*Testimonial from D. Wendell, Green Class Robotics Engineer regarding ADEV-44*

Interview by V. Cross 2:00PM May 7th, 2010

V. Cross Could you please state your name and position for the record?

Wendell I’m Darrius Wendell, Green class Robo engineer for Streeper Industries.

Cross Very good. Now could you please restate what you were telling the foreman earlier today?

Wendell Well, it was strange. Very strange. I was down in the hangar servicing the autonomous vehicles coming in from Ethos. A lot of them come back damaged, you see. Sometimes parts that people forget about straight up vanish, which is a right pain to design for. You know how Ethos is. Dangerous place, too. Why, we lost three last week to that giant tentacled-

Cross Yes Mr. Wendell, we’re well aware.

Wendell Right, sorry. So anyways, a unit comes in unannounced through the portal, right? And people are supposed to be controlling the ADEV units. But I radio control, and they have no idea what’s going on. The unit just floats in from the portal on its thrusters, and doesn’t dock like it should. It just starts floating around, getting way too close to the workers, like, like it’s inspecting them or something. It landed next to a workbench, and its camera started looking at all the tools and stuff. It used its manipulator arm to test and open drawers and pulled on parts until it had almost knocked over the whole thing.

Cross What were you doing during this?

Wendell I was on the hangar floor, repairing ADEV-133. I went over to try to hit the shut-off switch on it, but the ADEV unit actually *blocked me.*  It grabbed my wrist with its claw, and looked at me with the camera. As I bent to take a closer look though, it let go of my hand and grabbed my silver pen in my shirt pocket. It looked at it, then it put the pen in its specimen bay.

Cross And then what happened?

Wendell I swore it looked alive. Like it somehow was sentient. These things don’t have any fancy AI in them. I’ve seen the code. Simple stuff. But I said aloud “What are you?” It reached into its specimen bay and pulled out a bunch of random stuff: Crystal ball, glasses, and papers. And on the back of one of them, he took my pen and using his arm, he slowly wrote “GREGORY.”

Cross I see.

Wendell …am I in trouble, Mr. Cross?

Cross Not at all. Just as long as you do not mention this to anyone. I need to report to the Director immediately. In the meantime, you are to keep ADEV-44 contained. Report the unit as non-operational. Tell everyone else to do so. That will be all.