

Stompin' the Sow

BY JOLLY BLACKBURN

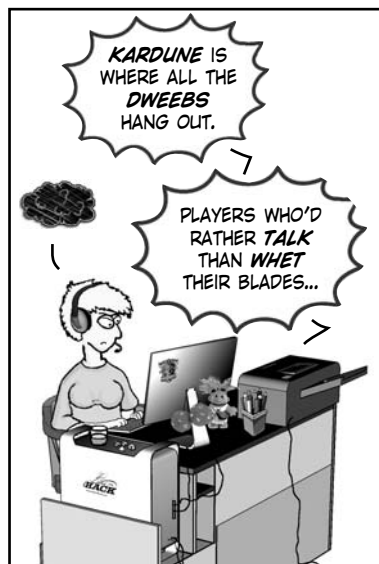
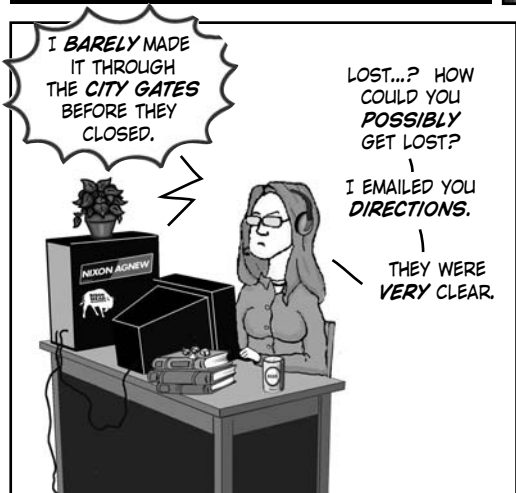
RECAP: IT'S SATURDAY NIGHT AND PLAYERS ALL OVER WORLD HAVE FLOCKED ONLINE TO THE WORLD OF HACK KRAFT.

MANY HAVE CHOSEN TO DESCEND UPON THE POPULAR VIRTUAL WATERING HOLE, "THE BUTCHERED SOW" -- ONE OF COUNTLESS GATHERING POINTS IN GARWEEZE WURLD ONLINE.*

A PLACE FOR CHARACTERS TO "SEE AND BE SEEN" BETWEEN ADVENTURES.

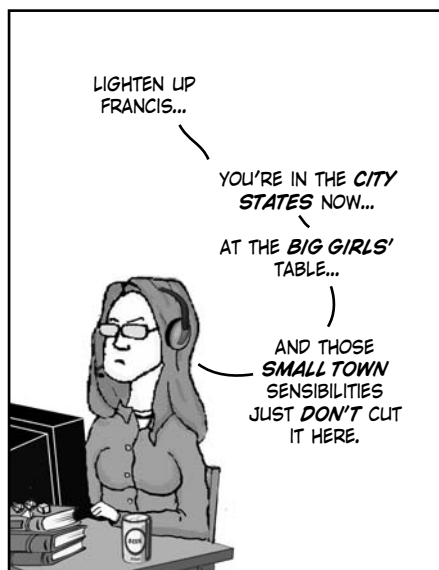
WHERE BRAGGING RIGHTS CAN BE EXERCISED, RUMORS GATHERED, BOLD PLANS DISCUSSED AND WHERE PLAYERS HOOK UP.

TONIGHT THE SOW IS PACKED AS USUAL AND THE TENSION IS HIGH -- FOR SOMETHING "BIG" IS IN THE AIR.



* Veteran players commonly refer to gathering at the Butchered Sow as "Stompin' the Sow".

** KARDUNE: — The great penninsula that lies south of the Eder Soult in Garweeze Wurld.



LIGHTEN UP FRANCIS...

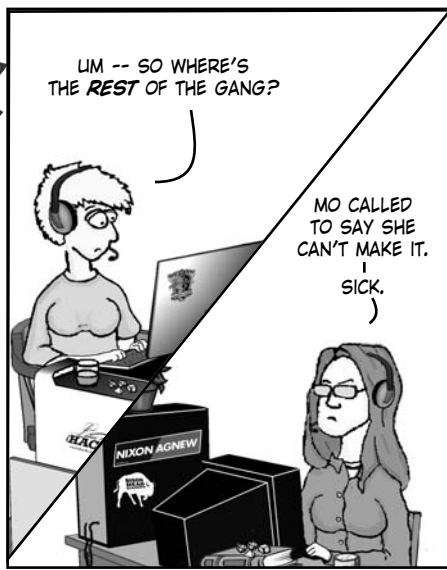
YOU'RE IN THE CITY STATES NOW...
AT THE **BIG GIRLS'** TABLE...

AND THOSE **SMALL TOWN** SENSIBILITIES JUST **DON'T** CUT IT HERE.



YOU MAY FIND **DEATH** LOOMS A BIT **LARGER** AND **LURKS** A STEP **NEARER** HERE THAN WHAT YOU'RE **USED** TO.

I SUPPOSE I'LL JUST HAVE TO MANAGE.



UM -- SO WHERE'S THE **REST** OF THE **GANG**?

MO CALLED TO SAY SHE CAN'T MAKE IT. **SICK.**



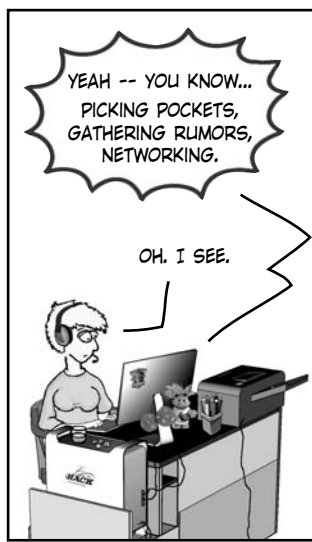
GAWD KNOWS WHERE **PATTY** IS... SHE CAN BE **SUCH** A **FLAKE** SOMETIMES -- SO WHO KNOWS.

AND BRIDGETTE?



OH **SHE'S** AROUND. OUT **WORKING** THE ROOM -- SHOULD BE BACK SHORTLY.

WORKING THE ROOM...?

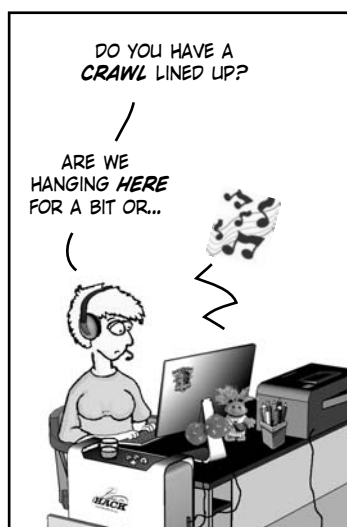


YEAH -- YOU KNOW... PICKING POCKETS, GATHERING RUMORS, NETWORKING.

OH. I SEE.

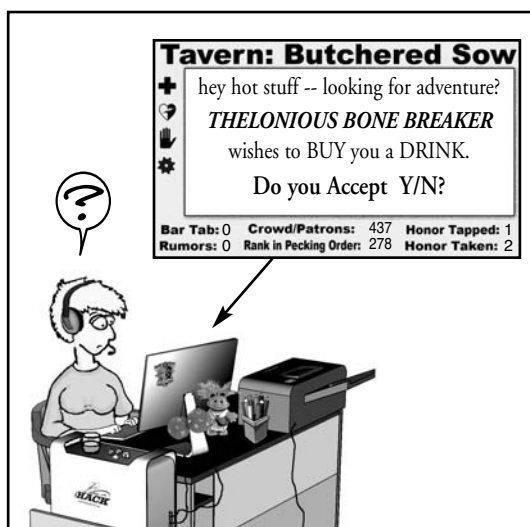


SO WHAT'S ON THE **AGENDA** FOR THE NIGHT?



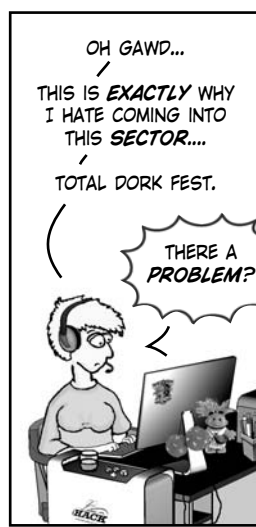
DO YOU HAVE A **CRAWL** LINED UP?

ARE WE HANGING **HERE** FOR A BIT OR...



Tavern: Butchered Sow

hey hot stuff -- looking for adventure?
THELONIOUS BONE BREAKER wishes to BUY you a DRINK.
Do you Accept Y/N?
Bar Tab: 0 Crowd/Patrons: 437 Honor Tapped: 1
Rumors: 0 Rank in Pecking Order: 278 Honor Taken: 2

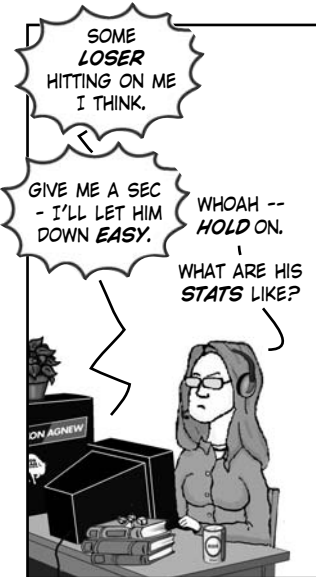


OH GAWD... THIS IS **EXACTLY** WHY I HATE COMING INTO THIS **SECTOR**...
TOTAL DORK FEST.

THERE A **PROBLEM**?

"IF YOU'D LISTENED TO **ME** WE'D BE UP TO OUR **EYEBROWS** IN **KOBOLD** GOO BY NOW AND RAKIN' IN THE **E.P.S** LIKE **TWO-CENT CANDY!**"

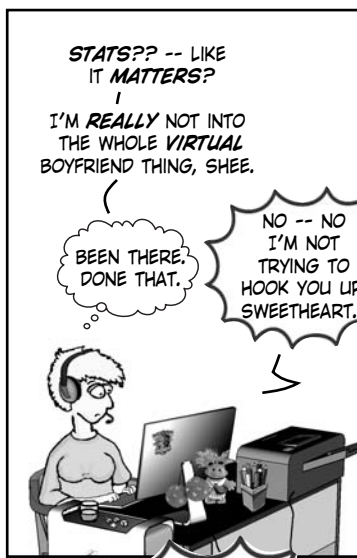
—Bob Herzog, **Bundles of Trouble #17**, *New Approaches*



SOME **LOSER** HITTING ON ME I THINK.

GIVE ME A SEC - I'LL LET HIM DOWN **EASY**.

WHOAH -- **HOLD ON**.
WHAT ARE HIS **STATS** LIKE?

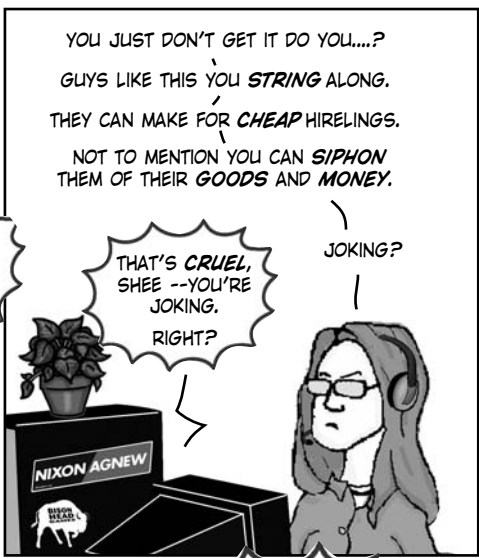


STATS?? -- LIKE IT **MATTERS?**

I'M **REALLY** NOT INTO THE WHOLE **VIRTUAL** BOYFRIEND THING, SHEE.

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT.

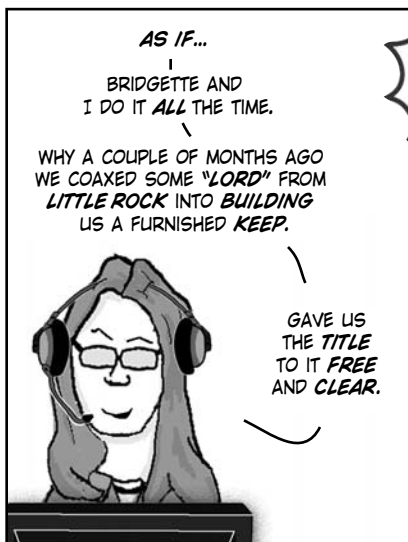
NO -- NO I'M NOT TRYING TO HOOK YOU UP, SWEETHEART...



YOU JUST DON'T GET IT DO YOU....? GUYS LIKE THIS YOU **STRING** ALONG. THEY CAN MAKE FOR **CHEAP** HIRELINGS. NOT TO MENTION YOU CAN **SIPHON** THEM OF THEIR **GOODS** AND **MONEY**.

THAT'S **CRUEL**, SHEE -- YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?

JOKING?



AS IF... BRIDGETTE AND I DO IT **ALL** THE TIME.

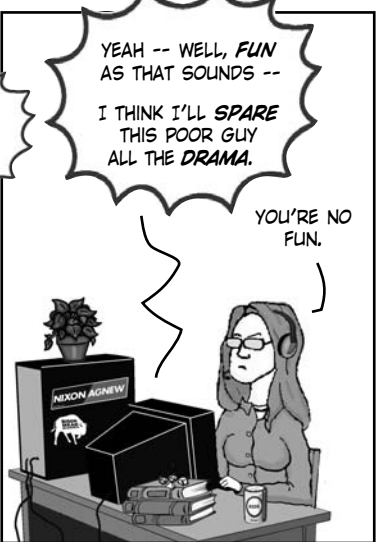
WHY A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO WE COAXED SOME "LORD" FROM **LITTLE ROCK** INTO **BUILDING** US A FURNISHED **KEEP**.

GAVE US THE **TITLE** TO IT **FREE** AND **CLEAR**.



COURSE HE BECAME A BIT **DISGRUNTLED** AND SOMETHING OF A **PEST** AFTER WE **DITCHED** HIS ASS...

WE HAD TO **KILL** HIM IN THE **END**.



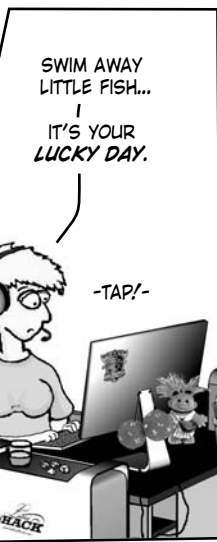
YEAH -- WELL, **FUN** AS THAT SOUNDS --

I THINK I'LL **SPARE** THIS POOR GUY ALL THE **DRAMA**.

YOU'RE NO **FUN**.

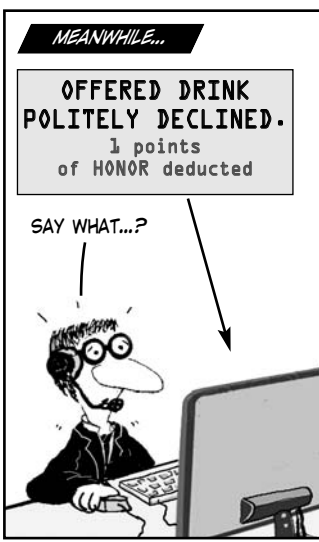


OH I'M **PLENTY** OF **FUN**...



SWIM AWAY LITTLE FISH... IT'S YOUR **LUCKY** DAY.

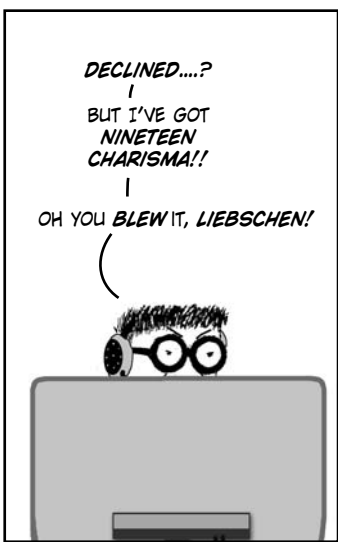
-TAP!-



MEANWHILE...

OFFERED DRINK
POLITELY DECLINED.
1 points of **HONOR** deducted

SAY WHAT...?



DECLINED....?
BUT I'VE GOT **NINETEEN** **CHARISMA!!**

OH YOU **BLEW** IT, **LIEBSCHEN!**

"FOR THE **LAST** TIME, GUYS... I **DON'T** WANT TO **DROP-KICK** A **KOBOLD**."
—Sara Felton, **KODT** Issue #122, **One-Two Punches**