

CIVILIZATION SURVIVES



By JJ Schedel
Staff Writer

Beginning with the horrific destruction of the Meeting House by an alien army of marauders, much of the surrounding areas felt the pains of warfare at their doors.

Called the Flamesworn, the creatures that attacked nearly every settlement were humanoid in features, but certainly malicious in nature. Though not skilled martially, their seemingly endless numbers overwhelmed many outlying settlers, forcing them behind the walls and guards of the larger civilizations. Thankfully, some early warnings from various citizens of Convergence allowed the notified settlements to steel their defenses, preventing what could have been a catastrophic sneak attack.

“What we saw was not on par with any of the other threats here,” spoke Corporal Kendro Masahiro, a prominent member of the Green Sash Force. The GSF, created several years ago as a non-aligned,

peacekeeping organization, enlisted the help of hundreds of residents in repelling the attack.

“This was an attack on multiple settlements from an enemy that had prior knowledge of our locations,” Corporal Masahiro continued, “No other threat has been that coordinated or that devoted.”

Though initial casualty reports are still to be determined, intervention on the behalf of the less war inclined settlements came from a surprising amount of coalition forces. Some of which, eyewitnesses said, extended past long-held grudges.

“I’m not about to start planting flowers in fresh soil, but I will admit I was surprised to see the Iron Circle here,” spoke Barquial O., a prominent Soul Merchant businessman at the Brimstone Lodge. “We have been sorely lacking strong leadership for a while here, and without a deluge of fighters we could have been easily swamped under. But when those fine Iron Circle gentlemen showed up to help us fight, I was inclined to accept their help.

Past transgressions fade out when faced with a new cataclysm.”

Though all settlements have now reported successful defenses against the Flamesworn, two have yet to be reached for official statement: the newly formed capital of the Unity Party, and the Prisoner’s Outpost. Both have abstained from contact before, though outside observers claim that neither settlement appears to have suffered much external damage. With overwhelming successes in areas such as the Burnt Stockade and the Stone Circle, officials are daring to call this a successful battle.

“We survived, and we pushed the enemy back. There have not been reports of Flamesworn in weeks,” claimed Coporal Masahiro. “We’ve shown that, in times of need, every settlement can contribute to our survival.”

“Now we’re ready for whatever happens next.”

The Barrio Endures An Exodus

By Lance Velmet
Lead Writer

Over the last month, a disturbing trend has been noted at the Barrio: multiple Y-2s have left the settlement, leaving their belongings and personal effects behind. Investigations of each missing person have, so far, turned up no signs of foul play.

“It’s as if they simply walked off,” one anonymous source was quoted as saying at the scene of an abandoned home, “That guy lived here for a year, he made little toys for the Children. I don’t see why he would leave, he’s not the type to survive on his own at all. In fact, I’m pretty worried he isn’t doing well.”

To date, seven Y-2s hailing from the Magnolia Archipelago have vanished, and in each case, there are no signs of struggle. Also in each case: no warning, even to close friends and family.

“One or two, that could be considered a fluke, or maybe a kidnapping,” speaks Shintagi Myar, Sociology Expert. He goes on to explain that in mass evacuations like this, there is almost always a link between the missing persons. In this case, he notes, they are all a particular design of person, hailing from a particular homeworld.

“Chances are, we’ll see something come up soon that reveals what exactly connected them all,” Myar

continued, “If I had to guess, it would probably be some long-dormant programming, finally coming to life. As this seems to be specifically limited to the Y-2, we can rule out something stemming from the Magnolia in its entirety. “

No Y-2s were available for comment at the time of this article, as Barrio officials and guards have placed the remaining numbers under careful watch. The News and Views will continue to follow up on this strange story as it develops.

IS CONVERGENCE TO BLAME?

By Rich Lowtax

Staff Writer

The following article is intended to be an opinion piece, and does not represent the stance of the News and Views.

Sure, Convergence warned us all of the attacks of the Flamesworn, magical monsters that crumble to black dust when killed. And sure, they claim to have defended us from an even bigger threat, which sadly, or purposely, none of our own reporters was there to witness. But when all the facts are laid bare and the vantage point of history is made, will we see that the ‘savior’ town of Convergence is the real threat?

I’m simply asking everyone to look at the facts. Convergence has taken the lead in diplomacy with

otherworldly entities, cosmic powers, and even the underwater dwellers that outdate us all. Sure, they invite others to the table for this, but do we really know what decisions are being made?

To clarify, and in the interest of my self-preservation, I am not accusing our esteemed owner of any ill-will towards the rest of us. In fact, having worked with her for months, I can easily assume that she is being left out of these life-changing decisions on the regular. And of course, if you were in the business of making rash decisions that influence countless lives, why would you involve someone who actually had the ability to spread that information?

I think this is a sign of a bigger problem: Convergence only informs us, the general public, of what they are doing when it’s about to kill us. While I have no

substantial proof of this, I have received a very trustworthy tip that the good citizens of Convergence knew for MONTHS that this horrible Flamesworn army was appearing soon. IN fact, they apparently knew so well that they were able to prepare defenses, formulate plans, and do countless research into the threat...and yet, as the burning wreckage of the Meeting House will attest, they only deemed to tell us at the last minute.

What’s the solution here? Surely not more ‘coalitions’ and ‘leagues’ and other secret clubs only open to a select few (hand-picked by Convergence, of course). How many more secret threats does Convergence know about, only to warn us of at the last moment? How many lives could be saved if we knew as soon as they did what was coming?

Surely something to think about.

CONVERGENCE MOURNS SAMMIE, A BRIGHT LIGHT SNUFFED OUT

By Lydia Banks

Owner and CFO

Good friends are hard to find and impossible to forget.

One spooky night the town of Convergence had the honor of meeting a Child named Samantha, but her friends all called her ‘Sammie.’ On the second day of Convergence’s gathering, we lost Sammie to a derelict house filled with terrifying creatures. This house was

mistaken for a Spooky Haunted House, but this was not the case. Sammie was a free spirited Child who mostly stayed in the Barrio, but was visiting Convergence for the first time to celebrate Spooktober. As she was trick-or-treating she found the house that was soon visited again by her and a small group. She, along with the others, believed the house to be filled with actors frightfully jumping out from the dark corners of the room and gruesomely attacking each other. The reality was that this was a place of malevolent intentions, a trap

crafted to torment an innocent Prole from the Academy Arcane who was saved by the group that visited. In the process we also lost our friend. We mourn the loss of Sammie; we were unable to save her.

If you have any information on who may have set up this house of horrors, seemingly a cruel and dangerous ‘prank’, please submit your information to Lydia of Convergence. Information that leads to finding these ‘pranksters’ will be compensated.

CONCERT REVIEW: JOHNNY EROS

By Magenta Geel

Staff Writer

When I stepped into the refugee camp organized for survivors of the Flamesworn attacks, I did not expect to find much more than a few huts and tents, crammed full of the homeless. What I found, however, was a crowd of eager listeners, waiting expectantly for their musical champion to take the stage. Though the crowd was small, their fervor was high.

What happened next was an explosion of lights, sounds, smells, and near-otherworldly experiences, wrapped into a stage performance that can only be described as ‘ambitious’. Taking the stage amidst an barrage of pyrotechnics and smoke, Johnny Eros commands attention. Truly, in a place of poverty and despair, Eros’ show stands out as much as a flamboyant Soul Merchant could. His music, a clear mixture hailing from

his travels across the cosmos, easily cut through the screaming fans, whipping them into a frenzy.

After a select few numbers touching on the existential qualities of life, death, and everything in between, Eros lead into the more somber, ballad filled second act, encouraging the crowd to sing along. Though it appeared that a few observers knew the lyrics to his songs, most seemed content to attempt to mouth them along, chiming in with the last word of each verse loudly.

Wrapping up the hour long show with a blistering finale involving extras dressed as strange creatures, Johnny ended the concert with the admirable claim that most of the proceeds of the show were going to help rebuild the Meeting House, where many of the refugees had hailed from. Though his particular style may not be this reviewer’s ‘cup of tea’ it’s hard to imagine a more generous motion to make in front of the displaced crowd.

After the concert, I had the chance to speak with Lulu-Ann Farmer, a young lady hailing from the Fen, who was wearing a crudely-drawn shirt with a picture of Eros’ face scrawled across it.

“His music just makes me feel better, you know?” Farmer spoke wistfully, “Terrible things keep happening to us, but when I’m watching him perform, it all goes away.”

At this point, an unnamed friend of Farmer was heard to scream out ‘take my soul Johnny’ at the musician as he packed his gear. The remaining crowd laughed, despite the darker implications of such a statement. Farmer was not phased.

“He’s just a nice guy, you know? You can tell.”

MURDER IN CONVERGENCE

By Rita Ripley

Freelance Writer

We expected some friction to form between Detective Wolfe of the newly created Inter-Settlement Crime Taskforce (ICT) and the media when we went to the scene of a somewhat gruesome crime. During the end of the year, right before the massacre orchestrated by an entity known as the Guardian, a man was found murdered. The ICT wasn’t particularly worried about the crime. When asked for a quote, the lead detective stated: “Even though this is an open investigation the murderer left evidence that will lead to his arrest ... we should have this solved quickly.” The person who committed the crime was apparently trying to make a statement, although whatever that was supposed to be was overshadowed by a sloppy scene. Though the official medical examiner refused to comment, witnesses described a grisly scene; the body displayed and staged in an amateur fashion.

This crime isn’t the first time serial killers have been identified in the fracture. Several other reports show

that besides the usual amount of murders, there are some self-proclaimed artists of death, displaying their ‘artwork’ for the world to see. Many have not been caught, as there has never truly been an organized authority until after the League of Free Townships’ creation of the ICT. There have been murderers who string their victims up into trees, displaying their innards for the world to see; another, a female killed by a member of Convergence, would skillfully carve out bits of victims, although it is not known what she did with them after that as there is no record of them being found; another would kidnap the innocent and transform their bodies into something half living, half dead, inevitably leading to their deaths. There was even an influx of masked assailants working together, kidnapping people from settlements with only the intention to kill them. Murder is nothing new to the fracture, as people die in terrible ways almost daily, but there is something about a serial murderer who leaves behind their destroyed victims that still shocks and terrifies us. This latest killer, however, shouldn’t terrorize us for long. Detective Wolfe and the ICT have assured us that this will be handled swiftly and efficiently.

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.**

“Heard that wagon is still out there. No idea where though.”

“Can’t say I understood half of what they guy was talking about, but he has some really weird stuff for sale. Think he needs to buy a cart, though.”

“I hear they’re trying to get a boat built. A boat! Like this place isn’t bad enough, lets just sail off in a random direction and get eaten over there.”

“Said her vision was starting to go and that she felt hungry all the time. I’m glad that doctor showed up, shes doing a lot better now.”

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