

The Living Land:
Mystery Flesh Pit
National Park

&MUN XII

Note from the In-Room Director

Dear delegates,

Welcome to &MUN! My name is Molly McDade and it is my pleasure to serve as your In-Room Director for this committee. I am a senior from Alexandria, Virginia majoring in International Relations and minoring in Business Analytics. I am a huge foodie and Trader Joe's enthusiast and you can usually find me crafting charcuterie boards in my free time. I am also super passionate about music and I am currently curating my vintage record collection!

I have been involved in Model United Nations since my freshman year in high school and have continued through college. Sophomore year of college, I had the honor of serving as an Under-Secretary General on the secretariat for WMHSMUN XXXV and last year, I served on &MUN's secretariat as the Director of Events. Now, I am the VP Campus for the W&M International Relations Club. MUN has been so impactful for my growth in life but also in college, and I hope that you all will have the same experience.

As we approach the conference, I want to express how incredibly excited I am to work with all of you. I look forward to seeing what creative ideas you come up with in debate and in your crisis notes. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out via email!

Best,

Molly McDade (she/her)

In-Room Director

mtmcdade@wm.edu



Note from the Crisis Director

Dear Delegates,

Hello, and welcome to &MUN XII! I'm Aryan Shah, and I will be serving as your crisis director for *The Living Land: Mystery Flesh Pit National Park!* I'm a sophomore at William and Mary majoring in Government and History. My career as a Model UN delegate started my freshman year at Franklin High School in Somerset, New Jersey, and has continued to my time here through both staffing and competing at schools including Columbia University in New York, The University of Georgia in Athens, and McGill University in Montreal. Outside of being your crisis director at &MUN, I'm also an Assistant Head Delegate for our competitive team, and have served as an Under-Secretary General for Specialized Agencies at WMHSMUN XXXVII. When I'm not doing MUN, I run D&D sessions with the Tabletop Games Club, and love playing video games like Lethal Company or Baldur's Gate 3. I'm excited to bring my years of love for crisis committees to our backroom!

I learned about the Mystery Flesh Pit from Sofia Simonian, one of our wonderful USGs and a good friend of mine, and have become fascinated with the rich lore and strange details that this project has generated over the years. Mystery Flesh Pit National Park's backroom will present you with interesting choices, bizarre and fascinating updates, and ambitious concepts that we hope you take full advantage of. Our goal is to make this committee both enjoyable and educational, so we'd be glad to help you with learning how to manage crisis committees and crisis arcs as the committee goes forward. Additionally, please feel free to email either myself or your in-room director, Molly McDade, about the Flesh Pit or your role in committee! We'd be glad to answer any questions or concerns you may have before the conference.

Sincerely yours,
Aryan Shah (he/him)
Crisis Director
adshah01@wm.edu



Note from the USG

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to &MUN XII! While I am not a director for this committee, I am a main author of this background guide and the USG GA/SA for this year's &MUN. This committee is the result of my enjoyment of the Mystery Flesh Pit National Park project and my nomination of it as a committee for &MUN. As a fan of online horror, ARGs, and alternate histories, this committee covers something that I am truly very interested in. Though I cannot personally direct this committee, I am sure that I have placed it in good hands, with your wonderful directors, Molly and Aryan.

I find the Mystery Flesh Pit National Park to be a fascinating work that combines so many mediums to create an internet archive for a park that never existed. Along with the creativity it exhibits, the project also manages to present a nuanced critique of exploitation of the environment and the issue of commercialism. Though I recognize the length of this background guide, I encourage the delegates of this committee to do their own outside research into the lore of the pit. There is a lot of information out there, particularly regarding things that could be useful in your crisis arcs. Also, the numerous pieces of lore created about the pit are simply interesting reading and visual material.

In regards to the content of the background guide or the committee in general, feel free to contact either myself or your directors for any questions you may have. I hope you all enjoy participating in this unique committee at &MUN!

Best,

Sofia Simonian

USG GA/SA

usg-gasa@andmun.org

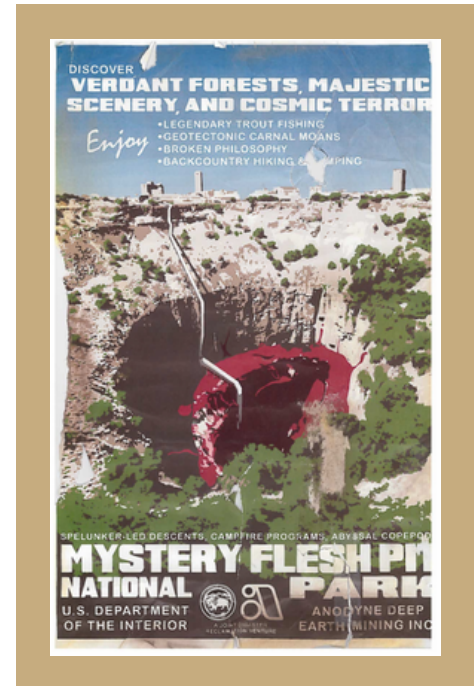


Background

This committee is based on the fictional “Mystery Flesh Pit National Park” multimedia project created by Trevor Roberts. The project can be described as a horror and science fiction alternate history, beginning with the discovery of the aforementioned Mystery Flesh Pit. The majority of this background guide will cover the necessary background information needed for delegates to have a good understanding of the setting of this committee. However, there is some content not covered by this background guide, for the sake of length. The current situation section (as it typically does) describes the situation delegates are placed in, largely based on the [2007 disaster report](#), which is highly recommended reading for this committee. The rest of the resources on the website are also recommended reading, as the extra information they offer may help delegates build their crisis arcs. With that being said, something to keep in mind when doing research for this committee is that the information in the background guide should be considered more accurate for the context of the committee over the information from the original project, as the committee does/will diverge from the canon. Due to the nature of the material, it should be noted that this committee includes many elements of the horror genre, something delegates should be aware of when participating in and researching this committee. It is suggested that delegates that are uncomfortable with horror themes do not elect to participate in this committee.

Discovery of the Permian Basin Superorganism

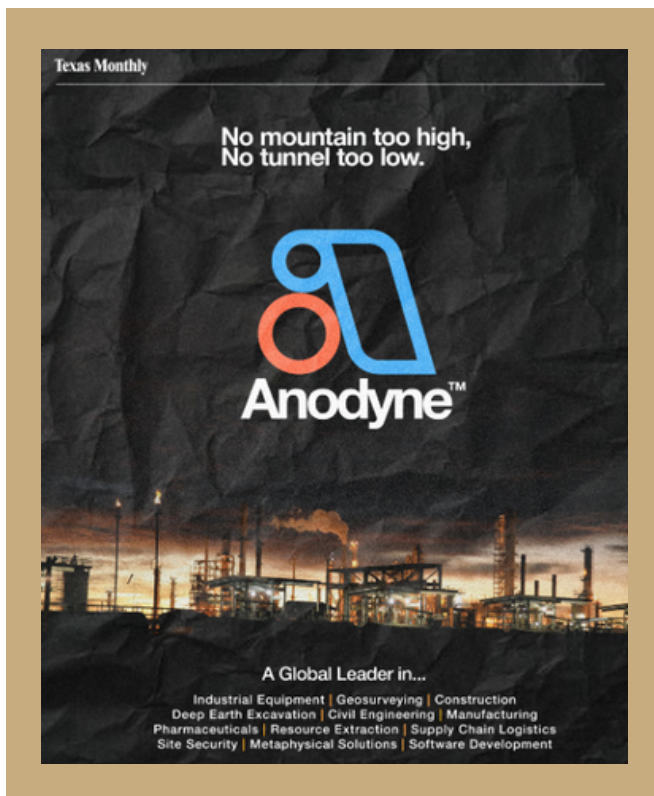
The discovery of what is now known as “Mystery Flesh Pit National Park” occurred in 1973 when James “Jim” Jackson and his crew of oilmen were searching for locations to drill oil in the Permian Basin area of Texas. Instead of finding the oil they sought, the men found a much more fascinating phenomena, that being what became known as the “Permian Basin Superorganism.” Exploration of this mysterious phenomenon began immediately, with Jim leading the charge. While originally estimated to have a depth of 500 - 600 feet, further exploration revealed that the organism was significantly larger than originally believed. As Jackson and his small crew could not possibly continue handling this developing situation themselves, he contacted a nearby mining company, Anodyne Deep Earth Mining, to help with the exploration. In a [letter](#) to his coworker he wrote, “Nobody knows what this mystery pit is, or what it eats, or how long it's been here. We need some guys with real smarts, not oilmen. Doctors, scientists, good decent folks who would have nothing to do with this.”



Anodyne Deep Earth Mining quickly took on this project. Founded as Anchor Mineral Co. in 1923, the company Anodyne Deep Earth Mining was formed following a merger between the Anchor Mineral Co. and Dynamic Equipment, LLC and at the time was an up-and-coming Texas mining company. With the help of a bigger company, James was able to continue exploration of this mysterious pit. On one of these early expeditions, a depth of 12,117 meters was reached in 1976, a record that was later surpassed by another expedition team in 1979, which managed to reach 19,102 meters down.



As pit infrastructure was expanded, it was opened as a tourist attraction run by Anodyne in 1976. By opening day, the original Lower Visitor Center was ready to receive visitors. It provided similar services as it does today, just on a smaller scale, as the park was not as popular as it is today and the visitor center was later renovated and expanded to its current scope in 1995. The trails of the park were also limited, with access to the internals of the organism being restricted due to the lack of infrastructure. Around this time is when the park's mascot, Caver Coop, was created, along with his iconic quote, "Come explore the FUNderground!"



Currently, Anodyne (officially Anodyne, Inc.) is headquartered in Arlington, Texas and stands as the 23rd largest American company by revenue. It employs over 28,000 people globally and operates 7 major research, development and production facilities around the world, 6 of which are located in the US. While it does gain major profits from its ventures into the Permian Basin Superorganism, it also operates as a standard company at locations across the US and through its few international subsidiaries. It is involved in multiple industries such as mining, construction, manufacturing, pharmaceutical, and logistics.

Designation as a National Park

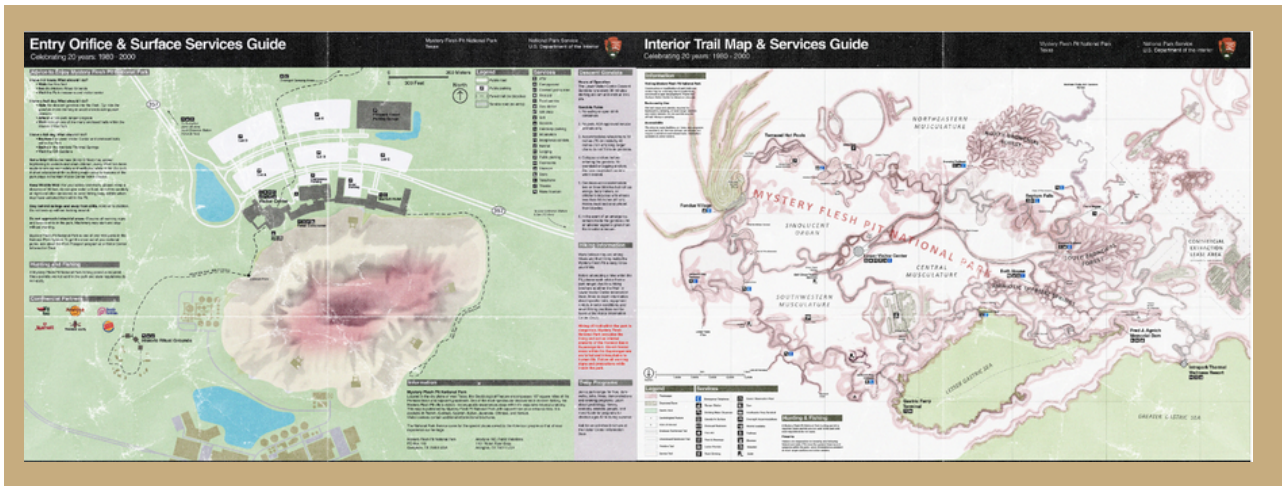
Not long after the discovery of the pit and a few years of initial exploration, the Mystery Flesh Pit tourist attraction became Mystery Flesh Pit National Park. On April 17th, 1980, President Carter and his administration made the decision to absorb the location into the national parks system. This was done in the interest of preserving the location as a unique natural wonder and protecting the living organisms within the park.

Throughout this process, commercial use of the pit was not entirely limited, but was in fact given solely to Anodyne Corporation. Anodyne was allowed to engage in resource extraction activities, provided certain areas were persevered as park land. To this day, Anodyne retains its exclusive economic rights to extraction activities in the park.

On the other hand, government regulation of the area was also established during this time. Through the Special Resources Development Act of 1980, passed soon after the designation of the pit as a national park, the US Commission on Geobiological Resources & Public Safety was established. It functions as an independent federal agency tasked with ensuring the safety of workers, the public, and the environment by investigating and working to prevent accidents related to the Permian Basin Superorganism. It is the first point of contact between government and private entities regarding safety or regulatory issues involving the pit. The agency is known to perform regular investigations into significant safety incidents, provide support to employees that work within the park, and perform inspections on park infrastructure.



The restructuring of the pit as a National Park also brought some concern for the environmental wellness of the park, an issue that has been somewhat of a point of contention between environmental groups, the US government, and Anodyne. Though the knowledge of mining operations and commercial use of the park outside of its existence as a National Park is publicly limited, a few environmental groups have shown concern for the park. Historically, protests against either the park itself or the associated commercial operations have been limited, but the lack of public information about specific pit operations has contributed to this.



Park Infrastructure and Staff

In order to allow for greater visitor capacity and comfort, Mystery Flesh Pit National Park significantly expanded its infrastructure over the years since its creation. General infrastructure in the park is built with surgical-grade steel, and constant maintenance is needed to maintain its operational quality. In some areas outside of the visitor center and reinforced trails, blue emergency telephones are provided to assist visitors in emergency situations.

Upper Visitor Center

Located above ground, just outside the entrance to the internals of the park, the Upper Visitor Center greets guests when they first arrive at the park. It serves as the external base of park operations and is the nearest center of civilization to the park, besides the town of Gumption, Texas, which is located 22 miles north of the park. Featuring a conference center, Marriott Hotel, retail locations, parking facilities, a gift shop, a theater, and interpretive exhibits, the Upper Visitor Center has plenty to offer those that do not wish to venture into the pit.

Lower Visitor Center

The center of all internal infrastructure, this “gateway to the deep” is the location at which visitors to the internals of the pit first arrive. It is accessible via an elevator gondola that descends for 20 minutes from the Upper Visitor Center to reach this location. The original visitor center was created in the 1970s prior to the opening of the Mystery Flesh Pit attraction, but was later expanded in the 1980s after being absorbed into the National Park System. Made of surgical-grade structural steel and acid-resistant glass, this structure is a marvel of modern engineering. It serves as the hub of park operations within the pit, possessing tourist, administrative, and maintenance infrastructure. For guests, the Lower Visitor Center features a gift shop, museum, theater, garden, food & retail options (including a Burger King), interfaith chapel, and panoramic views of the pit. From the administrative and maintenance side, it includes communications equipment, maintenance areas, park ranger and executive offices, an armory, a laboratory, a water reclamation plant, and a medical center.



Hilton Intrapit Thermal Wellness Resort

The base of wellness services in the park, this resort provides many services to guests including dining, shopping, entertainment, and recreational activities, in addition to the thermal springs and spa services. The resort overlooks the Greater Gastric Sea, with most rooms overlooking the sea of churning acid. The resort's main attraction is, of course, the access to the pit's famous amniotic springs that it offers, known for the healing amniotic ballast they contain. A less advertised, yet still well known, property of the amniotic ballast in the springs is its aphrodisiacal effects, especially in the high concentrations it is found in within the pit.

In addition to the physical infrastructure of the pit, the employees that work in the pit, both those of the National Parks Service and Anodyne Corporation, provide essential services for the park. They are the driving force behind daily park operations and are well-equipped, in skills and tools, to deal with situations that may occur in the depths of the pit. Due to the increased danger of working in an underground organism, park employees are eligible for significant benefits in exchange for their services. Typically, the park has around 300 to 400 employees working within it at any given time, counting both park and Anodyne staff.



Park Ranger

Employed by the National Park Service, rangers in Mystery Flesh Pit National Park perform similar duties to those of rangers at a more typical park. They are mainly responsible for guest safety, law enforcement, and wildlife management. To do their job, they use a variety of tools and advanced training to perform their duties in the park.

Interpretive/Guide Ranger

These rangers work directly with the public to provide information about the pit and host guided tours. Interpretive rangers work within the visitor center and enclosed trails of the park, providing information about the park to guests. Guide rangers are in charge of tours that go outside of the visitor center and enclosed trails of the park, they give guests a guided experience of the greater depths of the pit.

Medic Ranger

As their name suggests, medic rangers are responsible for providing medical assistance to those injured in the pit. Due to the secluded nature of the pit, medical help can be difficult to reach from remote areas of the park. These rangers are responsible for providing in the field medical assistance and staffing the Lower Visitor Center's medical bay.

Technician

Serving as maintenance staff of the park, technicians ensure that park infrastructure is safely maintained. This includes keeping the visitor center and enclosed trails clean, along with repairing essential park infrastructure inside the pit.

Trail Engineer

Often working out in the pit, trail engineers maintain current park trails to keep them accessible to visitors as well as assisting in the development of new trails. They carry advanced, specialized equipment to maintain their safety within the pit, with tools that help them trim excess tissue growth in current trails and open up new trails.

Surveyor

The true explorers of the pit, surveyors venture into the unknown of the pit, working to map its internals and determine where trails can be expanded. They can spend several weeks or even months exploring and cataloging the pit. They are seen wearing large suits, somewhat similar to those astronauts may wear, particularly in the depths of the pit. Due to the large amount of time spent in the pit, these individuals have extensive experience with the pit, working in other positions in the park prior to becoming surveyors.

Laborer

Employed for general labor in the pit, this job is not for the faint of heart. These individuals work on park infrastructure under the direction of maintenance employees and engineers, helping build up infrastructure in the pit, essentially doing the grunt work. They may also work with mining teams, clearing the way through the flesh of the pit for huge mining machines.

Miner

Working in the commercial sector of the pit, miners extract resources from the pit. In their Anodyne-issue, trademark yellow suits, they work long hours in the depths of the pit. A typical tour for a miner consists of a total of 9 months, completed in periods of 3 months, with breaks in between. Though they get paid well, mining work in the pit is notoriously difficult and dangerous, with many miners that go on multiple tours sustaining injuries.

Scientist

Studying the systems of the pit, scientists travel into the depths to do all kinds of research. They study the numerous fields related to the pit, including ventriology, geobiology, venteriochemistry, and other subsets of study. Their work provides insight into the functions of the pit and is essential to furthering the understanding of it.

Features/Landmarks of the Pit

Over the years, a variety of landmarks have been marked down as notable within the pit. Some man-made and some naturally present, these locations assist visitors and park rangers in staying oriented while exploring the park.

Circus Clown Chymus, later the Circus Gatti Tragedy Memorial

This memorial commemorates the 1976 incident in which the Circus Gatti traveling entertainment group was set to perform a high-wire stunt show above the then under-reinforced entry orifice. During the performance, several chimpanzees became panicked and disrupted the performance, causing the performers to fall into an unreinforced area of the pit. When rescue personnel located the 50 individuals in a digestive sac, they were already being digested by the pit. An experimental antacid spray was discharged as an attempt to stop the digestion process, but did not work as intended. Instead, it caused a flash-calcification which formed what is now known as the “Circus Clown Chymus” formation.

Fred J. Agnich Gastric Dam

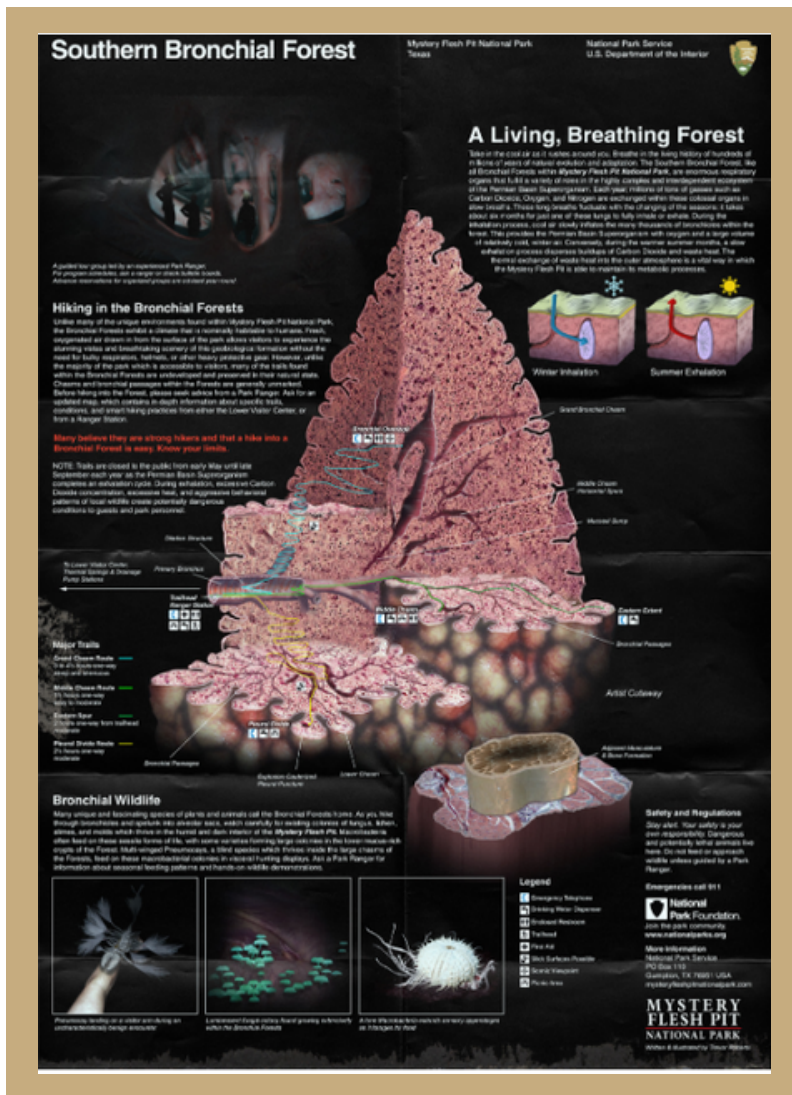
A dam located in the Lesser Gastric Sea of the pit, the dam was initially intended to support temporary worker housing and fabrication facilities during early park development. Following this, the area was leased to a rally racing league that hosted off-road races within the pit. Viewership for this racing league was limited and it was not able to last long, being discontinued after the 1989 season.

Amniotic Thermal Springs

Located in the internals of the park, the springs are known for their effects on the mind, body, and spirit.

They remain a major draw of visitors to the park, both for their medicinal and recreational uses. The springs themselves feature several baths, with the main bath being accessible to all guests and other baths only available for guests 18 and older. Medicinally, the baths have healing properties that are known to reduce joint pain, promote healthier skin, and improve vision.

Recreationally, the baths have psychoactive and aphrodisiacal effects, particularly at high concentrations. The amniotic ballast found in the baths is the cause of these effects and is found in its most potent state within the pit. The ballast is also extracted for commercial use in pharmaceutical and other products, such as being included in the iconic Coca Cola Heartthrob™ soda beverage.



Northern and Southern Bronchial Forests

Huge, organic caverns, the Northern and Southern Bronchial Forests of the Mystery Flesh Pit National Park are common places for hiking within the park. They provide a steady stream of fresh air from the outside, as they are part of the organism's oxygen intake mechanism, causing their environment to be ideal for visitors. The unnerving "moans" of the Mystery Flesh Pit emanate from these forests, created by the circulation of air through them. The wildlife of the park is also commonly seen within these forests, drawn by the relatively hospitable environment.

Resources of the Pit

Not only has the pit become a popular tourist attraction since its discovery, the resources within the pit are considered to be plentiful. From basic minerals, computer components, to the real money-maker, amniotic ballast, its resources hold great potential for profit. Most of the resources of the pit are not easily extracted and need extensive technology and well-supplied mining crews to facilitate their extraction.

Amniotic Ballast

The most valuable and unique resource of the pit, amniotic ballast is extracted from the pit and refined for its medicinal properties. It has been used in a variety of Anodyne-developed medical products and has properties that can treat health conditions from a regular flu to mental degradation due to aging and even certain cancers. It may also be consumed recreationally, creating a "strong and pleasant psychotropic effect," different from other recreational substances. It is not known to cause a physical dependence, though its long-term effects have not been extensively studied.

Corpusite

Commonly known as “pearls,” these mineral formations are referred to as such due to their spherical shape and light coloring. They are used as valuable components in optical and measurement applications and exhibit superconductivity, even at extreme temperatures.

Oscuralite

Theorized to be the primary skeleton of the pit, oscuralite is commonly known as “black bone.” It has a structural rigidity higher than steel, a strength-to-weight ratio 50 times higher than titanium, and high thermal insulation capability, all with a mass of less than 730 grams per cubic meter. Due to these properties, it is used as a premium material in the construction industry.

Creatures of the Pit

The pit exists as its own underground ecosystem, housing unique creatures not found anywhere else in the world. These creatures have specific adaptations that allow them to survive and thrive in the conditions in the pit. While many creatures of the pit have already been discovered, scientists have speculated that, much like in the ocean, there are more yet to be seen by humans.



Some creatures are considered to be passive, while others are clearly hostile. Whatever the case, it is recommended that visitors limit their interactions with wildlife within the park. Visitors may observe flora and fauna from a safe distance, (around 200 yards) but they should ensure that they do not approach it. If the behavior of a creature changes because it notices you, it is time to leave the area. Equipment should not be left unattended to avoid distributing the natural ecosystem of the park.

Macrobacteria

The most common life form in the pit, Macrobacteria are a larger version of bacteria one would find in surface animals. They vary greatly in size and can grow to be up to 4 meters across. They feed by ingesting nutrients from nutrient-rich areas to the pit, tending to

be territorial of these feeding grounds. While typically passive, they can pose a threat to humans that encroach upon their territory, with the ability to injure or even kill through suffocation or chemical secretions.

Abyssal Copepods

A well-known creature of the pit, Abyssal Copepods are typically found in more remote areas of the pit, preferring to avoid human activity. They have the shape of an arthropod and can grow up to 6 meters in length, with a tough outer shell covered in a waxy secretion. These creatures are predatory and survive by hunting other life forms within the pit. It is recommended that visitors avoid these creatures, as they can become hostile and are considered hazardous to humans within the pit.

Amalgamation (Compound Surface Fauna)

These creatures form when multiple surface fauna that have fallen into the pit are fused together to create one mass through the internal processes of the pit. Due to the nature of their creation, most compound surface fauna do not live beyond a few days or weeks and guests are advised to report any they see to park staff. While it is incredibly rare, humans have been included in these creatures before and alleged experiments have attempted to “recover” people from the amalgamations.

Aquifer Leech

These shell-less mollusks can be found in aquatic or semi-aquatic, oxygenated environments of the pit. They can grow up to a length of 2 meters and feed using two retractable, mucosal proboscises with which they sap liquid moisture from the pit. They then consume the small organic matter found in this liquid. They assist with essentially “cleaning” water within the pit and have even been used to treat water to an extremely high purity, at a lower cost than a desalination plant.

Mesogleal Tridecapod

A quasi-vertebrate type creature, tridecapods are visually notable for, as their name suggests, possessing a total of 13 legs. These passive creatures pose no threat to humans, but tend to gather around high-voltage areas of park infrastructure and are generally considered a nuisance. They feed on the nutrients in the blood of the pit, carefully filtering out what they need and releasing the remaining liquid back into the arteries.

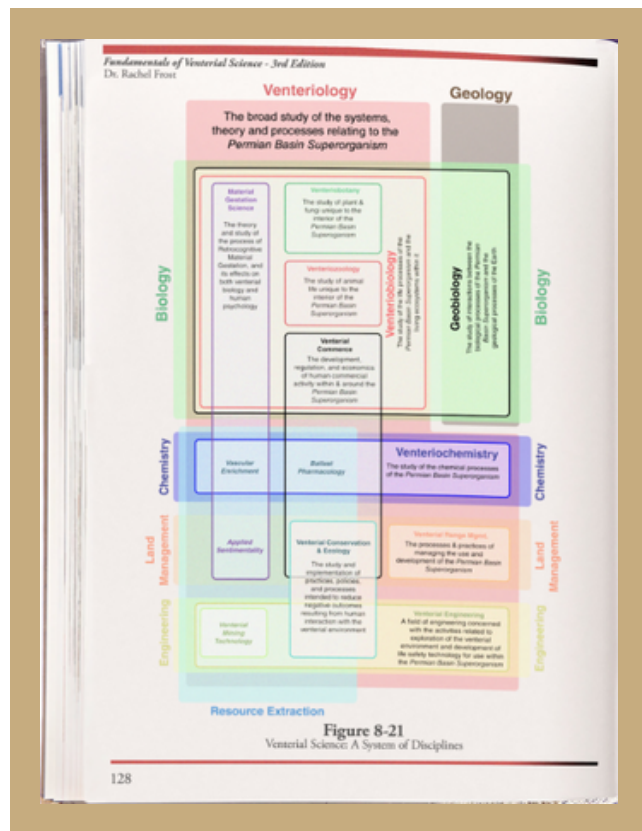
Marrow Folk

A creature known only from the tales of explorers, Marrow Folk are the most well-known urban legend of the park. Described as shadowy figures that disappear once looked at directly, tales from early explorers of the pit claim to hear odd chanting along with their rumored sightings. Despite the exploration conducted in the pit, no substantial signs of these creatures have ever been found. A common scientific theory explains that they are an optical illusion caused by the pit.

Scientific Study of the Permian Basin Superorganism

Since its discovery, the pit has become highly studied by the scientific community. As a unique organism, multiple areas of study and research have sprung up, aiming to further the scientific understanding of its functions.

As exploration of the organism continued, its scientific characterizations grew. Considered a fascinating geobiological feature, the pit itself is essentially a large subterranean organism of indeterminate size and origin with a vast internal anatomy. The pit spawned further scientific fields of study, due to its unique nature, with the main field of study encompassing the systems that relate to the Permian Basin Superorganism being named Ventrilogy. This field is considered somewhat niche, with the premier public research facilities for it located at the Texas colleges of the University of Texas at Austin and University of Texas Permian Basin.



It has been discovered that the various areas of the pit function as massive organs, with each in charge of a different life-sustaining function, just like in humans or other animals. These are scattered throughout the pit and do not have the organization of any known creature. The systems of the organism that are similar to more common lifeforms, include gastrointestinal, vascular, respiratory, musculoskeletal, nervous, limbic and integumentary systems. The systems below these, including the blue tissue layer and the mysterious “exotic anatomy” below, are largely unexplored due to the dangers they hold.

Other entrances to the pit were also discovered. Though the main entry orifice, where the park is now located, remains the best reinforced, there are a total of 15 entry orifices. At least 2 of these additional orifices are used by Anodyne Corporation for resource extraction purposes, with the rest being blocked off by the US Bureau of Land Management. There were plans to open a “2nd gate” into the organism, closer to Odessa, Texas, but these did not move beyond the concept phase. The discovery of the additional orifices have allowed geobiologists and ventriobiologists to reach a general understanding that the pit, horizontally, is shaped similar to “fifteen-legged starfish.” However, the vertical structure of the pit is much more of a mystery and remains a matter of scientific controversy.

In 1979, a joint expedition into the pit was conducted by the US Department of the Interior and the Soviet Academy of Science, known as “Project Freefall.” The expedition consisted of three American and three Soviet personnel, conducted over a total of 6 weeks of study within the pit. The goals of the expedition were to generally advance knowledge of the internal structure and geobiology of the pit, while building diplomatic relations.

Though the project was successful in these goals, its exploration of the “exotic anatomy” located in the very depths of the pit caused the death of one of the crew members, discouraging further exploration in this area.

In the 1980s, secretive medical experiments were performed on amalgamations that included humans. Performed at Baylor Medical Center by Anodyne scientists, these experiments were able to somewhat recover a person from amalgamation. The organs/tissues of an individual were separated and placed into a life-support module, using amniotic ballast to assist in healing. Through a DOS-based machine/brain interface, it was even possible to establish contact with the person. However, though Anodyne claimed differently, these experiments resulted in a terrible quality of life for the individual and cost several million dollars per person. The experiments were eventually stopped by the US government due to ethical concerns voiced by the scientific community.

It is rumored that prior research has been conducted by the US Department of Energy into the potential of nuclear deterrents as a defense against the flesh pit. Though a full file has never been recovered, the conclusion this research reached is said to show that the use of such weapons would not effectively deal with the organism.

Safety Measures and Tools

As an environment incredibly hostile to human life, a variety of safety measures and tools have been created for the benefit of park staff, miners, and visitors.

Similar to tools used in caving, basic tools such as magnetic compasses, barometers, ropes, and climbing harnesses are commonly used in the pit. Regular visitors and park employees are required to have appropriate safety equipment when venturing into areas outside of the visitor center and enclosed trails, including proper clothing and footwear, adequate food and water, pit camping equipment (depending on the length of the expedition), and pit navigational beacons and maps that assist in orienteering in the pit, as well as potential rescue operations.

Park and Anodyne employees are given special-issue gear suited for park exploration. Trial engineers, surveyors, and miners are outfitted with ventilated suits that assist with survival in the moist environments of the pit. Park employees venturing into the pit are also typically given an Anatomical Environment Multitool (AEM). This tool is specially designed to assist with pit exploration, intended for use in tasks such as deploying stent frames, laser cutting through tissues, and even defending oneself against hostile creatures within the pit.

Getting around in the depths of the pit is tough. Luckily, numerous different machines have been created since exploration began that assist with human activity in the pit.

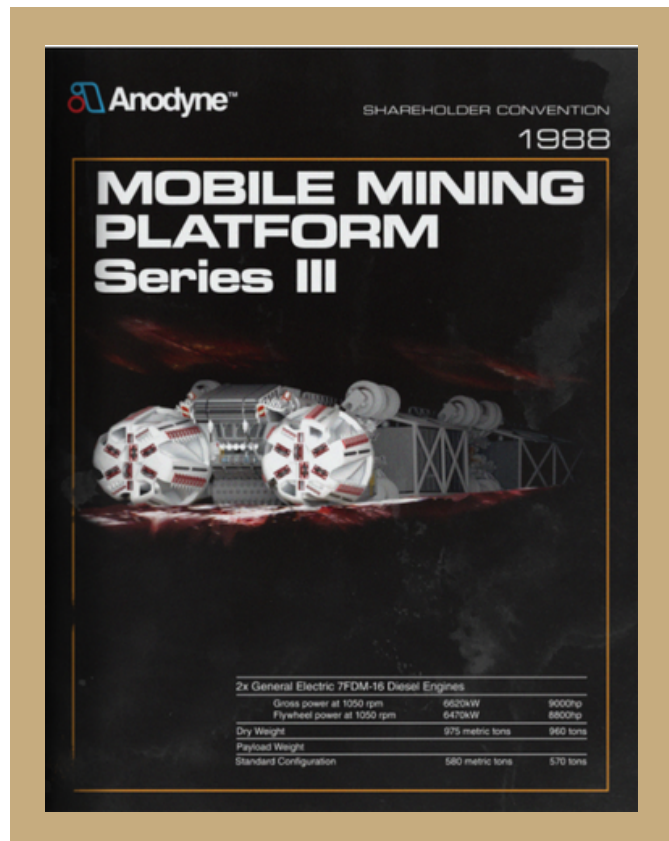
Mobile Mining Platform

Colloquially referred to as “mining rigs,” only 7 of these machines were ever built due to their \$300 million construction cost. With a length of 134 meters and a width of 29 meters, these

platforms assisted workers in pit mining operations. Designed to cut and cauterize tissue as it moves forward, the mining platform increased mining efficiency significantly after its invention in the late 1980s. Its main features include the laser-equipped hydraulic manipulator arms and dual cutting heads that allow it to easily cut through pit tissue. For crews, it also served as a home base on long mining tours in the pit. Generally, it held around 18 members, 2-3 mining engineers, a medic, 2 mechanics, a venterial tech, 2 Anodyne employees, and 10 laborers.

Venterial Environment Excursion Vehicle

Developed by Anodyne in the late 1970s, this vehicle serves as the main form of transportation within the pit. Its variations include a cargo, flatbed, liquid transport, wildlife transport, and safari variant, since its structure allows for multiple potential uses. It is propelled with a set of twin counter-oriented screws and powered by two diesel engines. For navigation, a large ultrasonic instrument in the vehicle is used, providing the driver with a three dimensional map of the anatomy of the pit about 40 meters around the vehicle.



The Park in June 2007

Currently, the park is visited by around 600,000 people annually. Both the tourism and mining sectors of the pit are producing decent profits. This past year, there have been many successful events held in the park, with the most notable being the “Welcoming 2007” new year celebration. Right now, guests are looking forward to the upcoming 4th of July celebration, which is being promoted as being an improvement upon the new year celebration earlier that year.

The park infrastructure seems relatively stable, with maintenance reports appearing normal. On all public reports, safety checks appear to be conducted at the required regular intervals for the various essential infrastructure. However, as the Lower Visitor Center of the park was originally opened in 1976, the central sections of the park aren’t getting any younger. Built of structural steel, they are holding up well, but the high-temperature and increased pressure environment of the pit has caused the metal to age faster, leading some park engineers to express the need for renovation of the older structures.

And in this, with everything appearing normal, is when disaster strikes.

Current Situation

The situation in which the committee begins is based on the 2007 Disaster Report. The events prior to the emergency meeting are found there in their full form. This is a shortened version.

July 4th, 2007, 10:29 AM. A fourth of July concert and fireworks display was scheduled to occur, but has been canceled due to expected high rains. As many guests have been upset by this, the park hours have been extended to midnight. At the same time, harvesting crews in another section of the pit are working overtime to meet quotas.

July 4th, 2007, 9:30 PM. A relay error occurs in the park's electrical grid due to the increased electrical demand from mining equipment and tourist infrastructure. The issue is noted by the control room and an engineer is notified.

July 4th, 2007, 9:41-42 PM. Rainwater begins to collect in the sand gullet, drainage pumps are activated but fail due to the electrical grid issues. An emergency pump is automatically activated and immediately fails, tripping the alarm in the control room.

July 4th, 2007, 9:48-51 PM. Technicians arriving to repair the pumps in the sand gullet find it is almost completely submerged, power is diverted to hydraulic stent rams to brace for expected choke response. At the same time, technicians repair the relay fault as the park's electrical grid is reset.

July 4th, 2007, 9:52-53 PM. During the electrical grid reset, the organism begins a choking action due to the water within the sand gullet, causing significant damage to park infrastructure. The visitor center facility lists 20 degrees off vertical and the master alarm sounds.

July 4th, 2007, 9:56 PM. Park rangers are dispatched for the initial emergency response.

July 4th, 2007, 10:12 PM. A master fail-safe is activated and 20,000 liters of aconitine is injected into the organism through a series of relay stations throughout the park.

July 4th, 2007, 10:17 PM. The organism reacts badly to this injection, ejecting a "chyma slurry" from the entry orifice. (Essentially, it throws up.) This further damages internal park infrastructure and extremities of the organism briefly surface 30 km-120 km from the entry orifice.

July 4th, 2007, 11:02 PM. The operations director within the Lower Visitor Center activates the [CONTINGENCY MEASURE]. Spasms of the organism notably subside.

Today, July 5th, 2007, 3:00 AM. An emergency meeting has been called to determine the best course of action. Various government officials, Anodyne employees, scientists, international representatives, and other persons are present. They are tasked with dealing with this disaster and then looking to the future of the pit. What actions will they take?

Topics

Topic 1: The Fallout

Following the Mystery Flesh Pit's reaction, disaster is imminent. Lives have already been lost and even more are in danger. As essential infrastructure has been damaged, the internals of the pit are very difficult to access. However, visitors and park employees remain trapped within. The external world has felt the impacts of this event as well, with limbs of the pit rising up briefly and people in the external area being injured by the event. This matter of disaster management is paramount and must be addressed immediately.

Topic 2: The Future of Mystery Flesh Pit National Park

This disaster so far has been catastrophic to park infrastructure and public image. The internals of the pit are barely accessible, and people are still trapped in depths. This committee cannot help but consider how recovery for the park is possible. Following the emergency response, the committee must handle the future of the pit. Its decisions on this issue will impact the exploration, research, and commercial futures of this unique feature.

Questions to Consider

1. What will the continued emergency response be?
2. How should the organism continue to be contained?
3. What impact will this disaster have on the pit and the surrounding area?
4. Should the park be closed permanently following this event?
5. How does the United States government and Anodyne Corporation need to move forward following this incident?
6. How will park infrastructure be repaired?
7. What is the future of Anodyne?
8. Who is at fault?

Andrew Clark, Director of the U.S. Commission on Geobiological Resources & Public Safety

Andrew Clark is the current Director of the CGR, the division of the US Department of the Interior concerned with the Mystery Flesh Pit National Park. The CGR is committed to investigating any incidents, accidents, or injuries of guests or workers relating to the pit, but its jurisdiction is limited. It cannot directly regulate park policy, which is overseen jointly between the government and Anodyne. It works to coordinate these parties in order to understand the root causes of incidents within the park. As Director of the CGR, Clark has taken a more active role than his predecessors, sending inspectors to the park every 2 months for safety checks and pushing more forcefully for safety action from the National Park Service and Anodyne.

Nick Rahall, Chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources

A longtime Democratic member of the US House of Representatives from West Virginia, Rahall currently chairs the powerful Committee of Natural Resources. The committee has jurisdiction over both any parks created from federal land and over mining, logging, and other material extraction from federal land. Rahall, an infamous political kingmaker in Washington's environmental circles, holds a high level of sway over the committee's complicated proceedings, and has used them before to exert pressure on the NPS to follow his directives.

Michael D. Snyder, Intermountain Regional Director for the National Park Service

Michael Snyder is a controversial figure within the National Park Service. As Intermountain Regional Director, he oversaw implementation of the "core ops" or core operations approach to budgeting, where any line items not deemed absolutely necessary to park functioning were cut. This extremely austere spending left many parks vulnerable to degraded facilities and unmotivated staff. Despite his relative infamy in the minds of the individual park directors he oversees, his ability to save the department money has earned him support from those higher on the bureaucratic tree.

Dr. Michaela Blanchard, EPA Head Scientist of Ventrivological Research

Michaela Blanchard got her PhD in Ventrivology from the University of Texas-Austin in 2001 where she studied under Professor Rachel Frost. After graduation, she quickly rose through the EPA's ranks, achieving head scientist status by 2005. Her work elucidating the symbiotic relationship between the macrobacteria in the pit's systems and the functions of the pit itself has pushed the field forward, and garnered her increased respect from the scientific community. Blanchard's interest in studying the organism is paired with her intense desire to protect it. As leader of the EPA, she has placed an emphasis on research that counteracts the private, and as she sees it, biased, research completed by the Anodyne Corporation.

Charles G. Rodriguez, Adjutant General of the Texas National Guard

Charles G. Rodriguez was born into a military family and moved around often as a child. He began his career in the Texas National Guard after graduating from West Point and completing his service in the US Army. Rodriguez rose quickly through the ranks of the National Guard and was soon chosen by the Governor of Texas, a close personal friend, to become Adjunct General. Within this position, Rodriguez controls over 23,000 active military personnel. He remains suspicious of the park and its safety protocols and has pushed increasingly hard for Texas Rangers to be stationed at the park for his past 2.5 years on the job, but has been repeatedly rebuffed.

Jerry E. Patterson, Texas Land Commissioner

Jerry Patterson was born in Houston, Texas and attended Texas A&M University. Shortly after graduation, he joined the US Marine Corps, where he served for over 20 years. After leaving the Marines, he served in the Texas State Senate for 6 years before beginning his stint as Texas Land Commissioner. As commissioner, Patterson's primary role is to oversee the lease, sale, or otherwise exchange of public lands in the state. Additionally, he also oversees any implementation of federal emergency funds after natural disasters. With his reelection campaign fast approaching, how can Patterson assist those in danger and make himself look good?

Jimena Langley, Head Ranger of Mystery Flesh Pit National Park

Jimena was born on the outskirts of Washington, D.C. and majored in environmental science at the University of California, Berkeley. After graduation, she took a job at the Mystery Flesh Pit National Park as an enforcement branch park ranger. Due to recurrent turnover in ranger staff at the park, Langley found herself repeatedly promoted, becoming head ranger at just 35. As head ranger, Langley works closely with federal, state, and local law enforcement to ensure staff and guests follow the law within the park, and herself is an encyclopedia of the unique statutes associated with the Mystery Flesh Pit. It is also her responsibility to oversee the day-to-day stewardship of the park.

Olivia Jones, Head Surveyor of Mystery Flesh Pit National Park

Serving as the lead surveyor for the Mystery Flesh Pit National Park, Jones has worked at the park for 20 years, previously working as a ranger, then trail engineer, then surveyor. Her goal as head surveyor has been to map out, using drones, sensors, and human led exhibitions, the internal geography of the Flesh Pit. She has worked to use novel technology, increasingly military-style drones, to help create a more comprehensive map of the pit. Her maps have proven to be critical for both government and corporate interests, and are an important part of research regarding the pit.

Donald Wilkinson, Sheriff of Gumption, Texas

Donald Wilkinson is a lifelong citizen of Gumption. Born February 14, 1947 as the son of the popular previous sheriff Daniel Wilkinson, Wilkinson never had any other career path in mind. Following his high school graduation, Wilkinson enrolled in the police academy and served on the force for 15 years before being elected sheriff. As sheriff, Wilkinson is responsible for enforcing all pertinent laws, overseeing the local jail, and enforcing court orders. However, his jurisdiction becomes blurry regarding the Mystery Flesh Pit National Park, as it lies on federal land: a distinction which infuriates the sheriff, who wishes for total control over the local area.

Jillian Pearson, Anodyne Corporation CEO

Rising from an area director position to her current position as CEO, Pearson is a highly ambitious person. She graduated from William & Mary in 1973 with an MBA, immediately applying to a management job at Anodyne. She worked her way up and soon became CEO, a position she has held for 25 years. She has worked to expand Anodyne significantly, acquiring mines across the US for the company and increasing its workforce by 5,000 employees, becoming one of the richest women in the country in the process. Known for her highly effective leadership style, Pearson's fortune was built on her contributions to Anodyne, making her one of the biggest advocates for increased mining and research.

Ryan Rojas, Anodyne Corporation CFO

Ryan Rojas is the newly hired CFO of Anodyne. He grew up in Odessa, Texas, the closest real town to the pit. Always intrigued by it, Rojas and his friends repeatedly tried to make excavations into it in their childhood, but they were always unsuccessful. After returning from Australia, where he received his MBA from the University of Sydney and worked for Kraft and then Bega, running vegemite production. Ryan successfully applied to become CFO of Anodyne in a bid to learn more about his childhood obsession. In his current position, he is responsible for Anodyne's finances.

Linda Rutledge, Anodyne Corporation COO

With every visionary mind comes a steady hand, smoothing over every mistake. This is where Rutledge excels. A childhood friend of Pearson, Rutledge has followed her every step of the way, doing all the behind the scenes work for Pearson's rise to power. Some have described her as "the real brains of Anodyne." Rutledge is known for her loyalty to the company, declining seemingly better offers from other companies in favor of staying with Anodyne. She is known to have one of the world largest private collections of Mystery Flesh Pit artifacts, amassing them over her 25 years at Anodyne.

Ethan Macdonald, Anodyne Corporation, Head of Venterial Commerce

Ethan Macdonald is a salesman by trade who was brought on by Anodyne to facilitate the sale of new products from the Mystery Flesh Pit. He is a strong supporter of Anodyne retaining their exclusive commercial rights, as his job hinges on these rights being maintained. He has many contacts around the world, both legitimate and illicit, who are interested in purchasing the mysterious bounties of the Mystery Flesh Pit. In addition to managing sales, Macdonald is also in charge of supply chain management when it comes to the exports from the mining operations into the general commercial sector.

Dr. James Murphy, Anodyne Corporation, Head of Geobiological Research

Described by some as the “modern-day Dr. Frankenstein,” Murphy has gained a reputation for much decried experiments on the organisms from the pit. Murphy has been the lead researcher for Anodyne for 20 years, using this wealth of resources to find further uses for the various fluids, compounds, and organic material scattered around the pit. In recent months, his research has focused on utilizing compounds found in the creature to create pharmaceuticals and drugs, working to utilize the macrobacteria for potential medical applications, no matter what it takes.

Robert Glenn, Anodyne Director of Mining Operations

Born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, Glenn eats, sleeps, and breathes the mining industry. He has worked in (and supervised) mining in gold, coal, and even diamonds, and now oversees operations for Anodyne’s mining activities in the pit. Glenn has proven to be one of the most effective coordinators of mining across the world, increasing output in every position he has served in. Under his management, production of raw material from the pit has increased by 23%, the largest increase since 1977. However, this sharp increase has made him the target of environmental protests regarding the pit.

Rosie Grant, Anodyne Head of Maintenance of Internal Park Infrastructure

Grant always wanted to be a park ranger growing up, spending countless hours outside exploring nature. She went to MIT, graduating and getting a job as a civil engineer in Arizona. She later switched to the private sector, and joined Anodyne, working her way up to head of park infrastructure. She has worked at the company for around 15 years now, gaining significant knowledge in the field of venterial engineering. Grant has developed more robust stabilization mechanisms for use in the pit, helping improve the renovated park infrastructure. She has voiced concerns about the older infrastructure the park still contains and its decreased stability compared to what has been renovated. This has put her at odds with many of the higher ups in the Anodyne.

Roy Diaz, Anodyne Attorney

Graduating top of his class from Harvard Law School, Roy Diaz has always been on top. He has served as the top attorney for Anodyne for 11 years, always bailing them out in times of crisis. With offices in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Roy spends most of his time appearing in commercials for criminal defense or working as the head of the Anodyne legal team. Diaz is known for always getting his clients out of trouble, earning a reputation as one of the top lawyers in the country.

Hana Ayala, McKinsey Consultant

A Loudoun County native and recent graduate of Georgetown, Hana Ayala has been connected to politics and the world of Washington, D.C. for her entire life. After being hired by McKinsey upon graduating summa cum laude with a bachelor's in political science, Hana was assigned as McKinsey's top analyst on the Mystery Flesh Pit, officially consulting on behalf of Anodyne. During this crisis, she will provide key insights and backup as McKinsey's point person on the project.

Dr. Rachel Frost, Professor of Venterial Science at UT Austin

A pioneer in the field of ventiriobiology, Frost's interest in the Mystery Flesh Pit began during her undergraduate education at UT Permian Basin. After graduating with an undergraduate degree in biology, she earned her PhD in Biology, specializing in Venterial Science, from UT Austin, where she was employed after completing her PhD. During her time as a PhD candidate, she participated in the Project Freefall expedition. She now serves as the Chief of Venterial Research at UT Austin and is considered the premier expert in ventiriobiology. A critic of human activity within the pit, she has spent countless hours researching the systems of the Permian Basin Organism and is truly an expert on almost any scientific knowledge regarding it. She was invited to this emergency summit as a leading scientist in the field.

Esther Webster, Cryptozoology Expert

Creator of the hit TV show Finding Love and Bigfoot, Webster has created a cult following around her cryptozoology skills. She is the first (self proclaimed) person to find Bigfoot eating lunch with a chupacabra. While hunting for other cryptids across the American west, she has taken an interest in the Mystery Flesh Pit, being one of the few known humans to interact directly with Abyssal Copepods and survive. She is known to have some of the most detailed knowledge on what lives in the pit, though her opinions rarely match what the scientific establishment says. In particular, she has recently been documenting her hunt for the "Marrow Folk" of the pit. Rumors have also been flying around that she has taken specimens out of the pit and has a "breeding colony" somewhere in Ohio of an unknown number of species.

Dmitry Babakhin, Russian Trade Representative to the US

Dmitry has served as the Russian trade representative to the US since 1995, having previously served as an economic minister in Belarus. Dmitry was deeply scared by the 1986 Chernobyl disaster, drawing parallels from it to the current situation at the pit. He is distrustful of Anodyne, having previously lost out on a deal to bring the company to Russia, leaving him highly apprehensive of the Mystery Flesh Pit as a whole. Dmitry was appointed to represent Russian interests at the emergency summit, working to keep the pit's impact in the US, while looking for potential economic topics of discussion.

Emanuel Sancho, Mexican Trade Representative to the US

Born in 1971, Sancho has grown up his entire life hearing about the Mystery Flesh Pit but has never seen it in person. Throughout his tenure in the Mexican government, Sancho has earned a reputation for his morals, representing government interests very well. Sancho successfully negotiated expansion of the Anodyne company to Mexico, creating huge economic benefits across Mexico. Sancho is suspicious of the pit, and has advised the Mexican government to prevent tourism to the site on many occasions in the past. Due to his connections to the Anodyne company, he was chosen to represent the Mexican government at the emergency summit.

Marina Hughes, Canadian Trade representative to the US

Mariana Hughes grew up in Gander, Newfoundland and majored in Economics at McGill University. Hughes got a government job straight out of college, working on economic relations between the US and Canada. Hughes has visited the pit a few times, taking notice of the potential economic benefit the pit brings to the table. Hughes has become more interested in the Mystery Flesh Pit in recent years, self funding expeditions to find a Canadian version of the pit. She was invited to the meeting as the highest ranking Canadian to visit the pit, representing Canadian economic and political interests at the emergency council.

Matt Crenson, Associated Press Reporter

Matt Crenson is a seasoned investigative reporter who has worked his way up from his local New Jersey paper, the Franklin Reporter and Advocate, to the hall of the Associated Press. He is experienced in reporting on natural disasters, with his most recent notable work being on Hurricane Katrina in 2005. When the Associated Press was invited to send a journalist to this meeting, the higher-ups decided to send Crenson because of his disaster expertise. Crenson is the only reporter with access to the emergency meeting surrounding the recent incidents and is tasked with ensuring the public gets updates.

Works Cited

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