

the aggravating PC. They only target the maladjusted PCs in question, and will leave any other members of the group alone, although they may have 'a little talk' with them if they are condoning the PC's action.

Since Threat to the Profession teams fall into the Hand of God category or GMing (i.e. things the GM does that the PCs can't do anything about), you have to be really careful when you implement them. Sometimes just letting the PCs know that such a unit exists is enough to set them straight.

Had You Turned On The TV.....

It appears that a lot of PCs seem 'out of touch' with anything that doesn't involve going on a shadowrun. They never turn on the trid, they never listen to the radio (yes, it still exists), they never buy any music chips, they never go to any sporting events, and they never even go shopping for food anywhere but at Bud's Ration Depot. Sometimes this is the GM's fault (PC: I turn on the Trideo. GM: Nothing's on.), but a many PCs just don't spend time simply finding out what's going on in the 'real world'. This can cause problems when a Shadowrun involves something tied to world events, as well as leading to an outdated wardrobe.

A way to motivate the runners to do more than simply pull a trigger is to occasionally insert a bit of information that may help them in a run (or keep them from screwing up) into the general media or environment. If a runner watches TV, the GM may state that he sees a news article talking about a weapons bust on the corner of 12th and Park - the same location the runners were supposed to hook up with a fence. Had the runners not tuned in, they would have walked into the back room at Big Al's House O' Chicken and immediately been surrounded by the 15 cops staked out there.

Using real world resources allows the GM to create a more complex tapestry of information. The runners might have been hired for a run by Alice Cobb, during which they were supposed to steal a prototype weapon from a Global Tech lab. The runners have a few days before then, so one decides to watch some trid and two others go to the Seahawks game. The singer of the anthem at the game turns out to be Day Summers who is sponsored by Digiweap Industries. The runner at home sees a news story about a controversy involving the CEO of Global Tech, Erving Gray, who has been running a spawn corporation, Robinson Publishing, off the books. The group meets up later and decides to go to a bar. On the way there they hear over the radio that Day Summers will be representing Robinson Publishing at a fancy dinner that evening. Then, after the inebriated runners file into their dwelling later that evening, one of them sits drunkenly in front of the trid and decides to watch Seattle People because they're too drunk to change the channel to something decent. Then, what appears on the screen: Day Summers, Alice Cobb, and Erving Gray performing a toast at the dinner earlier that evening.

Hmmmmmm.....