



Steamy Ink Press

May 1601

Lifestyle news to share over tea

5 coin- special premiere price!

Forgetfulness Plague Spreading Across Novitas

See our puzzle page for teasers to keep your mind sharp!

Presenting a New Lifestyle Paper for the Townsfolk of Maplewood

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 topics—the adventurers that come and go through town. What are they doing? Why are they here? Are they single? We aim to answer these questions for you, and not just publish headlines with blurbs that make you need to venture out and do your own research to find out what they mean. We do the research for you!

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

Local Bakery Makes cakes So Good, Even Kazvaks Want Them!

Page 5

Helpful necromancer known as "Me" suffering from loneliness

Page 2

Rockbreaker Lorelei Levenestra: A Chainbreaker Tells All!

We had a chance to sit down with the rockbreaker herself to get all the details on her life, the Chainbreakers, and of course the one thing everyone wants to know about: Are her and Shelaz a thing?

So, for those that don't know you- tell us about yourself.

My name is Lorelei Levenestra. I'm originally from Evenandria but I left because I was sick of my parents telling me what to do. I definitely prefer the Freeland because no one does that here.

What's your favorite color?

Green.

What's your favorite thing about the Freeland, besides your parents not being here?

There's a lot more different people than just the High Elves here. You get to know a lot of different kinds of people and see different ways of living life.

And you're with the Chainbreakers? How long have you all been adventuring together?

We've been adventuring

together for a little over a year, I think, but I just got back from collecting info in Civen.

Oh? What kind of info? I could tell you, but then I'd have to kill you.

Noted. What kinds of chains do you break? Love? Jewelry? Does one of you like ornamenting?

I think it's mostly chains that are keeping oxen in place? I'm not really sure, it's been a little while...

Okay, now to the thing people actually care about- are you and Shelaz a thing?

Yes! I mean maybe? Well honestly no, not really...

So he's single?

Technically yes but good luck setting him up with anyone, I've been trying to get him interested for years and he just isn't.

Apologies for our assumptions, you just seemed so close!

Tell us about your relationship with the mysterious Rock.

Well, I just met the rock. I wouldn't say we really have a relationship, but people seemed interested in what was going on with it. Nothing had been doing anything. So I figured, why not try hitting it?

Does it have a name?

I heard Cordon saying that we should call it Bob, so that's what I'm going with. I think it's a nickname that's short for Rockbert. It's also easy to remember, because everyone is having trouble remembering things at the moment.

Did you ask Bob for permission before hitting it with your sword?

Umm, honestly I don't remember. (Con't pg.3)



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! Freelands Foursome writes:

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 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 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 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.

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!

Local Necromancer Looking for Friends

Garnering some recent attention is the sociable necromancer, known as "Me" (name unconfirmed at time of publishing). A sweet woman dedicated to her cause, she has been seen doing things such as unhallowing buildings, sleeping in the woods, helping bring dead bodies to the burial sites, and trying to gift adventurers protection in the form of flesh golems. When asked what she is up to, Me simply responds "stuff". When asked why, she states "Because I'm lonely". This is a sentiment I'm sure we can all relate too- everyone lost someone in the recent orc attacks. Perhaps she even turned to necromancy to bring a loved one back?

Next time you see her, ask her how she is and make sure to help her feel welcome in Maplewood. Maybe invite her to dinner! With the Shattered Mind Plague running rampant and the hustle and bustle of fixing up town, it is important that we extend a hand to any of our neighbors suffering in silence- or in this case, masking their sadness by acting exuberantly happy.



So it didn't provide consent

But the memory thing? Do you still have missing or fuzzy ones since arriving back from Civen?

What memory thing?

Just a reminder to our readers- always get consent before hitting things. Anyway, what happened after you hit Bob?

Well, I hit it with nature and it seemed like that might have some effect, but not where I was hitting right on top. So I looked around it a little bit more and saw there was moss growing in one specific spot, so I started trying to hit it there.

Everyone wants to know- did you lick Bob, and did he fix your memory plague?

I did lick the crystal. It made my tongue tingly.

Huh. I'm not sure now that you say that. What else did people do to Bob?

People tried diagnosing it, detecting a spark on it. I saw someone trying to seduce it by dancing for it and even kissing it. Someone I heard tried to make a sacrifice on it but was stopped by I believe the Fire Keepers.

Do you think Bob will come back?

I'm not sure. If he fulfilled his mission he may not.

So you think that Bob is a male rock?

Cordon apparently does.

Finally, do you have anything that you would like to say to or about anyone in particular?

I'd like to thank the Chainbreakers for leaving me alone so much that I got knocked out and almost died. And then thank Evelyn, or whoever it was, that healed me.

Thank you so much for your time, and good luck with your future animal releasing endeavors!

You're very welcome! Thank you for taking the time to talk to me.



Dearest Reader,

Another spring is here. Time for starting fresh, time for new faces, and of course time for new stories of the adventurers flitting around town like they own the place. I've taken it upon myself to share only the best of the best with you, my favorite townsfolk, as only some did things that were notable enough to be shared with me and even fewer that I bothered to remember afterwards. Surely it must feel splendid to be so highly regarded among your peers.

The change in weather really does bring out the color in everything! L has been spotted with a fancy new hairdo. Needed a change? Is she trying to spice things up with O? Or is this an elaborate ruse to get away from scrutiny in regards to a recent event? No matter the reason, everyone should admire her stylist's work. They clearly have expertise in making someone look like an entirely different person, a skill which is sure to come in handy for L in the coming months.

Speaking of O, she was seen being grabbed right from under the nose of her fellow FoS's. Her party was either not concerned for her safety or were unwilling to immediately intervene to prevent a kidnapping. Is coin, as always, becoming the cause of a family feud? Should we instead start bartering with other objects to prevent things like this from happening? I like the idea of trading pastries instead of coins myself.

A was seen performing a sermon worshiping the Elemental to help bring in Spring. When we inquired with the head of A's fan club, they stated that "He always delivers the most wonderful sermons. This is sure to appeal to the Elemental's sensibilities". After the weather the past few weekends, it seems that the Elemental was not appeased. Hopefully this weekend will be the one to bring the sunshine!

D performed some very lovely dancing for the mysterious rock, but absolutely nothing happened. In fact, it took someone smacking the rock with a sword for it to respond. Why does dancing do nothing for it? Does the rock need to be exposed to different cultural values? Maybe it has violent proclivities? If only we could speak with the rock to answer these important questions.

While on the topic of dancing, it is rumored that the FK's hired Xerxes the dancing yeti for a private show. While this was an invitation-only affair (mine must have been dropped on the way to the courier), the screams from women could be heard from miles away. The only remaining query: were they screams of horror or delight?

Are the CB's trying too hard to appear diverse? The light-haired L goes on hiatus and returns to find she has been replaced with another light-haired female, also L. Coincidence? Intentional? Do they have a thing for light haired females with L names? Or do they just keep a token female in the group for appearances? Nobody knows but them, and they certainly aren't telling.

M was spotted racing through the woods at night around the lake, uphill both ways, through the snow to take his sword back from some bandits. The next day, he was seen letting L pay to get her sword back from yet more bandits. Why didn't he chase them around the lake as well? At least he didn't leave her for dead during negotiations, unlike what W did to him with some Dellans slavers in the beginning of the winter...

Also, what's going on with W's coffee? Is it a blend for skavens, made with skavens, or perhaps even scarier-made by skavens? Does anybody know? Has anyone bought it? Please write to me with your experience if you have.

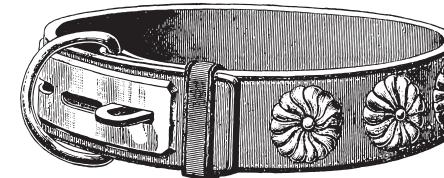
It would be remiss of me not to give recognition to the HB's, who were spotted standing up for the highly misunderstood skavens in a recent trial. I do not support discrimination based on race or species, and I'm proud to see it not being tolerated in our town. Buy them a round or seven at the Jenny for me.

Until next time, darlings.

Yours truly,

Madam Mapleleaf

Fashion Watch: Best Spring Trend



Spring is here, and there's one question on everyone's mind: what in Novitas will the adventurers come wearing this season? While most will be spotted in various versions of the same outfit, there are one or two that always put their best foot and frock forward to look their best. That's who everyone will be talking about around Maplewood.

Spotted wearing the hottest new spring accessory was Lotharwen. Always a bright pop of pink even on the dreariest of days, she was seen wearing not one but two gold belts. Rumor has it that her pink dress was made specifically for her by the famous fashion designer Morella; many have tried to duplicate the beauty of this piece but have failed and been laughed to the bottom of the fashion trash can. Lotharwen chose to accessorize it this season with a golden filigree girdle, the roundels expertly joined with delicate chain work. Complimenting it was an understated but nevertheless gorgeous brown leather belt stamped with leaves and finished with a gold buckle to tie the entire look together. Absolutely. Stunning. It will not be long until the little fashionistas in town will be looking to model their accessories after this trendsetter!

Spotlight on Local Cuisine: Rictor's Bakery

After a recent run-in with some Kazvaks who were overly interested in a baking apprentice's cake, I became very interested in learning where this cake could have come from. A pastry aficionado since early childhood, I have always loved to try every cupcake and danish I could get my hands on and anything that Kazvaks, known for being carnivores, thought was good enough to demolish had to be amazing.

And boy was I right! My nose led me straight to a small bakery owned by a man named Rictor. When I arrived almost an hour after opening they were already sold out to my dismay, although the friendly counter assistant told me that I could place an order in advance. Luckily a nice young woman happened to have an extra muffin, which she let me have after telling me all about this exquisite place.

Upon biting into this muffin, I experienced pure joy that I haven't felt since discovering that I have the Shattered Mind Plague. All of my worries were gone in an instant and I felt the need to instantly share my happiness with everyone. Alas, I had no pastries to share. Instead, I wish to highly recommend these wonderful baked goods to anyone with a sweet tooth, or looking for an alternative to alcohol to cure their depression. How does Rictor bake all of that love into each individual bite? Is he a jolly man, full of the desire to share his happiness with the world? Surely, someone who helps the local stray animals as much as he does must be a wonderful person with eclectic taste and a large family. It was truly an experience, and Rictor's Bakery is a must-stop on any Freeland Traveler's list.

You can place orders to Rictor's Bakery by speaking to Ron at the front of the shop during normal business hours. -



**BY ORDUR OF
THE CONSTABEL THE
FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE
ILLEGAL TO ETTERCAP
TRAP:**

Wheelbarrows.

Bowls of hot soup, broth, stews or chili's.

The door to the outhouse behind the constable's office.

The rock that appears and disappears.

"Maplewood Prettiest Butthole Competition 1598 Second Place" trophy.

Anything deemed by the elders to be "Offensively phallic".

The Maplewood Bulletin Board.

Hats, bandannas, helmets, and other head wear.

Anything inside the Spinning Jenny.

**IT IS ALSO ILLEGAL TO ATTEMPT TO DISARM AN
ETTERCAP TRAP WITH YOUR THICC THIGHS OR
YOUR FOOT.**

The above was submitted anonymously and SIP is unable to validate the source. In the interest of not upsetting the local leadership, we have elected to publish this potential public service announcement complete with its glaring spelling errors.

Also someone paid actual coin for a full page ad of this and we gotta make money to eat.

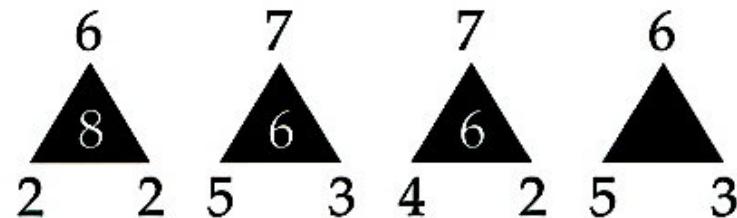
Puzzles to Pass the Time

Solutions published in the following month's issue

		7		0	6	2	5	9	3
	8			5		4	0	7	
6	7		9		2	1		8	
3	8					7			9
		3	7		6		4		8
16	33	17	31	9	28	16	20	31	24

Fill each empty square so that every row contains ten different numbers from 0 to 9. In the columns the numbers may be repeated, but wherever one square touches another whether horizontally, vertically, or diagonally the numbers must be different. The black squares show the sum total of the numbers in each column. The solution will be published in next month's issue.

What number belongs in the empty triangle?



Riddle of the Month:

What's at the beginning of eternity, the end of time and space, the beginning to every end, and the end of every place?



Memory Tip!

Instead of just trying to remember something by speaking it, say it in song! Have you ever had that bardic jingle you just can't get out of your head no matter what you do? Do the same with important information that you don't want to forget.

Ancient text got you vexed? Don't get stressed, just call Rex!

Rex is offering a discreet, affordable, and confidential service translating any written works.

Rex is reachable by all regular channels.

Price is on a case by case basis.

TAME YOUR INNER LYCANTHROPE

Are you ready for the full moon? About to succumb to your inner wolf because you drank one too many terrible tasting potions? Try a wolfsbane cookie instead.

For your canine needs visit the Pheasant Plucker or contact Sigos Brasnakov.

REWARD OFFERED

For anyone able to assist in getting rid of a divine stalker, a discount will be offered on all future crafting services.

Commissions available starting in June. No discount is offered for cat hair found on purchases.

-Cordon Sharptounge

Dear Sophie,

I'm a wood elf (130, M) and my terran partner (228, M) and I have adopted two young high elves (51M, 60F). They have grown really attached to our adopted pet, a human. How do we break it to them that he is 38, which is old for his kind, and he may die soon?

Signed,
I'd rather be in a knife fight

Knife fight enthusiast,

This may come as a surprise to you, but 38 is young for the average human. You should start with an open conversation with your young ones about human lifespans with your human friend present. Humans do live a fraction of an elf's life, but experience so much in that short amount of time. Allow them to ask any questions about what experiences the human has had, their family's history, and what the signs are of an aging human. Apparently humans begin suffering from back pain starting in their 30's, which could be a good conversation starter- is your human suffering from back pain? (If you have not discussed the birds and the bees with your younger ones yet, now is a good time. Humans procreate much faster than other races, and 38 is a good time for your pet to expand his family.)

If anything, you should be concerned about your young high elves picking up the bad habits of your human. A good start by setting good nutrition habits for your human that your elves in turn can mimic. Vegetables, fruits and lean proteins are all preferable to the rosemary cookies that young elves tend to gravitate towards.

Coin is another thing that you can use as a teaching tool. Have your human set a budget with categories and split the coin into different pouches, making sure that they save some aside for eventual retirement. If they find they are not saving enough, they should be cutting costs on frivolous items such as expensive ales, brand name clothing, and disposable weapons.

As for helping your loved ones come to terms with the humans death, now is a good time to start putting a memory box together. Every time you do something together as a family, write it down and put it in the box. You can also store things such as his favorite stuffed animal, first alchemical he ever made, or artists renditions of you all together as a family. When they do eventually pass, your elves will have all of those fond memories to look back on and wisdom to impart on your future generations.

Elf Wonders
How to Talk to Adopted Children about Death