

WILD WEATHER EXPECTED TO CONTINUE



Artists Impression of what a party at the Lumberjacks Arm's might have looked like had he been invited. Unseasonably violent and chaotic winds have whipped through the streets of Tinderbox for the last few days and locals blame the influence of Stratos, god of thunder, who is currently sleeping off a bender in the Lumberjack's Arms.

"Stratos turned up a little before sunset on Thursday," says tavern proprietor Cyril Wedgewood. "He was absolutely the life of the party, dancing with the regulars, swapping stories by the fire, and even footing the bill for the entire bar. He was a huge fan of our cocktail list and we designed a new drink in his honour; the Flaming Cyclone, which is a mead and ambrosia base with some Styxian firewater added for oomph. Serve in a martini glass and garnish with pomegranate seeds."

The party raged until dawn when the bar finally closed. "Stratos was a bit disappointed, but even he was feeling it by then. We set him up a cot by the fire and a keg of ale as a nightcap, and he's been sleeping there ever since."

Unpredictable high winds are expected to continue until he wakes up, whereupon his hangover will likely make matters worse.

LOOPHOLE INSURANCE

DON'T GAMBLE WITH YOUR FAMILY'S SAFETY, USE MONEY. TO INSURE YOUR PROPERTY AND POSSESSIONS IN THE EVENT OF FIRE.

coverage does not include: act of god(s), acts of demigods, attacks by dragon, drake or wyrm, fireball or other flame based spells above level 2, fire or flame elementals, sprites or giants, acts of pyromancy professional or otherwise, volcanos, arson, gremlins, phoenixes, spontaneous combustion, lightning; natural or invoked, forgetfulness, fire brigades or ignited flatulence; intentional or spontaneous.

AXE-WIELDERS FLY OFF HANDLE

The recent slew of private fire brigades starting up has seen demand rise for equipment, leading some peddlers to take advantage of the market. Weapons merchant Gruff Hackenslash has come under attack for selling faulty equipment at exorbitant prices to rookie firefighters.

"Hackenslash assured us that his equipment was the finest quality," said Gloria Ignis, fire warden for the noble end of town. "But the axes simply fell apart when my crew tried to beat down their first door. It's hardly professional." Hackenslash refuses to offer refunds on the faulty goods. "It is the responsibility of customers to be aware of the consequences of their decisions. After all, why are people so adamant in believing that we dwarves know so much about axes? How many trees do you think we have to deal with underground? I say it's racism!"

MATCHMAKER IN HIDING

Fire Chief Blaze Bernhardt has made explosive claims that the recent fires in Tinderbox are no coincidence.

"I am certain that some, if not most, of these fires have been deliberately lit," he stated at a town meeting. "I am close to having enough proof to accuse the parties responsible."

His comments inspired a spate of hysteria most notably resulting in a riot where a local wedding planner was run out of town.

Dolores Nuptialle, a newcomer to Tinderbox, came into strife when she opened her new matchmaking business. "There are a lot of lonely people who are in need of my services," she said. "I don't know why Tinderbox residents were so suspicious of me."

Many of the townsfolk apologized for their actions claiming that it was a simple misunderstanding over her job title. Several others refuse to apologise, claiming that they just really don't want to get married.

PUBLIC NOTICE

In the interests of public safety, all prisoners in the Tinderbox jailhouse are pardoned and free to go about their business. As the only stone building in town, the jailhouse is required to house important personnel in case of emergency.

In related matters, volunteers are needed to move the mayoral suites into the old jailhouse.

By order of the Mayor.

P.S. - The Annual Tinderbox Fire-Twirling Festival is postponed until further notice.

EDITORIAL

The Town Watch seems to be taking their title literally to heart as they stand by as witnesses while Tinderbox erupts into flames around them.

Their inaction is notable as Fire Chief Blaze Bernhardt (himself no stranger to controversy) has alleged that many of these fires are being actively lit, though he has yet to offer conclusive evidence.

Watch Captain Val Candor has stated that the place of the Watch is to "keep the peace, not solve crimes" and we can't fault that logic, but somebody has to step up and address these allegations, especially as the flames get closer to Tinderbox Times offices.



Today's soothsayer is Scurvy Mick Saltspray, who says, "Me gammy knee always be aching 'fore a disaster. Aye, we be in for rough seas, I be thinkin'."

Either Tinderbox be headin' for a hidden reef, or she be attacked by a kraken 'ere long. Sorry if'n that be unhelpful; I normally do coastal areas."

LEADERSHIP TURMOIL AT PYRO UNIVERSITY

Sparks flew at a recent dinner held by high ranking faculty at the Pyromancer's University as dean Cindy Bustion's leadership has come under fire.

According to an anonymous source, department heads are incensed at recent decisions made by the dean and more than one inflammatory remark was overheard.

"The faculty is tired of her continued rivalry with Mayor Munmf," says the source, who is believed to be a specialist in Applied Elementalism. "Our finances are at an all-time low, and this has seen us cut corners on some incredibly delicate projects. It's a powderkeg waiting to go off. Not a figurative one; we actually have a huge powderkeg all set up and ready to explode. There's good reason for it, but it needs more attention than it's getting."

The dinner was postponed while tempers cooled, but key lecturers are said to be left smouldering.



PERSONALS

Lost Wallet. Contains Thieves Guild membership card and pickpocketing license. Cannot work without it. Please return to Selina Blackflow, Ash Street, during business hours.

Are you a brave thrillseeker with a devil-may-care attitude and a community spirit? Become a firefighter today in Tinderbox's newest and most dynamic fire brigade! Join a team of motivated professionals and experience the rewards you deserve! Enquire Glint Dampshot, Market Lane. Experience the opportunity of a lifetime!