

Matado Still At Large

Convicted Murderer's Whereabouts Unknown

By Laertes Strickland

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. - The nationwide manhunt for escaped convict Nikolai Matado continues for the third straight day today, as authorities say no new leads in the case have developed. A spokeswitch for the U.S. Aurors Service said that Matado's trail had gone cold since aurors for the department located the hippogriffs used in the escape in northwestern Nevada, just outside of Winnemucca. Six associates of Matado's gang, the Vultures, blasted their way to the maximum-security level of Alcatraz prison

on Thursday, and absconded with Matado on the backs of 4 hippogriffs. Three guards at the prison, including the captain of the guard, were killed in the raid. The identities of the six assailants are unknown, as they apparently used Polyjuice Potion to disguise themselves. Known associates of Matado include Cleophus and Jebediah Perkins and Thorsten Haglund. Matado was convicted 6 years ago of armed robbery, kidnapping, extortion, and murder. He has been connected to at least 30 high-profile crimes worldwide. The Aurors Service has been keeping watch on Avistrum Academy of Sorcery, since Matado was first captured by Clark Dowling, former Auror and

now Headmaster of the school. However, Dowling is away from the school; his current whereabouts are unknown (see related article, "Avistrum Headmaster Missing"). Thus, authorities are not sure Matado will strike the school. The Department of Magic has offered a reward of 10,000 Galleons for information leading to the capture of Matado. Tips can be sent via owl to the U.S. Auror Service, The Hexagon, Salem, Massachusetts. Matado and his associates are presumed armed and very dangerous. Citizens should make no attempt to apprehend the Vultures on their own - contact law enforcement instead.

Avistrum headmaster Missing

Vigilante-Turned-Educator Disappears Before Start of Annual Term

By Absalom Guthrie

DENVER, Colo. - For the first time in his six years as head of Avistrum Academy of Sorcery, Headmaster Clark Dowling completely failed to show up for term. Professors at the school have been very tight-lipped regarding his whereabouts - Deputy Headmistress Sachiko Kobiyashi will only acknowledge that he is away on important business. Fellow Dark Hunters Polonius Aberfoyle and Evangeline "Storm" Crafter both refused comment. Rumors are buzzing through the stu-

dent population, however, that Dowling has gone off in search of Alcatraz escapee Nikolai Matado. Matado has been at large since Thursday, when his gang, the Vultures, broke him out of the maximum-security level in a daring daylight raid on the prison (see related article, "Matado Still At Large"). Dowling originally apprehended Matado shortly before taking a post at the Academy. Officially, Dowling recovered the Holy Grail as part of that capture, but several arcane-ologists have disputed the story, especially since Dowling has always de-

clined to offer the cup for study. Is it possible that the true object of Matado's pursuit is in need of Dowling's personal protection? Or, is it possible that the brave (some would say foolish) Dowling is afraid for his life, and has gone into hiding? When asked for her opinion on these possibilities, Professor Kobiyashi said, "The Headmaster has always placed the safety of the students and staff of this school above his own. You can count on the fact that wherever Clark Dowling is, he is working to protect the students under his care."



Clark Dowling

Aberfoyle Campaign on the Ropes

By Willard Woodhouse

DENVER, Colo.—Polonius Aberfoyle, candidate for Wizards' Senate, has seen his poll number drop over 8 points in 2 days, since the repeal of the PREvention of Transfiguration Enhanced Deception (PRETEND) Act. Prior to the repeal on Thursday, Aberfoyle was leading his Grand Old Mages' (GOM) party opponent, Lloyd Marsden, by 11 points in the Galumph poll. By press time today, that lead has diminished to 3, within the margin of error of 5 points.

Asked for comment on his statistical dead heat, Aberfoyle seemed contemplative.

"While I certainly have other issues that

I would love to address if the people of Colorado elect me to the Senate," Aberfoyle said, "I recognize that this campaign has focused on a single issue. I am very pleased to finally be able to use my gifts for Transfiguration, and to be free to teach the subject I love without unwarranted interference. If the price I pay for that freedom is defeat in the election, then I will be content. My candidacy has forced the Progressive Wizards' Party to stand up for its principles and be the party that defends individual liberty and academic freedom."

It has probably not helped Aberfoyle's chances that he has taken the entire weekend off from campaigning to return to teaching his subject at Avistrum Acad-

emy of Sorcery. Marsden, in the meantime, has been barnstorming the entire state. Yesterday, at a campaign in Fruita, he ridiculed Aberfoyle's absence from the campaign trail.

"My opponent thinks he's too good to get out here and shake your hands this weekend. Now that he's gotten what he wanted, he no longer cares to fight for the people of this state."

Aberfoyle plans to resume his campaign on Monday with a rally in Idaho Springs. He is scheduled to address a League of Witch Voters group, followed by lunch with the Gryphon's Club in Alamosa.

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Tales from Avistrum: The Chalice of Khufu

A Mischief Managed Entertainment Production

Directed by Cody L. Miller

Written by Chad Patten

Cast

Clark Dowling	Brian Dowling
Sachiko Kobiyashi	Sachiko Thomas
Polonius Aberfoyle	Chad Patten
Aleator Boudreaux	Cody L. Miller
E. Storm Craefter	Storm Hortman
Lady Viola Fey	Jacqueline Clark
Signa Rose Jones	Diana Jones
Maldraco Davante	Matt Sumpter
Trent Voertigern	Eddie Dethlefs
Audrey "Trouble" Deserand	Susan Atchley
Mordecai Argiletum	Barry Ludwick
Solace Mare	Kenny Garcia
Rein Darkshine	Vindorein Dy'Near
Susan Jevoli	Kathryn Williams
Leyla Roffignac	Emily Erdman
Nikolai Matado	Joshua Thomas

Crew

Jason LeBouef	Mary Spratte
Cora Brittain	Kathy Jones
Robert Brittain	

