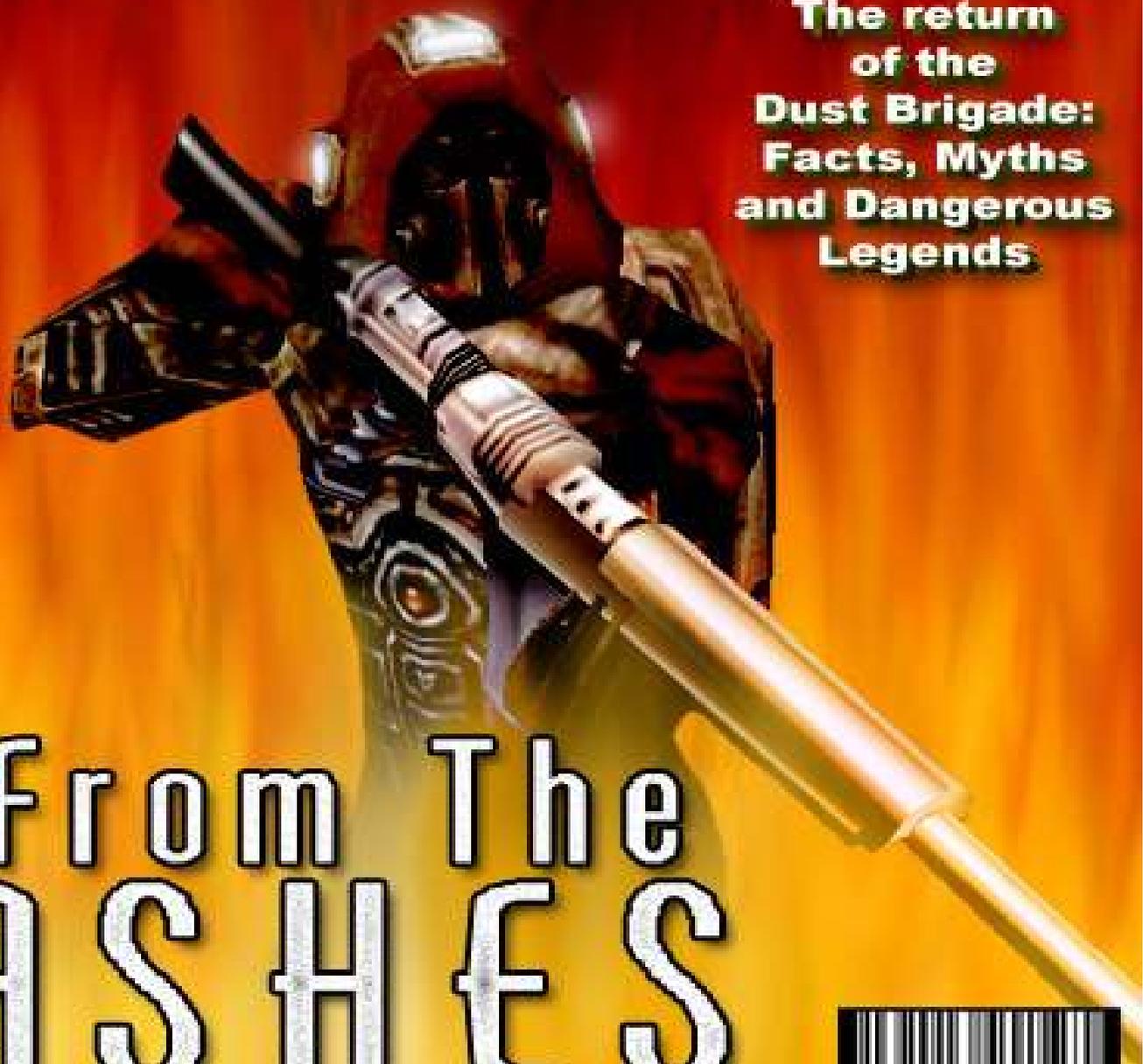


# tag

the art

Issue #5  
gallery

**The return  
of the  
Dust Brigade:  
Facts, Myths  
and Dangerous  
Legends**



from The  
**ASHES**



## Editor's Introduction

Tag was once Rubi-Ka's biggest independent news and entertainment source. First published in 29411 as a Grid tabloid, criticized for its skewed political coverage of celebrities and politicians, TAG grew into a much-respected – albeit controversial – periodical, with some of the planet's most renowned (and feared) investigative journalists and writers on-staff.

Amongst TAG's many award-winning features, their "Fifteen Minutes With..." series, and Gayle Parker's "Just Between Us" exposes are particular stand-outs, and then Editor-in-Chief Ramos Kawamoto's in-your-face comedic stylings had done much to modernize TAG's profile even further, to the point where it was the most visited periodical amongst the 18-30 male and female demographic.

The last issue published was in 29476 and featured a now infamous article on Sentinel Commander Fisk, who was appointed by Simon Silverstone as the Administrator of Tir, when the Sentinels "Liberated" the city after the fall of the Council of Truth. Under much scrutiny and some legal battles that followed, TAG was shelved, not to see the light of day again.....until now.

With Legal proceedings behind us and the appointment of new Editor-in-Chief Jonathan Ryan, we are pleased to announce the return of TAG to Rubi-Ka. And to celebrate, we have decided that we wouldn't return with just one issue, but also with a retrospective issue where we compile some of the most popular articles from our past. I hope you pick that one up as well and walk down memory lane with us.

To become the #1 source of news and entertainment we now employ some of the finest and hard edged journalists on Rubi-Ka, and will stop at no ends to bring you accurate and thought provoking articles, and the latest in Fashion, Entertainment and Extreme sports on the planet. If you see us say hello! Your feedback is what will help us become better at what we do.

So sit back, relax and enjoy this issue of The Art gallery, where we explore the history of the Dust Brigade, The new council of truth, the alien threat and of course our usual club listings, extreme sports and new classifieds.....Enjoy!

*Editor-In-Chief*  
*Jonathan Ryan*

## War of the Worlds

*By Cathrin Craver*



The sun was shining, the reets were singing and people were killing each other just like a normal day here on Rubi-Ka. But a series of events, known only to a few high ranking Omni-Tek employees, were already in motion that would change the state of the planet.

Philip Ross, CEO of Omni-Tek Rubi-Ka, had been forced to leave the planet for a vacation as it was officially stated. On this day, that would later be known as their arrival, a holographic message of Philip Ross was broadcasted, both within the lands under the control of the clans as well as Omni-Tek.

The message was automated in the case of a hostile force breaking through the outer planetary defense grid, and heading directly for the planet. It also said that this enemy was of alien origin. Many people claimed that this was another hoax made up by the "evil" corporate propaganda machine, while others were convinced that it was the truth, however unlikely when coming from Omni-Tek, as they had already heard the rumors of strange occurrences from, what some said was, a "alien" ship crashing in Mort.

The following day, the orbital defenses near the planet were wiped out, along with almost every satellite in orbit, while the morning star station was left untouched. Massive war ships, called mother ships were soon sighted over all major cities shortly after, where alien troops were unloaded, attacking and killing hundreds of soldiers, workers, and civilians, before they were forced back. Initial damages were in the millions and left wounds still to deep to heal from.

The attacks have continued, sometimes with days between, other times, weeks. But the strength of these attacks continues to grow even as the citizens of our planet fight them in both major and minor cities throughout the planet. It is unknown how many aliens that have been slain, but it can only be measured in thousands. How many of them are there? Or perhaps do they have technology for a reclaim similar to ours?

We fight them on a daily basis, but what do we really know about them? We know that they have countless ships in orbit, and they attack us everyday, but since none have been captured alive, and no communication has been established, we do not know why they are here. Some think, that the arrival of these aliens are linked to the slaying of the shadowland entity known only as "The Beast", who was killed due to the manipulation of Ergo, the watcher of the Shadowlands.

## Cover Story



## A Moment of History - The Dust Brigade

*The Dust Brigade Attack Rome Red*  
By Cathrin Craver

We have all heard about the dust brigade. Some have even seen their acts of terror and destruction. But we keep asking ourselves, who they are and where do they come from. Only the member of this terrorist faction knows these details. All the rest of us can do is to await their next attack.

Many people claim, that we have defeated them at every engagement, that we have killed many of them, but if that was true, then why do they keep returning again and again, and each time, stronger then ever? I have read every report about their attacks, and nothing has convinced me that we have won a single engagement with them. While we may have killed them, or drove them off, they have managed to succeed in every mission. We can continue to fight them on the streets, near our homes and loved ones, but in order to stop them completely, we must first understand their strength and determination. In order to try and determine their goal, I have summoned up all of their known attacks and acts of terror.

It all began on October 6th, 29466, when Omni-Tek media channels received a video message showing a man, wearing an environmental mask stating that the following

Some have said that the group responsible for the killing walked through a portal that somehow transported them to the mysterious city of Home, where they were meet by a robotic entity known as "Number Nine" It appeared to be sending out some sort of distress call, to a place outside our galaxy. It warned that with the death of "the beast", the source was no longer protected and that they would soon arrive. "They" we assume, can only be the aliens.

Why are they here and what is their connection to the source? Only time will tell...if we have that time

day, the hand of justice will crush the Omni-Tek war machine. The transmission ended with the now infamous words; Ashes to ashes, dust to dust." But none of the major news media broadcasted this transmission to the public, because they thought it was a hoax. The following day however, they realized their mistake as 1466 Omni-Tek soldiers were slaughtered in six separate assaults across OT-held territory. Some witnesses reported that commando types, wearing crimson uniforms and environmental masks were the attackers. At the same time, the insurance pattern databases in Omni-1 are sabotaged, causing the single largest permanent death count to date. This event was later named "The Black October Massacre" and it was the first known attack made by the Dust Brigade. This slaughter let to an escalation in the conflict between the clans and Omni-Tek, and even interference from the ICC, as the war began to take more civilian casualties.



They returned 4 years later, on July 15, 26470, where a series of coordinated attacks against civilian Omni-Tek targets across the south,

while the slogan "Dust to Dust" was broadcasted from hacked satellites. Because the death toll has never been revealed we can only assume that it was very high. The objective of the Dust Brigade seemed to be to foil the Tir Accord, which was close to being signed. The Council of Truth assured Omni-Tek that they will do their outmost to prevent further attacks from clan afflicted militants, so the mission failed, as the Accord was signed a month later.

At the end of 29475, there was a chance for a lasting piece, between the clans and Omni-Tek, but this fails when an apartment complex in Omni-1 Entertainment district is destroyed by an anti-matter explosion. The words "Dust to Dust" is heard being sent out by the remains of the bomb. Where the Dust Brigade failed 5 years earlier they have now succeeded in destabilizing the planet. Fights and skirmishes are now a part of the

everyday life once more, and it eventually leads to a show down between Omni-Pol police forces and separatist clansmen, who would not allow Omni-Tek to complete their investigation of the city of Sabulum. Separatist clansmen, consider the city as clan territory, despite its listing as part of the Omni-Tek controlled lands by the Tir accord. Unable to complete their investigation, Omni-Pol is forced to withdraw and close the case. In the following months Battles continue in this area, between clan separatists and Omni-Tek loyalists.

In February 29476, the Dust Brigade resumes their attacks, but this time, they attack inside Omni, Clan and Neutral cities, killing civilians of all factions. They also reveal their true face, when they attack and kill a group of high ranking clansmen and Omni-Tek officials, only shouting the known slogan “Dust to Dust”. This was a signal to all Rubi-kans that they only follow their own rules, and have no respect for authority of any kind. Countless clansmen still see the Dust Brigade as heroes of the clans.

On August 14, 29476 a team of Omni-Pol investigators are looking into the permanent death of an unidentified male found in the Lush Hills Resort. The investigation, although routine, escalates to a full-scale fire fight as Dust Brigade commandos appear and shoot at anyone they see. During this attack, then Omni-Pol soldiers and employees manage to kill one of the commandoes, forcing the remaining commandoes to retreat. While citizens were quite vocal in wanting to know about the dead commando, the identity of this terrorist has never been disclosed to the public. This situation did however show that the Dust brigade members can be killed, but it wasn't easy.



In September 29476, the Council of Truth suddenly disappear after rumors of illegal funding of the dust brigade. There are no leads about their location, and ICC peacekeepers are called in to keep the peace in the city of

Tir. Only a month later, on October 10, 29476 two Council of Truth Employees are located and arrested by Omni-Tek employees for their possible connection with these illegal funds. Both are executed by masked commandoes before any questioning takes place. The Dust Brigade used perma-death weaponry, which raised concerns about where they were getting their technology from. This also causes an already fragile Tir accord to be annulled by Omni-Tek. In response the ICC lift all sanctions on Notum mining on the planet. It opens the

door to anyone with the funds and resources, to mine Notum. This also allows for the sentinel clan, led by Simon Silverstone to ‘liberate’ the city of Tir and reclaim it for the glory of the clans. Omni-Tek and Neutral citizens are shot on site.

The Dust Brigade remained silent for almost a year but they were quick to reappear in October 29477 when the neutral citizens of Newland make a plan to remove the mercenary forces from their city public. Many citizens, who support the plan, are gunned down, in an attempt to stop the change. Some claim that the mercenary leader, Loren Warr, is connected to these attacks but nothing could be confirmed. Eventually Newland citizens manage to drive out Loren Warr and her mercenary menace after a deal, partly founded by Omni-Tek CEO Philip Ross, is reached with JAME. Newland guards were supplied with JAME weaponry and armor. Ross makes a speech, proclaiming that Omni-Tek will support the efforts to return the neutral lands, to the neutrals, while certain clans claim that Omni-Tek is just trying to wash their hands, as it was them who trained and founded the mercenaries in the first place.



Dust Brigade attacks also caused a wedding overseen by Henry Radiman himself, to dissolve into anarchy, as

masked commandoes stormed the area and started attacking. A hologram featuring “The lady” appears at the attack, causing some to think that this “lady” is the leader of the commandoes. Others remain skeptical. All that is known for sure is that shortly after, countless attacks take place and a woman calling herself as Midia appears along side them. A lot of confusing information is known about this woman. Some say she is the Dust Brigade leader, while others say they were not the Dust Brigade at all, as they appeared weaker and less organized than the past attacks on civilians.

The Dust brigade go silent again for a while, but in March 29478, they return and attack Omni-1 directly. Loyal Omni-Tek employees managed to send them out the way they came in. But this caused a lot of fear among the civilian population, as no one knows how the Dust Brigade managed to get inside the city having not used grid or Whompah transportation. Their level of technology seems several generations ahead of anything that the Omni-Pol or the OTAF have which raises many concerns again on who is funding the Dust Brigade actions, and citizens afraid to walk the streets alone. A Demand began for an increase in Omni forces patrolling the city.

Again in May, the Dust Brigade returned, and attacked several Omni department headquarters including Omni-InternOps and Omni-Med. They also attacked Old Athens and the surrounding area. While the attack on Omni-Tek was devastating, the commandos only yelled the usual slogans and profanity, but during the attack on Old Athens they also shouted that the clans were not prepared for what to come. Prepared for what? That remained a mystery, as none of the commandoes could be taken alive.

Around the same time, members of the Omni Elite Combat forces, known as the Unicorn Company landed on Rubi-Ka. Several clansmen, who were eager to test the strength of these soldiers, were soundly beat, and their taskforce completely destroyed in a matter of minutes. A new series of rumors begin to spread across the grid about a ship that had crash-landed in Mort, near the sentinel HQ. Some people within Omni-Tek suggested that these soldiers should be reassigned to find and eliminate the Dust Brigade, but this motion was prevented by Omni-Prime, who had so far, never made any public comment on the Dust Brigade or its actions.

The Dust Brigade returned again at the end of March 29479, warning that the clans should prepare themselves for their return. A few days later, Sentinel soldiers and masked commandoes clashed around the Tir grid, in a large fire fight. That battle seemed lost, but Simon Silverstone returned with reinforcements from the Council of Truth. The large defeat that the Brigade suffered showed that despite their armor, and weaponry, that they were no longer any real threat against the new weapons wielded by the citizens of Rubi-Ka. Weapons, which have been created from alien technology captured in battle or weapons found in the mystical Shadowlands. Despite this, the Brigade remained and fought to the bitter end, not once trying to escape battle.

All of these events have shown us cruelty in their actions, and so far, I have not heard of any Clan or Omni spokesperson openly challenging them. Even in our so called victories, the Dust Brigade remains at large. There are reports of them operating freely in the perpetual wastelands; ongoing attacks on Rubi-kan cities. You ask yourself, how can I help defeat them? First you have to understand them and what they are willing to sacrifice to achieve their goals. You must understand this, if there is any hope to defeat them.

They want to strike terror in our lives, but we must not allow them to do so. Go prepare your armour and weapons, for the coming battle, as I am sure that the Brigade has already enhanced their technology. We must engage them in their court and on their terms, in order to

wipe them out for good, and only you, a citizen of Rubi-Ka, can achieve this.

## Club Listings

### Omni-Tek

*Baboons – Omni-1 Entertainment*

All dance All Night. Wednesday is Ladies Night! DJ Garfield Barnaby in the house!

*Rompa Bar – Omni-1 Entertainment*

Come take a load off and chill with the smooth jazzy sounds in Rompa. Every night is your night. Whatever your special is, we got it.

*Relax (The Dancing Atrax) – Omni-1 Screening Area*

The latest in laser light technology on our state of the art dance floor! Looking for a intimate dance club to meet that special someone? Come to Relax, and enjoy good tunes, good drinks and good times. Always featuring our world famous Atrax Dancers!

### Neutral

*Neuters R Us – Newland City*

Let the rest of them fight the war. Clans, Omni's and Neutrals, come to neuters for the all night dance party.

*Reets Retreat – Last Ditch*

Feeling lounged? Want to dance? Want to eat the best food in town? Warehouse all night dance parties? We got it all at Reets Retreat. All Factions welcome. Our Gas levels are now more secure than ever. For a safe, peaceful night, fly high at Reets.

*Mack's Beer and Booze – Hope*

Ok sure, we have had some Cyborg attacks, and alright we admit our suppression gas generators haven't worked in years, but at least here you can beat the crap out of that guy hitting on your girl. Mack's Beer and Booze, the only bar you can kill each other at!

### Clan

*The Happy Rebel – Tir City*

You've had a hard day. You've killed your share of Omni's, fought an Alien ship from your city, and traveled through the farthest reaches of the Shadowlands. Come to The Happy rebel, and take a load off. Private Rooms, Meeting Rooms, and Pub all in one convenient location! No need to go anywhere, spend the night and make some memories at The Happy Rebel.

*Enjoy It While It Lasts – Tir City*

Guys and Ladies! Do you need something different? Someplace where you can have a drink and watch to women beat the crap out of each other. Enjoy It While It Lasts! is the most unique club in all clan territory. Friday night is 2 on 2 Night.

*The Cup – West Athen*

Relax with our world famous cup of coffee. A great place in West Athen to meet friends, have a meeting or just chill out. Manager Beverly “Lightswift” Puller can often be seen entertaining with her custom light show and all drinks are at a reasonable price.

## Classifieds

<p><b>The Sentinel Perspective</b></p> <p>Had enough of Omni-Tek? Sick to death of the neutrals fence sitting? The Sentinels remains one of the largest and most pro active Clan organizations to this day!</p> <p>You don’t have to accept less than 100% freedom. With the Sentinels you will not only have a chance to fight for that right, but meet many others who feel the way you do. It is not just about winning; it is about ensuring your future is free of the corporate beast.</p> <p>Sign up today and Fight!!</p>	<p><b>Omni-Tek Employment</b></p> <p>Omni-Tek is the largest and most successful hyper corporation operating in the galaxy today.</p> <p>Opportunities are endless when you sign on to the company. We offer all new employees with one of our comfortable eye appealing apartments, and a benefits package that no other company can beat.</p> <p>From Communications, to Research &amp; Development, to Military training.</p> <p>Whatever your interest, Omni-Tek has what you need to be a success.</p> <p><a href="http://www.omni-tek.org">www.omni-tek.org</a></p>	<p><b>Newland City Council</b></p> <p>It is election time again. Do you even know who your representatives are? Come and find out, June 25<sup>th</sup> 2200 GMT at Neuters R Us! The Newland City Council will be introducing the candidates for the new year and allow you to have a chance to ask them your questions!</p> <p>NOTE: Clan and Omni-Tek citizens are not permitted to vote in the election.</p> <p>Help us make a better Newland for you!</p>
<p><b>Personals</b></p> <p>Single, Opifex female, 23 looking for Single male Opifex for friendship and maybe more. My interests include Martial Arts, long walks and dancing the night away.</p> <p>Interested parties may reply to TAG magazine who will forward to the poster</p>	<p><b>For Sale</b></p> <p>I have about 100 pieces of glow art in my bank. All good quality stuff, found all over Rubi-ka. No stolen items!</p> <p>This is stuff I have found personally and legally! Guaranteed!</p> <p>Interested parties may reply to TAG magazine who will forward to the poster</p>	<p><b>Help Wanted</b></p> <p>The Happy Rebel Bar and Inn is looking for hosts/hostesses to help cater to our clients for private parties and special Functions.</p> <p>If interested please apply to Beverly Puller by submitting your name and availability on her comlink.</p>