

Steamy Ink Press

August 1601

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Lifestyle news to share over tea

The only paper in Maplewood that WON'T put your wanted poster on the front page!

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Steamy Ink Press is a division of the newly-founded Steamy Ink Publishing (copyright pending). Our mission is to provide in-depth news to the people of Maplewood about the most entertaining topic- the People of Interest that flit through town. What are they doing? Why are they here? Are they single? What should I wear to look like them? We aim to answer these questions for you!

As the people's paper we welcome submissions from anyone, anytime. Please submit your articles, tips, advertisements, and short stories via courier c/o Steamy Ink Publishing. It is our goal to provide you a perfect conversation piece to share that pairs well with sipping tea and great friends!



REX MCNEIL LIVES!

We pick his brain about his favorite color, what is on the other side of the rock, his love life, and try to figure out if he's the real deal.

Who are you, and what are you most well-known for?

Rex McNeil. I am most well known as a Bard of the freelands and most called on as a druid in Maplewood.

What is your favorite color?

A dark, rich magenta.

It isn't green? Such as an emerald green?

I mean yeah, a lot of my clothes are green and it was my favorite color at one point but I sorta made myself sick of it.

Where did you find yourself when you were teleported away with the rock?

A strange realm that looked like a waxy rendition of our own. Like walking in a flaking oil painting.

Please describe the setting in excruciating detail.

There was a matte blue and

orange-brown sky that was flaking like an old painting and the ground seemed to be made of the same material with tall wild grass. It seemed like an open plane that stretched on forever. The air was thick and heavy and my limbs felt heavier still.



There was no temperature and no sound, just texture and color. No sun hung in the sky but it was bright as midday. Time did not pass visibly due to the lack of any

changing features. It was truly maddening

Did it feel like you were gone for 1 week, or was it longer?

With nothing to help me keep time it felt like an eternity. I only knew the truth after I landed back in our realm. Though I feel if I stayed any longer I would go truly mad.

Did you get to meet anyone, or eat any food while you were gone?

I met a brief vision of my late mother and I only ate the rations I had on hand. Though I saw nothing else edible.

We're sorry to hear about your mother. Were you able to interact with her?

For only but a moment, she gave me a few words of assurance and comfort.

Letters to the Editor



To those of the Steamy Ink Press,

I am writing this in to you fine folks delivering the news around Maplewood now. I would like to commend a certain elf for her bravery and dedication to protecting the townsfolk. Her name is Sosna.

I came back late from my brother's funeral and I did not dare brave the road through Northtown alone. I met this fine elf in the Jenny and I was surprised when she agreed to accompany this old man on his way back home.

I used to be a constable and I know the dangers of the road, and I know adventurers... so many require a high price for their efforts. Armor ain't cheap, I know. Sosna delivered me safely home without a coin changing hands.

I know I don't have the pull I used to around here, but I still feel recognition should be placed upon those that deserve it. That Sosna, she's got heart... and she's got what it takes to be one of the greats. I will give her that.

Sincerely,
Georgen Wilder

Marriage in a Tiff? Call Zenif!

It turns out that the handsome blue faekin Zenif Isravn does more than adventure; he is also a marriage counselor! Frelands Foursome writes:



hearts and minds to each other. We are now happily a QINK household (Quadruple Income No Kids), and life has never been better! The only

room when. It's too bad that he isn't a cat whisperer as well, I bet that he would be able to get them to agree to be an octouple.

challenge we are facing now is that our cats do not get along, so we've been having to put them on a strict schedule of who gets to go in the living

I caught my wife with the neighbor's husband at the Jenny about four weeks ago, at the same time that I was meeting the neighbor's wife for a tryst! I thought for sure that our marriage was over, but Zenith was able to convince us to open our

Maplewood is certainly in need of more counselors with the constant tragedy that befalls our little town, the newest one involving Farmer Johannis, his wife, and a Vlenoan Septon. It is great to see someone stepping up to provide this service!

How do we know you aren't a Doppelganger?

I don't know what exactly that is but I assure you I am the real Rex, from the scars on my body to my memories. All of me is myself.

Do you have any weird mutant powers?

I unfortunately gained no powers and feel my power has been drained actually.

What advice do you have for anyone looking to travel via magical rock?

Don't do it. After my journey I imagine the true nature of the rock now is to lure others in with promises of the heart's desire merely to steal that which is most precious to them, thus the draining of my magics.

Did you see any gods or god-like entities?

I saw no entities that I would give

the title of god to. The vision of my mother was my only interaction with any kind of life.

How is your glowworm?

Alive and well, it seems a creature with such low intelligence was not affected by the madness of the realm between.

Did you try and leylines out?

I did but it seems as though I had mixed success. A blue line was created to highlight my path forward but I was not granted an easy way out.

How did you finally escape?

After the vision of my mother I found myself drowning in a sea of navy with streaks of light. After which I simply awoke before the stone. I have no clue how I managed to escape

however it seems as though the leylines led me to some form of exit.

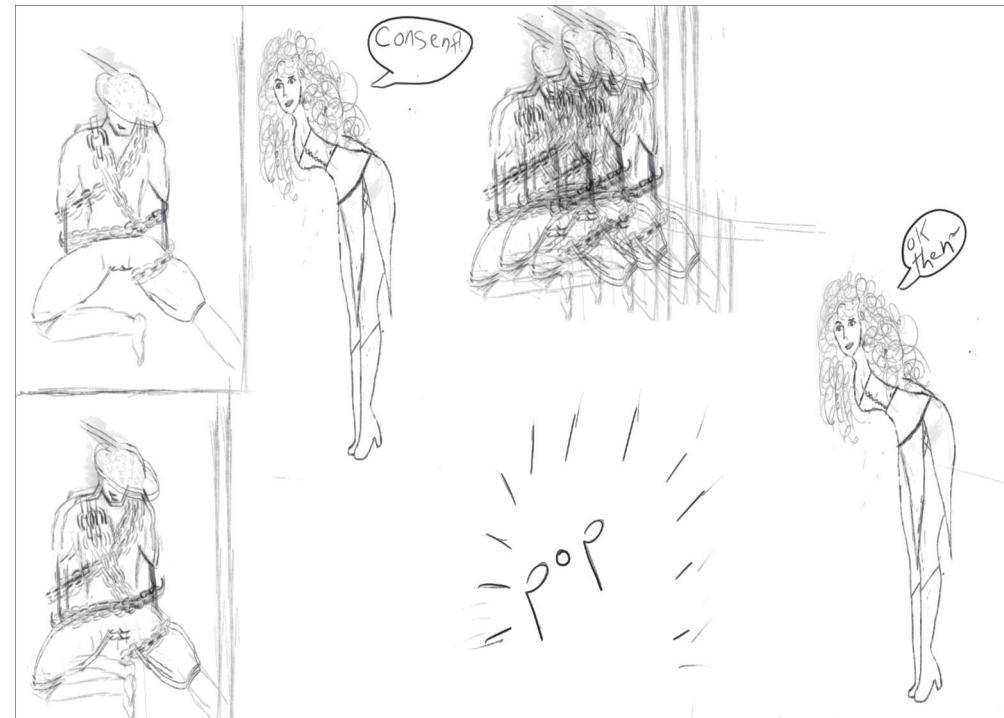
What would you like as your first meal now that you have returned?

A hot bowl of mushroom and chicken stew.

Final question- who is

Alfonze? Do we like them, do we hate them, should we start a smear campaign against them, ect...

Alfonze is an old friend and recent enemy but now that I'm back no more worries.



Dearest Reader,

It is with heavy hearts that we mourn the passing of beloved member of the CBs, Cordon Sharptounge. Missing mysteriously from Maplewood the last couple months, he is missed greatly among the many people who reside here. He was known for helping fix things for little to no coin, and encouraging people to follow their dreams and passions. He is also known for his never-ending fight to ensure freedom for all peoples. When we asked his best friend M for comment, he said "What the fuck are you on about, he was getting a tooth pulled. He'll be back tomorrow."

Banditry is getting out of control in Maplewood. "This is the 3rd month in row bandits tried to knock me out and rob me. What are we paying the constables for?" said an adventurer who asked to remain anonymous.

Tattoos became all the rage briefly, but unfortunately they were being used to make books out of flesh. There is even one sitting in the Spinning Jenny, which in my opinion not only brings down the dining atmosphere but also seems unsanitary.

Serial Killer on the loose? A murderer is targeting Vargainen visitors to our town, seemingly in an act of anger against the gods. SC is trying to solve this... but could it be one of their own? They recently added a Vargainen to their numbers around the time the killings started.

While the captain is away the commander will play... is the new leader of SC looking to take the group into a new, more profitable direction? Will C redeem himself after a string of schemes go badly in Vlean?

J and our recent drake visitor are getting rather close, they were seen having an intimate conversation last month. A budding romance among the spring blossoms?

Speaking of buds, Z and J were out picking flowers together in the woods without the rest of their party. What a lovely way to spend an afternoon.

It also seems that Z may have made some enemies, as some earthkin with sharp-looking swords were heard to be looking for him. As always we at SIP encourage all to keep their heads down, see nothing, and drink to forget.

A was seen at the midnight market selling himself to the fae in exchange for a vial of Blightfire. S should show him the CB scroll that says "Don't fuck with Fae."

Free drinks for all this month at the Harvest Festival! While the Jenny will be closed, we at Steamy Ink Press will be hosting a tea party near the Fighting Tournament Saturday Evening. Come bring your finest feast gear, fanciest hat, and best gossip to join us in our revelry!

Yours truly,

Madam Mapleleaf

Summer's Hottest Trend: Furs and Skulls



For most people, fur is a great way to stay warm in the frigid depths of winter. For the People of Interest in Maplewood, they are a year round fashion statement. From hats to linings to whole pelts, what used to be a cute fuzzy animal is now becoming a cute fuzzy accessory.

"Wearing furs year round says "I respect the elemental, and know that she could make it permanently winter here at any moment" ". Said someone wearing absolutely no fur, but who had a lot of opinions on the subject. "Then there's Grak worshipers who wear furs to prove that they will take on ANY challenge, even dehydration."

"Reduce, reuse, recycle." Fashion icon Lotharwen commented. "Wearing fur tells people you care about the environment. You reuse what you kill and get more value out of it."

Skulls are also becoming popular due to their multi-use purposes. Moneysack uses a pouch for coin keeping, Dante notes that they're spooky all year long, and Illivandros stated that "If prepared properly, you can drink out of them."

"Grak worshipers have so much brain damage they often can't tell the difference between their own skull and someone else's, so they wear them just to be sure they have one." said the opinionated non-fur wearing townsperson, "Wearing skulls and pelts is also a great way to say "I'm not a necromancer, because if I were these would be animated right now".

The more traditional residents are not enjoying the new trends.

"Sometimes you want people to know the state of your mental health just by looking at you." a short towns person with a shorter temper remarked. "This is a great way for me to know who to send counseling advertisements via courier to."

Top 5 Looks of the Season

Draw from these fashionable looks to inspire your next wardrobe purchase!
Artistic Renditions Credited to the fine Artists Guild of Maplewood

#1



Catori

When we asked where she got this lovely hairpiece, we were told "My Mentor".

#2



Audra

#3



Lucky

#4



Daitoro

#5



Moneysack

Rockin' it With Makhno Brownfox

A Thesis on The Rock and its Dangers

What we know about the rock: It's enough information to know.. There are a lot dangerous. It takes the sparks of those who of people in town who seem drawn to the die near it. It shows you what it thinks you rock. The rock is dangerous. Therefore we want to see. From talking to those who have should try to prevent people from dying had visions, they see loved ones, possible near, or strapping themselves to the rock. futures and, to those who are devout, their gods. With Rex's courageous experiment of binding himself to the rock, we have learned that the outcome is seeing some sort of realm that also shows loved ones.

What assumptions can we make? Just as a snapping turtle wiggles its tongue to lure in fish the Rock, and possibly whatever realm it came from, is showing people what they are most interested in to lure them close and take their sparks and, according to Rex, their magic.

What does this mean? We don't have



Subscription Offer

For **25c per year**, you can have SIP delivered to you (or your friends, or family, or whoever you want to annoy honestly) via courier instead of doing the pesky work of needing to find someone selling it. **That's 5c less than if you bought each issue individually!**

Please enclose 25c and return this ad to Steamy Ink Publishing

Subscriber Name: _____

Hours you would like paper delivered: _____

Sign below to acknowledge that subscription fee does not include courier fees or tips:

Puzzles to Pass the Time

Solutions published in the following month's issue



Starting at 1 and ending at 36, track your way from one square to another either horizontally, vertically, or diagonally placing consecutive numbers into the empty spaces as you go.



Last Month's Answers:

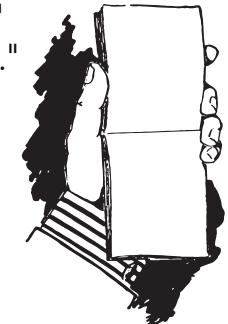
O	O	X	O	X	O	X	X
O	O	X	O	X	O	X	X
X	X	O	X	O	X	O	O
O	O	X	X	O	X	X	O
X	X	O	O	X	O	O	X
O	O	X	O	X	O	X	X
X	X	O	X	O	X	O	O
X	X	O	X	O	X	O	O

Riddle: Your Name
Candles: 3

	13	14	11	5	
17				10	3
18		7			2
20		24	23	1	35
	25			34	36
26		29	30		

Five suspected bandits are called into the Constable's office for questioning. They give the following statements.

- A: "One of the five of us is lying."
- B: "Two of the five of us are lying."
- C: "I know these gentlemen, and three of the five of us are lying."
- D: "Don't listen to any of the others. Out of the five of us, four are lying."
- E: "All five of us are liars."



The Constables only want to release the suspects who are telling the truth. How many people should they let go?

DID YOU KNOW?

All constables in Maplewood are required wear a Mapleleaf badge while on duty.

If you don't see a badge, you don't have to do what they say!

*Also if you ask if they are a Constable, they have to tell you they're a Constable.

A brief overview of the groups looking for plague cure donations:

- The Elven Temperance League is working on creating an item that is magically similar to a remembrance crystal that can be used as a substitute for it.
- The Alchemist's guild of Civen has been trying to create a compound capable of defeating the disease.
- The Mage college in Civen is trying to create a new ritual that will serve only the purpose of curing this plague. They are hoping making something specialized will have better results.
- Several religious groups are trying to pray the plague away though the Sept appear to have yet to respond.
- More than a few of the groups collecting donations are scams for the enrichment of their leaders, be on the lookout for these unsavory folks.

Dear Sophie,

A few months ago, I found a doomsday prophecy written on a piece of paper. I didn't think it was real or important, so I kept it away and locked up in my stationary box. The month after it was posted in the inn and everyone seemed very concerned and it appears that it may have been important after all. Should I apologize?

Sincerely,
I Think I Fucked Up?

Dearest Sister,

Are you writing home to our parents or something?

Anyway, well yep you done fucked up. You have a few choices here. I suppose it depends on how bad you really feel about it.

1. Don't let anyone know and keep it a secret forever.
2. Leave the piece of paper in a convenient place and just don't tell anyone you had it all along.
3. You could post it in a convenient publication such as your local SIP newsletter for everyone to see.

Any of these options would solve your problem. Or I suppose you could follow your moral compass and apologize for keeping this information to the general public and mass distribute it via flier.

Maybe you just forgot about it. There is a plague going around after all.

Shit happens.

Either way you should make this prophecy known just in case it actually comes true.

This is why Dad likes me better. Good luck!



TAKE THE
SECRET TO
THE WELL.
AND IF
ANYONE
ASKS,
DENY.