

The Gateway Chronicle



APRIL 2001

WARSTORIES: FEBRUARY 2001

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The Ramshead tavern portals led the heroes to the Silver Chalice in Vathos. The proprietor (Ben Rowe), concerned that his wealthy patrons might be intimidated by those members who were wanted for questioning in Vathos, requested that they spend their time in the barn which he had prepared for them.

The Gnome (Tom Dowd) nominated Lord Sebastian Poe-Kerrigan (Brian Curley) as his Gatekeeper of the day and Poe took notes on who wanted Portals of Desire and their gift for the gnome.

The first portal to go



Eat, Drink, and Be Merry...

out was a Portal of Need - Bladesingers, Hunter Drenn (Vicki Martin) and Daelean Lai (Akira Barnes) accompanied cursed-by-Xiandru-to-be-mute Cedrick (Joel Orbach), the high elf Srinivasan (Mike Malony), Dameon Croft (Brendan Kelley) and Zebadash (James Gitta).

The heroes arrived to a scene of chaos as the inhabitants of a small village struggled to escape some

horror they believed was about to attack them from the nearby forest. Soon, thousands of tiny spiders swarmed out of the woods. The heroes were able to destroy the spiders and save the town, but knew that the unnatural source had to be defeated if the village was to be truly protected.

Searching the woods for some missing locals, the eerie stillness of the woods made it clear something was amiss. After easily defeating several spiders the size of dogs, they found an area where the webs were thick as moss on the trees and things hung in cocoons suspended from fine silky

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FROM THE FRONT DESK



Change, it seems, is inevitable. Some change you look forward to eagerly, some you outright fear, and some tastes bittersweet. This is one of those. Over the next few months

Chad Brinkley, who has been a major part of the Gateway Chronicles for at least as long as I can remember, is moving on. Chad has taken an internship position at a Federal Penitentiary near Atlanta, Georgia starting in August. This, coupled with the work that Chad has to do to finish off his school year, means we will (rightly so) be occupying less and less of his attention and energy over the next few months. Chad's

contribution to the Gateway Chronicles may be obvious to some of you, but I suspect not to all. Suffice it to so, Chad's presence, intellect, style, humor, and storytelling sense has pretty much touched all aspects of the game in many many ways. From rules

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thread.

As the heroes attacked a spider the size of a horse, another Portal opened and out stepped Vrexir (Shard), accompanied by Sionnach (Mike Tyderek), Miette (Margaret Landreth) and Tristan (Tristan Brandhorst), whose attempt to find something to free his people from the control of the dragon somehow led them here. With such reinforcements, the giant spider did not last and the heroes managed to free some victims that still lived. At that time, the original party sans Zebadash went back leaving Vrexir and his group to ponder what had brought them to this place.

A local constable arrived and was inquiring as to several of the Ramshead members who were wanted. He stayed long enough to settle a dispute between Castellain Nathan (Bob Hollister) and Luther (Zach Rowe) regarding the respect for each other's titles. Nathan was to refer to Luther as Loremaster Luther and Luther spent the rest of the day referring to Nathan by his full title of Castellain Nathan of Stronghold Castle, in the employ of His Majesty King Arthon Jurel-Blacksteel, Special Adjunct to the Ram's Head Tavern, Special freelance envoy to Marin and Mercari.

Neither Oly (Lori Curley) nor Master Ambrose (Alex Gray) were aware of why they would be wanted so Knight-Commander Owl (Corrie Hrubes) suggested that they go to Zurek to address the charges directly.

And so Knight Commander Owl, Mariveaux (Lori Ralston), Rook (Aimee Dominick) and Vincent (Rich Gray) and Thyra (Jill ??) accompanied Oly on a tavern portal to Zurek. Upon reaching the courthouse of Zurek, Vincent was immediately arrested, stripped of his possessions, and put into jail. Knight Commander Owl affirmed his guilt and Thyra collected the bounty for his capture. Once Oly's identity was discovered, she was put into the cell right next to him.

When she heard of Vincent's and Oly's fates, the Baroness Rhianna (Eileen Malony) immediately traveled to Zurek to seek their release. Both were released under the her protection.

Vrexir recruited Sionnach, Luther, Zebadash and Cedrick to help him find a missing piece of a dragon tablet. They found it in the hands of a troll who was using it as a plate. Sionnach gave up his shield for the tablet only to find out that it was inside a water elemental. Zebadash and Luther communicated with the elemental and were told that they could have the tablet if they found his lost love. They found the female fire elemental who sent them in search of a tree that contained something that could safely transport her. Its trunk larger than a stronghold. The heroes did battle with orcs who had been pumping some sort of poison into the tree and they quickly fled. Zebadash used his healing magic to purge the tree of the poison, but not without taking some of it into himself. They found the container in the tree, transported the fire elemental to her watery love and received the tablet as a reward.

The second portal of Need included Vincent, Thad (Robert Wilcox), Rook, Thatch (Mike Pastrick), and the changeling, Boshi (Drew Caldwell). It set the team on the boarder of Zurek and Evangar in the midst of the every other yearly festival used by the counts of the two Duchies to determine who got the tax rights. Unfortunately for Zurek, their entire team had mysteriously taken ill just prior to the festi-

val. Unfortunately for Evangar, the Rams Head party offered to take their places. The Count of Evangar seemed unconcerned as he had been given a team from the local Baron. There were five contests. Combat, Skill, Strength, Agility, and Knowledge.

Thatch took on the challenge of Combat with the sly aid of a strength spell from Vincent. Next, Thad took to his bow in a test of Skill and beat his opponent by coring four of four apples tossed in the air. With another sly Strength spell from Vincent, Boshi won the test of Strength by distraction, wiggling his ears and winking at his opponent. Next, Vincent participated in the contest of Agility, which was a tight rope contest over a mud pit. In spite of the incentive of one of his gems on the other side of the rope, the lady who opposed him was simply too skillful. Finally, Rook faced off and defeated a distinguished scholar in a contest of Knowledge and Zurek won the day.

Cedrick, decided to try to resolve his curse through a Portal of Desire. With him came Oly, Srinivasan, Arthur and Vincent. Poe advised them that it was a bad idea, but the adventurers insisted; so the Gatekeeper gave them a recall word of "foolishness". Cedrick and his friends landed at the Pantheist Temple just down the street from the Silver Chalice where they could have easily walked. They got a vision of Cedrick killing demons from a Pantheist priest. Which made them surmise that Cedrick must kill rogue demons and probably a lot of them. Xander (Omar Gonzales) offered the Gnome his facial hair in exchange for a Portal in which he could see answers to achieving the position of Magi. He asked Arthur (Josh Rowe), Lord FitzRobert (Mike Shoenerger), Alejandro (John Marcus), and Aiden (Erick Dominick) to

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THE RUMOR MILL

Ah, Spring is in the air again—charming folk are out walking in the streets again, flowers are blooming and all sorts of interesting people are doing very interesting things that they would probably prefer you never heard about. Ah well...

Phantor wants you kiddies to know, he has heard many strange and outrageous tales of the Rams Head. But given the colorful and unusual characters that populate that establishment, Phantor has always given at least passing belief to any tale that he may hear about them... no matter how incredible it may sound.

However, even your poor hardworking Phantor was shocked with disbelief when he heard this one... Arthur, Hero of the Realm, Leader of the Falcon Guard, and a supposedly faithful husband was seen at a brothel? And left his shield and sword, gifts from the Gods themselves, behind? What is this world coming too? (And can anyone please let Phantor know the name of said Brothel please pass it on as any Place of Comfort that could force Arthur to give up a Sword of Brax and a Shield of Valdar has got to be a place worth visiting...)

Perhaps Arthur's lack of fidelity can be explained by the companions who are said to have accompanied him to that "House of Wantoness"? Phantor has it on good authority that Arthur was accompanied by no less than two High Elves, a Draekor, and that champion of chastity, Hunter Drenn. Oh, to have seen the look on the proprietor's face when THAT crew walked in...

Speaking of the erstwhile bladesinger, Phantor is given to understand that no one has seen the shapely Hunter since she ventured into that brothel. Is she sampling the services? Or did she decide to jump the fence, as one might say? Would some of the red-blooded males of the Rams Head please go find out and let me know?

Phantor hears as well that the water-mage Xandar is working hard to improve his skills at controlling all things concerning that element. Is this a sign of his obsession with power... or with that attractive water-child, the Nymph?

Phantor has also heard tales that Lord Jacko Delight is living up to his name... Having finally finished redecorating the estate he acquired from the Baroness Rhianna DuVallier, Lord Delight is said to be hosting one lavish party after another. These galas are said to be the site of great debauchery... and that NO type of pleasure or entertainment is unavailable. (Hmmm...perhaps this has something to do with Hunter's disappearance...)

Phantor is concerned to hear that crime is apparently on the rise throughout Kaleth. There have been a rash of arsons, burglaries, and even murders of late. Phantor finds it most peculiar that most of these crimes seem to occur whenever Vincent, the infamous "Lover of Jewels" is in the neighborhood. Coincidence, or has he been taking lessons from Kariel the Sin-eater in how to cause trouble?

An old friend of the Ram's Head Tavern seems to be causing some of his loyal subjects some concern these days. It seems that Baron Galil, known to some as Nicholas Skye, has been behaving oddly lately. Phantor has heard that he has taken to making a proclamation on one day and then reversing it the next.. Now, of course, this can be darn amusing in some cases, but when one is talking about death sentences...well, one can imagine...

It is with sadness that Phantor must report the declining health of Duke Devin Claridge of Argoth. Phantor hears that the dear man is close to death, so much so that the noble of Argoth have begun gathering in Talos Argoth for his final days. Now,

while some might equate this with a gathering of carrion eaters, Phantor prefers in this case to think that it is in remembrance of a great and fair Duke who will probably be the last of his kind in that Duchy for some time.

Phantor hears that one individual benefiting from this gathering is the Ram's Head's own Lord FitzRobert who seems to be in process of being accepted back into the titled fold despite the revelation of his questionable family background. Good luck to you, sir.

Phantor has received a request from one member of the Ram's Head about another. It would seem that there are some who would prefer it if young Cedric remained mutes... is there perhaps some secret that he has that they don't want spoken...?

Oh and Phantor puts up 10 gold to the first person or persons that can make Liam laugh at the next gathering of the Tavern...

Two vessels sailing round the north of Kaleth from Zurek to Argoth were lost recently during clear seas and skies...does this having something to do with the rumored Draekor shipping raids or is it more to do with the increasing rumors that the Empire is once again training its unblinking eye toward our shores...

Is it true that even more Guildsman and Ringbearers are ending up dead in the streets of Kaleth? Is this the war of the Guilds that Phantor keeps hearing about or something else entirely?

Who is Boshi and why do his ears wiggle??

Lastly, Phantor has heard that the Wizardess Esmay has descended from her Tower and is heading toward the Ram's Head boiling over with anger... Well, though Phantor has been inclined to visit in the past he thinks that perhaps he'll pass this gathering up...

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join him.

There they were met by Zareth, Reaper of the Dead who asked them to accompany him to the Netherworld to meet Medrean, Keeper of the Gates. Medrean said he would allow them to the Land of the Dead if they gave him an offering. All complied but Alejandro who was sent back to the Tavern.

They fought their way through undead to the bridge that leads to the City of Judgment. There they were questioned by the "Protector" and found one who appeared to be the Castellan for Shadros. Xander was brought before Shadros. Once the God discovered he was still alive, he was angry at the deception but allowed them to pass into Criscal's heaven where they met Sir Swift and Cassandra and then found the former Magus of Water. After Xander had a chance to confer with her, they returned to the Inn.

The young warrior, Thatch requested a Portal of Desire to find his lost father. He gathered, Zebadash, Luther, Thad and Vincent. In spite of the warnings of the Seer, Magda who told them in no uncertain terms that no one should go on the portal, they pressed on to transport into a monastery and the mages were immediately aware that they had just punched through a Magical Ward. They were lead to Thatch's father but the reunion was cut short by 15 foot demon no longer prevented by the ward from entering.. Thatch tried to save his father, and Luther tried to save them both but even Zebadash's magic was no match for the hell spawned fiend. It dealt a vicious blow to Luther flaying all the skin off his back in a single strike. Thatch's father distracted the demon by throwing his son at it which gave him enough time to escape and the party used the word of recall to retreat.

Tyr (Jason Rownd) requested a portal of desire to see the birth of the greatest griffin. He brought Aiden ,Nymph(Helene Ho), Xandar and Nikomu (Darci Stratton) . They appeared in the midst of a battle as an airship led by the Magus of Air. Nymph and Aiden were quickly subdued and Xandar and Tyr dragged their bodies into the nearby cave where Nikomu was healing an injured hatchling griffin. They found its dead mother and one unhatched egg. The newborn fled as soon as it was healed and The Magus of Air continued his attack. Seeing the futility of staying and fighting, they lifted the huge egg and said the Word of Recall.

Back at the Tavern, they brought the greater griffin egg to the stables of the Silver Chalice. Once the creature was free of its egg, it looked for help in cleaning up and for food. Once it was done eating, they brought it outside where a greater griffin arrived to take the baby off into the sky. Aiden surmised that the gold griffin was a greater servitor of Sharendar. Nikomu, Aiden and Tyr were each rewarded with a

golden feather from the servitor.

Segial having dispatched a Portal to recover some magical stones he needed, and determined to free and reclaim the home he had once had as Teras Anar gathered to him Kantr, Endraken (Rob Wilson), Hunter and Daelean. Their job was to protect him as he bent all his power to re-enter his warded fortress.

They emerged beside a stream in Vathos. A simple wooden bridge went halfway across but Segial's magic and the spinning stones began to extend it into a solid stone structure as he and his companions made their way across. Gathering on the side they had left with his minions was an old enemy of Segial's. Endraken ripped up the wooden section of the bridge and used it as a shield against the crossbows but those on the other side seemed in no hurry to hinder them.

As more of the hidden bridge was revealed, they could see canine shapes at the other end. These attacked the moment the heroes were in range. Endraken distracted Segial's enemies on the other side by first throwing the bridge at the necromancers and following up with a hellhound. This caused a great deal of chaos but not enough to prevent the enemy from translocating to their position before Segial could set the wards. He and his enemy were locked in deadly combat as decades of hatred reduced them to trying to squeeze the

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THE POLITICAL SCENE

Currently, the order of influence with the King seems to be...

The Cabal
The Pantheon
Argoth
Royal
Evangar

Each of the remaining factions seem to have no greater impact than any other when counseling the King.

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life out of each other with their bare hands. His enemy finally fled and Segial then had to gather his companions who had been transported randomly into parts of his citadel by the revival of the wards so he could send them back to the tavern.

The final portal was for Hunter to find her friend Griffin, the man who had run the Ram's Head Tavern on the shore of the sea of souls outside Paralor. She took Daelean, Srinivasan, Grumblug (Jim Silverstein), Vrexir and Arthur.

They appeared in an alley outside a brothel called the Jaded Rose. With the honor of the high elves and some gold, they were allowed inside with the dark elf blade, but all other weapons and Arthur's shield had to remain outside. They found the hidden trapdoor in the madam's office and Vrexir led. Several traps, two crossbowmen and five guardsmen later, Vrexir located a secret door where the party faced a group of five heroes. Though they seemed hesitant to attack, they did so and the reluctant Ramshead folk were forced to combat them. Srinivasan realized quickly that they were not acting of their own volition and the faerie mage, Grumblug managed to snap the magical control on the rival mage but not without serious effort. Instead of joining them as they had hoped, she slumped unconscious to the floor. Hunter's companions, working together managed to subdue the rest.

Hunter begged Vrexir to lead them to Griffin. The Dreakor sniffed out the correct door and broke it down, however, the gas trap he triggered when he did so knocked unconscious all but Hunter and Srinivasan. Hunter went to the tortured and beaten Griffin's side while Srinivasan found the keys to set him free. Once this was done, the Portal of Return opened. Realizing that in her haste, she had forgotten to make allowances for bringing the extra person back, Hunter stayed behind.

January 2001...



...is the newsletter of the
GATEWAY CHRONICLES, a live-action
role-playing game held in the Chicago area.

For information:

Game Info: (Eileen Malony)
registration@shadowpath.com

Newsletter Info: (Tom Dowd)
gateway@shadowpath.com

or,
Tom Dowd
515 Ford St.
Geneva, IL 60134



MAY GAME

DATE: TBA

LOCATION: TBA

Character Admin Deadline: May 5th, 2001

JUNE: TBA

JULY: TBA



AND YOUR FAVORITES WERE...

... for the February 2001 session—

PC's: Boshi (Drew Caldwell)
Miette (Margaret Landreth) NPC: Ben Rowe
Grumblug (James Silverstein)

This edition of the Gateway Chronicle created
by:

War Stories

Vicki Martin (and the Gateway players)

Layout, Production, and Additional Writing:

Tom Dowd and Rob Nicholls

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Dowd

The Gateway Chronicles Staff

Creator, Architect, Romeo In Black Jeans:
Alex Grey (alex@neverwhen.org)

Gamemasters: Tom Dowd, Chad Brinkley,
Curt Martin, Rob Nicholls

Archivist James Silverstein

Coordinator: Eileen Malony

Chronicle War Stories: Vicki Martin

Costuming Expertise: Vicki Martin, Lori Ralston,
Eileen Malony

Special Props: Corrie Hrubes, Doug Tabb, Tony
Hrubes, Robyn Hollister, Curt Martin, Rob
Wilson

Game Contact Information

Session Registration, Attendance Questions,
New Player First Contact:

registration@shadowpath.com

Ongoing Plotlines and New Character Concepts:
story@shadowpath.com

Character Updates, Experience Point Spending,
Rules Questions:

characters@shadowpath.com

General Information: gateway@shadowpath.com

FROM THE FRONT DESK

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creation, to key plot-arcs, to numerous and memorable PCs and NPCs, Chad's mark on the Gateway Chronicles will endure. I for one know that this game is better for his involvement and those of us on Staff have our collective works cut out for us in filling the creative void he's leaving behind.

Now, this does not mean we will never see Chad again, but it does mean his visits back to us will be long and far between. So, if you get the chance (but don't you dare disrupt the game!) thank him for us, let him know we're going to miss him, and pin him down on when he'll be back.

Moving onward, just as an FYI, we've been having problems arranging the campsite we used this year for a session this summer. If you know of any other sites, and I know some of you do, please give Tom or Eileen what information and assistance you have so that we can investigate these alternatives as quickly as possible.

Next, an apology. The last two months have been a back breaker for me at work, and I expect that trend to continue for another month. Because of that, I've been behind in email, rules, site maintenance and so on. I apologize. As soon as the load lightens up some I and the rest of the staff will be digging into some key areas. In the meantime, if you have some area that needs addressing that we have not addressed please remind us with an email to gateway@shadowpath.com and as soon as we can get to it we will.

Yay! Its all warm and springy!
(Sorry just had to say it.)

'Nuff said, to infringe on someone
else's copyright.

Thanks for coming. Enjoy the
game. Read the handouts and if you
don't understand what's expected of
you this session please question some-
one on the Judging Staff.

Tom and the Gateway Staff