
Word of the World

Published by P.O.V. Press

Issue No. 1109

THE BEST SOURCE OF NEWS, RUMOURS, LEADS AND CURIOSITIES

Welcome once again, dear reader, to another issue of Word of the World.

This issue we have advertisements as always and some interesting news from around the region. In this issue you will read about philanthropy, necromancy, rare eggs, a grand opening, an expedition, mysterious paintings, a challenge to heroes, a strange letter and more!

If you would like to sell us a story, write for Word of the World, or if you wish to purchase space in our next issue, please contact editor-in-chief Trent Hawkins.

CHAMPIONS OF CHARITY

A local anonymous philanthropist known only as 'D' has come up with a terribly good idea. Fliers have appeared in taverns calling for heroes, nobles and commoners alike to champion causes close to their hearts.

D asks that these Champions spread word of their causes and rather than giving their time or money toward them, offer a reward for others that do so.

Champion-fever has hit several settlements, with Champions staging plays, sharing recipes and composing unique songs for any who will support their causes.

Anyone can get involved, so seek out a local Champion and support their cause, or become a Champion yourself and spread the word.

WANTED: VERANI & FINCH

Shipping mogul Dela Verani, co-owner of the Verani & Finch Shipping Company is wanted for questioning as a person of interest in connection with crimes of smuggling, murder, desecration of the dead and necromancy. She is a woman in her early thirties with dark red hair, average height and a runner's build. Caution is advised.

Following the death of several dock workers it has come to light that Verani & Finch shipments have been used to transport preserved remains and other potentially infectious items of necromantic nature.

Jonas Finch, Verani's business partner, was recently reported killed in a landslide at the Gullcap Cliffs, though his body was never recovered.

Please pass along any information relating to this case to Guard Captain Theo Velasco.

FOR SALE: RARE EGGS

For sale: three eggs, two hand spans long each. One with leathery shell, dark brown with orange speckles, warm to the touch. One with crystalline shell, clear blue; appears to be something inside. One with apparently wooden shell, intricate knots, sometimes moves when left in rain. Found washed up after king tide.

Will trade for a sturdy riding animal plus tack and feed. All eggs must stay together.

WILD HUNT: GRAND OPENING

Catering to unique tastes, the long awaited Wild Hunt is now open. Come and experience the Laughing Knave's own hunting grounds where time flies, the only law is fae and nothing is off limits. We offer the most unique hunting experience available, able to procure any and all prey, including unique individuals on request. Once you join the Wild Hunt, you'll never want to leave.

EXPEDITION UNDER THE ARCHIVES

Bodyguards, trackers and arcanists wanted for journey into newly uncovered region found beneath the Benthor Archives. I cannot share too much information with just anyone, but suffice to say that even though Benthor is in the countryside, those familiar with jungle environs will be a great asset to my team. Be aware that this will be a perilous but enlightening expedition. I don't doubt that our names will go down in the history books for this one. Guards have been stationed at the Archives to prevent thieves. Please talk to them for appointments. Payment negotiable.

BLANK CANVAS Baffles LOCAL ARTIST, AUTHORITIES

Local artist Liam O'Brien is known for his incredibly life-like portraits of infamous historical and well-known figures. Now, it seems, his paintings have taken on a life of their own.

"They're missing. Just gone" said O'Brien. "I came in this morning and they were all... empty". Initially, authorities took this report to be of a simple theft, until O'Brien insisted they see his studio loft for themselves. Upon arrival the authorities witnessed dozens of paintings of backdrops but with no subjects.

"The paint is dry. This has to be some kind of sick joke. But... my signature is on all of them. It's not like the subjects could have just up and left the paintings" O'Brien told authorities.

Among the missing paintings are portraits of serial killer Dr. Ricard Slade, infamous thief Jerren Nine-Lives, and even the dreaded Lady Sorchen Vale, the Blood Queen.

O'Brien is offering a monetary reward and an existing or newly painted portrait to anyone providing solid information about the apparent theft.

CHALLENGE TO "HEROES"

Attention "heroes". You know who you are. That's right. It's me. I'm back and I'm calling you out. Meet me at Hangman's Rock on the next full moon, at midnight. Let's settle this.

URGENT: LINGUISTS NEEDED

Skilled linguist desperately needed at the old red house on the west hill outside town. I have stumbled upon a strange seashell of horrid curls and spines. It whispers to me. It doesn't stop. I can still write, thank goodness, but my tongue has swelled and from it comes nothing but a tumbling gibberish. I cannot control it. I can no longer speak my native tongue. My ears itch terribly. I believe a rash is starting. My daughter has started to speak as I now do. I fear that it will soon spreanado. Plaesi cusoin geiusickly. Plaesi! [sic]

MISCREANTS & MISHAPS

Guards request information about the recent mishaps and mechanical failures around town that have started since the beginning of the preparations for the Dance of the Sun. The Old Mill malfunctioned, maiming miller Sam Dowd. The gates have been opening at night with no operator interaction. Incidents of crossbows jamming or misfiring have greatly increased.

Please pass further information to Ada Brin, but any further reports of gremlins or other such nonsense will not be tolerated. This is a serious matter.

RELICS OF ADVENTURE

Garments and gear of a long lost well-known adventuring party have begun turning up. Last month a pair of boots belonging to the woodsman of the party sold at auction in Ferrinvale. Shortly after, reports came in of the buyer talking to animals, climbing trees and speaking about a "great evil" that she must confront, before wandering off into the wild.

Other gear the party were known for include the arcanist's robe, the warrior's helm, the thief's cloak and the holy woman's symbol.

Anyone discovering such items for sale should proceed with caution and report any strange changes in personality to the guards.

NIGHTMARE IN NORTHAVEN

Chaos has engulfed the usually sleepy town of Northaven. Is this a case of mass hysteria or some potent hallucinatory plague like the Shimmering of thirty years past?

Reports have come back of nightmare beasts stalking the streets and sleepers waking with memories not their own. Other townsfolk babble about shared dreams and some are sure the entire world is simply a dream, but whose?

Tragically, some townsfolk have died in their sleep, reportedly from strange injuries, though the town is in such chaos that very few guards have been able to make it in and come back in a state fit to report. Anyone who can help, please try, but be careful and don't fall asleep.
