



November 1601

Steamy Ink Press^{3c}

Lifestyle news to share over tea
Proud Sponsor of The Foundation to Blow Up Magical Rocks

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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!



"They Defeated us. And We're the Harbingers."

Rumors and panic are spreading around town as people murmur about this quote, spoken by Zenif outside the Jenny the night of September 30th

After spending a rousing afternoon in the Jenny speaking to townsfolk about wood and discussing their favorite past times, the Harbingers went to Old Maplewood in what seemed like a march to battle but reappeared later that night looking dejected. It is unclear what happened, but according to some witnesses it appears that they were unable to retrieve an item related to the ones the Vargainen archivist Matek is searching for.

"It was not from our archive, it must have been something kept by whoever owns that house. If the Qa'Watie Kharn wanted it it must be very powerful," Matek stated when asked about what it could possibly be.

"They defeated us. And we're the Harbingers." Zenif said outside an inn full of townsfolk, who instantly began to whisper to each other and asking who could do such a thing?

Before this salacious piece of gossip came out, people were also spotted reading a certain manifesto that was published in this very paper last month. It appears that most people agree with the Foresaken, but do not agree with the methods of injuring the Gods.

"We have a term, I do not know how to translate it to your language. It was a $\Upsilon\text{C}\text{A}\text{E}\text{Y}\text{C}\text{E}\text{X}\text{V}\text{Q}$ but it was somber."

"The Helix is gone, and we can't fit the whole town in here if something goes wrong." one of the innkeepers said. "I'd rather not incur the wrath of any of the gods, whether it be one of the seven or one of the three."

It remains in question if the manifesto and the

Harbingers defeat are related, but it doesn't appear so. An unnamed source within the Cult of the Foresaken stated that they are actually in opposition to Qa'Watie Kharn, but also refused to elaborate more.

When we asked Matek what he thought of Zenif's statement, he responded "We have a term, I do not know how to translate it to your language. It was a $\Upsilon\text{C}\text{A}\text{E}\text{Y}\text{C}\text{E}\text{X}\text{V}\text{Q}$ (in Andaranian: humblebrag) but it was somber."

In any case, those that are in the know are not talking about what happened and the townsfolk are starting to become worried.

"I've been going home earlier and asking my children to not play in Old Maplewood. If there's something out there that the adventurers couldn't handle, then it is definitely not safe right now," said Thomas, who owns a bakery close to the ruins.

Troublemaking
Adventurer
Causing More
Issues for
Townsfolk



The person in question looks out upon the destruction of the rock, unphased as they bring trauma and explosions to our beloved town.

After performing Final Rest on beloved necromancer "Me" and then traumatizing her children by informing them that their mother was a bad person earlier this year, a well-known Person of Interest was seen placing no less than 29 explosive charges under the Rock and blowing it into pieces one Saturday afternoon.

When we asked after why they would do such a thing, they stated that "It was eating my Spark! It was eating everyone's Spark!". SIP was unable to find any other mediums to verify these claims. It was reported that a rather distressed-looking earthkin was seen sitting next to the rock with half of her spark gone, but again we were unable to find anyone to verify that claim.

Regarding the resting of the mentally unwell "Me", they stated "She was making flesh golems and this has nothing to do with the Rock."

When we reached out to the local alchemists who helped supply the explosives, they all stated "No comment" with the exception of one, who said "I had no idea [they were] going to blow something up with them, I thought [they were] going to use them for robbery, like every other adventurer..."

What the effects will be of having shards of a Spark-stealing rock blown to smithereens across Maplewood has yet to be determined.

There have been mutterings throughout the town regarding the drake Lithisulus, who has been looking to make a settlement on the surface of Terra. An earthkin named Borgon was seen asking around about him, insisting that they just wanted to know about why he chose to name himself after the tyrant dragon that oppressed the Oresmelter clan. The dragon was famously slain by Konbar Oresmelter when his clan rose up against Lithisulus for their freedom, tired of being used and then killed for their skills and labor.

Matek, a Vargainen archivist retrieving stolen relics from the town, brought an interesting note to me during our interview about the Harbingers.

"I have been asked by many members of your town how Vargainens reproduce. It depends on the species. Verdurans, however, reproduce by removing a part of their body and combining them with another's to make a sprout. We then plant it and care for it, and it will grow into a sapling."

He did not seem to understand when we jokingly asked him if they have cabbage patches for these seedlings and said "Why would we plant them with the cabbages? We plant them in oases."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Citizens of Maplewood,

Time and time again our town has been blighted with disasters. Thankfully adventurers have helped us reclaim and defend our town and allow us to continue our lives. However, many take advantage of this gesture of gratitude. Townsfolk beaten down mercifully for no reason, carelessness creating a large explosion in the middle of the town, treated like scum. This has to stop! The Helix is no more of what it used to be, the Constables no longer protect, the Elders powerless, we need to unite and protect our livelihood before it is destroyed.

-Submitted Anonymously

Heavy hangs the head

That last night wore the crown

Be careful

For joyful moments are fleeting.

-A

Captain Arbor Receives Praise for her Selflessness and High Fashion Sense

Submitted by local resident Lottie:

I don't know if you've ever heard of Captain Arbor or not? She is so awesome, I don't know if you know but it's pretty possible that she is an Admiral! The militia says that she is just too modest, so she insists on being a Captain. She is very popular so she's always so busy with her important adventurer stuff and running the town militia, but she is also willing to help out the townsfolk. I saw her recently helping settle a land dispute and redrawing a fence so that the quarreling neighbors could each walk away with an equal amount of land. She took so much time out of her busy day to do so, and then refused



any payment for her help! She said any money she does get, she gives right to the militia to keep them functioning. Arbor is such a nice lady, putting everything back in to defend her community. It makes you feel like faekin really can be heroes! And have you seen what she wears? She's so stylish, with the black eyes and black hair. If you combine it with Catori's skull trend it makes it look 100x better. I predict that that combination will be *so in* this season. There's another faekin who has black hair and black eyes too! They could really start a whole fashion revolution. I hope that she sees what a fan I am and sends an autograph!

Dearest Reader,

Town serial killer was found killing more people. Will these killings ever come to an end? If you read the last edition of Steamy Ink Press, you would know what this is all about by now. We recommend keeping an eye out for any friends who outwardly worship the Soldier or the Scholar.

E has been reported to have a freckle on her spark that nobody is sure about. Combining this with how apparently she is wanted for her blood, we believe it is possible that she is the child of a fae and a vampire. OR, more likely, she is trying to overthrow L and C as fashion queens and make a new trend of spark beauty marks.

J was seen running around in the dead of night, stabbing people with antlers drawn on their foreheads. Nobody was able to provide any information on what exactly this was about, but it could be a fun game if you're into that sort of thing.

The mysterious rock that had been showing up on Saturday mornings unfortunately is no more as it was blown up by [redacted], who stated that they do not want to be named in this paper. This writer has heard some say that others helped gather the explosives and it may not have been [redacted] alone responsible for the demolition of the rock that so many loved.

P and L sure seem to have a lot of family drama; L was seen storming off in the middle of town, panicking as again C managed to somehow upset her after mentioning something about their father as P chose to attend a slumber party in the middle of the field instead of consoling her. Speaking of family drama, L was also seen exchanging cloaks with elf L and insisting her name was elf L's, before running off to attempt to diffuse yet more family drama (this time, it wasn't hers!)

P was also seen stealing the spark of L's fiance after knocking him out, possibly out of jealousy? Maybe she should just stop turning down T's advances and she wouldn't need to make sure her friends stayed single. Though we have it on good authority that L's fiance was A) not wearing pants and B) a poet, so we can't really fault her for hitting him over the head to knock some sense into him.

E was seen giving S quite the dressing-down at the Plucker when he stated that she was the closest thing to a Septa they had. As a reminder, readers, E is indeed a Septa and not just "the closest thing".

M was seen performing an emergency battlefield marriage ceremony that involved promises of being each other's sword and shield. Congratulations to the happy couple!

S noticed lurking about, stalking bog lurkers in their natural habitat. It seems he was also discussing with a scientist the best way to skin these beasts. Is he planning on turning them into a rug? I hope that it is comfortable to sleep on.

Has anyone else noticed P's new look? He's walking around looking like some sort of preacher, but when approached he just grunts at us and walks away.

Sable Company vs. Sable Company: One contingent was hired to protect a woman, while the other was hired to kill her. They needed to uphold the contract, and in true Sable Company fashion they did it to the letter. How exactly did they do that? Well, that's not for me to tell darlings, but I can assure you that they have again proven themselves to be one of the more reliable groups around the Freelands.

Yours truly,

Madam Mapleleaf

Lenzo the Meat-Summoner VS The Jack-o-Lanterns

Once upon a time, in a land far away from here, lived Lenzo the Meat-Summoner. He was renowned far and wide as a charitable man, feeding the hungry and saving many a farm animal from going to slaughter.

However, Lenzo had a terrible secret, so dark that only his closest friends knew it.

Lenzo hated the Harvest Festivals that sprung up throughout the land at the end of October. He found them frivolous and unneeded, for who wanted

to welcome winter into their lives? It made everything cold, and wet, and miserable. Plus he always had to summon meat for them.

So it was due to this that he found himself one cold October night having upset the elementals of the Harvest Festival by simply ignoring them, and this caused them to feel intense anger. So intense, they did lay a most vile hex upon him.

While Lenzo was walking with his friend Magenta up the walkway to his house, he noticed that there were seven jack-o-lanterns arranged in a circle blocking his path to the door. In the center of the circle was a note.

Lenzo,

You have shunned the Harvest Festival for the last time. If midnight comes and any of the seven pumpkins are still lit, seven dark horses with seven dark riders in seven dark cloaks pulling seven carts with seven servants shall visit thy domicile. They shall surround and circle it seven times seven times. And the seven riders, having circled thy dwelling seven times seven times, will have their servants proceed with the throwing of seven dozen eggs that are on the seven carts pulled by the seven horses with seven riders in seven

cloaks, while circling you seven times seven times. Come morning there will be a great mess to be reckoned with, and your meat summoning powers will vanish.



Lenzo was thrilled. Finally, he could be rid of this blasted curse that forced him to feed the masses and be a generous person, and go back to just not giving a care. Magenta, however, was fascinated. She found that when one lantern was blown out, the ones directly

next to them would also go out! However, if she blew on one that had a lantern already out next to it, the lantern would go back on. Lenzo, having just gone through a very trying day of feeding the needy, decided that he would go to bed and deal with cleaning up the eggs in the morning. He hummed as he brushed his teeth, excited that he would be able to tell his mother-in-law in the morn how he could not summon the holiday meal and she would have to cook it herself for once.

He had just changed into his pajamas and finished his nightcap when a shriek came from outside his door. He rushed to it and pulled it open only to see Magenta smiling and clapping her hands, with delight. "Look, Lenzo, I solved it! All you had to do was blow on them in order one at a time!"

Lenzo looked upon the seven lanterns only to see that, indeed, Magenta had extinguished them all. He attempted to blow on one of them to get it to light again but it was too late. The seven riders with seven horses would not be coming to take his meat-summoning powers this night.

And that is the story of how Magenta saved the local food pantry from having no meat to give out for the holidays.



Potato "Po" Spud

September 30, 1601 - October 1, 1601

Potato "Po" Spud was full of life and love for those around her, even despite her tragically sudden death on September 30th, 1601.

The simplest pleasures in life brought great joy to Po. She loved spending an evening with friends and going on thrilling adventures. Hot dogs were her favourite food and she was always up for trying new things.

She had an uncanny ability to find happiness in her daily activities. Her pleasant personality was contagious to everyone she met.

Po was honoured at a lake-side celebration of life on October 15, 1601. We will remember her well, we will remember her fondly, my you rest well Po.

Local News Editor Reportedly "Annoyed" at Newest Addition to Maplewood's Information Network

After a recent news story broke in town about a certain Person of Interest with the initials LC, Maplewood Gazette owner Issac Braun Morton was seen at the Jenny looking rather perturbed that his "Exclusive Interview" was not as exclusive as it had appeared.

After the interview broke in both the Gazette and SIP simultaneously, accusations of plagiarism and foul play were levied against both papers with one person quoted as saying "Those bastards ripped off the Steamy Ink Press!"

When the news broke, "He better not have stolen my raccoon joke!" was overheard being shouted from the back room of SIP.

"I don't think Issac intended anything malicious by his eye-catching title." Poppy Katullin, editor-in-chief of SIP stated. "He was simply misinformed and thought that Thaerion was only reaching out to him

about the Lucius problem. I think it is a good example of his growth as a writer that he is branching out into other forms of journalism."

"In fact," she added as an afterthought, "We reached out to Issac via courier that night regarding the sausage shortage at the Jenny and doing a joint news venture on that story, but we haven't heard back from him."

The locals have been enjoying the increase in news variety.

"I look to the Gazette when I want a broad overview of what is going on. Issac has been covering the news in Maplewood for a long time, and he always does a great job. That said, a little competition is good for him," a particularly stout old man said while sipping on a pint at the Jenny.

We attempted to reach Issac for comment, but did not hear back before the time of publishing.

Puzzles to Pass the Time

Solutions published in the following month's issue

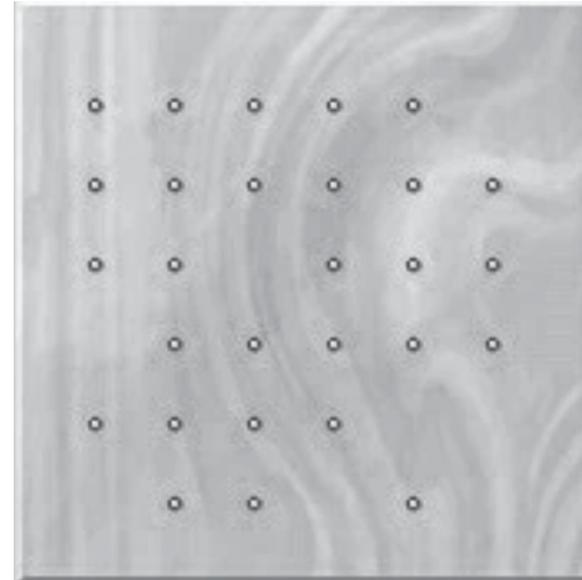


A boy and his sister are trying to develop a code using arithmetic.

"If I took away two years from my age and gave them to you, you'd be twice my age."

"If you gave one more on top of that, then I'll be three times your age."

How old is each sibling?



Draw lines between the pins on this board to form seven squares. The seven squares do not have to be uniform in size, but you can only use each pin once.

Last Month's Solutions:

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

Riddle Answer: Sunday

How many times does the number nine appear within whole numbers between one and 100?

WANTED

Information regarding the beings who created the flesh golem "Po", who was recently seen in town trying to complete its bucket list before turning back into a potato at midnight.

Any information should be directed to Anlyth Naevyre.

ATTENTION DRUIDS:

The vibes are off in the forest.

Reportedly.

We don't talk to trees at SIP, we write on their corpses.

BANKING SERVICE AVAILABLE

Abacus of Sable Company is pleased to announce that she is now offering banking services.

For 2c/month she will store your coin safely within the Sable Company Vault*. You then will get a statement each month with your transactions and current balance.

*We don't know if Sable Company has a vault, but if we're being honest they are basically a walking one anyway.

Dear Sophie,

I found a puppy in the woods that walks upright. I adopted it. What's the worst that can happen?

*Sincerely,
Dog Lover*

Dearest Dog Enthusiast,

Presuming that you have not been mauled yet, it is recommended that you begin teaching your puppy to sit, come, and attack on command (preferably in Varganien so that others can't command them as well). You should also work on house training your dog. It is recommended that you leave newspaper, such as past issues of the Maplewood Gazette, in the spot they tend to frequent and then move it towards the door until they are completely going outside.

As to answer your question the worst that could happen is that your dog begins to cross the fence line and defecate on your neighbor's lawn, in which case we recommend taking your neighbor's lawn by adverse possession as to keep your two-legged friend from eating them.

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: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

**Adopt,
Don't
Shop
Random
Animals
From the
Woods**