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The Lady's Sharper Eye

"Cutting through the darks, *The Eye* sees all."



BATCH-15

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Hardheads ban trading of meat

by Daeh K. Carc, Sigil culler

Clerk's Ward--In a bold and daring move, the Harmonium has banned the trading of meat with the Outlands due to the increased threat of the spreading Chaos Plague. The leaders of several factions hailed last week's decision, but the members of the Gatetown Alliance were outraged, saying that the ban would only cause civil unrest and widespread fear. Recently, the issue of trade has become a major battleground between the factions of Sigil and the gatetowns of the Outlands. With this new order in place, the gatetowns will be forced to obtain food from either the Upper Planes, who charge exorbitant prices, or the Lower Planes, who are already suffering heavily from the Plague and barely have enough for their own populations. Also, those gatetowns not infected will be cut off from their main economic activity with the Cage.

Jon Snobelen, the Harmonium's trade minister, announced the order at the Hall of Speakers. He said his faction decided that the risk of contamination was just too high and that the trading of meat in the Outlands must be stopped. "The only answer we came up with was to end the importing and exporting of meat with the Outlands," Snobelen said. "It's the only acceptable way."



This restriction in trade will force many Indeps at the Great Bazaar to make deals with traders from the Upper Planes and may increase food prices throughout Sigil. It is widely thought that it will also force many Indep traders right out of business, which has many of them up at arms. "It is just yet another ploy of the Hardheads to run us out of the Cage!" yelled Indep namer Grouthen Sodhoof, a bariaur trader that imports goods into the City of Doors from his Outlands based flock. "First they try to run us out with sticks and beatings - they saw that wouldn't work, so they have turned to taking jink from our pouches and grub from our bone-boxes! I say we put the Harmonium on trial!" Needless to say, there is a massive nest of unrest and anger growing in the Great Bazaar against the Harmonium that is even more potent than usual.

Snobelen said the Harmonium had bases their decision on already existing laws regarding public health and safety. An inquiry at the City Courts confirmed the

Hardheads' interpretation, but clarified that outfitters and hunting guides would be compensated for some of the losses incurred by the new restriction. However, groups representing the hunters were not appeased, saying losses stemming from the ban would total more than 10,000-cager gold in the coming month. "This better be a wake-up call for hunters," said Marc Deadeye, a spokesman for the 800-member Outlands Federation of Hunters (OFH). "The Harmonium cares more about publicity than right and wrong. They are more vocal and strident for their way than the right way. We have done nothing wrong, but suffer harsh consequences," he said. 'Cricket' Champenbit, a hunting guide for Snail Expeditions said he had 40 Sigilian clients booked for hunting trips. "I will sue the soddin' Hardheads," he told gathered cullers. "Somebody has to cover my expenses. This is my bread-and-butter. Whose gonna feed my youngin's?"

The Harmonium refused to comment on how long the restriction would be in place and told cullers that any violation of this order would result in the possible sentencing of death. *The Eye* contacted the City Courts to see if any trade laws had been changed. A Guvner aide informed us that no laws had been changed that the Harmonium was simply enforcing existing laws concerning trade, meat contamination, and possible contagion. Additionally, *The Eye* investigated the change in sentencing guidelines. A spokesman for the Mercykillers unabashedly confirmed the harsher ruling and this would seem to indicate just how serious the emerging plague is and that the factions are growing concerned on its unceasing spread.



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Rights: deity-given, fish-driven

by Blisswing, Upper Gatetowns culler

Excelsior--A fisherman, who was fined 150 jink for fishing in a restricted area, avoided paying a single copper last week after telling the local Guvner judge it would be against his religion. Catkinson Whiskersswift, a cat lord descendant born near Faunel, came to court prepared to start a hunger strike in jail. But, Judge Dargo Klin would not imprison him for refusing to pay.

"I brought everything -- my shedding brush, my catnip and my hairball herbs - but I never got the chance to settle in. My kind always land on their feet," Whiskersswift joked after the judge let him go. The fisherman wanted to go to jail to bring attention to the plight of all fishermen in the area around Excelsior. Merkhant settlers have been purchasing large tracts of land during the last cycle and do not allow fishermen to use tributaries to the Silver Sea or any lakes within those newly purchased areas. Whiskersswift was one of several bodys who headed out in their small boats to protest the fishing limitations, which they say are unjust as the 'Land cannot be purchased, it is free for anyone to use.

Outside court, Whiskersswift said fishing was his god's given right. "It's an inalienable right. It's like breathing water is to a fish. It comes natural to us. Jumping in that boat and going is part of nature. It's like we were meant to be there." He vowed to return to the water. "Come hells or high water, I'm going fishing," he said.



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Explosion injures 11 at Ironheart

by Godemirc Kreb, Outlands culler

Ironheart--A magical explosion that erupted last week outside city hall in the busy center of Ironheart, killed two and injured 11 bodys, a spokesperson for the town militia said. The blast struck two blocks from Major Makl In'Tok's office in an area dense with blacksmiths and weapon shops at a time when the streets were filled with passing traders. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

The city militia detained two suspects at the scene, said Constable Cockerel Singegear, a rogue modron who has been a member of the town for about 14 cycles. "They will be questioned before a decision which will be made on whether they will be charged," Singegear said. Officials said the explosion was magical in nature and seemed to emanate from some sort of device. "At least that is the hypothesis that we are operating under, judging from the estimation of evidence at the scene," Singegear added. The device was apparently placed in a garbage bin outside the city hall complex. Six bodys - two women and four men - were admitted with severe injuries to the Bleaker hospital, said Tih Trowton, hospital spokeswoman.

The city has been tense from confrontations earlier this month between opposing members in a refinery dispute over the exporting of Abyssal steel. *Red Scales Mining*, the largest refinery in town, and the *Black Cloud Company*, the fastest growing refinery, have had several violent confrontations as a result of ongoing disputes regarding the exporting of excess steel. The majority of Abyssal steel is sent to Plague-Mort as part of a legendary quota deal setup by the town's founding fathers and several Abyssal Lords.

The problem has arisen over what to do with the ever-growing amount of extra steel. *Red Scales Mining* believes that the extra steel should be sold to clients on the Plain of Infinite Portals, the first layer of the Abyss, and the profits shared among the refinery community in Ironheart. However, the *Black Cloud Company* wants to distribute the steel among the city's refineries and allow the individual refineries to sell to whomever they wish. When Major In'tok, the presiding town mayor, could not reach a decision and the city council was divided on whether to accept either proposal, violence erupted. Several mysterious fires damaged both of the refineries and then the employees of the two businesses began to clash physically in the streets. Some peace and order was imposed last month by Constable Singegear, the head 'peace officer' of the burg, when he (it) imposed a dawn to dusk curfew. However, this recent bombing will most likely escalate the violence to a new level.

Militia spokeswoman Anine Debeer said she was in a meeting at city hall when the blast occurred during the mid-morning. "We immediately knew a large explosion that was close at hand," she said. "We looked out the window and saw everyone running away from the fire of the blast." The hastily gathered militia then cordoned off the area around the Town Square. The blast badly damaged a restaurant and a bathhouse frequented by members of the city council. Blue shards from the bathhouse were scattered across the street, and blood stained the street outside the restaurant.

As a result of the bloody event, the militia has placed guards outside all official city buildings. Debeer said she did not know if a guard was on duty outside city hall when the blast occurred. The *Black Cloud Company* issued a statement blaming *Red Scales Mining* for the bombings saying, "The leaders of Red Scales have shown that they will use violence to force their will upon the hardworking citizens of Ironheart. Do not be fooled by their scheming proposal. The decision of selling the excess steel should be made by those who mined it. Join with the *Black Cloud Company* in stopping this insidious madness."

In what is believed to be a response, *Red Scales Mining* leader Crusface said, "Do not let the Black Cloud obscure what is at stake here. If the flow of steel to the Abyss is slowed or limited, the baatezu will most certainly gain strength and everyone between Bedlam and Plague-Mort will suffer from the threat of the baatezu's scheming influence and lawful interference."

The militia has not made any arrests in connection with the explosion and additional clues were not forthcoming. In a possible related matter, the Marquis Cambion Alestir de Santana, believed to be the true power in Ironheart, said, "There ain't no rights here, 'cept for what a blood can take. Stake your claim and defend it with your life, cause it might make you a rich cutter. Jink and weapons make power, and power makes what's right. Trust is for fools."



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Judges' pay raise called excessive

By Blisswing, Upper Gatetowns culler

Fortitude--"Judges don't deserve a 25% pay raise when everyone else on Fortitude's payroll must make do with much less," said Crabby McGill, leader of a public citizens group. "The general folk have been bearing their share of wage cuts and judges should not be immune," said McGill in a brief filed by the group for an upcoming court commission hearing. The brief when on to say, "City court judges did not bear the wage rollbacks other workers did five cycles ago when Fortitude was fighting a 300,000 platinum debt and surely do not deserve a share of the benefits now that the budget battle has been won. It would not be fair under those circumstances to provide judges with more than their fair share of the rewards when they did not shoulder a share of the costs."



In the past, city judges have gone all the way to the Court of Appeals in Sigil to block previous attempts to extend across-the-board 5% cuts to their salaries. The Sigilian Court ruled the cuts interfered with judicial independence and ordered the gatetown to setup a commission to set jurists' wages. Now, local citizens are unhappy with the commission's proposed 25% hike, which would make Fortitude's city courts the second highest paid on the Land, following only those in Automata. A spokesman for the city judges said, "Any attempt to block this pay increase or reduce the current salaries will be fought by any and all legal means necessary. We will fight all the way to Sigil or even to Mechanus if need be."



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Arsonist torches historic vineyard

by Darunden Thistlesnap, Upper Planes culler

Ecstatica, Arborea--An arsonist has torched the historic vineyard of Thelonius Posterponorri, who established the vineyard as the first of many in the beautiful and peaceful burg that lies near Mount Olympus. This blaze marks the second straight cycle that a firebug has targeted property connected to the Posterponorri family. "From what we can tell, some cross-trader stole onto the estate in the dark of night and set the fire," said Kell Goron, a Posterponorri family spokesman.

The town of 500 people has no standard means of fighting fires, so neighbors gathered quickly to form a bucket brigade. Local spell slingers and priests also rushed to the scene and began casting water-based spells to help quench the blaze. Initially, there was concern that the fire would spread to a trio of historic vats, which are next to the vineyard. One of the vats began smoking shortly after the initial blaze was discovered, but luckily, did not ignite. It's believed the vats did not suffer any structural damage, but some of the wood was darkened from the intense smoke. Unfortunately, the vineyard was full of ripe grapes and nearing harvest, as the picking season is scheduled to begin in a few days.

"Whomever set the fire picked the most devastating time to set it," said Gwyna Gallaida, a ghaele eladrin and nearby neighbor to the Posterponorri estate. "They'll be able to salvage this harvest with grapes stockpiled elsewhere, but the Consortium sure won't be happy," Gallaida said. "It's really a shame. I don't like to see anybody lose property to a fire, but a historical vineyard is near and dear to everyone's heart," said Jimolson, leader of a band of shiere eladrins who live in the hills surrounding Ecstatica. Gallaida and Jimolson were both part of the bucket brigade that was able to extinguish the fire before it reached the main estate house. However, the majority of the vineyard was destroyed.

The deliberately set blaze at the Posterponorri estate follows the torching of the Ecstatica theatre at the end of last cycle. So far, there have been no leads on the burning of the newly built theatre and citizens are unsure if another will be reconstructed. The theatre had just finished construction at the end of last cycle and was being readied for a grand opening. The Posterponorri family sponsored the construction of the theatre and the main hall was to be named for one of Ecstatica's founding fathers, Thelonius Posterponorri. "It was very, very sad, extremely sad. It would have been a magical site full of beauty, song, poetry and soul-moving artwork and we've lost the opportunity to tell the story of Thelonius the Great," said Cyrus Talagard, the theatre manager.

The burg of Ecstatica has been growing quite rapidly during the last few cycles. The high quality vintage of wine attracts a large number of visitors from across the planes. Also, many Sensates traveling to the Gilded Hall often stop in Ecstatica to sample the cycle's harvest. With this influx of people, the need for entertainment and lodging has rapidly developed. A pleasure house, the *Arms of Aphrodite*, is the main attraction after the wineries and recently the *Arms* just opened an adjacent inn. There is also a gambling hall, *Hermes Hall*, on the other side of town. It's a bit rougher case than the *Arms*, but some Sensates and like-minded folk tend to like those sorts of experiences. The theatre was to be the newest attraction of the wine town, but the devastating fire doused those hopes.

There are four main wine families in Ecstatica, the Posterponorri, the Eusdrians, the Splitshields, and the Thanarr clan. The main rival to the Posterponorri family is the Splitshield clan. Led by Grummanor Splitshield, the clan strives each cycle to produce the best vintage of wine on Arborea. The Posterponorri family directs the trading of wine in Ecstatica, with the vast majority of it being sold to the Planar Trade Consortium. For several cycles, Grummanor has made overtures that he would like to begin selling wine to other large distributors rather than the PTC. So far, there have not been any changes to the wine trade in Ecstatica. It is unknown if the dispute over wine exports is connected to the recent fires.



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Body-rub owners turn themselves in

By Blisswing, Upper Gatetowns culler

Ecstasy--Two body-rub parlor owners have turned themselves in following raids last week by burg officials. Sukanne Benover and Abla Vergan are charged with running unlicensed brothels. The shops were disguised as body-rub parlors and have been in operation for several cycles. Benover operates *Gent's Corner* and Vergan runs the *Dream Spa*.

'Trace' Frizzell, a member of the Fated and the chief tax assessor in Ecstasy, said yesterday that tax officials, in conjunction with the Harmonium, have now charged 21 sods in connection with last week's raids, when a 10 member 'taskforce' swooped down on 4 body-rub parlors across the city. The Fated charged 17 the night of the raid in Ecstasy's courts. Four others, including the pair today, have since turned themselves in. Shandra Buckard, who runs *Virginia's*, reported to authorities last week, as did Likba Dandies, operator of the *Wicked Spa*. The Fated have charged 11 clients and 6 workers who were involved with the brothels with tax evasion and committing a tax-related crime. They were given notices to appear in court, but authorities have yet to release their identities.

Meanwhile, Ecstasy's city council agreed this week to press ahead with another set of controls on body-rub parlors. The council plans to place them under the umbrella of "adult entertainment", a strategy that other lawful gatetowns have found successful, in order for them to better organized for tax collection. Sylvania had passed laws restricting the location and operating hours of body-rub parlors last cycle. However, three tiefling advocates challenged Sylvania's body-rub bylaws and sued the city for 5000 jink. Council members, on advice from the Fraternity of Order, decided to leave the laws in place, but reimbursed those shops that had to relocate because of the new guidelines. The tiefling-led challenge was then retracted.

Earlier this cycle, Judge Tastor Zuber of the Sigil Appellate Court, general division, ruled the bylaws regarding body-rub parlors in the City of Doors were just and legal. Parlor owners in the Cage have complained that the rules are effectively prohibiting parlors from being setup by placing severe restrictions and costly permits on them. Zuber said in his decision, "Adult entertainment, while perhaps enjoyable and delicious, most also follow the order of the multiverse and is subject to planar law. The current guidelines affecting body-rub parlors are appropriate and allow these parlors to exist and prosper as long as the rules are followed." When asked if he had ever been to a body-rub parlor, Judge Zuber quickly coughed and said, "Ye...na...er...no comment!"

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Deadly disease unique, Hive infected

by Daeh K. Carc, Sigil culler

Hive Ward--A newly found and rapidly spreading disease that has killed hundreds, if not thousands across the Planes, is the first of its kind, and officials are stumped as to how it spreads. According to sources deep within the Hall of Records, *The Eye* has been able to confirm that the emerging illness known as the Chaos Plague is unique and has never before been seen in the City of Doors.

In light of the leaked memo we brought to you in our last issue concerning the outbreak of the Plague across the lower gatetowns, healers and priests throughout the Cage have been openly discussing the new disease and are discussing working together, even across factional lines, to find a cure. The Fraternity of Order said yesterday that according to their most accurate estimates, 2,290 people were infected by the Chaos Plague during the last cycle on the Outlands, although the Guvners refused to clarify how many have been infected here in the wards of Sigil.

Using all information available, it appears that the disease is completely fatal and not a single soul has survived once catching the horrible disease. "This is a new, previously unrecognized disease found on the Planes," Ridnir Tetch, a Bleaker and chief of the Weary Spirit Infirmary said. "We don't know how many are being infected, but you can bet that things will get a lot worse in the Cage, not that it really matters." Tetch went on to say that the Plague had already overrun the Hive and would fill the Lower Ward next. "Nothing can stop this unholy disease. I don't know why we even bother to help those around us. How can a berk have hope, when there is no hope."

The Dustmen have been plunged into utter confusion, as the disease does not kill its victims by normal means. Rarely is there anything to bury, burn, or otherwise intern. The chaotic symptoms are so varied and spontaneous that some deaths occur before the person is even determined to be infected. Many citizens have deserted their homes in the Hive after the Harmonium cordoned off large sections of the ward around the Mortuary and the Gatehouse to make room for the growing 'plaguer' population.

It is widely rumored that the Guvners and the Hardheads may be planning to institute martial law in the Cage if the epidemic grows worse. Last cycle's travel warning regarding the Outlands, did not address the flow of immigrants fleeing the lower gatetowns and planes, only those going to the 'Land. Now, the Hive no longer has any available space to accommodate the overwhelming influx of travelers. Additionally, with the enforcement of the ban on meat trading with

the Outlands, there will be even less food for the occupants of the Hive and the remainder of Sigil. With no room left, the Lower Ward will soon begin to swell with the new and rapidly expanding population segment of the City of Doors known as 'plaguers'.



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Outlands citadel unbeatable by Fiends?

by Craedous, Lower Planes culler

Site withheld--In an exclusive interview, *The Lady's Sharper Eye* has all of the darks on the fiend's latest attempt to route the Outlands citadel known as Ironhearth. Not only do we have the darks, cutters, but we also have them straight from the bowels of the Abyss itself! At an undisclosed location, Lower Planes culler Craedous has managed to aid a tanar'ri lieutenant, who shall be called Lord Turncoat for purposes of this interview, to slip the blinds and give us the unfettered darks on the recent attack on Ironhearth.

Craedous: "Welcome, Lord Turncoat, and thank you for your cooperation. Popular planar opinion holds that the tanar'ri, in their most recent attack upon Ironhearth, also known as the Third Testing of Ironhearth, was a complete and utter disaster on the part of the fiends. Would you consider that view to be accurate?"

Lord Turncoat: "Well, I wouldn't term it a complete disaster, 'cause mostly all of the fiends that fell will, o' course, rise ag'in... Heh..heh, but it was darn near a disaster as I've e'er beheld in me centuries o' service."

C: "What, exactly, were the plans of the tanar'ri for the attack?"

LT: "Well, I don't know fer sure, but I know what I was supposed ta do and I heard lots o' talk about what the high-ups was plannin'. Seems that they wuz plannin' a feint an' rush attack, wif' th' main force bein' made up of grunts, like Goristo-mounted siege engines, [Tanar'gre](#) morph packs, [Dracor'ri](#) Pounder Units, all led by [Kah'Lesar](#), swingin' their sharp scythe chivs to and fro. Ya know th' like. Well, these were just th' diversion, the feint, o' course, for the Hand of the Abyss - a fleet of Chaos Ships, to attack from either sides - a classical feint and flank maneuver. Also, we had a bunch o' flyers, like Chasme, Armanites, Vrock, and Nalfshnee with spellslingers, Alu-Fiends, Cambions, and a couple o' Balor along, trying to take out that baatezu-spawned wall! Heh..heh... ya shoud'a seen them 'Hearthers scatter when the flyers started droppin' hordes of Manes, Dretch, and Bar-Lgura on top o' em!"

C: "And I take it, this did not work quite as planned?"

LT: "HELLS NO! OF COURSE IT DIDN'T!"

C: "Now, now, I urge you to calm yourself..."

LT: "Sorry, it just makes a fiend boilin' mad when he can't rend somethin' and that blasted wall... Oh well... What was th' question ag'in?"

C: "I was asking whether the plan worked."

LT: "Oh - well Hell's Bells - o' course it didn't work! I'd be feastin' on little 'Landers now if it hadda worked, now wouldn't I? Heh..heh... Naw, it didn't work none - betwixt that blessed wall and all o' the spellslingers that burg has, and wot wif' da 'loths turnin' at the last moment-"

C: "Hold the jarra spice, are you sayin' that yugoloths were involved?"

LT: "By Bel's balls! No self-respectin' tanar'ri army marches outta Broken Reach without at least one er two legions o' 'loth mercs! Soddin' bleks! Ya can't tell wot der gonna do from one moment to the next - good thing is, tho' - if'n they ever turn stag on ya, then ya got an excuse AND permission to pike 'em and pike 'em good! Heh...heh..."

C: "I...see. So, after the 'loths turned stag, what was the next obstacle you had to surmount?"

LT: "Hurh? Mount? We ain't talkin' 'bout 'Tasty' Telacs are we? I sure as Sigil was not at *The Slippery Portal* and NO ONE CAN PROVE THAT I WAS!"

C: "Errrr...No, no, no, we are not talking about anything of that nature. Now, let's see, how should I word this... After the 'loths turned stag on you, how did you and your fellows then hit the blinds at Ironhearth?"

LT: "Aw! Well, why in tarnation didn't ya just say that? I wasn't at *The Portal*, by th' by, but... Oh yea! Well, after them damnable 'loths crossed us, and most of us were then fightin' not only them sod-headed berks from Ironhearth, but also them 'loths that was thick as thieves amongst us - and THEN the Guardinals came and started attackin' us and the Chaos Ships! Wel-"

C: "By the skirts of the Lady! Lord Turncoat, are you saying there were Guardinals, on the Outlands? You sure 'bout this?"

LT: "Hold on now berk! Yer talkin' like I wasn't e'en there! You tryin' to call me a soddin' liar 'er somethin'?"

C: "Oh, no, of course not, Gratec.. oops! Er, I mean, eh, Turncoat! Yes, yes, Lord Turncoat, no I MEAN NO! Stop that, there is no need to pick THAT UP!..."

Sources from *The Eye* were informed that the interview generally degraded from that point onward, and little tangible chant was lanned. After a brief stay in the Infirmary under the watchful care of top-shelf healers, Lower Planes culler Craedous enjoyed a full recovery, and is again on the case for *The Lady's Sharper Eye*.



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Hardheads say frozen fugitive 'was one ugly skirt'

by Daeh K. Carc, Sigil culler

Guildhall Ward--A double deportee who disguised himself as "Smackie", a member of the all-female circus group, *The Pandemonium Pole Dancers*, in order to evade Harmonium and Guvner agents was arrested last week hiding in a frozen meat locker at the [Mala'kin Meatcutters Guild](#). "He stood out because he was so ugly. He even had a beard," Sgt. Stev Marti said. "He was wearing a hideous brown dress with high-heeled khaasta-skin shoes. One of our officers retched when he saw him."

Vernal Bitterbum is being held pending deportation, Sgt. Marti said. He had been deported previously back to Carceri, his homeland, on two prior occasions. Marti said Bitterbum had been under surveillance when officers saw a man in an outfit, similar to the popular circus performers, leave a guildhall and walk into another building. Moments later, a woman wearing a similar outfit walked out of the guildhall. The officers then grabbed the woman and discovered that she was a he, but not the fugitive that they were seeking.

"No doubt, he was trying to evade us. *The Pandemonium Pole Dancers* have been performing at the Civic Feshall for three weeks. So, I guess he thought that he could just blend in and be able to escape our detection. Looks like the second sod dressed as a skirt, who we also grabbed for conspiracy to evade arrest, came out to throw us off," Sgt. Marti said. "We then went into the hall to look for the fugitive and finally found him in a meat closet. The closet had been stacked with blocks of ice and several varieties of meat were hanging near him. Evidently, the owner of the closet had cast some pretty blekkin' strong cold spells on the blocks of ice so they wouldn't melt. He was relieved that we found him. The sod-headed berk couldn't detect magic and said he was starting to black out," one officer said. "This is the first time we've come across a fugitive trying to evade us by dressing as a skirt, and believe me, he was one ugly skirt," Marti added.

A spokesman for the Fraternity of Order's Bureau of Immigration Laws said Bitterbum, who had been deported twice previously from the City of Doors for criminal activity, "will be removed once again from Sigil for criminal conduct against the citizenry." Bitterbum, who entered the Cage as a trader, has a lengthy criminal record, which includes four convictions for the trafficking of prohibited items including the illegal distribution of jarra spice.

After further questioning, officers finally said no charges would be brought against the second imposter, but wondered if these two misfits somehow

enjoyed dressing up like ugly skirts. *The Pandemonium Pole Dancers* will be performing at the Civic Feshall for the remainder of the month. Only a few tickets remain for the shows this week. The crowds have been overwhelming for their aerial acrobatics as they recite barmy poetry, throw flaming knives at one another, and juggle constantly morphing chaos beasts, all while dancing and swinging on poles at heights of 200 feet.



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Violence sweeps Tradegate area, bariaur beheaded

by Jerek Rejebo, Roaming culler

Near Tradegate--A bariaur was reportedly decapitated and his head then paraded through a bariaur encampment by screaming hill giants at the height of clashes near Tradegate that have claimed at least 59 lives. Over 100 tents and temporary structures were burned, and several bariaur were dismembered in the fighting, which began three days ago and involved four hill giant tribes that ganged up on a bariaur flock. At least 200 bariaur from the outnumbered flock fled the fighting, according to Gopa Sinaksuba, a local bariaur warrior.



"We are very scared. We can still see some of our shelters burning," said a bariaur, who identified herself only as Baraba. It is rumored that a bariaur offensive is planned, pending the arrival of several flocks from outlying regions. A witness said one bariaur was decapitated and his head paraded through a village. "T'was 'orrible, I tell yaaa. The giants should be made to paaay," he said.

"The fighting and the burning of tents are still going on in three areas around the Tradegate region," Merkchant officials reported. "Up to 500 bariaur had to take refuge within the city itself - an action very rarely seen in these noble-minded folk," he added. Chant has it that the clashes broke out when a hill giant refused to apologize after insulting a bariaur doe. However, an unnamed bariaur source said it actually began when the flock discovered that a giant was scouting their camp, a direct violation of a regional agreement that the giants and bariaur had recently reached to reduce tensions between them.

Two cycles ago, over 300 bariaur were killed when hill giants attacked them after they unknowingly wandered into an area heavily populated by giants. The

recent fighting near Tradegate is just the latest outbreak of violence between the giants and bariaur, as the city struggles with worsening economic woes and trade relations with lower planar traders grinds to a standstill. More than 200 bariaur and 50 giants have been killed since the beginning of the cycle in the Tradegate region.



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Unearth new darks at the Citadel!

Do you often find yourself in need of darks with little or no place to lann them? Do you often find that the chant mongers have it all wrong? Well, if you answered yes to either of these then I have the perfect kip for you to steer towards! It is a little known case tucked away in the Inner Planes known simply as the ***Citadel of Chiseled Enlightenment!*** Oh, I know it seems like a hordling's mouthful, but the more you say it, the better it sounds, mark my words!

I, Vaka Tomebinder, Lore-Mistress and Head of the ***Citadel***, welcome you and your friends to one of the greatest sites on both the Inner and the Outer Planes! We have more darks secreted away here in our Library Vaults than the Guvners can even shake a slide-rule at! There is also one fact that most planewalkers should twig to and that is the fact that we at the ***Citadel*** believe that the darks of the multiverse should be exposed, unlike many planar organizations that only claim to promote planar knowledge - we actually do it!

Now, some of you may have heard that the ***Citadel*** was once an outpost for the Fraternity of Order. Don't let that throw ya, they vacated the area several cycles ago for a more attractive site on the Elemental Plane of Air. Also, if you were wondering if our situation is safe and secure, I can assure you that the elemental forces at work on the Planes of Earth do not threaten our temple of knowledge and should not discourage you from visiting us. I can't share the full darks, but let's just say that the ***Citadel*** is a friend of the power Geb.

We hope that you will plan your next hende ride to take you near the Aviary on the Elemental Plane of Earth and that you will drop by for a visit! We have sparse accommodations for travelers, but you may stay as long as you like. We do require that our visitors respect the other occupants of the ***Citadel*** and remain quiet and peaceful as long as you are with us. Remember, bloods, you can't gain enlightenment if the sod next to ya is snoring louder than a firbolg!



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