

RIVER PIRATES CAUGHT!

Fiery Battle on the Gressia

By VALENCIA GALVAN

Notorious river pirates the River Rats, lead by Captain "Red-Eye" Amarant, were captured following an explosive night-time battle. Citizens reported hearing cannon and rifle shots, and saw burning ships through the fog. "I've heard of fights on the river, but never cannons! Absolutely crazy!"

Dozens of the pirate crew were slain in the battle, but a number surrendered and now await trial. It is suggested that in a rare confluence, all of Red-Eye's men converged upon the same spot and were ambushed by the Apogee Guard. The Guard had requisitioned *The Speedy Weasel*, a vessel suggested to have been in cahoots with the Red-Eye Pirates.

Even luckier, the Apogee Guard arrested Captain Amarant, a scoundrel well-known for using his men as a distraction for law enforcement for his own escape. The leader of the guard responsible for this daring ambush, Hustler Kane, claimed that "Red-Eye" had put up a good fight, but he and his team were too cunning for the river-dog.

Citizens have petitioned the Apogee Council to ceremonially honour the Apogee Guard taskforce, claiming the defeat of these brigands has improved trade almost immediately in the region.

Captain of *The Speedy Weasel*, Oran Kirrick, remains in custody, questioned about his role in local piracy. His lawyers have submitted a preliminary "not guilty" plea, suggesting that Kirrick had been forced by Amarant under threat of death and that Kirrick had been fully

co-operative with the Guard in bringing the pirates to justice.

Other locals have noted that the nearby fish stocks remain paltry and that the river pirate curse may still be in effect.

"Long Walk" Warning Issued

Every year the students of Goldmoss University celebrate the anniversary of The Long Walk punishment with mocking re-enactments of the historical event and swimming in the Gressia River. Representatives from the university have warned students to be on their best behaviour.

Previous years have seen arrests due to vandalism, intoxication and public nudity. Chancellor Silverberry released a statement today: "The university takes a grim view on any student found harrasing the good folk of Apogee and will not hesitate to utilise any and all academic measures available to us in condemning irresponsible behaviour. Goldmoss University is Apogee's source of great future leaders and we take this duty very seriously. Students are not encouraged to participate in this event."

The Goldmoss Student Association will hold their festivities at the ramps on East Penumbra on the 28th of Pharast at noon. Citizens are encouraged to plan their travel and trade accordingly.

Genya strikes back at critics

Salvator Genya, fishing guildmaster and organizer of the annual Apogee

Fish Festival, has come under fire with numerous complaints about the upcoming festival. Critics suggest the current fish stock crisis has been manufactured by his guild, and his family in particular is set to profit from skyrocketing prices. An anonymous source says: "Turns out he has four ships in the Mithral Archipelago and turns out they've had a successful harvest. Normally his business focusses on line fishing in the Bloodfly Swamp. What a coincidence."

Genya has struck back at these claims, citing piracy and Bullywug aggression in the Gorgoda Estuary as the basis for his business strategy to "go where the fish are and the danger isn't!" He claims that in 1554, 1558, and 1559 his operations similarly moved around to best advantage, and there was no criticism then.

"I just want the good people of Apogee to enjoy the freshest and most tasty produce the sea and river can provide. The chefs of the region are renowned for their culinary genius when it comes to aquatic cuisine!"

Trader thanks Guard

Alchemical trader Felix Ferrario has publicly thanked the Apogee Guard for intervening in a daylight robbery last week. According to Ferrario, a Nadi-ran gang had broken into his warehouse to steal and destroy valuable reagents and potions. "I was very lucky to get help from the Guard, especially in Nadir! Even Lieutenant Kujawa helped out! He seems shorter in person, though."

The Apogee Guard have not issued a formal statement, but reiterate that the safety of the community is one of their top priorities.