

Avistrum Cast of Characters

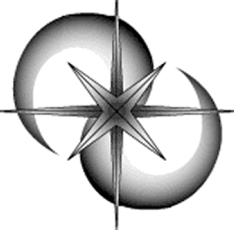
- Headmaster Clark Dowling Brian Dowling
- Deputy Headmistress Sachiko Kobiyashi Sachiko Thomas
- Professor Kraven Bloodthorne Joshua Thomas
- Professor Greywolf / Secretary Greywolf Dave Morgan
- Professor Polonius Aberfoyle Chad Patten
- Professor Tyler Ward Tyler Ward
- Professor Adante Avarra Chaz Kemp
- Professor Graseella Moffat Julia Kozdron
- Mistress Craeffer Storm Hortman
- School Nurse Robin Kayenta Katie Huber
- School Secretary Madame Cynthis Scriba Jessie Ludwick
- School Librarian Mordecai Argiletum Barry Ludwick
- Enigma House Ghost Lady Viola Fey Jacqueline Clark
- Parador House Ghost Estel Leeds Mary Hemschoot
- Colubrae House Ghost Aleator Boudreaux Cody Miller
- Head Boy Maldraco Matt Sumpter
- Head Girl Signa Diana Jones
- DJ Sabre Brett Neilson



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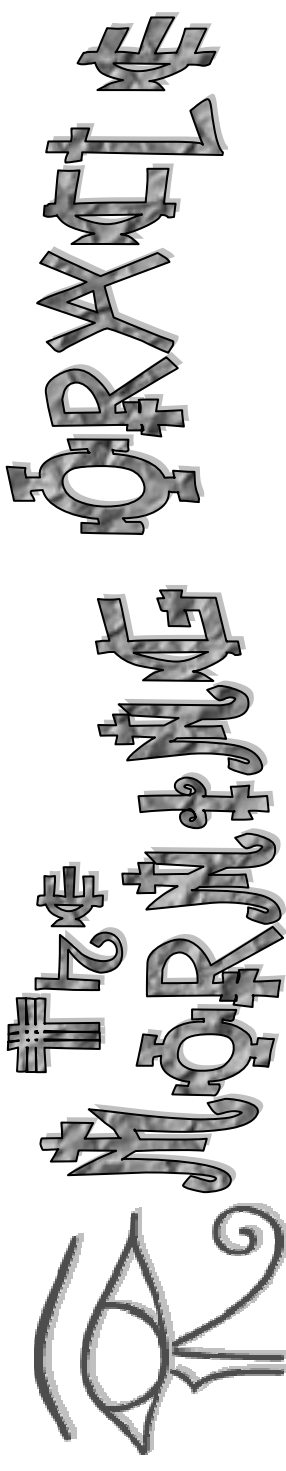
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Volume 309, Issue 141

Sunday, May 21, 2006

COUNCIL OF WISE APPOINTS GREYWOLF!

Sesquicentarian Becomes Oldest Secretary of Magic Ever in Wake of Falstaff Assassination

By *Absolom Guthrie*
Exclusive to *The Morning Oracle*

by renowned publicity hound Clark Dowling, rather than at the Department's headquarters in the Hexagon.

Rumors abound that Dowling, who has a seat on the Council by virtue of his position as Headmaster of the school, is in fact responsible for Greywolf's nomination. More than one Department official has expressed concern to this reporter that the close ties between the two do not bode well, especially given Dowling's penchant for vigilantism with his Dark Hunters.

Falstaff's Security Detail Was Infiltrated

Department spokeswizards have still not named a suspect in the assassination, although word came late Friday evening that Secretary Falstaff's personal security detail had been infiltrated by individuals conspiring with the assassin. Two of his most trusted bodyguards were replaced by imposters using the Polyjuice Potion. The imposters were apprehended Friday morning as they tried to sneak out of the Hexagon amid all the chaos and confusion.

Despite extensive interrogation by the Auror department, these imposters have so far refused to reveal the mastermind of the assassination plot, even under the effects of Veritaserum. Senior Auror investigators believe the assailant may have hit the two with a Memory Charm.

When asked whether the assassin might have been Dowling's "Persephone," one investigator scoffed, "She doesn't exist. We don't chase phantoms."

New Secretary Does Not Trust Bodyguards

Despite the apparent resolution of the matter of how the assassin entered Falstaff's office, Secretary Greywolf has exhibited extreme reluctance to allow the Secret Sorcery Service to look to his protection. He has, instead, remained at the Academy under the guard of Dowling and the Dark Hunters.

This decision has, of course, baffled and angered many senior officials at the Department of Magic,

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

who are anxious to begin the work of moving forward from Falstaff's untimely demise.

Replacement at Avistrum Reeks of Nepotism

Secretary Greywolf's selection on the eve of Avistrum's start of term opened a vacancy in the Positions professorship at the school. However, with his characteristic disregard for protocol in these matters, Dowling was quick to appoint a confidant of Greywolf, Ms. Grabella Moffat, 34, as his replacement on a permanent basis, without interviewing a single other candidate.

Ms. Moffat, like most of Dowling's other appointments to the faculty since his arrival four years ago, has no experience in teaching. She has no apparent qualifications other than being a favorite student of Greywolf's, though Avistrum school records show she finished 5th in her class. She had been previously engaged in field research in exotic remedies for exotic maladies.

Dowling also announced that Professor Adante Avarra, the school's new History of Magic and Muggle Studies professor, will be assuming Greywolf's duties as Head of Lobostro house, despite being brand new to the faculty, and not even a human to boot. Avarra is a satyr, the only one ever educated at Avistrum, or any school of magic to this reporter's knowledge.

Advice

Ask the Fairy Godmother

Dear Fairy Godmother,

I turned my friend into a frog when we were playing in the pond and now I can't tell which frog is him so I can turn him back. So far I've found 3 princes, 1 princess and 9 golden balls but I can't find my friend, and his mom's really mad at me. Is there any way to find him?
- Crazy in Calavares

Dearest Crazyed,

Take his wand and his favorite cookie to the pond. Your friend should appear quickly.
- FG

Dear Fairy Godmother,

When I visit my grandmother on the other side of the forest to bring her baskets of goodies, I think I'm being followed but I've never seen anyone. Should I be worried?
- 'Red' Hoodie

Dearest Red,

Rather than worry, sign yourself up for some self-defense classes. Avistrum has both a physical self-defense and an excellent Defense Against Dark Magic program.
- FG

Dear Fairy Godmother,

I had a nasty nest of gnomes living in my crawl space which you told me I could chase away by sprinkling the space with crystallized honey. The gnomes left but I wound up with an infestation of giant honey

ants. The Ant-i spray worked wonderfully on the ants, but the dead ants attracted hairy ant-eating scavenger spiders who have also tried to eat my aunt who lives with me. Unfortunately, scavenger spiders are a favorite snack for gnomes, who have returned to live under my house. What do I do now?
- Gnorman

Dearest Gnorman,

Let them eat cake! Really! Sprinkle stale crumbs of chocolate peppermint cake under the house. The gnomes will leave and ants don't like peppermint.
- FG

Dear Fairy Godmother,

I have an invitation to a Ball up at the castle but my hands are really awful from all the housework I'm forced to do. I only have a week and no time or money to have a manicure. Any suggestions?
- C. Ella

Dearest C.,

Soak your hands in either olive oil or chicken fat just before bed and wear gloves or wrap your hands in rags. Wipe them off thoroughly in the morning and coat them again each time you finish scrubbing. The evening of the Ball, rub into your hands a mixture of beeswax and olive oil. Wipe them thoroughly and go have fun.
- FG



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Bloodthorne's HorrorScopes

By Professor Kraven Bloodthorne

♈ Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

The light at the end of the tunnel is an oncoming train. Too bad you won't believe me.

♉ Taurus (Apr 21 - May 20)

Love is in the air. Be sure to hold your wand steady as you aim to knock it out of the sky.

♊ Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

Multiple personalities do not qualify you for the carpool lane.

♋ Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

Time is on your side. Too bad no one else is.

♌ Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

You are in the mood for a new look. A bag over your head just might work for you.

♍ Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

Don't worry about your hair. It's your breath that makes people look at you like that.

♎ Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)

Your life is all about balance. But you really don't look good in Lyrca while standing on your head.

♏ Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

You find yourself attractive. But no one else does.

♐ Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 20)

You are stubborn and don't know when to quit. This will be your downfall.

♑ Capricorn (Dec 21 - Jan 19)

I could write a horoscope for you, but since you confronted your fears Friday, you are no longer around to read it.

♒ Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

Something happened and you took a wrong turn somewhere. You are now lost, and the world is a better place because of it.

♓ Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)

You are extremely handsome, and everyone wants to be you. Bask in that glory, as the masses will learn to do your bidding.



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Poetry Corner

Within The Walls of Avistrum *By Signa*

I know of a place,
That no one can trace.
Within these halls the magic calls
Within the walls of Avistrum.

Within these halls there are houses four,
Lobostro, Colubrae, Enigmus, and Parador.
To these houses students are sorted as the eagle calls,
Within the walls of Avistrum.

When Headmaster Dowling is near,
There's no need to fear.
Armed with his wand he makes all the calls,
Within the walls of Avistrum.

Professor Kobiyashi, she teaches Charms,
The Deputy Headmistress, she helps protect from all harms.
When the Headmaster can't she takes his calls,
Within the walls of Avistrum.

Professor Bloodthorne it's Divination he teaches,
He knows what can happen before it reaches.
It's his mind he uses, not just crystal balls,
Within the walls of Avistrum.

Professor Greywolf is the Potions Teacher,
There's no potion he cannot feature.
He'll be there to help when anyone calls,
Within the walls of Avistrum.

Professor Aberfoyle, Transfiguration is his specialty,
From animal to object with such tranquility.
He'll be there to protect when duty calls,
Within the walls of Avistrum.

Professor Ward, he takes Care of Magical Beasts,
He sees to it that students won't become their next feasts.
When someone needs help he'll be there before night falls,
Within the walls of Avistrum.

Nurse Kayenta, she's the Nurse,
She knows just how to heal even the worst.
When a student needs help she gets the calls,
Within the walls of Avistrum.

Scriba, she's the Scribe, otherwise known as the Secretary,
She takes notes and sends them out no matter how wary.
When there's a note to be done, she handles the calls,
Within the walls of Avistrum.

Professor Avarra, he teaches Magical History,
With accuracy and truth he tells his story.
If there's a question to answer, he'll take the calls,
Within the walls of Avistrum.

Mistress Craefer, Practical Magic is what she's got,
She can invent anything on the spot.
When there's a rip or a tear she'll mend them all,
Within the walls of Avistrum.

There's also Mordecai Argiletum, he runs the Library,
He does the job well no matter how contrary.
If there's a book to be found he answers the calls,
Within the walls of Avistrum.

Then there's Estel Leeds, the house ghost of Parador,
She'll help you find what you're looking for.
Softly and silently she roams the halls,
Within the walls of Avistrum.

Mustn't forget the Enigmus house ghost, Lady Viola Fey,
She tells no lies if asked correctly she'll show you the way.
She'll roam swiftly and softly like the snowfalls,
Within the walls of Avistrum.

As said before I know of a space,
But you'll need an invite to find the place.
Within these halls the magic calls,
Within the walls of Avistrum.

Editorial

Avistrum's Education is Not Passing the Grave

By Sally Lippinsmacker

Estel Leeds returned to school on Friday May 19th, 2006 to begin her second year at Avistrum Academy of Sorcery. Usually that would not merit any mention in the Morning Oracle. However, this is a special case, as she is returning to school after a very long hiatus. This should be cause for celebration, shouldn't it?

A hearty "congratulations" to Miss Leeds for her determination to graduate certainly seems to be in order.

I'm sure my readers are quite curious as to what obstacles prevented her from finishing her education. Was she a drop out, or did life get in the way?

What happened was that life got *out* of the way when she was dropped on.

Dear friends, Estel Leeds is dead. She died over three-hundred years ago when Avistrum Castle fell on her. Since that day she never left the school of magic, haunting its corridors as the Parador House Ghost. Over the years, she petitioned nearly every Headmaster and Headmistress asking for permission to enroll.

She was, of course, denied. What good is an education to a ghost? It would be an utter waste of time.

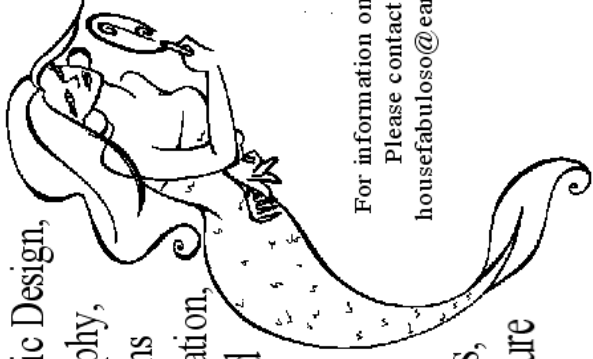
All sense of reason was thrown out when Miss Leeds approached the current Headmaster, the vigilante, Clark Dowling.

Yes, dear readers, he has allowed her to resume her studies at Avistrum. I don't know why I was surprised at Dowling's decision. This is par for the course with an incompetent Headmaster at the helm. I am saddened to say it does not stop there.

In a perfect demonstration of the phrase, "Birds of a feather, flock together," Polonius Aberfoyle, Transfiguration Professor, Head of Parador House and Dark Hunter thug, has chosen her to be Parador Prefect.

I am, needless to say, disgusted at this complete mockery of the educational system. I urge you, dear readers, to let your thoughts be known. Let them know that you will not allow yourself, your friends or your family to be educated in a place that allows such preposterous actions to occur.

I fear to learn what will happen next if we just sit idly by and let it happen. I, for one, will not just sit on the sidelines. My voice will be heard. I ask you, my dear friends, will yours?




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