

tag

the art

Issue #7

gallery



Balancing Act

The Big Bang on the Big Boss:
What it means, and how it could
change everything.



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Editors Introduction

The world we once knew was changed forever in a day. Amazing how quick it all happened. We have, through our history on Rubi-Ka, always been able to face change in one form or another, but I don't think anyone was quite expecting this.

Omni-Tek CEO Philip Ross was shot in Omni-1 Entertainment district on May 7, around 19:00, as he stepped forward to give his State of The Corporation speech. At his side he had many of his department leaders, including Ivan Sergeyich, Rita Prestin and Eva Pouaris, all of whom stood proudly by their leader, and smiling at the masses who had gathered to see him.

Many said he looked healthy, vibrant and stronger than ever, which is quite a feat for a man of 75 years, but there he stood, and spoke with determination. What lay ahead for Rubi-Ka with Ross at the helm of Omni-Tek Rubi-Ka? It looked and sounded like he had a plan. The people in Entertainment that day only heard the beginning of it. They would not hear the rest.

The suppression gas dropped for only a brief second, we would later learn; just long enough for one shot to be fired from behind a nearby billboard on a building to the southwest. The same building areas where turrets were placed in extra security measures for the speech. The turret closest to the billboard found disabled later the same day, even though all systems registered as normal during the speech.

The shot was pristine, hitting Ross in the chest. Ivan and Eva standing next to him, felt the blood of their leader splatter on and around them. Doctors in the area, including Rita Prestin did all they could to ensure he was stable before moving him to a facility for treatment. And all that while, when the chaos took place on the ground, behind that billboard, the assassin(s) were making their escape, through an uncommonly used grid node, and escaping into The Longest Road, to report in. Mission accomplished.

And what was the mission? That still remains a mystery. We know the Biomare facility constructed the Mutagen Virus that in the end infected Ross, and others. We know the Dust Brigade patterns matched those of the shooters. But how does one relate to the other?

Once again...too many questions, not enough answers. Omni-Tek decries the Biomare facility no longer is in association with the corporation, and deems all those who remain in the facility traitors. For them they close the book on this mystery. For the rest of us, we are left to wonder

who benefits the most from Ross no longer here to "talk". I am sure all of us could write a short list....but does it matter now? Can it really make any difference? Either way we have CEO Zora now, a new kind of man, a new kind of leader for Omni-Tek. Unless by some miracle Philip Ross does recover, and Omni Prime grant him his seat as CEO again, this shall be Tarkhan Zora's history in the making, and the rest of us are along for the ride. But that is another issue.

Please join us as we dedicate this issue to Philip Ross, his history and the investigation into his shooting.

Editor-In-Chief
Jonathan Ryan

Key Moments in the life of Philip Ross

By Cathrin Craver



A name can symbolize many things. Philip Ross is a name that either instills fear or respect when mentioned. Despite of what people think of him, Mr. Ross' list of achievements has yet to be surpassed by anyone else in history, except maybe David Marlin.

Philip Ross was born on March 11, 29403, in the city of Bombay, Earth, as the only child of Lora and Brian Ross, who both were high-ranking officials of the Omni-Tek Hyper Corporation. Mr. Ross received, like many other youngsters, a military education, and would soon prove to be recognized as a strategic genius within the Omni-Tek armed forces.

In 29425, Sol Banking and Omni-Tek forces clashed in the climactic battle of New Japan, an Omni-Tek ally under the corporate wars. Here, Philip Ross, with the rank of lieutenant, led a small force of OTAF soldiers against a heavy fortified position under control of Sol Banking. Using the element of surprise and maybe a shed of luck, the OTAF managed to take the position, with few losses due to Philip Ross tactics. It also served as a major morale boost for the Omni-Tek forces across the planet, when news of the victory arrived.

Due to his services, Mr. Ross was promoted to the rank of captain, and began to work at the Omni-Tek headquarters on Omni-Prime at the age of 26. Ross quickly climbed to

the position of Strategic Operations Consultant for the continental board of directors, and due to this, he quickly advanced through the ranks.

While both of his parents had been killed during the corporate wars, Ross did not let it interfere with his work, and in 29447, he was selected to be the next CEO of the Omni-Tek assets on Rubi-Ka, after Ramen Durgham. Philip Ross would become the youngest CEO in the history of the corporation.

There were many tasks for the new CEO as soon as he stepped off the transport ship. Within six months, Mr. Ross had managed to reform the entire corporate structure of the planet, and in 29448, Ross introduced the extermination reward plan in order to battle the increasing amount of dangerous mutants. This and many other radical plans were put in motion, under much suspicion of the Council of Truth.

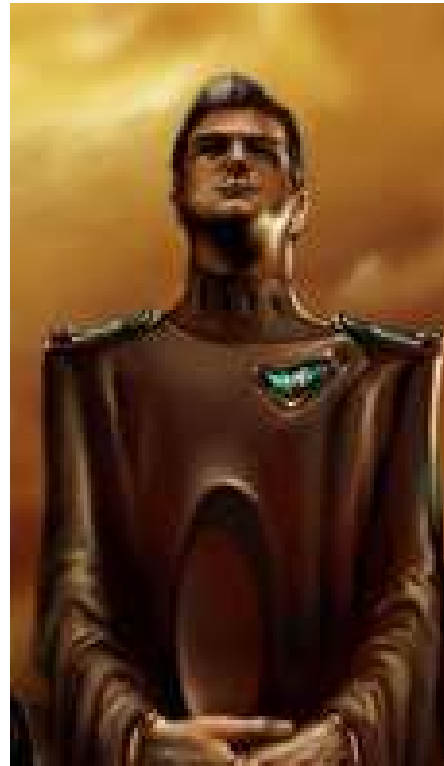
His greatest achievement must be the creation and signing of the Tir Accord in 29470, following the destruction caused by the third Rubi-Kan civil war and the dust brigade.

In late 29475, Mr. Ross introduced a full amnesty to any and all members of the clans and thus attempted to bring about a final peace for the citizens of Rubi-Ka. These hopes would not long last, however, as the Dust Brigade surfaced once again.

He helped Newland City fund a personal militia. He sponsored at least 100 children of Omni-Tek employees, to study at some of the best schools; he even ensured we would be informed of the invasion of the aliens by having prepared a recording to be broadcasted planet wide, which led Omni-Prime to take him off world for review.

When he returned, he was assisted by Clan, Neutral and Omni citizens alike to get back to Omni-1 after his ship crash landed on the planet. He vowed that now was the time to work together, to put aside differences for the whole of Rubi-Ka.

All in all, like him or hate him, we could relate to him. With the alien invasion escalating, the shooting that left Ross in a coma suffering from a mutagen virus and the appointment of Tarkhan Zora, an era of Rubi-Ka history may be over.



A reflection...

by Aaryl Stark, Reporter IRRK



Entertainment Platform - Where Ross last stood

In times of uncertainty, there are always speculation and rumors. There have been all kinds of speculation on where Omni-Tek will go from here in reference to the Phillip Ross assassination attempt and the naming of the new CEO, Tarkhan Zora.

I believe, in order to know the direction you are headed, you must, at times, stop and look to your past to see where you have been.

The citizens of Rubi-Ka were recently asked what their thoughts were on the Phillip Ross assassination attempt and what it meant to the corporation and to them personally as Neutral, Clan and Omni citizens.

Mcharlotte of the Wolf Brigade said she thought that "with Mr. Ross no longer at the head of the corporation more funding would most likely go into the military build up and into the mining facilities"

Sniper "Accris" Killuminati of the Red-Eyed Militia (AoF) stated he thought the assassination (attempt) of Phillip Ross "brought only more hate between the Clans and the Omni. The wars escalate each day." He went on to say, "the Unicorns, in general, have no regard for human life, so even Omni will suffer under his (Zora's) rule. How can that be a good move for the corporation?"

There were a large number of people of all factions that believed in the conspiracy theory: That Omni-Tek shot Mr. Ross.

Percy "Adeimos" Persichelliof of the 3305 Local stated that he believed "The whole Ross assassination attempt was a set up. They (Omni-Tek) wanted to turn the power over to the Unicorns," which he believed to be a big mistake, "A bit like putting the wolf in charge of the sheep."

As I ventured into The Trade district, and to Rome Blue, I wasn't surprised that several Omni employees refused to comment.

One anonymous citizen stated that until they knew what to expect from the new CEO, they didn't feel safe to comment. There were a few Omni citizens that spoke out, regarding Mr. Ross and how his assassination attempt has affected the corporation.

Enchanted "Blackruby" Mystic of the 13th Regiment replied "the change in leadership is a good thing. You don't want someone to die for the change, but, maybe this change will spark Omni to get off their...tails....and DO something about the Clanners. Ross was too lenient."

Blackm, of Omni-Pol, Rome division stated that "I am not in favor of a full scale war. Ross was a good leader." He went on to say that he couldn't agree with the rumors that clansmen were behind the assassination attempt. "What would be the purpose in that? Ross did little to stop the clans. It is always better to know your enemy. CEO Zora, is an unknown."

Roland "Fozuton" Mackenzie also of Omni-Pol, Rome division stated that he was "deeply disturbed by the Ross assassination attempt. He continued, "When I heard the news, I knew then a war was coming. Our chance at peace was broken. We need Ross to return if we want peace." He did say though, that "CEO Zora would do good for the corporation in other ways such as the investigation, just maybe not always using peaceful means.

Asaw of the Next Level disagreed with Fozuton by saying "I just don't think Zora can offer much to Omni-Tek. Ross did. I am just not sure CEO Zora can make the right choices. The Unicorns are more of an attacking force."

One anonymous clanner stated, "Ross was a decent leader. I didn't always agree with him, but he was at least trying for peace. I don't think "peace" is what Omni-Tek wanted. It works too slowly. The unicorn commander is a military force. They are the elite fighting force of Omni-Tek. They can take what they want and dare anyone to do anything about it....faster results for Omni-Tek. I don't see "peace" in Rubi-Ka's future and that is not good. It is not good for the Clans, the Neutrals, or Omni.

In closing, I think Milo "Smarac" Injac, of Circle G said it the best... "The corporation is over. Now...there is an army."

Cover Story

The Shooting of Philip Ross

By Jonathan Ryan



Omni-1 Entertainment District where Philip Ross was shot.

May 7 29479.....a day we shall all remember. In the future when our children ask us, where were we when Philip Ross was shot, we will all be able to tell them. Not a single day goes by, even months after it happened, that I don't still ask, how could this happen or why?

I am a neutral citizen, and I have no tie to Omni-Tek, nor do I feel any obligation to be kind to them. That is part of what makes me a decent editor (TAG being one of the few publications that does not accept any funding from either Omni-Tek or the Clans). But on May 7th, I think that we as Rubi-Kans felt that chest wound with Philip Ross that day.

As I write this article, new revelations about the investigation are starting to come to the light, and Philip Ross still remains in a Coma. Tarkhan Zora has just made his first public address and the world in which we live is changing. But how did it get here? Let's take a look back at the events leading up to the shot heard across the planet, and some of the aftermath.

May 5th: Word begins to leak and speculations are made on the State of The Corporation Speech which is an event that takes place every 5 years on Rubi-Ka. Omni-Tek makes a statement on the income and expenses over the past fiscal periods, and addresses the current political and military state on Rubi-Ka.

The speculation on what Mr. Ross will report generates a great interest among the Hyper Corporations, The ICC and several high ranking officials of Omni-Tek. Several of them, including Eva Pouaris, Ivan Sergeyich and Rita Prestin send personal requests to attend the speech.

Security is beefed up in Omni-1. Grid terminals and Whompahs were also equipped with state of the art tracking programs. New turrets were planted on top of buildings and around enter and exit points near the speech, Omni-Pol and AF counts went up, and more mobile units dispatched into the area. Yes, speculation now wasn't where Ross was going to do the speech, only when.

May 6th: More security is put in place for the speech. Uncommon grid nodes, used mostly by fixer professions are sent through a new Omni-Com filter, allowing traces in and out to be followed and tied to a identity program. Ironically, the security on the program was not as good as the security the program provided. It only took hours of its launch for Clan and neutral hackers to break the system and use it for their own tracking purposes.

A Medical exam is done on Philip Ross, which is actually pretty standard before any public appearances (or so they tell me). He is deemed in excellent health, and quite able to function in his role as CEO of Omni-Tek holdings on Rubi-Ka. The Doctor who gives Ross the examination is Dr. Rita Prestin, Director of Omni-Med.

At the same time Omni-Pol is issued specific orders to double their patrol efforts. This puts several Pol officers into overtime, and ID checks of local citizens increases by 70%. The last pieces of security are sent in the form of Juggers and Slayerdroids to watch for any clan tags that may enter the area.

The security systems are given a test by Omni employees who stage a trial attack on the area. The systems are successful in reporting all information to Omni-Com, and it is declared a safe zone. This is of course from the official findings that are released to public. If there was a security measure unchecked, it was omitted from the report.

Philip Ross spends the night in his Executive apartment in Rome. It is said he made three transmissions throughout the evening to his advisors to go over the details of the speech. A fourth transmission was reported, but not confirmed. He sleeps soundly in his bed, awaiting his wake up call for the morning events.



May 7th 09:30: Security begins ID checks of any early morning workers heading in for Saturday shifts. No unusual activity to report.

10:10: Suppression gas terminals are given a diagnostic to ensure that they are functioning properly. Diagnostic comes clean with no known errors.

10:15: An alarm goes off in the Omni-Trans offices. A whompah from Omni-1 Trade to Omni-1 Entertainment

sends some corrupt information. Omni-Trans workers attend to the issue and by 10:17am all systems are repaired.

11:00: Philip Ross receives his wake up call. His cook says he had a short breakfast and cup of coffee before getting ready for the speech. A former aide says he spends some time practicing the speech in his living room until he feels he has the right tone.

11:15: The transport for Ross and his staff is given a security check. There is an issue with the pilot not having proper certification. He is taken to a holding cell and then released 2 hours later. In the meantime a new pilot is appointed and security checks come clean. The ship is ready.

15:22: Ivan Sergeyich and Eva Pourais arrive at Omni-HQ to assist in preparations for Mr. Ross to travel to and from the speech. It is said Ivan handled most of this work, while Eva Pourais spent most of her time fixing her hair.

16:00: Rita Prestin arrives at Omni-HQ to join the department heads on board the ship. Common small talk is exchanged between Rita and Eva while Ivan spends most of his time ranting with his officers on a comlink, to ensure everything is a go.

17:50: Philip Ross sends word that he is ready. Announcements begin in Omni-1 Entertainment that the State of the Corporation speech will be held shortly, inviting all Omni employees to attend. The transport is sent to Rome to pick up Mr Ross.

18:35: The flight is almost called off as a fuel line springs a leak. The issue is attended to quickly however and the pilot reports ready and able to take the big boss to the stage. Crowds begin to gather in Omni-1 Entertainment, most anxious to hear what Ross has to say.

18:55: Philip Ross enters the ship with 4 armed guards and Omni-Prime representative Korbensen. The transport immediately heads to Entertainment on his orders.

19:00: The Transport arrives on the platform. Ross, the department heads and the armed guards exit the ship, into an already well guarded Entertainment district. Newly constructed Turrets are given a diagnostic check. All systems are cleared.

19:35: Philip Ross begins his state of the corporation speech with *"Loyal employees of Omni-Tek, I would first of all like to thank you all for attending this very important event."* How important an event I don't believe even Ross could predict.

More crowds gathered, and Ross continued his speech. He spoke on opening the door to affiliates in future meetings. He seemed especially proud of this, pausing to smile after he said *"These meetings will offer a glimpse in to the inner-workings of Omni-Tek, allowing the public to see first-hand what they're working so hard to preserve."*



19:45: An error is reported to a suppression gas terminal in Omni-1 HQ. It lasts for only 2 seconds, and the technician doesn't report it, thinking it was just a ghost in the machine. At

that exact moment Philip Ross is shot by an unknown assassin. Ross falls to the ground. Blood spatters on guards around him and the department leaders who are standing nearby. Several rush to his aid, including many of the crowd who were watching, prompting much confusion in the area. Security was put on full alert and some citizens had to be moved away from Ross by force.

19:50: Rita Prestin stabilizes Ross enough to move him to the tower north of the speech location, while they await a medical team to arrive. No trace of the assassin or assassins is found in the area. They have already used a rare grid node to escape and make their way to the longest road.

19:52: A medical ship arrives on the platform to take him to an Omni-Med facility. Although there is a facility close by, the choice is made by Prestin to take him to the facility in Rome Green. It is assumed because the equipment is more up to date there, but no one could confirm.

19:53: Speculation begins on the status of Ross and insurance. He was always against the use of the technology, and it is feared his age may not allow a pattern to be stored.

21:30: Eva Pourais, Omni-Prime representative Korbensen and Omni-InternOps representative Max meet in private with several Omni Affiliates. What was said in the meeting remains a secret, but the fact that there was a meeting was reported on Omni-Tek radio station Society of Sound.

21:00: The medical ship arrives at the facility, and Ross is rushed into surgery. Without the knowledge of his Insurance patterns or lack there of, they do not consider a reclaim option.

21:10: Ivan Sergeyich makes a statement about the situation claiming *"I have assigned all Omni-1 teams to begin an extensive investigation of not only the surrounding omni areas, but to follow any leads that take them into more hostile areas. Let me be clear. As far as I am concerned, this is a global crisis,"* opening the door for Clan and Neutral arrests which end up taking place over the following days.



The following weeks would lead to the arrest and questioning of several citizens, with no suspects. It is not until a Council of Truth session where Alan Jacobi, leader of the Vanguard clan begins an

investigation of his own, fearing that Omni will be determined to punish all clans for this attack.

Omni-Prime representative Korbensen was said to do most of the questioning, actually leaving Omni-Pol officers as nothing more than observers in many cases. It is said Korbensen himself hand picked each of the clan and neutral citizens who were brought in for questioning. This can not be confirmed, however Jacobi's investigation and activities lead Omni-Tek to name him prime suspect, and they invade the city of Old Athen in an attempt to arrest him.

A Vanguard public relations person is killed, which leads to an all out fight between Clan and Omni in the city. The Omni's eventually pull out, but are not necessarily defeated. At the next council meeting, Jacobi steps down as lead in the investigation, due to these events.

Meanwhile, Philip Ross' condition is upgraded to stable, but he falls into a coma. Several days later he suffers from a mutagen virus that officials tie directly to the shooting. How the virus lay dormant for such a time without detection, no one will comment. However, the information Jacobi did find ended up leading both the clans and Omni-Tek to the culprit of the attacks. The new security systems put in for the speech finally did their job, and traced the patterns. They ended up matching Dust Brigade patterns that had been recorded in the past. Who was behind the shooting now became painfully clear. The virus on the other hand was not.

It may have gone overlooked if not for the actions of Omni-InternOps beginning an investigation into the

Biomare facility in The Longest Road. There are rumors that the assassins themselves became victim of the virus, and mutated along with several other employees, the result of a twisted Lab Director, and his Dust Brigade Associates.

So what now? CEO Zora is on the way, and many speculate to bring a more military rule of the planet. Of course the ICC is still there to try and stop that sort of thing, and I am sure the other Hyper corporations are just waiting for a chance that Omni-Tek will break their lease, but that doesn't seem to be on anyone's mind. What is on everyone's mind now... "Is this wartime?"



So I can't help but wonder; what did Ross have in mind for our future? He was so proud of the affiliate meetings to come, was he maybe ready to make some changes?

Perhaps work in unity with the clans against the alien threat? Or maybe his intentions were to step down as CEO and go home to earth?

We may never know now. Ross is still in a coma, his body mutating every moment from the virus, and already tensions are high on planet. Notum wars continue; City and outpost raids more common by rash Sentinels or gung ho Omni's, and still the alien threat that lingers above. Wartime? Yeah.....weather we like it or not.

Sources for this article are not to be revealed for their own safety, and agreed to speak with Editor Ryan on the condition of anonymity. All statements and time line information is only speculation based on the information provided and in no way claimed to be absolute fact.



Inside the Biomare facility. File photo.

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 Atrox) – 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 Atrox 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>Vanguard Opportunities</p> <p>The Vanguards are now recruiting business partners for new opportunities in Old Athen. Just want to make an honest credit or two? We're looking for you to do your trade in our town.</p> <p>There is a reason we are the #1 preferred city for every day shopping among the clans. We know what we are doing. If you think you got the right stuff, then let us know. Partner with us, and let us lead the way to your success!</p> <p>So don't put off your dreams! Join The Vanguards and become part of the family.</p>	<p>Omni-Tek Employment</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 & Development, to Military training. Whatever your interest, Omni-Tek has what you need to be a success.</p> <p>www.omni-tek.org</p>	<p>Newland City Council</p> <p>It is election time again. Do you even know who your representatives are? Come and find out, June 25th 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>Personals</p> <p>Single, Solitus female, 23 looking for Single male Solitus for friendship and wild nights.</p> <p>My interests include range shooting, sitting by a campfire, and sneaking around Omni buildings.</p> <p>Interested parties may reply to TAG magazine who will forward to the poster</p>	<p>For Sale</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>Help Wanted</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>Your Ad Here</p> <p>Interested in placing a classified? Just contact us at TAG and we'll be happy to print your ad, provided it is up to TAG standards. (some charges may apply)</p>	<p>Your Ad Here</p> <p>Interested in placing a classified? Just contact us at TAG and we'll be happy to print your ad, provided it is up to TAG standards. (some charges may apply)</p>	<p>Your Ad Here</p> <p>Interested in placing a classified? Just contact us at TAG and we'll be happy to print your ad, provided it is up to TAG standards. (some charges may apply)</p>