

## LEAD RESEARCHER FOUND DEAD

By Helene Killbatch  
Staff Writer

A prominent researcher by the name of Sigmund Finston was found murdered in his home last week, in what appears to be a targeted assassination.

Finston, 34, was discovered by a friend early Tuesday morning. Finston was allegedly going to transfer his research on the Cult of the Eye, a group from the World With No Shadow, to a more public area. A member of the Unity Party investigated the scene, stating that nothing of interest and no clues could be found.

“We have found nothing that would indicate a motive for this killing,” reported the representative Thursday afternoon. “We

estimate the time of death was sometime early Tuesday morning. The body of Mr Finston was punctured by two arrows to the back of his spine, killing him instantly. As of this moment in the investigation, we have found no signs of struggle, or forceful entry into Mr Finston’s home.”

“This might simply be a case of mistaken identity, or a random attack.”

Sources report that Finston, who had a fascination with the culture of the World With No Shadow, had been collecting information for over a year. According to these same sources, it appears his research was left untouched by the assassin, as were his personal belongings. Scholars from the Peaceful Republic and the World With No Shadow have both con-

firmed that his research was detailed, but not in any way groundbreaking.

“It’s a shame. He was such a nice guy,” quoted the friend who found Finston, who chose to remain anonymous. “He didn’t have any enemies, never gambled or took loans, nothing. I don’t know who would have wanted to kill him over such boring research. It’s a real pity.”

Anyone with any knowledge of the assassin is encouraged to contact the News and Views and will remain anonymous. As of the publishing of this article, Finston’s research will be donated to the Hierarchs of the Outpost, with a copy being kept at the Peaceful Republic.

The Unity Party, current leaders of the

Peaceful Republic, have declined to comment on any further investigative plans. This came as no surprise as the Unity Party has continued to remain quiet after their initial takeover of the Peaceful Republic.



The recovered murder weapons.

## WHO WILL LEAD THE BARRIO?

By Magenta Geel  
Staff Writer

Political turmoil grips the Barrio in the wake of the death of its leader, the late Diego Doctor. Diego, who’s remains were found strewn across the front steps of his laboratory, had led the Barrio for several years in a relative peace, even through the economic hardships that struck the settlement time after time. While usual political procedure would designate a second in command as the new default leader, a lack of that position has led to several different factions vying for the title.

“What we are going to see here is packs,” states resident Political Discord expert Shintagi Myar. “Each pack will select a leader, and that leader will campaign for the position of Alpha, or leader, of the Barrio.”

As of this article, two main contenders for the Alpha position have expressed interest, both Chimaira. We at the News and Views have yet to learn of any Children or Y-2 who will attempt to take control.

“These proceedings can be formal and tame, or very bloody,” explains Myar, “and

right now it looks like bloodshed will be the result. It would take some serious influence to prevent the infighting and chaos already building here.”

But what of Convergence, a community known for exerting diplomatic influence over the other settlements, especially the Barrio?

“Given their history with the Barrio, it might be better if Convergence just stay away for the time being,” advises Myar, “There are still some lingering bad feelings about economic punishments, and with tensions high, the claws will be out.”

We will keep you updated as this political confusion continues.



The late Diego Doctor.

## THE ARENA EXCITES FANS

By Lance Velvet  
Head Writer

Once a simple area for matched combat, recent events at The Arena have propelled the attraction to a much more popular status.

Attendees last week were treated to a stunning show of pyrotechnics and performance art as a strange figure hovered above a dazzling fight. At the conclusion of the battle, all but one of the remaining combatants erupted into a cleverly-misdirecting ball of flame, no doubt escaping into the tunnels below quickly. The lone survivor then ascended to meet the floating man, and both were gone in a flash of light.

“I’ve never seen anything like that!” exclaimed one excited attendee, “This place has been decent before, but if they keep that up, I’m never missing a show again.”

“It was exciting and dramatic, but tasteful,” mused a traveler from the Meeting House, “I have heard rumor that they will incorporate trained Elebears in the next production. I will endeavor not to be absent.”

Rumors swirl that the management of The Arena are now seeking both skilled warriors and performers who should report for demonstrations as soon as possible. It’s apparent that anyone who steps foot in The Arena will gain a significant boost in exposure.

## Monarchies Travelers Go Missing

By Lance Velvet  
Head Writer

Reports have come in of people gone missing, hailing from the Four Monarchies. Earlier this month, a team of three explorers were reported missing several days after a routine patrol. Five days later, a man reported his wife and her friend had never returned home after walking to a nearby stream.

While records of attacks and missing people are common in this place, these reports are unique in that no trace has been found of any struggle with any of the missing persons, nor has any ransom note or information been received by the impacted parties.

Contacts within the Green Sash Army have stated that these missing people are a cause for concern, and will increase patrol areas around any settlements with large Monarchy populations. A representative from the Unity Party, the currently controlling force at the Peaceful Republic, declined to comment on the missing persons, but advised that they would not be working in collaboration with the Green Butt Army in any capacity.

Anyone with any information about these cases is urged to contact the News and Views as soon as possible.

# Convergence: Not So Bad After All: An Editorial

By Mallory St. Eldritch  
*Political Editor*

In the interest of journalistic integrity, it is my somewhat cumbersome but in this case relieving duty to amend my statements in a previous editorial in regards to the settlement of Convergence. After a more thorough reexamination of sources, it seems that a number of the troubling incidents previously reported showed the settlement in a better light when expanded context

was considered.

In particular, the potentially disastrous and unnecessary conflict with the Brimstone Lodge being stoked by the more hotheaded members of the township was instead handled with temperance and steady diplomacy by Mayor Constance. Rather than provoke hostilities with Mister Scratch, the longstanding promoter of peace and economic harmony across the Fracture, Madame Mayor elected to negotiate a formal al-

liance of mutual cooperation and benefit with the Buttstone Lodge and its Master.

Sources inside the Lodge report that, in a move of unparalleled prudence, Mayor Constance agreed that relations with the Lodge should take precedent over any alliance with factions hostile to the Lodge and Soul Merchants in general. What effect this will have on the reported upcoming negotiations with between Convergence and the Iron

Circle is unknown, but it is hoped that Convergence will abide by its leaders wisdom and stick to agreements made with peaceful allies over the warmongering passions of the notoriously racist Iron Circle.

It seems that, despite earlier troubling indications, the township of Convergence has turned a corner and is now on track to being a model community amongst the encampments of the Fracture.

## Division Among Hobo Population Creates Confusion

By Rich Lowtacks  
*Political Pundit*

In a group rarely given the benefit of proper diplomatic courtesy, in-fighting can only add to an already confusing situation. For instance, the Hobo population, for the most part, claim to follow (or at least revere) a deity figure known as 'Pail Meg'. However, that has recently changed, as a small group of Hobos has been claiming that they will shun the influence of Pail Meg, removing themselves from the larger population. Sources report this divide has caused some violence in the Hobo 'camps', and that tensions have risen in areas where Hobo

populations are greater, such as the roads between settlements.

In this reporter's professional opinion, these sort of 'natural selection' processes are important to a healthy society. This Pail Meg, who can be assumed to be a divine symbol of bounty (hence the pail overflowing with food), is clearly a fanciful myth by a people who are far too comfortable with their own status as vagrants. While it would never be my intention to incite violence in any group, these early signs of rebellion point to a much larger chance that the Hobo people could be redeemed into productive members of society.



I urge those of you reading this, if you are the type that supports free-loading drifters, to seriously consider which side of the fight you are placing yourself on: the side of vagabond complacency, or the side of progress?

*A drawing of the Pail Meg, recovered from a Hobo camp.*

## Man in White Destroys Caravan

By Akil Osrius  
*Staff Writer*

A caravan containing items such as wands and magical components was destroyed by a man in white two weeks ago in what could only be described as 'a whirlwind of arcane power'.

"We had no idea what hit us," stated Tun-tun Summershape, an Academy student who was traveling with the shipment when it was attacked, "At first he didn't say anything, just held out his hands and the entire caravan started to sway back and forth violently. Next thing I know, there's lightning everywhere, the driver is vomiting violently, and the guards had been frozen in place.

Summershape claims that while those who tried to stop the man were disarmed and injured, the man seemed to pay little attention to him.

"I did what anyone sane would have done: I hid behind a wagon. I'm no warrior. That guy stomped past me twice but didn't even look at me."

According to Summershape, the only survivor, the man broke open several containers as if he was looking for something. Finally, he destroyed a small box containing air wands, and left the scene.

"It was so surreal. I don't know what he was looking for, but I guess breaking those wands was good enough for him. I'm just glad he didn't explode me."

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### Heard Around The World

*Things we've heard that are not story worthy...yet!*

*This section does not follow the strict rules for accuracy exemplified in the rest of this publication.*

"Four of them, two blue and two red. Kept trying to get us to play some game involving bringing a flag to another flag. We left."

"Looked like this whole grove of green grass next to a lake. I saw a few small tents but got lost trying to get closer. Twice."

"If he keeps being noseey he'll find out. That's life, that's the Barrio."

"They offered to take us to the next settlement, even though Kulki had that Malefaction from that sword-thing. Nice guys. A little preachy."

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