

The Star

Newsletter of Amtgard, The Celestial Kingdom



March 31, 2001 Edition

Table of Contents

Kingdom Officers	Page 1
Board of Directors	Page 1
Provincial Leaders	Page 1
Kingdom Calendar	Page 2
Kingdom Finances	Page 2
Bits and Pieces	Page 3
Allthing Quorum Proposal	Page 6
Allthing Knightings Proposal	Page 7
Maps to Provinces	Page 8
Maps to Event Sites	Page 12

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Captain of the Guard: Seyer Caasi (Isaac Reyes)	(512) 303-9219	seyer_caasi@hotmail.com
GM of Reeves: Dugal (Chris White)	(512) 520-0038	chwhite@texas.net
Archivist: Kaderian (William Winnie)	(512) 448-2273	ckarchivist@aol.com

Board of Directors

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Provincial Leaders

Bifost (Kerrville)	Duke Logan	Chancellor Brother Stephan
Drackenroc (Round Rock)	Baron Loqi	Seneschal Diego
Killeen area (Killeen)	Baron Freeman	Seneschal Katar Longbow
South of Heaven (Victoria)	Baroness Diamond	Seneschal Diamond
Talonfield (Bastrop)	Baron Hanenfeld	Seneschal Wolfbane
Tirana (Austin)	Baroness Aysa	Seneschal Kaderian
Torimar (Austin)	Duchess Nightshade	Chancellor Tiberius
Traitors Gate (San Antonio)	Duke Colonel	Chancellor Kynrypt

Kingdom Calendar

March 31	Kingdom Qualls with Feast	Onion Creek Lodge, Austin
April 6-8	Wetlands Midreign	Liberty
April 8	Killeen Elections*	Killeen

* New officers will be elected and installed, and a new name for the province determined

April 22	Quest & Elections	WW McAllister park, San Antonio (Traitors Gate)
April 28/29	Drackenroc/Talonfield Qualls	Saturday Drackeroc, Sunday Talonfield
May 4-6	Coronation	Burnet County Fairgrounds, Burnet
May 6	BOD Meeting	Burnet County Fairgrounds, Burnet
May 13	Traitors Gate Coronation	Traitors Gate
May 18-20	Tirasol Midreign	Camp Finlayson, Killeen
May 26 or 27	Weaponsmaster	Site TBA
June 8-10	EH Coronation	Tanglewood
July 19-22	Clan	New Mexico
August 10-12	Masque	Camp Finlayson, Killeen
August 17-19	CK Midreign	Burnet County Fairgrounds, Burnet
August 19	BOD Meeting	Burnet County Fairgrounds, Burnet
November 2-4	CK Coronation	Burnet County Fairgrounds, Burnet

Kingdom Finances

The Kingdom treasury is in excellent shape, with a healthy bank balance. This is in large measure due to two recent highly successful events — Midreign and Spring War. Both events had very profitable slave auctions and Midreign had an auction of donated items while Spring War had a T-shirt sale. These extra fund raisers contributed significantly to the Kingdom coffers, while the slave and item auctions also benefited the Provinces providing the "goods". Thanks to all who participated.

An effort is under way to organize and review records in order to provide a more detailed report of Kingdom Finances. It should be ready soon.

"Bits and Pieces"

SISTER MARY

I met Sister Mary at Spring War as did many of you. It was her first big event, and I would have to say that she made the event for me. It seemed like every time I started to sag a little she was there with her special bright smile and a ready hug to pick me up and get me going again. Sister Mary was everywhere, nonstop, always asking "Can I help?". She helped set up the Arcade gaming area, and brought out her radio so that the workers there could have something to listen to. No one suggested it, she just did it on her own. Later on, she came back and visited the dismally under-attended Arcade (really, there WAS one, just nobody came) where she proved a really quick study with bow and arrow. It was readily apparent she was not familiar with them, but she listened attentively to advice and put it into practice, hitting her intended target dead center with only her third shot. When Sister Mary found the kitchen vacant and a mess, she first started in on cleaning it up by herself, then recruited a couple of people who wandered by into helping her (she did this at least TWICE, that I am aware of). She helped out with serving Friday's breakfast, and stayed afterwards to help clean up the kitchen. When the Knight's Circle met, she was there bringing drinks and fresh fruit and cold cuts to the Circle. No one ASKED her, she just saw others doing it and stepped in to help out. Sister Mary spent quite a bit of time at the Archivist's table keeping the working staff there company. I could go on and on, but I am sure you get the idea by now. Saturday night Sister Mary received her first Order of the Rose from Queen Aylia after Her Majesty was besieged with requests from the Populace to recognize her. Many among us could learn much from Sister Mary's example. Oh, there is one thing more you should know about Sister Mary she is SEVEN YEARS OLD!

PRE-EVENT MEETINGS

Just before Midreign, and again before Spring War, Queen Aylia met with the "official" event staff and anyone else who wanted to attend. The purpose of these meetings was to make sure everything was in place for the event, and to deal with any last minute problems. The meetings were very productive, and contributed strongly to the events. Discussions were held regarding gate and walk-around security issues/policies/procedures, feast, medical support, and battle games. Both meetings were well attended, upbeat experiences. Perhaps this should be continued, or maybe even expanded to include provincial leaders.

SECURITY

This Reign has benefited greatly from having a Captain of the Guard who takes the job seriously. Seyer Caasi has brought mundane experience and professionalism into play in making the Queen's Guard much more than a merely honorary post. We now have in place an established practice of a security briefing before each event, REAL round the clock Guard Security presence at events (thanks to Seyer and Wolfbane, who have alternated time throughout Midreign and Spring War), and actual reports filled out on incidents. It is very refreshing to see Security emphasis shifted from REACTIVE to PREVENTIVE. There has been a noted decrease in number and severity of incidents as a result. MAJOR KUDOS AND A BIG HUZZAH to Seyer and staff.

FIRST AID/CPR CLASSES

Just one among many innovations the Kingdom has seen this Reign is a training session for First Aid and CPR certification that was attended by twenty or so members of the Populace just before Midreign. These individuals, most of whom paid the registration/certification fee out of their own funds, will provide much needed backup and relief for our overworked medical staff. That we as a Kingdom have undertaken the effort to provide official Red Cross training and certification for members will also prove valuable in the event someone should make any complaint (i.e., file suit) against the Kingdom over an injury. It is a clearly identifiable and easily documented step on the part of the Kingdom officials to recognize and deal with the possibility of injury. At the very least it will establish that the Kingdom is not negligent in this area – that can go a long way towards a successful defense.

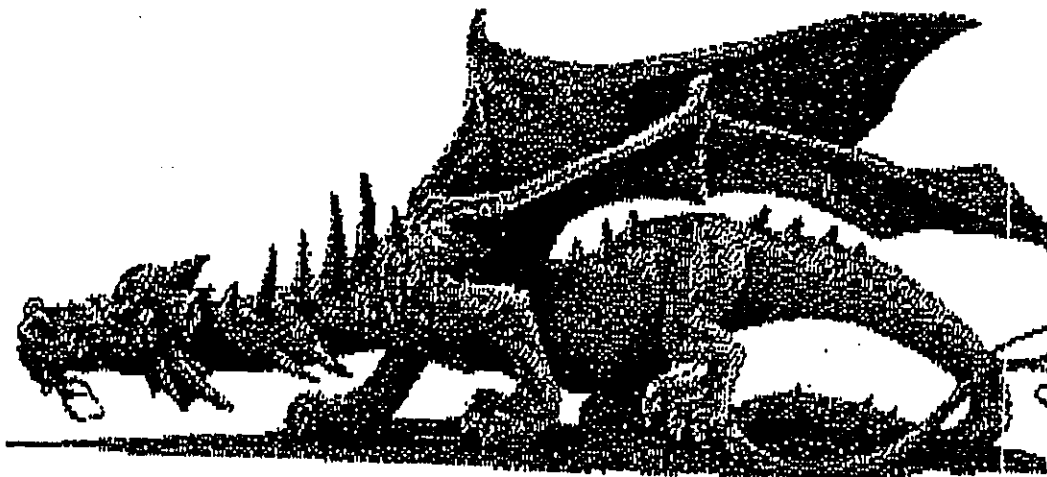
AFTER EVENT CLEANUP

The Kingdom owes a HUGE debt of thanks to a very small core group who stayed behind after Spring War to clean up. Some of them were still there at nearly 3 AM Monday, and went back up to Burnet later that day to finish up because everything was still not done. It seems like it is always the SAME very few who are there cleaning up and finishing up long, long after the rest of those attending the event have left. Interestingly enough, it is usually the very same people you see working the gate when you come in, and receiving for the battle game, and setting up tables for feast, and taking them down after feast, and preparing feast, and, and, and. . . . Does anyone ever wonder if these people get to play at events? Or sleep? Or even share in feast? And yet they pay the same gate fees as anyone else (without complaining they are too high) – even when someone has recognized ahead of time that they are going to be the backbone of the event, and placed their name on the "exempt from gate fee" list. Funny, these same folks are among those who are always dues paid, too.

Rarely if ever does anyone hear a complaint from them. Why is it that the vast majority of the populace just ignores them, and does nothing to make the job they do any easier? Just a few minutes carrying tables, mopping a floor, moving trash to a dumpster, or picking up trash would save hours for the dedicated few. Let's try to do a little better, shall we?

CORPORA REVISION

The process of revising the Corpora is at long last nearing an end. All that remains is the official counting of the ballots and publishing the results. This is currently scheduled to take place at Quals on March 31. Many hours have gone into the process, by a diverse group of members. There has been much arguing, discussing, and compromising amongst the various viewpoints; with the end result a blend of efforts and talents of some of our Kingdom's most dedicated members. Is it perfect? No, it is not. Is it better than what we had before? Absolutely yes! It remains to be seen how much of what the committee came up with will be approved by the populace as a whole, and the decision was made to take the vote on each section of the Revision separately. The Corpora was presented first online, then live at Midreign. There not being a Quorum present, no vote could be taken then, so Queen Aylia and Prime Minister Father Thomas issued a Joint Proclamation that the vote be taken at the Province level within the following four weeks. Three amendments were presented at Midreign, and these were included in the package sent to the Provinces for voting. Midway through the voting period, it was discovered that one key provision regarding Allthing had been omitted inadvertently. It will be presented as a Proposed Amendment in the near future. Thanks to all who participated in the process.



Allthing Quorum Proposal

March 31, 2001

Keep all of the current Allthing provisions for notice and scheduling. Modify the Quorum to read as follows (renumber to fit as appropriate).

QUORUM:

1. No business, OTHER THAN DISCUSSION, shall be conducted without a Quorum.
2. Eligibility to vote will be determined before Allthing is called to Order. Once Allthing begins, the eligible voter list is locked in until that Allthing is concluded.
3. It is the responsibility of each member to establish eligibility to vote.
4. The first order of business at each and every Allthing shall be determination of Quorum.
5. Quorum shall be determined separately, if necessary, for each item of business.
6. Quorum has three levels:
 - a. **FULL QUORUM** – total eligible voters equivalent to the sum of ten for each Duchy, plus five for each Barony, plus one for each Shire, OR two-thirds of the total eligible voters. For example: the Kingdom consists of two Duchies, five Baronies, and one Shire. Total required to meet Full Quorum is $(2 \times 10) + (5 \times 5) + (1 \times 1) = 46$ eligible voters, or two thirds of the total eligible voters, whichever is less.
 - b. **LIMITED QUORUM** – at least twenty five percent (25%) of the total eligible voters, AND at least half of the Kingdom Provinces represented.
 - c. **NO QUORUM** – neither Full Quorum nor Limited Quorum is met.
7. All actions taken by Full Quorum stand unless overturned by another Full Quorum.
8. If there is not a Full Quorum, but there is a Limited Quorum, the Monarch and Prime Minister MAY (but are not required to) jointly proclaim that debate will be held and a vote taken. A written record shall be made of the issues raised in debate. This record, along with the full text of the Proposal, shall be delivered to each Provincial record keeper within ten days. The Provinces then have until four weeks after the Allthing to take a vote to overturn the Allthing decision and communicate the result in writing to the Prime Minister. Each Province shall vote separately, and voting is only allowed at a member's home Province. A vote to overturn requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority of eligible voters of the Province to pass. If more than half (>50%) of the Provinces vote to overturn, the Allthing decision shall be declared null and void. Otherwise, after four weeks from the date of the Allthing, the decision of the Limited Quorum becomes final and is thereafter treated as though passed by a Full Quorum.
9. If there is determined to be neither a Full nor a Limited Quorum, the Monarch and Prime Minister MAY (but are not required to) jointly proclaim that the vote will be referred to the Provinces. Discussion shall be held and a written record made of the issues raised. This record, along with the full text of the Proposal, shall be delivered to each Provincial record keeper within ten days. A vote shall be taken at each Province and the result communicated in writing to the Prime Minister within four weeks after the Allthing. Voting is only allowed at the member's home Province. The Province results will be totaled, and the result treated as though the result of a Full Quorum vote.
10. Any member eligible to vote at an Allthing, but unable to attend, may deliver to the Prime Minister or Monarch a written absentee vote on any or all questions scheduled to be addressed by Allthing. The statement must specify the date and place of the scheduled Allthing, must state how the member wishes to vote (for or against) on each issue separately, and must be witnessed by at least one officer of the Kingdom or any of its Provinces. Such absentee votes must be **RECEIVED** by the Monarch or Prime Minister before the Allthing is called to order, and **WILL COUNT TOWARDS QUORUM** for each issue for which a vote is stated.

Knightings Proposal

March 31, 2001

Background: One of the most controversial elements of the Corpora revision centered around the making of Knights – especially the authority of the Monarch to bestow Knighthood or withhold Knighthood at will, regardless of the opinion of the Knights' Circle. There were two distinct camps on the question – Those who favored unlimited authority for the Monarch, and those who wanted to REQUIRE approval of the Circle before the Monarch could Knight someone. No one really addressed the issue of a Monarch refusing to Knight someone. This proposal is an attempt to establish a limited system of checks and balances in the decision process.

Proposal:

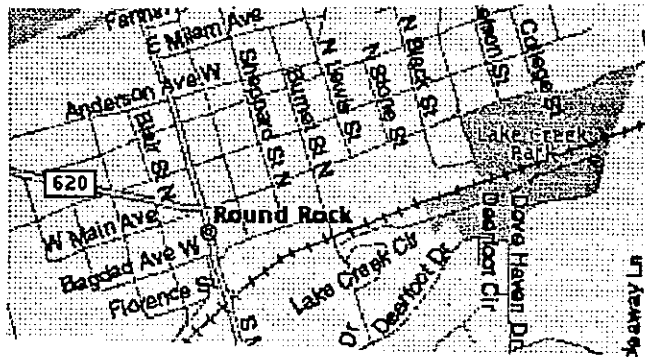
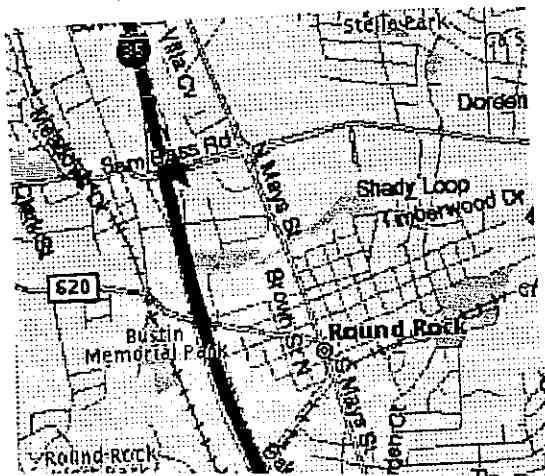
- 1) Remove the reference to authority to bestow Knighthood from all sections except the section on Knights.
- 2) Add a subsection in the Knights section as follows:

NNN. Authority to bestow Knighthood: The Authority to bestow Knighthood shall rest jointly with the Monarch and the Knights' Circle. The Monarch shall be the primary decision maker, but may be overruled by a three-fourths majority vote of ACTIVE KNIGHTS.

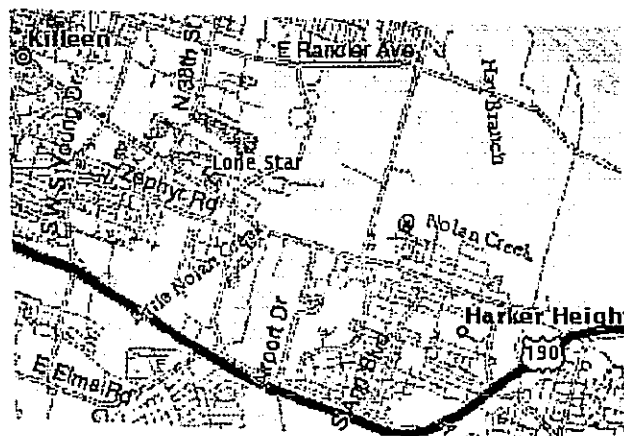
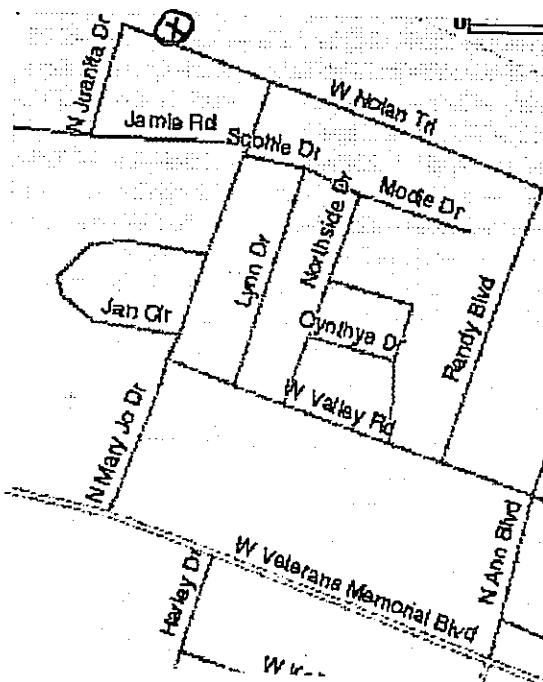
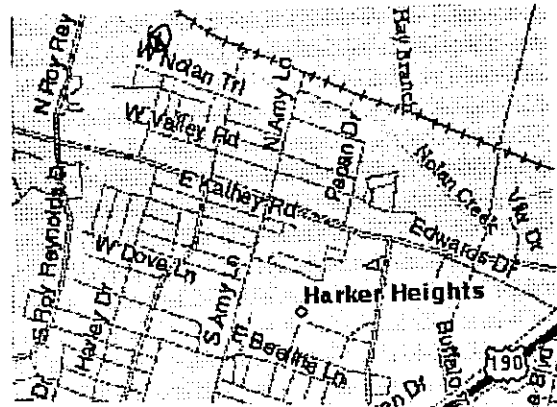
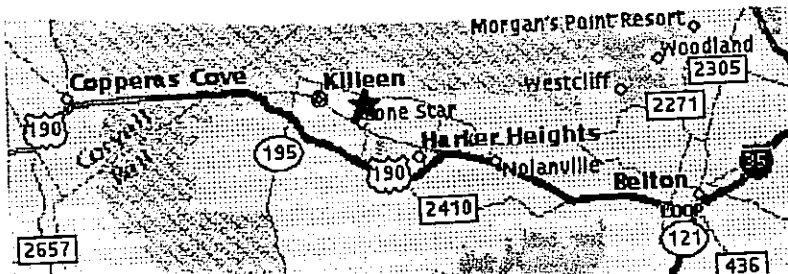
PROCEDURE:

- A) The Monarch shall meet with the Knights' Circle to discuss potential Knight candidates.
- B) The Circle votes to Knight, or not Knight, each candidate.
- C) If the Monarch agrees with the Circle's decision, the decision stands.
- D) If the Monarch does NOT agree with the Circle's decision, the Monarch's decision stands unless overridden by a three-fourths majority vote of the ACTIVE Knights.
- E) ACTIVE is defined as having at least six attendance credits in the preceding six months, including at least one Kingdom event (Coronation, Weaponsmaster, Midreign, Quest, and Qualls) and being present in the Circle at the time of discussion either in person or by written ballot delivered to the Monarch or GM of Knights before the start of the meeting.
- F) If the Circle votes to override the Monarch's decision to withhold Knighthood, the GM of Knights may bestow the honor if the Monarch refuses to do so.

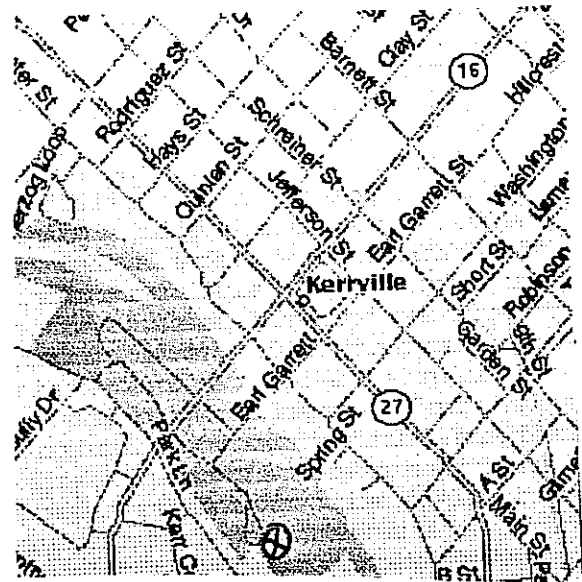
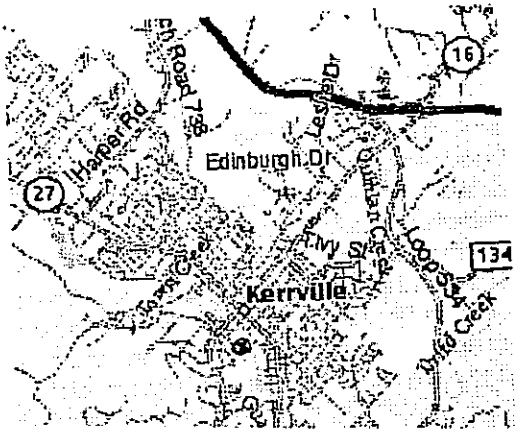
Drackenroc



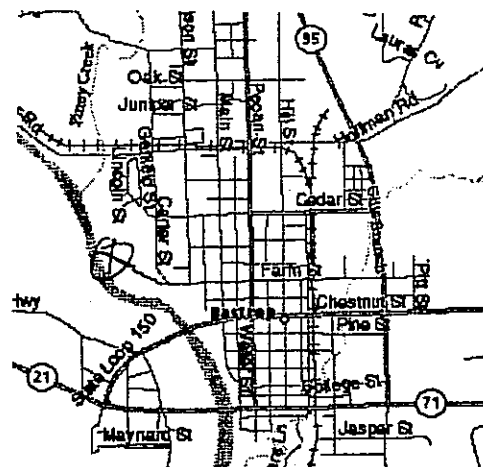
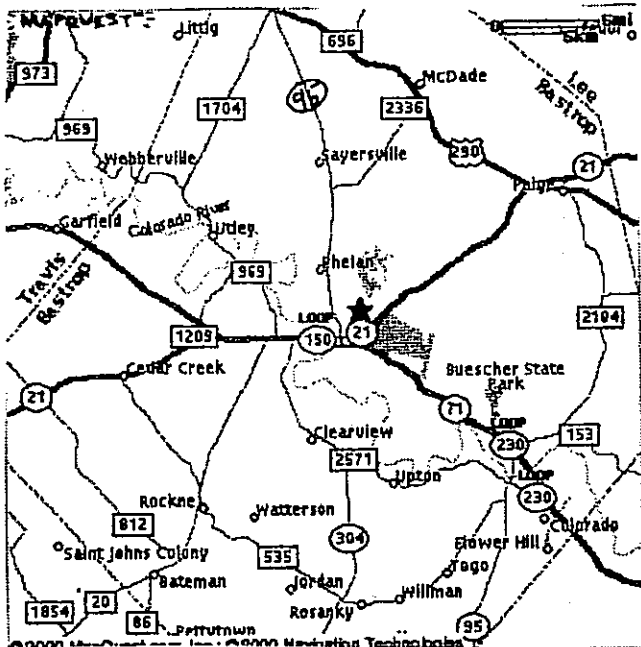
Xanadu



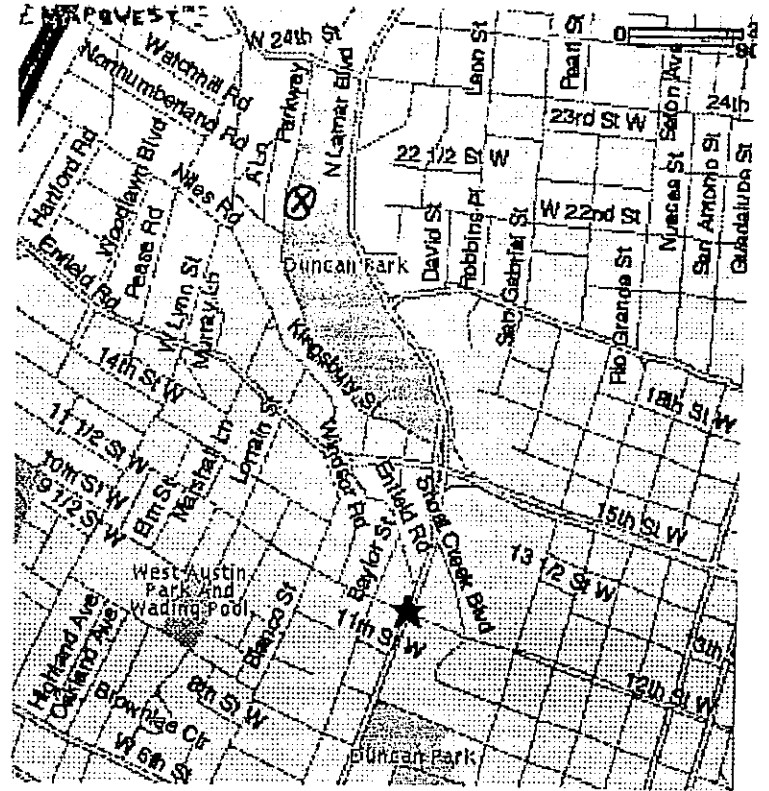
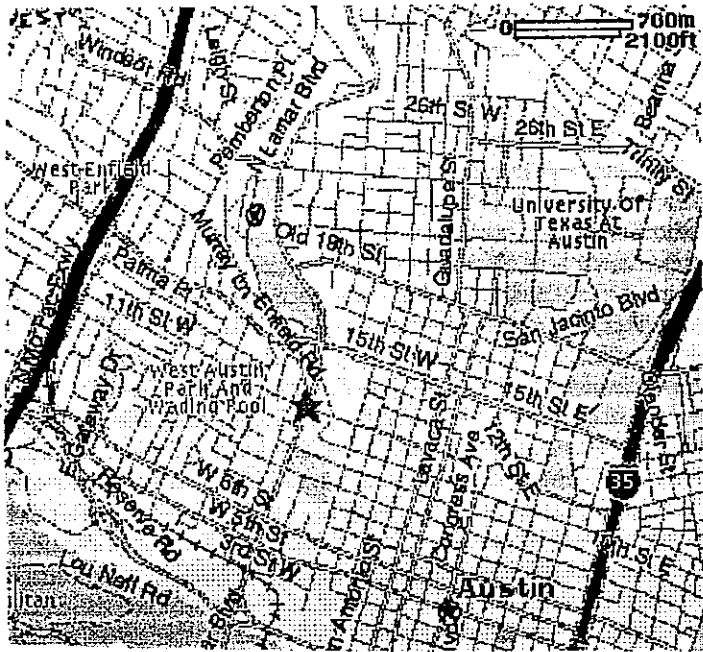
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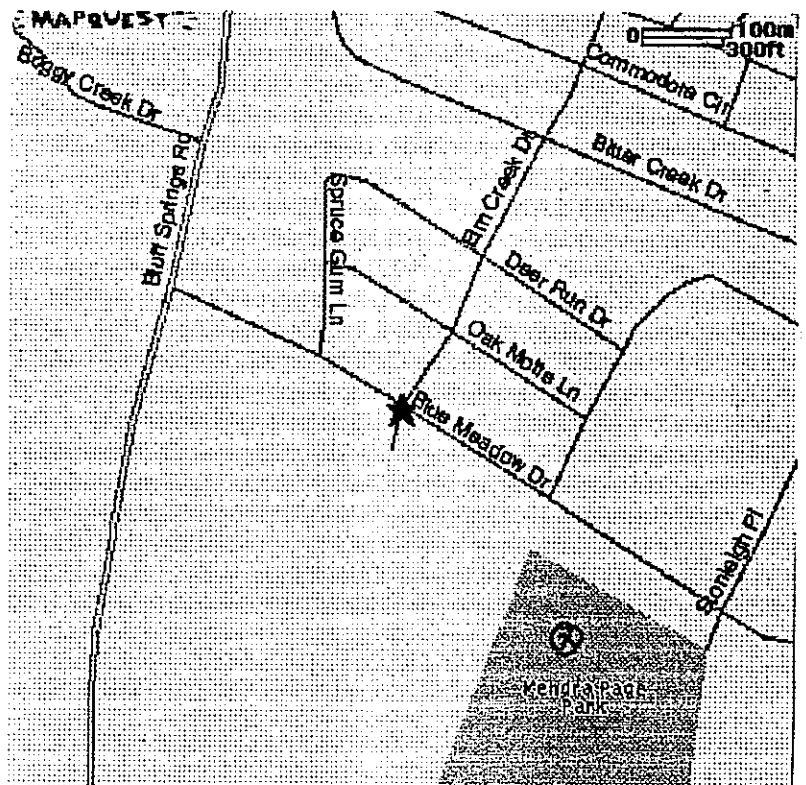
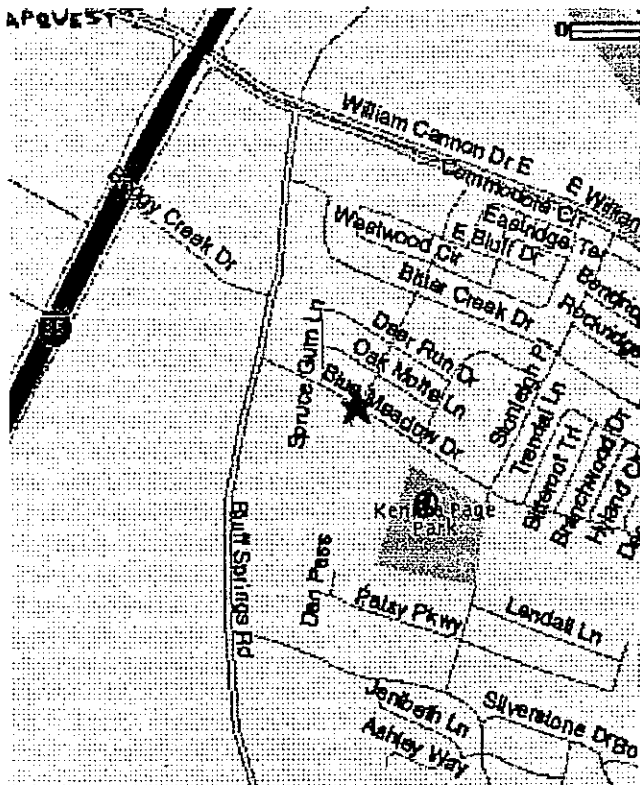
Talonfield



Torimar



Tirana



Traitor's Gate

