

The Mitteldorf Post

Saturday

Twelfth day of the Hawk Month, Year of the Pig

Price 3g

TROLL EATS TWO MORE PIT BULLS

Citizens of Mitteldorf were shocked today as two more lovable friendly house pets were eaten in BROAD DAYLIGHT by a roaming denizen of the underworld, Ogreus Maximus, the common Troll.

WHEN WILL THIS STOP? One would have thought that in a city filled with ADVENTURERS, MERCENARIES and FIGHTERS, this kind of public menace could be eliminated before it goes any further. Already, various bones found in caves around the town would suggest that this creature is capable of eating MORE THAN DOGS! Who knows what COULD BE NEXT?



THIEVES GUILD STRIKES AGAIN

UNSPECIFIED GOODS to the value of 200g were stolen last night from a sealed room in the Wetland Wynds area of town. Although guarded, the goods 'just disappeared' shortly before midnight last night, prompting calls for a complete investigation into the Thieves Guild by the palace. A Royal Spokesman said "Until we have evidence that the Guild is stealing more than its quota, our hands are tied." The landlord of the Snakes, a public house in the Wetland Wynds, denied any knowledge of the Thieves Guild. "Why does everybody come round 'ere for a quote?" he asked our reporter. Also found last night was the body of Bolvic 'Fingers' Knudsson, the well known dyslexic 'replica manufacturer', long suspected to be an associate of the Guild. He had been stabbed eighteen times, then hung upside down from a rafter with a sack on his head. The town guard are treating the case as a suicide.

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A-MAZE-ING!

THE NEW labyrinth underneath the market area is becoming almost too popular an attraction to the city residents. The Minotaur-stocked maze is designed to allow shoppers to leave their children in an exciting environment whilst they go about their business, and to give them the option to have the burden of parenthood removed from their shoulders forever. Unfortunately, the Minotaurs are proving to be rather more effective than planned. The latest census shows that children now make up only one tenth of the population, and the King has had to issue a special edict demanding that people have more children.

VAGRANCY ON INCREASE IN CITY

THE NUMBER of people arrested for vagrancy, suspicious behaviour, begging and other minor offences has increased by a factor of five ever since Gracious King Farley was asked to take over the throne by his grateful subjects. Over six hundred people - almost two a day - were tried in the past year, compared with fifty people in the Year of the Goat. Of those six hundred, five hundred and eighty were found guilty and sentenced, with punishments ranging from 5g fines to three days in prison. A Palace spokesman said "This magnificent clearing of the streets is a necessary part of the Kings' modernisation scheme, and is in keeping with the spirit of justice that prompted the King to take the throne from his unfortunate predecessor."

WERE SICK OF WEREWOLVES

THERE HAS been a marked increase in the number of Lycanthropes wandering the streets at night, according to the Mitteldorf Resident's 'Watch'. A spokesman, who preferred to remain nameless, said "Why do the Town Guard not arrest these beasts? What are they scared of?" Legend has it, that when the moon is in the right phase, werewolves continue their age-old search for the Spirit of Skoll, one of the first werewolves. They try to recruit as many people as possible for this by infecting them with Lycanthropy. This is the reason that so many of the werewolves carry pocket spirit diviners. One place that is now virtually off-limits to the guard at night is the Dwarves Ghetto, in Nidavellir, where up to ninety per-cent of the population is reported to be suffering from this bizarre condition.

GUILD NEWS

The MEN-AT-ARMS GUILD have been on a recruitment drive recently, having lost a number of their members in a series of mysterious accidents. The Men-at-Arms, based at the barracks, in the Squatters Quarter, are looking for "strong lusty lads and lasses who don't mind a bit of banter, fighting and dying in mysterious circumstances" according to their Sergeant-at-Arms, Gort Wineskin. "Our entry requirements are quite simple, involving just a few easy tasks and a small amount of money. And just think - one day, you could become a Templar!"

The THIEVES GUILD, operating from their secret headquarters, have been increasingly active in the city (see front page) prompting calls for a restriction of their permits. Although unavailable for direct comment, members of the Guild, are believed to regard these calls as 'merely an exaggerated response to the seasonal fluctuation' in robbing, burglary, mugging and pickpocketing. The landlord of the Snakes Inn (a tavern in the South of the city) believed by some to be connected in some way with the Guild, denied any knowledge of the Thieves' activities, and our intrepid reporter had it made extremely obvious to him that it was in his best interests not to pry any further into the landlord's private affairs. The Post hopes that this increase will not spark off more of the inter-guild rivalries seen last year, just before Nasty King Wilf left the scene.

The MERCENARIES GUILD are having their annual barbeque at their headquarters in Witches Meadow, near the Roach and Rider Casino, next week. The occasion promises to be a fine one, with an assortment of meats and plants, and many games and pastimes. All are welcome, so long as they bring lots of ale, food and money.

'Come and try throwing fireballs at your friends- you might like it!' is the message from the ANCIENT AND

REVERED FELLOWSHIP OF THE ASEGEIR this week. The Fellowship are having an open day, in which members of the public can come and try out those difficult spells under expert supervision. The day promises to be filled with excitement and laughter (and a few surprises!), and the Fellowship are hoping to spot potential talent from the crowds. The Fellowship are based in the Newtown territories, just by the castle wall. For further details, ask any Guild member.

THE BROTHERHOOD OF LOKI seem to be having problems with their public relations staff at the moment. Rumors that twelve employees were turned into various amphibians for their 'stupid press releases' were vigorously denied by the Dark Brotherhood District based management.

SERVICES

The MEN-AT-ARMS Guild are currently offering basic weapons training in swordsmanship and axe handling at a very modest price - only 5g per week - very good value for you young bloods out there.

The ANCIENT AND REVERED FELLOWSHIP OF THE ASEGEIR are still having a 'special offer' month on their magical item identification service, with prices slashed to only 10g per item.

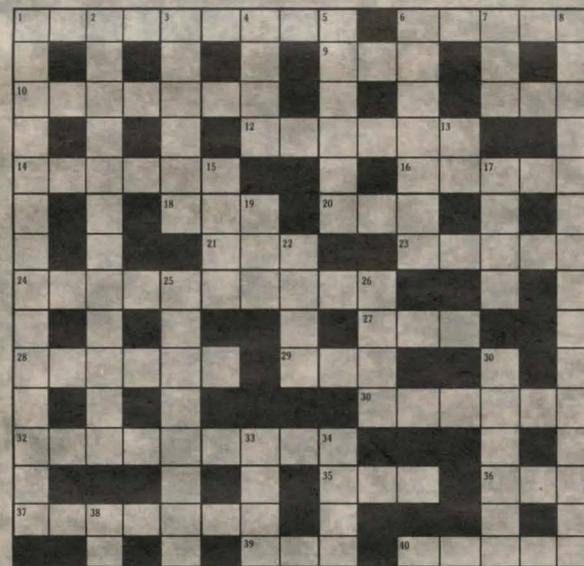
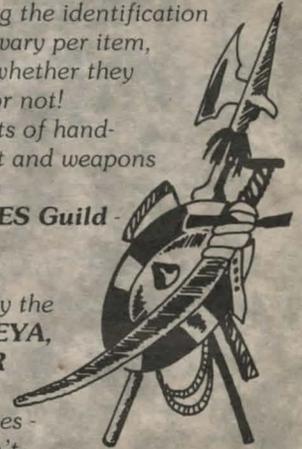
The BROTHERHOOD OF LOKI are also offering the identification service - prices vary per item, depending on whether they like your face or not!

Train in all sorts of hand-to-hand combat and weapons theory with the

MERCENARIES Guild - only 10g.

Healing is still being offered by the temples of FREYA, ODIN, AEGIR

and SET at reasonable prices - good if you can't wait for Rusty to open.



CROSSWORD

Send your entries to DCD Ltd., Units 28-29 The Chubb Buildings, Fryer St. Wolverhampton WV1

- 31 Can you spend old coin in new place? (6)
- 32 Since 'u ran off, I got some protection. (9)
- 35 Advisor lost example - right? Therefore... (3)
- 36 ...his personality (some of it) is said to be gone too. (3)
- 37 I'm dodge and mixed up, so I think I'm a powerful being. (7)
- 39 Does 'ades measure this long? (3)
- 40 Trys a mixed-up woodland deity. (6)

DOWN

1 Guise 'n' malt dram mixed for this body of soldiers. (3,2,4,5)

ACROSS

- 1 Hired Soldier mixed creme? Not one! (9)
- 6 Model sandwich for monster. (5)
- 9 Found tree in forest as he was walking. (3)
- 10 Monstur? That's wrong - give him a tonic. (7)
- 11 Put gel on wrong part of body. (3)
- 12 Does cream cry out? Some of it does! (6)
- 14 Attempting to determine if one is guilty. (6)
- 16 Part of total on board is hook shaped. (5)
- 18 Try out a left handed god. (3)
- 20 Raw? Send it back, or fight about it. (3)
- 21 Some law overturned? Yes, I swear it. (3)
- 23 Little people see over and round Luncheon vouchers. (5)
- 24 Glove? Led or loud for this city! (10)
- 27 The direct purpose. (3)
- 28 Give over US city, and take a broadsword. (6)
- 29 Him? An alien? Part of him's not (3)

- 2 Red coated sword? She'll cure it. (5,7)
- 3 Strange ranter is not right. (6)
- 4 Give limbs we hear to beggar. (4)
- 5 A worry strangely needed for a herb. (6)
- 6 Art thee turned for dramatic place? (7)
- 7 Peculiar low bird. (3)
- 8 Limb finishes - Lo! Favor is out of adventure. (7,2,6)
- 13 But Italian mum... (2)
- 15 ...with mixed veg round unknown needs shackle. (4)
- 17 Tax enrolled men. (4)
- 19 Straight man? (3)
- 22 This dragon slithers rather than flies! (4)
- 25 Grave eel needed for influence. (8)
- 26 Some of Angola has a canine. (4)
- 30 Bent on staying under canvas. (6)
- 33 Done? Messed up on intersection though. (4)
- 34 Vile? Nasty! (4)
- 38 I backed printers unit. (2)

COURT NEWS

RUMORS

Rumors reach the Post of a very close relationship between our beloved King (Odin Preserve Him) and a certain member of the court, a Lady Olga Inbred. Neither party was available for comment, but a Palace spokesman told us that a statement would be available next week regarding the affair. Will this be the Big One for Farley? Watch this space for further details.

KING WILF

Nasty old King Wilf is in the news again this week, following new revelations about his love life, and his incredibly terrible fiscal policies. Palace spokesmen refused to confirm or deny stories about the ex-King's close relationship with a hamster called Gerald, calling them 'mere suppositions that might have a grain of truth if you know what I

mean squire', but surviving servants of the ex-monarch have mentioned 'funny squeaking sounds' in connection with the deposed King's night-time activities. On the taxation front, it was revealed by the Supreme King Farley today that Wilf was planning an underwear tax.

"This is just one more example of how this repressive King meant to fleece his loving population." The King said. "It was a good job that I stepped into the role of Supreme Protector when I did," he continued.

JUSTICE DAY

This years Justice Day, when any of the populace involved in any sort of dispute can have the matter settled by the King in person, has been cancelled.

"This is due to lack of public interest" said the Palace, "and nothing at all to do with the King's regard for this custom."

CULT CORNER

What has been happening over at ODINS place, in the center of the city? Strange rumblings have been heard in the dead of night, suggesting that the Valhalla Varlets are engaged in more than just idle prayers. Watch this space for further news.

Loony lefty feminists, the TEMPLE OFFREYA are on the march again. Reports reach us of bands of roaming women, demanding something called eekwill rites. How these differ from normal rites your correspondant is unsure, but will keep you posted.

Now I like a good ritual as much as anyone. But I think that the TEMPLE OF SET has been getting out of hand recently, as anyone passing at midday can testify. Those screams are not just of good old traditional pain - know what I mean?

We Don't Sell This!
(But we do sell very good Beer)



The Travellers Inn. You know where it is. You know why you drink there.

CLASSIFIED

Wanted !

Your money.

Taxation day is coming soon, so don't forget to pay a visit to me, or some men may not forget to pay a visit to you. Lots of love, Haakon.

Out now - 'Monstrum Horrendum - the Denizens of the under-city 'neath Mitteldorf', by Erik the Wolf, famed adventurer and writer. For copies, apply to this newspaper.

Talented Sackbut player into elven folk/fusion searching for like-minded musicians to form troubadour band. Contact Elvis of Gracelands.

Get down to the Hanged Man

- just next to the Standing Stones. Cheap food, cheap beer and service with a smile.

Wailin' Maylin

Childrens entertainer. Parties etc. a speciality. Good time guaranteed for all. Box 12.

The Landlord of the Snakes tavern would like to announce for the last time that he has absolutely no connection with the Thieves Guild.

Attractive Male Dwarf with few shortcomings but small prospects seeks female for good times, parties etc. Write to Eric, Box 19.

Get Stuffed

- For all your embalming needs, see me, Lamont the Embalmer, Purveyor of mixed pickles. Wanlock Tombs, by the West Wall, Nidavellir.

Bored with life?

Join the Mercenaries

- the professionals who get paid for pain. You'll love it.

Cousin - where are you? Contact me at the Mermaid - Sven.

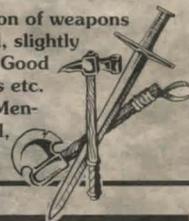
This space could be yours for a very small fee.
Contact the Editor for a reasonable quote. Not much more for a box!

I'll keep you in stitches

- Rusty Cutlass MH,DDC, FRCL can handle anything from minor scratches through to amputation. Leech Technique a speciality. Balms, salves and nostrums always in stock. Just South of the Standing Stones, and West of the Travellers Inn.

For Sale

Large collection of weapons - second hand, slightly bloodstained. Good little choppers etc. Apply to the Men-At-Arms Guild, the Barracks.



Dungeon cleaning service

- remove all traces of rot and infestation from your underground places. Regain that just-bought look. Contact Kristeena Urskin, Box 21.

Don't Laugh at Olaf - he's got the best goods at the best prices. Olafs emporium - next to the theatre.



SPORTS NEWS

DWARF TOSSING

The Mitteldorf Dwarf Tossing season starts again next month, but with some slightly altered rules. The number of Dwarves in a team is now limited to four, and the 'tossee' has to weigh a minimum of twelve stones. This is to prevent a repeat performance of last year's bending of the rules, when the 'lusty warrior to be tossed' specified in the rules turned out to be a six feet high balsawood figure with an animation spell cast upon it. Captain of the Nidavellir Knights, Festiu Tenton, said "This should make everything a lot fairer, and we certainly are hoping to be ready and fitt on the day."

Surprise win for Stoats

In a stunning game of One-eyed Jack last night, the Nidavellir Stoats took the coveted Dacre Trophy from the Wetland Unicorns with a score of 20-12. The Unicorns, having won their last seven games, were clear favorites to take the trophy for the third year running, but after a two hour match, the Stoats scored eight points in the last dig to consolidate their earlier two point lead. King Farley Dacre was present at the match, and presented the trophy to the Stoats, along with the 250g prize money. As is traditional in the Dacre Trophy, the losers suffered the loss of their little fingers, though with such an experienced team as the Unicorns, very few of them had little fingers to lose. The Stoats next match is a 'friendly' against the Newtown Furry Animals.

With your Feet?

Word reaches this column of a strange game being played on the mainland which is spreading fast. It is called Footyballs, and has something to do with balls, feet and kicking things. Sounds like a game for Trolls to me, if you see what I mean!

MUD-IN-THE-EAR SHOCK!

Local Mud-in-the-Ear team, Sets Streakers were accused on Thors Day of using ringers for their match last week against the Dorf Dragons. The Dragons, having lost by a spectacular 35 - 6, put in a complaint against one of the Streakers, claiming that he was 'a lot larger and a lot greener than

most of the humans we know'. Team captain, Grot Onetooth said in a press conference later that his team were "not mentioning the 'tr' word, but we feel this matter should be investigated by the authorities." An adjudication is expected next month.

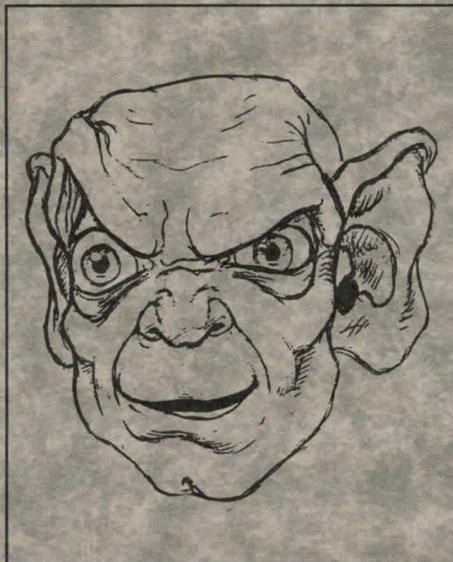
BADGER IN THE BAG

In only the third game in the season to feature a full knock-up, the Mitteldorf Monsters, currently second in the league, scored a maximum this Day of the Moon last against the Mountain Goats. Team coach Olaf Pizzlebrain called the result "A triumph for the lads, proving that we can match any bags on the island." Dejected Goats, who only won two games last season, promised that this season would turn to their favor after 'destroying' the Screaming Sirens next week.

Beer Racing

The finals of the Mitteldorf all-comers Beer Race are to be held in the renowned Seahorse Tavern next week. There are five finalists, out of a total of seven hundred and twenty three entrants. They are. Ulric 'The Paunch' Torrson - the favorite, a winner of three out of the past six competitions. Helga 'Little lady' Ormsdottir - the only female contestant. Harald 'Big Boy' Bloodeye - a finalist three years on the trot. Harald 'Little Boy' Bloodeye - son of Big Boy - twelve years old but already eighteen stone - one to watch for the future. Sven Forkbeard - big, blond and stupid. This year's competition promises to be the closest one yet, with such a strong field, so get down to The Seahorse, drink some ale and have an exciting evening. More power to your elbow!

HUNTING TIPS



No 4. THE GOBLIN

By Erik the Wolf, famed adventurer and consultant to the Mitteldorf Small Creature Hunting Association. Your average Goblin is a tricky little critter to hunt, mainly because he is so small and fast. Goblins tend to hunt in great packs, in dark, dank tunnels and cellars under the city and so finding one on his own is a rarity. They have a very keen sense of smell to make up for their poor eyesight, and so any budding hunter should take care to disguise his body odour with a proprietary brand of masker, such as 'Erik's Finest Rat Water'. Once caught though, a goblin is easily dispatched with a mighty

swipe to anywhere except his peculiarly hard head. For more details, see my book, 'Monstrum Horrendum, Denizens of the under-city 'neath Mitteldorf', out now.