



No. 1
\$2.95 USA
\$3.50 CAN

FROM THE
PUBLISHERS
OF SHADIS

KNIGHTS OF THE DINNER TABLE™



"NOT READY FOR SYNDICATION"

SHADIS

The Independent Games Magazine

There's Only One Place to find the regular adventures of the
KNIGHTS OF THE DINNER TABLE!!

The Same Place You'll Find These Other Cult-Classic Comics



JOE GENERO, THE AVERAGE MAN!

EVERY ISSUE JOE IS
SUBJECTED TO THE RULES OF
VARIOUS RPG SYSTEMS TO
DETERMINE SUCH THINGS AS
HOW MANY SHOTS IT TAKES
TO KILL HIM, HOW LONG IT
TAKES TO DROWN HIM, ETC.



FINIEOUS FINGERS!!

YES, J.D. WEBSTER'S
LEGENDARY THIEF IS BACK
FROM THE GRAVE IN HIS
ALL NEW ADVENTURES.
FINIEOUS, FRED AND
CHARLY HAVE TEAMED
BACK TOGETHER TO PROVE
ONCE AND FOR ALL THAT
YOU CAN'T KEEP A GOOD
COMIC DOWN. YOU WON'T
FIND FINIEOUS ANYWHERE
ELSE BUT IN SHADIS.

Don't get us wrong — SHADIS isn't a comic book. It just so happens we love comics and run them regularly in the back. SHADIS is a 112 page independent role-playing magazine that has been sweeping the hobby by storm.

Each issue features articles and adventures written by the best writers in the industry, reviews, play-by-mail coverage, virtual reality, Game Master aids, industry news, etc. We offer the most comprehensive coverage of the industry (both large and small companies) available. If you're a gamer, then you'll want to get your hands on a copy of SHADIS.

You can get a sample copy by sending \$3.50 or subscribe for a full year by sending \$21.00 to:

**SHADIS, 17880 Greystone Blvd #203,
Chino Hills, CA 91709.**



THE KNIGHTS OF THE DINNER TABLE™

Starring in their first crummy comic book:

NOT READY FOR SYNDICATION

Art and Stories by Jolly R. Blackburn

Cover Artwork by Jason Holmgren • Edited by Wayne Wallace



KNIGHTS OF THE DINNER TABLE NO. 1: NOT READY FOR
SYNDICATION IS PUBLISHED BY THE ALDERAC ENTERTAINMENT GROUP.
17880 GRAYSTONE BLVD #203, CHINO HILLS, CA 91709. KNIGHTS OF THE DINNER TABLE
IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF KENZER AND COMPANY.

© COPYRIGHT 1996, 2008 KENZER AND COMPANY. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

LIMITED 3,000 ISSUE RUN

HISTORY OF THE GROUP

KNIGHTS OF THE DINNER TABLE™ first appeared in the second issue of the role-playing magazine, **SHADIS**, in 1990. For years, comics geared toward gamers have been a popular feature in gaming magazines. I noticed, however, that no one had ever done a strip about the gamers themselves - from their point of view. It didn't take long for the characters of the strip to take on lives of their own. The strip quickly became a favorite among **SHADIS** readers. The most frequent response I receive is "Those guys remind me of my own group!"

I've never been an artist, let alone try to pass myself off as one. I scrawled out my comic strip in the early days of **SHADIS** because it was a one-man business back then, and I couldn't talk anyone else into doing it. As the magazine grew and began to take off I found myself with less time. My reaction was to kill the strip. I wasn't much of a cartoonist, I reasoned, and I didn't think anyone would really miss it. I was more than a little surprised, when our readers revolted and the strip was quickly revived. It's been going strong ever since.

I'm still a little amused when I see someone pick up a new issue of **SHADIS** and immediately flip to the back page and read the strip first. I can't explain such behavior. When talk started to float around the office about doing a full sized comic book, my first response was "Good idea, but let's hire a real cartoonist to do it right!" Unfortunately, when news got out we were looking for an artist to do the book, people cried foul. It seemed they had grown accustomed to my inferior scratches of ink and pencil. Once again I was taught that the comic strip pulls all the strings and controls its creator.

Before I close, I want to answer a question that gets asked a lot. It seems many of you are curious to know if the characters of the strip are based on real gamers. The answer is yes. Each character is a montage of player personalities I've encountered over the years. I even drew from myself for B.A. Felton, the frustrated Game-Master with a table full of players who seem eternally at odds with him. On the same note, most strips are inspired by actual game sessions. Occasionally, a reader will relate to me his or her own funny story at the gaming table, and it will end up in the strip.

There you have it, my own humble recounting of the history of the **KNIGHTS OF THE DINNER TABLE**. Privately I consider them all good friends. Publicly, I deny knowing them.

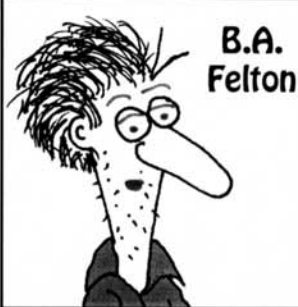
Jolly R. Blackburn

Jolly R. Blackburn

July 1, 1994

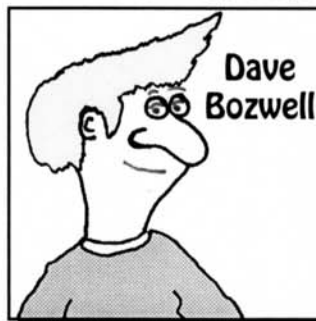
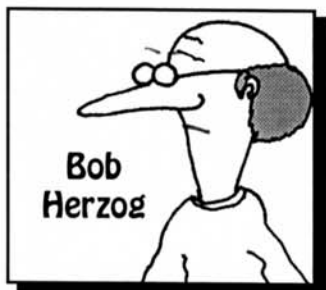


Who's Who in the Group



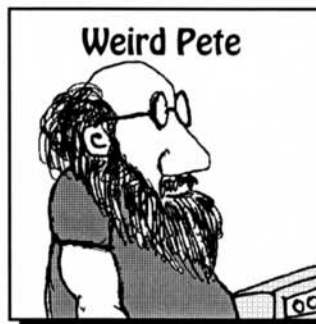
B.A. IS 30 YEARS OLD AND LIVES WITH HIS PARENTS. WHEN HE ISN'T GAMING HE WORKS PART-TIME IN HIS DAD'S DRY CLEANING SHOP. B.A. DROPPED OUT OF COLLEGE TO FOLLOW HIS DREAM OF BEING A GAME DESIGNER. HE SUNK \$6,000 INTO HIS FIRST GAMING PRODUCT, DOG: THE ROLE-PLAYING GAME WHICH WAS A BOMB. B.A. SUFFERED A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN AND LEFT GAMING FOR A FEW YEARS BEFORE PICKING UP HIS DICE BAG AGAIN. HE FOUNDED THE KNIGHTS OF THE DINNER TABLE IN 1976.

BOB IS 26 YEARS OLD AND ALSO LIVES WITH HIS PARENTS. HE IS CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED EVEN THOUGH HE'S TAKEN OVER 8 YEARS OF VOCATIONAL CLASSES AT A LOCAL TECH COLLEGE. HE HAS A HABIT OF LOSING HIS JOB BECAUSE OF HIS TEMPER AND SHARP TONGUE. BOB WAS THE FIRST DUE-PAYING MEMBER OF THE GROUP. BOB IS FROM THE OLD SCHOOL OF ROLE-PLAYING AND BELIEVES IT'S ALL ABOUT BREAKING THINGS AND KILLING PEOPLE. HE MADE THE LOCAL PAPERS ONCE WHEN HE GOT LOST IN THE STEAM TUNNELS UNDER THE TECH COLLEGE FOR SEVEN DAYS.



DAVE IS 22 YEARS OLD AND ATTENDS BALL STATE UNIVERSITY WHERE HE IS STUDYING CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY AND DANCE THEORY. DAVE WAS INTRODUCED TO ROLE-PLAYING BY BOB, WHO HE MET AT A LOCAL PAINTBALL TOURNAMENT. DAVE IS A TRUE BLOODED HACK-N-SLASHER WHO BECOMES BORED EASILY. HE OFTEN FORGETS TO BRING HIS CHARACTER SHEET TO THE GAME AND TENDS TO BORROW SOMEONE ELSE'S DICE. DAVE ORIGINALLY JOINED THE GROUP TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FREE MUNCHIES.

BRIAN IS 27 YEARS OLD AND LIVES ALONE. HE MANAGES TO MAKE A MODEST LIVING OPERATING A LOCAL COMPUTER BULLETIN BOARD AND SELLING PAINTED MINIATURES. BRIAN IS TYPICALLY QUIET AND UTTERS ONLY THREE WORD SENTENCES UNLESS A RULE HAS BEEN BROKEN OR HIS CHARACTER HAS BEEN MALIGNED. EVEN THOUGH BRIAN CAN'T REMEMBER HIS OWN PHONE NUMBER, HE CAN RECITE ENTIRE PASSAGES OF VARIOUS RULE BOOKS FROM MEMORY. HE CLAIMS TO HAVE A GIRLFRIEND BUT NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN HER.



"WEIRD" PETE ASHTON IS 46 YEARS OLD AND IS THE SOLE PROPRIETOR OF A LOCAL GAMESTORE CALLED THE "GAMES PIT". PETE IS PROUD OF THE FACT THAT HE WAS ONE OF THE CO-DESIGNERS OF THE CULT CLASS ROLE-PLAYING GAME, "LYNCH MOB". PETE LOVES TO RELATE THE STORY OF HOW HE WAS BURNED BY HIS PARTNERS AND LOST "MILLIONS." PETE IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE FOR ADVICE AND ODDLY SEEMS TO BE VERY BITTER ABOUT THE HOBBY HE LOVES SO MUCH.

Lair of the Gazebo

BY JOLLY R. BLACKBURN ©1994
BASED ON A STORY RELATED BY SHERYL CASSCUDDEN

OK, AS YOU EMERGE FROM THE REAR GATE OF THE CASTLE YOU COME UPON A VAST, WELL-MAINTAINED GARDEN. THERE ARE SEVERAL FLOWING SPRINGS FEEDING A SMALL POOL.

I'M TRYING TO DISBELIEVE IT!
I THINK IT'S AN ILLUSION.

A **GARDEN**? ARE THERE ANY
CREATURES ROAMING ABOUT?

YEAH, ME TOO!



NO, IT'S NOT AN ILLUSION.
THERE ARE FROGS AND DRAGONFLIES AROUND THE
SMALL POOL, AND STANDING ON A SMALL HILL
OVERLOOKING THE GARDEN IS A LARGE GAZEBO.

A **GAZEBO**??



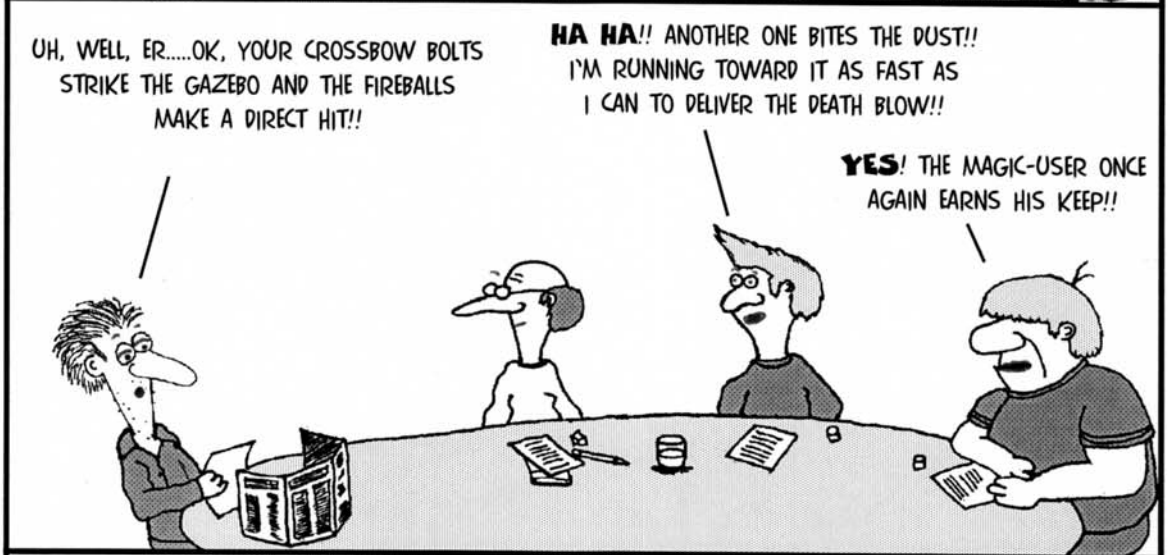
WHAT THE HELL IS A **GAZEBO**?

I DUNNO, BUT WE'D BETTER ACT FAST! I'M
PULLING OUT MY +12 HACKMASTER SWORD

BUT GUYS, IT'S ONLY A.....

A **QUIET GARDEN** INDEED! I
KNEW **B.A.** HAD SOMETHING UP
HIS SLEEVE.





I GOT A **BAD** FEELING ABOUT THIS GUYS.
YOU'D THINK THE DAMN THING WAS A DRAGON
OR SOMETHING, THE WAY HE SHOOK OFF MY
BOLT OF SLAYING AND BRIAN'S FIREBALLS.

YOU KNOW, I'M STARTING TO REMEMBER READING ABOUT
THESE CREATURES. **BAD NEWS!**
I THINK THEY CAN ONLY BE HARMED WITH SILVER WEAPONS

WELL, I'M NOT ABOUT TO CALL IT
QUITS YET. I'M LAUNCHING
ANOTHER VOLLEY OF FIREBALLS.



FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!
YOUR SECOND VOLLEY OF FIREBALLS HIT.
IT'S ENGULFED IN FLAMES AND BURNS TO
THE GROUND IN A SMOLDERING HEAP!
ARE YOU **HAPPY??**

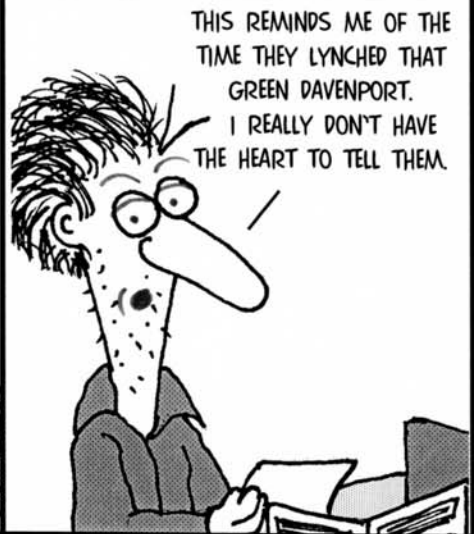
COOL BEANS! I DO MY
VICTORY DANCE AND CARVE
ANOTHER NOTCH ON MY
CROSSBOW!

ALRIGHT!! HOW MANY
EXPERIENCE POINTS WAS THAT
SUCKER WORTH?

MAN OH MAN, CAN YOU
IMAGINE THE TREASURE IT
MUST BE CARRYING?



**HOORAY FOR
THE UNTOUCHABLE TRIO!!!!**



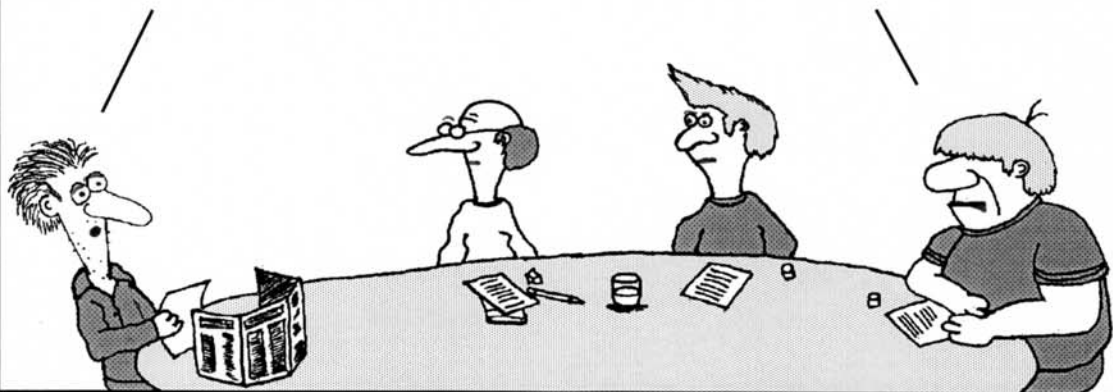
THIS REMINDS ME OF THE
TIME THEY LYNCHED THAT
GREEN DAVENPORT.
I REALLY DON'T HAVE
THE HEART TO TELL THEM.

A Question of Honor

BY JOLLY R. BLACKBURN ©1994

I'M SORRY BRIAN. I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO USE THIS CHARACTER. GO AHEAD AND ROLL UP ANOTHER ONE.

AWWW COME ON! I SPENT FOUR HOURS ROLLING UP THAT CHARACTER. WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH HIM?



WELL, LET'S JUST SAY I FIND IT A LITTLE HARD TO BELIEVE YOU ROLLED SIX CONSECUTIVE 100S! I MEAN, **HA HA**, THE ODDS OF DOING THAT ARE...

SAY— YOU WOULDN'T BE INSINUATING THAT I CHEATED OR ANYTHING WOULD YOU?



CHEATING? WELL, THAT MIGHT BE A LITTLE TOO STRONG. LET'S JUST SAY YOU WERE A LITTLE OVERLY-ENTHUSED AND DROP IT. JUST ROLL UP ANOTHER CHARACTER AND WE'LL **FORGET** THE WHOLE THING!

OH I SEE! LET'S CALL BRIAN A **LIAR** AND A **CHEAT** AND MOVE ON. WELL IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE. I **DEMAND** AN APOLOGY!!



ME APOLOGIZE?

WHY IN THE HELL SHOULD I APOLOGIZE? BOB, TELL HIM THE ODDS OF ROLLING SIX CONSECUTIVE 100S. IT'S ASTRONOMICAL - **CAN'T** BE DONE!

UH, WELL, THE ODDS OF ROLLING...

YOU TAKING HIS SIDE **BOBBY BOY**? WHY YOU! I OUGHTA BREAK YER...



YOU'VE GOT ME AGAINST THE WALL, BRIAN. I'M NOT GONNA BUDGE ON THIS ONE. A **GM** HAS TO STAND BEHIND HIS DECISIONS.

OH COME ON! I'M NOT TAKING SIDES. B.A. HAS A **VALID** POINT.

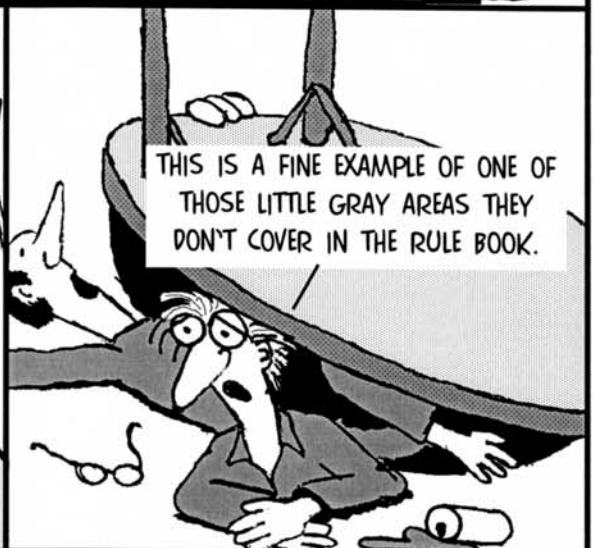
CHILL OUT, BRIAN! YOU TRIED TO PULL A FAST ONE AND GOT CAUGHT. WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?



NOBODY CALLS ME A **CHEATER**!!



THIS IS A FINE EXAMPLE OF ONE OF THOSE LITTLE GRAY AREAS THEY DON'T COVER IN THE RULE BOOK.



By the Book

BY JOLLY R. BLACKBURN ©1994

GEE, THAT WAS ONE **HELL** OF A HIT ON THE DRAGON BOB. UNFORTUNATELY, HE'S STILL STANDING AND PREPARING TO **BREATHE FLAMES!** YOU GUYS BETTER MAKE ANOTHER SAVING THROW.

AM I TO UNDERSTAND THIS DAMN DRAGON IS **STILL** NOT DEAD? FOR CRYING OUT LOUD I HIT HIM FOR 106 POINTS OF DAMAGE, AND DAVE AND BRIAN BOTH HIT HIM PRETTY HARD LAST ROUND.

YEAH!



OH GIVE IT A REST YOU GUYS! EVERY TIME SOMETHING DOESN'T GO YOUR WAY YOU START YOUR **WHINING**. YOU'D BETTER DO SOME FAST THINKING CAUSE OL' BLUE SCALES IS ABOUT TO UNLEASH ONE HELL OF A FIRE-STORM!!

HEY DIDN'T THAT DRAGON ALREADY BREATH FIRE WHEN WE FIRST CAME IN THE ROOM? SEEMS TO ME THAT THE BLUE SPINY-HORNED DRAGON CAN ONLY BREATH FIRE **ONCE** PER MONTH.

I BELIEVE YOU'RE RIGHT BOB. IN FACT I THINK THE BLUE SPINY-HORNED DRAGON IS ONLY A 10 HIT-DICE CREATURE. THAT MEANS HE COULD ONLY HAVE 75 TO 100 HIT POINTS TOPS.



NOBODY SAID THIS WAS A '**NORMAL**' BLUE SPINY-HORNED DRAGON GUYS!! IT HAPPENS TO BE A CREATURE OF MY OWN DESIGN, SO DON'T RELY ON PAST EXPERIENCE WITH THIS ONE. COME ON NOW, THIS DRAGON IS GETTING MIGHTY IMPATIENT!!

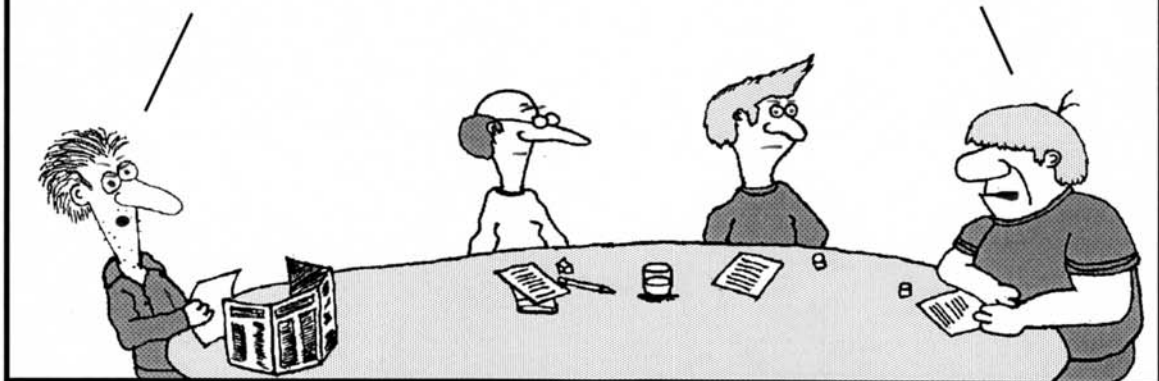
A HOME-BREWED DRAGON?? YOU CAN'T GO AROUND TAMPERING WITH DRAGONS. THEY'RE **SACRED!**

YEAH!



OF ALL THE STUPID...
LOOK, **I'M** THE GM AND I'M TELLING YOU
THIS DRAGON IS ABOUT TO BREATHE FIRE!!

THEY'RE RIGHT **B.A.!** GARY JACKSON
SPECIFICALLY STATES IN THE RULE BOOK THAT
DRAGON STATS **CANNOT** BE ALTERED!



YEP! RIGHT HERE ON PAGE 64, "THE GAME-MASTER
SHALL NOT TAMPER, ALTER OR OTHERWISE
CHANGE THE GAME STATS FOR DRAGONS!



HEY, HEY, HEY!! WHAT IN THE **HELL** ARE YOU
DOING! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DID THAT!! YOU KNOW
THE RULES - PLAYERS **AREN'T** ALLOWED TO LOOK
AT THE BOOK!!



HMMMM, AND LOOK AT THIS...THE BLUE SPINY-
HORNED DRAGON HAS A MAX OF 74 HIT POINTS.
THAT SUCKER IS **DEAD!!**



I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
GARY JACKSON LET
ME DOWN! IF THE **GRAND**
GAME MASTER ISN'T
BEHIND YOU, WHO IS?



Attack of the Rules Lawyer

BY JOLLY R. BLACKBURN ©1994
BASED ON A STORY RELATED BY JASON HOLMGREN

JUST AS YOU EMERGE FROM THE CRYPT YOU HEAR A TERRIBLE SHRIEK! LOOKING UP YOU SEE **VARDANIA**, PRINCE OF THE VAMPIRE HORDES STANDING ATOP THE MORTUARY. HE LAUGHS MANIACALLY AND YELLS, "**FOOLS!** YOU'VE COME TO DESTROY ME BUT I SHALL DESTROY YOU ALL!"

DAMN, THAT'S PRETTY SCARY STUFF. WELL, THERE'S OUR MAJOR VILLIAN, GUYS. LOOKS LIKE THIS WILL BE A GREAT CAMPAIGN.

THIS SHOULD BE INTERESTING. WATCH THIS GUYS.



BEFORE HE CAN VANISH I TAKE OUT A WOODEN STAKE FROM MY POUCH AND I EXPEND **ALL** OF MY LUCK POINTS TO GUARANTEE A SUCCESSFUL ACTION. I THEN HURL THE STAKE AT **VARDANIA** IMPALING HIM IN THE HEART AND THUS KILLING HIM.

WOW, CAN YOU DO THAT?

WHOA DUDE!! **AWESOME!**



BRIAN, YOU DO REALIZE THAT BY EXPENDING ALL YOUR LUCK POINTS YOU AUTOMATICALLY DIE?

LET'S GO CLEAN OUT **VARDANIA'S** TOMB!

I DON'T CARE. I'M SACRIFICING MYSELF TO SAVE MY COMRADES. PRETTY COOL HUH?



BRIAN, QUIT CLOWNING AROUND. YOU'RE GONNA RUIN THE ENTIRE CAMPAIGN. I WORKED HARD ON THIS CAMPAIGN. YOU JUST CAN'T....

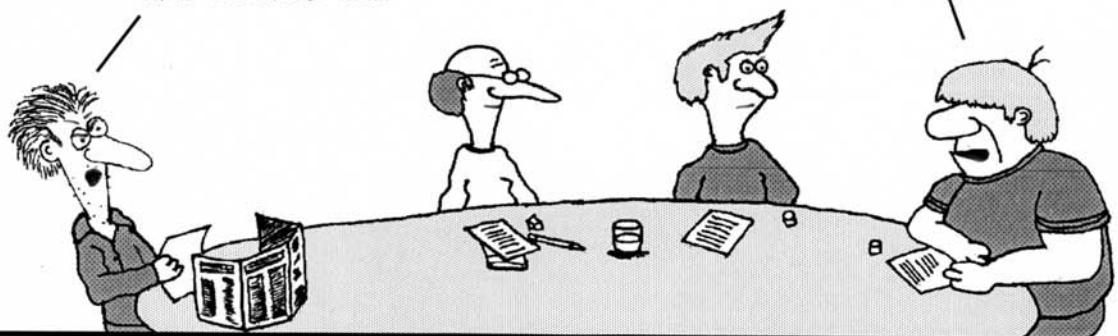
THE RULE BOOK SAYS I CAN DO IT - SO I'M DOING IT. SCRATCH OFF ONE PRINCE OF DARKNESS FROM THE ROSTER. **HA HA!**

AWWW COME ON! IT WAS A PERFECTLY LEGITIMATE ACTION. I WISH I'D THOUGHT OF IT.



YOU'RE BEING TOTALLY **DISRUPTIVE!** YOU'RE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A RULE OVERSIGHT IN WHICH THE DESIGNER COULDN'T POSSIBLY FORESEE A PLAYER TAKING ADVANTAGE OF....

SORRY B.A.! I'VE WAITING TO DO THIS EVER SINCE I READ THE RULE BOOK. BESIDES, HOW MANY FIRST LEVEL PLAYERS CAN SAY THEY KILLED THE PRINCE OF VAMPIRES?



WELL, I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU, **I'M NOT GOING TO ALLOW IT!** YOUR STAKE MISSED HIM BY A MILE!

FOUL! FOUL! YOU CAN'T DO THAT! IT'S UNETHICAL!

NO WAY MAN! YOU GOTTA PLAY BY THE SAME RULES WE DO!

I'M OFFICIALLY LODGING A PROTEST!



LOOK YOU IDIOTS, I'M THE GM, REMEMBER? YOU JUST CAN'T LET A PLAYER RUIN AN ENTIRE CAMPAIGN BECAUSE HE FOUND SOME **STUPID** HOLE IN THE RULES!

A RULE'S A RULE! THAT'S WHAT YOU ALWAYS SAY! I THINK THE GM SHOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE TO THE RULES JUST LIKE US PLAYERS.

I SAY THAT VAMPIRE IS DEAD! AND THAT'S **THAT!**



BE REASONABLE, BRIAN. I'LL CONCEDE THAT UNDER THE RULES YOU LEGALLY DO WHAT YOU DID. BUT YOU KNOW DAMN WELL YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO DO IT!

WHO CARES? THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS IS THAT BRIAN KILLED THE VAMPIRE AND WE ARE ABOUT TO LOOT HIS TOMB!

ENJOY IT GUYS! JUST MAKE SURE I GET A PROPER BURIAL.



THIS REALLY MAKES ME MAD BRIAN. I KNOW WHY YOU'RE DOING THIS. IT'S YOUR SICK FORM OF REVENGE. YOU'RE STILL MAD BECAUSE I WOULDN'T LET YOU REROLL THAT COMBAT ROLL LAST WEEK AND YOU DIED!

GEE, WAS THAT WHEN YOU TOLD ME, "A RULE'S A RULE. SUCK IT UP?"

BRIAN IS A GOD! I'M GOING TO HAVE HIS NAME TATTOOED ON MY CHARACTER'S BUTT!

HA HA! B.A HAS FINALLY MET HIS MATCH!



OH I SEE HOW IT IS!!

THIS IS JUST A BIG GAME TO YOU! HERE I BUST MY BUTT ALL WEEK DESIGNING AN ADVENTURE FOR YOU MORONS, AND HOW DO YOU THANK ME? YOU PULL SOME STUPID STUNT AND SABOTAGE THE GAME!

COME ON B.A. I'M NOT BACKING DOWN. MY CHARACTER WAS SUCCESSFUL AND THE CAMPAIGN IS FINISHED. BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME!

LOOK! HIS FACE IS TURNING PURPLE!



I DUNNO, HE'S PRETTY UPSET. MAYBE WE SHOULD LET HIM OFF THE HOOK. B.A. TAKES THIS STUFF PRETTY SERIOUSLY.

NO WAY, WE'RE GIVING HIM SOME OF HIS OWN MEDICINE FOR A CHANGE.



YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE WORST OF IT GUYS! I HAVE A WHOLE LIST OF PLAYER-ADVANTAGE RULES I'VE BEEN COMPILING. THINGS ARE GOING TO CHANGE AROUND HERE.

COOL!



YOU THINK HE WAS SERIOUS ABOUT SLITTING MY TIRES?

I'VE KNOWN B.A. TO THROW AN OCCASIONAL DIE, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM RESORT TO PHYSICAL VIOLENCE.

WELL, JUST THE SAME, I DON'T THINK I'M GOING HOME FOR AWHILE. WILL YOU WALK WITH ME DAVE?



Let the Dice Fall Where They May!

BY JOLLY R. BLACKBURN ©1994

FOR CRYING OUT LOUD! AFTER ATTACKING THE WALL FOR 8 **HOURS** WITH A PICKAXE YOU FINALLY BREACH IT. YOU SEE A STAIRCASE SPIRALING DOWN INTO THE DARKNESS

GOOD CALL BOB! WHY MESS AROUND WITH THIS FIRST-LEVEL, RUN-OF-THE-MILL CRAP WHEN WE CAN BE RAKING IN THE **REAL** EXPERIENCE POINTS?

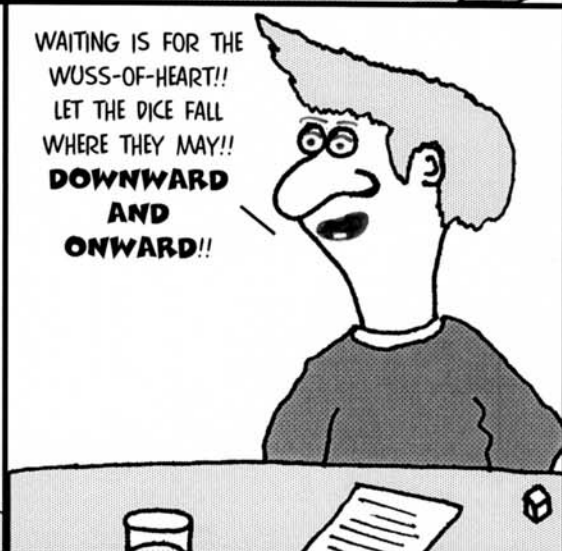
HA HA!! I KNEW THERE WAS ANOTHER LEVEL TO THIS DUNGEON!

OH YEAH!! HERE WE COME BABY!



GUYS, I HAVE TO **WARN** YOU! YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO FIND A WAY TO THE SECOND LEVEL YET. THIS NEXT LEVEL IS A REAL **KILLER** DUNGEON. I SUGGEST YOU HOLD OFF UNTIL YOU ARE READY.

WAITING IS FOR THE WUSS-OF-HEART!!
LET THE DICE FALL
WHERE THEY MAY!!
**DOWNWARD
AND
ONWARD!!**



I AGREE! HEROES FORGE AHEAD!!
LET THE DICE FALL WHERE THEY MAY!!

HAAH! THIS **IS** A GAME OF HIGH ADVENTURE ISN'T IT?
LET'S GET THIS GAME GOING!

I JUST DON'T WANT YOU GUYS GETTING MAD WHEN IT HITS THE FAN.

I DUNNO GUYS, SOUNDS LIKE IT MIGHT BE DANGEROUS.



YOU LITTLE SISSIFIED WIMP!
ARE YOU GOING TO LET **B.A.** SCARE YOU
AWAY FROM THE REAL TREASURE?

YEAH, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
YOU USED TO HAVE MORE OF A
FIGHTING SPIRIT BRIAN!

IT'S JUST THAT I SPENT A **LONG**
TIME BUILDING UP THIS CHARACTER.
I DON'T WANT HIM TO DIE.



I'M TELLING YOU GUYS, IF YOU GO DOWN
THOSE STAIRS — YOU'LL HAVE TO LIVE WITH
THE CONSEQUENCES. NO WHINING OR
CRYING WHEN IT GOES AGAINST YOU!!

YEAH, YEAH, CAN THE SPEECH, EGG-HEAD.
I'M DRAWING MY SWORD AND DESCENDING
THOSE STAIRS.

I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU BIG GUY!
HACK AND SLASH CITY, BABY!



I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ARE REALLY DOING THIS.
I SHOULDN'T DO THIS BUT I WOULD
HIGHLY SUGGEST YOU RETHINK YOUR
ACTIONS. I CAN'T STRESS IT ENOUGH - THIS
IS A REAL **KILLER** LEVEL, GUYS.

I LIVE FOR DANGER! I EAT IT FOR BREAKFAST!

QUIT STALLING **B.A.**! JUST LET THE DICE FALL
WHERE THEY MAY AND LET'S GET MOVING.

WELL, I'M WAITING RIGHT HERE!
I AIN'T GOING DOWN THERE.



WELL THANK GOODNESS FOR THAT!
AT LEAST **BRIAN** HAS SENSE
ENOUGH TO HEED MY WARNING!

YOU MAKE ME **SICK!**
WELL MISTER-YELLOW STRIPE,
YOU JUST LOST YOUR SHARE OF
TREASURE AND EXPERIENCE POINTS!

YEAH, MAYBE SO,
BUT AT LEAST I'LL BE
ALIVE TO TAKE WHAT I
PLEASE FROM YOUR
ROTTEN CORPSES!



TO HELL WITH HIM! DAVE AND I ARE
GOING DOWN THE STAIRS!!

I'M YELLING MY WAR CRY
AND DRAWING MY SWORD!



WELL, THAT'S JUST GREAT. SINCE YOU DIDN'T EVEN
BOTHR TO CHECK FOR TRAPS, YOU FAILED TO NOTICE
THE TRIP WIRE. YOU HEAR AN AUDIBLE CLICK...



AND SINCE WE ARE "LETTING THE DICE
FALL WHERE THEY MAY!" — I HAVE NO
CHOICE BUT TO LET THE 8 TON BLOCK OF
GRANITE FALL FROM THE CEILING AND
CRUSH THE TWO OF YOU LIKE A COUPLE
OF OVERRIPE GRAPES!!

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?

OVERRIPE GRAPES??

WHY YOU...

-SNICKER-



YOU GUYS ARE BOTH DEAD!
END OF STORY - END OF CAMPAIGN!!
GOOD GOING, BRAINIACS!!!

OK, REAL FUNNY, **B.A.**! YOU MADE YOUR
POINT. WE WON'T GO DOWN THE STAIR
CASE AFTER ALL!!

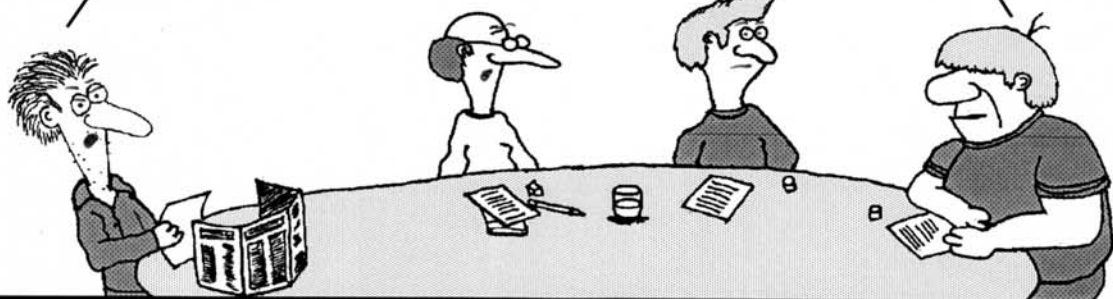
YEAH, THAT WAS A STUPID IDEA.
WE'LL JUST STAY ON THIS LEVEL AND FORGET THE
WHOLE THING.



SORRY GUYS - NO TAP BACKS!!!!
YOUR CHARACTERS ARE **DEAD, DEAD, DEAD!!**
GET USED TO IT!!

HEY BRIAN, YOU HAVE A RING OF RESURRECTION!!
QUICK!! RAISE US UP!! OK DUDE?

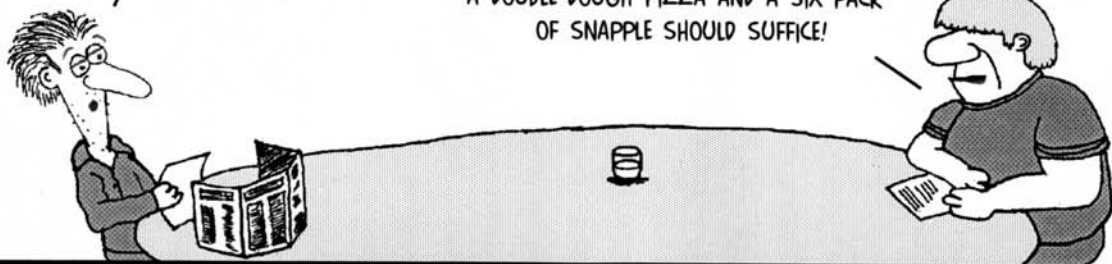
FAT CHANCE!! THIS "SISSIFIED WUSS" HAS A
GOOD MEMORY SO YOU CAN ROT IN **HELL!**
I'M GOING THROUGH YOUR POCKETS AND HEADING
BACK TO TOWN!



OK, YOU CAN FESS UP NOW, **B.A.** YOU DIDN'T HAVE LEVEL TWO MAPPED OUT
YET, AND YOU WERE AFRAID TO TELL US. **RIGHT?**

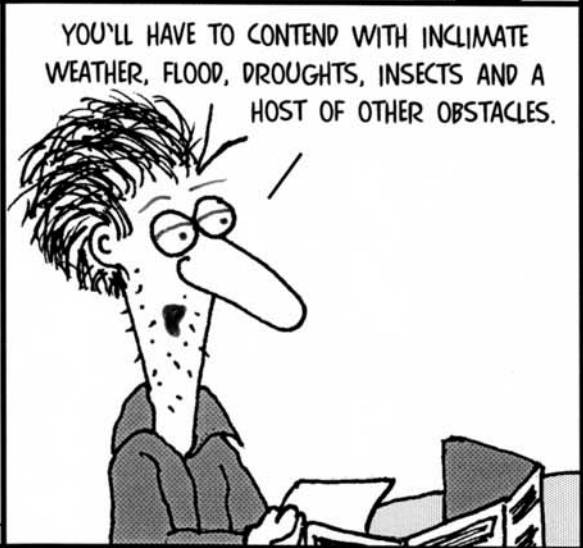
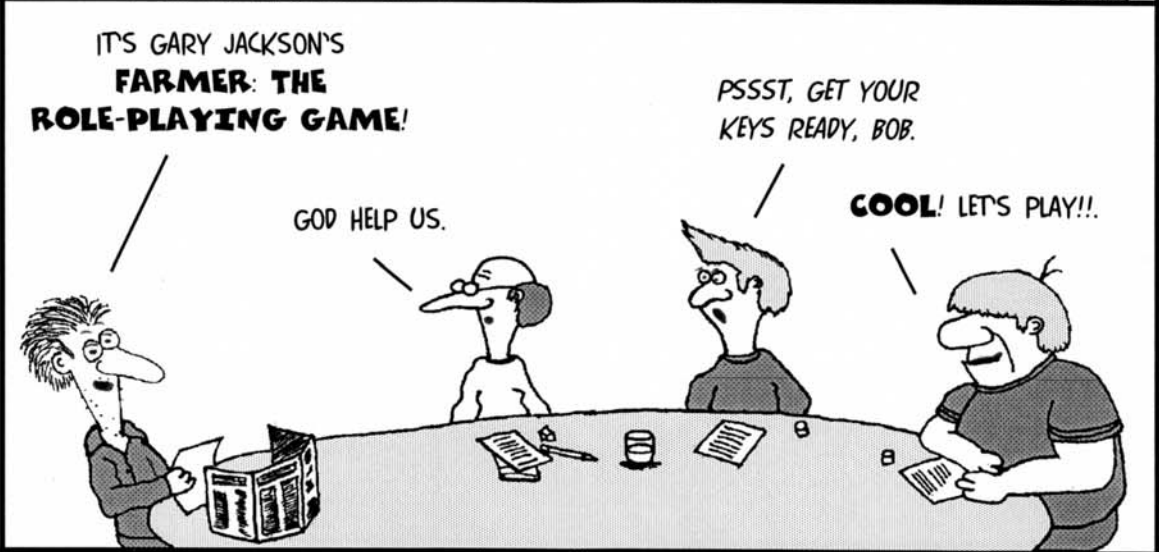
OK, HOW MUCH IS IT GOING TO TAKE TO BUY YOUR SILENCE?

A DOUBLE-DOUGH PIZZA AND A SIX PACK
OF SNAPPLE SHOULD SUFFICE!



The Farmer Wars

BY JOLLY R. BLACKBURN ©1994



THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL I'M
PLAYING A FARMER.
THIS IS ALMOST AS BAD AS
PARASITE THE ROLE-PLAYING
GAME. I'M OUTTA HERE - YOU
COMING?

THERE'S GOTTA BE MORE TO IT -
AFTER ALL IT IS A **GARY
JACKSON** GAME.

YEAH LET'S ROLL UP SOME
CHARACTERS AND GIVE IT A
CHANCE GUYS



TWO WEEKS LATER — THE FARMER CAMPAIGN IS IN FULL SWING

HEY BRIAN, I'M OUT OF RADISH SEEDS AND
FARMER HERMAN ACROSS THE RIVER GAVE
ME A HOT TIP -- THE KING IS PAYING
PREMIUM PRICES FOR RADISHES NEXT FALL.
LOAN ME A COUPLE A BAGS OF SEED HUH?

NO WAY DUDE! I NEED THAT SEED TO SOW THE
40 ACRES EARL WINSTON IS LETTING ME
SHARE-CROP. THOSE RADISHES ARE GOING TO
ALLOW ME TO BECOME A **REAL** LAND OWNER.
HA HA - YOU LOSER!!



YOU **BASTARD!!** I LOANED YOU MY
BEST MULE TEAM LAST FALL TO PLOW THAT
SAND-PIT YOU CALL A FARM. THAT'S
GRATITUDE FOR YA!

THAT REMINDS ME — I NEED MY +5 HOE BACK.
I'M PLANTING RUTABAGAS NEXT WEEK.

SORRY DUDE - I LOST IT.



BY THE WAY FELLAS, IT'S THAT TIME OF MONTHS AGAIN. YOUR FRIENDLY TAX MAN VISITS EACH OF YOU FOR THE KING'S SHARE OF THE CROP.



GREAT! THAT LOUSY KING IS BLEEDIN' US DRY. LET'S TRY REVOLTING AGAIN.

NOWAY! LAST TIME WE TRIED THAT I GOT FIFTY LASHES AND WAS GIVEN A WEDGIE IN PUBLIC.



WELL, I'M GOING TO CALL A MEETING OF ALL THE NON-PLAYER PEASANTS AND INCITE THEM TO REVOLT AGAINST THAT TYRANT OF A KING.

WHILE HE'S DOING THAT **B.A.**, I'M GOING TO REPORT TO THE EARL AND TELL HIM ABOUT BOB'S TREASONOUS ACTIONS. YOU MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT A 100 GP REWARD FOR SUCH DISPLAY OF LOYALTY.



YOU WOULDN'T DARE!
I'VE HAD JUST ABOUT ENOUGH OF YOUR BACK-STABBING BUDDY.

NOTHING PERSONAL BOB, I JUST NEED THE MONEY. YOU UNDERSTAND? IF YOU CAN'T STAND THE HEAT, GET OUT OF THE GAME!

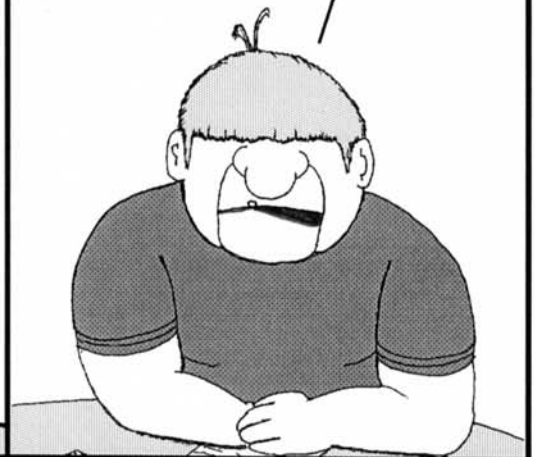


OH YEAH? THAT DOES IT!! I'M COMING
OVER AND TORCHING YOUR CROPS!!
HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT?

YEAH, AND I'M GONNA SPREAD A RUMOR
IN THE MARKET PLACE THAT YOUR
RADISHES CAUSE WARTS! LOSE MY +5 HOE
WILL YA — REVENGE IS SWEET!



ANYBODY TOUCHES MY RADISHES AND
IT'S **WAR!!**



GEE, THE BACK OF THE GAME BOX DIDN'T
EVEN MENTION THIS. I CAN'T WAIT TIL
THE NEXT SUPPLEMENT COMES OUT.

WHACK! **SLAM!** **SOCK!**



The Wonderful GaryCon Adventure

BY JOLLY R. BLACKBURN ©1994

ALRIGHT GUYS, I HAVE A GREAT SURPRISE.
I CALCULATED THE BALANCE OF THE GROUP'S TREASURY
AND WE HAVE EXACTLY \$84.50.
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE BUT WE HAD TO REPLACE
MOM'S TABLE WHEN BRIAN FLIPPED IT THAT ONE TIME.

OH SURE — KEEP THROWING THAT
TABLE THING IN MY FACE!

WOW!! LET'S SPEND IT!!



I TALKED TO MY DAD AND HE'S AGREED TO LOAN ME
HIS UTILITY VAN NEXT WEEKEND. IF MY FIGURES ARE
CORRECT, WE HAVE JUST ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY
GAS, GET A HOTEL ROOM, AND PAY FOR ALL OF OUR
ADMISSIONS TO **GARYCON**! WE'LL EVEN HAVE A
LITTLE LEFT OVER TO BUY SOME MUNCHIES.

YEAH, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT
GARYCON. IT'S JUST A GLORIFIED
GATHERING OF GAMING GEEKS. I
DON'T RELATE WITH THOSE PEOPLE.

GEE, IT'S MY FAVORITE
CON! I CAN'T WAIT!

GARYCON? I HEARD IT
SUCKS WIND.



I JUST DON'T SEE WHAT THE BIG
DEAL IS ABOUT GARYCON.

ME NEITHER. WE COULD USE
THAT MONEY TO BUY PIZZA.



GUYS, GUYS, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT
GARYCON!! IT'S THE ULTIMATE GAMING
EXPERIENCE! YOU CAN'T MISS OUT ON THIS.



I GUARANTEE YOU'LL HAVE THE BEST TIME
OF YOUR LIFE!! IT SURE AS HELL BEATS
SITTING AROUND THIS STUPID TABLE AND
PLAYING GAMES — **RIGHT?**

YOU HAVE A POINT. I'M TIRED OF
SITTING AROUND GAMING.

YEAH, IT WOULD BE GREAT TO
GET OUT AND DO SOMETHING.

WELL, I HATE TO ADMIT IT, I
COULD USE A VACATION.



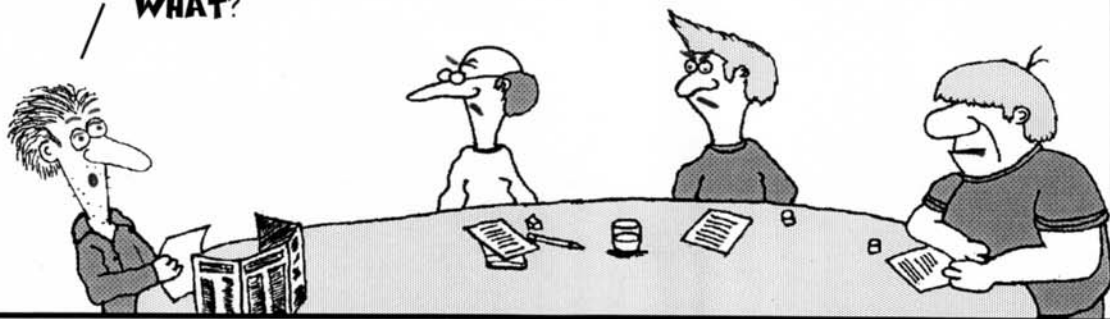
AND SO THE KNIGHTS OF
THE DINNER TABLE
EMBARK ON THEIR
GREATEST ADVENTURE!
72 HOURS OF NON-STOP
DRIVING, TWO FLAT TIRES
AND THREE ECONOMY
BAGS OF ONION CHIPS
LATER THE GROUP
FINALLY ARRIVES AT
GARYCON!



Welcome to GaryCon '94
"Please keep the hotel clean"

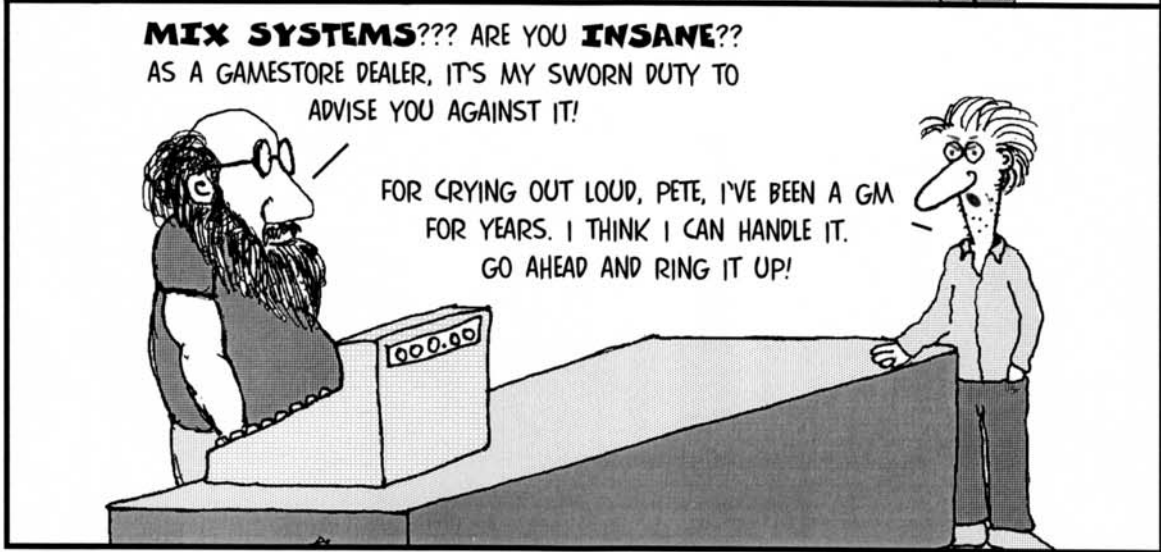
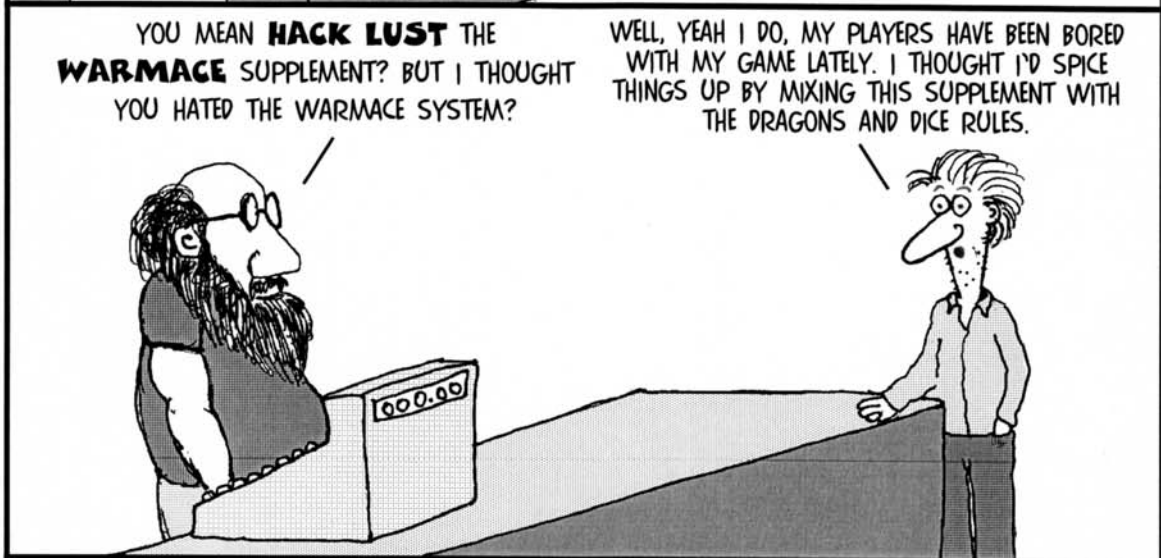
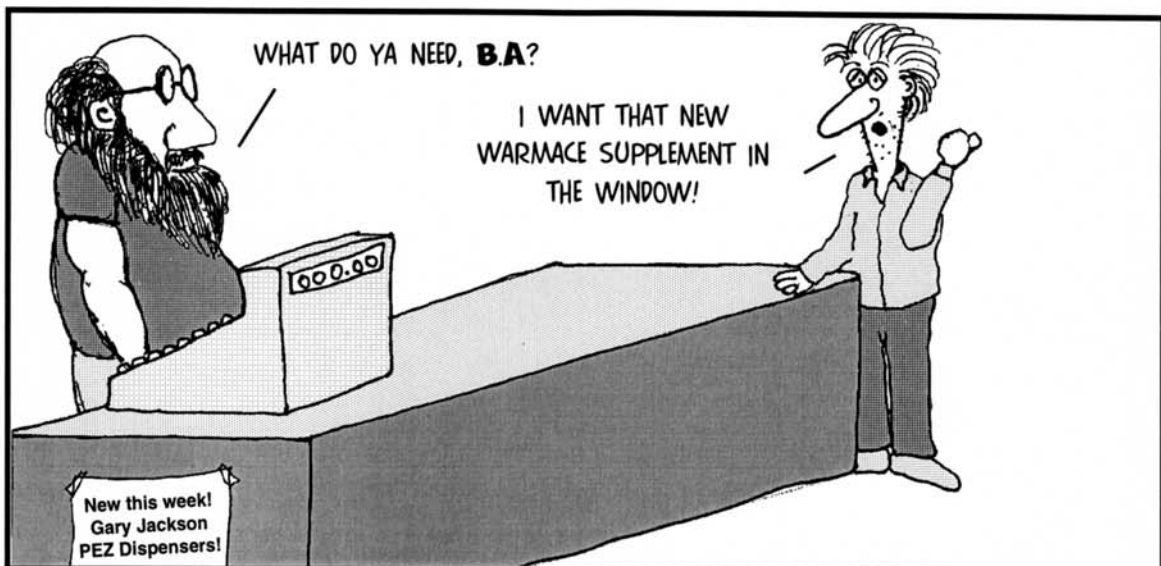
WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU GUYS
LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT FOR?

WHAT?



Diminishing Returns

BY JOLLY R. BLACKBURN ©1994



GOING AGAINST **WEIRD PETE'S** ADVICE, **B.A. FELTON** RACES HOME AND SETS ABOUT MIXING THE WARMACE RULES WITH HIS OLD DRAGONS AND DICE RULES.

LONG INTO THE NIGHT AND INTO THE FOLLOWING DAY HE PORES OVER HIS BOOKS AND HOME-BREWED CONVERSION TABLES. AT LAST, WITH ONLY HOURS TO SPARE BEFORE THE GROUP ARRIVES, B.A. IS READY TO UNVEIL HIS NEW SYSTEM!

OPEN YOUR MINDS BOYS! TONIGHT WE WILL BE USING A HYBRID SYSTEM OF MY OWN DESIGN.



THIS SYSTEM DRAWS UPON THE CLASSIC ROLE-PLAYING ELEMENTS OF DRAGONS AND DICE WHILE INTRODUCING THE POPULAR HACK-N-SLASH ASPECTS OF WARMACE. I THINK YOU'LL LIKE WHAT I'VE COME UP WITH!

LOOK, **B.A.**, I JUST CAME TO PLAY. I DON'T WANT TO BE USED AS A GUINEA PIG. PLAYTEST THIS THING ON YOUR OWN TIME.

YOU CAN'T MIX THOSE TWO SYSTEMS! THEY'RE INCOMPATIBLE!

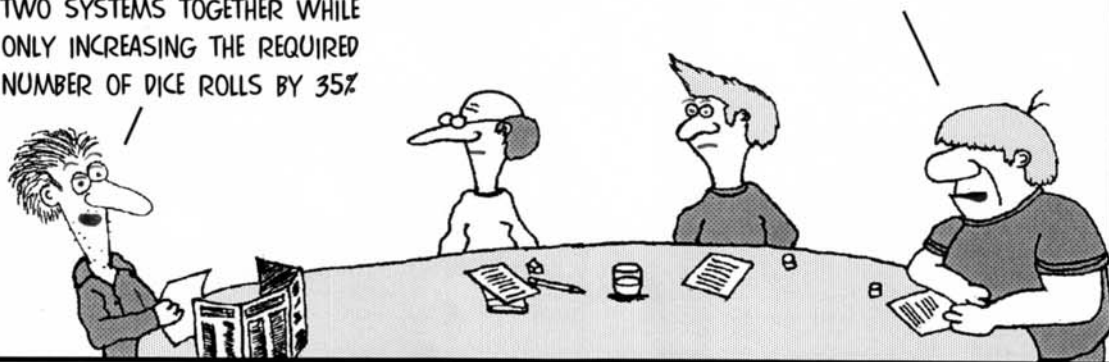
HHMMMM...HOW DO YOU SOLVE THE DAMAGE RATIO TO ARMOR CLASS VS. WEAPON, **B.A.**?



THAT'S THE BEAUTY OF IT, BRIAN.

I CAME UP WITH A DOZEN ALGORITHM CHARTS THAT ALLOW ME TO COMPLETELY MESH THE TWO SYSTEMS TOGETHER WHILE ONLY INCREASING THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF DICE ROLLS BY 35%

35%!! **WOW!** THIS COULD BE A REAL BREAK-THROUGH SYSTEM. I'M GAME — LET'S TRY IT OUT!!



I DUNNO GUYS, YOU KNOW B.A.'S HOME-BREWED SYSTEMS ALWAYS END UP KILLING ONE OF US. WHO CAN FORGET THOSE CARNIVOROUS SHEEP HE CAME UP WITH?

YEAH, OR HOW ABOUT THAT TIME HE TRIED TO IMPLEMENT THOSE LAME TAGGER RULES FROM **SHADIS** MAGAZINE!! WHAT A DISASTER!

WELL, GEE GUYS, IT'S **JUST A GAME...**



WHAT DID YOU SAY?

ER...SORRY. I DON'T KNOW WHERE THAT CAME FROM.

GUYS, I DID THIS FOR **YOU**! YOU'RE ALWAYS COMPLAINING THERE ISN'T ENOUGH HACK-N-SLASH IN MY CAMPAIGNS. ARE YOU GONNA SNUB ME THE ONE TIME I TRY TO DELIVER??



HOW DO WE KNOW THIS ISN'T JUST A TRICK SO YOU CAN KILL US ALL OFF?

I'LL REGRET THIS LATER, BUT I SAY WE GIVE IT A CHANCE GUYS.

NOW YOU'RE TALKING! THIS IS GOING TO BE COOL.

THE SYSTEM IS EQUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS TO BOTH PLAYER AND MONSTER, GUYS. I PROMISE!



DRAWING UPON HIS YEARS OF GAME MASTERY EXPERIENCE, **B.A.** BEGINS TO WEAVE A BOLD ADVENTURE, LEADING HIS PLAYERS INTO THE FRAY! ALL SEEMS TO BE GOING WELL, UNTIL THE GROUP ENCOUNTERS THE **EVIL MAGE OF SHINY PEBBLE CASTLE!!**

AS YOU WALK ACROSS THE DRAWBRIDGE, THE CASTLE DOORS SWING OPEN AND THE EVIL MAGE EMERGES TO BLOCK YOUR WAY!



YOU NOTICE HE IS BRANDISHING AN ENORMOUS MAGICAL STAFF WHICH HE WAVES OVER HIS HEAD AS HE BEGINS TO UTTER THE WORDS OF A POWERFUL SPELL!

HE'S JUST ANOTHER WIMPY MAGE. I'M DRAWING MY +12 HACKMASTER SWORD AND I'M GOING TO CUT HIS HEAD OFF AND THROW IT IN THE MOAT!

UH, ER...I'M GOING TO YELL, "WE COME IN **PEACE!!**" AND THEN SHOOT TO KILL!

I'M GONNA PREPARE A SPELL OF MY OWN, JUST IN CASE.



GREAT! WE FINALLY GET TO USE MY NEW HYBRID COMBAT SYSTEM. THE MAGE POINTS HIS STAFF AT YOU, DAVE AND LETS LOOSE A VOLLEY OF **PHANTASMAL FIREBALLS!!!** LET'S SEE, I ROLL FOUR 20 SIDED DICE, COMPARE IT TO CHART B AND CROSS-REFERENCE IT TO CHART K. NOW I CARRY THE RESULTS AS A MODIFIER TO CHART A AND THAT MEANS I CAN NOW ROLL ON TABLE 5 TO CHECK FOR SPELL FAILURE. THERE'S A FULL MOON SO I GET A +5 FOR THAT — OF COURSE, BECAUSE IT'S A PHANTASM BONUS. **GOOD!** THAT TAKES CARE OF THE FIRST FIREBALL - NOW I HAVE TO CHECK FOR THE REMAINING FOURTEEN. SO WE GO BACK TO CHART B AND CONSULT...



TWENTY MINUTES LATER...

..OK ONLY TWO FIREBALLS TO GO. UH OH, I ROLLED DOUBLE DAMAGE FOR THIS ONE, SO I GET TO RE-ROLL HALF OF MY ORIGINAL VOLLEY. THAT MEANS I CONSULT TABLE Q TO DETERMINE THE RELATIVE DAMAGE OF EACH BONUS FIREBALL. LET'S SEE, I'LL NEED A TWELVE-SIDED DIE AND FOUR SIX-SIDED DICE TO...

DAMN! DAVE FELL ASLEEP!

KERPLUNK!!



B.A., I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOUR FEELINGS BUT... NOW DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY BUT... OH THE **HELL** WITH IT! THIS GAME **SUCKS!!**

I'M OUTTA HERE GUYS. I'M GONNA TRY TO CATCH A GAME OF CHESS DOWN AT THE COFFEE SHOP.

BUT YOU HAVEN'T EVEN GIVEN IT A CHANCE GUYS.

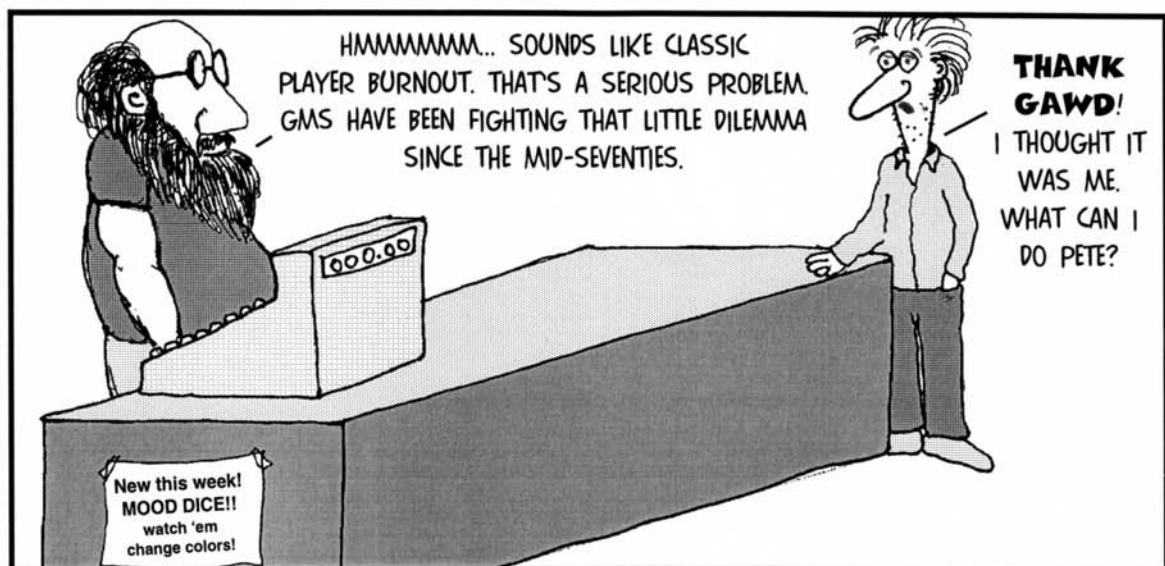
ZZZZZZZZ,
SNARL-SNORE,
ZZZZZZ



HEY **B.A.**, I THOUGHT YOU HAD A BIG GAME TO RUN TONIGHT?

MY PLAYERS BAILED ON ME PETE. IT'S JUST GETTING HARDER AND HARDER TO KEEP THEM INTERESTED IN THE GAME. ANY IDEAS?





NOTHING TO BE ALARMED ABOUT, BOYS!
THIS IS PROTOTYPE OF WEIRD PETE'S
NEW **FIREBALL GENERATOR!!**
I THINK YOU'LL FIND IT WILL ADD A BIT
OF REALISM TO THE GAME.

WOW!! HOW DOES IT WORK, **B.A.??**
CRANK 'ER UP!!

THAT'S FUNNY — I
THOUGHT PETE GAVE UP ON
THAT IDEA.

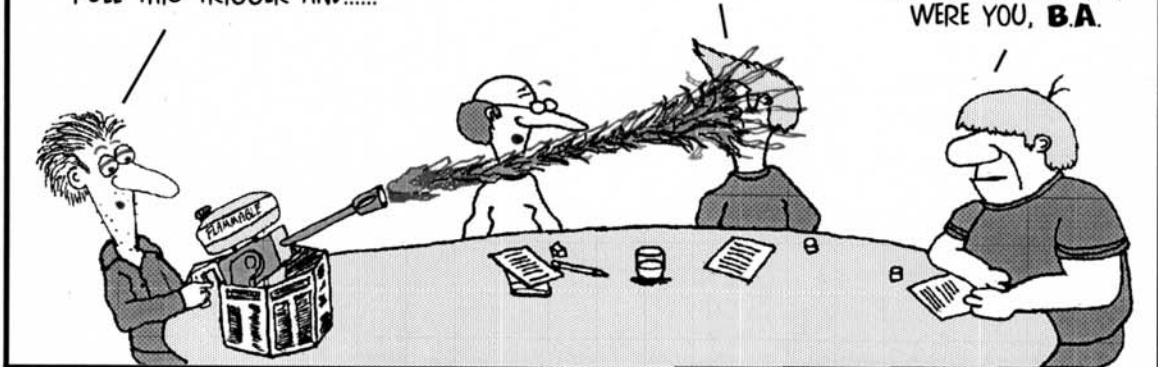
LOOKS DANGEROUS!
IS IT DANGEROUS?



WELL, IT'S A SIMPLE DEVICE
ACTUALLY. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS
PULL THIS TRIGGER AND.....

OWWWHHH!!
TURN IT OFF!
TURN IT OFF!!

HMMMMM...
FUEL MIXTURE APPEARS
TO BE TOO RICH.
I'D ADJUST THAT IF I
WERE YOU, **B.A.**



UM, SORRY ABOUT THAT
DAVE. I REALLY AM.

COULD YOU POINT THAT
THING SOMEWHERE
ELSE?

B.A., WE REALLY NEED TO
HAVE A TALK — A GOOD,
LONG TALK.



Plea For Help

BY JOLLY R. BLACKBURN ©1994

LOOK GUYS, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE THIS BUT BASED ON ADVANCE ORDERS, IT LOOKS AS THOUGH OUR FIRST COMIC BOOK IS GOING TO SELL OUT!

I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THAT CONTRACT, B.A. MY LAWYER SAYS IT'S KINDA FLIMSY. I WANT TO RENEGOTIATE.

ALL 3000 COPIES? I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE CHANGED SHIRTS.

YEAH, I HEARD THIS FINIEOUS FINGERS GUY GOT A BETTER DEAL.

DON'T WORRY - THERE WILL BE A COUPLE OF PIZZAS IN IT FOR YOU. THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT WE ARE GOING TO BE DOING ANOTHER COMIC BOOK.

WHAT DO YOU THINK WE ARE, **GLUTTONS FOR PUNISHMENT?**

YEAH, B.A., WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO FOR AN ENCORE? I REALLY DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH TO SAY.

THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I'M BRINGING IT UP NOW. WE'RE INVITING ALL OUR READERS TO SEND IN THEIR OWN FUNNY STUFF WHICH THEY MIGHT HAVE EXPERIENCED AROUND THE GAMING TABLE.*

WHAT DO YOU MEAN FUNNY? I TAKE GAMING VERY SERIOUSLY.

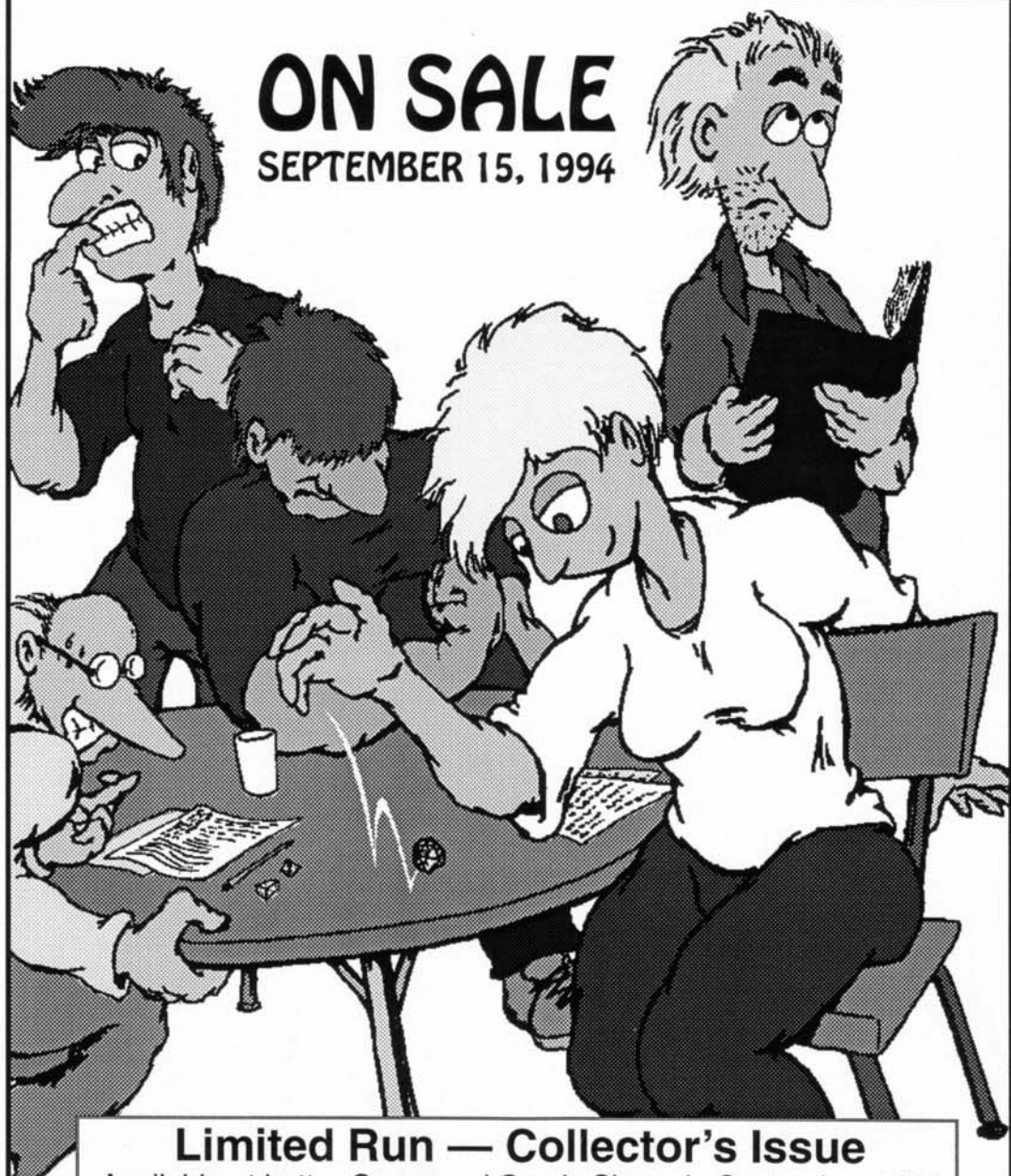
I STILL WANT TO RENEGOTIATE THAT CONTRACT.

*All entries become the property of Alderac Entertainment Group. Compensation for use of material will be a free copy of the comic book it appears in.

KNIGHTS OF THE DINNER TABLE No.2 Gluttons for Punishment

ON SALE

SEPTEMBER 15, 1994



Limited Run — Collector's Issue

Available at better Game and Comic Shops in September 1994

Or **Reserve** your copy by sending \$2.95 to:

SHADIS, 17880 Greystone Blvd #203, Chino Hills, CA 91709

Darkurthe LEGENDS

Only a few brave souls dare to face the other-world horrors that were thought to exist only in legend.

Those who survive are changed forever, unable to return to the ordinary lives they have left behind. They have learned that,
...From trials come Heroes,
From Heroes come Legends.



BLACK DRAGON PRESS

P.O. Box 362 Logan Ut 84323-0362
(801) 755-9188 FAX (801) 753-5546

I WANT YOU GUYS TO SIGN THIS TESTIMONIAL, STATING THAT THE KNIGHTS OF THE DINNER TABLE WHOLE-HEARTEDLY ENDORSE **DARKURTHE LEGENDS!**

HELL, YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY ME.
DARKURTHE LEGENDS
IS COOL!

NOT UNTIL WE DISCUSS THE
SMALL MATTER OF MONEY.
WHAT'S OUR CUT?

THAT'S A SCARY GAME MAN!
I COULDN'T SLEEP LAST NIGHT.

