

Sylverfern Star

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IN THIS EDITION:

VRENGAR FOOL'S
DAY SHENANIGANS
ANTICIPATION

LOCKHEART
ASSISSINATION
ATTEMPTS

CONSTIBLE'S CORNER

OPINIONS

NEW SURGEON
IN TOWN

...AND MUCH, MUCH
MORE



CRIME SPIKE, CRACKDOWN IN VRENGAR, DUKE ORDERS LEVY

By Frederica DeLisio

In the City of Vrengar, the capital of both our Duchy of Fallstav and the Kingdom of Middlehaven as a whole, it appears that the Council of High Lords, particularly Duke Fallstav, has taken heed of recent criticism that they have been sitting back as of late and permitting crime and chaos to permeate the area. It appears that they are responding with major crackdowns- the first being on "Fool's Day." Fool's Day is a holiday of the Immortal Knave, which is only legal in Bluntmund, and Sylverfern as of last cycle, because worship of the Knave is still illegal in much of the Kingdom. In the notice delivered to every barony in Fallstav, the following was said regarding the holiday:

"Looting, vandalism, drunkenness, and general discord have disrupted the peaceful function of our fair city. It is not right, it is not just, that the wanton and sinful actions of a minority of our citizens disrupt the lives and damage the property of so many others. In the past our local leaders were able to keep peace in their territories. Last cycle, however, these illicit revelers went too far within the City of Vrengar. There was bloodshed, trade in many dangerous, illegal substances and significant

property destruction. Such brazen lawlessness will not be tolerated."

Based on the Duke summoning what amounts to a small army to Vrengar, one can speculate that there will be mass arrests of revelers. However, is this really the only reason that the Duke is ordering every single barony in the land of Fallstav, including our own, to either send a specific number of people to serve the Duke or else pay scutage to the capital so that the Duke can hire mercenaries? Why does His Grace need so many people? Are there truly that many Immortal Knave worshippers in Vrengar? And what does that mean for the rest of us if the Council of High Lords is suddenly having difficulty keeping the capital under control to the point where they need to directly order every landed noble in Fallstav to send people?

In addition to the upcoming "Fool's Day" there is an apparent crime spike in Vrengar if their newspapers are anything to go by. A recent edition of the Vrengar Times, the city's main newspaper, included articles on such crimes as alleyway muggings, kidnapping attempts, extortion, attempted murders and several actual murders. There were also articles pertaining to crimes that the Vrengar Times specially noted to be typically unheard of: robberies of jewelry

Continued on pg. 3

J'TETH ORDER LORD LOCKHEART'S ASSASSINATION

In their attempt to break the lands outside their empire, the J'Teth invaders have turned their attention from the national - politics in Rokar and inter-duchy feuds - to the local, with a strategic but unsuccessful attack on Lord Lockheart.

Last moon, shortly after the council had met, one of Silverfern's resident elves, one Krayden Sylvirût, sought a private audience with Lord Lockhart. A few minutes into their conversation, Lord Lockhart let out a shout and emerged from the room, fending off the elf, who was attempting to stab him with an arrow.

Sylvirût was quickly arrested by several members of the guard in presence. He was escorted outside, and very nearly attacked by the Rokaran former-guardsmen Ulf Wolvespar, who attempted first to execute him and then to honor-duel him; both attempts were stopped by esteemed guard

and sitting Councilwoman Tatha. She proceeded to ask Sylvirût for an explanation for his actions.

Sylvirût claimed, quote "I did it for the emperor."

For those citizens fortunate enough to have escaped news of J'Teth incursions into Middlehaven, this is the catchphrase of J'Teth agents who worship their emperor more or less as a god. It should be noted that shortly before Sylvirût's assassination attempt, two J'Teth men had openly entered town on a stated diplomatic mission; they were expelled from town later that night. Had they placed Sylvirût under mind control? That is certainly the most charitable explanation, but perhaps not likely based on the actions of the guard--they continue to keep Sylvirût imprisoned. This reporter found no evidence of prolonged interaction between Sylvirût and the J'Teth visitors--not

enough for them to have swayed him to their side that day, thought it would have taken little to no direct interaction to give some form of signal for Sylvirût to enact the assassination.

Who better than someone who was apparently trusted enough by the guard and council that Lord Lockhart would be willing to speak with him without a guard present? And what an ingenious plan: before the attempt, Sylvirût had attempted to convince Lord Lockhart that a council-member was planning his assassination.

What is the tried and true strategy of the J'Teth, but to sow division among their enemies, creating weakness that they can exploit? They tried this in Rokar, inciting civil war. They tried this in Middlehaven, first by seeking to restart border incursions between Fallstav and Perin, and then by latching onto

Continued on pg. 7

CONSTABLE'S CORNER

The Bandit Queen Strikes Again

By Alista Plathor

It was an exciting day for Sylverfern. We had just finished building one of our main bridges. Things were starting to look better in Ro'kar. We had just defeated a major threat to Sylverfern. It was time to open up our first ever market bazaar in hopes of bringing some fresh air to our dwindling pockets.

The day started naturally enough with a small court to vote on vacated council seats and greet some interesting newcomers. Apparently the J'teth empire sent some emissaries to discuss the concept of peace. There was later a bomb explosion which created much chaos. Luckily it seemed no lives were permanently lost, save perhaps, the courier that delivered the box containing the bomb

The Sylverfern guard had doubled their efforts at the border and were monitoring all the merchants coming in. Everything seemed to be going smoothly. We had some new merchants. Some farmers braved the trip into town as well as a group of orcs. Though they seemed confused on the concept of a florin the people were in high spirits and worked with them.

Then tragedy struck. While I imagine Thane Maythmar was busy at home dealing with the

fallout of the war one of his representatives was in town so people could have easy access to their funds for the market. However just when he seemed to start wrapping up to go home some odd newcomers came in rolling out a banner which apparently bore the symbol of the Bandit Queen. The scoundrel had not been heard from since she kidnapped Lord Silverheart - the nephew of Lord Lockhart - and Lord Greysmoke, a visiting Fallstavian, and sold them into slavery on the black market. No one seemed able to react at first and during the distraction another goon stole the chest from the Rokarian bank. Others gave chase but they could only recover the ledger.

The representative seemed unphased about it all assured everyone that with the ledger recovered the town's money was still accounted for. He had recently done a deposit so she only made off with a couple hundred worth of florin. The bank is insured so no individual has lost their personal stash. (Much better than keeping coin on you eh? Once someone picks your pockets that's it, your money is gone!)

It seems after this incident the Queen Bandit is back on the prowl. Anyone with information on her please come forward.

Continued from pg. 1

shops and other retailers of expensive goods, and assaults in neighborhoods where nobility and wealthy merchants live. Could it be possible that the Duke is augmenting the City Watch for additional reasons?

Lord Lockhart will be answering the levy as he and the Council are unable

to afford the scutage. The delegation from Sylverfern will be staying at the Calderone Orphanage in the Vrengar neighborhood of Bolingbarke. The orphanage owner, Lady Gianetta Calderone, has given orders for the orphans to be relocated to her estate so they will be safely out of the way

of any confrontation that might occur.

The Duke indicates in the levy notice that those answering are to be paid an unspecified amount. The question is, does he really need that many people for a simple festival for an illegal god, or is something else entirely transpiring in the capital?

CAN WE HOPE FOR SOME STABILITY NOW?

By Angelica Glockner

After nearly a year of constant flux in membership, with councilors leaving town, dying, or facing serious personal circumstances, the Silverfern Council seems to have reached some form of balance. In its original form, the council was made up of three primary members and two alternates who serve as full councilmembers anytime there is a need.

Only one of the original members remains, Tatha the Half-Elf. Tatha was also recently promoted within the guard, after 4 and a half years of service, ranking now a Lieutenant and with the title of Spymaster.

Gaberiel Halewood, the second-longest serving member of the Council but a long-time member of Silverfern's population of visiting adventurers-turned-residents remains. Chosen of the goddess Larisca, he has frequently served as the diplomatic liaison in town to visiting diplomats and nobility. The Rak'asha priestess of Shalli, Cyrah is the third member of the Council, and another long-time resident of the town. She is

a powerful healer and the head of the Scholars of Faith, the guild of priests who serve the town.

Qech Serraviv is one of the two newest members, his induction to the council simultaneous to his promotion to Guard Captain, after serving for the past year as Lieutenant.

Vanyanosto of House Roccondil was the second member inducted this past moon. A high-elf recently arrived from Galad'u'Viere, he's shown himself to be a valiant warrior and a skilled jewel-smith.

Some Silverfern citizens might point out that, for the Council of a human town in a human kingdom, the Council has a rather unfortunate proportion of non-humans--not to cast aspersions on the individual members, but as far as we can ascertain, Halewood is the only full human on the Council. Despite his human appearance, Serraviv is rumored to be half Vordis, and is close with the Shadowsun Clan. Still, we've got a human Lord, and if they can keep this town in one piece, and continue the bridge-building and all, I for one hope they stick around.

OPINION: AN ELVEN INVASION?

By A Concerned Citizen

Did any of y'all notice the new pointy eared folk we got walkin' around Fallstav lately? It's bad enough that we got that feller in green running around the woods late at night; like he's spying on us, and now he's on the council?! Or the one in the black coat who is always asking questions about humans, why is he so curious about us. Last moon I was going for a stroll and I saw another three elves heading toward Lockhart

manor, probably going to go talk to them "heros" that are always causing such a racket round here. Now I may be a simple farm hand but all these elves coming in, snooping around, asking peculiar questions, and getting involved in the towns politics; it seems like the are up to something, and us Fallsatvians shouldn't stand for it. What we need to do is stand together and make sure them pointed eared pricks go back to where they came from and don't never come back.



MEET YOUR NEW SURGEON

Dr. Abeline Maestro Catini

Greetings and Salutations, Sylverfern! I am delighted to announce that I am the new acting surgeon of the Second Chance Clinic. While I had the good fortune to meet many of you upon my arrival in town last moon, I would like the

chance to meet more of you and introduce myself. So, on the 17th of Forrestwake, upon my return from a business trip to Vrengar, I would like to invite anyone to come to a small gathering at the Second Chance Clinic at 8 bells evening. Light non-alcoholic refreshments will be served.

RETURN OF THE BANDIT QUEEN

By Bartholomew Benrick

This past Earththaw saw the return of the Bandit Queen to the busy town of Sylverfern. Two individuals proclaiming the return of the wretched villain burst into the halls of Lord Lockheart's Manor and unfurled her standard. Few gave much heed to them however, until a third member of the thief's group managed to sneak up and grab the chest of the Rokarin Bank and make off with it.

While the Rokarins state the bank is insured and that none who had made deposits in the bank will lose their investments, it does worry many still. Talk of pulling their funds out at the first available opportunity has

been a common topic of conversation for many, and some fear that the blow to the confidence in the bank may not ever fully recover. Many ask what happened to the guards who were supposed to be watching the chest at the time of the theft, and why they allowed it to be taken so easily. Some have voiced concern that the guards were even involved, allowing the chest to be captured in return for a cut, but those remain unsubstantiated rumors.

For now we must assume that the money is long gone, but perhaps, finally it will spur Lord Lockhart and the guard to take the threat of this bandit seriously.

OPINION: NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS, CONFLICT OF INTEREST?

Several new council members were either voted in or presented to the people of Sylverfern this past moon, one the elf warrior Vyanosto and the other the guard member, Qech Serraviv. While in and of itself these two may not be horrible members to add to the council, one does have to worry about the conflict of adding Serraviv in particular to the group who is supposed to speak with the Lord's weight behind them. Some may be wondering why we should be concerned with the knowledge of Serraviv's appointment to the council and to that dear readers, we point to another facet of Serraviv's employment and an earlier article of the Star.

Serraviv is a member of the guard, and while there is no issue with that as another council member

the half elf Tatha is also a guard, she is not in charge of them. Yes, Serraviv was recently advanced to the rank of Captain of the Guard. For those of you who remember the Star issue from a few moons ago, it was mentioned since Bloomingtide 316 that one could not be both a high rank among the town guard and a council member. Now who do we know that is both of those things? The Heketa Follower Qech Serraviv. One would assume Lord Lockhart would think twice before allowing someone who follows that goddess to take over not one but two high level positions in Sylverfern. And yet, breaking their own laws, they allow him to take over and cement even more power to himself. This reporter feels dark times are certainly coming to Sylverfern in the wake of this announcement.



MIDDLEHAVEN BAKE-OFF ATTEMPTED SABOTAGE?

On the 9th of Earththaw, Sue Perkins and Paul Blackwood brought the Great Middlehaven Bake-Off to Sylverfern, wherein our own local Mrs. Beatrice Baker was in attendance as mentor and guest judge.

What began as a delightful and amusing attempt by some highly unlikely contestants became a volatile and potentially catastrophic disaster, as one contestant saw fit to add an off-book ingredient to their confection. The jar, this reporter learned, was labeled

"Seeds of Chaos" and, upon consumption by the judges, led to startling alterations of mind and body. Mrs. Baker nearly collapsed into a fit of hysterical laughter that lasted for so long it's a wonder her face didn't freeze that way. Paul Blackwood suffered an identity crisis, insisting that he was in fact a Ra'Kasha that was in attendance, insisting he was the speckle-coated guard of Sylverfern. Sue Perkins began walking almost drunkenly, curving off to one side as though she'd been lame as a

child and one leg had not grown in.

What seems to have escaped the notice of everyone and anyone in attendance was the potentially life-threatening danger everyone was in. This reporter has it on good authority that Mrs. Baker was the one first seen in the kitchen of Lord Lockhart's manor when the Bake-Off was scheduled to begin, and to come off with so easy a curse from the so-called "Seeds of Chaos" it seems highly suspicious. Did Mrs. Baker feel slighted

that she could not compete, knowing the renown would boost her sales? Did she have Seeds of Chaos in her possession and take an antidote prior to the consumption, faking a laughing fit to throw suspicion off herself? It is this reporter's belief that Beatrice Baker is not to be trusted, and if the guard of Sylverfern were astute they would take her in for questioning. Mind the morsels you let slip past your lips, Sylverfern, and perhaps seek your pastries elsewhere.

DEATH AND BLOOD TOWARDS THE NOBLES!

The merchant festival in town this last moon was certainly an exciting time. Many came forward to sell their wares, including a necromancer it would seem. While some people might be happy to ponder on the fate of heretics and bandits, two more eventful moments happened that same day: Attempted assassinations of Lord Lockheart and his brother Lorenzo. Krayden, one of the elves of Sylverfern, had pulled Lord Lockhart away at the end of court and attempted to claim his life. Luckily the Lord's experiences in his life have led him to be able to defend himself most handedly, and he stopped his own attack. It would seem his deity of attention, the war god Rashyer, kept him safe as he fought off his attacker. Krayden is currently being held by the guard and is likely to be put to death as is the fate of all those who attempt to slay a noble of the realm, whether they succeed or not.

Of more concern however, is the possible slaying of Lord Lockhart's brother Lorenzo. This reporter has heard mixed tales of if the attack was successful or not. While it would seem from many people that Lorenzo was slain, it sounds as if he may be Vishar and so was returned to life by the god of death, Dromidigen. While it would be a powerful blessing to have a noble Vishar in our midst, it does leave a poor taste in this reporter's mouth to know that the nobleman had to find out about his status via a coward stabbing him in the back. With any luck, witnesses may still come forward to help put away this sniveling snake of a person and keep them under lock and key until the Headman's axe is free for an appointment with their neck.



STRIKE TIME

-

RALLY THE SYNDICATE

By: The Torchbearer

They're rattling their rapiers
And prancing in their livery
They're howling at the gates again
Hot time in the olde town tonight
Get yourself together
And meet me at the Capital
We're gonna have a reckoning
Hot time in the olde town tonight
Tonight, Tonight,
We're gonna make it our own
But we're gonna do it right
Tonight, Tonight,
We're gonna make it our own
But we're gonna do it right

Rally round the syndicate
Fire up the forges
And muster 'round the grand torchlight
Hot time in the old town tonight
Keep your wits about ya when
We turn it up and fall upon
The auld sworn enemy
Hot time in the old town tonight
Tonight, Tonight,
We're gonna make it our own
But we're gonna do it right
Tonight, Tonight,
We're gonna make it our own
But we're gonna do it right

This is our house
Are you ready for the fisticuffs
The fuss, the muss, the row, the fray?
Hot time in the old town tonite
This is our house
Take your medicine
And fly the fiddlin' fuck away
From whence you came
Hot time in the old town tonight
Tonight, Tonight,
We're gonna make it our own
But we're gonna do it right
Tonight, Tonight,
We're gonna make it our own
But we're gonna do it RIGHT!

Aspiring Writers, Journalists and Spreaders of Truth

The Sylverfern Star cannot write itself! We are always seeking contributors willing to seek out newsworthy stories and dig up facts in dire need of being shared with the world.

Think not that ye won't get compensated! Each article is worth it's weight in florin (two per article, submitted, in fact)!

And fear not, if you are illiterate! We have scribes on hand willing to listen and transcribe your story for all the world to read!

Interested parties should seek out Gabby Tattletale or any of the reporters at the Sylverfern Star offices for more information.

Adventuring Gear

Adventurers have it rough sometimes, and the right sort of gear can make a difference. I am Silas Flynn and I make trades all over, Fallstav, Perin, Mergrim and Werdill - around the Fallen Fens and inside it - I am there. I can't say my prices are the lowest, but I have the best stuff and given time I can get anything you ask for if the coin is there..and I wouldn't have lived this long if I asked too many annoying questions. Faire Trade is all I seek and you'll find it coin well spent.

If you're in the area around Sylverfern, come see my local franchise apothecary.

Ask for Ruggz.

Other francise oportunites are available. If you have a desire for honest coin, we might be able to come to some agreement.

-Silas Flynn,
Traveling Merchant.



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A CALL TO ARMS!!

By order of the Torchbearers of the Cloak and Dagger Syndicate!

*The time is nigh upon us to strike at the J'teth.
They are weak. They panic and sow discord in Vrengar!
Rally all ye who wish to take on the J'teth!*

THIS IS OUR LAND!

The J'teth are in the Capital, they have corrupted the Duke!

When has the Duke ever asked for help like this in Vrengar?

He is concerned with a silly holiday?

The J'teth are known to be in Vrengar!

If he won't order them Banished. We will Banish the J'teth!

The Torchbearer will be recruiting. Keep your ears open.

We will be in Vrengar to strike.

Plans are underway.

5th-7th of Forestwake

Pass the torch. Be your own torchbearer.

~ The Torchbearer ~

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Editor:

It is with some measure of embarrassment that I admit I've misplaced my issue of the previous edition of the Star. As such I cannot find or remember the name of the reporter who shared the elvish rations recipe. I wanted to write in to the paper to say thank you to that person, as it has been something of a best seller for me this past moon among travelers and townsfolk alike.

From Mrs. Beatrice Baker of Sylverfern

Dear Mrs. Baker,

The author of the recipe in question is one Veronica Souvex, a travelling confectionist originally from our town of Silverfern. Should she see this and inquire, I will pass along the address you left in your letter, so that you may correspond and discuss other possibilities in a possible future business endeavour. We here at the Star wish the both of you much combined successes in your future.



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Seek out Cyrrah, Rah'Kasha Priestess, for further details