

Session/Game: ACKS/Gatavia III #31

Date: December 7, 2014

Episode 31: "Ain't no party like a Nixon party!"

Campaign Date: July 1st-July31st, 1431 AY

Characters

Wang, Fighter-7, neutral (Marlon Kirton)
Spite Tongue, human, Enchanter-7, neutral (Marlon Kirton)
 Flaming Jack, Vaultguard-5, neutral (henchman)
 Sammy the Wagon Master Lackey-1, lawful (henchman)
 Granny Witch-1, neutral (henchman)
 Sigwulf Fighter-4, neutral (henchman)
Exorcist Rinaldo, human, cleric-8, lawful (Robert Swan)
 Decius, human, explorer-6, neutral (henchman)
 Mighty Beavis, gnome titan-6, neutral (henchman)
 Manfred, human, mage-6, neutral (henchman)
Murderface Jack, dwarf, fury-8 neutral (Jason Liebert)
 Crudley Frug, Orkin - 0, neutral (henchman)
Tiberio, human, mage-8, neutral (Tim Moyer)
 Helpful Bill, fighter-6 neutral (henchman)
 Muttering Osborne, shaman-3, neutral (henchman)
Masked Archer of the Apocalypse, assassin-8, neutral (Dave Nelson)
 Trusty Nixon, human, lackey-6, neutral (henchman)
 Hackamore, human, thief-6, neutral (henchman)
Pontifex Amicus, cleric-8, neutral (Andrew Smith)

Judge: Andrew Smith (adjudicating using the weekly lightning round technique with a "pushback" deck)

The first week of July 1431

Nixon and Hackamore decide that they need some mischief in their lives. They rob the Chateau de la Fleur for a hundred gold worth of beer and food. The next day, they knock off the new eatery "Meat on a Stick" where they purloin more edibles. The two of them then advertise for a "kegger" in the south fields. All the dirtbags and miners in Yoesville flock to the party. The next day, Amicus reimburses both businesses and declares the first week of July to be "Jupiter's Frat Party". Much celebration was had featuring beer, meat on a stick, and fruitcake. Except none of the fruitcake was eaten because fruitcake is horrible.

The Masked Archer approached Amicus about building a sculpture garden nearby the site of the party. Amicus agreed to hand over the sacred ground and 20K gold was spent on celebratory structures including altars to Jupiter, Mars, and Mercury. Rinaldo kicked in some cash to erect a monument to Saturn and Amicus added a memory garden where he laid the ashes of his departed herald Heilyn. The holy site is christened "Beer Garden of the Gods".

Decius and Beavis explore the land of the Savages with a treasure map and return with a significant load of loot. On the way back, they are approached by a strange soul named Nashorn who claims to be a

high-level servant of Dengwur. The asexual Nashorn asks for asylum in return for safety. Decius unwisely agrees to bring him back to Yoesville.

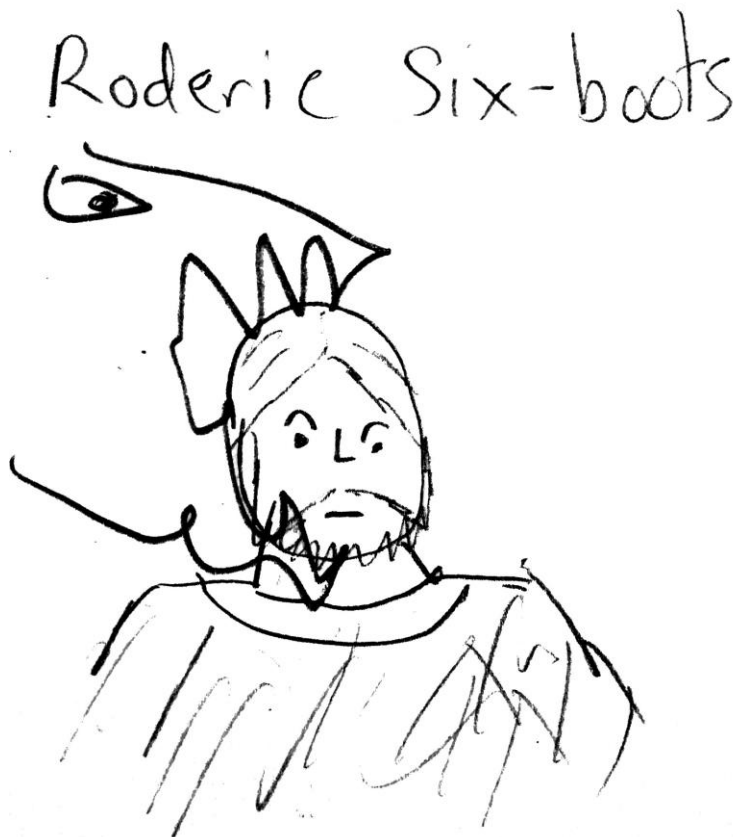
In Yoesville, some recruiting goes on. Split-Tongue hires Yebngrerel of the South Desert and Fred the Torchboy. Murderface hires a poor soul named Lousy Schmuck. Unfortunately, incompetence runs deep in the Schmuck family. Dirk Halo – Elf Nightblade – was also approached but made sure everyone knew he was “too cool” for any of the Skull Collectors.

Schmuck is instructed by Murderface to extract all the information he can from the questionably female Nashorn and he decides that he is going to seduce it out of him/her. Much incompetence and fumbling was had with Helpful Bill being instructed to stand guard as the “interrogation” went on. It was learned that Nashorn claims to be the “chief component wrangler” for the great warlock.

The Masked Archer meets with his captive Leandra, another servant of Dengwur’s. He begins to torture her by force-feeding her the inedible fruitcake. She cracks under the interrogation. From the note he got from her he learns that Dengwur’s forces plan to have a massive sacrificial event in early September at the Temple of 1000 Demons. He also learns that Leandra will say just about anything to be freed and that Nashorn is not a high-level operative of Dengwur’s. The seemingly non-threatening Nashorn is left in Lousy Schmuck’s care along with Crud Fugley.

Amicus, and Split-Tongue research spells. Tiberio recruits mercenaries in Yoesville.

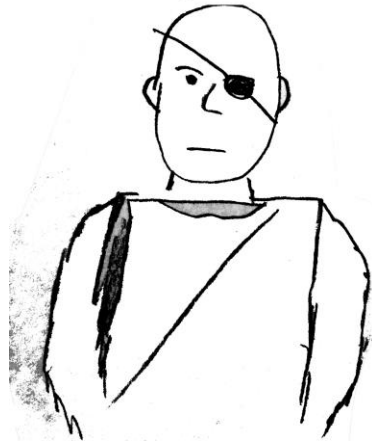
The second week of July 1431



Most of the Skull Collectors travel to Orchester to do more shopping and recruiting. Nixon and Hackamore are hired to lure Stanwic the Cheese Wizard to a dark alley to be jumped which they do under the guise of introducing him to “Macentyre the Wealthy – Cheese Aficionado”. Stanwic is tied up and charmed into withdrawing his charges against Tiberio, and returning later. Stanwic does these things, but on his return he is accompanied by a meddling do-gooder named Roderic Six Boots. Roderic Six Boots tells the Skull Collectors in Orchester to get lost and that his friend Stanwic won’t come with them. Once he starts cursing and jeering at them, Tiberio makes all his mercenary friends fall asleep. Roderic runs scared, only to be chased down by Tiberio on his flying carpet and also charmed. Now Stanwic and Roderic

are both instructed to repair the reputation of the Skull Collectors around Orchester before meeting a wandering hydra in the wilderness who bites their heads off.

Stabby Joe



Meanwhile, Nixon and Hackamore have been busy getting into more trouble. They eavesdropped on a conversation Dewey the Friendly Mage was having with his accountant and learn that the noblewoman Gossamer Trone was having an affair with the dirtbag guard Stabby Joe. However, Stabby was seeing another girl named Minerva.

MINERVA



Upon checking on the reputation and motivation of this Minerva, the Skull Collectors learn that she is in fact an agent of Dengwur sent to help get an advance force through the gate and cause invisible mischief throughout the city. The Skull Collectors foil this plan just as it was being carried out. Unfortunately, the authorities are mostly unimpressed and just thank the Skull Collectors for their help.

The third week of July 1431

Many of the Skull Collectors travel back from their work in Orchester. One of The Masked Archer's recruits named "Rhonda the Dancer" turns out to be a double agent when Decius discovers that she has been leaving a magic trail for her master Dengwur. She disappears, and later they learn that Leandra the Mystic was freed by Rhonda and Nashorn who promises to show them his/her "magic fingers". All the agents of Dengwur flee East and manage to smuggle themselves back onto the Island of the Dead.

The Skull Collectors also learn that the Elfwood has been attacked and sacked by the Wormcult. Seventy elven families approach Rinaldo led by a ranger named Sindrain. They settle in Diggers, creating their own hamlet within the domain named "New Elftown".

The fourth week of July 1431

The Skull Collectors go on a dragon hunt into the Northern reaches of the Elfwood. They had heard a rumor about a two-headed dragon, and decide to go off in search of it. They encounter the dragon as it flies above them. Its fear aura doesn't do much good, all the berserkers are immune to fear effects. However, there are a few tense moments where the heroes don't know if the dragon is landing to attack or not.

The Masked Archer sneaks into one of the ruined elven hamlets and locates the dragon's treasure. The Skull Collectors return to the hamlet with a summoned hydra to swallow all the loot. The dragon attacks once it realizes that its hoard is being stolen. Rather than having two heads, it appears to have more or

less one head that has been cut in half. Its bite attacks don't have the full force they would have, and the disease-causing breath weapon only harms one henchman. The group slays the weakened two-headed dragon with no casualties and piles its loot into a wagon.

As the adventurers return from their successful hunt, they learn about a trollish incursion into Yoesville territory. There is a village that has been sacked and all its villagers slain – all ten families. The returning force struggles mightily. Tiberio is crushed by a tree as he hides beneath the loot wagon. Wang is knocked unconscious when he gets dogpiled by two stone giants and four trolls, but in the end they are victorious.

Amicus' spell Thunderbolt Riposte is successfully researched.