

The Sutherlands Journal

Words are Power.

September 611 Edition

FIVE DAYS

RUMOR HAS IT THAT THERE WILL BE AN EXTENDED GATHERING OF HEROES IN CLANTHIA IN NOVEMBER. IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT MANY OF THE HEROES ARE EXPECTING TO BE NEEDED FOR A WHOPPING FIVE DAYS. NO ONE AS OF YET CAN PEG DOWN THE REASON FOR THIS, BUT THERE ARE CONJECTURES. PERHAPS THE GATHER'S PROXIMITY TO ALL HALLOWS HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT.

WILL OUR BELOVED CITY BE ABLE TO HANDLE IT? IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT THE GATHERINGS TEND TO DRAW UNNATURAL AMOUNTS OF AGGRESSIVE ACTIVITY FROM ANYTHING SUCH AS PONY-SIZED BEETLES, UP TO GREATER POWERS WHOSE AGENDAS WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE UPON. DO THE HEROES EXPECT SOMETHING BIG, AND IF THEY DO, WHAT CAN WE DO AS CITIZENS TO PROTECT OURSELVES AND OUR FAMILIES?

ONE OF THE MOST INTIMIDATING THEORIES WHISPERED IN TAVERNS ACROSS THE SUTHERLANDS IS THAT A CERTAIN UNDEAD ENEMY WILL ONCE AGAIN REIN TERROR DOWN UPON US. IN YEARS PAST, THOSE WHO SPEAK THE NAME OF THIS ENEMY HAVE BEEN QUICKLY HUSHED BY THE MORE WARY OF CITIZENS AND



HEROES ALIKE. MIGHTY WARRIORS AND ADEPT MAGES WHO HAVE FOUGHT THIS ENEMY AND HER MINIONS VISIBLY SHUDDER AND TURN AWAY AT MENTION OF HER NAME, KEEPING THEIR MEMORIES OF HER HORRORS TO THEMSELVES.

OR PERHAPS IS THIS PART OF A STRATEGIC MOVE IN THE WAR FOR ORBONNE? ARE THE NOBLES AND GENERALS OF THE SUTHERLANDS ARMIES PLANNING SOMETHING BIG- PERHAPS THE FINAL BIG PUSH TO RETAKE QUEEN ZEPHANIE'S LANDS FROM THE ORCISH HOARDS? PERHAPS THIS IS A NECESSARY ACTION TO PROTECT OUR FAIR LANDS FROM THE EVILS AND PERILS THAT AWAIT US SINCE PRINCE DOLGAN'S DWARVES' EXODUS FROM THE SUTHERLANDS.

REGARDLESS THE REASON, CITY OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN EXPRESSING THEIR CONCERNS ON THE MATTER. HEROES ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING PROVISIONS FOR THEIR STAY: BACKUP SWORDS, FORMAL COMPONENTS, CLOTHES, DRINKING WATER, AND ESPECIALLY EXTRA HYGIENE PRODUCTS ARE AMONG THE RECOMMENDED SUPPLIES FOR A GATHERING OF THIS MAGNITUDE. IN A RELATED NOTE, TAVERNKEEPERS, NOBLES, AND PEASANTS ALIKE WILL APPRECIATE A HIGHLY MAINTAINED LEVEL OF PERSONAL HYGIENE THROUGHOUT THE FIVE DAYS. (YOUR FRIENDS WILL ALSO THANK YOU.)

HOUSE MASON RAMPAGES CLANTHIA

OPERATIVES OF HOUSE MASON CONTINUE TO CAUSE TROUBLE FOR OUR CLANTHIAN HEROES, DESPITE OUR HEROES BEST EFFORTS TO COUNTER AND DEFEAT THEM. SATURDAY OF LAST GATHER, SPECIAL BOXES WERE LOCATED THAT SUPPOSEDLY HAD STOLEN GOODS FROM THE VARIOUS BARONIES, AND WERE INTENDED TO BE PICKED UP BY THE HIGH THIEVES OF HOUSE MASON LATER DURING THE NIGHT. THANKS TO THE CLEVER WORK OF SOME OF CLANTHIA'S FINEST, COUNTER MEASURES WERE ABLE TO BE DEVELOPED AND ENACTED. AT EACH DROP LOCATION, SMALL STRIKE TEAMS LAY WAITING FOR THE THIEVES TO APPEAR. AS THEY DID, THE CLANTHIANS LEAD A SURPRISE ASSAULT ON THE CRIMINAL GROUPS, AND IN MOST CASES SUCCEEDED IN DEFEATING THE CROOKS. IN SOME CASES HOWEVER, THE EFFORT OF THE SUTHERLAND FORCES WAS NOT ENOUGH CON-

FRONT THE HIGH THIEVES. SUDBYR WAS ONE OF THE FIRST GROUPS THAT FAILED TO KILL ALL OF THE CRIMINAL STRIKE FORCE, AND REPORTEDLY LOST THEIR BARONESS AND THEIR LORD IN THE FIGHT. AFTER THAT, THE HOUSE MASON THIEVES TOOK TO THE TRAILS, USING MOBILITY AND STEALTH TO COMBAT THE SUTHERLAND FORCES. THE COMBINED MIGHT OF THE BARONIES WERE NOT USED TO FIGHTING IN SMALLER GROUPS ON THE TRAILS VERSUS AS A WHOLE ON AN OPEN FIELD, AND SUSTAINED HEAVY LOSSES. DESPITE THE INDIVIDUAL DEFEATS HOWEVER, AS A WHOLE THE CLANTHIANS MANAGED TO PULL THROUGH. THOUGH THERE IS MORE TO TELL OF THIS STORY, THE LEADERS AND NOBLES OF THE SUTHERLANDS HAVE DECIDED TO KEEP THAT INFORMATION SECRET FOR THE WELFARE OF THE KINGDOM.



Exclusive interview with Arya Thievesbane of the Isles D'Honig, Captain of the Sassy Mermaid -by Corky Q

C: "I see that you are an elf, but you are wearing the Green and Black of Isles. I thought they were mostly humans?"

A: "I am Captain Arya Thievesbane, and I serve the Isles D'Honig. Many of the Islesmen and women are human, yes, but we are also a very diverse group. Lord Torien is an elf as well."

C: "And how long have you been with Isles, can you tell us a bit about what it's like?"

A: "I formally joined the barony about a year and a half ago. I would have to say that joining the barony is the best thing that has happened to me so far. They are the family I never had and those boys mean quite a lot to me. There are responsibilities that come with being in a barony, but it is also very rewarding. Clanthia has changed me, but I certainly would not be the elf I am today without them. They have given me a home, a purpose, and a strong sense of duty. Also... magic swords. Those are nice as well."

C: "It must be nice to have fancy magical weapons. So, can you tell us what events have been important to you or Isles of late?"

A: "It is nice. They help me kill things before they kill me. I mean... protect the kingdom. We are generally concerned with what is happening around the Sutherlands, problems that require our aid, just like other Clanthians. Logan and I responded to the King's request for aid in the prison in Lobrah last week while my Baron and nobles were busy helping with the war effort in Orbonne."

C: "Can you tell us about some of the most significant events that occurred in Lobrah?"

A: Hmm. We rescued the court mage from Orbonne who was inside the prison, we killed the poltergeist that was controlling the prison, fought many Carpathians, fought many undead,

fought some quite disgusting skinless dog things, displacer beasts, golems. Please excuse me if some of it is a bit hazy, I did wake up in the resurrection circle at one point... We also freed some innocent prisoners... Oh, and in killing the poltergeist we apparently released whatever entity IT had been guarding. I imagine we shall have to kill that as well. It sounded quite rude. There were lots of important people there. The King was there! He thanked us for our help and rewarded everyone there with a chance to train with his blood guard. It was lovely to see him. There were also other court officials there from Orbonne who helped us quite a bit. One of them was a healer and I know we would have lost many more lives without him. Sir Kendric was there... he turned into some sort of scary fire monster for a bit but then he was alright again."

C: "What would you say about the other heroes who fought alongside you? How many were there?"

A: " I would say there were roughly 40 of us. Many of them fought bravely and I was certainly not the only one who lost some life force in this endeavor. Lord Illsin was there as well and was very helpful in the way of tactics, and of taking command in a few tough situations. Logan was the only other Islesman present, though we did take charge of a couple of new Clanthians who did extremely well. I certainly hope to see them again. My good friend Mage ran with us as well and provided some much needed Celestial support."

C: "Do you have any other comments that you think are important for our readers concerning the situation?"

A: "Hmmm... putting a circle around someone that is in a stasis with the purpose of protecting them... this serves no purpose. Running around monsters and yelling loudly serves as a great distraction. You can often identify someone as undead by the smell... Buy things from the gypsies. Join the isles. Long live King Devron."

While news is buzzing with the success at the Prison in Lobrah, we at the Sutherlands Journal would like to voice some of the concerns discussed in taverns across the country involving the situation:

-Who magically transported that Prison to Darkholme in the first place?

- Where have all the Carpathian citizens gone? Nobody has seen them in the cities of Sudbyr, or in any city of Darkholme besides those imprisoned in Lobrah.

- Was the prison a stronghold of the Djinn and do they still hold any power there?

- One of the King's knights was taken to the depths of the prison only to return, seemingly possessed to do battle with the Heroes that had just purged the prison - turning to dust immediately upon his defeat. What possessed or empowered him if not a Djinn?

WANDERING HEARTS



Due to the fickle nature of the gypsy Bandolier Lamia, there will be no **Wandering Hearts** to read this month. In other words, you'll have to sort out your romance problems on your own.

Does this mean that she's gone forever? Is the gypsy away on a high adventure— or has she gotten lost in a bottle of wine? Is she, herself, broken-hearted? Perhaps there is no one to offer her advice concerning her own dilemma, and she is too depressed to write.

Anyone with information regarding the whereabouts of this gypsy, please bring them to the attention of the Sutherlands Journal.

PLANE OF LAW

DESPITE THE RECENT DEFEAT OF LAW, AND ITS FORMER PRIMARCH LORD THOMAS, THERE ARE STILL SMALL GROUPS THAT HOLD FAST TO THE NOTIONS AND IDEALS OF THE ONCE POWERFUL PLANE. SMALL FACTIONS OF THESE LAW ZEALOTS WERE SEEN ATTACKING CLANTHIA FOR THEIR PART IN THE DEMISE OF THE MORAL PLANE, AND EVEN AFTER HAVING THE PLANAR FORCE REMOVED FROM THEIR BODIES, THEY STILL CHOSE WILLINGLY TO SERVE LAW AND

IT'S IDEALS. SOON AFTER THE REMNANTS OF LAW ARRIVED, THEY WERE QUICKLY DISPOSED OF AND OTHERWISE DEALT WITH, BUT SOME SAY THE SMALLER FACTIONS ARE BANDING TOGETHER IN ATTEMPTS TO CARRY OUT THE LATE LORD THOMAS' WISHES AND WILL. ONE MAIN AREA OF CONCERN IS THE AGENTS AND FOLLOWERS THAT THOMAS NOT ONLY HAS ALLIGNED WITH HIS FORMER PLANE, BUT WITH THE PLANES OF FIRE, DEATH, AND EARTH AS WELL. IT IS YET TO BE DISCOVERED IF THE DENIZENS OF

DEATH, FIRE, AND EARTH STILL SERVE LAW WILLINGLY, OR IF THEY WERE TAINTED AND TRICKED INTO DOING SO. IN THE CASE OF THE OTHER PLANES BEING TAINTED BY LAW, DID THE PASSING OF LORD THOMAS REMOVE THE TAIN, OR DOES THE BIND STILL HOLD EVEN PAST HIS DEATH? WHERE DO PRIMARCHS GO WHEN THEY DIE ANYWAY? MANY QUESTIONS REGARDING LAW STILL REMAIN, AND PERHAPS THEY WILL NEVER BE ANSWERED.

ATTENTION!

There have been reports all across the Sutherlands of odd and strange creatures appearing out of thin air and attacking locals. These strange creatures seem to range from odd hound shaped animals to simple oozes and slimes, but despite their obvious physical differences they seem to be working together, or at least not killing each other. Many of the sightings occur right after a teleport ritual is cast, and when the caster and their companions appear in the new location, these creatures seem to appear right along side them. Some casters report a strange buzzing and crackeling distortion during the actual teleportation, many scholars think there is like between the odd sounds and the emerging of the creatures.

Citizens,

Despite the rumors that Undead are pouring from Darkholme and Sudbyr. The Sutherlands Journal would like to assure its loyal readers that we shall continue to persevere and bring you the news. We have created an impenetrable underground safety shelter underneath our home office (the plans for which can be purchased for the low cost of 50 Gold). We will not be afraid, in face of the fact that my very own absolutely real cousin Sammie, his wife Melinda, and their three children have vanished into thin air- never to be heard from again. Word is that similar fates have befallen countless families across the Sutherlands, leaving behind nothing but cold meals on tables and dying embers in hearths.

No, worry not, for we are a strong-willed team of journalists. We will not be swayed. We will not fall quiet, no matter how terrible the news or horrific the predictions. Please continue to submit rumors, speculations, first-hand accounts, second-hand accounts, wild accusations, overly-opinionated letters, and whatever else can be written or drawn to the Sutherlands Journal (you can just slip them under the door, that's what most people do).

Heroes, if you aren't hiding in your own safety shelters (otherwise known as "wards"), it's time for you to take action. What can and what will you do in the face of these frightening times?

-Corky Q. Rawburkes

Ps. If anyone finds Sammie, tell him he owes me one for chasing the rats out of his house... and that I'm going to borrow his wife's green tunic until she gets back.

CLANTHIANS LOVE THEIR RUMORS...

MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN HAVING THE SAME NIGHTMARE OF A WOMAN HOVERING OVER THEM IN THE NIGHT. WHO IS THIS MYSTERIOUS DREAM-HAUNTER? BARON MORGRIM OF DARKHOLME WAS SEEN ENTERING THE TAVERN CONTROLLED BY A DISCORPORAL FEMALE FIGURE.... WHAT WAS GOING ON WITH HIS SHIELD?

Joseph is a shoe-in for Rossanoes court-mage noble position. Even if he's not in rossanoe.

Lord Seneschal Sessith is riding a nightmare. Moira is in Rossanoe.

Clanthians have already begun asking each other to feast-you'd better get the move on if you don't want to miss out on your first pick!

Rossanoe caravans have been raided lately. Some people believe House Mason is involved, although the goods being stolen are mostly tabards and other basic clothing, which is not their normal target.

Lamia has been trying to set up Baron Lachlan with a comrade but he is playing hard to get.....and Nessa has a secret admirer.



The Necromancer's Guild has seen a recent surge of new recruitment after countless power hungry individuals have went in search of more information. In unrelated news, missing person reports have drastically increased as people have left home never to return.

Tensions are still high in the Underdark as the Drae communities continue to rebuild their various settlements. Supplies are still in short supply as the Drae and Mindflayers vie for resources.

THE ROGUE BROTHERS (CAM AND MARED) ARE LOOKING FOR AN INTACT GORGON EYE. WORD IS IF YOU GET THEM ONE, THEY WILL PAY OU HANDSOMELY!

It has been rumored that due to the Bloodstar's superior tactics and defenses last gather that they have been asked to lead a Special Magics and Raiding Tactics (SMART) group by King Devron.

Unicorns are spies for the Plane of Law .

The lovely Denna has been missing from the armorsmith the past gather, what has prevented her from appearing there?

There may be more than one Islesman interested in the beautiful and talented women in the Gypsy Cafe.

Lady Malakai was seen several times at the armorsmith, is she seeking something there?

Does guildmaster Tidus have a Rival for Charmer of the Armorsmith from Duncan?

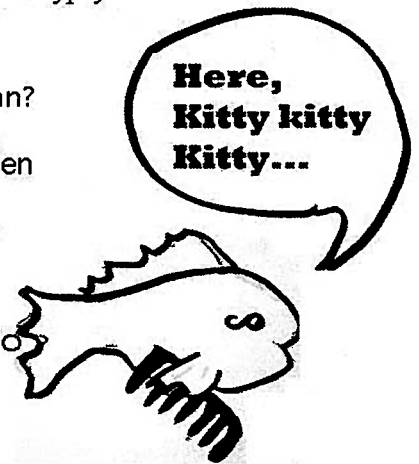
Colmillo has a secret admirer who wants to be "Taken wickedly, and shown the dark side of the rainbow" whatever that means. Funny how this admirer can't even get his name right.

It is said That if any sarr can get through all of armor-smiths guild member Duncans protective coating...He tastes just like tuna!

it seems the armorsmiths are still law atoned.. or is it the brotherhood...?

THE ORDER OF SILENCE HASN'T BEEN SEEN RECENTLY, AND CONTINUES TO STAY SILENT AS TO WHY.

If Moira's been charged with the crime of master-manipulation, why was she in the custody of the easiest Baron to manipulate?



The Sutherlands Journal will be paying Gold for Good Information and submissions

Dear Ill-Informed Southerland Journal Editor Persons:

In a recent edition of this periodical, there was an article recounting the events of this year's festival and the winners of the competitions. I find it in bad form that while the winners of all other competitions were mentioned by name, there was no reporting what-so-ever on the events of cooking: sweet, cooking: savory, brewing, crafting, or the scavenger hunt. I find it ironic that all of the competitions that were not mentioned were the competitions that I happened to have competed in, and won..with the exception of one--which I placed second. That's right. I won festival. I took first place in four competitions and placed second in a fifth contest, and yet somehow, this paper failed to mention it. This papers oversight on these matters is a pile of shekka.

No-Longer With Respect,

~Rylindranessa Sbaity