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Furious Typer



Furious Typer doesn't have time to actually read the messages she is replying to, or even her own messages for that matter. Rather, Furious Typer attempts to drown her adversary with a tsunami of verbiage. The typical Furious Typer lacks endurance, however, and if the other combatants can weather the initial assault she will usually retire from the field.

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Big Dog and Me-Too



Almost every established discussion forum has a Big Dog. Big Dog is a bully who doesn't hesitate to use his superior strength to intimidate other combatants. A Warrior may become a Big Dog by being smart, articulate or just plain mean, but he is a remorseless fighter, brutally tearing into even the weakest of combatants. After Big Dog has his powerful jaws securely fastened on his hapless victim, Me-Too will attack. Me-Too is far too weak and insecure to engage in single combat, and must ally himself with Big Dog or join with a pack of other Warriors to bring down his quarry.

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Cyber Sisters



Cyber Sisters are a group of female subscribers who act something like a shrill Greek chorus, echoing and amplifying one another's voice until their foes retreat in disarray. Cyber sisters differ from [Me-Toos](#) in that they are generally leaderless, but instead form a loose but extremely fierce confederation of Warriors. Anyone who challenges one Cyber Sister can expect to be savagely attacked by the others.

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Toxic Granny



Toxic Grannies can be formidable Flame Warriors. Because of the deference paid to the elderly, other Warriors are reluctant to do battle with them. **BIG MISTAKE!** Just because a hand has a few wrinkles and maybe shakes a little doesn't mean it can't type.

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Weenie



Weenie is one of the most annoying of the Flame Warriors. In order to gain the high ground in a fight he will use the standard PC lexicon, e.g., "people of color", "homophobic", "sexist", etc., but does so without irony. Of course, females can be Weenies, too, but generally males are the most cloyingly irritating representatives of this Flame Warrior species.

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Tiny Yapper



Tiny Yapper is always right out at the end of his leash - barks furiously at the slightest provocation. Ill tempered, aggressive and will definitely bite, but his diminutive stature prevents him from drawing blood.

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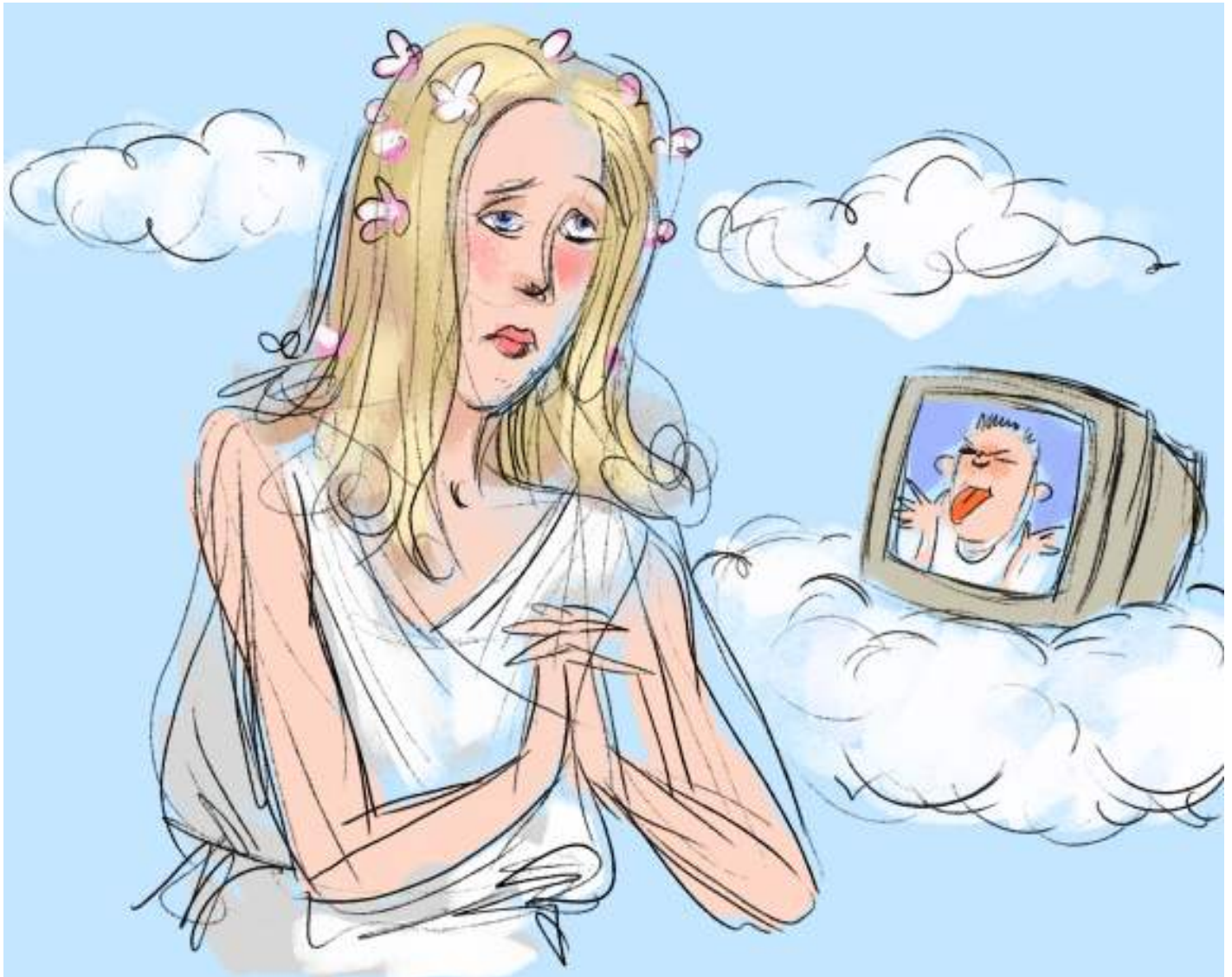
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Innocence Abused



Innocence Abused guards her purity jealously and cannot countenance rough language and gets the vapors at references to intimate body parts. Innocence Abused is a very weak Warrior, but can always count on other Warriors, such as the [Cyber Sisters](#), the [Weenie](#) and [Toxic Granny](#), to come to her defense.

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Stealth



Stealth prefers to go into battle disguised or heavily camouflaged, often using pseudonyms, anonymous mail servers and multiple e mail addresses. Operating from a position of anonymity he can launch vicious attacks with little fear of reprisals. Because of his cowardice he is often dismissed by other Warriors as an unworthy foe.

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Ennui



Ennui is a difficult foe to combat. He affects listless detachment, only rousing himself to cajole other Warriors to be more interesting - without, of course, ever contributing anything of interest himself. Nonetheless, an Ennui attack can be very effective because accusations of dullness may temporarily blunt determined onslaughts by other Warriors.

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L'Enfant Provocateur



L'Enfant Provocateur likes to stir up trouble because...because, well...just because. This species of Flame Warrior is almost always young and male - it could be just a hormone thing.

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List Nanny



List Nanny tirelessly monitors forum discussions and makes it his mission to see to it that everyone behaves. While he is quick to admonish for off-topic messages and petty squabbles, he is generally rather slow to anger. List Nanny rarely wades into pitched battles, rather they simply pull the plug on combatants. Often they are also the unwitting ally of [Rat](#), who will be described in due course.

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Rat



Rat prefers to attack with private messages rather than out in the open. But watch out! If you start to get the better of the fight he will suddenly post out of context excerpts of your messages to the list. When taken to task for betraying private correspondence he will insist that he was being harassed or that his adversary poses a threat to other Warriors, such as [Innocence Abused](#).

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Crybaby



Crybaby is usually a female, although there are plenty of male Crybabies, too. She is a close ally of Innocence Abused, but instead of dabbing her eyes and decrying the insensitivity of her adversaries, Crybaby will pitch a loud public temper tantrum, holding her breath and kicking her feet. She will often run to [List Nanny](#) for comfort.

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Lonely Guy



Lonely Guy doesn't get out much, and often his social isolation will drive him to battle just for human contact. Compassion dictates that we shouldn't get too upset with his antics. Nonetheless, Lonely Guy can be very fierce. Remember, he has nothing better to do than stew over real or imagined insults. In fact, if Lonely Guy is also a [Propeller Head](#) (to be described in due course) he can cause other combatants real trouble with mail bombings, viruses and other techie mischief.

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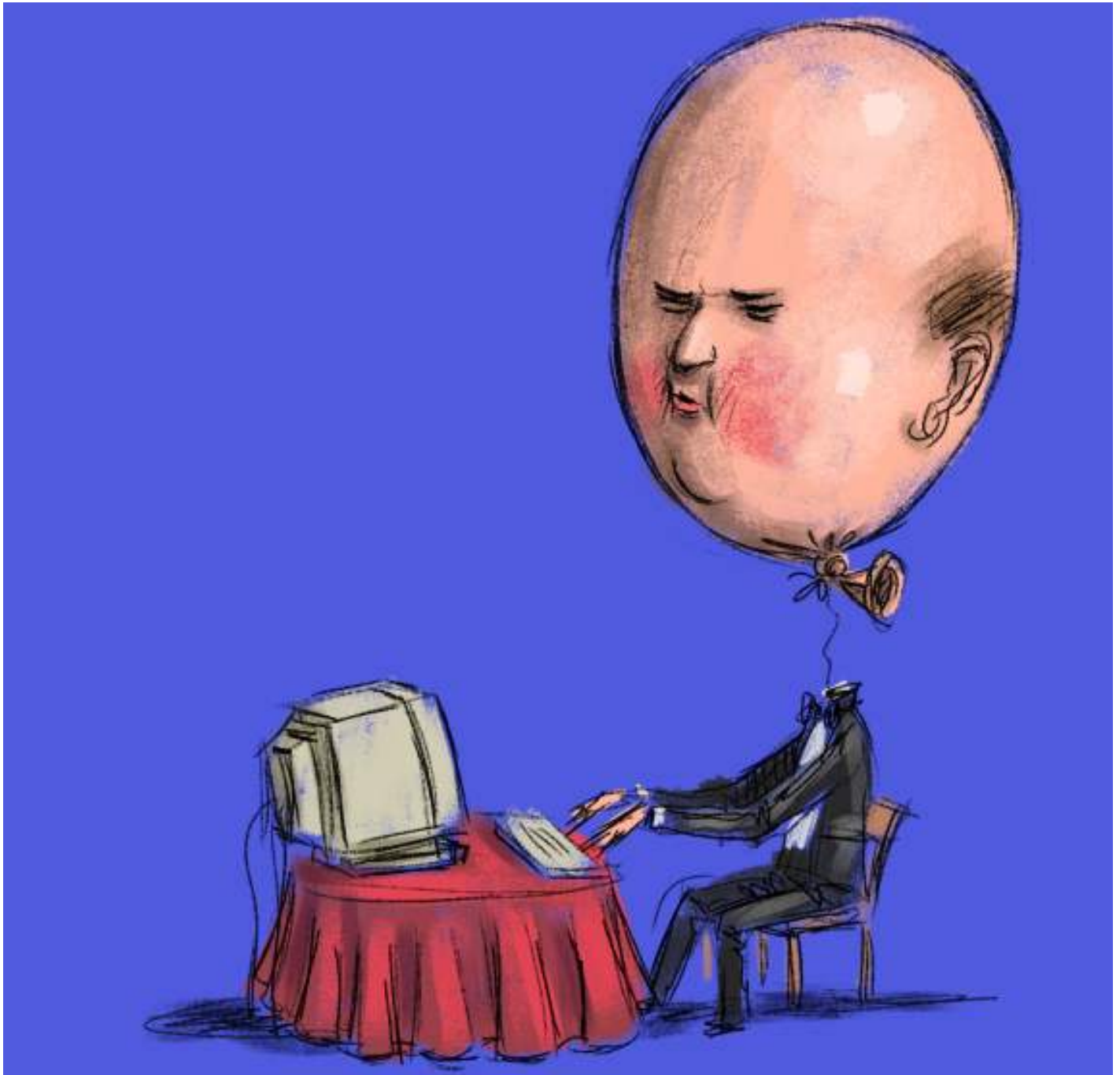
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Profundus Maximus



Profundus Maximus knows everything, and is utterly humorless. He often tries to buttress his essentially weak attacks by using big words, obscure terms and...ahem...even Latin.

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Philosopher



Philosopher differs slightly from the [Profundus Maximus](#) in that he is not actively disliked by most of the list members. While still somewhat humorless and slightly aloof, he is also slow to anger. When he does stoop to participate in a flame war his fighting style is to smother the opposition with ponderous and lengthy cogitations.

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Netiquette Nazi



Along with zero tolerance for all the usual net offenses such as cross posting, excessive quoted material, SHOUTING, off topic posts, SPAM, etc., Netiquette Nazi will not countenance ANY frivolity whatsoever. You WILL be punished.

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Diplomat



Arbiter butts into hot disputes, presuming that the combatants will defer to his even-handed and eminently reasonable presence. Frankly, he gets what he deserves.

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Royals



Whether through virtue, contribution, force of personality or sheer longevity certain forum participants will rise to form an aristocracy. While it is generally taboo to openly acknowledge the class distinctions, the hierarchy is well understood by all. While for the most part the Royals rule with magnanimity, they will not tolerate impertinence from the hoi polloi. It is their habit to remain aloof from petty squabbles among their subjects, but when full-scale war breaks out their intervention can be decisive.

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Tireless Rebutter



For Tireless Rebutter there is no such thing as a trivial dispute. He regards all challenges as if the barbarians were battering at the gates. His unflagging tenacity in making his points numbs and eventually wears down the opposition. Confident that his arguments are sound, Tireless Rebutter can't understand why he is universally loathed.

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Kung-Fu Master



While Kung-Fu Masters are powerful Flame Warriors, they generally choose not to fight. Many lesser Warriors delude themselves into thinking that they are masters of war, but few are the genuine article. The true Kung-Fu master KNOWS he is the superior Warrior and is therefore unruffled by petty provocations. When forced to fight, however, he quickly crushes his opponent with devastating blows.

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Propeller Head



Propeller Head is beyond computer literate. He knows just about everything there is to know about computers and is baffled and indignant that you don't. Often an inarticulate and clumsy fighter he is still much to be feared because with a few deft clicks of his keyboard he can reduce your computer to a smoking heap of ruined metal - or at least he SAYS he can...

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Bliss Ninny



Bliss Ninny doesn't understand why people just can't get along. While it is entirely unintentional, Bliss Ninny's utterly vacuous comments can drive the more pugnacious Warriors into a frenzy of aggression. Often in the heat of battle Bliss Ninny will discuss her cat.

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Therapist



Therapist can be a highly annoying and therefore very effective Warrior. Instead of making a frontal attack, Therapist instead attempts to shift the focus of the conflict to the combatants' psychological motivations and problems. He will freely speculate about other Warriors' insecurities, personalities and relationships, but he will almost never directly engage the subject of the dispute. **WARNING:** Be on the alert for Faux Therapist. He will comment on an opponent's mother relationship, neuroses, need for medication, penis envy, etc., but Faux Therapist's observations have absolutely no therapeutic or diagnostic intent.

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Perv



Perv is a relatively rare Flame Warrior and is very secretive. He incites trouble merely to keep people talking to him. He can be very difficult to identify, but one big tipoff is if he seems less interested in what you have to say than what you are wearing.

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Fragile Femme



Fragile Femme is very needy and insecure and regards the discussion forum as her personal support group, and will lash out when her feelings are not "validated" by the others. Fragile Femme will often refer to the forum participants as her "family" and becomes distraught at disharmony of any kind. She regards even minor disagreements with her as devastating personal assaults and will often dissolve into hysteria when confronted. Her hyperactive sense of injury renders her fighting tactics fairly ineffective, but, as with [Innocence Abused](#), [Cyber Sisters](#) or [Weenie](#) will often come to her defense.

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Issues



Issues has an issue and she wants it to be everyone's issue. The discussion could be about fondue pots and Issue would rage about the multinational corporate conspiracy to exploit fondue pot workers. Of course, Issues is found among all ideological persuasions - anti-gun mothers, gun totin' mothers, bloodthirsty feminists, troglodyte misogynists, politically correct, correctly politically incorrect, lefties, righties, radical Rotarians, vegetarians, carnivores - it doesn't matter. An effective tactic to employ against Issues is indifference - under no circumstances should a Warrior discuss issues with Issues.

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Troller



Troller is looking for a response...ANY response, and he will chum the waters with complaints, insults, compliments, and inflammatory tidbits hoping that someone...ANYONE, will take the bait. Generally quite harmless - practices a form of catch and release. Nonetheless, he can upset the delicate ecology of a mailing list or a newsgroup. Once a forum becomes aware of his presence, however, all feeding activity ceases and Troller must move on to more promising waters.

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Coffee Klatch



For Coffee Klatch the discussion forum is a social gathering - like Mah Jong or the Wednesday morning canasta club. Coffee Klatch prefers a friendly, chatty environment and almost always limits herself to forums interested in "soft" subjects, e.g., the arts, culture, writing, psychology, etc. Whether inadvertently or by design, Coffee Klatch prepares the battlefield in her favor by making it soggy with pleasant, but vapid messages - her favorite phrase often being, "thanks for sharing". This renders the battlefield rather slow going for many of the swifter and more powerful Warriors. When the forum is sufficiently bogged down with her pleasantries, however, she will shed her benign facade and strike mired Warriors with great ferocity.

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Grammarian



Grammarian usually has little to contribute to a discussion and possesses few effective weapons. To compensate, he will point out minor errors in spelling and grammar. Because of Grammarian's obvious weakness most of the other Warriors dismiss him without answering his challenges.

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Jekyll and Hyde



As a forum participant Jeckle and Hyde always plays by the rules and is consistently cordial and helpful - a model netizen, until one day he comes completely uncorked and lashes out without warning. His unanticipated thunderbolts will usually rout even the sturdiest Warriors, and it often takes some time for his stunned opponents to mount a counter attack. Jeckle and Hyde's sudden behavioral change may result from a psychotic episode, PMS, a downturn in the market, a surprise visit by the in-laws - or a session of hard drinking...

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ALLCAPS



ALLCAPS attempts to compensate for his limited rhetorical weaponry through the extravagant use of capitalized words - something netizens refer to as SHOUTING. Sure, a sprinkling of capitalized words can add spice to an attack, but overuse is like too much tarragon in the stew. Even worse from a tactical point of view, too much shouting ALERTS other Warriors to the opponent's verbal WEAKNESS and emotional EXCITABILITY.

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Jerk



Jerk is sarcastic, mean, never gives anyone a inch of slack and never misses an opportunity to make a cutting remark. Jerk's repulsive personality quickly alienates other Warriors, and after some initial skirmishing he is usually ostracized. Still, Jerk is very happy to participate in electronic forums because in cyberspace he is free to be himself...without the risk of getting a real-time punch in the mouth.

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Evil Clown



Evil Clown is very quick with a joke, but his quips always have a barb. He has little patience for in-depth discussions and will often disrupt exchanges between serious forum participants by interjecting forwarded jokes, introducing irrelevant topics and making offhand comments. His greatest thrill is to taunt and humiliate the more plodding Warriors with his snappy ripostes. When a strong Warrior finally corners him Evil Clown will attempt to escape by accusing his attacker of having no sense of humor.

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Peacemaker



No one knoweth whence cometh the Peacemaker, nor whither he goeth. He restoreth peace unto the people. He seeketh neither praise nor glory, but only that all might love one another and that the lamb might lie down with the lion.

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Deacon



Be he a Baptist, Scientologist or Zoroastrian, in the heat of battle Deacon will call down Divine retribution on all net sinners, and will never miss an opportunity to tell everyone about his personal savior. Deacon is fervent and earnest, but never has anything of interest or substance to contribute to a discussion. Occasionally [Tireless Rebutter](#) or [Philosopher](#) will engage Deacon in battle, but mostly he is ignored.

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Sycophant



Sycophant differs from [Me-Too](#) in that he is much more concerned with sucking up than he is with actually doing battle. Of course, he WILL engage in some light combat to impress Big Bog and other stronger Warriors, but he never exposes himself to unnecessary danger. Although combatants sometimes employ Sycophant to buttress an attack, his constantly shifting loyalties make him a weak and unreliable ally.

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Troglodyte



Troglodyte is an aggressive Philistine who categorically disdains all new-age enthusiasms and politics, and has a particular animus against "homos", "tree huggers", "hairy-leg lesbo feminists" and artsy types. His loud brandishings of "commons sense" and "reason" are nothing more than conceits to justify his close mindedness. Troglodyte's fierce, but predictable attacks are easily parried by more nimble Warriors. Sometimes, just for fun, [Weenie](#) or [Issues](#) will taunt him into a towering rage.

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Strumpet



Strumpet finds sex talk completely irresistible and constantly forwards excruciatingly unfunny and lurid jokes to the discussion forum. She always manages to sprinkle conversations with references to private parts and will never let pass without comment any mention of the words "eat," "enter," "come," "rub," etc. She flirts with all the men, disregards the women, then brags that she has a husband or boyfriend that satisfies her putatively voracious appetite, but forum members.....er, participants quickly conclude no husband or boyfriend exists. Should any Warrior challenge her directly Strumpet will disparage her attacker's sexual orientation and/or penis size. Caution: Strumpet may be a man.

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Archivist



Archivist keeps and squirrels away every single one of his e mail messages. Do you remember having a bad day back in 1996 when in one of your messages you may have said a few things that were...well, perhaps a little...hasty? Don't worry, Archivist still has it and will post it to the forum if you begin to get the upper hand in battle. Archivist can be a very effective and fearsome Warrior.

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Whisper



Whisper maintains a benign demeanor and carefully avoids open conflict. When aroused, however, she will send vigorous attacks to sympathetic forum participants via private e mail in an attempt to sway the tide of battle. A typical Whisper maneuver is to "accidentally" post an ambiguously critical, but ostensibly private message to the discussion forum, e.g., "Dear Mary - see what I mean about this guy?" Or, "John - did you read what Bill said? I rest my case!" When challenged she will protest (disingenuously) that she hit the "reply" key by mistake, that the message was never intended to be read by forum participants, that the message was out of context, etc. Whisper's intent is to gain a tactical advantage by leaving the impression that her side in the conflict is gathering heavy forces just over the horizon, and though transparently obvious to veteran Warriors, this feint can often blunt a successful attack by less experienced fighters.

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Blowhard



Blowhard feels the need to present his credentials before entering the fray - even if they are irrelevant to the discussion. For example, in a movie forum conflict he might attempt to settle the matter by saying, "As a Ph. D. candidate in particle physics I believe I can say with some authority that the 'Beavis and Butthead' movie represents the emergence of a new cultural paradigm." Huh?

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Grunter



Grunter always responds to discussion forum messages with a single word or a short phrase, and he NEVER edits quoted material . [Profundus Maximus](#), [Philosopher](#), [Tireless Rebutter](#), and other verbose Warriors find Grunter a particularly exasperating opponent because he will answer their lengthy pontifications with a simple "Yeah!". "Get a life.", "Whatever", "I agree." "Wrong.", etc. While Grunter is not a strong Warrior, he is very elusive and difficult to engage in direct battle, and other than by his extended silence, it is impossible to know if he has been vanquished.

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Ego



For Ego, the discussion forum is all about him and his issues, and he regards discussions that stray from those topics as trivial dalliances. Although tolerant of an occasional shift in focus, Ego grows increasingly restive from extended inattention and will often provoke conflict to reestablish himself as the subject at hand. Ego dismisses with only a cursory reading any forum traffic that doesn't relate directly to him, but replies at length to everything else. Ego is one of the fiercest of all the Warriors and will fight to the death when attacked.

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