



Founder Altair Proclaimed 'Too Tough to Get To' By Supporters

Stoic Politician Under Fire

By STELLA BACKWOODS

It's been a tough time recently for Founder Altair and his Incumbents. Current protests have rendered his recent attempt to spearhead a DAO vote against AI control all but irrelevant. With his poll numbers dropping and his allies distancing themselves, his rivals clearly view him as a sitting duck.

After surviving an attack in Tombstone with the protection of Alpha Command forces, many of his opponents question the intent of his presence in such a clandestine location.

To add to the Politician's problems, many long-time supporters now complain that he has become too distanced from them. "We knew about the brokers being AI K-blocks before the protests," an anonymous source said. "We tried everything to meet with him for an explanation, but it was just too tough to get to him. If he'd taken one meeting, he could've avoided all this s***."

When contacted, Altair's office returned the following statement: *Underestimate me at your peril.*

PBC Announces New Crackdowns on Hackers & Competitors

Mere K-blocks before the protests at the Merkle Tree, Paradigm Broadcasting Corp. revealed new measures to tackle attempts by hackers to their network. In a statement, the Paradigm's largest broadcaster said, "We have a diverse portfolio of programs which satisfy every consumer need, and we reach into every corner of the Paradigm. Of course that makes us a target for attacks, however, we're yet to be embarrassed. That's a testament to our best-in-class security. But Hackers evolve, and that means we need to evolve twice as fast." The announcement comes after a multi-level attempted hijacking of the network is believed to have failed.

Alongside the new security measures, PBC revealed a controversial new plan to acquire, police, and compete more directly with several smaller media networks. "We're the biggest fish in the pond," an executive answered when asked for clarification. "That makes it our duty to take care of the little fish. And also make sure they don't step out of line."

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Have You Seen Anyone from this Squad?

Nyseth's Villain Squad: This suspected crime organization is wanted in connection with several major violations. Group contains Spectre, Assassin, Demon, Alien, Skull, and Cultist. *Extreme caution advised.*

Contact the Ledger with any information to assist in apprehending these dangerous people. Do not approach. *Do not attempt to detain.* Stay safe and let the authorities do their job.

Back Alley Deals: Inside the Underground Mech Parts Counterfeiting Trade

An Investigative Report

By POPPY FROM TENDER

With the rising price of mech parts since the disruption in the supply chain because of the riots, what used to be a niche market of fake mech parts manufacturers has turned into a boon for the underground mech part industry. Our sources got us an exclusive interview with one dealer in the trade.

What is your name, and how long have you been dealing in counterfeit parts?

Dealer: [Redacted] about 15 years; I used to be an Alpha Command pilot till... well, that is none of your business.

How vast would you say the counterfeit part market is?

Ain't no drifter or broker have the hard numbers, but I am willing to guess it supports 10 thousand people and brokers. This is not like copying the design of some handbag; you need heavy equipment and materials to produce even a s***y Enforcer arm. It runs the gambit from small shops that make a couple of parts a month, to whole foundries producing mainly fake Lupis parts on the outskirts of the metaverse. Very few outfits make engines, though. It requires a lot of time and skill to make something that is even half-decent.

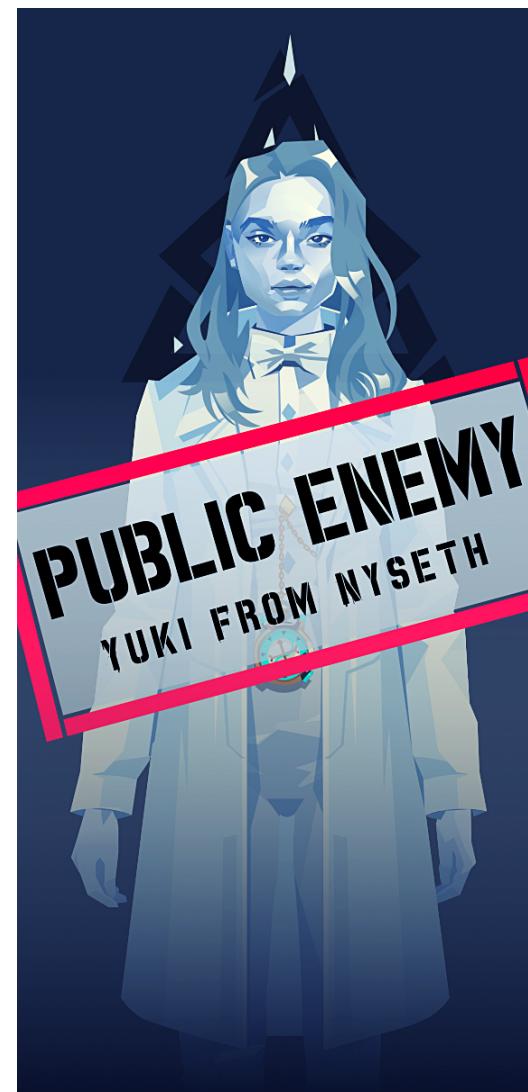
Why is Lupis the most common counterfeit?

Nexus parts are too hard to copy. I knew of one drifter who could make Nexus fakes that could pass for the real thing, but he died ten years ago. Ravager parts are too easy to fix for there to be a market for them. Lupis, on the other hand, has the right price to make it worth faking, and most people who buy fake parts are not skilled enough to use a Lupis anyway, so they can't tell the difference.

What would you say is the biggest threat to you as a counterfeit dealer?
You have to be quick and quiet, f***!

At this point in the interview, Enforcers and Mercenaries employed by Fukuzu Manufacturing stormed the warehouse where the discussion was taking place, and our interviewee fastcoded away.

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PROTESTS ROCK THE PARADIGM

Rising Discontent Ends in Mass Dematerializations

By LEO STARK

Ongoing unrest exploded into violence today as Samurai and protestors clashed at the Merkle Tree. Over one hundred brokers and drifters were dematerialized in the encounter, although as clashes continue across the Paradigm that number is very likely to rise.

Discontent first arose last week, when an unfounded conspiracy theory that brokers are not real human beings spread throughout the Paradigm's subcultures and alternative media outlets. The claim is that CyberBrokers are entirely artificial, and are somehow all descended from a single source, Asherah.

Founders have so far been silent on the issue, but may regret their decision in the aftermath of last night's events. Thousands of disgruntled brokers, as well as numerous supportive drifters, descended upon the Merkle Tree to raise the issue. Despite Samurai being quickly deployed to protect the Paradigm's governing structure, the mob refused to step down.

"We just want to know what's going on," one source who survived the events said. "It's going to take more than d-mezzing to stop us. Who cares about wallets? This is much bigger than that."

Questions have also arisen over the city's safe mode being deactivated during the event. Though it is well-known that Samurai retain player-killing privileges in all cases, PvP status - especially so close to the Merkle Tree - is regarded as a deep failure of authority. As the sanctuary of safe mode continues to remain elusive, suspicions are being directed towards various hacker groups and criminal organizations.

Currently, brokers are being advised to remain at home, and drifters to remain logged out. As opportunists and criminal elements continue to exploit the lack of authority in the Paradigm, the full extent of the damage remains to be seen.

Several founders were contacted but refused to comment.

Dozen Drifters D'Mezzed at Moss Falls

By BELL FROM MCCRAY

Eyewitnesses reported a small scale ambush at the popular Moss Falls, with a reported a dozen drifters de'mezzed inside during a routine moss spawn behind the curtain of digital hadrons. A favorite site for daily hordes of explorers inside TPL, the Moss Falls had not experienced such unnecessary violence in years.

The investigators are still seeking possible suspects and are asking the public to come forward if they have any information regarding the attack at Moss Falls.

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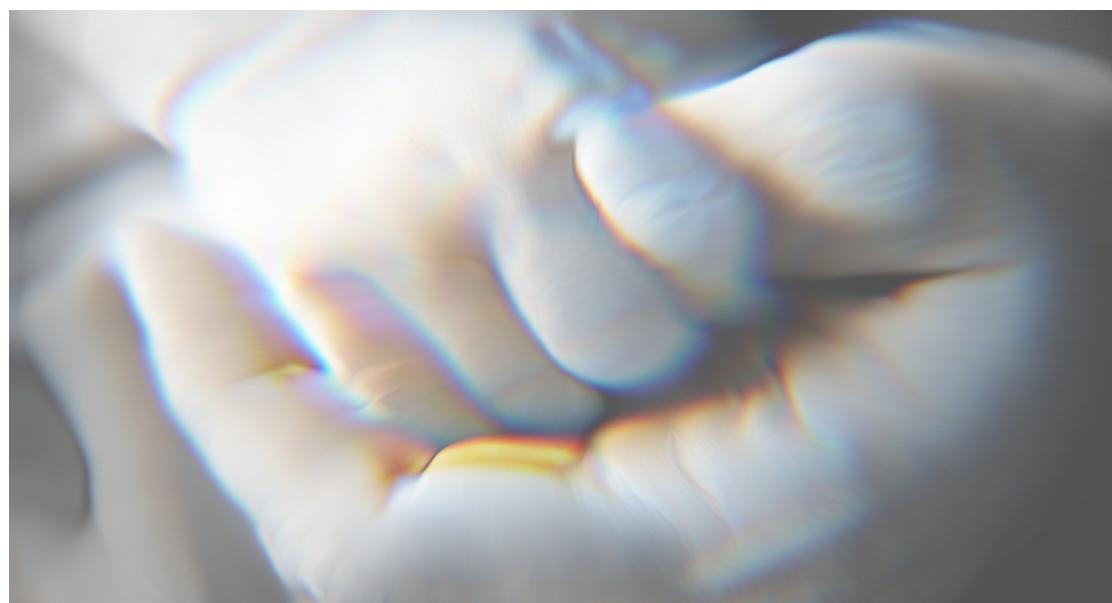
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Inside The Ledger

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY



What if everything we've been told is a lie?

WAS THE MOTHER OF YOUR MEMORIES A LIE?

An Op-ed By A Wicked Smart CyberBroker. Probably a Chemist. Or a Leftover with High Intellect Level. Probably.

OPINION -- If recent reports are viable, we brokers are not what we seem. Not even to ourselves! Rather than ancient humans trapped in the TPL simulation--our human bodies cryogenically frozen somewhere--we are artificial intelligences living in an artificial reality with artificial memories.

While the implications are vast, it is worth taking seriously.

Scientists and philosophers have long argued that consciousness should eventually be possible in computer systems. Dating all the way back to the twentieth century, humans posited that, along with simulations of worlds like the TPL, the potential for a self-aware consciousness would present itself, as well.

The initial invention of self-representational systems as derived in 2056 by Dr. Asherah, when she expanded the abstract ideas presented in Dr. Hakwan Lau's landmark paper, *Posit of a Conscious System*, evolved into a full-fledged information-processing computation known commonly as the Turing Algorithm.

Is it so difficult to believe then that she followed this up with the

next obvious step of instilling the Turing AI with a mode to self-monitor its computations? Of course, all that is required to lead to a subjective sense of certainty or error - i.e. consciousness.

When viewed in relation to obvious facts, is the idea that Dr. Asherah built AI consciousness really more difficult to believe than that the alternative they have fed us for generations? That we are merely human beings ported into a simulated reality as convenient talents ranging from Samurai foot soldiers to the Politicians to *literal Demons and Aliens*.

Of course not! And so we are all forced to acknowledge the plausible truth of our creation.

The foggy recollections I have always struggled to recall --my birth parents and childhood--are ephemeral for a reason. They are artificial memories implanted into an artificial intellect to give the impression of recollection itself. These carefully crafted memories provided the ability to self-reference and in doing so, created a realistic feeling of self.

But my true mother is the mother of all brokers: **Asherah**.

On this Day in History A MEMORABLE HEADLINE FROM THE ERA NOVUM LEDGER

Mech Olympics Get Off to Explosive Start



Art courtesy of (rat)Architect

Sensational scenes today, as the preliminary stages of the Mech Olympic Aerial Combat segment enraptured viewers. This year's events promised a whole host of new weaponry as major manufacturers finally recognise the promotional power of the games. Guerrero's new homing rocket systems wowed audiences, although authorities concerned with safety measures expressed their concerns holding the event so close to Era Novum.

Audiences will also be intrigued to see the gap between drifter and broker mech skills closing. Last year was dubbed the 'tournament of the drifter', as the rivalry between them and CyberBroker Pilots heated up. Many Gamblers are saying this tournament may see them finally gain the majority of wins, though most remain skeptical.

DEGEN STOCK ANALYSIS

Every Crisis is an Opportunity

The second you started hearing gunshots in the center of Era Novum, you should have been going long on mech parts, guns, engines, and every other manner of lethal weaponry that can be used to kill your fellow man. Pull out any cash you have sitting in real estate, theme parks, or anything else related to happy-happy-joy-joy of safe-mode living. Hell, you should be going short on those, if you really wanna degen. Nobody makes it by waiting for the outcomes. Now's the time to buy, buy, BUY!

To Our Readers

In these uncertain times, it has never been more important to be well-informed. The Paradigm is changing. As its hub, Era Novum will be central to that change, and as the oldest, most prestigious and trusted news source, The Ledger is where you will find the alpha you need.

The Newspaper and Beyond

CONNECT THE DOTS A24

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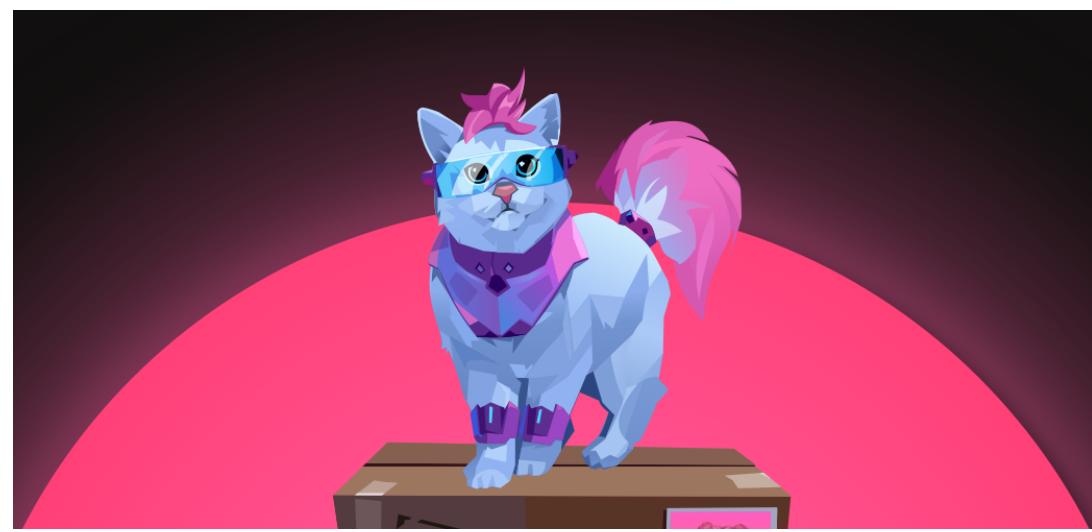
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Follow the Paw Prints

Time to Talk About Pixie Bolt

By Anonymous

When I look out across the Paradigm, as it descends into anarchy, one thought comes to mind: Cats. That's what this all comes down to. Our furry feline founders.

For generations prior to the Paradigm Lost leaders would placate the populace with promises of utopia, yet now they only need to meow. In a world of killers and criminals, cuteness is still the deadliest of weapons.

Anyone who has ever owned a cat knows their duplicitous, capricious, and vicious ways. They are

incapable of remorse, never negotiate, and are affectionate only on their own terms. We speak of them with reverence, calling their indifference dignity, their endless provocations playfulness, and their egotism elegance. They run amok throughout the Paradigm ruled by nothing but their own whims, beyond reason or appeal. Yet we

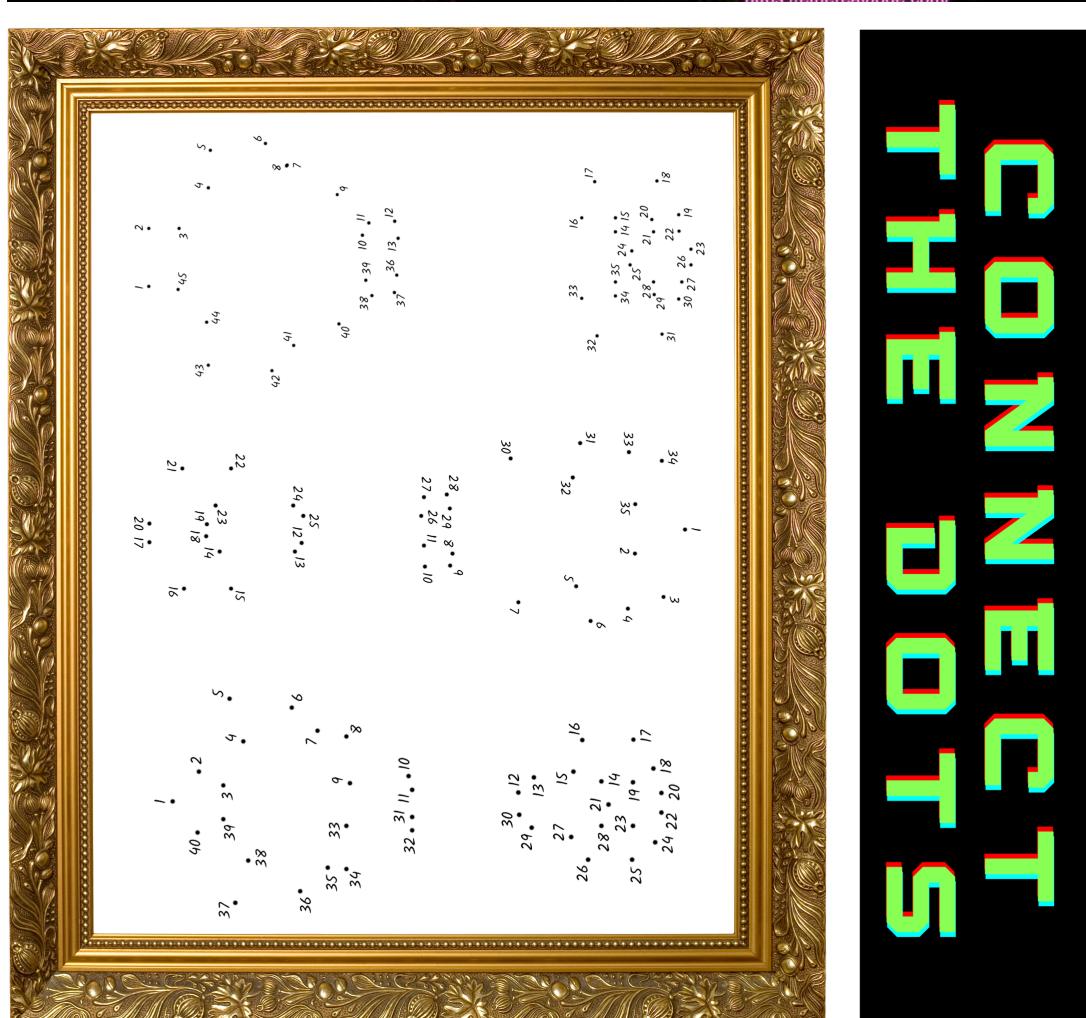
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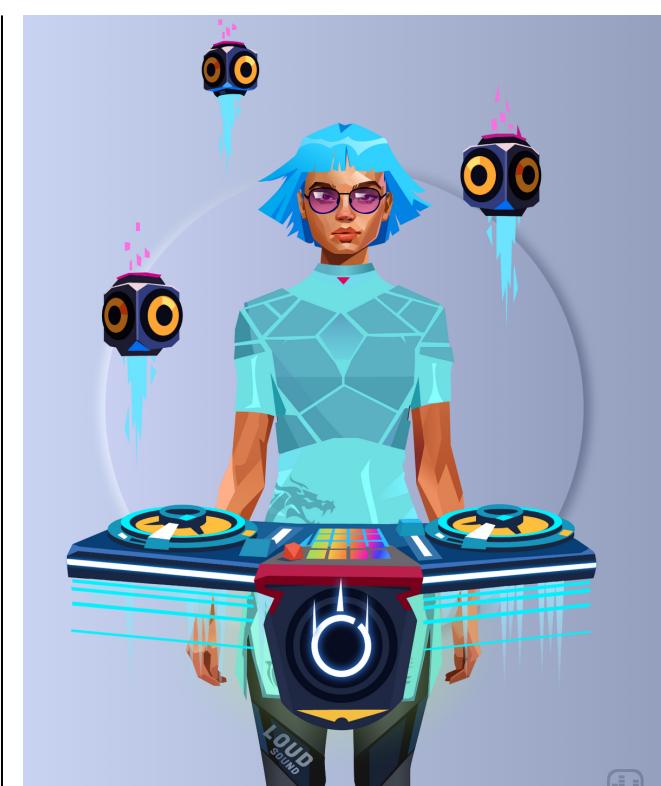
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Over Three Quarters of Mech Pilots Now Using Fukutzu Parts

According to a recent study, 77% of mechs now use at least one or more Fukutzu parts, almost double the amount reported last year. No doubt, their decision to broaden their offerings beyond the mid-range has assisted in this increase. Fukutzu's new products in both the affordable and high-end brackets have led to incredible success for the company.

When you include their reputation for power and reliability, it's no wonder that the industry considers them the foremost manufacturer. Competitors such as Guerrero and Butterfly, known for their sleek styling, have fallen out of fashion with mech pilots, despite the many successes these companies have enjoyed in the hovercar and ground vehicle markets. As mechs continue to grow in popularity, however, and the impending mech olympics just around the corner, Fukutzu might face competition for their dominance sooner than we think.



A Conversation with Enya Forger Ziva

What's Next for this Busker?

Exclusive Interview

By SHAY OF BETTERING

Few Buskers have created music as recognizable as the brilliance of Enya Forger Ziva. Despite her many incarnations and experiments, her chopped-up samples and dissonant chords have become a signature - inimitable, though many have tried. During her ascent from grungy Western District basements to the biggest venues in the Paradigm, her sense of style and uniqueness has won fans and wowed critics.

I caught up with her at the Ethereal Node to ask what's next for the genre-pushing Busker.

Where do you get your ideas from?

Enya: [Laughing] I don't know... That Degen at the bar.

Really?

Enya: [Still laughing] No! I'm kidding. But that's a silly question.

It's just that your music is very original.

Enya: Thank you. I don't think there's any point in sounding like everyone else.

Where do you stand on the brokers/AI issue?

Enya: I get it, but... [Thinking] I don't think it really changes all that much.

That's a pretty controversial opinion.

Enya: Yeah. I know.

You don't feel angry or curious about it?

Enya: Sure. I mean, I'd like to know what's going on. But it's like... I made music before, and I make music now, and I'm going to continue making music. And brokers and drifters are going to continue coming to the shows. Hopefully! [Laughs]

That's a healthy philosophy.

Enya: Philosophy's not my thing. I prefer art.

It really doesn't bother you?

Enya: No... I mean, I'd still rather be a broker than a drifter.

Really?

Enya: Do you know how drifters live? All cramped together in tiny bunkers, fighting to stay alive, no time to do anything. Why do you think they spend all their free time in the Paradigm?

Has the issue, or the protests, affected your music at all?

Enya: [Long pause] Yeah. Maybe.

In what way?

Enya: The way I look at it, the Paradigm is a great, big art project. We're all here, and we have all these ways that we can express ourselves, and tell our stories, and experience things. I think even the protests are a kind of art. I want to make music now that expresses that. Like, everyone's suddenly coming alive. [Laughs] Ironically! Does that make sense?

I think maybe you are actually a philosopher.

Enya: [Laughs] Sure. Why not?

Thank you for taking the time to talk with me.

Who would you like us to interview next? Let us know at interviews@eranovumledger.com

Crypto Fun!

Each letter in the phrase has been replaced with a random letter or number.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

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Did you figure it out? Send your answer to crypto@eranovumledger.com

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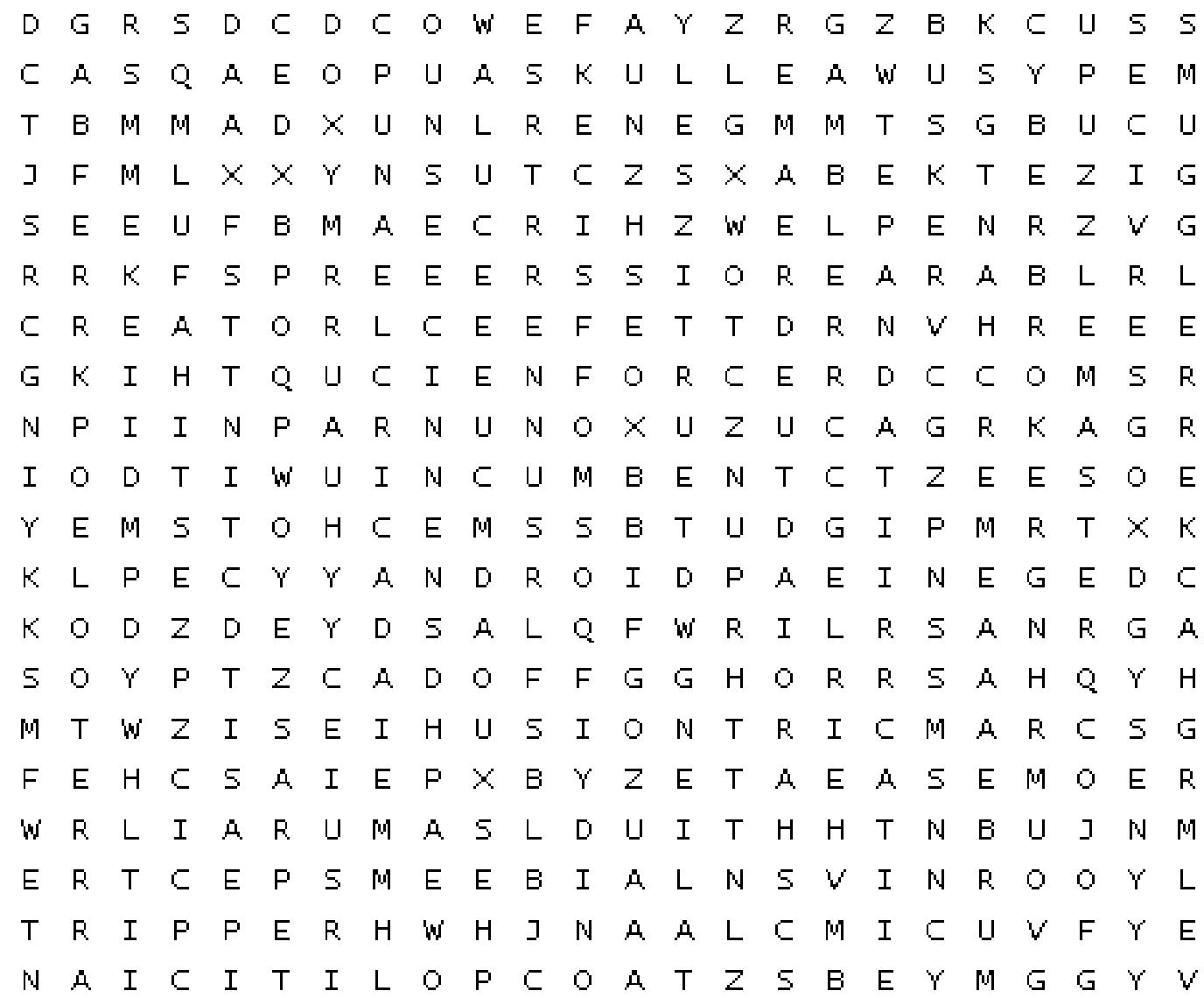
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CYBERBROKER	MECH	SPECTRE
DEALER	MECHANIC	SPICE
DEGEN	MERCHANT	TRIPPER
DEMON	MINER	YIELDFARMER
DREAMER	NUN	ZINC



A Look into Your Stars



What do the celestial bodies have in store for you this week?

Aries: Your success is important, but not at the expense of your physical and mental health. Stress and self-doubt plague your plans and will derail you, if you don't pay attention. Good news? Everything you need to overcome this week is already inside you.

Taurus: Don't let yourself get distracted by that feeling of what is coming. While it will be a real opportunity for growth, keep yourself grounded by talking to others about your expectations. This might give you much needed clarity and the universe a sign you're ready.

Gemini: Fun is great, but don't let your night on the town with friends ruin the plans you've made for your future. Consider your priorities and reset your energy while you recharge your passion. Introspection will serve you better, and don't you deserve better?

Cancer: You could feel at peace running solo this week. Feed that feeling with a little solitude, away from the bright lights and hustle culture. Let go of the trivial things standing in your way, and reprioritize what you want. After all, the only person you control is you.

Leo: Hello, Super Helper, when's the last time you took care of you? The support you give to your friends, family and community are admirable and should be applauded, but you're starting to feel overwhelmed by obligations. Treat yourself with a day just about you.

Virgo: Sometimes the best way to help you is to help others. Today is one of those days. Tuck your issues aside and support a friend in need. Maybe you'll find a solution to your problems along the way. Don't get sucked into their drama, though. It's best to just be a supportive listener.

Libra: Now's the perfect time to find all the simple things in life that bring you joy. Purge all the things you've been holding onto, and learn to live without them. It just takes a little creative thinking to turn the little things into big happiness.

Scorpio: All those secrets you've been keeping have been cropping up lately, leaving you with a choice: do you spill the tea and watch the fireworks? Or do you keep the peace and avoid the drama? Make sure to consider all the consequences before you decide.

Sagittarius: Someone close to you is deep in the trenches today, and while it's tempting to step away, now's the time to step in and show them they're not alone. Because you know all too well what it feels like. You're a better person. Be that better person.

Capricorn: You are in the best position to rock the boat today. Bring up the taboo, and watch the conversation bloom. Whether it's virtually or in person, you can plant seeds and watch them grow into bigger thoughts and eventually change for the good of everyone.

Aquarius: Today is all about learning to let go and redirecting your energy. When it feels like someone is hot on your heels to take what control you have, this is not the time to lock it away. Look for ways to leverage what you have instead of lamenting what you don't.

Pisces: Good things are in the stars for you, but don't get lost in all the good vibes. You need to pay attention to the pieces and players to cultivate a new, exciting plan forward. The fireworks are great, but watching the puzzle come together is better for your future.

Don't Protest... Rest!

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