

Lord of the Underworld Appoints Task Force to Study "Toid" Term

THE UNDERWORLD - In a recent trip across the River Styx, members of the Krewe of K.A.O.S. learned from the seer Tiresias that Marc Hades has formed an "independent" task force to study the possibility of amending the Underworld Charter to allow him to serve a third term as Lord of the Underworld. Known in the local vernacular as a "Toid Term", this same plan was defeated by the Gods many years ago when it was first attempted by "Dutch" Hades, the father of Marc Hades.

The task force was hand-picked by the Lord of the Underworld himself from among the most senior of the Furies. It will be co-chaired by Ron Poseidon, God of the Aquarium, and Roy Charon, ferryman and attorney from Hell, whose primary job is to collect tribute from anyone who seeks access to the Underworld. Other members of the task force include various demi-gods of the Underworld who owe their continued prosperity to staying in Hades' good (dis)graces.

The task force is charged with "studying" term limits and determining what term restrictions are imposed upon the other Gods.

When reached for comment, in a greater display of hubris than any ever exhibited by his father, the current Hades insisted that he has not yet made a decision about whether to launch an effort to amend the Underworld Charter, but will await the recommendation of the task force. The Lord of Darkness explained that the task force was formed for study pur-

poses only and that its conclusions were not pre-determined. "I will follow the will of the task force, whether it recommends a 'three-peat' or unlimited future terms," vowed the Lord of Darkness. He also made a pledge that, however many additional terms he serves, he will continue to do the same things to the citizens of the Underworld as he has during his first two terms.

A number of gods, goddesses and demi-gods living on or near Mount Loyolympus are expected to resist any efforts to allow Hades to three-peat. Serious opposition to any Charter change is expected from Troy Dionysius, Oliver Hermes and Jim Apollo, each of whom is rumored to be scheming to replace Hades on the Underworld throne. No position on the issue has been taken by Suzy Aphrodite, formerly of Loyolympus, or Ellen Pandora, whose silence is expected to be rewarded with a clerkship in the Underworld court system. Thus far, support for the initiative has been expressed only by Eddie the Satyr, a longtime crony of the Hades family.

Current speculation on Loyolympus is that Hades is seeking an additional term as the Master of Darkness because there are no god positions outside of the Underworld that he could expect to secure. "Hades is a big name here in the Underworld," one Loyolympus insider remarked, "but in the real world he's not even qualified to help Hercules clean out the stables of Augeas."

Michelle Persephone, the re-

cently abducted bride of Hades, has already lived with her new husband for the required four months this year, and was initially unavailable for comment. When reached at last in the land of the living, Persephone's response centered around the prospect of progeny from the recent marriage. "The only term Hades has no interest in is 'full term'," she said. "Don't expect any grandchild of Dutch Hades to serve as Lord of the Underworld one day -- this is one case where there will definitely not be a three-peat."

Among the Dark Lord's announced goals for his additional term(s) are the following:

- expansion of the Underworld International Airport into St. Charles Parish, the Parish that is the closest thing to living in the Underworld.

- increasing the size and number of potholes in the Underworld.

- privatizing the systems for delivery of water, misery and hopelessness.

- a personal takeover of the Underworld Public School System.

- get the best possible deal for the Dark Realm in the upcoming bankruptcy filing by the Harrah's Underworld Casino.

- assisting Ron Poseidon in expanding his current Aquarium dominion to include the creepy, crawly creatures of the night.

In a tribute to Hades, Lord of Darkness, the members of the Krewe of K.A.O.S. will engage in a campaign to inform the citizens of the Underworld of exactly what they can expect if the "Toid Term" becomes a reality.