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# CHALLENGE 59½

The Magazine of Science-Fiction Gaming



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# ENFORCERS

By Jeffrey L. Groteboer

**T** Most *Shadowrun* PCs have at least one thing in common—they live life on the edge. And many of the characters they encounter have gone past the line and right over the edge of what's considered normal behavior. Consider, then, these humorous archetypes—characters who have gone too far in their zeal to enforce the standards of society.

These archetypes are general enough to be easily converted to *Dark Conspiracy*, *Cyberpunk 2.0.2.0.*, *Paranoia* and other near-future RPGs.



## NONSMOKERS

Nonsmokers gained a lot of ground in the 20th century, but in the 21st their clout diminished as the political scene went into turmoil. Legislation passed in the 1980s and 1990s was rescinded in the 21st century, raising the ire of nonsmokers. Suddenly, people were allowed to smoke in restaurants, bus stops, movie theaters and airplanes.

When lawmakers didn't listen to their pleas, some nonsmokers decided to take action.

In 2037, a group of nonsmokers in Minneapolis organized themselves into a paramilitary organization called the Nonsmokers' Supremacy League (NSL) to combat public smoking. Armed with small arms, they raided restaurants and other public places which no longer had separate seating for smokers and nonsmokers.

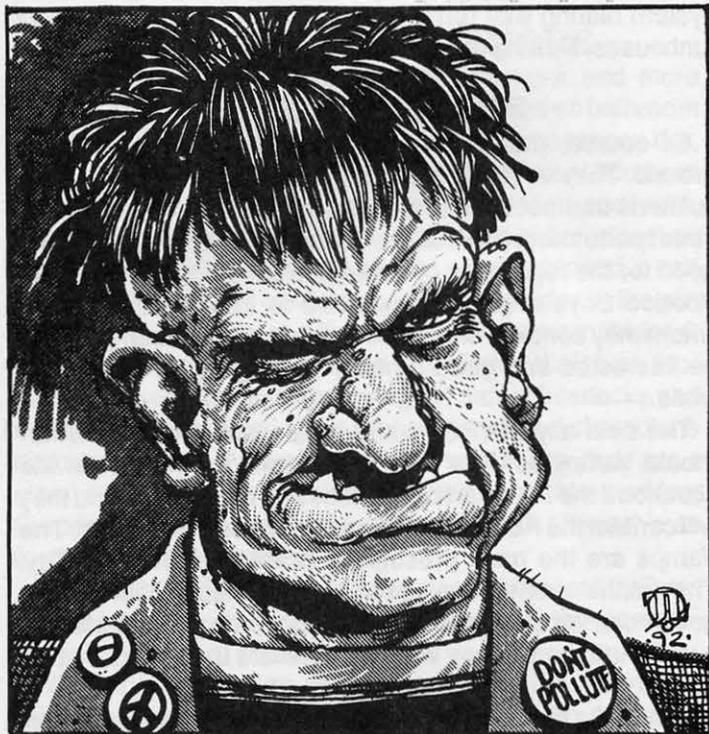
In 2039, a fringe group of the NSL based in Chicago bombed a United Airlines 797-jetliner, killing 161 people. The act was followed by a declaration of de facto war by the NSL against smokers everywhere. Despite feverish attempts of

the Minneapolis home branch to segregate itself from the Chicago group, the NSL became the focus of nationwide law enforcement attention, and their activities were quickly halted.

Today, fringe elements of the NSL remain across North America and Europe, but their activities are uncoordinated and unfocused. NSL members come from all walks of life, and gather into small groups, no larger than minor gangs. They typically carry small arms hidden in holsters or purses, and will attack smokers only when the smokers "invade their airspace." Attacks could come at a bus stop, in a grocery store or restaurant, or virtually anywhere.

Most NSL members are not hardened criminals. They generally don't try to kill the smokers—they just want to teach them a lesson. They might shoot for the legs or stab the smoker in the posterior in an attempt to attach pain to the act of lighting up a cigarette.

Some NSL members are not opposed to all tobacco uses. The referee should consult the following table to determine the NSL member's degree of hatred toward tobacco products.



## LITTERBUGS

Litterbugs International is devoted to stopping anyone who dumps trash anywhere other than into a trash bin. Members scout the highways and byways, as well as shopping centers and city streets, watching for infractions.

The organization began, oddly enough, as a civilian extension of the Saint Louis, Missouri police department. Trash in that city reached such enormous proportions that in 2001 the city enacted the Citizen Trash Patrol (CTP). Members of the patrol could phone in reports of littering, and the police would

issue the offender a ticket without question.

The law was repealed in 2004, but the CTP kept at it. Without the police behind them, members turned to their own method of enforcement. They poured trash on the lawns or in the cars of known infractors. One unlucky litterer awoke one morning to find his house buried up to the eaves in garbage!

It wasn't long before CTP members became violent, using threats and scare tactics to assuage their frustrations. The police rounded most of them up, but not before word of their deeds had inspired fringe groups around the world. In 2011, the group became known as Litterbugs International, a group which now numbers more than 10,000.

### LEFTLANERS AND SPEED DAEMONS

The 55 mile-per-hour speed limit restriction was lifted in 1988 on less-populated interstate highways. In 1998, police stopped writing speeding citations except during "reckless conditions."

In 2012, the "smooth flow of traffic" concept replaced speed limits. The new laws stated that anyone disrupting the



Nonsmokers			
Roll	Target	Goal	Battlecry
2	All tobacco products	Kill	"It's going to kill you anyway!"
3	All tobacco smoking	Injure	"You're ruining your lungs, so how about your legs, too?"
4	Cigarettes and cigars	Maim	"So tell me, what <i>does</i> a hole in your lungs feel like?"
5	Cigarettes and cigars	Injure	"Here, let me help you light that!"
6	Cigars	Injure	"Stinky, filthy, stogies!"
7	Cigarettes	Injure	"You're trying to put me in the hospital. I'm just returning the favor."
8	Cigarettes	Maim	"Doesn't that leave a nasty taste in your mouth? Think this bullet will?"
9	Cigars	Maim	(Brandishing weapon.) "Put your finger in that cigar clipper and cut it off. Now!"
10	Pipes	Injure	"A pipe gives a wise man time to think and a fool time to die!"
11	Chewing tobacco	Injure	(Brandishing weapon.) "Swallow it."
12	Chewing tobacco	Kill	"You want to spit on something? Then spit up a lung!"
Litterbugs			
Roll	Goal	Battlecry	
2	Kill	"Climb into that trash can. You may be a litterbug, but I'm not. And after I kill you, I won't feel like picking up trash like you."	
3	Maim	"So you like spilling things on the planet, eh? Spill some blood."	
4	Taunt	(Brandishing a weapon.) "Pick that up. Now eat it."	
5	Taunt	(Pulling up alongside a littering motorist.) "You dropped this a ways back. Your car's a junk heap already. Don't make the world one, too."	
6	Embarrass	"Hey, you dropped this. Hey, you dropped this. Hey! You...."	
7	Embarrass	"Is this yours? Don't drop it on my planet!"	
8	Embarrass	(Reading paper litter.) "Hey everyone! It says here that...."	
9	Taunt	"Lose something, bozo? What if I lose this soda pop can in your nose? How would that feel?"	
10	Injure	(Repeatedly striking target.) "Feel good? No? Then don't litter. What happens when you litter? I hit you like this. Feel good? No?"	
11	Maim	"I don't like people who litter. So when you're done bleeding, make sure you clean it up."	
12	Kill	This maniac runs litterbugs off the road, then shoots their car (and them) full of holes. He leaves a note that the offender was caught littering. There are rarely any witnesses to attest to the battle cry.	

smooth flow of traffic was to be cited and that actual speeds were irrelevant. The average rate of travel in urban areas climbed to 72 mph, while it soared to a staggering 91 mph on cross-state highways.

Still, there are those who cling to the older, safer speeds. Leftlaners of North America is one such group. First organized in Tampa, Florida in 2017 by a group of irate retirees, Leftlaners believe in slowing traffic down to safe speeds set by previous laws. They enforce their beliefs by driving in groups and not allowing anyone to pass. Really belligerent groups arm themselves, shooting the tires of speeders or running them off the road.

To counter the Leftlaners, the Speed Daemons were organized in 2022 and now number more than 50,000 casual members. The logo of the Speed Daemons is a stylized demon portrait with SD superimposed on it. Casual members display the emblem on a window or bumper sticker, while serious members emblazon the logo on the hood or roof of their cars.



## HANDICAPPERS

Most cities levy fines on those inconsiderate enough to park in spaces reserved for the handicapped. And many people get upset when nonhandicapped people violate the law by parking in these reserved spaces. But not Handicappers of America (known as HA)!

HA was formed in 1993 to protest the abundance of handicapped spaces. HA targets handicapped parking spots which are used less than once per week. Their claim is that if too few handicapped people use the spaces, why should they be retained?

At first, their protests took the form of parking an unlicensed, untraceable wreck in the "offending" space. But since the turn of the century, their protests have turned to outright attacks. Handicapped vehicles are towed without warning; bombs are exploded under handicapped vehicles, etc. In Seattle, the local HA group went so far as to hire a trench-digging machine and carve up the parking lot at a popular shopping mall only days before Christmas.

In most cities, HA is now considered an outlaw group.

## OTHER CHARACTER TYPES

Following are some other characters who litter the landscape of the 21st century.

**Wattwasters:** The target is anyone who doesn't bother to shut off electrical appliances when they're not in use.

**Loudmouths:** There's growing resentment against people who talk in the movie theater, especially if they already know the plot. Attacks during movies are on the rise, including dousing loudmouths with hot caramel and popcorn (a modern version of tar-and-feathering).

**Grocerybaggers:** Users of plastic grocery bags are squaring off against users of paper bags. And the environmentalists who buy reusable cloth bags would like to see them kill each other!

**Vegetarians:** Vegetarians who take things one step too far believe that the world meat industry is a major contribut-



## TURNFLASHERS

In city driving, there's nothing worse than some bozo who changes lanes without signalling, right? Well, the Turnflashers Club is taking action against such people.

In 1998, the practice of a Turnflasher was to shower a target vehicle with paint pellets. When the person pulled over to clean off his windshield, the Turnflasher would explain the purpose of the attack and continue on his way.

In 2001, Turnflashers took to shooting out the turn signal lamps on cars that didn't use them. The justification was, "If they're not using them, they must not want them on their cars!" Since the use of high-caliber weapons on city streets was forbidden, the police got involved, and Turnflashers went underground.

In the intervening years, the Turnflashers Club has grown to a nationwide network, with more than 10,000 members in 30 cities across North America and in three European cities as well.

ing factor to global warming (animals produce methane and carbon dioxide). Group members slaughter livestock or simply antagonize meat-buyers in grocery stores.

**Ghettoblasters:** Loud portable stereos are the targets of a number of groups. The most peaceful approach has been the Philadelphia Philharmonic Orchestra, which has taken to the streets with stereos blaring "Wellington's Victory" (Opus 91) by Beethoven. Less cultural responses include shooting the stereos or smashing them under the wheels of busses.

**Antistyllists:** Anyone who is sick of the constant style changes is an antistylist. Frustrated parents, especially, have begun to attack trendsetters.

A recent style of wearing fashionable shoes with untied laces has come under attack. Antistyllists tie the offenders' laces to anything handy—signposts, grates in the floor, etc.—and leave the youths to get themselves loose.

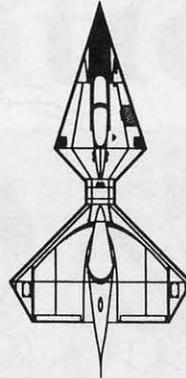
In other cases, roving bands of parents armed with hair clippers have "balded" entire groups of students who wore their hair in offensive patterns and colors.

**Technophobes:** There's growing resentment against computerization of industry and commerce. Technophobes are people who refuse to answer machines. They don't pay bills until a person asks for the money, and they refuse to shop at automated stores or do business at automatic teller machines. Some refuse to be categorized by a number, such when stores request you to "take a number." The more fringe elements actually smash automatic teller machines or other "modern conveniences" in an effort to make their neighborhood "more personal." Ω

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