

//Begin file

I boosted this from a guy's comm in Renton. I won't go into details (no really), but I'd been asked to get some personal info on the guy and this was amongst the files. Natch I kept a copy so I thought I'd share. Looked boring until I started reading it properly. See what you think, chummers.

- Netdog

Professionals don't keep copies and distribute their Johnson's paydata to their mates.

- MrBiz.

Frag off.

- Netdog.

So here we are once again, it's the anniversary of the Night of Rage, once again. And the trid is full of well meaning noise about tolerance, <pause> once again. Mothers of Metahumans have their rally, and the Orc Rights Committee – that's such a clever acronym <pause for laugh> - well, they'll be having their usual celebrations in the usual places. Can you imagine that? Using the Night of Rage when so many of their own kind were killed, as an excuse for a party? But they know that tonight, they can get away with a lot more. Anyone who speaks out will be 'prejudiced.' Lone Star will be reluctant to arrest any metahuman tonight. They don't want to cause a 'situation' by appearing prejudiced. And that's what I want to talk to you about tonight – prejudice. We get accused of it a lot, we in the club, and I know that most of us here tonight at this fine dinner <acknowledge Kenneth> *are* in the club. So what I want to talk about is what prejudice really is. And maybe even how to deal with those accusations.

Club?

- EatMyDrek

The Humanis Polyclub. This is obviously a speech someone was planning to give at one of their fundraisers or something. I wonder if Kenneth is Kenneth Brackhaven, mayorial candidate. Netdog – you realise this file could actually be quite dangerous if it's real?

- OMFWOG

You see prejudice is a bad thing. It's a blind reaction based on fear. That's why I don't like it when Humanis is accused of it. We do a lot of good work to help people. I've personally been involved with founding two new schools for the disadvantaged and I've campaigned tirelessly for greater community aid in our deprived areas. Our organisation is a godsend to many people. But we're called prejudiced because we deal with uncomfortable truths. Truths that those in high office and in the media can ignore because they're not down here working to keep society afloat like we are.

Doesn't sound too bad so far.

- EatMyDrek

Oh it's classic by the book. First he agrees with his accusers – 'prejudice is bad', then he tells us why we should trust him – 'we do good things,' then he appeals to authority 'uncomfortable truths' and rounds it off by undermining the opponents' right to accuse him - 'we know more about the situation than they do.' Notice he hasn't actually said anything, yet. He's just showing you why he's

going to be right. You think it's not too bad. I think it's scary.

- OMFWOG

Why?

- EatMyDrek

I'm a troll.

- OMFWOG

Let's start with the most obvious – numbers. How many orcs lived in Seattle 18 years ago? I'll tell you. It was just under 90,000. Do you know where that figure stands today? 190,000. Can you believe that? Some orc mothers have been known to give birth to eight young together. Eight! Can you imagine where that will lead in another 18 years. In the time that it takes your children to become old enough to vote, they'll have become a minority and there won't be much point! Now that concerns me. People call that concern prejudice, but when I ask them if they have an answer – no they don't.

*Okay, so **do** you have an answer to that, OMF?*

- EatMyDrek

Course he doesn't. This guy is actually right. Statistical facts aren't racism. It's just facing the truth. Isn't it reasonable to be worried about knowing that you're going to be governed by an orc and there's nothing you can do about that?

- Bos Fugit

No facts aren't racism, but that doesn't mean that the conclusion isn't. This is one of the usual debating tricks – stick in a few facts and tell people they equal what you're saying without too much analysis. If the fact is right, then you are right. People like simple arguments.

- OMFWOG

I notice you didn't answer the question, chummer.

- Bos Fugit

Okay, first the guy assumes that it's a bad thing if you have an orc mayor. Why? Seattle orcs are putting up with a human mayor? He's assuming that there's some big gulf between human interests and metahuman interests and an orc mayor would favour orcs over humans. It's the blindspot of every racist to think that the target of their hate thinks just like them. There's no real difference between humans and orcs or trolls or dwarves. Some of us are bigger and some of us are smaller. What does it really matter? When the economy sucks it sucks for all of us. When there's crime or corruption or war, it affects us all the same. Our needs and wants aren't any different. So when he suddenly goes 'Orc Mayor – Boo!' and you jump, he's already sneaked a little bit of prejudice into your way of thinking. He doesn't need to be right or wrong about the numbers – what matters is making you think like he does. A well meaning anti-racist who tries to attack those figures has fallen straight into his trap – they've accepted his basic assumption that there's an irreconcilable difference between metatypes and their aims are mutually exclusive.

- OMFWOG

So what about those numbers?

- EatMyDrek

Do you know how much a regular old fashioned human produces in terms of kids? About two per couple in the developed world in their lifetime. Just barely enough to keep the population in existence. Do you know how much humans are naturally capable of? A woman could have eight kids in the Third World before she dies. Or more. They don't because they don't need to and they have other things to do with their lives. Humans below the poverty line have lots of kids. Those with more education and money have fewer 'cause they use birth control or are more careful. You know which side of the poverty line most orcs are on? Give orcs the same chances and opportunities as humans they'll cut back in just the same way. Successful career orcs usually have one or two kids the same as anyone else. See - this guy's big scary threat has just vanished. Just like that.

- OMFWOG

Sounds fairly convincing when you put it like that.

- EatMyDrek

Yeah, trouble is I ain't going to get the chance to most people that hear this. Fear is a lot easier to spread than reassurance.

- OMFWOG

Lets talk about something else. Lets talk about intelligence. The strength of a nation is built on its ability, its strength. But the days when strength meant raw physical power are long gone. We don't find our economic might based on how many mammoth we can hunt. What we need is education, intelligence and brilliant minds. That's what our industry is built on. And the next uncomfortable truth is that orcs and trolls are quite simply less intelligent than humans. Scientific testing has shown this again and again. If orcs and trolls continue to make up ever greater parts of the population, then what happens to the average education of our nation.

This is another nasty little bit. He's presenting this as undisputed truth but I don't agree.

- OMFWOG

Oh face the facts. There are countless studies that prove this.

- Bos Fugit

Back in the day, there used to be countless studies showing that minority ethnic groups were less intelligent than caucasians. Sounds ridiculous to discriminate on the basis of skin colour, but people used to do it. When you looked at the tests closely, you always found that it didn't properly take account of the fact that these ethnic groups suffered from worse environments, poorer education and more limited opportunities.

- OMFWOG

Skin colour means nothing. I'm black. I'm as smart as anyone else. My wife's chinese – no different. But trolls? Come on!

- Bos Fugit

This guy has got one thing right so far and that prejudice is a blind emotional reaction. It means to pre-judge, literally. To make an assumption about someone based on your own preconceptions, rather than on them personally. Even if a troll scores 10 IQ points lower on average than a human, it doesn't mean that the next troll you meet isn't going to have a degree in chemistry.

- OMFWOG

Right! And how many trolls do you know with a degree in chemistry?

- Bos Fugit

Well, there's me.

- OMFWOG

Heh!

- EatMyDrek

Wait a minute. I know who you are. You're that shadowrunner works with Crucible's crew? Specialises in demolitions? Drek – you took apart that Fuchi compound! OMFWOG – Often Mistaken For Wrath of God!

- Netdog

The same. Hmmm. Looks like Bos has dropped off line. Must be embarrassing to be put down by a 'trog.'

- OMFWOG

Now this isn't to say that we should be unfair to these metatypes. There's still going to be a need for their physical abilities, their endurance. But it has to be channelled to best use. It can't just be allowed to surface in street violence and aggression. Quite frankly, if they aren't able to compete in those jobs that demand greater education, then we should be focusing our greatest educational efforts on those that can and scaling back our efforts on those that can't. There's no sense in someone pursuing a long academic program when they're never going to put it to use. And it's unfair to them when they have a statistically shorter lifespan, too. Nature has designed them for manual labour and to be capable of it from an early age. People may call this prejudice, but I call it an economic truth. Kenneth's proposals for shifting orc areas education programs from formal schooling to a more streamlined vocational system are the best for our city and just as importantly, best for the orcs and the trolls themselves.

Even I can see things wrong with this.

- EatMyDrek

Yeah, but imagine you were sitting at that dinner with Kenneth Brackhaven smiling down at you and you were listening to it all in one go rather than reading at your own pace. And if you didn't have a friendly troll making commentaries. Can you see how easy this can slip down. Especially to someone who has had negative experiences with a meta. I mean, you get worked over by another human (you're human, right?) and it doesn't matter how bad, you aren't going to start hating humans. But what if a troll smacked you. Would you trust me less? What if three orcs shouldered you out of the way in a club and took your girl. Would you look at all big orcs as a potential threat? That's how racism works – on the basest instinctive levels. That's why it's dangerous. We have to use our reason to overcome it and that's something a lot of people don't do. They let other people, like this guy, reach conclusions for them. Given them 'facts' that they can quote. It can sneak in where you least expect it.

- OMFWOG

So that's why I believe in Humanis. Some people call us prejudiced, but what we really want is what's best for everyone. We want a happy, functioning society where humans and metahumans fulfil their best potential and have a relationship that is natural. Not imposed by a society that has

preconceived ideas that simply don't fit the facts anymore. Imposing your preconceptions on people that don't fit them? That, my friends, is the real prejudice. And with your help and support, we are doing our best to fight it.

Thank you.

<pause for applause>

You think he'll get any?

- EatMyDrek

I think he'll get a lot. And that's what I'm afraid of. Netdog. Who was your Johnson for this?

- OMFWOG

You know you don't ask that, OMF.

- Netdog

Yeah, but just tell me his metatype. Didn't see any gangers about in black and grey colours?

- OMFWOG

Why?

- Netdog

Cause the Ragers run front for the Sons of Sauron and they're the ones who pay for this sort of crap. Makes superb recruiting material and an inside line on what Humanis is thinking up. But something like this will drive them nutso. I'd expect a little action to follow soon. Unfortunately prejudice works both ways. You may have just ignited another round of firebombings and shootings.

- OMFWOG

Oh drek.

- Netdog