

Some Facts

Underground

Cheyenne, USA Colorado

Burlington, UK London

Raven Rock, USA Pennsylvania

Crater Lake, USA Oregon

Dixiacheng, PRC Beijing

Sonnenberg, Switzerland

Above-ground

Brown Ridge

Yokota

Directors

Trent Paver (ESD, analytic, planning director) (US)

Joanne Auborn (ASD, creative, design director) (UK)

Miha Nakano (EPD, resourceful, manufacturing director) (Japan)

Robert Vetsch (ISTD, proactive, research director) (Swiss)

(Writer's note, not to be published: Colonies are Created and Owned)

1.1

Multinational climate refugee colony opens in Burlington

CORSHAM, UK - May 15, 2244 - Celebrated artist and environmental activist Diego Manrique fought back tears today in a speech delivered on the steps of the newly opened Burlington Colony, hundreds of feet below the sprawling urban jungle of Corsham, Wiltshire.

"I was only seventeen in 2223, when the waves rose up and swallowed the Canary Islands," Manrique said. "The next decade of my life, I spent fighting for survival in the Wroughton Emergency Relocation Zone, our tents at the mercy of dust storms, heat waves and torrential rain." Flanked by activist group leaders, fellow refugees and survivors, Manrique unveiled a series of three wall murals in the main tunnel-way of the Colony entrance, dedicated to climate casualties around the world. "As we step into the future of mankind's survival, may they never be forgotten."

Third-Chance Party UK Prime Minister Lydia O'Connor, who first proposed the construction of the Colony, was among the first to tour the new complex. " [Burlington] was once an emergency government war HQ. Today, it seems we are at war with Mother Earth herself. We must all do what we can to prepare ourselves, and I promise Burlington will be the first of many."

In contrast, main opposition candidate Oliver Byrne of the Revoke-1338 party was fiercely critical of the Colony. "Instead of pouring billions into glorified underground slums, we should have begun establishing lunar settlements a long time ago. There is nothing - no hope - left for us here." Byrne's remarks echo the sentiments of major opposition groups worldwide, as the Cheyenne, Sonnenberg, and Dixiacheng Colonies are just beginning operations. "It's ridiculous. Not a single off-planet human... [DATA CORRUPTED]"

1.2

Investors rejoice as BNL shares rally after third colony established

CAPE COLONY, FL - January 4, 2256 - After a surprise announcement by Bayer-Nowell Land Infrastructure [BNL] on Thursday, BNL investors began the year on a high with a stunning 7.3% hike in 24 hours.

Despite the good news, analysts urge restraint, noting that the profitability of above-ground colonies tends to be unstable in the near-term. Bayer-Nowell will have to contend with the initial difficulties of managing over 70,000 people in the Cape Colony, their third and largest one yet, though co-founder and CEO Martin Nowell maintains that there will be “no issue, given our extensive track record in open-air climate-defense.”

BNL’s announcement comes closely on the heels of PANV Pharmaceuticals’ [PANV] acquisition of Crater Lake, Raven Rock, and Brown Ridge, bringing their tally to 34 colonies. And after the messy dissolution of GZK Inc last month, PANV looks set to annex another six colonies in the former United Republic of Korea. Helmed by its four phenomenal directors, PANV has a clear lead, but in this post-government economy it remains to be seen if there isn’t enough room for multiple... [DATA CORRUPTED]

(Writer’s note, not to be published: Cydroids Head To Space)

2.1

Holo-ad, dated around 2270

Have you heard? There’s a Cydroid Pod Cafe coming to YOUR neighborhood!

This is a special offer exclusively for [PRINTVALUE:\$RECIPIENT]. Did you know that a Cydroid Pod Cafe, PANV Pharmaceutical’s premier mixed-reality recreational facility, is opening a location near you? Would you like to ski the ashen slopes of the Andes, take a vacation to the bottom of the ocean, or explore the deserts of Brazil? All that and more is possible when you connect to one of PANV’s flagship Cydroids!

Make a reservation at our new [PRINTVALUE:\$RECIPIENTLOCATION] location today, and save 15% off your tab when you purchase one of our new Mk II Cydroids!

2.2

Editorial: Cydroids - unhealthy fad, or future?

April 14, 2271 - Call me old-fashioned, but there is something about a magical device that slows your aging (or so they claim) and projects your consciousness into a hollow, humanoid shell that gives me the heebie-jeebies. And now “Cydroid Pod Cafes”!? Next, you’re going to tell me Stim and Inebri8 are doing society a favor!

While this editor can plainly see its potential for use in cases of the terminally ill and immobile, PANV *Megacorp*'s latest foray into questionable technological advancements seems to completely disregard... [DATA CORRUPTED]

2.3

Directors' Meeting Minutes, July 24, 2273

Trent Paver: ...the good news is, our initial analysis has brought up estimates that are off the charts. The bad news is that it's stuck in big, dumb rocks, but Abby's got it, right?

Joanne Auburn: I'm not sure our Mk II's can last for long in those conditions, let alone get up there. And the Mk III's are designed for extreme *Earth* environments.

Mika Nakano: If I may interject, Kennedy's old, but serviceable, and it shouldn't be difficult to work on Luna for manufacturing our Mk IIIs once we get there..

Robert Vetsch: I've been saying it all along, there's heaps more potential in those rocks than we have left on terra firma. It's bleeding-edge or nothing, and we can't afford nothing.

Trent Paver: Joanne, Mika, how long do you think it'll take for the Mk III to get off the ground? Manpower won't be a problem. The Cydroids themselves, though...

Joanne Auburn: Nobody's been up there in forever, so it's anybody's guess if the new plans work. At least, I certainly impressed myself with some of the new designs.

Mika Nakano: Manufacturing's squeezing as much as we can out of what we have left. That's not much, even accounting for the recycled Mk I's. We're really doing this?

Robert Vetsch: Damn right, we're doing this. We're going to space.

[END OF RECORDING]

2.4

CALLING ALL ABLE-MINDED PERSONS!

(Archivist's note: Holo-ad dated around 2274)

Calling all able-minded persons!

PANV Pharmaceuticals is now hiring Full-Time Cydroid Operators from the following Colonies: [PRINTVALUE:\$RECIPIENTLOCATION]. You will be housed in brand new, fully customized subterranean facilities with state-of-the-art security, and all your physical needs will be fully met within our newest Mk III Cydroid Pod System! (patent pending).

Your job scope will include space exploration, mining, manufacturing, and base-founding. Sign up today at... [DATA CORRUPTED]

3.1

Leaked PANV research report sparks fears of lethal extraterrestrial material

KENNEDY COLONY - August 5, 2276 - The hacker collective Open_Your_Eyes has released nearly a terabyte of classified research reports and internal correspondence from PANV Pharmaceuticals, sparking rumors of dangerous experiments leading to casualties, with a newly discovered foreign material of extraterrestrial origin.

For years, PANV has been aggressively expanding Cydroid mining operations in space. Leaked files reveal that samples collected from a centaur, 83982 Crantor, contained a highly reactive substance called amaranthine, so named for its “purple-red, petal-like crystalline structure”. The correspondence suggests amaranthine “enables faster-than-light photon transfer” and is “of significant interest to PANV’s Cydroid operations in far space”.

However, warnings note that “proper containment and safe usage is challenging, to say the least”. After a number of “mishaps, resulting in the death of several scientists”, it appears that the substance is “incredibly volatile and toxic to humans, particularly aerosolised”. In a statement released through their holosite, Open_Your_Eyes demanded for greater accountability, and derided PANV’s actions as “playing Russian roulette with a fully-loaded revolver... [DATA CORRUPTED]

3.2

Day 413 after the Submergence

(Archivist’s note: corresponding date is October 28, 2278)

We had another survivor come in today. Showed up at our front door, howling and banging within an inch of her life. Doc seemed to be in an pissy mood as always, something about Pat having trouble getting the grow lights back on, but at least the new girl was clean, even had an EP Suit. Not a spot of ama on her, you wouldn’t believe it.

Decontaminated her in three minutes, personal best. She wouldn’t shut up about the red ash; her family’s somewhere topside. Old news, darling. Still, hits as hard as always. She’s going to take some time to settle down; Ollie had to hold her still while the seds kicked in, idiot damn near knocked her out himself.

I still think about them, too. When the rumors came in that Kennedy had blown itself sky high. When we saw the first holo-vids of hellfire-tinged snow, people crumpling in the streets. There can’t be that many left topside after all that, and frankly, I’ll be damned if we’ll last another year before we go the way Greenbrier went. With dignity.

Not sure I should have, today of all days, but I visited them down below again. Still squeaky clean, not a speck of dust. Nothing ‘cept the droning of hundreds of machines and that surreal blue glow. Ollie tried to break into some of them once, but they’re practically indestructible. And there aren’t any empty ones left. We aren’t murderers.

I don’t contend to know anything about how anything works, but I swear I seen kids, young’uns in brand, spankin new pods. Must be strange living your whole life as an avatar, never once in your own skin.

I made my rounds. Saw ma and pa, and myself in the glass. I look older than they do now.

-Whitney

4.1

Subject: [TOPSECRET] Successful Completion of ED Trials

Directors,

This is [NAMEREDACTED]. As of July 14, secondary trial runs have been successfully completed. Attached are Ms Auburn's blueprints for Ver. 1.1 and 1.2, as well as test reports for your perusal. Also included are control, repair, and override contingencies as requested by Mr Vetsch.

Results indicate that 1.2 demonstrates a marked improvement in purification efficiency, though at a cost of predictability and oversight, with respect to its subordinate functions. Individual units occasionally seem to behave independently of our governing central protocol, though that also enables them to more effectively seek and contain amaranthine traces. Maybe giving them low-level AI wasn't such a bad idea after all.

Production procedures will be ready for Ms Nakano's team within the month. If all goes well, we'll have boots on the ground as soon as October; Mr Paver's ongoing mapping of amaranthine-contaminated hotspots will aid our deployment greatly.

Salut,

[NAMEREDACTED]

Endroid Biosphere Restoration Project Lead

Luna HQ

4.2 To The Stars

Regarding the leaked internal memo from PANV Cydroid Space-Ops Department
Operation Far Zenith, Proxima Centauri B

Editorial: What does Odyssey say about who we value? March 8, 2041 - If you've been paying attention to all the public outrage in response to last week's announcement of the Odyssey project, you'd be forgiven for mistaking the proposed colony ship for a gold-plated space chariot that the world's trillionaires are conspiring to use to escape the climate catastrophe, leaving the rest of us to choke and drown and starve while the richies rocket off to Sirius. 1Earth spokesman Azar Safavi went so far as to say, "The ability to drive the planet nearly to extinction and then even consider leaving it behind is the sole provenance of the obscenely, criminally rich." Dander up, hackles raised? You bet. Only problem is - Azar's got it all wrong. The Odyssey is not a cosmic escape pod for CEOs. It's a rare instance of long-term thinking in the midst of our collective disaster. Even if every aspect of the project goes swimmingly - which we all know will never happen - the ship won't even launch from orbit until 2080, by which time - let's face it - our species will either have found a way to reverse the climate, or will have perished. Nor is the Odyssey a vanity project funded by the preposterously wealthy. It is, rather, a (yet again rare) instance of an international project, co-founded by five nations (U.S., the Western European Alliance, India, China, and Japan). Yes, the project will accept donations by wealthy individuals, but donations will not "buy a seat" on the ship. The vast majority of the Odyssey's human passengers will not be old, rich, and smug, but very young - as in embryonic. The entire point of the project is to spawn a human population on the exoplanet [DATA CORRUPTED]

announcement

Split into 4 ships

Ship functions and specifications

Focus on mining

Each led by one director

ST Engineering's marine arm has launched the eighth and final Independence-class Littoral Mission Vessel (LMV) on order for the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN). The ship, which will be in service as RSS Fearless (22) once commissioned, was launched on 26 January at ST Engineering's shipyard in Benoi, Singapore. Fearless is part of a contract signed between ST

Engineering and the Singapore Ministry of Defence in 2013. The programme seeks to replace the RSN's class of 12 55 m Fearless-class patrol vessels with eight corvette-sized LMVs. The first-of-class, RSS Independence (15), was commissioned in May 2017, while second and third ships in the class, RSS Sovereignty (16) and RSS Unity (17) were commissioned in November the same year. Meanwhile, Justice (18) and Indomitable (19), the fourth and fifth boats in the class respectively, were commissioned in August 2018. The LMV has an overall length of 80 m, an overall beam of 12 m, and a hull draught of 3 m. It displaces 1,250 tonnes at full load, can accommodate a baseline crew of 23 including five officers, and embark a medium-lift helicopter on its flight deck. Powered by four MTU 20V 4000 M93 engines, the LMV can attain top speeds of more than 27 kt and a standard range of 3,500 n miles (6,482 km) at 15 kt. Although the LMV platform has been designed to embark a medium-lift helicopter on the flight deck, only lead ship Independence and the last three ships in the class, Fortitude (20), Dauntless (21), and Fearless, will operate them. The remaining LMVs can only operate rotor-wing UAVs.

5.1 Confidential: Probes

LOG #44775: This is Peter Vetsch. To tell the truth, I am worried. It has been X years since the 4 of us took command of one ship each, and as many years since the official split up. Since then, we've only been racing to claim as much territory and resources for our own ... faction, as we call it. Using all those resources to expand faction sizes, creating more cydroids for the same human mind to control several at once. All these, I'm telling you, all these actions will ultimately drive the entire solar system to the same desolate ending as earth. It will be inevitable. My calculations proves this ... this inevitability of resource scarcity. It won't happen within my lifetime though, but I estimate it might occur 2 generations after mine. Might. There is one solution though, as much of a pipe dream as it sounds, would be finding enough Amaranthine for further experiments. I'm very sure Amaranthine is capable of hosting FTL speeds for matter as well, not just massless photons. Then Pyxis will have a shot at survival outside of this dying system...

But that is assuming there are more Amaranthine. Some of the ship [Pyxis] satellite received weak signals sent out by the Amaranthine probes deployed a while back. They [probes] unfortunately reported negative results. No new signs of Amaranthine anywhere. Coupled with my dismal estimations... There are some unreported probes though... [DATA CORRUPTED]

5

PANV Boy Band Breaks Up

9 Misc

FROM: Izzy Mandel

TO: Murk Oslo

SUBJECT: What scares me...

Murk, Remember what I told you in my last message? About how scared I am? Well, I figured out what scares me, and it's not the bots. I mean, yeah, they're horrifying, but when we finally come face to face, I'll either live or die, and the starkness and simplicity of that binary is... well, reassuring. What scares me is how much I like this. How a DEW feels in my hands. The kick of a coilgun. Jesus, Murk, we lived in a squat for three years! Matching mohawks! Spent our days throbbing off Razorwing or Duster, nights thrashing off slamfunk gigs! We were goddamn anarchists! And now this? THIS? Discipline, jargon, uniforms? And I LIKE it??? That's what terrifies me, Murk. No crisp, reassuring binary here. I'm loving what I hate... or hated. So does that mean my entire life was just a pose... or that the person I was is already dead? I don't know... I try to tell myself it's a different kind of war. Survival, not profits. I try to tell myself it's just a different kind of direct action. I mean - what are the bots if not the ultimate capitalist stooges, right? But thinking just tires me out. All I know is we've got to fight until Zero Dawn is ready. If I end up surviving this, guess I can worry about my politics then.

Love to you and little Syd,

Izzy
