

TERROR ATTACK ON SWAN SOIREE

Eyewitness reporter
By VALENCIA GALVAN

The Swan Soiree — the yearly Who's Who of the Apogee Elite — was violently attacked by criminals pledging allegiance to the mastermind "Devil's Grin". Every year twin boats host a soiree on the Lacunae Lake. The elite hold charity functions, announce major public works and negotiate critical business deals whilst wining and dining.

This year's celebrations were broken up by simultaneous attacks on the boats. Guests on the boat *La Sol* were boarded by armed assailants and attack by an aerial bombardment of incendiary devices disguised as candle lanterns. Those on *La Luna* were ambushed by wild attackers disguised as the band, and terrorized with a barrage of illegal illusions.

Among the casualties were famed investor Ret Gunter, and Jahra Lightfoot, the beloved wife of Bren Lightfoot. Ten innocent citizens were killed and dozens injured.

According to Lt Kujawa of the Apogee Guard, "*The guests of La Sol and La Luna were lucky to have been protected by my skilled undercover operatives in the Apogee Elite Guard.*"

Commenters have suggested that the casualties would have been far fewer if the Apogee Guard or Summerquartz Arms had taken their duty of care seriously for core citizens of Apogee, and provided real guards. Guests had to bring protective measures at their own cost. Some anonymous guests were shocked at the conduct and tactics employed by the Apogee Elite Guard.

The so-called "Devil's Grin" and his accomplices remain at large. Citizens with information are encouraged

to share it with the Apogee Guard at Eligere Tower.

AWARDS FOR ELITE TASK FORCE

Six members of the recently-formed Apogee Elite Guard will be presented with public honours from the Apogee Council next week. Despite only forming early last month, they have been said to be instrumental in the defence of Apogee from Chilmorn the Necromancer, prevented a bloody heist at the Mina Museum of Modern Art, and saved the lives of Apogee luminaries at the Swan Soiree.

When asked for the secret of their success, commanding officer Lt Kujawa said: "*The trust, resources and latitude I have given them has allowed them to solve problems the rest of the Apogee guard cannot.*" Lord Haldan, captain of the Apogee Guard, declined to comment but was said to be content with the results Kujawa and his subordinates have obtained. The Council provides a substantial portion of the resources, but spokespersons maintain that it is proportionate within the broader policing and protection regime.

The awards ceremony will be hosted by the Milliners Guild, representing the Apogee Council and Guildmasters. The Lobos family mansion has been provided for this event. Citizens are encouraged to assemble in the courtyard for the ceremony.

Not all of Apogee will attend. Eiwán Fry of the Oculists has publicly stated his disapproval of the Elite Guard. "*Those six are magnets for death, destruction and mayhem, and the Oculists will not be a part of condoning their extrajudicial methods.*" The Fry Estate is said to be pressing charges following a controversial house rescue that their lawyers have dubbed "brutal and unnecessary".

Unidentified members of the Apogee Guard have expressed concern about the group. "*They have no training, no discipline, and hog the limelight. Some of us are out there, protecting citizens from zombies or pirates, and we get no special treatment. It's nepotism!*"

Apogee repairs hearts and homes

Citywide attack cleanup
By SINIA WONG

The Council have declared the end to the cleanup and reparations following the brazen attack by Chilmorn the Necromancer last month. Buford Plover of the Labourers Guild applauded citizens who had lost work or their homes but nonetheless aided the construction efforts.

A memorial shrine has been commissioned for the Apogee Cemetery to honour those lost in the tragedy. This morning, Keeper of Manuscripts Xander Phage presented an official scroll of records of the tragedy. The scroll will be kept in memoriam as part of the shrine.

Gang warfare message horrifies Nadir

Oxrip Park in Nadir was scene to a horrific public message reportedly from the Molvo crime family. The remains of what is alleged to be a man were put on display and left for the public to find. Speculation suggests this was a warning from the disgraced crime family to insubordinate foot soldiers, as well as a brutal message to their rivals.

Experts from the Magic Academy say the victim shows signs of flesh-warping, a long forbidden practice.

EDITORIAL

Newsmaster
By **BREN LIGHTFOOT**

As owner of the Apogee Inquirer, I manage production of the news. Unfortunately, recent circumstances have seen me become the news.

It is with great sadness that I lay to rest my wife Jahra Lightfoot. Jahra was co-owner and sub-editor of the Inquirer, and great pillar of Apogee.

In having to see this edition go out, my sadness turned to rage. Rage at the increasing tide of lawlessness. Rage at senseless terror attacks. Rage at violence in our fair streets. Rage at vigilante justice un beholden to the laws of Apogee. Rage at the so-called Apogee Elite Guard bringing their Old World Ways of brutal policing from outside Apogee, into our streets and homes. Rage at the impotent White Halls who dole out their faith but cannot calm the frightened. Rage at the decrepit Stone Kingdom sending its corruption and decay our way.

I rage at our brethren in Nadir and its inability to shoulder responsibility. Crime migrates over the bridge, and

what have they done? If they had half the organization of our fair city, they could have prevented the attack by Chilmorn the Banished. If they had half the productivity of our fair city, they could have their own law enforcement and stopped the murder of my wife and so many others.

I laid the headstone for Jahra, but we should be laying the foundations of a better society. Replace the crime and corruption of Nadir with something productive and constructive. Replace the idle proselytizing of the White Halls with reason and philosophy. Replace the chaos and brutality of Eligere Tower with discipline and responsibility.

Jahra would remind me that "*Apogee is the City of Progress*". Well it sure should be.

Actors sought

Professionals and amateurs alike are invited to audition for an exciting new play. Standard wages. Contact Jasmine Lecompte, Goldmoss University Theatre of Arts.

Runaway carriage injures two

A runaway carriage in north-east Nadir has plowed through crowds, injuring two citizens. The Apogee guard provided medical assistance and took statements. No arrests have yet been made.

Plants requested

The Glade of Illumination is holding a vigil for all plants lost in recent attacks and welcomes any new arrivals.

Jesters make-over

By **LEXIS CRULG**

Comedy theater "Jesters" will undergo outdoor and indoor renovations soon making use of the construction explosion after last month's attack.

Guests will be treated to brand-new extensions to the bar and stage area. Three-sixty-degree stages will provide maximum visibility and acoustics for every act.

Groundwork begins on Toilday and carpentry will be completed in a week.

Who are the Apogee Elite Guard?

Who are they? Where did they come from? What do they bring to Apogee?

Lt Kujawa — Ex-mercenary for Summerquartz Arms, 8-year veteran of Apogee Guard. Acquitted of two previous conduct lawsuits.

Sgt Olin Bordo — Exile from the Caskthane clan near the Everglades. Career guard.

Badie Cooper — Entertainer and protector of a small tavern in Norðurhross. Said to have de-escalated a riot at a gold exchange.

Roland of Tharn — Ex-stage magician from the fishing village of Tharn. No prior law enforcement experience.

Aespen — Ursine Monk of Erastil from north of the Shifting Woods. Understudy of local Head Briar Declan. No prior law enforcement experience or criminal record.

Ibn Raaar — Half-orc second-in-line to the command of the human nomadic clan of the Red Sands.

Carth An Crait — Clansman of the dog soldiers "An Crait" of the Norðurhross mountains. Previously incarcerated.

Dirk Forester — Purportedly from the Jade Sea, but has not been associated with any lawful organization.