



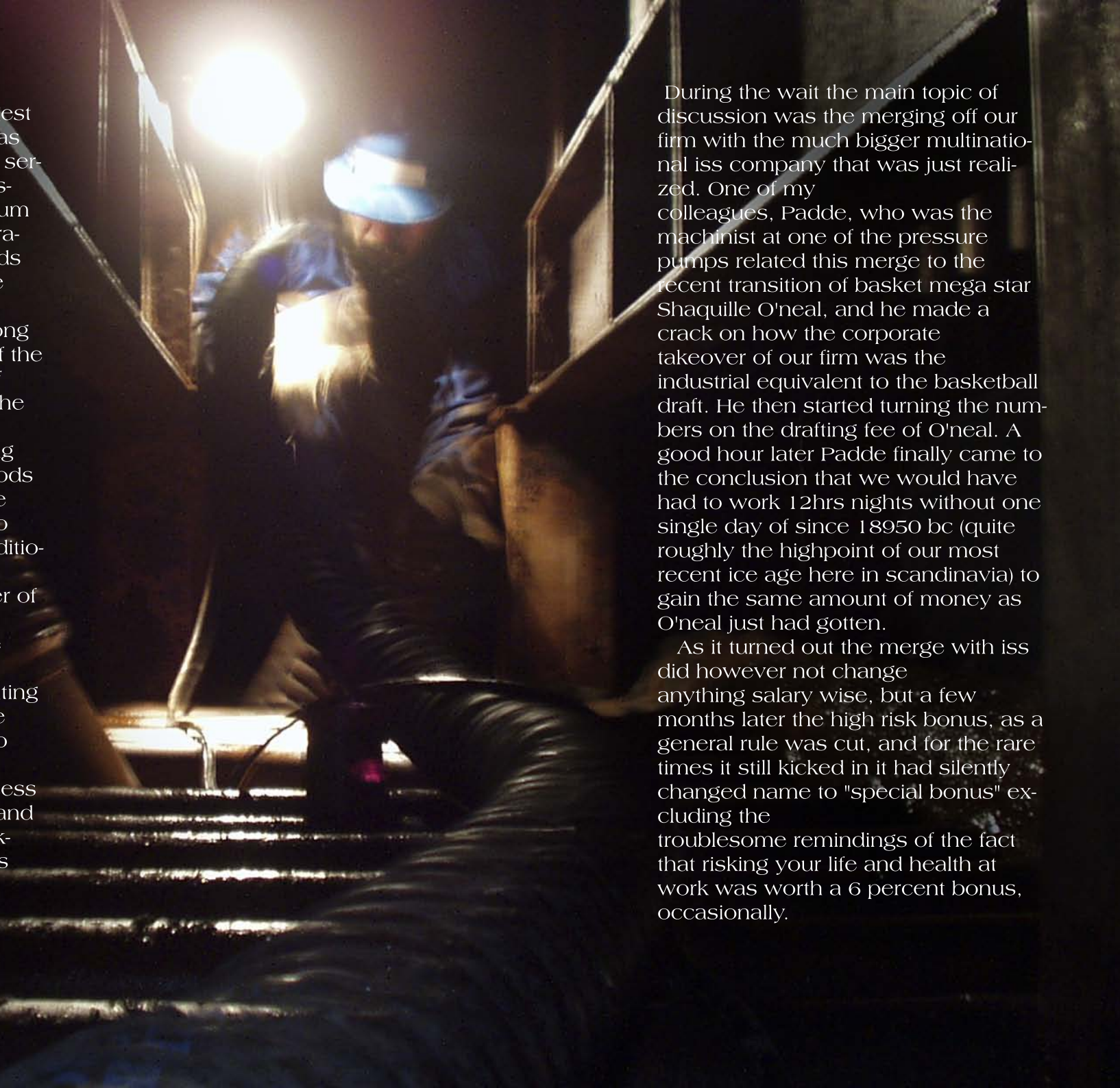
A couple of years back i was woking nights at one of the biggest office paper mills in Europe. I was working for a mid size industrial service firm, working with high pressure water-jet blasting and vacuum suction. The work was concentrated to the production stop periods at different industries around the country.

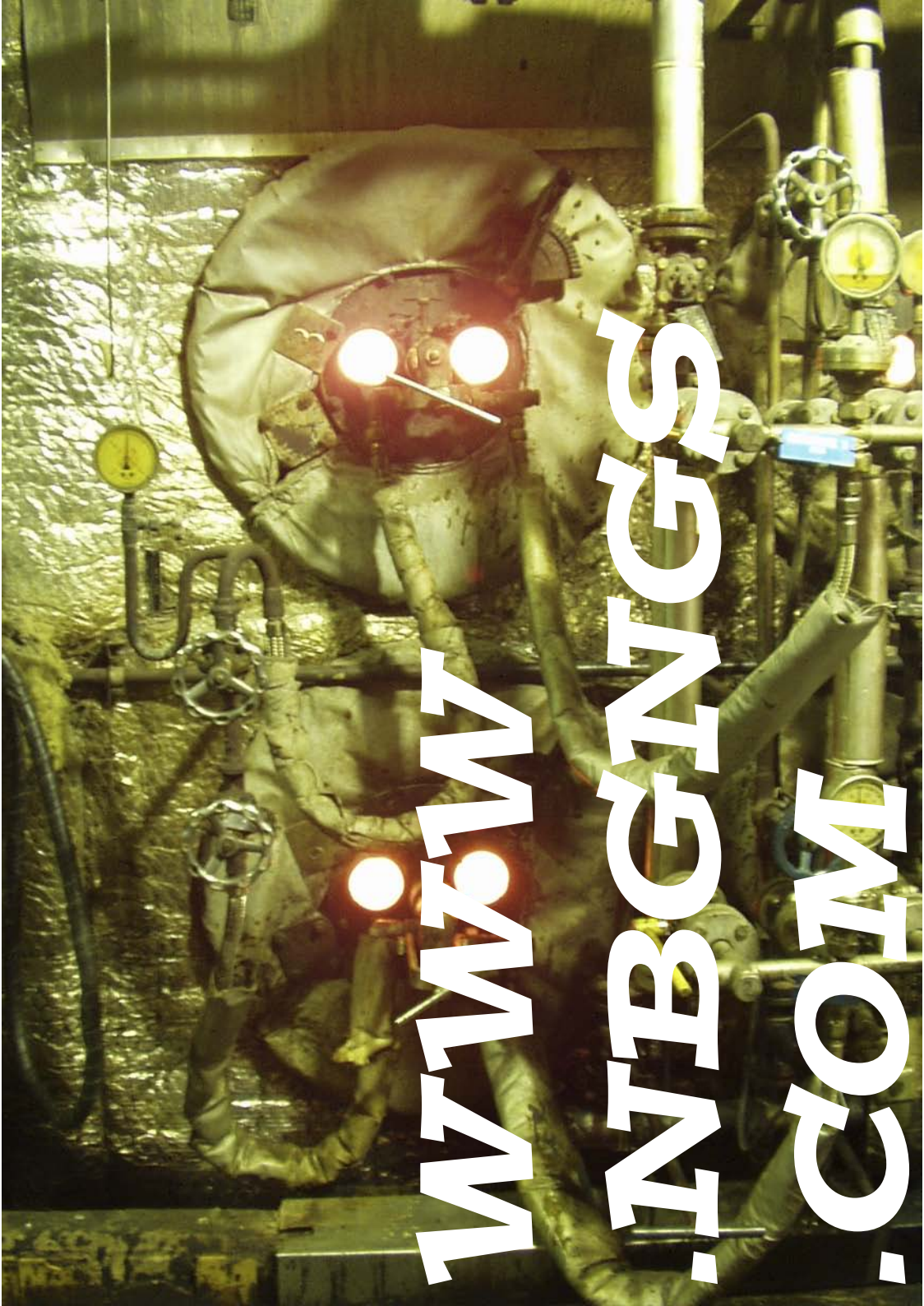
It was commonly known among my colleges that this was one of the best payed jobs you could get if you had little or no education. The hourly salary was itself not very good but due to the long working days (+12 hrs) and the long periods (up to 30 days) without leave the monthly outcome could be up to 3500 GBP. There was also a additional 6 percent high risk bonus to compensate the potential danger of working, for example, with the high pressure equipment.

One night we got hold up waiting for the temperature of one of the vapour furnance units to drop so that we safely could enter it and start our work. The cooling process took the better part of the night and we ended up in the factory workshop where the coffee machines was placed.

During the wait the main topic of discussion was the merging off our firm with the much bigger multinational iss company that was just realized. One of my colleagues, Padde, who was the machinist at one of the pressure pumps related this merge to the recent transition of basket mega star Shaquille O'neal, and he made a crack on how the corporate takeover of our firm was the industrial equivalent to the basketball draft. He then started turning the numbers on the drafting fee of O'neal. A good hour later Padde finally came to the conclusion that we would have had to work 12hrs nights without one single day of since 18950 bc (quite roughly the highpoint of our most recent ice age here in scandinavia) to gain the same amount of money as O'neal just had gotten.

As it turned out the merge with iss did however not change anything salary wise, but a few months later the high risk bonus, as a general rule was cut, and for the rare times it still kicked in it had silently changed name to "special bonus" excluding the troublesome remindings of the fact that risking your life and health at work was worth a 6 percent bonus, occasionally.





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