

The Brighthelm Babblers

27/06/1313 – Stories you won't find anywhere else.

Mayoral Candidate Murdered by Warlock!

On June 13th, mayoral candidate and much beloved priest of Aten Geoffrey Brightlace was assassinated in his duties of bringing enlightenment to the darkest of places within our fair city, the Sussex Arms. Known for its popularity with ritualists, laundresses, and cultists of all descriptions, this tavern has long been a hotbed for demon sightings and illegal trade. While preaching his message of a happier future for Brighthelm, it is believed he was attacked by a member of the Warlocks guild, who was encouraged in her foul deed by the other patrons of the bar. Under inquisition in the Temple of Aten, the warlock was found to have entered into pacts with demons to enable her to completely destroy the soul of one of our city's finest exemplars, and many demons were cast out of her. However, it seems her co-conspirators had managed to infiltrate the temple (which had been largely evacuated for security reasons,) and slip her out under the cover of confusion.

We at the Babblers have to ask – what clearer sign is needed that the Warlocks' guild are acting in concord with the demons against the good of the people? What became of this assassin, and why hasn't she been brought to justice? How long will the good folk of this city suffer under the cruel machinations of mages who respond with deadly sorceries when their comfortable conspiracy is threatened? It is time for the people of the city to open their eyes, and cast off the oppressive yolk of the Warlocks! It is time for a strong mayor who can reform the corrupted institutions of the city from the inside out!

Lightbrother Geoffrey Brightlace was given a solemn funeral at the weekend, his body cremated in the fires of the alter of Aten – a form of burial reserved only for His most pious followers. The temple has been buzzing with speculation over who the temple will name as their fallback candidate. An announcement is expected by 9:30pm on Thursday. *Story continued on back page...*

Martial Law Declared in the Docklands!

The city's goblin infestation has reached fever-pitch in recent weeks. A combination of readily accessible refuse, safehouses, and general public apathy has lead to a dramatic increase in the number of these creatures within the city walls. The city watch seem powerless to defeat these fragile yet numerous creatures. Muggings, stabbings and disfigurements have become so commonplace that martial law has been declared, leading to no end of skirmishes between gangs, goblins, and opportunistic miscreants. Local businessowners are suspected to be worst hit, as warehouses have been siezed and raided by all and sundry. No sensible captain is sailing anywhere near and it is expected that there will be severe shortages in the coming weeks.

Where will it all end, we ask. Brighthelm has endured banditry, undead armies, demonic rouses and corrupt politicians – and yet the primary business sector of our city has fallen to a simple swarm of goblins. Poised in this stronghold, who knows what area will fall next? Can the bookish college mages really be expected to fend for themselves? Will the re-enforced walls of the alchemists' guild be enough to hold back the fangs of these beasts? Will the ordinary citizen still be able to walk the street in broad daylight, or are we doomed to be overcome by the green tide? What we need is a purge, lead by someone organised and charismatic enough to drive the goblins from their stronghold and out of our fair city. Which may be exactly what mayor Pegason was hoping for when declaring martial law in the first place.

The Temple of Aten would like to thank Lord Dimitrius Rivendere for his generous donation toward the refurbishment of the temple steps.

New mayoral candidate to be announced

Continued from from page...

With only 4 weeks until the election, the elders and laity of the Temple of Aten have been discussing who should represent their church in the upcoming election. 3 potential candidates have emerged, and we've done what we can to dig up the dirt on each of them ahead of time.

Lightbringer Henric Ulm

One of the few Atenites in our city to be elevated to the rank of Lightbringer (conferring additional responsibilities and power to act independently upon the individual,) Henric has played an active part in ensuring the safety of our city. If he's not defusing wayward ritual circles or saving babies from the corrupting influences of magic, he can be found praying before the Alter of Aten for strength and enlightenment. Henric's campaign message is simple, and charming: the magical influences which rule this city with deception and intimidation have done so for too long, and corruption must be routed out from the inside. The most devout and active members of the church are viewing Henric as a favourite.

Finn Jaeger, Scouts' guild

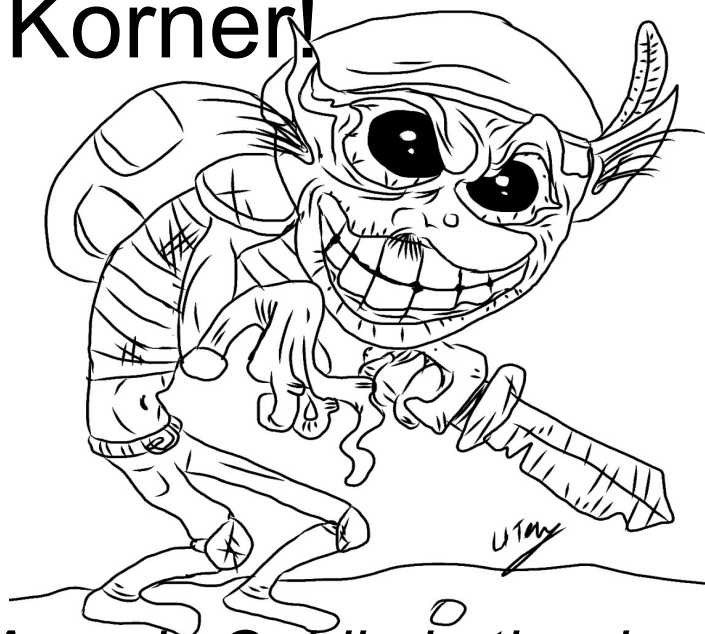
A name many have heard around the temple recently for his direct support of Geoffrey Brightlace's campaign, and his role in mopping up the undead after their recent incursion, Finn Jaeger has garnered some appeal among the less spiritually active among the congregation. However, while clearly opposing undead and general misconduct, he has concerningly little to say on what he plans to do about magic in the city. Coupled with the rumours that he is actually the son of a powerful mage, his campaign raises more than a few eyebrows among the more serious members of the congregation. We tracked down Jeremy Witherington, Librarian at the Temple Library, who did not wish to be named, to delve into Finn's reading habits. "Spends a lot of time in here, he does," said Jeremy. "Always got his nose in some book honest people got no business knowing about, if you ask me." We also uncovered the shocking detail that Finn currently has books overdue at the library (*The unquiet dead, by Igor Mortis*). This, if nothing else, leads us to question his suitability as a candidate.

Terriss Ross

A relative unknown until recently, Terriss Ross was another active campaigner for Lightbrother Geoffrey Brightlace before his brutal murder at the hands of a Warlock. He seems to be picking up where Geoffrey left off, with modest plans to curtail supernatural atrocities and support the most vulnerable in our society. While he does have a way with words, recent history does not provide anything to suggest he would actually be capable of implementing these strategies. Occupying the middle of the road between other candidates, Terriss' campaign suffers from being in direct competition with both alternatives, and he is widely regarded as the weakest candidate, though perhaps someone whose career to watch.

Kender Colouring Watch-watch

Korner!



An ugly Goblin in the docks

Sadly young Gary Direhall of the City Guard passed away two days ago after falling from the North west tower. After our repeated interrogations into how this tragedy occurred we finally found out a few facts:

- 1) Gary was 12 years old
- 2) He'd been covering for another guard for over 12 hours
- 3) He fell asleep and unfortunately fell off the wall to his death.
- 4) No one noticed he was gone until a day later
- 5) He wasn't found until a day after that due to Goblins carrying him off through town

Gary's mother Alara tells us she is devastated that after starting such a promising career and working so hard, that he wasn't looked after.

On further investigation, the City guard are really thin on the ground, Gary's friends had also been recruited as "watchers" More shockingly still, there are several Orcs now guarding our gates. Have our betters sent everyone to take Gaul? Have they left no one to protect us? Will we indeed have to move to Gaul after loosing Brighthelm to barbarians?

An article on the fabulous real estate of Gaul to follow...