

Spooks on the Highway

BY JOLLY R. BLACKBURN



MEANWHILE -- ACROSS TOWN AT A QUIET OFF CAMPUS APARTMENT...

HEY NEWT -- CAN I GET A STATUS UPDATE?

ANYTHING HAPPENING IN YOUR SECTOR..?

NEGATORY, LO-MAN.

QUIET HERE -- GOT NO PINGS NO VISUALS. NO CHATTER.

HMMM... WELL THAT'S CERTAINLY ODD..

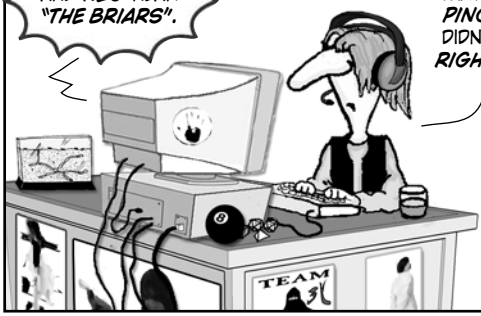
OKAY -- HERE'S WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO...

WHY? SURELY THEY'VE GOT THAT AREA COVERED...

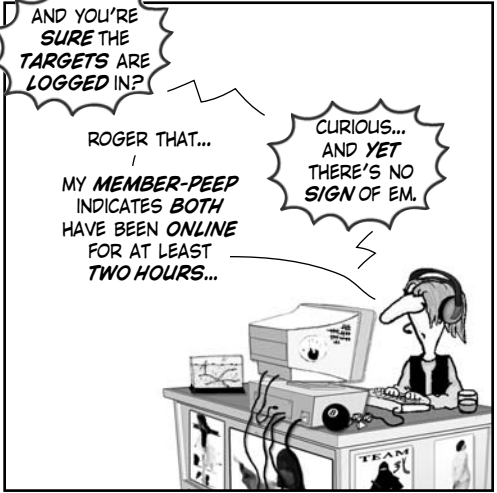
I WAS THINKING OF CHECKIN' KEEFER'S WELL AGAIN.

THAT 'FALSE PING' JUST DIDN'T SEEM RIGHT TO ME.

REJOIN LADY HACK AND NEO NEAR 'THE BRIARS'.



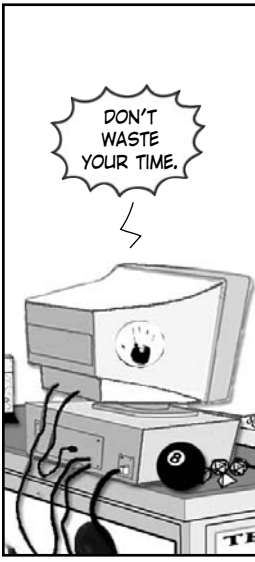
TELL ME ABOUT IT...
I'M NOT LIKING THIS ONE BIT.



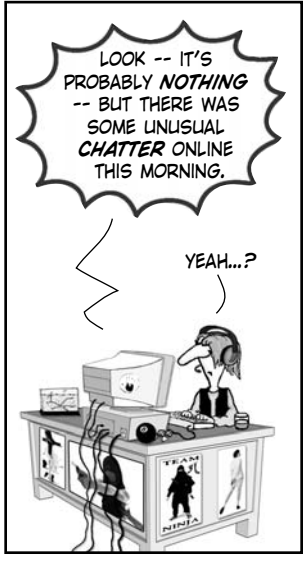
AND YOU'RE SURE THE TARGETS ARE LOGGED IN?

ROGER THAT...
MY MEMBER-PEEP INDICATES BOTH HAVE BEEN ONLINE FOR AT LEAST TWO HOURS...

CURIOUS... AND YET THERE'S NO SIGN OF EM.



DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME.



LOOK -- IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING -- BUT THERE WAS SOME UNUSUAL CHATTER ONLINE THIS MORNING.

YEAH...?

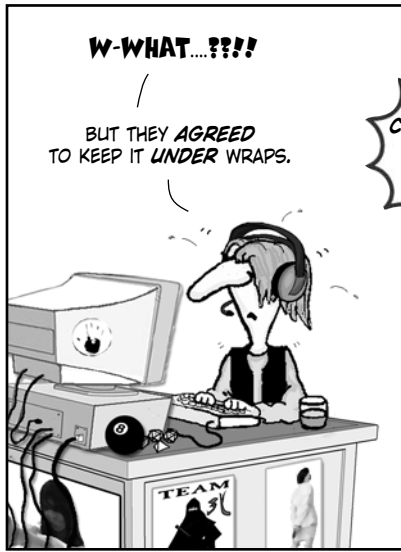
"BRIAN, I DON'T MEAN TO DAMPEN YOUR SPIRITS, BUT 'HELLO!!' YOU SET THE MAYOR ON FIRE! IN FRONT OF WITNESSES!!"

—Sara Felton, KODT Issue #75, Change of Venue



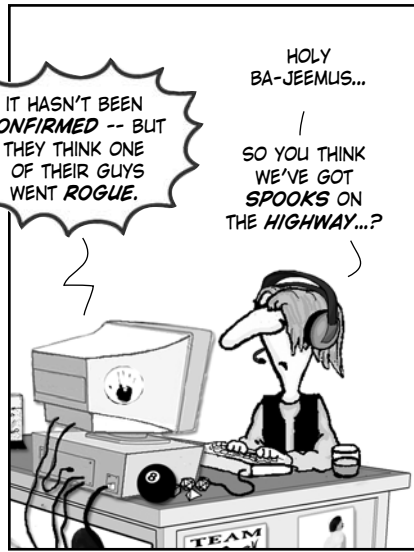
WHAT'S THE 411 ON THAT, TEAM LEADER?

WELL... THERE'S A RUMOR ONE OF THE CODE MONKEYS GAVE UP PATHFINDER.



W-WHAT...!!!!

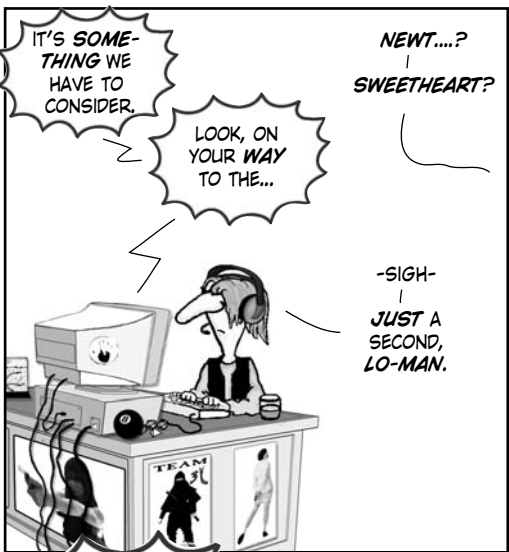
BUT THEY AGREED TO KEEP IT UNDER WRAPS.



IT HASN'T BEEN CONFIRMED -- BUT THEY THINK ONE OF THEIR GUYS WENT ROGUE.

HOLY BA-JEEMUS...

SO YOU THINK WE'VE GOT SPOOKS ON THE HIGHWAY...?

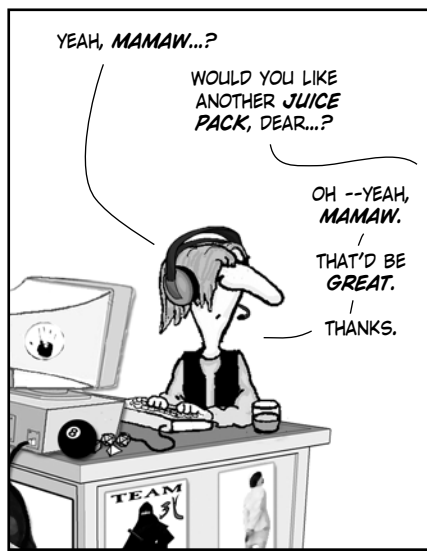


IT'S SOMETHING WE HAVE TO CONSIDER.

LOOK, ON YOUR WAY TO THE...

NEWT....?
SWEETHEART?

-SIGH-
JUST A SECOND, LO-MAN.



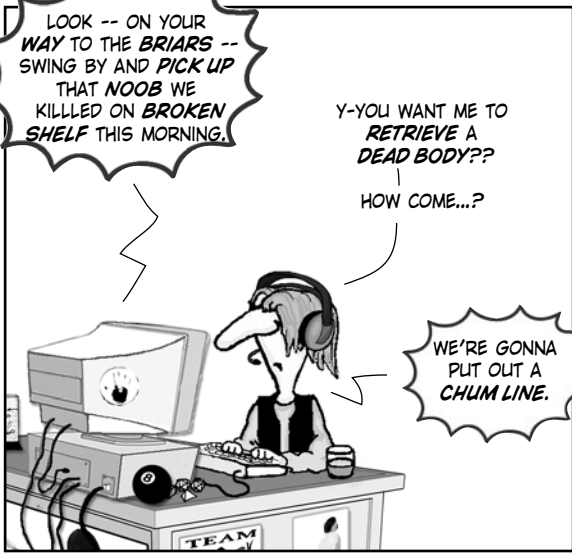
YEAH, MAMAW...?

WOULD YOU LIKE ANOTHER JUICE PACK, DEAR...?

OH --YEAH, MAMAW.
THAT'D BE GREAT.
THANKS.



OKAY, SORRY 'BOUT THAT.
YOU WERE SAYING...?



LOOK -- ON YOUR WAY TO THE BRIARS -- SWING BY AND PICK UP THAT NOOB WE KILLED ON BROKEN SHELF THIS MORNING.

Y-YOU WANT ME TO RETRIEVE A DEAD BODY??
HOW COME...?

WE'RE GONNA PUT OUT A CHUM LINE.



PLACE THE BODY NEAR THE "NOTCH" -- BE SURE TO PILE ON SOME SWAG BAIT.

LET'S SEE WHAT WE FLUSH OUT.

AAAAH -- GOT YA, TEAM LEADER. GENIUS -- I'M ON IT.

GOOD -- KEEP ME INFORMED, NOOB SLAYER.

"SO AS NEWT PULLS BACK THE COVERS ON THE WATER BED AND PATS IT... H-HE TURNS TO -BELCH- NI-TWO AND SAYS, SIR, I CAN EASILY GO 406 ROUNDS -- IF'N SHE'S UP TO IT."

—Pete Ashton, KODT Issue #122, A Pound of Pwnage and an Ounce of Pride