

The Yorik Eh'Dventurer

Sentio aliquos togatos contra me conspirare.

FATES

Local Print Shed Left Unlocked: Spoof Newspaper Printed

The *Yorik Adventurer's* print shed was recently the victim of a prank, where a full run of the paper was made entirely satirizing the concept of a newspaper for layabout 'adventurers'. People with real jobs need news, like a weather forecast, news of new innovations and goods available for market, and community events.

Instead, this pretentious piece of drivel was frighteningly easy to mimic in tone and content, since

the consequences of a lack of earnest news upon the 'adventurer' community, which just about breaks even upon the 'harm versus help' spectrum, is thought to be negligible at worst.

"The crossword is okay", said one anonymous source that had recently been transformed into a duck, "but my horoscope said nothing about being turned into a duck. I know it was specific to me, but it was a very important life event." After this, the duck reverted to quacking.

Several hurtful comments were also made about the copy editing, by people whose names we could not be bothered to collect.

At press time, a furious minotaur with a battle axe was chasing us around the shed while we continued to print the paper. The usual editor in chief was unavailable for comment because we did not wish to end up in a fine mince, but trusted sources suggest that he may have been less than pleased.

Distressingly Specific Dreams Suggest That Parasitic Hats Scheduled To Conquer Region

A series of boring dreams have recently plagued the region, displacing important dreams pertaining to actual news. A few vital prophecies might have been lost in the shuffle, but what are you going to do?

In these dreams, a sad looking elf wearing a grey tunic points to a slate, upon which are written the dread words 'Parasitic Hats Scheduled to Conquer Region, one week from next Tuesday'. The dream then takes a strange left turn into a series of frankly hurtful

comments about the personal habits and name of the dreamer.

What strange meaning might this prophecy have? Has anyone else been dreaming about this? My friend says it's just because I ate all of that unripe jackfruit right before bed, but I'm pretty sure this ominous clue portends something dire indeed.

Like, why hats though? I don't even own a hat. I used to have a rather nice one, but then an ogre sat on it, and let out a massive fart. It still smells like fart.

Large Weird Footprints Suggest Monster or Wading Bird

Down by the creek, footprints in the mud have been discovered.

They're sort of large-ish, and look like they could have been left by a terrible monster!

Not too terrible. Like, they're not as big as a person's footprints. I get so worked up sometimes, I sort of forget that there's a scaling thing around here for potential risk of death.

But like, if it's some kind of wading bird, it's not some kind I've encountered before. They're big footprints

for a bird, is what I'm saying here.

Now I think of it though, Our Effie did go and see that menagerie in Hoggspout, and she said that there was a rather large bunch of birds there. So it could be some kind of bird that had escaped from a menagerie, I guess.

Or I mean, the menagerie animals have to come from somewhere...

Look, there might be a killer bird out there, so keep watching the skies and or streams.

Free Advice, Worth Approximate Cost

This paper frequently runs an advice column which does its best to give sage answers to troubled souls. We aren't good at that, so instead we're going to give snappy answers to sappy questions.

Q: *Where on my property should I sink a well? My last one has been returning what might be best described as 'aaah, spiders'.*

A: Reader, I think all of us have been kept up at night by the idea of sinking a well and having a

fountain of spiders gush up at us. Those that didn't before certainly will be now. This reminds me of a story that my father used to tell, but it's too long to print, and I forget most of the details.

Keep those questions coming!

Q: *I think that one of my friends may be entertaining romantic thoughts about me, but we are both too shy to discuss it. What should I do?*

A: Possibly the best thing that

you or anyone in this position can do is to ensure that neither of you have been cursed. If you feel a strange feeling in your stomach when this person is around, perhaps it might be best to avoid the chef's special at the tavern for the next few days. If your head swims when they're nearby, ensure that their perfume is not poisoning you.

We hope that this look into the world of advice-giving has been helpful. We'd be astonished if it was, but that's the joy of hope.

The Regular 'Adventurer' will probably put out a regular edition later this month.

But be honest. You like us more.

I won't tell if you don't.

Bore-scopes

Look, shit is going to happen. What kind of shit happens is a valuable question, to which the answer is going to be 'lots of stuff'. To make sure that it doesn't completely hit you over the head like a shovel from behind, I'm going to make some vague predictions, and statistically it's fairly likely that some of them will come true. MAGIC!

The Gloomy Shirt (Dec 31st – Jan 28th)
Successes will follow you everywhere you go, if you just keep to one essential piece of advice that I forgot to write down when the lady was telling me. So good luck, I guess, and know that your death will probably go both unnoticed and unmourned, because I'm busy for the next couple of months.

The Music Thing (Jan 29th – Feb 27th)
Don't do bad shit, or bad shit will probably happen to you. Like, being honest, bad shit is probably going to happen to you either way, but if you do good shit and bad shit happens to you, you can be like 'aah, a hurdle to overcome', whereas if you're a dick it's all 'You had this coming, friend'.

The Spurt (Feb 28th – Mar 30th)
Look, you're going to forget, so I've been asked to remind you to pick up your laundry. It'll be clean by Friday, and if you don't pick it up and they go to some festival or village fete over the weekend, you're going to run out of clean shirts. You don't have to listen to me, but you should.

Roll Them Bones (Mar 31st – Apr 28th)
You can play games and take chances, but don't leave me out in the cold. I care

deeply about our nascent but growing relationship, not just as horoscoper to horoscopee, but y'know, as friends. Oh man, I made it awkward.

Time Flies Like An Arrow, Fruit Flies Like a Banana (Apr 29th – May 27th)

It's never too early to invest in a coffin. It's just being thoughtful for your friends and family, so that they don't have to pay to bury you. It means that the affairs are all taken care of ahead of time, and your loved ones don't have to worry about it at a difficult time of mourning.

The Rock (May 28th – Jun 25th)
There'll be like.. demons and shit. Maybe don't do what they say. Or do. I'm not your boss.

Money Money Money (June 26th – July 28th)

Ominous piece of life advice. General statement of fact. Reference to common occurrences or events that have a fair probability of recurring. Weirdly specific reference to something unlikely to happen for almost anybody, but which will build the credibility of the prediction to at least the *one person tops* that it applies to. See, I can write these things too!

The Rusty Shovel (July 29th – Aug 30th)

That last one sort of got away from me. Like, I can only apologize. I know that a lot of work goes into these, and I'm taking the piss, but it's a lot of hard work and some people really like them. Maybe I need to take a good hard look at my life choices, that brought me to this point. I mean, I tear people down, but what have I built for myself?

The Stabby Thing (Aug 31st – Sept 27th)

Nah, I'm great! And good at everything I put my hand to. Woof, that was a bit of an emotional journey. Thanks for coming along on that. I feel better now.

Didn't We Already Do One About Covering Faces? (Sept 28th – October 31st)

Do you think metahumour can be funny sometimes? Like, I like to think that this whole thing is at least mildly entertaining, but maybe people will just be like 'nah, I don't even read the regular paper, who cares if someone pokes a bit of fun?' Well, apart from that minotaur that takes himself *way* too seriously.

The Wall (Nov 1st – Nov 29th)

According to a book I read once, the term 'meta' means 'after'. The idea of 'meta physics' was that it was the book that came 'after' physics, so it's not that 'meta' implies some kind of deeper meaning or understanding, it's just that the book came second. It's like me saying that I'm writing this horoscope 'meta lunch'. I should go for a jog later, my meta-bolism isn't what it once was.

The Fireplace (Nov 30th – Dec 30th)

And so we come to the end of this little adventure into predictive writing. Not a lot of predictions got made, but wow, we learned about each other and grew as people. Well, my stuff was mostly all lies, and I learned nothing about you, so yeah, this was an utterly pointless exercise in futility.

Yorik: A Newcomer's Guide (pt -17)

As Yorik may be a hostile place, we here at the Eh'dventurer try not to get too attached, and don't care if you live or die. We stole the press, so here's what you get for trying to stay literate.

Look, you're already here so that indicates you don't have a hugely vested interest in survival. Sure, there's lucrative jobs available, but that's what you get when people are basically hiring freelance mercenaries. It's blood work, and you'll probably die doing it.

And yet this advice column is supposed to

try and help you to stay alive, despite your best efforts to the contrary. Seems like a bit of a dry hole to me, but let's have at it, shall we?

1. Run away. There's no shame in being a coward. Do you know who tells stories about big successful battles? People who survived them. And yeah, if you're a once-in-a-generation swordsman, or have the luck of the Laughing God, maybe you'll make it out alive, but honestly, if you run away and run far enough, there isn't going to be anyone there to argue with your story.

2. Keep running. You know that you're only as safe as you make yourself, and if you just stop running when you don't hear people anymore, you're going to be caught up by people with no sense of humour and big sharp pointy swords. Ideally, the time to stop running from your fights is shortly before you die.

But wait, I hear you say to a print article, how can I keep running that long? Well, you don't have to literally run on foot. Run with your heart. Change your identity. Move to another country. Sell small porcelain dogs.

3. Actually, don't wait until you get into a fight to *start* running. You're in Yorik. People die here all the time. The best way to keep yourself safe is to start running about thirty seconds after you come into town.

Don't think of it as cowardice, think of it as prudence. The next generation can only fight monsters if someone survives to have them, and would you really want to start a family here in the place where god-devouring monsters have attacked on literally multiple occasions?

Stay safe somewhere else!

Community Board

Hey, it's stuff you might care about! Things happening around you! Of course, if anyone can throw stuff in, it's probably not true.

A squirrel drank some of my beer last week. You wouldn't think that squirrels would even be interested in beer, but here we are. You live and learn.

A cow just sort of showed up in the middle of the swamp. The lizardfolk have adopted it, and named it 'cow'. Big on descriptive names, I guess.

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You probably shouldn't believe what talking ducks tell you. Ducks are notorious liars, who will say anything in exchange for bread crumbs. You could say they're 'crummy' that way.

Someone has stolen the road out of town. The road into town is still there, but now only goes one way. This has of course caused massive confusion and traffic.

Portents: a large, hand-lettered sign reading 'everyone is going to die'. A bag of potatoes, left on a doorstep. Bread that's kind of shitty.

Have you noticed utterly normal things happening in your community? Do you pay more attention to other people's business than is good for you? Why not become a reporter?

Do You Need Advice?

I mean, that's rough.

Really feel for you.

Sending 'good vibes'.

Honest.

Editorial: Please Do Something Newsworthy

In about one month's time, the usual writer and editor for this paper is going to feel motivated to push out another edition. The last few have been talking about *the weather*. As if any fool can't stick their hand out the window. The *weather*.

Investigative journalism might not be dead, but it might be able to hear the distant echoes of coffin nails being hammered home.

The only people who can save

us are you, the reader. Go and invent something. Save a life, find lost treasure, slay a monster, get in a bar fight. Do something interesting, so that this hack doesn't just end up telling us that the *roads are muddy*.

Look, we get it. It's all supposed to build community spirit, and you can't make bricks without clay. But if there's going to be a pile of paper wasted in putting this out every month, let's have a little

sizzle with the sausage, am I right?

Honestly, you aren't going to miss the party if you strike out and try something new. There's plenty of trouble brewing, and if you miss one fight, another will be along in a little while. Nobody wants to miss out, but you could try doing multiple things *at the same time*.

At least spare us from another 'inspirational speech' about togetherness.

- Fates

Matters of Faith

Holy Days Just Past

Sometime Not That Long Ago: Holidays for Gods That Are Not Anajaream, Useful Info About Which Has Not Been Included in this Document

Look, it's a busy year and a bunch of important stuff happens. Have festivals. Spend time with each other.

Or, don't, if the specific precepts of the faith in question don't call for it.

Or do! Be a rebel.

Look, let's be real here. Most faiths have specific stuff for worshippers, and while it's great to have people hanging around and sharing things that are important to them, most of these celebrations aren't for most of us. Big Festival has us all in its hip pocket, selling sachets of incense and bottles of wine at jacked up prices, just because we're in a bind.

\Forthcoming Holy Days

Sometime Not Too Long From Now: Holidays for Gods That Are Not Anajaream, Which You Might Still Be Too Hung Over to Celebrate. Still No Useful Info Here Though.

Where was I? Oh, right, Big Festival. I remember when I was a kid, I'd get excited for a lot of the festivals, but you lose some of that when you grow older. I suppose it's part of growing up.

Youth, right? You're only young once; even with magic, you can get physical years back, but you don't really get the sensation of youth, the carefree life – if ever, indeed, you had one.

I was talking to a fellow the other day, who met someone who paid to have ten years taken off of his age. I mean, I suppose you have another ten years to pay for it, right?

A Message of Fates

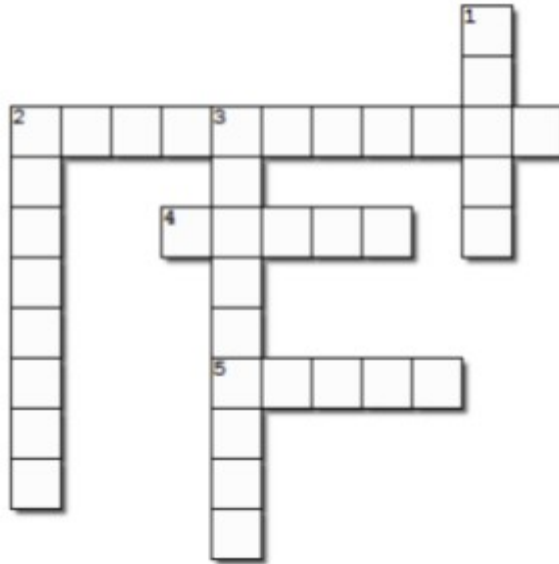
Hey, it's Anajaream's Holy Day! Live a little! Get a drink, roll some dice! Party like it's one of those fallen empires, where bread and circuses were paid for instead of armies!

If you can remember what you did on Fates, you probably didn't do enough.

Then again, don't let me tell you how to live your life! The point of the holiday is that you should break some rules, so if you're just doing what I'm telling you to, are you really following my advice?

Ooooh, paradoxes!

Cross Words



Across

2. The Michian method of execution by way of suspension from a sums sign.
4. An overall bad temper leading to the frequent expression of anger.
5. Adjective meaning hostile, usually at or about a specific thing

Down

1. The junction of two straight lines.
2. A humour associated with yellow bile and irritability.
3. A state of general aggravation leading to snappish behaviour.

Riddles

Riddle 1:

Though looking quite odd,
I live in a pod. One, two,
three, I'm really just a pea.

Answer 1: aep A

Riddle 2:

Do you think that by
answering these questions
you'll win praise or
respect from absent
parental figures?

Answer 2: ?

Riddle 3:

Riddle number one wasn't
especially good. The
person in charge of writing
the first riddle has been
sacked and given no
references. Harsh but fair.

Answer 3: dooG

Riddle 4: None of the
other riddles were very
riddle-ish either.

Answer 4: epoN

March Crossword Solutions

*I don't have the heart to kid you
here. Some people really do like
the crossword.*

*Crossword solutions will appear
in the next real edition.*

Comical Strips: The Only Thing Worth Keeping Because it Implies a Sense of Humour

"Dungeon Buddies #1

Oven



"Dungeon Buddies #2

Oven.



Recipe of the Month: Disaster

There are many accomplished 'chefs' in town who could probably knock together this concoction without an ingredient list.

Ingredients:

- 1 Intensely stressful area
- 20-30 individuals who have been conditioned to perceive violence as the best solution to their problems.
- 4-5 underlying issues of social disparity.
- 2-3 gods with different and incompatible goals.
- Long-standing grudges, to taste.

Instructions:

Combine all elements, and then constantly pepper with aggressive elements, and perhaps not quite enough coin to give a satisfying split between all of the people present.

Wait until they built something, and then burn it down.

Make something *really important* entirely the responsibility of a bunch of well-meaning merchants and farmers.

Tempt frequently with promises of wealth and power, and then expose those betrayals at the soonest available opportunity.

De-centralize authority, so that many people are fighting over what the right thing to do is.

Pairs well with coffee and alcohol.

Serves: you right.

Eh'dventure into advertising!

I don't know, donate some money to the local Anajareamites. They probably have use for it.