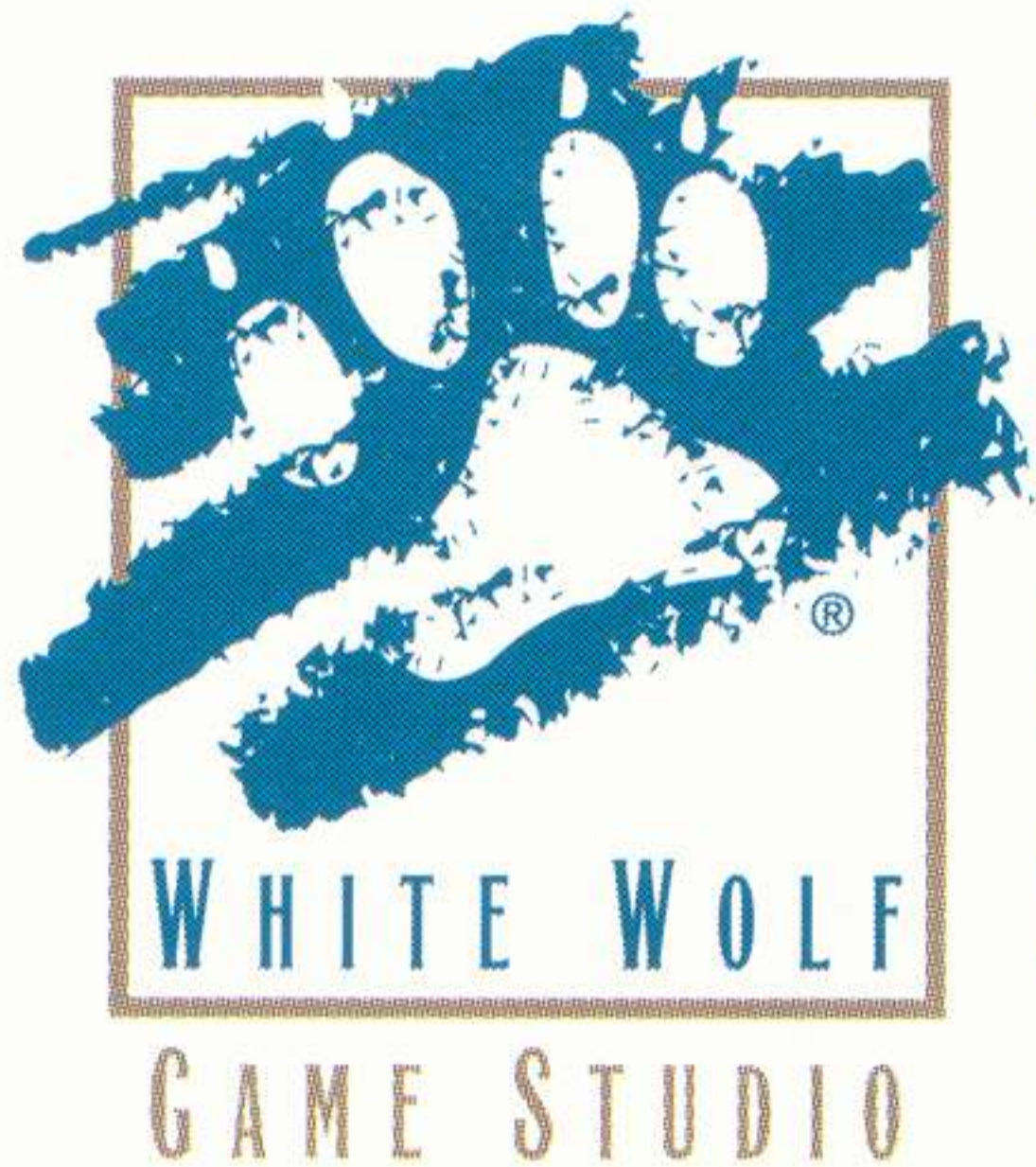
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AUTHOR DEDICATION

To Carl Rigney, an awesome GM and an excellent friend. Clarice says: "Long live the Queen!" Thanks are also due to Jeff Wilder and Ted Lee, who provided useful feedback on legal matters.



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