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Steamy Ink Press^{3c}

Lifestyle news to share over tea

News So Good, Even Snow Goblins Love It!

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A 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 topic: the People of Interest that flit through town. What are they doing? Why are they here? Are they single? 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 tea and great friends!



Traveling Snow Goblin Seeking Companion

Yonxiao Wei is Looking for a Consort to Accompany Him on His Travels

Yonxiao Wei, of Clan Wei, is currently seeking a consort to accompany him on his travels. Yonx has become known as the socialite snow goblin in town who likes to share tea and discuss thoughtful topics, such as what the world would be like if there were no Gods or if there were a nation that was exclusively made for Faekin to live in.

He does not have any gender or species requirements, and his ideal companion will be thrilled to lay waste to their enemies together. The arrangement will come to an end when one of you becomes bored of it.

Applicants must have an affinity for malice or inflicting pain, or at least find joy in viewing such things. For example he would like for you to enjoy an elaborate dinner with him while his slaves watch

on, and then not feed them that night.

Yonx has very specific standards that include daily bathing, having an equally as high stature as him, and possessing an existential dread about



the looming inevitability of death. You do not need to have any experience in bedtime marital relations as Yonx is not seeking a consort for this reason alone.

Yonx is an intriguing, intelligent individual with many ideas on how to spread the word of the Gershan

people. He is a fan of tea ceremonies, poisons, and political debates. He does have fond memories of several now deceased companions, but is looking to settle down in a manor where he and his chosen consort can live a life of luxury. You will not have to do chores or laundry, as you will have many people at your beck and call to do these things for you.

Yonx has several children, but is willing to rid himself of some of them if it is necessary to make your happiness a reality.

He would also like to make it clear that he is disavowed from Lord Iga Shinszen.

Yonx can be reached via courier, or approached while he is out around town.

No Septons need apply.

Just over the border from the Freelands the town of Millgard is The Confessional, one of the finest taverns I've ever had the pleasure to bend an elbow at.

The decor is slightly less severe than one would expect from a tavern owned by a retired Vleanoan military man, favoring dark woods, oxblood colored leather and plush velvet. The chairs are heavy and very unlikely to break when used as an improvised weapon.

The drinks were amazing, though occasionally laced with truth serum in what I can assume is only some kind of an industrial accident at the winery. And the meadery. Also the distillery. There was a lot of truth serum involved, and it only occasionally detracted from the fine beverages. I highly recommend the imported Dellin Mead, and I am always a fan of a fine Terran Whiskey, and when they're combined into the house specialty the Chinwagger they are truly magnificent. The food was amazing given the fact most of Novitas is dealing with the fallout of the war caused by the Avatar of Grak, the steak and kidney pie was delicious.

On to the quality of the service, there wasn't a buxom tavern wench to be found, and the barman himself was a sour old cuss who apparently keeps a Gershin warclub under the bar for emergencies.

Ratings:

Drinks: ★★☆☆☆

Food: ★★☆☆☆

Service: ★★☆☆☆

And no, I'm not paying for the broken chair or table, whether you find me or not.

Temperance League Taking Donations for Hallowed Chantry Research

Despite whispered rumors that can only be heard in the dark corners of the local taverns suggesting foul intent, the Temperance League has been seen out taking donations for research into "The Hallowed Chantry". Apparently, this information was found in a library in Evenandra and is supposed to be the antithesis to the Sacred Tabernacle, holding weapons and other objects for the Seven. All of the donations made during plague research has been repurposed for this research. Why this has suddenly been discovered after the sudden increase in interest regarding the Tabernacle, which has always been known about, is still unclear.

Of course, they also continue to use donations to fund their extensive aid to the injured and sick.

It has been reported that the cats of a local merchant have been swindling people in an attempt to get more tuna. Most recently, they were seen convincing a young druid to take coin stolen from their owner and place an ad in a certain paper stating that they went unpaid by a certain mercenary group. This was apparently an attempt to blackmail them into feeding them tuna in exchange for better press.

The owner of these cats needs to get them under control, lest the town be overrun and outsmarted by these felines.

Local Cats causing Mischief



An Extract From The Libertine's Guide to Vlean: The Confessional

Submitted Anonymously

A SCORND VARGANIAN SPEAKS OUT: AN INTERVIEW WITH HALYTDAH, THE FORSAKEN

Recent events in town have led to the discovery of the person murdering Varganians: Halyttah, a Verduran who was well-liked by many and working towards planting saplings in the Druid's Grove nearby. She has changed her goal to instead gathering followers to form a new cult, known as The Forsaken. This came as a shock to the Varganians at the embassy, who have expressed their wish to speak with Halyttah and bring her back to their community.

Staff writers Poppy and Lorelei recently sat down for a heart to heart with her on the beliefs of the Forsaken, their goals, and what is next for them.

We were brought by a stranger wearing a skull mask with horns to a cabin far away from town. Upon entering, we were asked to leave our weapons at the door before approaching Halyttah and sitting down in the chairs provided for us. We were taken aback at the lack of security but did not ask why, seeing as we were surprised to get an interview at all.

H: Oh, Poppy, where is your sister?

P: She's back in town. Your associate said that this meeting was for myself and Lorelei, did I mishear?

H: I'm just surprised, is all. I thought for sure that she would follow you down anyway. You two are always together. *She laughs.*

P: Not *always*. So, uh, anyway, let's cut to the chase. Why a cult again?

H: Because I want to find others who also think like me, but are afraid to come out in public and voice their opinions. [Person of interest] told me that I shouldn't be working alone and that there is power in numbers, and

they were right.

L: But why a cult? Cult has such a negative connotation. Why not a book club, or church, or 'A gathering of like-minded individuals with a common cause'?

H: *Considers.* Well, we've already established ourselves as a cult, so it's too late to rebrand at this point.

P: Okay, that makes sense. *Joking* Next time you need to start a cult come find me, I'm pretty good at marketing.

H: *Laughs but does not comment.*

P: So what is the goal of the Forsaken? What are you planning on doing?

H: We want to show the Gods that what they left behind, bored of, is capable of more than they could imagine. I have a relic that has started to regain power since traveling to this land that the Gods care about. Each sacrifice has caused it to regain more power.

L: You're planning on killing a god?

H: *Laughs* I don't think that is possible, but who knows? We at least will be able to wound them. Only four more sacrifices and then the relic will be fully charged.

P: Four? But there's only two gods that haven't been noted on any of the bodies...

H: Are there now?

At this point the interview breaks down into talk about Gods getting bored of Varganien and throwing it away for a new dollhouse to play in. It becomes clear that Halyttah is deeply upset

about the fact that the Gods left Varganien to its own devices and stayed in Novitas. In an attempt to clam her down, Poppy and Lorelei talk about their relationships and feelings regarding the Gods. She is interested in the contrast in which Civen and Evenandran citizens choose to worship them, and Lorelei talks a bit about the utopia that she came from.

H: So if Evenandra is so perfect, why did you leave?

L: It's hard having to fit into a mold that was chosen for you. There are no mistakes allowed, and you don't get to choose things for yourself. Yes, you're provided with "everything you need" but you don't get the luxury of making your own mistakes and learning things, you don't get to decide what you want to do, and you have to live up to everyone else's expectations of you at all times. It's a lot.

H: And how does that make you feel? Worshiping the Gods just leads to being restrained inside the beliefs or morals that mortals attribute to them.

L: I think everyone should have the freedom to worship, or not, as they choose.

P: But what about you? What are you going to do when you fulfill your goal and the artifact is drained?

H: Well that's simple, Poppy. We're just going to charge it again.

At this point there were some voices heard outside the cabin and Halyttah vanished without warning, our interview concluded.

To see a copy of the manifesto of the Forsaken, turn to page 5.

Dearest Reader,

C was seen in heavy flirtations with L almost all Friday night, but was then spotted the next afternoon going on a date with a harlot in a red dress who was after him for his money. It would seem that coins are not the only thing that can't stay in C's pants. It's too bad that it has been established that L is into earthkin or this would add some much-needed drama to the presses over at Steamy Ink.

A little bird told me that M has some cousins coming to visit him. Curiously, he received a letter earlier in the month from someone named A apologizing that they were leaving town and would not be coming back. It's unfortunate that M is struggling with such heartbreak that his family is having to come and console him. We should all be supportive during this emotional time.

L and D were both spotted drinking with a cylindrical object that people are calling a "straw". Is this to be the newest accessory trend in Maplewood? This editor looks forward to seeing if it catches on. Who knows, it might be something worth trying out. . . although tea may not be the best beverage to consume with one.

A towns person named Jonathan was noticed on Friday evening, propositioning the SIP ladies for money in exchange to "show them his eggplant". He seemed very proud of it, and was positively tittering with excitement to take it out of his pocket. The ladies were witnessed purchasing the eggplant, and appear to be very pleased by it.

Speaking of eggplants, T was harassing the writers of this paper trying to steal our eggplant THAT WE BOUGHT FAIR AND SQUARE. You would think that a guy with his name would have an eggplant of his own, but he instead chooses to just roam around attempting to steal them from struggling writers.

Some of the local adventuring groups are now offering sexual harassment training. It was unclear whether this training was for or against sexual harassment, as the description is rather vague. The actual training was approximately one sentence, "Don't do it," and over before anyone could ask any questions.

W has been spotted, more than once, letting fellow adventurers die due to sheer incompetence. The latest of his indiscretions was to cast sanctuary behind M and T in an area which made it impossible for them to escape the fight they were in. It is questionable how long someone like this will survive in such a town.

The rock that appears on Saturday mornings was noticed with a tarp thrown over it, stating it was under construction. It is unclear whether the rock is being fixed, moved, or simply covered so as to draw less attention to it, but this editor plans to find out. M has requested that we do no such thing and in fact, has stated to leave it completely alone.

It has come to the attention of this writer that there was a mine collapse to the North of town, close to Terra. Apparently, this mine collapse was responsible for the deaths of at least three people, and was directly due to orders given by one Bernard. Bernard has some questions to answer.

Hero of Maplewood B was spotted walking off into the sunset on the outskirts of town last month and has not been seen since. Nobody is sure of the circumstances surrounding his sudden departure. If anyone hears from him, please inform him that town Elder C requires his assistance in rescuing a small cat from a very tall tree.

Yours truly,

Madam Mapleleaf

We are all Forsaken.

16 centuries ago the gods left Vargainen. They left it to sink into the sea. Some were saved, or so they thought.

The ones left behind thought the gods were with them. They thought their actions mattered. It was simply not true.

For the Sept the Forsaken ones carried out their duties and killed the creatures of the "enemy". They were rewarded with a Reckoning. The Forsaken tried to find balance, perhaps all the gods needed to be appeased.

None of it mattered. They were all Forsaken.

The Gods didn't care about what happened on the remnants of Vargainen. It no longer served their purposes.

The Gods were all too busy playing with their best toys. And what did the people of Novitas get for their devotion? More war, famine, death, and pestilence.

Were the Gods as powerful as they claimed to be? Did they even know that Vargainen had survived?

Liars one and all.

They don't serve anyone, they demand obedience and we dance for them.

No more.

I call on all who want to show the Gods their just due. We accept our status as Forsaken. Now we will repay them for their treatment of us. You matter, your actions matter. If they did not the Gods would not waste their time lying to us. Stop wasting your breath for prayers that fall on deaf ears, empowering the undeserving.

The Gods have made yet another grave mistake. They have left us the tools necessary to punish them.

If you wish to be free I am just a letter away.

-Halyttah, the Forsaken

Spotlight on Accessories: A Bag of Rocks

It has come to this writer's attention that Person of Interest Opal Blackthunder has the hottest new accessory: a bag of endless rocks!

It's quickly become the most wanted bag in Maplewood. Everyone wants one because it lets you throw infinite rocks at your friends and enemies alike. They may not do much damage, but it's still a fun party trick. You can also surprise your targets by yelling "Catch!" before throwing one at them. Opal herself was spotted doing this at breakfast the other morning.

It is not recommended to use your fashionable bag in the Jenny, as you still get banished immediately if you cause injury to someone.

Featured Person of Interest: Lucius Crey

After a recent discussion with Wildrunner Commander Lady Silvertree of Lodge Mossdeep, Daughter of Lord Sidhan Celebryn of Clan Silvertree, Niece to esteemed Narene Tvarus, Wife over Draug Tirintirindhruul, Wildrunner; Dedicated Healer to The Stranger by High Priestess Lady Morningglow, Highest Death Caste Knight of Evenandra, Finder Among Path Walkers in the Freelands Thaeiron Daewen (who will from this issue forward will only be referenced as "Thaeiron" in the Steamy Ink Press), this writer feels the need to discuss some salacious gossip about one Lucius Crey.



Lucius is known to many of the townsfolk as "One of those Draconus followers, the one that wears glasses", which shows how much people discuss him in a positive manner. When asked about his achievements in town, the first thing that I was told by a rather chatty old woman was that he recently killed bandits and strung them up in the bazaar to "Make an example out of them". He did not notice that he happened to desecrate a rather beautiful shrine to the Stranger by leaning the dead bodies up against them after being told to cut them down by a Constable. Some locals have halfheartedly attempted to stick up for him by pointing out that he is from Gersh and that is how things are handled there, but their arguments are often not backed further than this before they begin to gossip about how his shrine's candles are set up in a rather specific manner not far from the Stranger's.

After chasing some leads on a rather disturbing piece of information, a particularly unscrupulous man told me "on good authority" that Lucius is helping "a friend of a friend of an aunt" keep kazvaks on his farm just outside of town. Anyone who has had any dealings with kazvaks knows that they are most definitely NOT pets, and should not be treated as such. This writer herself has had her intestines spewn across the road when accidentally running into kazvaks on her morning walk. The idea that someone could be assisting a wayward soul in dubious projects instead of putting a stop to them inspires anger and thoughts of what else they could be doing to take advantage of the kind people in Maplewood. Most concerning is his apparent disregard for upholding his end of bargains. Most recently he made a deal with Draug Tirintirindhruul of the Wildrunners that he would only

attack Thaeiron from the front. Shortly after this, he was seen stabbing his former "friend" directly in the back with no remorse. When questioned on why he would do such a thing after vowing to the Wildrunners that he would not, he simply chuckled and stated "Because it was there." Any child who is raised properly learns to keep their word and how to not double cross those who will protect their own at any cost; it is clear that Lucius was not taught this lesson and it is truly sad that nobody has assisted him in learning this prior to now.

At this point the raccoon who lives behind the Jenny has more likable traits than this man has displayed in recent months. These actions seem to align with someone who is suffering from a mind affliction, or who has a much more nefarious plan. The question is: which is it? Could he be suffering from some sort of mental illness that he cannot rid himself of and is looking to be dispatched to the well? Or is Lucius truly a malicious man, pretending to be incompetent while actually setting things up to accomplish his own sinister goals?

Only one thing is certain, and that is that all townsfolk should be weary of this man until his true intentions are known. You should handle situations with him much like you would handle an angry child rebelling against their parents; with care and understanding, but also firm in that there are consequences to one's actions.

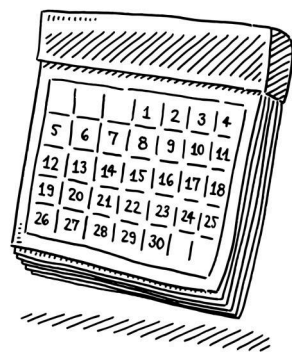
Puzzles to Pass the Time

Solutions published in the following month's issue



Try to complete the grid to the right. Each row, column and square needs to be filled out with the numbers 1-9, without repeating any numbers within the same row, column or square.

	3			6	5		1
7				5	4		
	2		3	4	1	7	
				5		9	6
			1	4			
1	5		8				
		3	4	8	7		1
		4		1			8
9		1	5				4



If seven days after 70 days ago was a Sunday, seven days before 70 days from today is what day of the week?

Real-life tip: If you are sick you should stay at your home, drink plenty of water, and rest! If you are unsure if you are ill, you should be diagnosed by your local healer and ask them politely for assistance. Don't spread any plagues!

4 8 M 29 150 a

BOMB SHELTER FOR SALE

LOCATED IN MAPLEWOOD
PROPER

12B, 6B

MODERN KITCHEN
APPLIANCES MADE OF STEEL

1.5MIL COIN

OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY
MORNING

Looking for a
stock of human
skulls.

Willing to
negotiate
payment.

-Delitrious

Send message by
courier

Thank you for
your assistance

SABLE COMPANY

NOW RECRUITING PEOPLE
WITH GOOD TRACKING
CAPABILITIES

GOOD PAY

GOOD BENEFITS

UNIFORM STIPEND

NOW INCLUDING DENTAL
CARE*

**Lifetime commitment required*

Dear Sophie,

What's your opinion on inter-party relationships? I think I'm falling for a member of my adventuring party, but I am unsure if they feel the same way. I am concerned that if I reveal my feelings that I will ruin a good working relationship as well as destroy a friendship that I have worked hard to cultivate. I also do not want to break up the rest of the group because of fighting or due to my unrequited feelings. Sophie, what should I do?

Sincerely,
Group Lover

Dearest Lover of All,

Maplewood is filled with couples that were once just 2 people who decided to take a townie up on the offer of clearing their farm of skeletons. Sometimes when you work beside someone for a while, you develop feelings. Try to see if it's mutual. Maybe test the waters by suggesting the two of you take a walk alone together to investigate the bell ringing in the woods, or take down a bandit who you saw stealing. Try to see if you can sense any returned feelings.

The question then becomes can you separate your private life from your work life. If your person is unable to accept your feelings, or if something happens with your relationship, then you will need to be able to separate your "work" self from your private self for the better of the group and community as a whole. Is that realistic in a setting where you are placing life and limb on the line on a regular basis? In all likelihood the answer is no. It might be better, if your feelings are not returned, to seek out additional groups and parties with members that you would never be interested in. Sable Company is a wonderful group with great benefits that could help you raise a family with any other person that catches your fancy, and they are currently recruiting!

Best of luck with your love life.

Should You
Have a
Relationship
With a Party
Member?