#4

WEATHER
Hot and dry with clear
skies all day

# 文々。新聞

### LATEST STORY

ROMANCE OF THE CAT KINGDOM BACK IN FIRST, HOW LOW CAN LOTCT GO?

### WEEKLY\* NEWS FROM THE FASTEST\* REPORTER IN GENSOKYO



### MAP RETURNS, WHO IS BEHIND IT?

## RUMORS STIR AROUND JYANSHI MAP, AGONY AUNT, THE SUBSTITUTION CONTROVERSY, ZODIAC JYANSHI STRIKES AGAIN

The /mjg/ district's Jyanshi Map has long languished with no R.E.P.O. Maids tending to it but that all changed last Thursday when an unknown benefactor stepped up to the task of renewing it. We took a deeper look as to who, or what, is behind this long anticipated renewal.

he /mjg/ district of One-Han City is infamous for being a multi-cutural urban hub with Jyanshi's hailing from around the globe. Though their backgrounds may be varied they all share two qualities: a love for mahjong, and a voracious appetite for gay ERP. While the district has ample provisions for the former, the latter must be sought through other means. In times past the Map filled this role, connecting collocated Jyanshis across the world

But since those glory days the map had declined: many of the Jyanshi listed on the map no longer live in the district, and new requests to be added fell on deaf ears – the responsible department at the R.E.P.O. has been understaffed for years now.

However just last Thursday an anonymous benefactor invested precious time into revitalising the project ushering in a new era for the geographically curious Jyanshis of the district.

In trying to find the organisation responsible for this we ran into a few peculiarities: The holding company through which funds were being funnelled was registered with the "Dark Clan", and any attempts at piercing the veil of interconnected trusts and shell companies appeared fruitless; powerful magic seals had been placed upon many of the records. In a Bunbunmaru exclusive we managed to intercept IRC communications between the Chief Executive Officer of the R.E.P.O. and one "Shadow Mistress Yuuko", Shamiko for short.

An unassuming and cute little girl with fiery red hair not much is known about the depth of Shamikos involvement in the map – or what she intends to do with the massive amount of data collected from the Jyanshis of One-Han City. Whatever might be in store for us there's one thing that's certain: this is a scheme of truly Global proportions.

### Yo-Star Crashes Tourney with No Survivors

The central servers powering One-Han City's high-speed Riichi Mahjong network went on the fritz on Thursday causing severe disruptions to the ongoing 6th /mjg/ League.

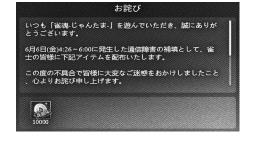
anic struck the /mjg/ district late last Thursday as thousands of Jyanshi struggled to log in to Yo-Stars online Jyansou. Denizens struggled to join friendlies and many feared the worst. Some thought the online network had reached end of sale, others saw it as a late arrival of time travellers from the district's far future ensuring that a June 4th incident came to pass.

The disruption interrupted many Jyanshi's games mid-session resulting in temporary bans for AFKing. One Jyanshi had the outage happen as they were spending Jade

on the platform's gatcha, leaving the fate of their blue gift unknown.

The downtime came right before the League's US7 match was scheduled to be played, causing delays. An emergency standings page was deployed on the sheet, and the suspended US7 game was rescheduled to this coming tuesday.

In an attempt to get to the bottom of the issue one resident of the district discovered that the outtage may have been the result of a misconfigured DNS record (>>52633548). With all servers affected and no official after-action report from Yo-Star we are left to speculate. In response to the incident Yo-Star sent out an apology mail to all Jyanshi with 10,000 coppers attached.



### **WEEKLY\* NEWS**

### **SHAMEIMARU ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS**

## AGONY AUNT: COWORKERS INAPPROPRIATE COMMENTS

ON THIS WEEK'S AGONY AUNT YOU WROTE IN TO COMPLAIN ABOUT INAPPROPRIATE ADVANCES FROM A COWORKER. THE CATCH?

BOTH PARTIES ARE MEN!

orkplace disputes are common in this day and age but this one caught my eye as being particularly interesting, without further ado let's dive straight in to your letter:

"Dear Aya Shameimaru, A colleague is constantly making passes at me at work despite us both being men and it's making me stressed and anxious.

I now dread going into the office because I'm sure everyone is talking about it - and they all believe we're an item.

I'm a 34-year-old bachelor, and this colleague, who is younger than me, is constantly making inappropriate comments and advances on me despite my insistence that I'm straight and not interested. It's gotten to the point where every day I open my desktop just to get greeted by another "fug request" [Editor's note: pictured right], his sick idea of a joke.

I can't even go to HR about this because in the past I've made unsavory comments that I regret and this guy is holding it over me.

Please help. This is ruining my career and my life."



**SHAMEIMARU SAYS:** Receiving unwanted sexual advances is both distressing and serious, as it's sexual harassment.

Despite your past history you should talk to your line manager and to Human resources and let them know what's happening.

If possible, ask another colleague if they'll back you up and make it publicly very clear that these rumours are baseless.

As a man it can be humiliating to have your sexuality questioned in public like this and if able you want to get a girlfriend as soon as possible. If you can't get one it might be time to dip into your savings and purchase a bride from abroad, or show up to work with a romantic escort.

If you're a member of a union you should contact them too. You can find a general

workplace advice hotline for One-Han City at +69 0420 0604 2024.

One final option is to acquiesce to his demands. You're not getting any younger and It sounds like he's a fine young man who plays Mahjong every day. If finding a girlfriend or wife hasn't worked out for you this far maybe you should settle for a young attractive professional husband.

Times are getting tougher in One-Han City and most women end up becoming Jyanshis in this city participating in the gift economy that's predominant in the Jyansous.

Is that kind of instability really what you want out of life, or would you be better served with a brother and a friend who can also provide for the household.

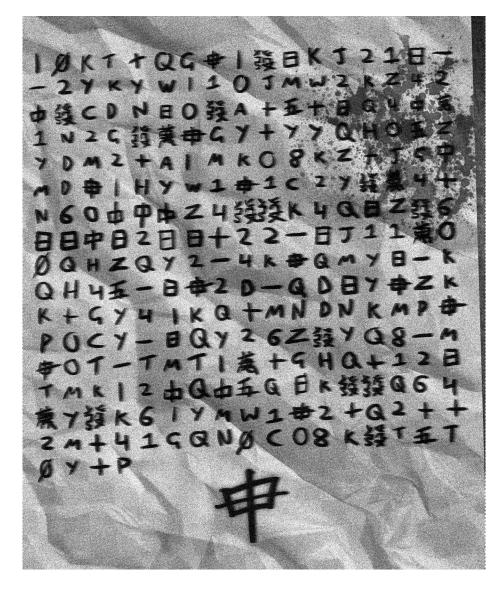
You can always buy or adopt children, but a life partner is priceless. Don't let this golden opportunity slip away over some harmless pranks that have gotten a little out of control.

The old adage is 'Kill them with kindness' after all.

I've sent you a Support Pack to help you on your new journey.

He is constantly making inappropriate comments and advances on me [...] It's gotten to the point where every day I open my desktop just to get greeted by another "fug request", his sick idea of a joke.





## **ZODIAC JYANSHI STRIKES AGAIN: NEW LETTER**

Earlier this week our editors received a new cipher text from the Zodiac Jyanshi. In a Bunbunmaru exclusive we are now publishing this letter.

wo lay dead at the bottom of lake fuji, shot in the back of the head in an altercation, which after receiving a letter last thursday, we can confirm was with the Zodiac Jyanshi. The names of the deceased were Onjoji Toki and Ninomiya Hana, One-Han City locals and beloved Jyanshi in their own right.

The letter we received from the Zodiac Jyanshi was corroborated with OHCPD to be authentic – as it contained vivid details of the crime scene known only to those present and law enforcement – and carried a mocking tone at the fruitless efforts of OHCPD Detectives to bring justice to the killer. Enclosed in the same envelope was another cryptic code; a blood stained cipher, that may contain vital details about the case or ongoing missing persons investigations.

The last cipher is believed to have been

mostly solved by local sleuthes, but details don't seem to match exactly with the findings of the chief forensics office of One-Han City Police Department. Perhaps a different approach is required that doesn't involve the help of CatGPG.

"This is the Zodiac speaking.

I am the murderer of the homo-sexual couple over by Lake Fu ji last night."

With the man-hunt still ongoing a chilling mist has descended over One-Han City with many opting to stay home rather than risk sharing the streets with a crazed killer.

The cordon and curfew was lifted Friday Night and authorities believe that the killer remains on the loose, slipping by a nearly 300 strong watch. This is a developing story, check in with the bulletin board for further updates.



### **WEEKLY\* NEWS**

# WEEK TWO: THE SCORES ON THE BOARD

# AS THE FIELD OPENS UP TEAMS SCRAMBLE TO SECURE THE BOTTOM SIX SPOTS OF THE TOP EIGHT. TOO LITTLE TOO LATE?

Week two ended as explosively as week one with another Yakuman scored. The top two teams built a large moat and the middle of the pack is left to battle it out for the remaining Top 8 positions. We spoke to the current champions to gain some insight.

Romance of the Cat Kingdom have just kept winning this season, further entrenching their first place position with a +250 point climb this week - the highest team delta for Week 2. Mirroring the intense rivalry of the great powers in the real world, the Chinese team has become the villain of the League for the denizens of the /mjg/ district.

We asked the team for comments regarding their league performance, the Captain went first: "CHINA WILL GROW LARGER". The players added: "We're just following TO's script: ')[sic]". Driving home how important the Uma spread is to League play one of their more eloquent warriors put it plainly "[...] the difference in UMA between 2,3, and 4 are each separated by almost a dealer baiman, but the difference between first and second is almost as much as a dealer yakuman. If you would not try for a yakuman when it presents itself, do you really have a mahjong soul?"

They went on to mention to talk about the League strategy of the second place team who has been hot on their heels: "akuyaku's strategy of drafting a weaker player in the same timezone as a strong player and replacing the lame horse with a fresh one is paying off dividends". Indeed Uwayaku has been one of a few teams who have been fielding players on a per-hanchan basis rather than per session, which seems to be working well for them, with only 100 points between them and first.

We asked Sewayaku for comment and their Captain answered prosaically: "Everyone to whom much was given, that much will be required, and from that to whom they entrusted much, they will demand more." Tis' simply our responsibility given our position. I would like to give my thanks to all



those craftsmen of other teams for providing their fruits of toil to us." Very cryptic.

#### The -200 Club

The harsh Uma spread has driven the bottom 8 teams down below -200 points, with a 300 point difference between them and a shot at the top 8; a massive hurdle for any team trying for a shot at the semifinals.

Mirroring the soaring heights of the top of the bracket the bottom has seen similar extremes. Legend of the Celestial Teapot was in a tailspin going into Week 2 but managed to level out at -500. We asked them for comment and the Captain got back to us with this: "the script gave us all our hardest games first, now it's all uphill from here, Teapots are inclining. We haven't given up yet, we're still in it for a good fight."

The Zodiac Jyanshi are another team that's struggled to keep their head above water going into Week 2 plummeting to 17th. We asked them for comment: "We'll show them what we're about in the next couple of weeks. They'll never find the bodies."

### Week Highlights

In a mirror of last week the top single hanchan point scorer Jet Set Riichi had the worst performance in the category this week at -83.3 in US8 Hanchan 1. However their US8 performance barely made Top 5 worst sessions of this week with Zodiac Jyanshi taking that trophy – an eye-watering -141.3 points lost in EUX6.

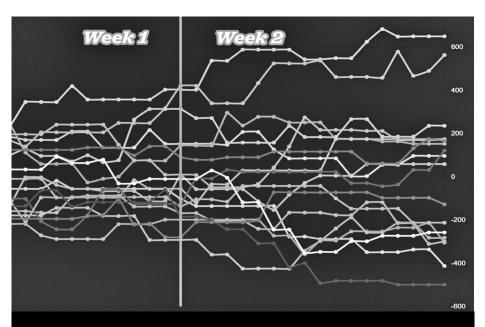
The top session this week went to Pinzu Pumpers in US8 with +151.4 points and a top 3 single hanchan result of +85.1. The top hanchan result goes to Bakyou Heat in EU8 with +95 in a single hanchan.

A special mention must be given to the Yakuman scored in East 1 of the last hanchan played this week by Anyaku Akaten, a Suuankou, but notably even if the player had hit the yasume the hand still had enough value to be a 13 han Kazoe Yakuman, an incredible send off for the week.

Going into Week 3 it's going to be exceptionally difficult for lagging teams to close the gap, with some needing 8 consecutive first place hanchan placements to make it into the semi finals.

But with more than half of the games ahead of us a lot can change, who knows what the script has in store for us next.

	Romance of the Cat Kingdoms	649.8
*	Akuyaku Gyakuten	563.6
•	<u>Jet Set Riichi</u>	236.4
	World Mahjong Entertainment	174.4
GRINCHLANTIS	Grinchlantis	170.4
	Good Sprouts	166.3
	Pinzu Pumpers	152.9
	Rozen Maiden: Füritend	122.3
	Bakyou Heat	97
	R.I.I.C.H.I.	59.3
ZK	ZWEI	-127.1
100	<u>Team ⊚</u>	-211.7
	Ransei no Tabi	-257.2
	Hannah Yome	-281.3
造底	海底XI	-298.2
	Yakupara Cat Café	-304.3
申	Zodiac Jyanshi	-411.8
	Legend of the Celestial Teapot	-498.4



### The Gap Widens

The tight grouping of teams around -50 to -100 points we saw at the conclusion of Week One has dramatically opened up with teams stratifying into firmly positive and negative bands. We've seen some dramatic plummets from Zodiac Jyanshi and Legend of the Celestal Teapot, and a dramatic recovery from Grinchlantis, Rozen Maiden: Füritend, and ZWEI.

While it looks like Team 9 has managed to stem the bleeding going from a low of -420 points to only -200 we'll be watching closely to see if they can recover further. The ladder for the semifinals is slowly being pulled up with the top two spots all but confirmed for Romance of the Cat Kingdom and Ichiyaku Haiten. Putting numbers to the current stratification there is a 260 point difference between 2nd and 3rd, and a further 300 point difference between 8th and 12th place.

### **WEEKLY\* NEWS**

### TO WEIGHS IN ON SUBSTITUTION SCANDAL

# SUBSTITUTION SCANDAL

### HAITEI ELEVEN HAND PICKS SUBSTITUTE FOR TEAM CAPTAIN. RIGGED OR OVERBLOWN?

Team 11 has been mired in gossip and drama this season as events in other districts and on the team's private chat have percolated into the bulletin boards of the /mjg/ district.

eam 11 was the center of a scandal this Wednesday after the team's Captain departed the League and was replaced by a hand-picked player from the same district. The Captain was embroiled in controversy after an interpersonal dispute between them and a fellow team member was aired out from Discord into the public (>> 526134896) and disappeared in the wake of the events that followed.

The nature of the replacement sparked outrage among residents of the /mjg/ district as the team had essentially circumvented the draft that had governed initial player selection at the start of the league. Some argued that substitutes stepping in at the last minute has been common practice in past tournaments run by the district, and that fundamentally this replacement didn't change anything.

Substitutes aside, the draft this year had more than a handful of "Fake Adepts", altaccounts from high level players posing as greenhorns to circumvent the drafts mandatory Adept requirements, which were themselves flagrantly ignored this year.

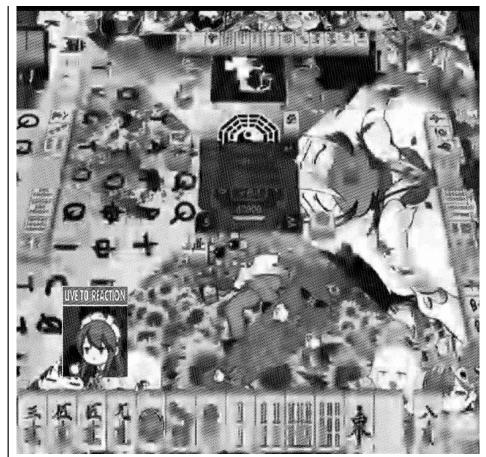
We reached out to the Tournament Organiser to get a comment on the situation:

I don't think it was a big deal [...], there were no available subs and no other team needing subs, so I thought it was ok. If instead of them telling me directly they had found someone and the guy just messaged me asking me if there was any team he could sub in, the result would have been the same.'

We think this pragmatic approach is probably for the best, there isn't a large pool of available substitutes in the district and were this not the team from a certain infamous district these events would have largely gone unnoticed by the denizens of /mjg/.

These events get to the heart of the league and ask what the function of the draft really is: a measure for competitive integrity?; a way to break up cliques and encourage new friendships?; a vehicle for 3 hours of uninterrupted clown music? We think the real answer involves a little bit of all three.





## THE ABSOLUTE STATE OF LEAGUE STREAMING

While League has been full of high effort casts in multiple languages one pain point keeps coming up time and again among the denizens of the /mjg/ district: the fc2 streaming site.

he streaming site fc2 which has long been synonymous with amateur Japanese pornography and bootleg anime reruns is seeing some traffic this season as the streaming platform of choice for some league commentators.

There are a number of reasons to use it over the alternatives: with no copyright strikes or takedown notices commentators can play whatever music they feel like with no advanced audio track splitting required, and the rough and ready language of the / mjg/ district itself can slip by without notice.

For many viewers though the site poses some serious problems. The site defaults to a pathetically inadequate bitrate, and depending on the user's connection the viewing experience can be laggier than what most are used to from the bigger platforms.

This former is a simple fix admittedly but the persistent reports of issues can't be overlooked. Just some of the bulletin board comments mentioned: 'WHERE IS THE PAUSE BUTTON', 'why are we using fc2 in >current year', 'I hate fc2 so much it's unreal', 'even at 3mbps this looks worse than twitch', and 'fc2 is probably the worst meme of this league.'.

Perhaps more importantly some of the streams broadcast on fc2 have yet to have been published. Entire sessions have been lost to time as commentators on the site haven't kept the VODs from those games.

Those commentators that do use the site seem quite content to keep using it despite pushback, and for all the flaws identified by users on the bulletin boards this birdbrained reporter hasn't run into any significant issues beyond the overall user experience while using the site.

Until the VOD situation resolves public sentiment is unlikely to change, and seeing as one of the main streamers missing VODs also happens to be a furry we wonder if this will further heighten the tensions between the denizens of the district.

On that bombshell, I've been your faithful reporter Aya Shameimaru, and thank you for reading



This week's news has been brought to you by Aya Shameimaru, with assistance from her cat. For Submissions, collabs, Feedback and more PM shameimaru on IRC. Until next time...