

# THE IRON CITY POST-INTELLIGENCER

No. 2  
VOL. V



**FREE**

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AN INDEPENDENT SUBSIDIARY OF THE LIRIA POST INTELLIGENCER., LTD.

## AROUND TOWN

### IRON CITY CRIME REPORT

BY INTERIM CONSTABLE DETECTIVE AC MORTMAINE

Several incidents of bandits operating under the guise of "Home Inspectors" have been reported. These men have been cited at early hours of the morning demanding entrance to inspect Iron City homes for illicit goods. When asked for proper search warrants, they became violent. These men are not under the jurisdiction of any government body, and they should be apprehended and brought to the constable force if they attempt to further this activity. A reward is personally being offered for their capture. A recent scuffle at a farm on the outskirts of town has led to the death of a farm hand and severe injuries to two other innocent men. The alleged attackers are still undergoing sentencing, but have not been formally incarcerated. As a note: in the future, please reconsider murdering civilians. Several stock certificates and a large amount of queens were stolen from the First Bank of Iron City. "It's a real tragedy," said owner Jacques-Henri Mirabaud. "With such a collection of certificates, someone would illegally manipulate the market values of stocks!" The queens were recovered by daring Iron City residents, but the certificates are still at large. Any information on the whereabouts should be brought to Mr. Mirabaud at once. Another missing child has been reported. We really must capture this heathen before he strikes again. Any information shall be remitted to Mr Church, my assistant in this matter.

### TUBERCULOSIS OUTBREAK CONFIRMED IN IRON CITY

BY AMELIA LEBEAU STAFF REPORTER

No fewer than three confirmed cases of Tuberculosis have been reported in the Iron City area. Three travelers were spotted displaying symptoms and quickly quarantined away. Testing revealed that they were all in the very advanced stages of the disease, and must have begun their journey not yet displaying symptoms. It is believed that they were escaping one of the infected cities in hopes of evading the disease, it is requested in light of this that in any city where there are cases of the disease that people do not leave, as they could unwittingly transfer the disease like these three travelers. Orpha rest their souls. Any other citizens with symptoms should report them to military or academy physicians at once.

### KIDNAPPED WOMAN RESCUED

BY DR. VERITY NORTH

Concerned citizens of Iron City, along with select servicewomen of the Lirian Military, staged a daring raid on an abandoned workshop last month. Receiving information from an undisclosed source, the citizens investigated the darkened structure, finding a crazed man and two male accomplices holding a young lady hostage. In a valiant battle, the accomplices were killed and the kidnapper subdued, though it is believed that he made his escape during the fracas. The young woman (who has requested to remain nameless) was given medical treatment on site and

returned to her family in Copperbrook. She is expected to make a full recovery. Any connection between this abduction and the exploits of Gregor the Organist is yet unknown, though lines of inquiry are being made



### UNSEEMLY FRACAS BREAKS OUT AT CHARITY AUCTION

BY SCOTT O'MALLEY STAFF REPORTER

Two Lirian Women were unable to contain their fervor for one of the Bachelors on the auction block during last months successful charity auction. Lady Felicity Merriweather, of Hemsteadshire, and Countess E.S. Butterman of Liria City are seen here being torn apart by the courageous efforts of Lt. M. Cragswagger. The two women made a grand spectacle of bludgeoning the other with their parasols when the bidding escalated beyond their means.

## AROUND TALUS

### ENCYCLOPEDIA LIRINICA 2793 EDITION RELEASED TO INSTITUTIONS

BY ERNEST LAWSLEY, STAFF REPORTER

Professor Agnes Rumbold Swift, director of publication at the Lirian Academy of History and Warfare, confirmed that the decade long Encyclopedia Lirinica project will be released to Libraries, Universities, and Lower Educational Institutions throughout Talus this summer. Pre-orders of the twenty volume set have reached well over two thousand copies. Said Professor Swift, "I have worked much of my professional career in shepherding this masterpiece. I believe that the availability of knowledge to all those who seek it is a paramount concern for our world today. The written word not only changes minds, it can change the world and how we perceive it." Professor Swift noted that in the next few months she will be recruiting scholars of note to work on the next iteration of the Encyclopedia - focus being on faster production and inserting up-to-date and current events into the historical log.

### LIRIAN MILITARY WINS KEY VICTORY

BY JUSTINE WHITTAKER, STAFF REPORTER

The Lirian military has stuck a decisive victory in the ongoing war with the Jhandihar nation. General Prescott, in command of 1000 Lirian troops, moved in upon Jhandihari troops numbering close to 800, and 500 of the enemy combatants were killed in the resulting attack. The remainder has been taken as prisoner. This signals a strong movement in favor of the Lirian push into Jhandihar. When reached for comment, General Prescott stated that the victory was made possible because of key intelligence gathering that allowed the Lirian military to discover

the Jhandihari troop movements in advance.

### KRIEGAN DOOMSDAY CLOCK DRAWS THOUSANDS - SUICIDES INCREASE

BY ERNEST LAWSLEY, STAFF REPORTER

Pilgrims to the Doomsday Clock continue to arrive in the Kriegan town of West Harbor, swelling the temporary encampment around the structure to nearly twelve hundred at last count. Suicide has become a common occurrence. While dozens have hung themselves from the highest levels of the construction, local authorities have been met with strong resistance in the removal of the deceased. On condition of anonymity, a local officer reported bizarre behavior amongst the gathered masses. "They'll stand there for hours, starin' up at the clock face. When I pulled one of 'em away he said 'I hear the beating of the heart, the drum of the world, the ticking of the clock toward the end.' I never been so terrified in my life." A request for peace keeping assistance has been sent to Liria City. The Doomsday clock was erected by a collective of Kriegan artisans nearly nine months ago and allegedly counts down the time toward World's End, midnight, mid-year, 2794.

### EXCHANGE RATES

#### ALL PRICES IN QUEENS OZ.

ALDER (LA).....	0.31
EMIR (JE).....	1.04
EMPEROR (XE).....	0.03
KAISER (DK).....	0.09

### FINANCIAL CORNER

#### BULL MARKET IN LIRIA:

Propelled by the sudden release by the Academy of Cartography, Navigation, and Buoyant Craft's new prototype Mark IV Airship Engine, the stock market plunged forward, erasing any thoughts of downward momentum and yielding great rewards for investors. "It is my hope that, with this new engine, we will thrust Liria into a new and greater age," remarked Reginald Bartlett, the inventor of the miraculous new engine and Dean of the Academy.

### DORNHAM TEAS BOILS OVER:

Contrasting most investor expectations, Dornham Royal Teas' stock price skyrocketed this month, despite no news of any relevance from the company itself. "We suspect there may be some manipulation of the market going on by speculators," stated Clifford Walsingburg, a Vice President at the National Bank of Liria. "We will be keeping our eye on any further unexpected movements, and the broker whose stocks caused this shift will be severely punished."

### FRATHINGHAM NEEDS RETOOLING:

In a blow to Frathingham Tool and Leather, the specifications for the new Mark IV Airship engine utilizes a new method of construction that leaves their tools obsolete. Stocks plunged on the news, leaving Frathingham behind in the overall bull market. "We'll fix this," vowed Winchester Mark, the senior engineer.

### INTO THE SKIES:

4th Age Shipyards reaped the greatest benefit of the bull market in Liria, as its stock price leaped ahead. Brokers across Talus are recommending buy, buy, buy! on this greatly demanded stock.

### BANK SCANDAL PAYS DIVIDENDS:

While news that the First Bank of Iron City may have been robbed has come at great embarrassment for its young founder, Jacques-Henri Mirabaud, the greater Mirabaud empire is happily picking up the benefits of having to recapitalize the fledgling operation. "I'll sell my son a new load of stock certificates every week, for these profits," remarked Girard Mirabaud, the bank President. His son, the owner of the First Bank of Iron City, struck a different tone. "Until these thieves are caught, who knows what kind of damage they could cause? The market could be manipulated at will, and investors could not select stocks with confidence!" The First Bank of Iron City has offered a 50 QOz reward for any information that leads to the return of the missing certificates.

### AN APOLOGY

The Staff of the ICPI would like to take a moment to apologize for an article that appeared in the spring edition. In the article "Shocking Statistics" it was implied that Dr. Cragswagger of Liria was responsible for the deaths of two patients. We would like to officially retract that statement, after it has come to light that the deaths of the two citizens, while they did occur directly following the implantations, were not the cause of faulty medical attention. Constable reports now indicate a suspect in both of the implantation deaths who was seeking out the secrets of the advanced technology by forcibly prying it out of their bodies, whose name is being withheld until apprehension.

## STOCK LISTINGS

LATEST QUOTES PROVIDED COURTESY OF DAWKINS & EMBERWELL BROKERAGE.

ALL PRICES LISTED IN QOZ UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

### Equity Market

	Price/Brokers Recommendation
D&E Composite Index .....	21.28
Dornham Royal Teas (DRT).....	19.31Buy
Lirian Steamship & Foundry (LSF).....	43.48Sell
Amalgamated Coal & Galvacite (ACG).....	13.62Hold
Yoban Agricultural (YA).....	28.56Hold
Farthingham Tool & Leather (FTL).....	7.55Sell
National Bank of Liria (NBL).....	16.21Buy
Royal Tonics & Distilling (RTS) .....	10.40Hold
Northern Railway & Locomotive (NRL) .....	71.48Hold
United Lirian Textile (ULT).....	14.95Buy
First Galvanic & Semaphore (FGS).....	21.65Hold
Bosswink and Bosswink Assay & Mining (BBM).....	9.81Sell
Fourth Age Shipyards (FAS).....	24.62Buy
Hoffmaster Catalog Corporation (HOF).....	15.96Hold
Gandalou Company (GAN).....	19.11JESell
Mirabaud Bank and Trust (MIR).....	98.09LAHold
Sebor Airship Design and Lift (SDL).....	26.30LASEll
Artemis Industries Inc (ART).....	0.37DKSell

THE ICPI IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR TALENTED REPORTERS!  
SEND SUBMISSIONS TO OUR NEW EDITOR DR. TEMPERANCE DARBY

**NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS  
BIGGER THAN EVER**

By ROBERT ARTHUR, STAFF REPORTER  
Field Marshall Trelane will be hosting the **Annual Pancake Day Eating Contest and Pancake race**, in celebration of the turning of the New Year.

**The Lirian Benevolence Societies Charity Review** will be hosted at a special early time of 1:00PM on New Years Eve. Anyone with talent, be it vocal, comedic, instrumental, is encouraged to get up on stage!  
Captain Descolace, the Bosswinks, and the Hoffmasters will be sponsoring an **afternoon of field games and merriment**; tickets earned for victories at the games can be exchanged for items, or a chance at *something else*, which is sure to delight.

**The New Years Bonfire** will be held late on New Years Eve, with celebratory toasts at Midnight.

**THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT  
BY JASPER "SPIDER" INGRAM**

When I was a young lad, my dad took me to my first carnival. It was like entering another world; a strangely beautiful planet bursting with garish costumes, clamorous music, and an air of mystery. Painted canvas posters boasted of bearded ladies, snake charmers, mind readers, and many other things I never dreamed were possible. The teaser acts in front of the tents offered hints of the magic waiting beyond, for a price. For me, the fire eaters, roaring animals, and exotic, densely perfumed women, failed to capture my attention as much as the odd little tent labelled "Flea Circus." I convinced my dad that this was the one act that we had to see. Imagine! A circus of trained fleas! My dad paid the money and we took our place as close to the table as possible. However, my excitement quickly became disappointment. Unlike many of my peers, I was too clever for my age. Minute particles of lint, minuscule, hidden springs, incredibly, slender threads, and the ring master's legerdemain were the true stars of this "performance." I couldn't believe how the other children were so easily fooled by such obvious trickery. He was no miraculous animal tamer, but a cheap huckster!  
After the show ended, I was able to get

away from my dad long enough to sneak into the flea circus before the next show. The ring master looked less glamorous as he sat with shirt sleeves rolled up and spooned his hearty stew. I angrily confronted him, pointing out the fraud, and demanding my dad's money back. My dad realizing where I was, rushed in, apologized, and dragged me out, but not before the ring master responded to my accusations. "Lad, it isn't about the 'reality' of the act, it's all about the show." With that he winked and turned back to his dinner.

I stirred restlessly that night recalling the experience. But the more I thought about his words, the less angry I felt. I remembered the delight on the audience's faces. Unlike me, they left that tiny tent, not feeling cheated, but feeling wonderful. As if they got their money's worth. It was in fact, all about the show and not truth. Imagining the entertainments that I would someday present to rapt audiences, I drifted to sleep, feeling that, I too, had gotten my money's worth.

**MUSINGS AND OBSERVATIONS  
BY MADAME PAPILLION**

Bonne Année! Happy New Year, Dear Readers! I hope that 2792 was kind to you all, and that 2793 shows itself to be promisingly perfect. May you find both Health and Happiness in coming months.

Did you know that many cultures across Talus look at the New Year as an opportunity for improving oneself? Personal Resolutions are made (yet, alas, not often kept) to correct unfortunate personality traits and poor habits. I wonder what Resolutions the citizens of our fair Iron City would make if they were honest with themselves (and us all)...

What of Masters Carrington and V? They are two who clearly have a very special ... affection ... for one another. Perhaps the time has come for them to resolve to be open about the nature of their relationship? Honestly, gentlemen, you are fooling no one.

Perhaps the oh-so fabulous Countess Butterman will resolve to take better care of her wardrobe? The lady appears to own two complete sets of clothing, and yet she calls herself "Countess". Why is she even in Iron City? After all, even Detective Mortemaine DeVoe,

while only a mere Lady, manages to appropriately change her attire as often as a hobo sleeps on a bench.

Lastly, we have Mister Thorfinn Blackdeed. While the man boasts incredible physical prowess, he was once bested by the spelling of his own name. Yet, the strength of his body is matched only by the strength of his aroma. Honestly, he overpowers even the pickled Venkess Herring he has been known to bring to "tea". Try soap, Mister Blackdeed, and please resolve to use it regularly for the sakes of us all.

**MASTER PING GHU: IN MEMORIAM  
2717-2792**

By LADY F. MERRIWEATHER  
Master Ping Ghu, son of Ping Wiem, grandfather to Ping Guin, and friend to us all passed on last month at age 95 from complications of a walk gone wrong. After a difficult childhood, brought on by his father's mismanagement of family finances, Ping Ghu found himself married, the head of his household, and highly ambitious in his twenties. Early attempts at published storytelling failed, yet ever the poetic soul, he eventually gained the attention of Emperor Li

Dao, thus earning the title of Master Storyteller at the mere age of 47. The women in his life were less than impressed with the recognition, yet both his wife and mother enjoyed the benefits of an increased income.

As life at home began to grow tedious for Master Ping Ghu, he set out for grand adventures, and eventually settled in Iron City. However, the exact details of these adventures are unknown, as he generally never gave the same rendition twice. Yet, we do know that he eventually encountered Mister Chan, of Noodle Stand fame, and a bitter rivalry ensued. When once asked to comment on the feud, Master Ping Ghu replied that he did not "owe that !@#%&^ anything", and promptly forgot what he had been discussing. Master Ping Ghu leaves behind an estimated 6,000 children (of both legitimate and illegitimate status), and untold numbers of grandchildren across Talus. Here in Iron City, he leaves his beloved wife Elizabeth Merriweather and grandson Ping Guin. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the "Master Ping Ghu Foundation for Undercivilized Peoples...So Basically Everyone Who Is Not Xingsol

## BLACKHAND BRAIN BUSTER

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*Finite Fuses*

You have two lengths of fuse and a lighter. Each one will burn in exactly one hour. They are not necessarily of the same length or width as each other. They are also not of uniform thickness, for instance they may be wider in middle than on the end, thus burning a half length of the fuse is not necessarily a half hour. By burning the fuses, how do you measure exactly forty five minutes worth of time?

*Deadly Doughnuts*

You are given eight cream filled doughnuts. The doughnuts all weigh the same amount except for one which is slightly heavier, and poisoned! Luckily you have a balancing scale at your disposal. As efficiently as possible, how many times do you have to use the scale to guarantee solving this sticky situation?

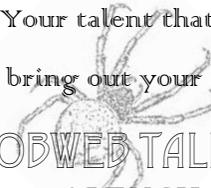
*Wonderful Wine*

You have a delectable twelve liter container of Forge Cask Vineyard wine and two easily offended dignitaries. Unless you give them an equal amount of wine, it could be taken as a slight. You must avoid a diplomatic incident and not waste any precious Forge Cask Vineyard wine, but you only have an eight liter container and a five liter container. How do you resolve this without spilling a drop of remarkable Forge Cask Vineyard wine?

### Expose yourself!

(Your talent that is!)

Let me bring out your inner star!



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be!

**REMEMBER TO TAKE  
PART IN THE**

*Blackhand Brain Buster*

*Challenge!*

**JUST PLACE THE  
CORRECT ANSWERS IN  
THE**

**BLACKHAND BRAIN BOX**

**LOCATED IN THE COG &  
SPROCKET TAVERN FOR  
A CHANCE TO WIN!**

**Classifieds**  
Under civilized and/or illiterate citizens needed. A lady will read to you! See Lt. Fortier for details.

Lab Assistant Needed. Must be versed in Chemistry, Engineering, Herbalism or Traditional Crafting. See Professor Lum.

Councilman's office assistants needed. Excellent note taking, scheduling a plus. See the Town Council for details.

One pair of fuel injected goggles for sale, with simple fuels. Trade accepted. See Detective Mortmaine

*Hoffmaster, the leading purveyor of Luxury  
goods in all of Talus.*

**Madame Asphane**  
Jhāndihārī Förtünē Tëllër & Divinër  
Mādāmē Asphānē is ā trüē māstër öf  
divinātiön ärts fröm äll övër thë wörlð!  
Förtünēs töld: Yöür päs, prësënt, änd futürë  
rëvëälëd!  
Prötëctivë wärdz scrivëñëd!  
Affördäblë rätës.



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PERSONAL LOVE LETTER VIA SECURE POST?

*"He Must not Truly love you."*

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THE GO TO NAME FOR DISCRETION.

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AND THE MAKERS OF SIR MACGUFFINS GAS'O'TRON: EXPLOSIONS YOU CAN DEPEND ON**