

The Brighthelm Babblers

31/10/1313 – Like real news, but better.

Orcish Savagery Rears its Ugly Head!

Just when you thought it was safe to come out from under the bed, yet another terrible plague besets our fair city. Is Brighthelm cursed by the Gods?

Surely, it seems that hope has left us, as the Homunculi plague, believed to be “under control” by city authorities, has suddenly made a massive resurgence among the Uruk population. It appears that the Orc community had been hiding it's infected, preferring to care for them in private, but as the mutations progressed they prove increasingly unable to restrain their former clansmen.

10 days ago, several of the infected “Orcmunculi” broke free from their restraints and are believed to have devoured their jailors, before running through the city streets screaming “Jabba!” and savagely attacking anyone in their path. Few victims have survived, and most are eaten alive. The Orcmunculi are even more vicious than their human, elven or dwarfish counterparts, undoubtedly due to the near feral stock that produced them. Once more the slums are plunged into darkness, and thinking citizens once more have reason to regret granting the Uruk citizenship. The Orcmunculi are incredibly dangerous, and should not be approached under any circumstances. Report all sighting to the watch immediately.

Dual Dockland Disasters!

Swogalypse!

Many died when a large ship in the western docks burst into flames two weeks ago and we had no idea why – until now!

A number of people over the course of the last two weeks have come to tell us to give up all hope for the “Swog Apocalypse is coming”. According to this group they do not follow our Gods, they follow a much older God they refer to as the “Dark Swog”. They say that the burning boat is an omen that due to the folly of the non-believers the sea swogs have been blessed with unholy fire to cleanse those who would go against the Master’s wishes.

We at the Babbler wait with bated breath for more information, are there any eye witnesses to the event? We want to hear from you!

No-body home with Skeleton Crew

Last week vandals boarded Elidad Swordsworn's ship, the Merry Mermaid, destroying many of the units that were stationed there. While we at the Babbler are no more fond of the undead than the next citizen, it does seem a little unsporting to leave the noted celebrity stranded in Brighthelm. We managed to get a few words with the High Priest himself: “It's disgraceful. After all the church has done for this town, someone goes and commits a pointless act of destruction like this. And they got Jimmy too! I'm fairly sure he hadn't even died yet, but it's hard to keep track. When I catch whoever did it they're going to be finding me some replacements!”

Mayor Paralysed by Indecision!

It seems that the day-to-day tasks of the mayor of Brighthelm are becoming too much for Lucinda Kendal. Following a series of unpopular laws, erratic decisions, the sacking of dozens of civil servants and mounting civic problems that any competent politician would have been able to take care of, it is reported that the mayor has withdrawn to her chambers and will only be seen by her closest advisors. Rumours abound of a discovered assassination plot, but, after finding our way blocked by what must surely be a significant fraction of the city watch (mainly drow), we were unable to speak with the mayor ourselves.

A spokesperson (drow) for the mayor's office simply said “The mayor is extremely busy at the moment. We face an unprecedented period of challenges for this city, with the wildman incursions outside the wall and the Homunculous outbreak within. Ms. Kendall is working tirelessly with her advisors and representatives of various military organisations and the City Council to find a resolution to these problems, and scarcely leaves her desk save to get a few hours sleep. Now please stop wasting our precious time.”

By Order of the Mayor's Office

In light of the recent "Orcmunculi" outbreak and for the protection of the citizens of Brighthelm, the recognition of the sentience of the orcish race has been temporarily revoked. There shall be no penalty for the execution of any orcs found within the city walls, infected or otherwise. A cull is to be imposed effective immediately to reduce the orcish population to a manageable level, to help prevent the spread of infection. A 5 Sh. reward is offered for every orc verified as destroyed by a representative of the civil service. Any orcs within the city may choose to leave it, but will not be under the protection of the law in the meantime.

From the Office of Eudora Kendal.

For you, baby, we'll say anything...

Got an advertisement or some "news" you'd like to see published? See it printed in The Babblers for rates starting from 5Sh. Prices negotiable for special requests.

Kender Colouring Korner!



The Dragons are here to stay - whatever that means.

Spider-Hound Murder Coverup!

The Hound of the Downs, the massive, large-fanged creature that ravished the countryside was actually a spider! According to our distinguished investigator Aethelred, a team of four including representatives of the Azraelite and Crofterite Churches were sent to kill the beast. Despite our new laws murdered the bloodthirsty beast even once they saw it was a graceful, beautiful spider. According to our laws the spider, a fellow sentient being should have at least had a fair trial to decide its punishment.

Did they at least bring back the body in a thoughtful and respectful manner? No, according to our sources the head was cut off at the scene and brought back as proof. Where is the head now you ask? Burned! The Scouts Guild tried to cover up this atrocity by burning the remains.

We will pay for the names of those who killed the innocent (until proven guilty) creature.

Nine Ladies Dying!

A local gathering of the Brighthelm Women's Book Club turned into one of the bloodiest massacres our fair city has ever seen when their regular Monday night meeting was attacked by a ruthless and brutal murderer.

The scene of brutal carnage was discovered when passers by noticed the window panes of Lady Marjorie Fitzherman's well appointed town house on the corner of Ship Street and Mayview Lane were splattered with blood. The watch were called, and upon forcing entry into the building found all nine members of the book club, including Lady Marjorie herself, had been repeatedly stabbed in the chest, gut and face. One particularly unfortunate victim, who has yet to be identified, was found with the book the group were reading cruelly mashed into her previously delicate face.

Sergeant Ilphrin Despana from the city watch, commented that "all the victims appear to be of noble birth, and many were well known and well loved philanthropists - it's hard to imagine why anyone would want to kill such lovely ladies". The Sergeant was quick to rule out the possibility of an Orcmunculi attack "though the murders were certainly brutal, the killer clearly used a weapon, and with skilled precision - and besides, Orcmunculi don't write messages in their victims blood".

Those the watch declined to comment further, our skilled and dedicated journalists uncovered the truth behind the sergeants cryptic words. Written on a mirror in the gore of the victims, were the simple words "DEATH TO SORDAN". Clearly, the psychopath responsible for this deprave act believe the innocent victims to be cultists of the forbidden God.

Who is this man - a righteous hero cleansing the world of evil? Or a dangerously unhinged vigilante murdering innocent ladies? Where the book club really Sordanites, or was this a tragic case of mistaken identity? One thing is clear - the culprit is still at large, and it is only a matter of time before he strikes again.