

PEACE TREATY SIGNED!



wizards. “We thought we could use our new relationship as a way to encourage the Empire to improve its record on these issues,” he replied.

Dowling declined comment as to why he regards the Empire as a threat at all, given that it rules a galaxy far, far away.

Transfiguration Bill Advances

By Willard Woodhouse

SALEM, Mass. – A controversial new bill banning the teaching of Transfiguration moved out of a crucial subcommittee yesterday on a straight party-line vote. HWB739, The PREvention of Transfiguration ENhanced Deception (PRETEND) Act, was advanced by the House of Warlocks' Abuse of Magic subcommittee with a “pass” recommendation.

The five members of the subcommittee split 3-2 on the bill, with the three Grand Old Mages party members voting aye, and the 2 members of the Progressive Wizards' Party voting nay.

“Obviously, we realize this bill will force difficult changes in our educational system,” Subcommittee chair-witch Eileen Lampkin (GOM-Winchendon, MA) stated at a press conference yesterday afternoon. “Unfortunately, we need the PRE-TEND Act to safeguard our society

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Avistrum Academy Makes Pact with Galactic Empire

*By Absolom Guthrie
Special to The Morning Oracle*

DENVER, Colo. – In shocking news late yesterday, it was revealed that Avistrum Academy of Sorcery has signed a non-aggression pact with the evil Galactic Empire.

A confidential source from within the Academy's staff informed this reporter that Headmaster Clark Dowling signed the document in a secret ceremony with Darth Vader, Dark Lord of the Sith, and regent of the Empire.

Dowling has built his reputation on fighting evil forces, from the Bogeyman to Nikolai Matado to the current threat of Persephone. It defies explanation how the celebrated Dark Hunter would see this as a wise course of action. When asked for comment, Dowling said, “With all of the evils facing our school, including the ever-present threat of Persephone, I felt it was a wise course of action to reduce our exposure, especially as we headed into StarFest 2007.”

Dowling was asked about the Empire's long history of human- and alien-rights abuses, especially against the Jedi, whom Historians of Magic regard as a kindred sect to

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from Transfiguration-using terrorists like Persephone. I know that my fellow wizards and witches will ultimately recognize that these restrictions are necessary for the continued well-being of our society.”

The bill, sponsored by Norris Woodby (GOM-Arkadelphia, AR), will come before the full Committee for the Regulation of Dangerous Magical Practices sometime next month.

In addition to prohibiting the teaching of Transfiguration, the PRETEND Act would also make it a felony to use Transfiguration for the purposes of deceiving law enforcement, which is currently a misdemeanor. Critics contend that it will make practically all Transfiguration illegal.

Already expected to testify at hearings for the bill is Avistrum Academy of Sorcery's Polonius Aberfoyle, Head of Parador House

and the current Professor of Transfiguration. “This bill is a mistake from top to bottom,” Aberfoyle said in a press release. “Transfiguration is a critical part of wizarding studies. It not only teaches students how to perform transfiguration, but also gives them the tools to detect its use.

“Persephone's command of the subject, which is formidable, is enhanced by her natural abilities as a metamorphmagus, and the PRETEND Act will do nothing to stop her, or to keep her from instructing her followers. The only people who will be affected by this bill are good, law-abiding wizards and witches. This demagoguery and fear-mongering by Mr. Woodby, Ms. Lampkin, and their allies in the G.O.M. needs to stop.”

The companion bill in the Wizards' Senate, WSB43, is scheduled for hearings before the Senate Committee on Magical Perversions in early June.

Sports

Italian Quidditch Champion New Avistrum Coach

By Claire Voyant

Retiring 3X Cup Champion Vittoria d'Medici has signed on as the new Avistrum Quidditch Coach. She replaces Kraven Bloodthorne, who had assumed the position while also Professor of Divination, following the surprising resignation of longtime coach, Cleonthe Butterbur.

Ms. d'Medici brings a wealth of experience and talent to a school that has been struggling to find and keep Faculty and Staff since the controversial appointment of Clark Dowling, notorious Dark Hunter, as Headmaster of the renowned institution.

Her aggressive playing style earned her the nickname of “Parma's Gladiatrix,” while her

very public marriage to muggle football star Adiano Valiente has earned her the censure of most of the world's Wizarding councils and certain powerful and high profile families, including her own.

When asked to comment on the impact the negative public opinion might have on her appointment, Ms. d'Medici enthusiastically replied, “Actions speak louder than words. I have no intention of living out my retirement quietly, and every intention of emphasizing the Academy's reputation. Would you like me to punctuate that for you?”

World

Timmernak Boys School Destroyed

From Wizards Press Newswire

NOVA SCOTIA - In a sketchy press release from the Ministry of Magic in Halifax, officials are reporting that the famed Timmernak Wizarding Academy for Boys has been destroyed after months of continuous attacks.

“We are fortunate that casualties have been low, thanks to an early evacuation of most students and faculty from the school,” said a senior Ministry official in the release.

Although still unverified, it is almost certain that Persephone was behind these attacks, which began soon after her failed attempts to infiltrate and destroy the Avistrum Academy of Sorcery in the states, according to the press release.

Mordecai Argiletum, who has served as Librarian at both schools in the past, was one of the last defenders at the school when the final withdrawal order was given. He gave a short statement to reporters late yesterday afternoon.

“It was a savage, savage attack. I am lucky to be alive. There is nothing left,” said a bleary-eyed and bruised Argiletum. “I sent numerous distress owls, to both Avistrum and the Ministry, but it appears that none got through, save for one to my good friend Kraven Bloodthorne, who came to help immediately. Sadly, he is now missing.”

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