

# HAYLEM HERALD

A E T E R N U M   C O N C O R D I A

Volume 26

Issue 3

County Kyrinen Edition

Year AU 31 Month 6

## Curses, The Dark Fey and The King

by Muriel Wanderfoot

As some of you may remember a few years ago our good King Jean-Guerre was taken by the Dark Fey. He was rescued by the Adventurers but the rescue was bitter sweet as the King gave himself to heal the corrupted lands, leaving us without a ruler. It turns out his sacrifice was so much more than just healing the lands however. With his passing the lands of Haylem became protected against the Dark Fey, and while they can still manifest here, their power seems to be much weaker upon Kingdom lands. This became particularly relevant during the past gathering of adventurers in the North when a Kitsune, a fox like creature from the Asambroda forests to the East, came to the adventurers and gave warning of a new Fey Curse. This new curse was laid by the Dark Fey upon the lands of the North. Thanks to the protection of our King the curse seems unable to spread South.

Unfortunately not too much is known at this point about the new Curse, though I suspect the adventurers may know more than they are saying right now, for protective reasons of course. Right now all that is known for sure is that the Curse must be broken.

## Gnolls in the Dark

by Muriel Wanderfoot

*"Drop the knight, get the Thoravon!"* This was the cry heard late Sunday night near the Adventurers Complex in the Northern Encampment.

Gnolls had laid a large trap of enfeebling gases and led a group of adventurers into it's midst. While they were carrying away one of the knights a group of adventurers were just returning, among them was Guild Master Thoravon who had previously been a captive of the gnolls. Upon seeing the Guild Master the gnolls dropped the knight and went after the listani instead.

Could there be a bigger bounty for Guild Masters or is it just a personal issue with this man?

When questioned about the grudge the Gnolls seems to have, Guild Master Thoravon had this to say

*"I wouldn't call it a grudge, I'd call it more of a... deadly fascination"*

He also doesn't know why they seem to be after him, but was adamant that he will find out.

## Words to Live By

As I finished my chat with the adventurer Mel Mel she left me with these words for our Readers.

***Keep positive. The Dark Fey are praying on our emotions and feeding on our fears and anger.***

***They are trying to make us feel hopeless and like there's nothing we can do.***

***Things are not as dark as they appear.***

***It is not hopeless and we can and will win.***

***Play happy music, love one another, work together.***

***That is the best way to win.***

***They are trying to warp us.***

***Fey are a reflection of us and by making us hate and fear they are trying to increase their power.***

***It's okay to be sad, but don't let it consume you.***

***The Dark Fey are cheating and we need to stop them.***

It is important that every reader remembers these words and does their best to live by them during these troubled, and frightening times. Together, we can get through this.

## Chipping Away the Defenses

A daring rescue was pulled off on Monday morning of the previous gather. Through out the weekend plans were made and wheels turned to set in motion an incursion into Adraxis, the city lost to Ogres and Fire. The goal? Rescue as many people as possible from slavery to the Ogre Hoards. Although they won't tell us every detail of the mission, we do know that the adventurers had some smaller groups break off from the main force and go off, each to their own task. One group, N'dhrRoew, Merr'rr, Dorath, Gorath, Dava, and Grimvar, went and freed the captured people in the square that was attacked. A second group, Scry, Squire Kitriana, and Sicarius, was sent into the streets and back ways to seek any information and see if they could find specific targets, they ran into Lord Ghost who had also gone into the tunnels for his own mission. A third group, Skittles, Luca and Squire Rek'cut split off to blow up the entrances into the square to prevent reinforcements from arriving before escape could be made. A warded barracks building was in the square and within the adventurers found Sage Blossom, a member of the Celestial Towers who had gone missing during the initial attack. The plan went off without a hitch and the adventurers were able to get out with all their folks and over 100 rescued people. There are still more in the city, but this gives us hope that we will see them again soon as well.

# Poisonous Plants Popping uP

by Muriel Wanderfoot

There are strange plants cropping up in the North as the season grows warmer. They are about a foot and a half feet tall with three dark green leaves with yellow lines and dots on them, they have a fist sized orb hanging on them. These plants, if allowed to grow to maturity, corrupt the land and the wild life around them. Causing animals to act against their usual nature. According to local expert, the adventurer Mel Mel, they are of Dark Fey nature. These plants need to be destroyed as quickly as possible upon discovery. It is asked that if you do find one of these plants that you report it to the Adventurer's Complex in the Northern Encampment as soon as possible. Under no circumstances should you touch the plant yourself. It is extremely dangerous to touch, causing the adventurer Buxton to go berserk and attack his allies when he accidentally touched one. Quite often they are seen with eggs under the orb and it seems that the plant itself is incubating the egg. Upon hatching a strange monster appeared, some type of lizard with feathers that walked upon it's back legs. Again, please do not interact with these plants and let the Adventurers know about them right away.

# Blood Bath Boils

By Muriel Wanderfoot

Lilbet, a minotaur that the adventurers often work with, came to the Complex in seek of aid. A number of minotaurs woke from strange dreams and then traveled to the North but they never returned. The adventurers followed the trail and eventually did find them battling shadowy creatures that take on the shape of your enemy, of that which you fear. The ground the battle was being fought upon was red, the blood soaking into the earth and the grass. The minotaurs didn't respond to calls from the adventurers. Upon crossing to the blood soaked land a compulsion to do battle came upon the people and they began to battle alongside the minotaurs, though what they saw when they fought differed to each person. When they were able to save all the minotaurs the adventurers pulled back but a few of their own refused, the compulsion burning within them. Thankfully those who were awake were eventually able to get their friends and allies out as well.

Some claim to have heard the sounds of the battle happening when they melded into nature within the woods of the North.



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# From the County

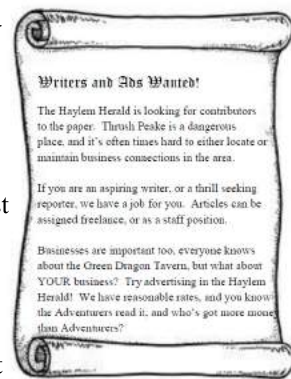
Greetings Again Herald Readers!

County Kyrinen has, once again, seen another month of small victories! This past month there was a successful rescue mission executed on the Northern City of Adraxis. It is estimated that roughly 150 people who had been held captive were freed from their captors. It is our wish that any of these people seeking refuge be allowed within County Kyrinen. Her Excellency and I have discussed this and we will see that, as best we can, resources and supplies be provided to offset the potential influx of people to the county.

The foray North continues to progress as we work to resolve conflict amongst some of the current inhabitants of the North. Back home in County Kyrinen there continues to be progression towards stabilization of the County itself and I am happy to report that one of the first settlements to agree to receive refugees was Lady Talya and Foresthold. She has worked long and hard to make Foresthold a welcoming place where safety and work can be found to those who need it.

We continue to work closely to maintain diplomatic peace with our neighbours to the South, Treshelling, as a result an encampment of Treshelling forces has been allowed to move their camp within Kingdom Lands to help fortify their encampment as well as for some safety from the conflicts in the North. Please join us in welcoming them to our lands so that they can continue to assist with the Northern Expansion.

As noted earlier in the year, the Adventurers of Thrush Peake have moved to the Northern Encampment. We are available there should you have need of us. The Watch is ever present throughout the County as well as in the North to aid in protection of the lands. The towers have representatives with us in the North as well. Should you have need of any of these organizations they too can be found at the Encampment.

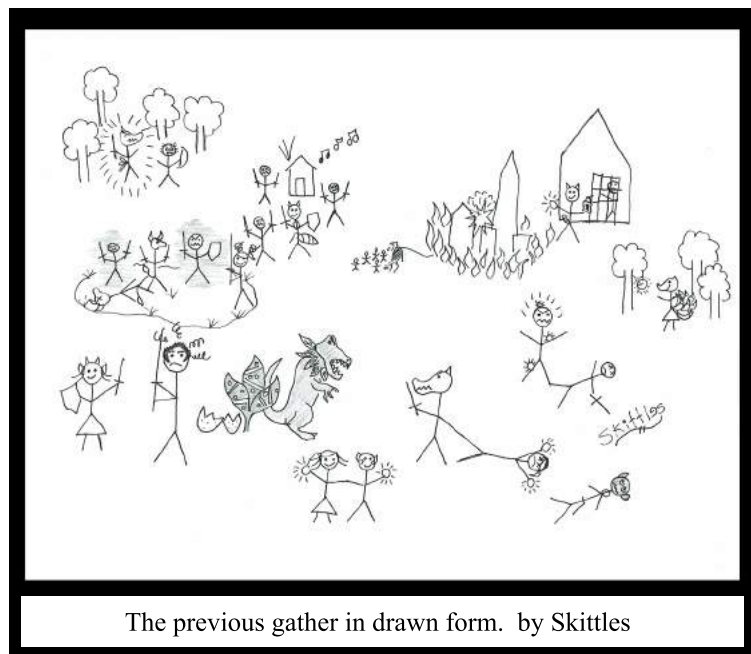


**Writers and Ads Wanted!**

The Haytem Herald is looking for contributors to the paper. Thrush Peake is a dangerous place, and it's often times hard to either locate or maintain business connections in the area.

If you are an aspiring writer, or a thrill seeking reporter, we have a job for you. Articles can be assigned freelance, or as a staff position.

Businesses are important too, everyone knows about the Green Dragon Tavern, but what about YOUR business? Try advertising in the Haytem Herald! We have reasonable rates, and you know the Adventurers read it, and who's got more money than Adventurers?



# Racial Enemies

## What We Know

By Muriel Wanderfoot

In the last edition of the Herald we gave a warning that Racial Enemies were beginning to appear in the North. Since that edition was released much more information has been gathered by the Adventurers and passed along as warning for our readers. Below we have the information we have been able to compile. Both the Herald and the Adventurers are still seeking any additional information you may have on these beasts. Have you fought them before? How do they fight? What strengths and weaknesses do you know? Anything you may have is appreciated in these times as the adventurers gear up to fight the things that make us hide under the bed.

*Humans* : A strange golem composed of Power and mechanical parts was discovered at the last gather. It seems to infect humans with it's mechanical bits. Imprison slows it down for a short time though not for long. The adventurer Felix was infected, but the adventurers were able to cure him, though we do not know the method. It is suggested that if you know a human who has become infected by this creature that you go to the Celestial Guild in Thrush Peak for aid.

*Scavengers* : A humanoid creature with glowing eyes has been found hunting the scavenger people. It seems to cause great fear in it's prey, running them down until they are feral versions of themselves, little more than the animal they resemble. Around this time the affected seem to go berserk and will attack anything they perceive as a threat, which is everything. Dispel's seem to work if caught early on, but if the fear has rooted itself too deeply there is currently no known way to save the individual.

*Sarr* : The Dom Gasab has been seen and fought in the North. He took great pleasure in taunting the adventurer Sarr, N'dhrRoew and the young matriarch, Merr'rr. He draws power from the Sarr tails he wears upon his belt and the best chance in a fight it to get rid of those in some fashion, shatters and destroys are suggested.

*Wild Elves* : a creature of some type is infecting the tribal totems. This infection, once it takes hold fully, spreads to the people of that tribe as well. Panther Tribe has become infected and the totem moved into the South and attacked the Akanazi totem. The adventurers were able to defend the totem and beat back the infected. It is suspected that if all the totems become infected, the tribes will cease to be.

*Stone Elves* : Strange jumping spiders that seemed to be controlled by a large spider that was half humanoid were seen in the North seeking Monique, a Stone Elf adventurer. A Stone Elf was arrested who seemed to have no control over his emotions. So far it is unknown if there is a connection between the two incidents.

*Mystic Wood Elves* : The Adventurer's Complex was visited by a shimmering Mystic Wood Elf who gave word that "The Darkness is coming." It is currently unknown in what form The Darkness will appear.

*Listani* : The Uonyoh. Many signs and warnings from Spirits have been given to the Adventurer's Compania that the Horror is coming. They have even been warned who the most likely targets will be.

*High Elves* : The Pantherghast, previously the enemy for all of Elven descent seems to only target the High Elves now. The horrific spined humanoid has been seen in the North.

*Drae* : Unlike the other races it seems that the Drae's enemy isn't a creature but a set of daggers. One of which killed the Duke at the start of the winter. One of the daggers is currently accounted for, but the rest are unknown at this time. The exact number is also unknown to us at the Herald.

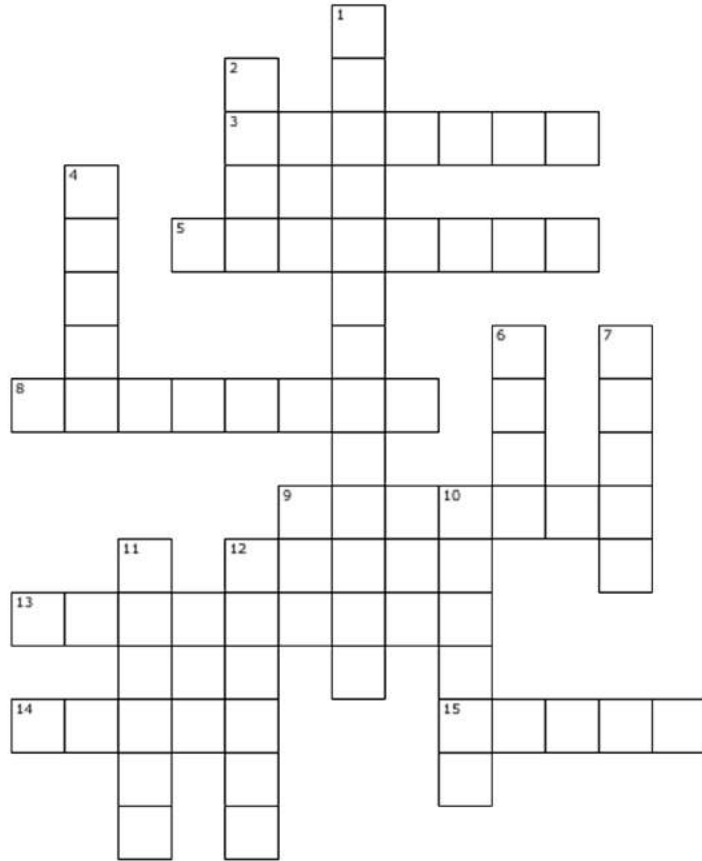
So far the rest of the races, Barbarians, Biata, Dwarves, Half-Orcs, Hobblings, Ogrim and Xantusa are unknowns to us at the Herald. We will be sure to update you as we learn more.



## Poor Spring Planting Reported in Foresthold

Local farmers are scratching their heads this month as their spring planting is failing to thrive. "You'd think the ground was still thawing," said one farmer with a homestead near Campion Mills. "By now things should be green and ready for summer, and instead it looks like there was a frost last night." Farmers are baffled, as weather conditions have been warm and wet the last two weeks and perfect for growing, even with the late spring.

# All Things Magic



## DOWN

3. Biata are rumoured to come from this creature
5. infected humanoids who follow the moon
8. a small winged animal with a screech that brings death
9. a scream means certain death
13. a strange cross between two animals, it's bite is worse than it's roar
14. gases and slaves
15. some have been allies in the past, fire is their enemy

## ACROSS

1. migratory lizard with lots of spikes
2. Mors Drakor is their home
4. most powerful creature known
6. a scholar turned by Chaos
7. not a mermaid, it lives in the waters of the North
10. the smallest of the elementals
11. recent events have left them covered in scales
12. small green beasts who are growing stronger

# The Rhyme of Crows

*Submitted by Ateri*

*This Rhyme has been a part of my childhood and the childhood of many others. The elders would say that the amount of crows in a tree would carry an omen with them...*

- One for sorrow
- Two for mirth
- Three for a wedding
- Four for a birth
- Five for silver
- Six for gold
- Seven for a secret never to be told
- Eight for a kiss
- Nine for a wish
- Ten for something you do not want to miss
- Eleven for health
- Twelve for wealth
- But beware thirteen for it is the darkness itself

# Rumours



Once again dear readers I bring you the best and strangest of the rumours which circulate the county at this time. Some seem

to have died down, due to a lack of interest, or perhaps the truth of them was discovered. Maybe even the parties responsible were found and brought to justice.

Anyways, some still linger on the tongues of Tavern patrons, and some new rumours have sprouted entirely. Read, enjoy and for all those brave spirited individuals, pursue these tales with caution, for who know what lies in the darkness.

"I hear there's a wedding at the next gather."

"Oh yeah?"

"Yeah. The Guildmaster and that cranky wild elf, late at night in the woods."

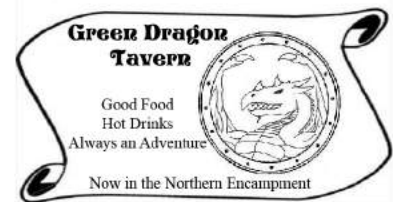
"That's a terrible time for a wedding! Monsters are out late at night"

"Wild elf things I guess"

"Some angry Mystic Wood Elf has been walking around looking for her daughters. Says she hasn't seen them in a while."

"I found a walking stick in a tree on my way to the bakery this morning. Fancy thing it was too."

"Some minotaur tried to come into my hat shop!"



# Sudoku

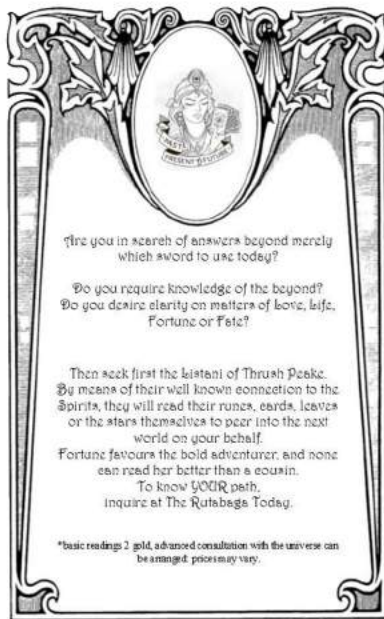
fill all empty squares so that the numbers 1 to 9 appear exactly once in each row, column and 3x3 box.

2						5		
				7	3			4
	7					4		
				6			2	
1								
				2				9
		9						3 7
6				5				

## On Shadows

submitted by Gakusha Ikuro Yoru,  
Wizard of the Stars in Darkness

You seek our remorse  
To destroy our resolve.  
But...  
Resolute we stand  
Together



## The Haylem Report

*- All the Latest from Around the Kingdom*

After Prince Adrian's successful visit to Catania last month, there are growing rumours that Prince Gregorio of Treshelling plans to reciprocate with a tour of Haylem. Although Gregorio has visited the capital before, this would be the first opportunity he has had to see much of the Kingdom to which he has made a claim. Will this new found cordiality between the royal houses help diffuse the tensions surrounding the succession?

With much of the Black Watch occupied with guarding the Ontarius border to Taleria, and the heads of the Towers still in seclusion, reclamation of the Black Waste has ground nearly to a halt. Farmers and settlers in the reclaimed lands claim that the spring has not been as lush as in years past, and worry that the Creation energies that irrigate their farmland have been disturbed in some way.

The Talerian situation remains unchanged, with the bulk of the Half-Orc conflict continuing to be segregated from the rest of the Duchy by the wall across the peninsula. There is now a full refugee city outside the walls, with one ironic visitor noting that trade seems to be thriving more in this temporary space than elsewhere in the south. Some Listani merchant caravans have begun to avoid the Talerian capital and focus their attention here instead.

Last month's rumours are this month's truths: eyewitnesses claim that the Treshelling canal has indeed been completed, and our southern neighbour's ships now have access to the western sea. Does this have any connection to the reported recent move of the Treshelling encampment at the northern border inside Kingdom boundaries?

Finally, a rumour is making the rounds at Court that a personage recently elevated to the nobility has been investigated by the Hand of the Earth on at least two occasions.

## Aggy's Advice

*I have a question regarding men's hairstyles. I am balding and decided four years ago to shave my head completely bald for a cleaner look. I received a lot of positive attention from women at the time. However, over the last year or so I have noticed more men with longer hair and women paying less attention to bald-headed men.*

*Are*

*bald-headed men out and longhaired guys in?*

Dear Baldy,

Hair styles come and go. Women will like what they like. If you want to let a woman know you like her, you should punch her, not super hard, just like, a love punch. THEN you should punch the guy she was showing interest in, and any other guys showing interest in her. Show her how much you like her by punching everyone else. You could also just talk to women that interest you, they might show an interest back if you are polite and nice to them. You know, the no punching option. You don't want to be with somebody who isn't into you for who you are, only what you look like. Also, shave those guys with the long hair after you punch them!

*My father and mother just asked me to take care of their dog, again. Toodles is a nasty, yappy, nippy small dog who I cannot stand. They even call this dog my "baby sister". How can I get out of caring for Toodles?*

*-Dogless*

Dear Dogless. Are you a Dog Scavenger? If not, this dog probably isn't your little sister (unless weird magics happened) and you should be able to say no to your parents. If you can't say no then you will just have to take in Toodles. By the way, Toodles is a terrible name for a dog, you want a strong name like Killer or Shredder, Toodles sounds weak and piddly. When Not Shredder arrives at your house to be looked after you will need to teach it who is boss. Punch it on the nose. If you really don't want to look after it, let your parents see you punch it on the nose. Pretty sure that will convince them that a different puppy sitter is best. Or you could just tell them you hate the dog and don't want to look after it.

*I have been invited to my friend's family for Yule. Should I bring a gift when I go? Any ideas of what would be appreciated?*

*-Frank*

Frank. You have great friends. You should bring a gift for the family for sure. It is Yule after all and you are going to their house. Something nice from the bakery that everyone can enjoy is always a good gift, or you could bring some wine. This is most likely a No Punching situation however.

If you have any questions or need some advice, write in to the Herald and Aggy Applebottom will answer it all.



# Madam Destiny's Horoscopes



*Madam Destiny is not responsible for any harm, physical or emotional, that is the result of following your horoscope.*

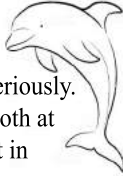
## Gryphon - Month 1

You may be superconfident at the moment, and with good reason, but don't go too far and start thinking that nothing can possibly go wrong. There will still be factors beyond your control that could make life tough if you are not ready for them.



## Dolphin - Month 2

Avoid joking about an issue that other people take very seriously. You will have to deal with some pretty fragile egos today, both at home and at work, so watch what you say. There is no point in making enemies unnecessarily.



## Phoenix - Month 3

Keep doing what you are doing and don't worry if you annoy a few people along the way. You still have plenty of time to show that you have what it takes and the fact that certain people are trying to stop you means they know it too.



## Fox - Month 4

Your affairs seem to be under lucky stars at the moment but you don't really need any cosmic assistance – you are so pumped up and ready to go that you will be able to deal with whatever fate sends your way.



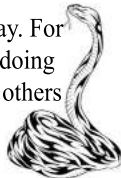
## Pegasus - Month 5

You may not want to hurt other people's feelings but the stars warn you will have to be brutally honest with both friends and work colleagues today. If they cannot keep up with the pace you are setting they had best find a new partner.



## Serpant - Month 6

You will find ways to overcome any and all obstacles today. For best results don't limit yourself to tried and trusted ways of doing things – get creative and get to the root of a problem before others even realize there is a problem.



## Public Court of Kyrimen County

ALL are welcome to attend as a public court will be held. Court will begin on Saturday Morning at 11am sharp. Please plan to attend on time. The focus of this public court is information gathering and dissemination. Court will be led by Lady Seneschal Natsumi Kadiri Saito Yoru, Seneschal of Kyrimen County. ALL information brought to the table will be heard in an orderly, timely and polite manner.

\*\*please note that while this is a public and open court any hostile actions shown towards County Kyrimen or the Kingdom will have you removed from court by the Chivalry.

## Salamander - Month 7

Those who try to talk down your dreams and schemes are jealous of your ability to see into the future and work out what needs to be done. You have that ability because you are special and you must never forget that. Be extra-special today.



## Unicorn - Month 8

It may be tempting to cut corners or leave a job half finished until later when you have more free time but the planets warn it is likely to harm your reputation. Quality is always more important than quantity, so get the job done and do it right.



## Raven - Month 9

You don't need to change direction, either in your personal life or at work – you need to stick doggedly to the path you are already on. Whatever happens over the next few days keep telling yourself that you are doing the right thing, and doing it well.



## Turtle - Month 10

If you are thinking of changing your job, or even your career, you would be wise to leave it a few days before making a final decision. The grass may look greener on the other side of the fence but there are plenty of weeds over there as well.



## Dragon - Month 11

If someone offers you what you want on a plate today you will, of course, be suspicious. Why are they being so friendly? Why are they making it so easy for you? Have you considered the possibility that it's simply because they like you?



## Bear - Month 12

Life may seem a bit dull at the moment but that will change in dramatic fashion over the next few days. The stars indicate you need to get serious about something you have been taking for granted and there will be lots of catching up to do.



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