

The Daily Dirge



Serious journalism for a world beset with woe. | Friday, February 16, 2007

Lucasta Imitator Apprehended

Police arrested an unidentified young man in Queens early Thursday morning on a laundry-list of charges stemming from vigilante activity.

He was arrested by officers responding to a 911 call reporting a strange man loitering about and suspiciously eyeing passersby. When officers arrived, they easily located the man, who was assaulting he later claimed was a heroin dealer.

“It was just unreal,” exclaimed witness Joel Tian. “I mean, yeah, the guy was shady, but this guy in white just ran at him out of no where, yelling about heralding the lightbringer and the end of the world. He was shouting something about angels of fire, trumpets and the end of the world.”

The victim, who has not yet been identified, is reportedly still in serious condition.

Following the arrest, several area

residents stepped forward claiming to have been ‘saved’ by this vigilante. “It’s about time someone did this,” said Madison Grigori, 81. “This neighborhood has been in decline for decades and the police just ignore us. I was so overjoyed when Lucasta first appeared – I knew the Lord had finally heard our prayers and sent us an angel. And now others are following his lead. Hallelujah!”

This incident is just one of many signs that the enigmatic figure known as only ‘Lucasta’ has become firmly entrenched in the hearts and minds of New Yorkers. Although he was certainly widely-discussed at the time of previous incidents, in recent weeks, the ‘Lucasta’ phenomena have exploded. Across the city, ‘Lucasta’ study groups and graffiti have proliferated. Street preachers are beginning to incorporate ‘Lucasta, the Lightbringer’ into their message. Furthermore, Lucasta is being increasingly incorporated in existing apocalyptic prophecies.

The NYPD, however, is worried that all of this attention will encourage others to resort to vigilantism. Police Spokesman Sam Trotter summarized the department’s position, “What it simply comes down to is that these people are dangerous to themselves and others. They are untrained and inexperienced and will eventually make a mistake. When they do, innocent lives will be lost. Hopefully, this will be the last Lucasta imitator. Given recent events, however, I doubt we will be so lucky.”

Vontag Announces New Expansion

Vontag industries announced Wednesday the expansion of its Queens Tool & Die facility to double existing capacity.

The expansion will be part of an extensive renovation of the facility incorporating the latest in high-tech, automated manufacturing. “Precise, custom-made components have long been a core business at Vontag,” said spokesman Daniel Thomas.

“Historically, our focus has been on quality rather than quantity. With these renovations, we will be able to significantly increase our output without compromising quality and while reducing overhead costs.”

Analyst response to the news was mixed, due to a general decline in demand for custom-made heavy machinery in the United States, but the general consensus was that Vontag has a history of successfully bucking market trends. Vontag is notable in being one of the only US heavy industrial manufacturers to consistently turn a profit during the recent recession.

Stock prices rose slightly on the news, raising 2% in after-hours trading Wednesday and an additional 3% Thursday.

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Coney Island Gang Fight Leaves Police Puzzled

Last night's two-hour gunfight on Coney Island several times continued four days of unprecedented gang violence between the rival street gangs the Orphans and the Furies.

Local hospitals have been flooded with dozens of victims of gunshot wounds. Police estimate that the struggle has already killed at least fifty members of area gangs as well as more than twenty innocent bystanders.

"We've never seen anything like this," said police spokesman Sam Trotter. "In LA, sure. They have stuff like this all the time. But we haven't seen anything like this in New York in the decade I've been on the force. In the past, there have been occasional scuffles with a few deaths, but usually one side leaves when that happens. Now, they just hole up and keep shooting."

Even the recent snowstorm did not hinder the nightly battles. "I heard gunshots, looked out the window and saw a group in a snowplow trying to run down someone while shooting at him. A snowplow! It's like something out of Iraq or something."

Police efforts to intervene have been hindered by the recent storm and an inexplicable ability on the part of the gang identified as the Ophans to consistently elude the police. An unidentified source in the NYPD said "Personally, I think they've got someone inside. Not only do they know when we're coming, but they seem to know where we are going and what we plan to do when we get there."

This ongoing fight appears to be a continuation of an ongoing confrontation between rival gangs that

has heated up in recent months.

There is speculation that at least one group is using some sort of hallucinogen following wide-spread reports of strange voices and sudden frights. Dr. Frederick Anderson at Columbia University's medical school commented "Personally, I suspect that these phenomena are somehow related to the Lucasta incidents. Although the incidents are greatly different in nature and scale, they both feature the apparent use of an incredibly strong drug. Nothing else could explain these phenomena."

"Despite initial setbacks, we expect to have the situation under control within the next 48 hours. Additional officers have been called in. Beyond that, I cannot speculate on what we will do," said Trotter.

Despite the horrific scale of last night's fight, the attacks appear to be tapering off.

Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Don't get greedy this week, even if you think the prize is within your grasp, it can slip away all too easily.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Somebody is going to flirt awkwardly with you soon, and you might get the wrong impression.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Take the brass ring. Nothing in the world can stop you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Avoid the number 6 and be extra nice to your dog this week.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Have a pleasant and happy day in the sunshine. You enjoy the sunshine, don't you? Yes, I can envision you frolicking in it right now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You have a big decision coming up. Ask

yourself if it's worth it. Ask again.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You're about to do something amazing. Good luck.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Your going through a very life changing experience. Remember, however that that's all it is, as crappy as it seems: change.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You often don't feel the full brunt of the turmoil around you. Treasure that.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Sometimes your best just isn't enough. At least you tried.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Sometimes it's a good idea to buy another gun and learn German.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

You're full of bugs.