



Knights of the **D**inner **T**able™

BUNDLE OF TROUBLE™

VOLUME FIVE

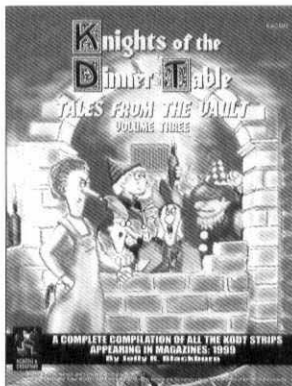
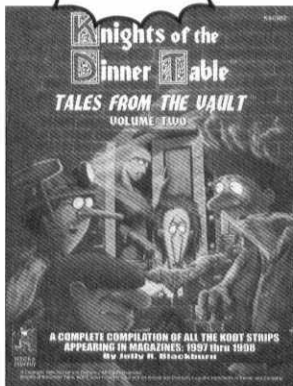
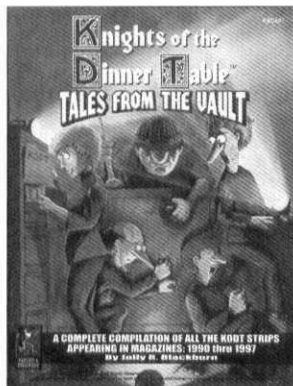


A COMPILATION OF KNIGHTS OF THE DINNER TABLE: ISSUES 13 THRU 15



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Knights of the Dinner Table™

BUNDLE OF TROUBLE VOLUME FIVE

The KODT Development Team is
Jolly R. Blackburn, Brian Jelke,
Steve Johansson and David S. Kenzer
Cover Art by George and Jackie Vrbanic

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Although he won't admit it, Knights of the Dinner Table™ was created by Jolly R. Blackburn way back in 1990 as "filler" for the small press magazine Shadis™ (which he was publishing out of a spare bedroom). Nine years later, he continues to draw and write strips for the monthly Knights of the Dinner Table™ magazine. Writing KODT strips isn't nearly the lonely job as it was in the past. Since joining the ranks of Kenzer and Company and the formation of the KODT Development Team, the Knights have gone far beyond anything Jolly or the other developers ever imagined. Along the way, he's made some incredible friends and considers himself truly blessed.

A COMPILATION OF KODT ISSUES 13 thru 15

Men that Hack • A Fist Full of Dice and a Bad Attitude!! • Mama Told Me Not to Play

KENZER AND COMPANY

Knights of the Dinner Table
Bundle of Trouble

Volume Five

2nd Printing: July, 2001

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Internet: jolly@kenzerco.com
(editorial inquiries only) or
questions@kenzerco.com (all
other inquiries). World Wide
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Submissions: We accept submis-
sions for strip ideas, jokes, car-
toons, etc. We are interested in
running anything that other
gamers and fans would enjoy.
Check out our website for writer's
guidelines.

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Editorial of a Madman

"Dude, when you're at a con, what do you do with the money?"

Jolly R. Blackburn

For some reason Pentacon, a tiny one-horse con in Fort Wayne, Indiana, always seems to have a great impact on Kenzer and Company. In 1996, the worst snafu in Kenzer and Company's brief history happened (aside from chasing a **Willie Wonka CCG license**, but that's a story for another time). At the con, Ray Vantilburg, the airbrush T-shirt guy at GenCon and other various cons was going to meet us to drop off a painting slated for a Kalamar product cover. Ray had already painted a cover for us that really rocked (*the cover of Secret Temple of Adajj, one of the kewlest pieces of cover art I've ever seen*). Well we lost Ray's original painting; it was taken from our booth area while we loaded up our pickup after the con. We never even had a chance to shoot film from the art so the cover was lost to us entirely. Not only that, we had to reimburse Ray for the painting itself.

Fortunately, the con wasn't a complete loss, because that was the Pentacon when Jolly and I reached a handshake deal for Jolly to join Kenzer and Company. We met late at night, in the darkness of Jol's living room after the other two guys were asleep.

Jolly asked me some of the oddest interview questions, like: "When you're at a con, what do you do with the money?"

Now, I'm usually a fairly confident negotiator, but ol' Jolly really had me baffled and wondering what sort of trick question this was. Sitting there in the dark stumped, I think I now know what Bilbo must have felt like when Gollum asked his final riddle. After a moment of silence, I stumbled over my response, "Ummm... we... uh... put it in the... uh... cashbox?" Which is, of course, what we do. He seemed satisfied with my answer.

After we shook on the deal, I asked him what the heck he was getting at with his odd line of questioning. He reluctantly explained that some of his 'former' partners used to run the cash box at cons out of their pockets (literally). Jolly found out that most of that cash never made it into the company coffers, having mysteriously vaporized. Most of it ended up at the dog track, on drinks while smoozing with other companies and other so called 'business expenses'. Jolly just wanted to make sure we ran an honest business. Luckily, he didn't ask me about our shylock business or protection rackets.

In 1997, I once again drove out to Jolly's house to go to Pentacon. One of my goals when I left Illinois was to help Jolly get KODT back on schedule. (*At the time, I didn't realize being late for three or four issues after GenCon was to become a K&C tradition*). What actually occurred was a complete surprise to us all. Jolly and I cranked out some of the funniest damn material I've ever seen or read. The amazing part was the volume. We laughed, joked and doodled through the whole con. Unfortunately, ninety-percent of our material was never even recorded.

The part we did manage to save became the majority of issues 14 and 15, reprinted here for your reading pleasure. The comic part of the two issues was mainly completed in one weekend, in-between hawking product at our booth and discussing plans for current and future product lines.

Of course, the whole gang tinkered and refined issues 14 and 15 after the con. We added memorable pieces like more stuff for the **Bag of Hefty Capacity** in "The Barringer Rebellion" (*I'm certain Steve added the muddy boots*), or the "bonus" strip that Brian wrote for the gaming section - *our first baby step toward magazine-hood* - as well as Brian's very creative scenario "Adventurer Summoning" which ran in issue 14 as well. So I don't want to leave out Steve or Bri (pronounced like brick without the "ck"). Incidentally, a long strip written by Steve and Bri was the inspiration for the whole front-half of Issue 13 as well. The great thing about having such an awesome stable of in-house writers is, that at any given time, someone is always producing something funny or inspiring.

Looking back, I have to say that working on the three issues you hold bundled in your hands represents not only some of the funnest moments I've ever shared, but also a big slice of friendship. Thank you, Bri, Steve and Jolly. Thank YOU, our readers and fans, for supporting us. Thank you Pentacon for supplying a great strip-writing environment. And a great big 'THANK YOU' to the guys with the cash-box pockets.

David S. Kenzer

David S. Kenzer
February 1, 2000

RPGS THAT SHOULD NEVER BE, PART 12: THE TENORS

OK BOB, YOUR ATTEMPT TO WHACK RED 'THE SHAMROCK' PICKENS IN HIS HOME IN FULL VIEW OF HIS GRANDKIDS FAILS - APPARENTLY HIS DERBY DEFLECTED THE BULLET AND I'M AFRAID YOUR HIT-MAN GUIDO FLIPS ON YOU. DAVE, STANDING ON NAJEEB'S NECK SEEMS TO WORK & HE FINALLY COUGHS UP THE 12.65 IN PROTECTION MONEY FOR HIS HOT DOG CART.

SARA, YOUR VARIOUS GAMBLING OPERATIONS BRING IN 50,000 THIS WEEK, AND BRIAN, YOU'RE EARNERS HAVE SET A NEW BENCHMARK FOR MOVING HORSE THROUGH NEW ENGLAND.

SORRY BOB, ALL MY EARNERS ARE OUT MAKING COLLECTIONS. BA, I POCKET THE 12.65 AND LOOK FOR MANUEL AT THE PICKLE ON A STICK CART.

I USE IT TO SETTLE THE LONGSHOREMANS LABOR DISPUTE BOB CAUSED.

ACK, THE IRISH MOB'S GONNA BE ALL OVER ME. DUDE, YOU GOTTA LOAN ME SOME SOLDIERS.

EXCELLENT. I USE THE MONEY TO BUY A CHOPPER, 47 CHINESE AK-47S, AND A FREAKIN' TOW MISSILE FOR MY HUMMER. GET READY TO SAY HELLO TO MY LITTLE FRIEND RED!



Knights of the Dinner Table™

M A G A Z I N E

“Men that Hack”

The KODT Development Team is
Jolly R. Blackburn, Brian Jelke,
Steve Johansson and David S. Kenzer

Cover Art by George Vrbanic



*“We are the thin veil, who
hold back the night!!
We are the men who hack,
turning wrong to right”*

*I really like issue 13. It was our first and only
completely stand-alone theme issue. - Dave*

NSB Academy Cadence Song

**KENZER AND
COMPANY**

Knights of the Dinner Table #13

“Men that Hack”

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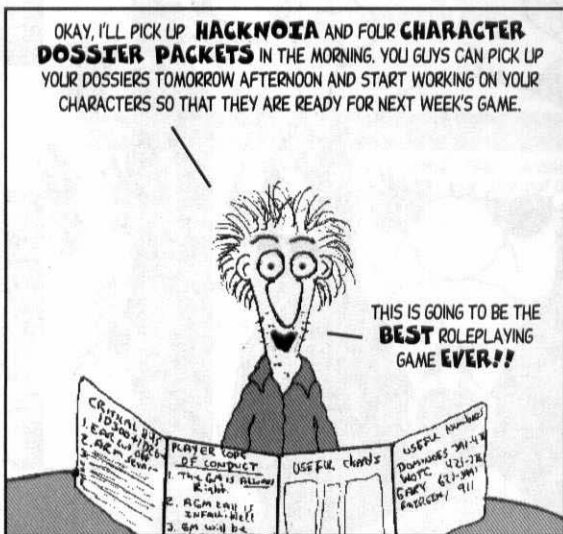
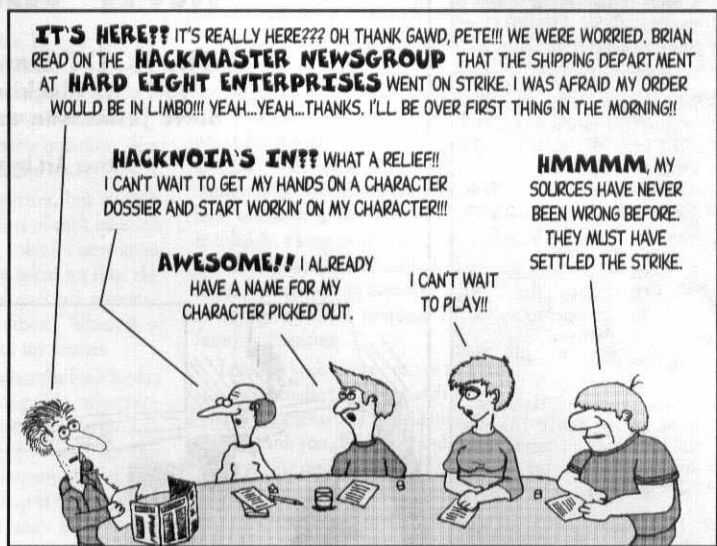
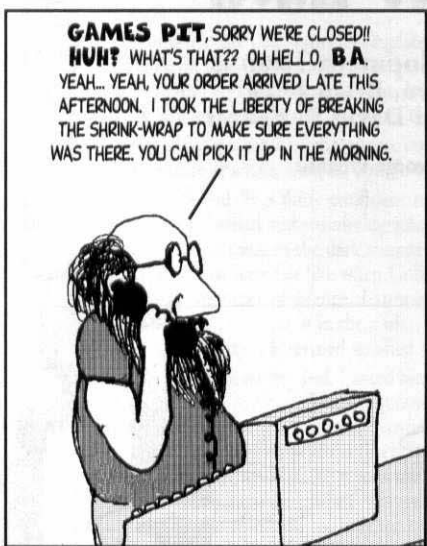
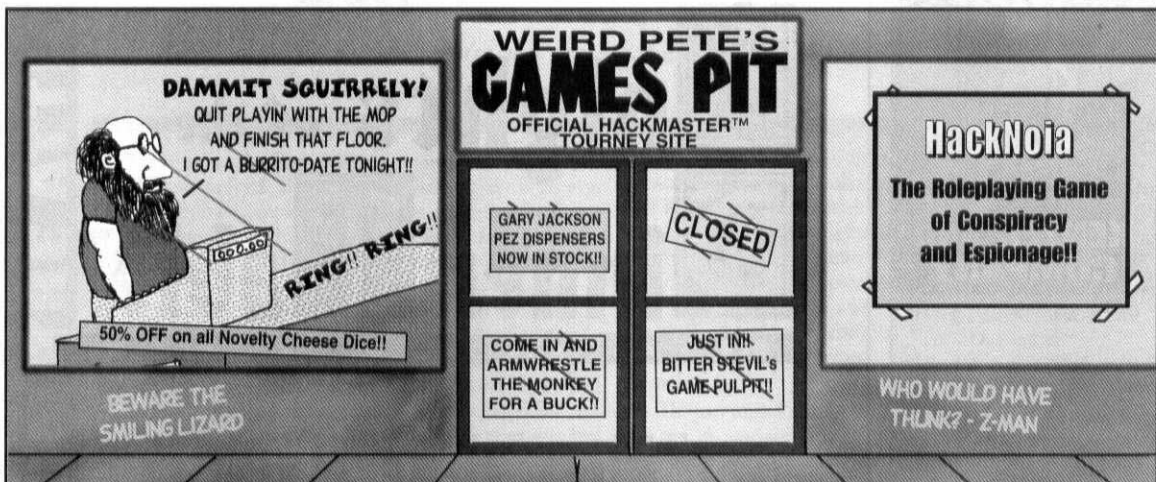
Back Issues: Back issues and other **KEWL** KoDT stuff are also available. See our website for details.

Internet: jollyrb@aol.com (editorial inquiries only) or KenzerCo@aol.com (all other inquiries). World Wide Web: <http://members.aol.com/reikin/kenzerco.html>

Mailing Address: Kenzer and Company, 830 W. Main Street, PMB114, Lake Zurich, IL 60047

Submissions: We accept submissions for strip ideas, jokes, cartoons, etc. We are interested in running anything that other gamers and fans would enjoy. Send a S.A.S.E. for writer's guidelines to the address listed above or E-mail restin@aol.com.

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* See *Bundle of Trouble Volume Four* [KoDT #11] "The Empty Chair"

Jolly and I had a big debate over the name of the game "Hacknoia". I wanted to call it "The Hack Files" since X-Files was in full swing and the game was not really like Paranoia. But since we sent issue 12 out with a single-panel where they mention Hacknoia, we were sort of stuck with the name. That ruined the issue for me and I refused to look at it. To this day I have no idea how it turned out..... kidding, obviously! - Dave

THE FOLLOWING WEEK...

WELL, I SEE EVERYONE HAS THEIR OFFICIAL "MOOD-ENHANCING" DARK SUNGLASSES ON. LOOKS LIKE WE'RE READY FOR OUR FIRST DIVE INTO **HACKNOIA!!!** YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO KNOW THAT I TOOK TWO DAYS OFF WORK THIS WEEK SO I COULD HAVE SOME EXTRA TIME TO DEVELOP TONIGHT'S ADVENTURE. I REALLY GOT SWEEP AWAY. I THINK THIS WILL BE ONE OF THE BEST ADVENTURES I'VE **EVER** RUN!! BEFORE WE CAN START, I NEED TO REVIEW YOUR CHARACTERS AND BACKGROUNDS. BOB, WHY DON'T YOU GO FIRST??

MY CHARACTER IS KILLER, DUDE!!! HIS NAME IS **LUGER KRINGE!!** I'M AN EX-MARINE APACHE HELICOPTER PILOT. MY MILITARY TRAINING GIVES ME THE **MUNITIONS** AND **SMALL ARMS SKILL PACKAGES**. I ALSO HAVE AN **INTIMIDATION PRESENCE FACTOR** DUE TO SOME **RESIDUAL MILITARY BEARING**.

KEWL NAME DUDE!!

LUGER KRINGE??

OUTSTANDING, BOB!!



I TOOK BRIAN'S ADVICE AND LOOKED INTO CHARACTER FLAWS AS A WAY TO SQUEEZE SOME ADDITIONAL BUILDING POINTS. I TOOK **CHRONIC-INDIGESTION** AS A MAJOR FLAW - WORTH 675 ADDITIONAL BUILDING POINTS. AND I TOOK **LACTOSE-INTOLERANCE** AS A MINOR FLAW FOR 150 BUILDING POINTS. I USED THOSE POINTS TO PURCHASE A **BURLY BODY BUILD** WHICH GIVES

ME AN 85% CHANCE OF KICKING DOWN ANY DOORWAY OR PORTAL!!



MY WEAPON OF CHOICE IS A **GOLD PLATED, BUREAU-MODIFIED 9MM LUGER WITH LASER-SIGHTING AND A POP-OUT MUZZLE-SABER!!** I HAVE THE ABILITY TO MOVE ABOUT THE **UPPER SOCIAL CLASSES** AT EASE. I LOVE FINE WINE, FAST CARS AND CLASSY WOMEN. I HAVE SIX TOP-OF-THE-LINE FINELY TAILORED ARMANI SUITS IN MY WARDROBE.

WHOOAH!! KICK-ASS CHARACTER, BOB!!

GOOD JOB, BOB!!

YA SEE?? CHARACTER FLAWS RULE!!



OKAY BOB, SOUNDS LIKE A FAIRLY REASONABLE CHARACTER. LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE NEXT, DAVE.

MY CHARACTER'S NAME IS **TERRANCE BRICK!!** I WAS RAISED ON THE STREETS OF CHICAGO WHERE I EVENTUALLY BECAME A **GANG-BANGER**. AFTER I MADE A "**HIT**" ON A RIVAL **GANG-LORD** MY OWN GANG BETRAYED ME AFTER CUTTING DEALS WITH THE **D.A.** I WAS FACING 95 TO LIFE IN **JOLIET** AND NOT A SHRED OF HOPE OF EVER SEEING THE LIGHT OF DAY AGAIN!!

YOUR OWN GANG BETRAYED YOU???

DAMN, THAT SUCKS!!

SOUNDS LIKE MOVIE OF THE WEEK MATERIAL!!

TOUGH BREAK, DUDE. HOW'D YOU GO FROM LIFER TO FEDERAL AGENT??

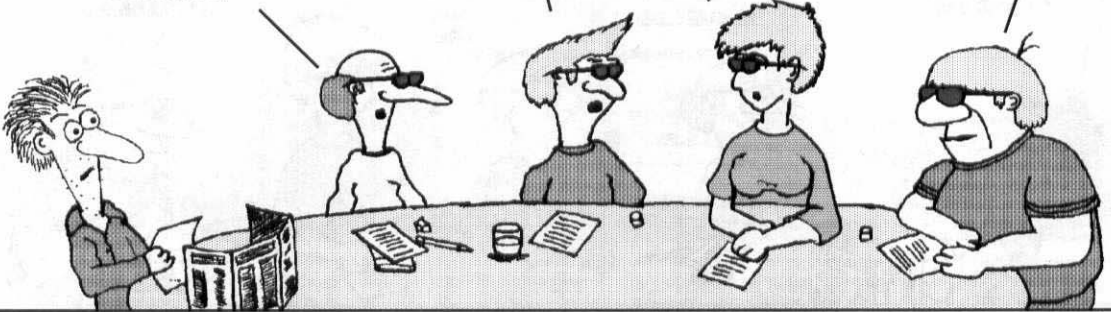


WELL, ONCE I WAS ON THE INSIDE, MY **GANG-BANGER BACKGROUND** ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF THE **NATIONAL SECURITY BUREAU** WHO WERE ATTEMPTING TO **INFILTRATE** THE GANGS. I WAS GRANTED A FULL PARDON IN EXCHANGE FOR MY COOPERATION. THE OPERATION WAS SO SUCCESSFUL THAT I WAS INDUCTED INTO THE **NSB**.

SO YOU'RE SOME KIND OF **EARTHY STREET-PUNK SWITCH??**

WOW DAVE!! THAT'S A VERY CREATIVE BACKGROUND. I'M IMPRESSED.

ENOUGH BACKGROUND!! I WANT TO KNOW WHAT KIND OF SKILLS AND ABILITIES YOU ARE BRINGING TO THE TEAM.



I MAXED OUT MY SKILLS IN **STREETWISE, GANGLAND CULTURE, BLACKMARKET SAVVY, SPEAK SLANG** AND **HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT WITH IMPROVISED WEAPONS**.

TO ENHANCE MY CHARACTER I TOOK THE MAJOR FLAW, **ALLERGIC TO POULTRY**. I USED THE EXTRA 275 BUILDING POINTS TO PURCHASE "DEAD AIM" AS ONE OF MY MAJOR ABILITIES.

I RULE!!!



GEE, DAVE, I DUNNO. YOUR CHARACTER SEEMS KINDA **WEAK**. OUR CHARACTERS ARE **TOTAL OPPOSITES**. I'M AFRAID THEY WON'T **CLICK**.
WHAT ARE YOU PACKING AS FAR AS WEAPONS??

A MATCHED PAIR OF **SAWED-OFF SHOTGUNS** WHICH I KEEP IN MY **INNER-THIGH CONCEALED HOLSTERS** AND A **.45 CALIBER EQUALIZER** FITTED WITH A **RUBY-OPTIC LASER SITE**.

NEVER MIND WHAT I SAID. YOU'RE KEWL, DUDE!!

OH BROTHER!!

MMMMMMMM, RUBY-OPTIC!!



WELL, THAT'S A PRETTY DECENT CHARACTER, DAVE. I'M IMPRESSED. OKAY SARA, YOU'RE UP!! LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT YOUR CHARACTER!!

LET'S HAVE IT, MISSY!!!
WHAT IS IT THIS TIME?
A FORMER GREENPEACE WORKER??
A FARM-AID VOLUNTEER??
POLITICAL ACTIVIST??

WELL... I CAN'T TELL YOU TOO MUCH ABOUT MY CHARACTER. MY NAME IS **JAMIE DAWN** AND I'M A **CLASS THREE OPERATIVE** FOR THE **NSB**. I CARRY A STANDARD ISSUE .38 REVOLVER. MY **BUREAU RECORDS** HAVE BEEN SEALED BY ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR. ALL YOU KNOW IS THAT I WAS RECENTLY TRANSFERRED TO THE CHICAGO OFFICE.

HUH??? WHY ALL THE SECRECY??

HMMMM, WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, SARA??





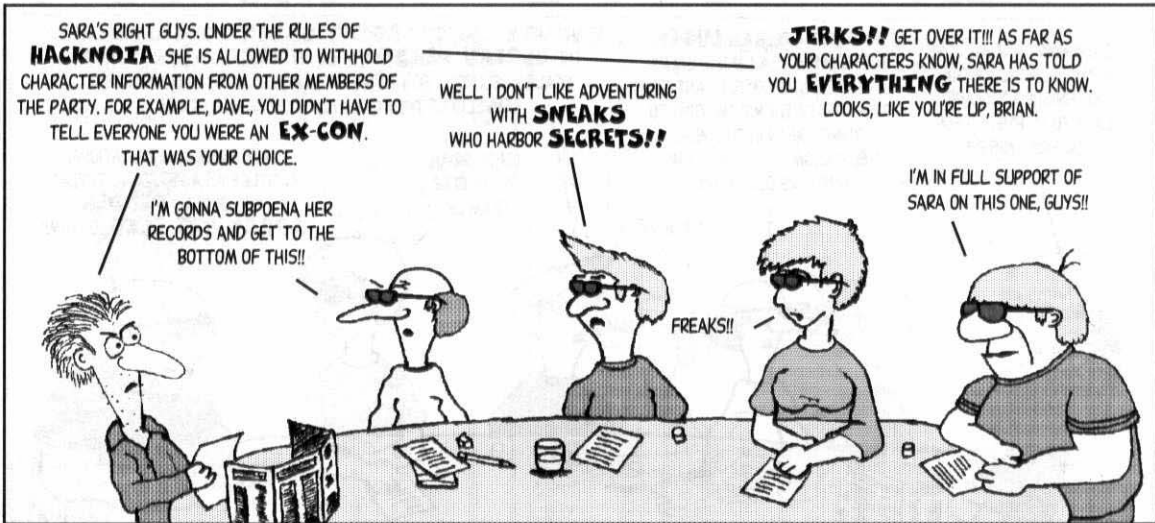
HERE, PASS THIS **SEALED** ENVELOPE DOWN TO B.A. IT LISTS ALL THE DETAILS ABOUT MY CHARACTER THAT CAN'T BE DIVULGED TO THE GROUP.



HEY, HEY, **HEY!!!** WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON HERE??? WE'RE A TEAM. THERE AREN'T ANY SECRETS BETWEEN MEMBERS OF A TEAM!!

SORRY GUYS, AS FAR AS YOU ARE CONCERNED I'M JUST ANOTHER FEMALE AGENT - A BIT ON THE ATTRACTIVE SIDE, MAYBE, AND PERHAPS OVERLY INVOLVED WITH HER CAREER, BUT I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

YEAH, COME ON, SARA. YOU GOTTA TELL US YOUR BACKGROUND AND SKILLS.



SARA'S RIGHT GUYS. UNDER THE RULES OF **HACKNOIA** SHE IS ALLOWED TO WITHHOLD CHARACTER INFORMATION FROM OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PARTY. FOR EXAMPLE, DAVE, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO TELL EVERYONE YOU WERE AN **EX-CON**. THAT WAS YOUR CHOICE.

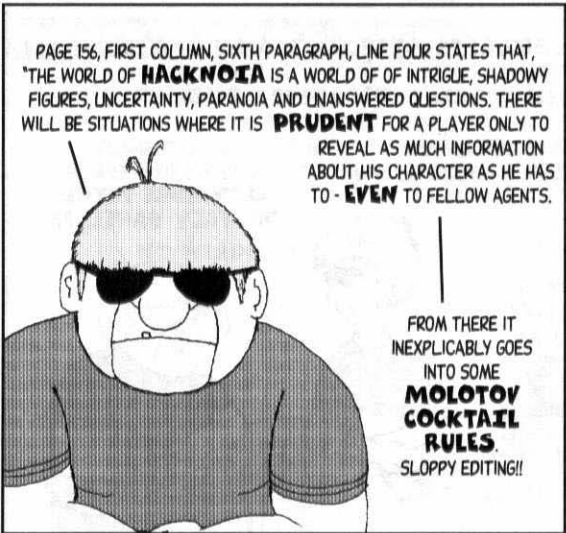
WELL I DON'T LIKE ADVENTURING WITH **SNEAKS** WHO HARBOR **SECRETS!!**

JERKS!! GET OVER IT!!! AS FAR AS YOUR CHARACTERS KNOW, SARA HAS TOLD YOU **EVERYTHING** THERE IS TO KNOW. LOOKS, LIKE YOU'RE UP, BRIAN.

I'M GONNA SUBPOENA HER RECORDS AND GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS!!

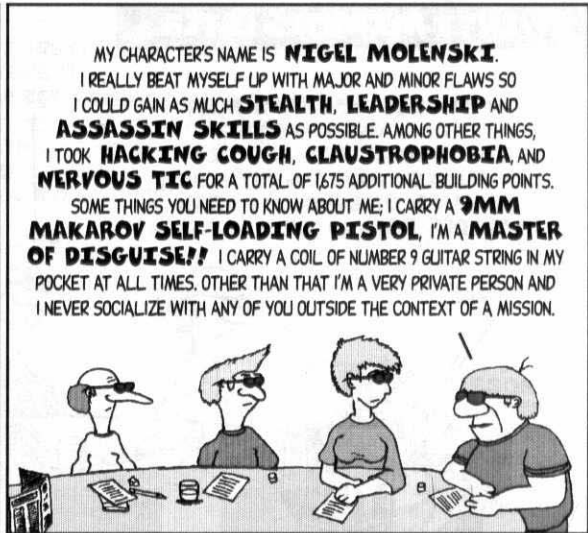
I'M IN FULL SUPPORT OF SARA ON THIS ONE, GUYS!!

FREAKS!!



PAGE 156, FIRST COLUMN, SIXTH PARAGRAPH, LINE FOUR STATES THAT, "THE WORLD OF **HACKNOIA** IS A WORLD OF INTRIGUE, SHADY FIGURES, UNCERTAINTY, PARANOIA AND UNANSWERED QUESTIONS. THERE WILL BE SITUATIONS WHERE IT IS **PRUDENT** FOR A PLAYER ONLY TO REVEAL AS MUCH INFORMATION ABOUT HIS CHARACTER AS HE HAS TO - **EVEN** TO FELLOW AGENTS.

FROM THERE IT INEXPLICABLY GOES INTO SOME **MOLOTOV COCKTAIL RULES**. SLOPPY EDITING!!



MY CHARACTER'S NAME IS **NIGEL MOLENSKI**. I REALLY BEAT MYSELF UP WITH MAJOR AND MINOR FLAWS SO I COULD GAIN AS MUCH **STEALTH, LEADERSHIP AND ASSASSIN SKILLS** AS POSSIBLE. AMONG OTHER THINGS, I TOOK **HACKING COUGH, CLAUSTROPHOBIA, AND NERVOUS TIC** FOR A TOTAL OF 1675 ADDITIONAL BUILDING POINTS. SOME THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ME; I CARRY A **9MM MAKAROY SELF-LOADING PISTOL**. I'M A **MASTER OF DISGUISE!!** I CARRY A COIL OF NUMBER 9 GUITAR STRING IN MY POCKET AT ALL TIMES. OTHER THAN THAT I'M A VERY PRIVATE PERSON AND I NEVER SOCIALIZE WITH ANY OF YOU OUTSIDE THE CONTEXT OF A MISSION.

HERE SARA, PASS THIS DOWN TO B.A.
IT CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION
REGARDING MY CHARACTER.

CHECK!

AGAIN WITH THE **SECURITY
CRAP!!** DUDE, WE'VE GOT TO
STICK TOGETHER. I THINK THOSE TWO
HAVE WORKED UP SOME KIND OF
CONSPIRACY AGAINST US.

I THINK YER RIGHT!!
I'LL WATCH
YER BACK -
YOU WATCH MINE!!

EEEEWWWWW!!! A MAN
OF MYSTERY, EH??
MY CHARACTER LOVES
THE STRONG, SILENT TYPE!!

ERP... WHEEZE...
CUT IT OUT SARA.

GREAT!!! NOW THAT ALL THE
CHARACTER INTRODUCTIONS
ARE FINISHED, YOU ARE
READY TO BE BRIEFED FOR
YOUR FIRST MISSION.

HOLD ON THERE, B.A.!!! **LUGER
KRINGE** IS A LITTLE LEERY
OF HIS COMPATRIOTS. I WANT TO
INVESTIGATE THEM!!! I'M GOING TO
CORNER BRIAN IN THE MEN'S
RESTROOM AND 'PRY' A FEW
ANSWERS OUT OF HIM.

YEAH!! AND MY CHARACTER, **AGENT BRICK**, IS GOING TO BREAK INTO
THE **BUREAU PERSONNEL OFFICE** AND LOOK AT THEIR
SEALED RECORDS... SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL JUST HAND ME THOSE
ENVELOPES THEY GAVE YOU SO I CAN READ THEM.

UH-OH BRIAN,
WE BETTER
TEAM UP!!

I TAKE BOB'S CONFRONTATIONAL
ATTITUDE AS A PERSONAL THREAT.
I'M USING MY **PEPPER
SPRAY TIE CLIP** ON HIM!!!

TWENTY MINUTES LATER...

HEY!!! B.A., **DID YOU HEAR ME??**

I SAID I'M DROPPING THE EXPENDED
LAW ROCKET TUBE AND PICKING MY
AK-47 BACK UP. I'M GOING TO KICK IN THE DOOR TO
BRIAN'S OFFICE AND DO A **KIRK
SHOULDER ROLL** AND COME UP BLAZING AWAY.

I'M USING THE **SECURITY GUARD** AS A **HUMAN SHIELD**.
I'M GOING TO TRY AND SHOOT THE LOCK OFF OF THE FILING CABINET ONE
MORE TIME BEFORE FLEEING THE **PERSONNEL OFFICE??**

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE IN
DEEP KIMSHEE, BRIAN!!

NOT NECESSARILY.
MY DESK IS EQUIPPED WITH
**CLAYMORE MINE
PRIVACY PANELS??**

(WHIMPER)

The Shake-Down Mission

BY DAVID S. KENZER, BRIAN JELKE AND STEVE JOHANSSON

OKAY, I'VE THOUGHT IT OVER AND THIS IS MY DECISION. LAST WEEK'S HACKNOIA ADVENTURE???? **IT NEVER HAPPENED!!** I'M NOT LETTING **30-PLUS HOURS** OF ADVENTURE DESIGN AND PREPARATION GO DOWN THE **DRAIN**. YOU IDIOTS ACCOMPLISHED NOTHING BUT **DESTROYING** THE FIFTH FLOOR OF THE **NATIONAL SECURITY BUREAU'S** ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE BUILDING AND KILLING FORTY OF YOUR FELLOW AGENTS. SO WE'RE STARTING OVER AT GROUND ZERO. YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR MISSION BRIEFING FROM THE DIRECTOR AND WE WILL MOVE DIRECTLY INTO THE ADVENTURE!!!! DO NOT PASS GO!! **UNDERSTAND!!**

START OVER???
BUT I WAS MAKING GOOD HEADWAY
IN MY INVESTIGATION OF SARA AND BRIAN.

THIS SUCKS!!!
ALL THAT WORK BARRICADING
MYSELF IN MY OFFICE WASTED!!!

GOOD CALL, B.A!! LAST WEEK
WAS A TOTAL DISASTER!!

YOUR OFFICE?? DAMN!!
I KNEW YOU BACK-
TRACKED ON ME.



OKAY, YOU'VE ALL RECEIVED ORDERS TO APPEAR IN THE MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM AT 9:00 A.M. ON MONDAY MORNING FOR YOUR MISSION BRIEFING BY **DIRECTOR HEADLEY**. SINCE THIS IS YOUR FIRST OFFICIAL MISSION, YOU MAY WANT TO MAKE

THE BEST POSSIBLE FIRST IMPRESSION YOU CAN. OKAY, AS YOU ENTER THE BRIEFING ROOM YOU SEE...



I'M SHOWING UP AT THE MEETING THIRTY MINUTES EARLY. I'M GOING TO CHECK FOR BUGS AND SURVEILLANCE DEVICES. I'LL REPLACE ANY I FIND WITH THOSE OF MY OWN.

I'M PURPOSELY SHOWING UP FIVE MINUTES LATE!!! ONE OF MY PERSONALITY TRAITS IS **"COCKY"**.

WHAT IS IT WITH YOU MORONS?? DO YOU SHARE THE SAME BRAIN??



TWENTY MINUTES LATER....

OKAY, **DIRECTOR HEADLEY** INFORMS YOU THAT SOME **STRANGE CROP CIRCLES** HAVE RECENTLY APPEARED IN SOME WHEAT FIELDS OUTSIDE **CALGARY** IN THE ALBERTA PROVINCE. HE DOESN'T WANT TO COMMIT HIS MORE EXPERIENCED AGENTS TO SUCH A **MUNDANE INVESTIGATION** SO YOU ARE BEING ASSIGNED. BRIAN WILL BE THE TEAM LEADER. YOU ARE GIVEN PASSPORTS, AIRLINE TICKETS AND 10,000 DOLLARS FOR ANY UNPLANNED EXPENSES. DUE TO THE FACT THAT YOU ARE INEXPERIENCED AND THIS IS A SIMPLE INVESTIGATION, **NO WEAPONS** WILL BE AUTHORIZED!!

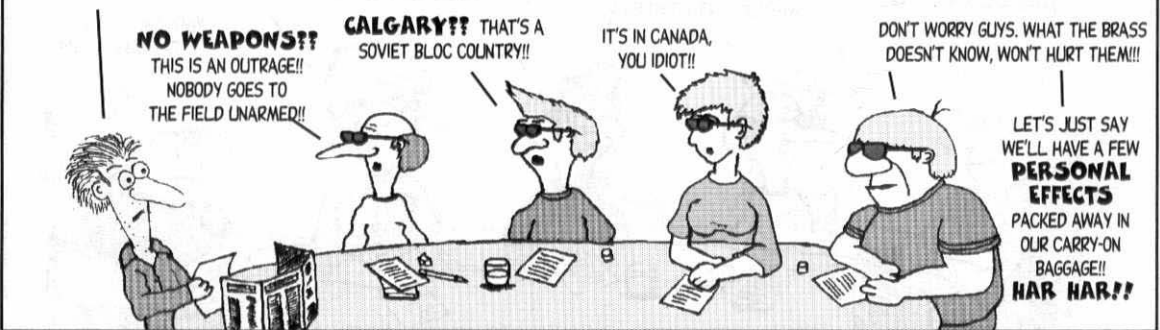
NO WEAPONS??
THIS IS AN OUTRAGE!!
NOBODY GOES TO
THE FIELD UNARMED!!

CALGARY?? THAT'S A
SOVIET BLOC COUNTRY!!

IT'S IN CANADA,
YOU IDIOT!!

DON'T WORRY GUYS. WHAT THE BRASS
DOESN'T KNOW, WON'T HURT THEM!!

LET'S JUST SAY
WE'LL HAVE A FEW
**PERSONAL
EFFECTS**
PACKED AWAY IN
OUR CARRY-ON
BAGGAGE!!
HAR HAR!!



OKAY, HE DISMISSES YOU. YOUR AIRPLANE LEAVES IN TWO HOURS. YOU'LL NEED TO PACK YOUR BAGS AND MEET BACK AT THE AIRPORT AN HOUR BEFORE DEPARTURE.



HEY!! HOLD ON A MINUTE, BABA LOUIE!!
I HAVE A LIST OF SPECIAL EQUIPMENT AND WEAPONS I'M GOING TO NEED FOR THIS MISSION. I'M GOING DOWN TO SEE **CUE** IN **MISSION SUPPLY AND OUTFITTING!!!**

LIST!! WERENT YOU LISTENING?? THIS IS A **SHAKE-DOWN MISSION**, YOU IDIOT!! NO WEAPONS OR GADGETS!! I DON'T THINK THE BUREAU IS GOING TO FULFILL YOUR **WISH LIST!!**

HEY, I WOULDN'T MIND GETTING A FEW HIGH-TECH GOODIES MYSELF!!! I THINK I'LL GO WITH YOU, BOB.

I THINK YOU'RE FORGETTING THE PERSUASIVE POWER OF MY **RESIDUAL MILITARY BEARING**. I THINK CUE SHOULD HAVE TO MAKE A SAVING THROW.



A FEW MOMENTS LATER, AFTER STORMING PAST CUE'S SECRETARY...

SORRY BOB. **CUE** INFORMS YOU THAT THIS IS A **CLASS VI MISSION: MINIMAL RISK TO AGENTS**. NO SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT WILL BE AUTHORIZED!!

OKAY, FORGET THE **BERETTA SNIPER RIFLE** AND THE **GRENADE LAUNCHER** - CAN I AT LEAST GET THE **KEVLAR TRENCH COAT** AND **GALOSHES** WITH **CONCEALED TOE DAGGERS??**

MINIMAL RISK?? WE'RE GOING TO **CALGARY** FOR GAWD'S SAKE!!! BEHIND THE FREAKIN' IRON CURTAIN!!

COME ON, GUYS!! WE HAVE A PLANE TO CATCH!!

I'M HOPPING ON THE INTERNET TO DOWNLOAD ANYTHING I CAN FIND ON CROP CIRCLES.



CUE TELLS YOU HE IS BUSY AND TO GET OUT OF HIS OFFICE!!! HE'S REALLY ANNOYED. HE EVEN ASKS YOU FOR YOUR NAMES AND BADGE NUMBERS AND JOTS THEM DOWN ON A PIECE OF PAPER.

BUSY. HUH?? MAYBE HE'S TOO BUSY TO NOTICE IF I POCKET SOMETHING FROM HIS DESK BEFORE I LEAVE. I'LL GRAB ANYTHING I CAN GET MY HANDS ON WHEN HE ISN'T LOOKING!!

FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!! YOU MANAGE TO POCKET A **STAPLER** AND A HANDFUL OF **PAPER CLIPS**.

HOODY-HOO!!!
I WONDER WHAT THEY DO???
LET'S HAUL BUTT, DUDE!!

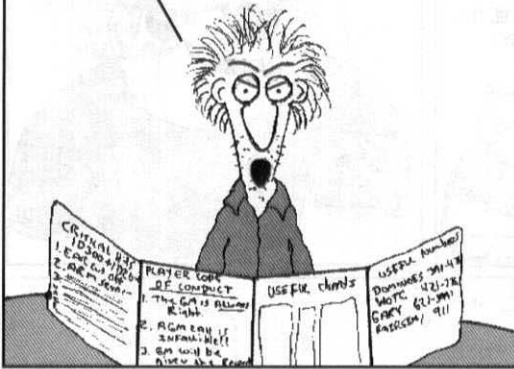
GOOD GOING BOB. THEY'LL COME IN REAL HANDY IF WE RUN INTO SOME HEAVY COLLATING!!

WHY DON'T YOU DIVVY UP THE PAPER CLIPS??



LATER AS THE TEAM TOUCHES DOWN IN CALGARY...

OKAY, AS YOU EXIT THE PLANE YOU ARE DIRECTED TOWARD **CUSTOMS**. YOU BEGIN WALKING DOWN A LONG CORRIDOR - AT THE END YOU CAN SEE A LINE OF UNIFORMED GUARDS CHECKING **LUGGAGE** AND **PASSPORTS!!**



ORIGINAL LIST
1. EAR PLUGS
2. AIR MATTRESS
3. BOTTLE OF WATER
4. BOTTLE OF JELLY
5. BOTTLE OF JELLY

PLAYER COPY OF CONDUCT
THE GUY IS ALLY!!!
RIGHT

USFPA CHECKS

USFPA NUMBER
DORRANCE 284-44
METS 421-78
GARY 611-991
BARBARA 111

CRIPES ALMIGHTY!!
CUSTOMS?? AND WE'RE LOADED FOR BEAR!!! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO??

DUDE, RELAX!!
WE'RE NSB AGENTS!!!
WE'RE GAWDS TO THESE RENT-A-COP TYPES!!!

DAVE'S RIGHT. JUST FLASH YER BADGES AND ACT COOL.

I TOLD YOU THIS WASN'T A GOOD IDEA.



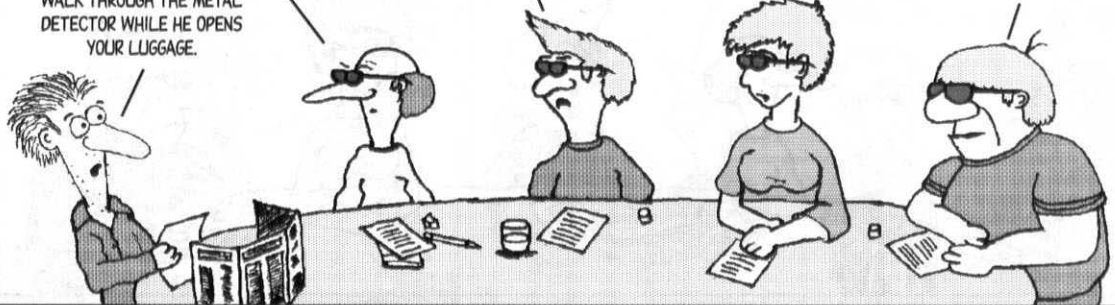
OKAY, I STROLL CONFIDENTLY UP TO THE FIRST GUARD AND FLASH MY BADGE AND CREDENTIALS. KEEP MY **INTIMIDATION FACTOR** IN MIND!!!

UH-OH!!! I'M QUICKLY CROUCHING A **GRENADE** AND SHOVING MY .45 DOWN THE FRONT OF MY PANTS.

I'M PRETENDING I'M NOT WITH THESE BLUFFONS!!! MAYBE I CAN CLEAR CUSTOMS BEFORE THEY START WORLD WAR III.

I'M DROPPING BACK SO I CAN COVER BOB IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG.

THE GUARD ASKS YOU TO WALK THROUGH THE METAL DETECTOR WHILE HE OPENS YOUR LUGGAGE.



SECONDS LATER...

OKAY, AS DAVE PASSES THROUGH THE **METAL DETECTOR**, THE **GRENADE** HE CROUCHED SETS OFF THE MACHINE. A HALF-DOZEN SECURITY GUARDS COME RUNNING OUT OF A SIDE-ROOM!!!

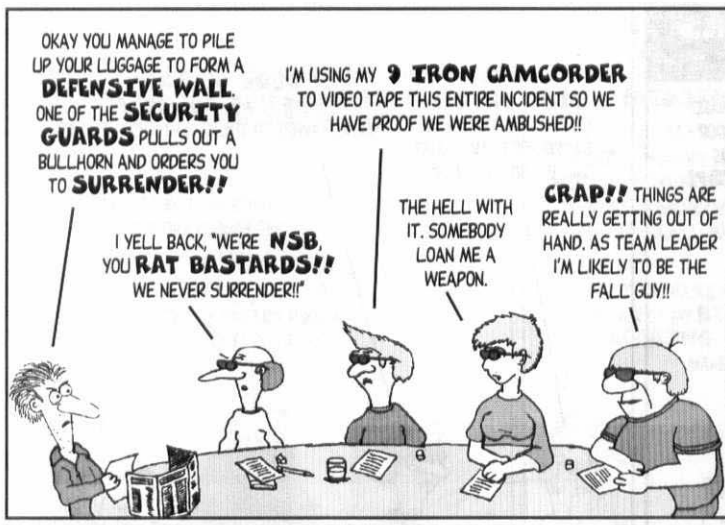
GAAAAA!! IT'S A SET-UP!!!
I PULL OUT MY **LUGER** AND LAY DOWN SOME **SUPPRESSING FIRE!!**

YOU'RE RIGHT!!
SOMEBODY TOLD THEM WE WERE COMING!! THANK GAWD WE DIDN'T FALL FOR THAT "NO WEAPONS" CRAP!!!

I'M FIRING A **TEAR-GAS CANISTER!!** THEN I'M CROUCHING BEHIND THE X-RAY MACHINE AND DONNING MY **JANITOR'S DISGUISE!!**

DAMN!!! I HIT THE DECK!!!





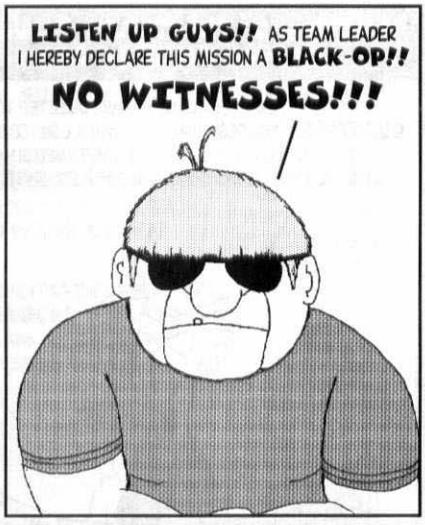
OKAY YOU MANAGE TO PILE UP YOUR LUGGAGE TO FORM A **DEFENSIVE WALL**. ONE OF THE **SECURITY GUARDS** PULLS OUT A BULLHORN AND ORDERS YOU TO **SURRENDER!!**

I'M USING MY **9 IRON CAMCORDER** TO VIDEO TAPE THIS ENTIRE INCIDENT SO WE HAVE PROOF WE WERE AMBUSHED!!

I YELL BACK, "WE'RE **NSB**, YOU **RAT BASTARDS!!** WE NEVER SURRENDER!!"

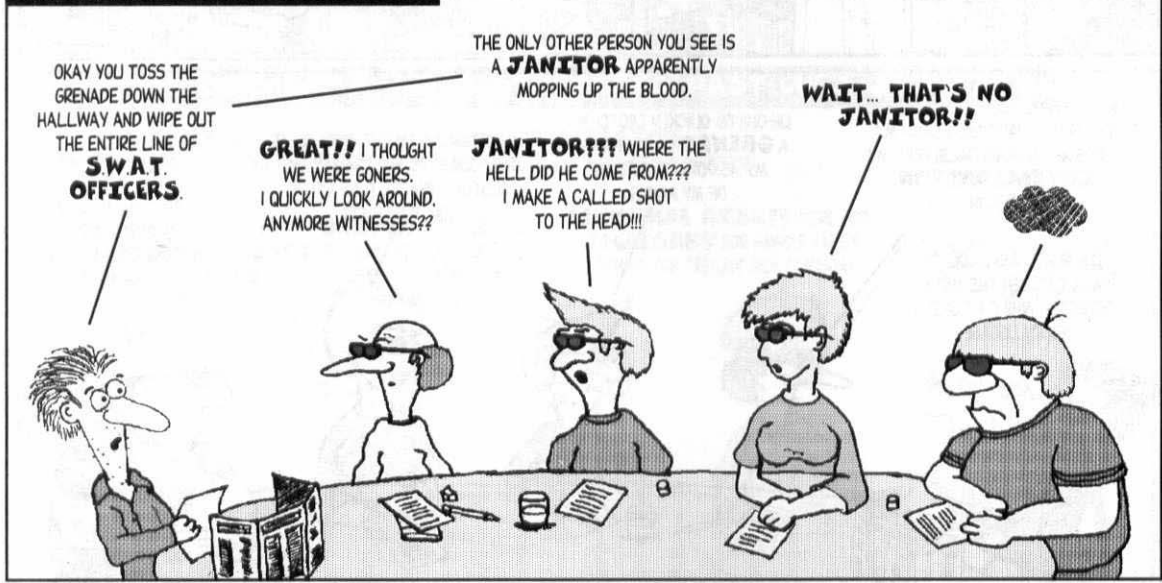
THE HELL WITH IT. SOMEBODY LOAN ME A WEAPON.

CRAP!! THINGS ARE REALLY GETTING OUT OF HAND. AS TEAM LEADER I'M LIKELY TO BE THE FALL GUY!!



LISTEN UP GUYS!! AS TEAM LEADER I HEREBY DECLARE THIS MISSION A **BLACK-OP!!**
NO WITNESSES!!!

TWENTY MINUTES LATER...



OKAY YOU TOSS THE GRENADE DOWN THE HALLWAY AND WIPE OUT THE ENTIRE LINE OF **SW.A.T. OFFICERS**.

THE ONLY OTHER PERSON YOU SEE IS A **JANITOR** APPARENTLY MOPPING UP THE BLOOD.

WAIT... THAT'S NO JANITOR!!

GREAT!! I THOUGHT WE WERE GONERS. I QUICKLY LOOK AROUND. ANYMORE WITNESSES??

JANITOR!!! WHERE THE HELL DID HE COME FROM??? I MAKE A CALLED SHOT TO THE HEAD!!!



HEY, YOU IDIOT!!!! THAT **JANITOR** JUST HAPPENS TO BE **ME!!!** I'M IN DISGUISE - **REMEMBER??**

UH... SORRY DUDE. YOUR DISGUISE WAS JUST **TOO GOOD!!** I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU!!!

REGARDLESS!!! WHY IN THE HELL WOULD YOU SHOOT A JANITOR ANYWAY??

IT'S A **BLACK-OP SARA!!**



AS THE BATTLE ENSUES.....

SORRY BOB, AIMING THE **STAPLER** AT THE GUARD AND SQUEEZING IT HAD NO DISCERNABLE EFFECT. DAVE'S **GRENADE**, HOWEVER, DOES BLAST A HOLE IN THE SIDE OF THE AIRCRAFT HANGER LARGE ENOUGH FOR YOU TO ALL SQUEEZE THROUGH.

PLAYER COPY OF CONDUCT
1. THE GA IS ALWAYS Right.
2. AGM EAT UP INFAN-ME!!
3. GM will be given 2-3 Resp. by the Staff.
USEFUL CHAIRS
DORMS 911-414
WOTC 421-78
CAMP 671-391
FIRE/SEC 911

LATER AS THE TEAM FIGHTS THEIR WAY THROUGH DOWNTOWN CALGARY...

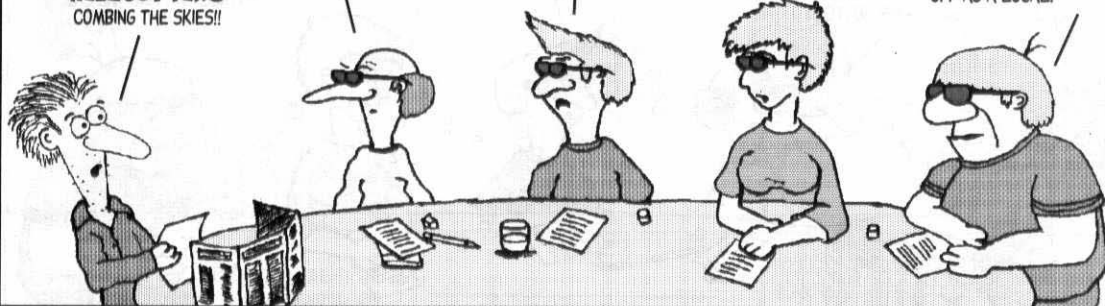
OKAY, I LIFT THE MANHOLE COVER AND POP MY HEAD UP. DO I SEE ANYTHING??

OH YOU SEE SOMETHING ALRIGHT!!! THERE ARE **POLICE CARS** ON EVERY CORNER AND **HELICOPTERS** COMBING THE SKIES!!

GEEZE LOUEEZE!!!
CAN YOU IMAGINE HAVING TO LIVE IN A POLICE STATE LIKE THIS??

I'M SURE THESE SEWER TUNNELS WILL EVENTUALLY LEAD US OUTSIDE THE CITY. FROM THERE WE CAN FIND OUR WAY TO THE **CROP CIRCLES** AND TRY TO SALVAGE OUR MISSION.

I'M DONNING MY **LUMBERJACK DISGUISE**. IF WE GET IN A PINCH I SHOULD BE ABLE TO PASS MYSELF OFF AS A LOCAL...



A WEE BIT LATER...

OKAY, YOU GUYS SCOUT OUT THE PARKING LOT OF **BILLY GOAT KIESTER'S ROADKILL CAFE** AND FIND A **1948 INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER** PICK-UP TRUCK WITH THE KEYS IN THE IGNITION.

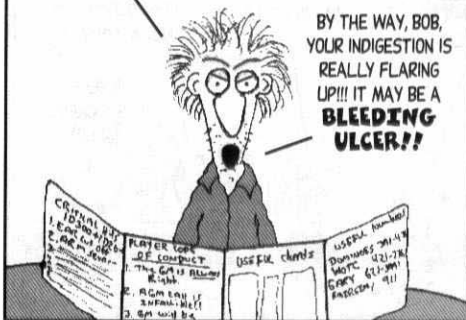
BY THE WAY, BOB, YOUR INDIGESTION IS REALLY FLARING UP!!! IT MAY BE A **BLEEDING ULCER!!**

SEEE? HUH?? I TOLD YOU THAT FRY COOK LOOKED SUSPICIOUS!!! **CHEESEBURGER, MY ASS!!**

DID YOU NOTICE HIS REACTION WHEN I MADE THOSE **CROP CIRCLES** IN MY **MASHED POTATOES!!** HE DEFINITELY KNOWS SOMETHING!!!

DO YOU THINK STEALING A VEHICLE IS WISE?? WE HAVE CASH. WE COULD RENT A CAR AND...

RENT?? AND LEAVE A PAPER TRAIL?? I TOLD YOU SARA - I DECLARED THIS A BLACK-OP!!



LATER AT THE CROP CIRCLES...

OKAY SARA, YOUR **PORTABLE DATA-COM** HAS ESTABLISHED AN **EYE-IN-THE-SKY SATELLITE LINK**. YOUR COORDINATES ARE VERIFIED - YOU ARE AT THE CORRECT SITE. ACCORDING TO YOUR DOWNLOADED DATA - THE WHEAT FIELDS HERE BELONG TO AN **R.G. PICKENS**.

EXCELLENT!! LOOKS LIKE THE RIGHT PLACE FOLKS. **DAVE**, DO A VIDEO CAPTURE OF THE AREA WITH YOUR **5 IRON INFRARED CAMCORDER**. **BOB**, YOU'LL MEASURE **RADIATION LEVELS** AND TAKE **SOIL SAMPLES**. **SARA**, I WANT YOU TO USE YOUR **COMPACT MIRROR LASER OPTIC SURVEY UNIT** TO GET SOME ACCURATE MEASUREMENTS. **LET'S GET TO IT FOLKS!!**

RADIATION LEVELS?
I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD BE MESSING AROUND WITH RADIATION - WHAT WITH MY ULCERS AND ALL.

I'M ON IT!!! **CROP CIRCLES** - A TERRANCE BRICK PRODUCTION. COMING TO A THEATRE NEAR YOU!!

ROGER, CHIEF!!



OKAY, AS YOU ARE BUSY WITH YOUR INVESTIGATION YOU SUDDENLY HEAR A **LOUD NOISE** COMING FROM THE HORIZON. LOOKING UP YOU ARE SURPRISED TO SEE A **HUMONGOUS COMBINE** MOVING THROUGH THE WHEAT TOWARD THE **CROP CIRCLES**. APPARENTLY THE FARMER IS **HARVESTING** HIS WHEAT CROP.

WE'VE GOT TO STOP HIM!! I'M ASSEMBLING THE PIECES OF THE **MINIATURE-MORTAR** IN MY SHAVING KIT!!!

WAIT!! HE'S JUST A HARMLESS FARMER!! WE DON'T HAVE TO KILL HIM!!

HUH?? THE BASTARD IS TRYING TO DESTROY THE EVIDENCE!!! THE COMMIES MUST HAVE GOTTEN TO HIM!!

HMMMM. SHE MAY BE RIGHT, DAVE. WE MAY WANT TO TAKE HIM ALIVE FOR **INTERROGATION PURPOSES**. TRY TO DISABLE THE COMBINE WITHOUT HITTING THE CAB.



TEN MINUTES LATER...

YOUR THIRD **MORTAR SHELL** STRIKES THE THRASHING BLADES OF THE COMBINE, DAVE. A HUGE BILLINGING CLOUD OF SMOKE RISES UP INTO THE AIR AS THE FLAMES FROM THE EXPLOSION SETS THE WHEAT FIELD ON FIRE!!

AS A WALL OF FLAME SWEEPS TOWARD YOU - SHOTS SUDDENLY RING OUT. BOB YOU ARE HIT FOR 15 POINTS OF DAMAGE!! A VOICE CRIES OUT, **'HOOT MON!!** DAT'S MA **PRIZED COMBINE** YA DESTROYED!!! I'M A GONNA MAKE YA PAY WIT YER LIFE."

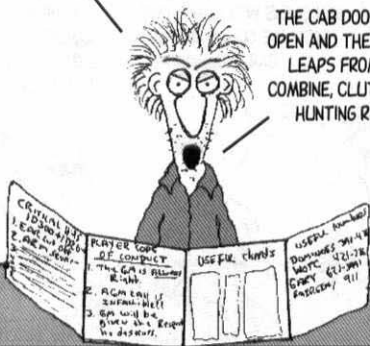
THE CAB DOOR FLIES OPEN AND THE FARMER LEAPS FROM THE COMBINE, CLUTCHING A HUNTING RIFLE.

WAIT A MINUTE... **THAT LAME ACCENT??** IT ALMOST SOUNDS LIKE...

IT CAN'T BE!!! NO WAY IN HELL!!!

WHO DID HE SAY OWNED THIS FARM AGAIN??

PICKENS!!! R.G. PICKENS. (GULP)



RED GURDY PICKENS???*

NOT RED GURDY, BUT **REX GURDY PICKENS!!** GREAT GREAT GRANDSON OF NONE-OTHER!! AND HE JUST HAPPENS TO BE A CRACK SHOT WITH A SQUIRREL GUN!!

I CHUCK A **FRAGMENTARY GRENADE** AT HIM!!

I'LL TRY TO **OUTFLANK HIM!!**

I'M SLAPPIN' IN ANOTHER MAGAZINE!!

DAMN IT!! THE FIRE IS GOING TO **DESTROY THE EVIDENCE** AND WE WON'T BE ABLE TO COMPLETE THE MISSION!!! THIS IS GOING TO BE A BLEMISH ON MY RECORD. **CRAP!!!**



* See *Bundle of Trouble Volume Two* [KoDT #4] "Streets of Muskeegie"

GURDY MANAGES TO SHOOT YOU IN THE HAND, BOB, BEFORE YOU CAN TOSS THE GRENADE. IT LANDS AT YOUR FEET AND DETONATES. YOU TAKE ANOTHER **50 POINTS OF DAMAGE!!**

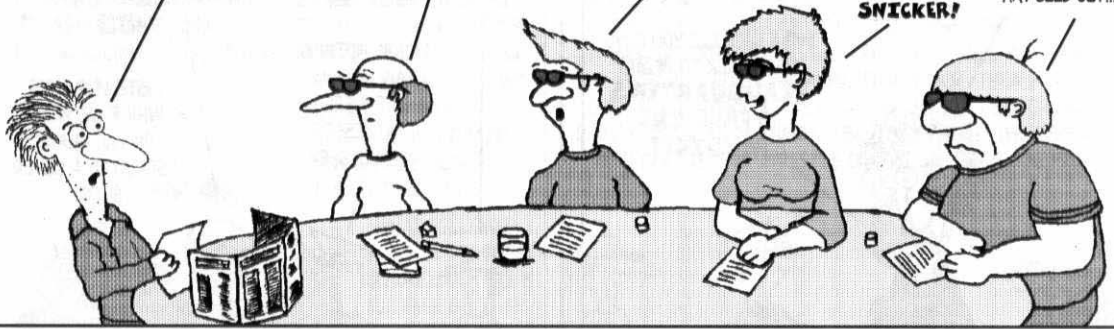
I ABSORB HALF THAT DAMAGE WITH MY **KEYLAR-HIP WADERS**. THE OTHER HALF I'LL NULLIFY BY EXPENDING 10 POINTS OF STRENGTH IN EXCHANGE FOR A LUCK POINT!!

OKAY, BUT YOUR **BURLY BODY BUILD** JUST DROPPED DOWN TO **FRAIL BODY BUILD**.

DAMN, BOB!! REX GURDY REALLY SCREWED YOU OVER!!! NOW YOU'RE JUST A WIMP WITH BLEEDIN' ULCERS!!!

LET'S TAKE THIS HAY-SEED OUT!!!

SNICKER!!



OKAY DAVE, AS YOU ARE LOW-CRAWLING TRYING TO OUTFLANK GURDY YOU SUDDENLY FIND YOURSELF **NOSE-TO-NOSE** WITH HIS PIT BULL, **GNAWBONE!!** ROLL FOR INITIATIVE!!!

NICE DOGGIE!! NICE DOGGIE!!

THROUGH THE SMOKE YOU SEE GURDY RUNNING FOR A FARMHOUSE IN THE DISTANCE. HE'S GOT A GOOD START ON YOU.

RUN, MY LITTLE IRISH FRIEND!!

WE'VE GOT TO STOP HIM!!! HE'S GOING TO CALL FOR HELP!!!

I'M RELOADING MY LUGER AND ATTEMPTING TO CIRCLE AROUND IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.



TEN MINUTES LATER...

OKAY BOB, AS YOU ARE SEARCHING THE **HAYLOFT** YOU ARE SUDDENLY SURPRISED BY **REX GURDY PICKENS!!** HE WAS WEARING AN **IMPROVISED BUNGIE-SUIT** MADE OF STRAW SO YOU COULDN'T SEE HIM. HE GETS YOU IN A **MANHEIM CHOKEHOLD** AND MANAGES TO DISARM YOU. HE THEN PROCEEDS TO **PISTOLWHIP** YOU **SENSELESS** WITH YOUR OWN LUGER.

BRIAN, THIS IS RIDICULOUS. THE CROP CIRCLES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. THERE'S NO POINT IN BEING HERE. WE SHOULD **GET OUT OF DODGE!**

GAAA!! I'LL ATTEMPT TO GOUGE HIM IN THE EYES WITH MY FINGERS!!

I'M SETTIN' THE BARN ON FIRE TO SMOKE HIM OUT!!! I AIN'T GETTIN' BEANED WITH A HORSE SHOE AGAIN.

YOU HARD-OF-HEARING??? THIS IS A BLACK-OP!!! **NO WITNESSES!!**



OKAY, YOU MANAGE TO SET DOWN THE **HIJACKED CANADIAN AIRLINER** ON THE WATERS OF LAKE MICHIGAN. YOUR LIFE RAFT IS EVENTUALLY PICKED UP BY A RECREATIONAL BOATER WHO TAKES YOU BACK TO SHORE.

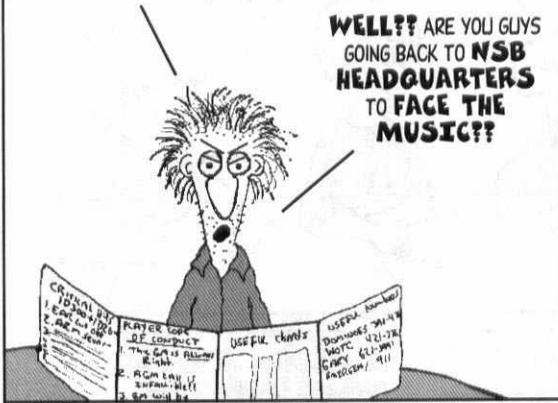
WELL?? ARE YOU GUYS GOING BACK TO **NSB HEADQUARTERS** TO **FACE THE MUSIC??**

FACE THE MUSIC?? YOU HEAR THAT?? THEY'RE PLANNING SOME KIND OF **HERO'S WELCOME!!**

HERO'S WELCOME?? YOU IDIOT!! WE KILLED 132 INNOCENT CITIZENS - **CANADIAN** CITIZENS AT THAT!!

I KNOW NOTHING! I SAW NOTHING! THERE WERE NO WITNESSES REMEMBER?

LISTEN UP GUYS, WHILE WE WERE ON THE PLANE I SCRIPTED A COVER STORY.



LATER, IN HEADLEY'S OFFICE...

OKAY, HEADLEY ENTERS THE OFFICE AND HE REALLY LOOKS **UPSET**. HIS SUIT IS **DISHEVELED**, HE HAS A **THREE DAY GROWTH** OF BEARD. HE LOOKS LIKE HE HASN'T SLEPT SINCE HE LAST SAW YOU. HE SITS DOWN AT THE TABLE. YOU NOTICE HE IS CLENCHING HIS FISTS SO TIGHTLY THAT HIS FINGERS ARE TURNING PURPLE. YOU CAN ALSO HEAR HIM GRINDING HIS TEETH. AFTER A LONG PAUSE HE CLEARS HIS THROAT AND IN A VOICE QUIVERING WITH RESTRAINT HE CALMLY ASKS, "CAN I HAVE YOUR MISSION REPORT?"

WHAT THE HELL'S WRONG WITH THIS GUY? SOUNDS LIKE HE'S ABOUT TO HAVE A CORONARY!!!

AWH MAN, DON'T YOU SEE? HE WAS WORRIED TO DEATH ABOUT US?? I THINK HE LIKES US.

BATTEN DOWN THE HATCHES!!!

REMEMBER - EVERYONE STICKS TO THE COVER-STORY. WE GOT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!

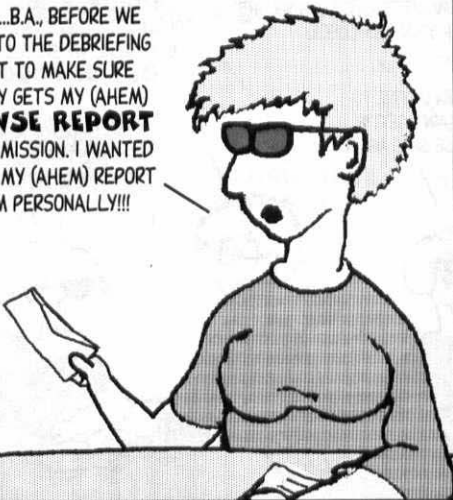


OH...UH...B.A., BEFORE WE JUMP INTO THE DEBRIEFING I WANT TO MAKE SURE HEADLEY GETS MY (AHEM) **EXPENSE REPORT** FOR THE MISSION. I WANTED TO HAND MY (AHEM) REPORT TO HIM PERSONALLY!!!

EXPENSE REPORT?? NOBODY SAID ANYTHING ABOUT EXPENSE REPORTS?? I WANT REIMBURSEMENT FOR MY MEDICAL EXPENSES THEN. I BLEW A BIG WAD ON TUMS AND PEPTO. COME TO THINK OF IT - I WANT TO BE REIMBURSED FOR THAT CHEESEBURGER!!!

I WANT TO BE REIMBURSED FOR THE 95 STITCHES I PAID FOR OUT-OF-POCKET FOR THOSE **DOG BITES!!**

HEY, DO YOUR OWN EXPENSE REPORTS THEN.

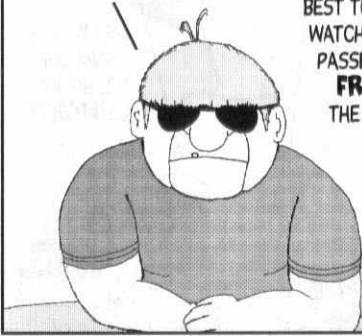


WITH GREAT CONFIDENCE, BRIAN PRESENTS THE 'COVER STORY' TO HEADLEY.

...IT WAS AT THIS POINT THAT THE **ALEUTIAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS** RELEASED A **MIND ALTERING NEURO-GAS** INTO THE PLANE'S VENTILATION SYSTEM. BY THE TIME WE HAD LANDED AT CALGARY THE PASSENGERS HAD BEEN DRIVEN **UTTERLY AND COMPLETELY MAD!!** FORTUNATELY, OUR INTENSE NSB TRAINING ALLOWED US TO RETAIN OUR SANITY AND WE TRIED OUR

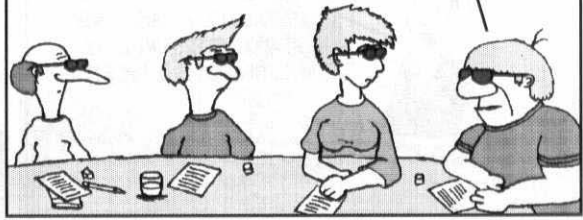
BEST TO MAINTAIN ORDER. WE WATCHED IN HORROR AS THE PASSENGERS, IN A **MOB FRENZY**, RUSHED THE CUSTOMS STATION.

WHAT FOLLOWED WAS A BLOOD BATH. I (CHOKE) DON'T THINK I'LL EVER GET OVER THE SIGHT OF...



FORTY FIVE MINUTES LATER...

...TO OUR SHOCK WE DISCOVERED OUR RESCUERS WERE ACTUALLY MEMBERS OF A **MILITANT FRINGE MORMON SECT** YET UNIDENTIFIED BY THE NSB. THEIR AIM, FROM WHAT I GATHERED THROUGH MY LIMITED CONTACT WITH THEM, IS TO **LIBERATE UTAH** AND ESTABLISH A FREE AND INDEPENDENT NATION. WE WERE SIMPLY UNFORTUNATE ENOUGH TO UNKNOWINGLY DISRUPT THEIR CALGARY BASE OF OPERATIONS - THE FARM HOUSE WHERE THE CROP CIRCLES HAD APPEARED. BOUND AND GAGGED, WE WERE PLACED ON THE HIJACKED AIRLINER. THEIR PLAN WAS TO DROP OUR BODIES ON THE UTAH EMBASSY STEPS IN CHICAGO TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THEIR CAUSE. FORTUNATELY, WE WERE ABLE TO BREAK FREE AND WRESTLE CONTROL OF THE PLANE FROM...



FINALLY, BRIAN CONCLUDES HIS REPORT

HEADLEY LOOKS AROUND THE TABLE GIVING EACH OF YOU A STERN LOOK. "SO?" HE ASKS TAPPING HIS FINGERS ON THE TABLE TOP, "IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE ANYONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE REPORT??"

YEAH, IN THE FUTURE YOU SHOULD WARN AGENTS ABOUT TRAVELLING ABROAD. **CUSTOMS IS A BITCH!!**

HEY DUDE, DOES THE BUREAU HAVE A MONEY CHANGING DEPARTMENT?? I GOT STUCK WITH A POCKET FULL OF CANADIAN COINS!

SOMEBODY SHOOT ME!!

JUST REMEMBER GUYS - STICK TO THE STORY.



HEADLEY IS FIT TO BE TIED!! HE UNLEASHES A **TORRENT** OF ABSOLUTE **VENOMOUS RAGE** AGAINST YOU!!! THE VEINS ON HIS FOREHEAD ARE VISIBLY THROBBING. THE POOR MAN IS LITERALLY **FROTHING** AT THE MOUTH. YOU ARE FORCED TO ENDURE HIS VERBAL ATTACKS FOR NEARLY FORTY MINUTES AS HE TALKS ABOUT **WAR WITH CANADA** BEING NARROWLY AVERTED, THE PRESIDENT CHEWING HIS BEHIND, **CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES** BEING FORMED...

ENOUGH FLAVOR TEXT!! ARE WE READY TO TALK PROMOTIONS AND EXPERIENCE POINTS YET??

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS GUY'S PROBLEM?

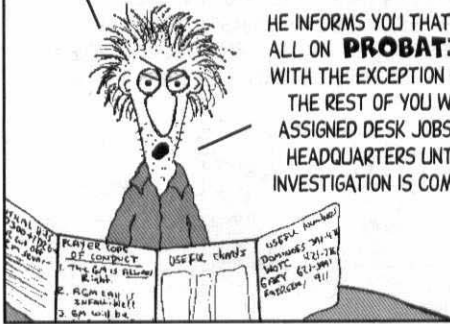
WOW!!! HE'S REALLY UPSET!!

JUST STICK TO THE STORY!!! REMEMBER, THERE WERE NO WITNESSES!!



OH YEAH, ABOUT YOUR "**STORY**". HEADLEY OPENS A REPORT AND READS THE 'REAL' DETAILS OF YOUR BUNGLED MISSION. HE HAS ALL THE FACTS - THE **MASSACRE AT THE CUSTOMS STATION, THE GUN BRAWL IN DOWNTOWN CALGARY**, EVEN THE **\$10,000⁰⁰ MISSION FUND** BOB REPORTED LOST BUT POCKETED. AS HE'S READING THE REPORT HE BEGINS SHAKING SO BADLY WITH ANGER THAT HE HAS TO PAUSE AND WIPE THE SWEAT FROM HIS FOREHEAD.

HE INFORMS YOU THAT YOU ARE ALL ON **PROBATION** - WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SARA. THE REST OF YOU WILL BE ASSIGNED DESK JOBS AT NSB HEADQUARTERS UNTIL THE INVESTIGATION IS COMPLETED.



HEADLEY DISMISSES YOU. OH, SARA, HEADLEY SAYS HE HAS SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT (AHEM) YOUR **EXPENSE REPORT**. HE'D LIKE YOU TO ACCOMPANY HIM TO LUNCH TO DISCUSS IT.

OH... (BLUSH)... I KNEW I FUDGED MY MATH ON THOSE TOTALS. YES, I'D BE GLAD TO HAVE LUNCH WITH HIM.

HOW THE HELL DID HE BREAK OUR COVER-UP?? WE ALL STUCK TO OUR STORY!!

I BET THAT **DAMN STAPLER** WAS SOME KIND OF BUG OR SOMETHING!!

HEY WHY IS SARA OFF THE HOOK??? **LUNCH???**

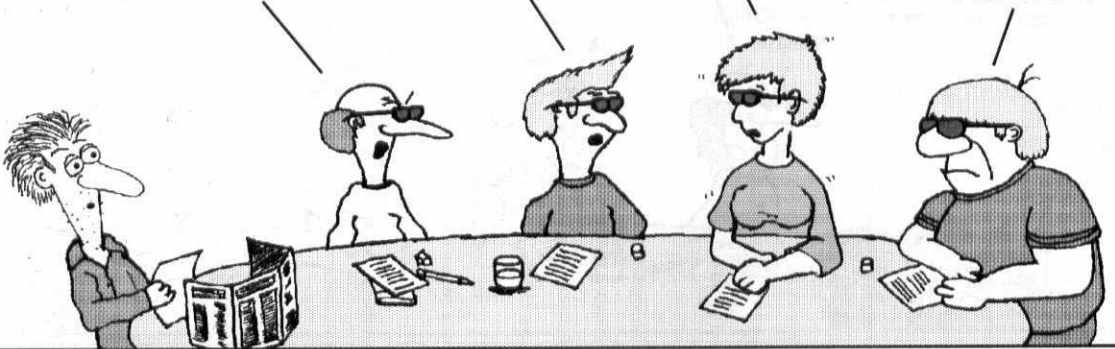


YEAH, WHAT'S UP WITH THAT SARA?? YOU PLAYIN' **KOOCHIE-MAMA** FOR HEADLEY OR SOMETHING?? **WHAT GIVES??**

I'M SMELLIN' A RAT IN THE NEST!!!

WELL... ER... UH... TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH GUYS NOTHING IS GOING ON. I JUST... ER... UH...

WE TRUSTED YOU **JAMIE DAWN!!** WE TRUSTED YOU AS ONE OF OUR OWN!!!



AWH THE HELL WITH IT!!
B.A. BLEW MY COVER ANYWAY.

NEWS BULLETIN FOR YOU GUYS!!
JAMIE DAWN IS A MEMBER OF **INTERNAL AFFAIRS!!**

I WAS ASSIGNED TO THIS TEAM TO HELP WEED OUT **CORRUPTION** AND **INCOMPETENCE**.

NOTHING PERSONAL, BUT IT WAS MY JOB TO REPORT THE TRUTH. THANKS TO YOUR LITTLE "**BLACK-OP**"

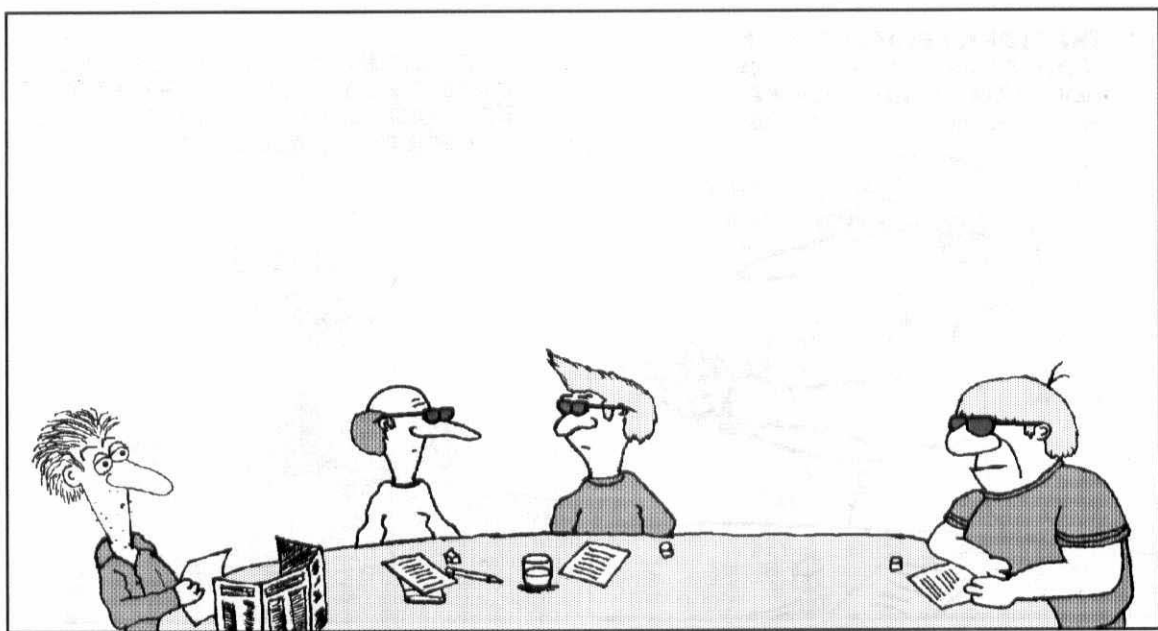
I EXPECT TO BE PROMOTED AT LEAST TWO SKILL LEVELS!!!



OF COURSE... YOUR CHARACTERS DON'T KNOW THAT... AND YOU... YOU... CAN'T ACT ON THAT KNOWLEDGE... YOU KNOW THAT?? ...RIGHT?? **GUYS!!!**

GUYS!!!



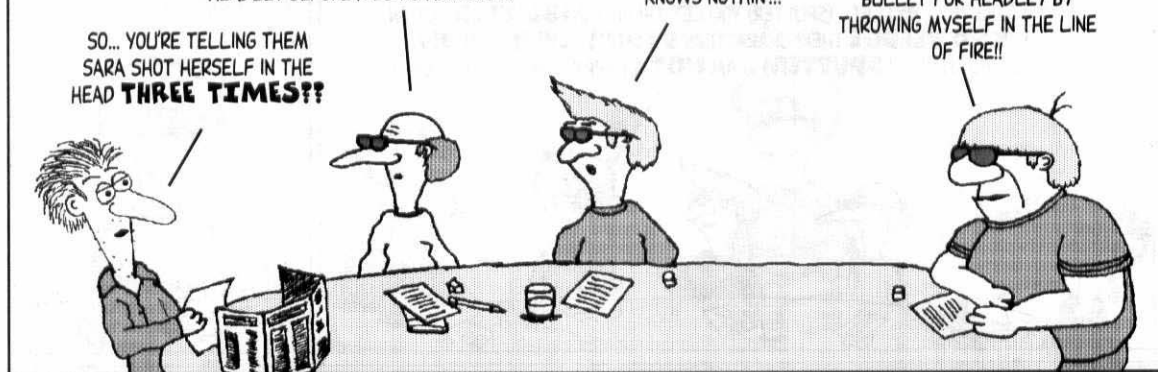


OKAY, WE ARRANGE THE BODIES SO IT LOOKS LIKE THEY SHOT EACH OTHER. I'M PUTTING MY LUGER IN SARA'S HAND. THEN WE'LL CALL SECURITY. WE'LL TELL THEM SARA WAS A SPURNED LOVER AND SHOT HEADLEY BEFORE KILLING HERSELF!!!

I'LL GRAB SARA'S REPORT AND DESTROY IT!!!! NOW NOBODY KNOWS NOTHIN!!!

BEFORE WE CALL SECURITY I'M SHOOTING MYSELF IN THE ARM WITH BOB'S GUN!!! I WANT IT TO LOOK LIKE I TRIED TO TAKE A BULLET FOR HEADLEY BY THROWING MYSELF IN THE LINE OF FIRE!!!

SO... YOU'RE TELLING THEM SARA SHOT HERSELF IN THE HEAD **THREE TIMES??**



WHOA... THAT'S A DAMN GOOD IDEA!!! SOMEBODY SHOOT ME IN THE ABDOMEN!!!

OH GREAT!!! YOU TWO COME OUT SMELLING LIKE A ROSE!!! YOU TOOK A BULLET FOR THE BIG GUY!!! WHAT ABOUT ME?? I'M GOING TO LOOK LIKE A FREAKIN' COWARD SITTING HERE WITH NO WOUNDS. SHOOT ME A COUPLE OF TIMES, WILL YA??

HEY!! **BACK OFF JACK!!**

IT WAS MY IDEA!!! TOO MANY HEROES DILUTES THE RECOGNITION FACTOR IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

I'M IN HELL!!!



Of course, the guys hardly miss a beat.

OKAY, THE **BUREAU'S SPECIAL INQUIRY** COMPLETES ITS INVESTIGATION. YOU HAVE ALL BEEN CLEARED OF ANY WRONG DOING. YOU ARE REMOVED FROM PROBATION AND PLACED BACK ON THE ACTIVE AGENT LIST AND ELIGIBLE FOR FIELD ASSIGNMENTS ONCE AGAIN.

I TOLD YOU GREASING A FEW PALMS WITH THAT TEN GRAND WOULD DO THE TRICK!!

HAAAA!! SARA MISSED OUT!!!

GREAT!! NOW THAT MY BLEMISHED NAME HAS BEEN CLEARED, I CAN RESUME MY CLIMB TO THE TOP!!



OKAY, THE NEW DIRECTOR, **WARKOWSKI**, SUMMONS YOU FOR A MISSION BRIEFING IN HIS OFFICE. HE TELLS YOU HE IS GIVING YOU A VERY IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT - ONE THAT COULD POSSIBLY DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF THE **NSB** ITSELF. THE LIVES OF YOUR FELLOW AGENTS ARE AT STAKE. DURING A RECENT **IN-HOUSE EVALUATION**, EVIDENCE WAS UNCOVERED THAT A **MOLE** HAS INFILTRATED THE RANKS OF THE NSB. YOUR JOB IS TO FIND OUT WHO THE DOUBLE AGENT IS AND TO ELIMINATE HIM.

A MOLE?
IN OUR RANKS???
LEAVE IT TO US,
CHIEF!!! WE'LL
SNIFF THAT PIG-DOG
SNITCH OUT!!

THIS SUCKS!! ANYONE COULD BE THE MOLE!!! WE CAN'T TRUST ANYBODY!!!

I WISH YOU HADN'T
KILLED **JAMIE DAWN**, DUDE. SARA'S
GOOD AT SOLVING
MYSTERIES AND STUFF.



WARKOWSKI
LOOKS VISIBLY SHAKEN
WHEN YOU SAY THAT
DAVE!!! HE TURNS A
LITTLE PALE AND
QUICKLY EXCUSES
HIMSELF.

**JUST WHAT THE
HELL DO YOU
THINK YOU'RE
DOING???**

SORRY DUDE, I DIDN'T KNOW HE
WAS LISTENING. I WAS JUST
THINKING HOW BADLY WE COULD
USE SARA RIGHT NOW!!

NICE WORK, NUMB DICE!! WE JUST GET
REINSTATED AND NOW WARKOWSKI IS
ABOUT TO BLOW THE WHISTLE!!! WE'RE
GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE HIM OUT!!!!

**FIRST I GOTTA
HIT THE CAN!!**



OH, I SEE!! IT'S MY FAULT SARA'S DEAD??? IS THAT IT?? WELL, SHE'S THE ONE WHO WAS GOING AROUND RATTING ON US. **OR DID YOU FORGET THAT?** HER AND HER LITTLE **SECRET NOTES** TO B.A.!!! I KNEW SOMETHING WAS FISHY WHEN SHE WOULDN'T TELL US EVERYTHING THERE WAS TO KNOW ABOUT HER CHARACTER. IT WAS A DEAD GIVE AWAY - WE SHOULD HAVE KILLED HER ON THE SPOT!!

I AGREE!! IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR BRIAN STICKING UP FOR HER AND THROWING THOSE RULES IN OUR FACE ABOUT NONDISCLOSURE OF CHARACTER INFORMATION I WOULD HAVE THROWN A HISSY-FIT!! IT JUST AIN'T RIGHT. PLAYERS SHOULD STICK TOGETHER.



AMEN BROTHER!!! WHAT SURPRISED THE HELL OUT OF ME WAS THAT EVEN BRIAN WOULDN'T TELL US EVERYTHING ABOUT HIS CHARACTER. HE KNOWS BETTER THAN...

YEAH!! TALK ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE TO TRUST ANYBODY!!

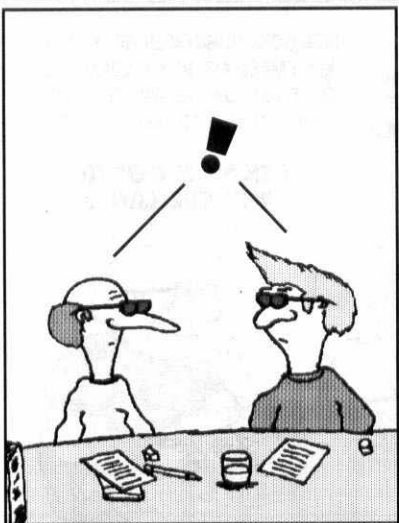


JUMPIN' BAJEEMERS!!
I THINK BRIAN IS THE MOLE!!

NOT BRIAN!! ANYONE BUT BRIAN!!! WE GOTTA BE SURE ABOUT THIS. LET'S NOT MAKE ANY HASTY CALLED SHOTS TO THE HEAD OR ANYTHING.

QUICK!!! LET'S LOOK AT HIS CHARACTER SHEET WHILE HE'S IN THE JOHN!!

GOOD IDEA!



DAMN!!! CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT??? HE TOOK IT WITH HIM?? THAT CLINCHES IT!!!! SOMETHING IS DEFINITELY GOING ON!!!

NAH, IT DOESN'T MEAN A THING. HE ALWAYS TAKES HIS CHARACTER SHEET TO THE CAN.

THIS CALLS FOR A LITTLE STEALTH AND WIT!!! COVER FOR ME!!! I'M GOING TO HIDE UNDER THE TABLE. SSSHHHHHH!!!! HERE HE COMES!!!



HEY B.A., YOU NEED TO PUT OUT ANOTHER ROLL OF TOILET PAPER IN THE BATHROOM. YER ALL OUT. SO... ARE WE READY TO TAKE OUT WARKOW... HEY???? **WHERE THE HELL DID BOB GO??**

HE... UH... HE WENT OUT TO GET SOMETHING FROM HIS CAR. HE'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

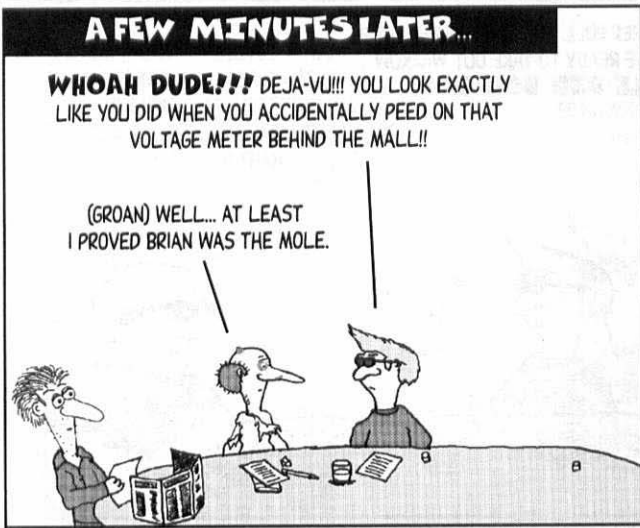
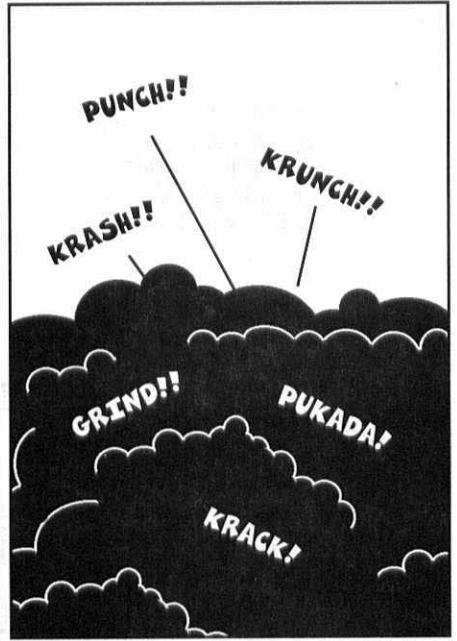
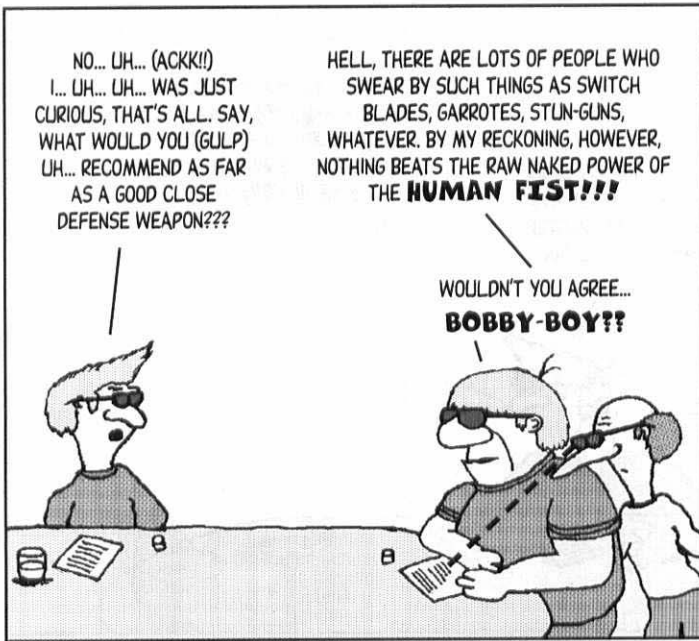


(GULP) WELL, AS SOON AS BOB GETS BACK FROM... UH... HIS CAR... WE'LL PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF.

UH... HEY BRIAN!! (GULP) YOU PROBABLY KNOW THE ANSWER TO THIS. UH... ER... WHICH PISTOL HAS MORE PUNCHING POWER - THE **BROWNING GP 35** OR THE **BROWNING NOMAD??**

THE BROWNING GP OF COURSE!!! IT'S A NINE MILLIMETER. THE NOMAD IS JUST A CRAPPY .22 CALIBER WEAPON. THINKING OF CHANGING YOUR WEAPON OF CHOICE?





We spent a lot of time rewriting and redrawing the final story in this issue, Prying Eyes. The final panel is one of my favorites. If you look back at the close-up of BA on page 4, you'll see how the whole thing wraps up nicely, full circle. The moral: fun adventures are all a matter of perspective. Kudos KoDT Development Team. - Dave

Knights of the Dinner Table™

M A G A Z I N E

"A Fist Full of Dice and a Bad Attitude!!"

The KODT Development Team is
Jolly R. Blackburn, Brian Jelke,
Steve Johansson and David S. Kenzer

Cover Art by George Vrbanic



**KENZER AND
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Knights of the Dinner Table #14

"A Fist Full of Dice
and a Bad Attitude!!"

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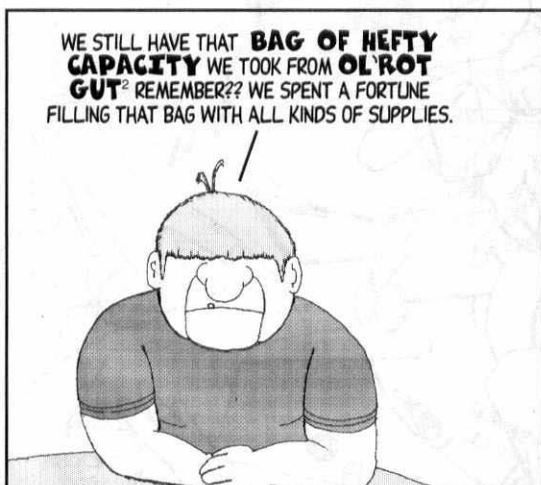
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toons, etc. We are interested in run-
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and fans would enjoy. Send a
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The Barringer Rebellion

BY JOLLY R. BLACKBURN
WITH DAVID S. KENZER, BRIAN JELKE AND STEVE JOHANSSON



¹The flavor text for this strip was inspired by *The Secret Temple of Adajy*, a KenzerCo fantasy adventure set in the Kingdoms of Kalamar. The KODT Development team had just completed writing it a couple of months prior to the publication of this issue. - Steve

²See *Bundle of Trouble Volume Two* [KODT#4] "A Hole Lot of Trouble"

A lot of readers single out *Barringer's Rebellion* as one of their favorite strips. The story was originally inspired by one of my old players (Michael Osmond) who once attempted to use a Bag of Holding as a 'trojan horse' in order to sneak two dozen mercenaries into a well guarded keep. The plan failed and Michael soon focused his attention on other conquests. Several weeks later we were sitting around the table and Michael and the other players were buying provisions before heading for the dungeon. "Oh my god!" he suddenly screamed out, "I still have 24 men-at-arms in my Bag of Holding!" When the laughter died down I did some calculations and announced that since four months of game time had transpired, only one soldier was still alive and he was very 'pissed'. It turned out, I ruled, that he was the sole survivor of a "Donner Party". — Jolly

LET'S SEE WHAT WE HAVE HERE...HMMMMM.... 2,017 ARROWS, 6 OF EVERY WEAPON IN THE PLAYER'S HANDBOOK, 61 DAGGERS, TWENTY BALES OF HAY, A BLACKSMITH'S FORGE, ANVIL AND BLACKSMITH TOOLS, FIVE BARRELS OF COAL, TWO CATAPULTS, THREE BALLISTAE, ONE BRONZE-REINFORCED RAM ROD NAMED DOOMBRINGER, SIX SUITS OF +4 PLATEMAIL (TAKEN FROM THE FANGLUZER BOYS), 8 KETTLES OF GREEK FIRE, ONE SAUSAGE GRINDER, FIVE WOLF PELTS, 12 WAGONS (UNASSEMBLED), ONE DOSE OF JOHNNY RED BLARNEY'S MAGICAL-CURE-ALL-TONIC (GUARANTEED TO CURE HANG-OVERS, HEADACHES, CATARACTS, SYPHILIS, ULCERS AND OTHER COMMON HOUSEHOLD AILMENTS).....

OOOH!!! FRESH SAUSAGE!

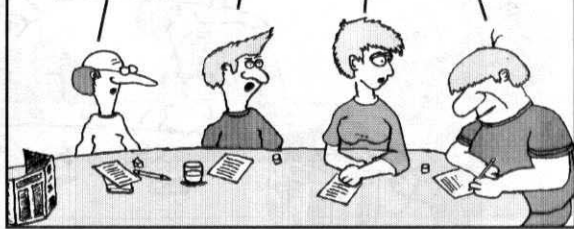


...1,581 CANDLES, TWO ROWBOATS, 8 OARS, 4 TENTS, 18 WINTER BLANKETS, A 60 FOOT EXTENSION LADDER, 1,246 CROSSBOW BOLTS, A SET OF MAHOGANY FURNITURE (INCLUDING AN ARMOIRE), A CANISTER OF FURNITURE POLISH, 187,962 COPPER PIECES, A PAIR OF MUDDY BOOTS, A PEWTER SALT SHAKER SET, TWO CASES OF RYE WHISKEY, A KEG OF GRAIN ALCOHOL, 25,500 BAKED BRICKS, 220 BAGS OF MORTAR, 762 BAGS OF SAND...

HEY, I THOUGHT I CALLED DIBS ON THOSE BOOTS AGES AGO, WHAT GIVES?

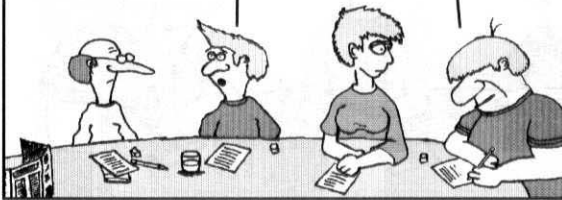
DUDE, THOSE BOOTS ARE OGRE-SIZED

STILL NO WATER?



...FIVE GREEN TOWELS¹, A SILVER TRAY WITH TOENAIL CLIPPINGS, A STUFFED CAT CARCASS, A ROCK², 1,000 TEN-FOOT WOODEN PLANKS, 5 SACKS OF NAILS, A HAND SAW, FOUR CLAW HAMMERS, A MANUAL ON CONSTRUCTING SMALL FORTRESSES AND DEFENSE WORKS, MY ENTIRE LIBRARY OF SPELL BOOKS, AN EMPTY PARROT CAGE, A BROKEN PADLOCK, A STATUE OF THOR (STOLEN FROM THE TOWN PLAZA IN GREEBLY), A RUSTY FORK...

I WAS THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED THE HAND SAW - REMEMBER??



...THREE MONTH SUPPLY OF IRON RATIONS FOR EACH OF US, 50 SKINS OF THE FINEST WINE, SEVEN BARRELS OF WATER, SEVEN MILES OF STRONG ROPE, 100 TORCHES, 200 FLASKS OF OIL, 10 HOODED LANTERNS, 10 BULLSEYE LANTERNS, A SNAKE SKIN, TWO WAR DRUMS, A BOX OF DUNGEON DEBRIS, A BAG OF CHALK, A SPOOL OF SILK, A WAR CHARIOT (WITH A WHEEL MISSING), ...

HOODY-HOO!!! FOOD AND WATER!!!

(WHEW) I WAS GETTING WORRIED.

WE'RE SAVED!



...THREE TAPESTRIES, A GAZEBO-PELT³, A FISHING POLE AND TACKLE, A BAG OF FERTILIZER, ONE MACAW FEATHER (MAGIC), A COPY OF CRIMSON LOTUS' JOURNAL, A BEAVER TRAP, A FUNNY-LOOKING STICK, A TURTLE SHELL, AND... UH... ER.....

UH-OH!!!

UH-OH??? WHAT DO YOU MEAN UH-OH???

BRIAN?? WHAT'S WRONG?

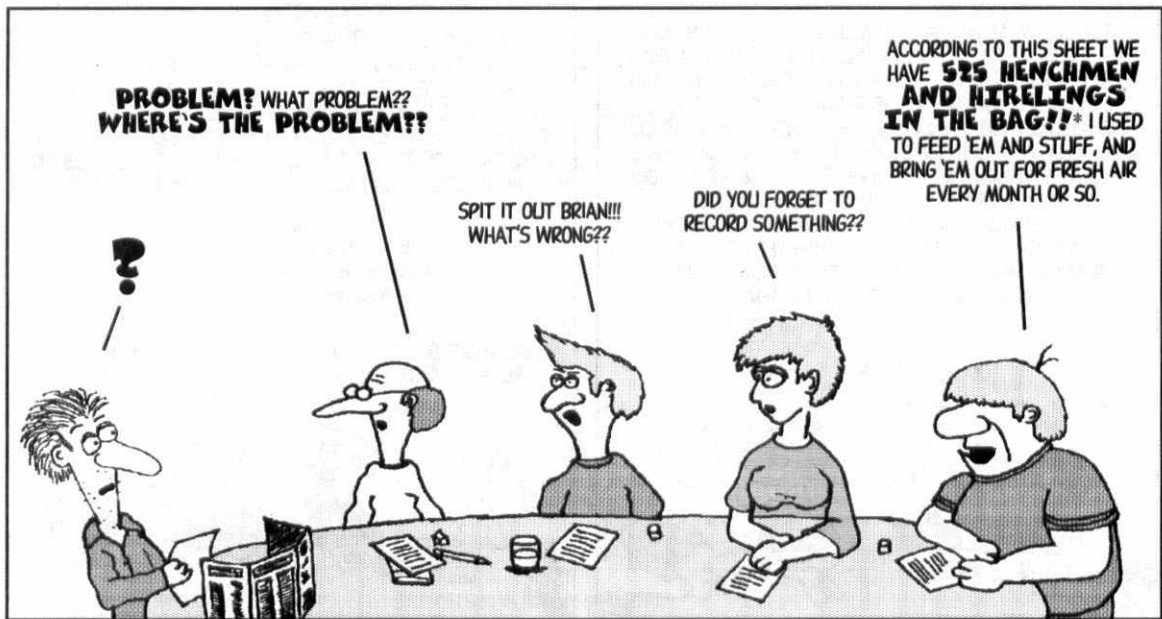


I, UH... I, UH... I THINK WE MAY HAVE A **LITTLE PROBLEM!!**



¹See *Bundle of Trouble Volume Three* [KODT#7] "Five Green Towels"
²See *Bundle of Trouble Volume One* [KODT#3] "I Got a Rock"
³See *Bundle of Trouble Volume One* [KODT#1] "Lair of the Gazebo"

Brian's "list" of what was in the bag got passed around and revised numerous times among the KODT writing team. I have fond memories of working on it and looking to see what had been added each time it came around. One of my contributions to the exchange above was Dave's line, "I was the one who suggested the handsaw - remember?" which was actually my attempt to poke fun at ourselves when we sometimes try to recall who came up with which lines/ideas in the strips. The sausage grinder and Dave's fresh sausage line gets referenced again in the bonus strip, "The Summons", on p. 46. - Jolly & Dave



**PROBLEM? WHAT PROBLEM??
WHERE'S THE PROBLEM??**

ACCORDING TO THIS SHEET WE
HAVE **525 HENCHMEN
AND HIRELINGS
IN THE BAG!!*** I USED
TO FEED 'EM AND STUFF, AND
BRING 'EM OUT FOR FRESH AIR
EVERY MONTH OR SO.

SPIT IT OUT BRIAN!!!
WHAT'S WRONG??

DID YOU FORGET TO
RECORD SOMETHING??



OH YEAH! I ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT MY
HENCHMEN. WHAT WERE THEIR NAMES??
**SERGEANT BARRINGER,
MADMAN WILLIE,** AND WHO WAS THE
LITTLE BASTARD WHO USED TO RIDE
SICK-CALL ALL THE TIME?? **DURTY JAKE!!**

YOU GOT **BOOTSTRAP
HARRY AND
FERRET-FACED EDDIE** DOWN
THERE?? THEY USED TO BE PRETTY
GOOD TRACKERS!!! MAYBE THEY CAN
LEAD US OUT OF THIS DESERT!!

YOU MEAN TO TELL ME YOU'VE BEEN
HAULING THEM AROUND IN THAT **BAG
OF HEFTY STORAGE** ALL
THESE MONTHS???

HEY, I HAD A LOT
ON MY MIND!!



AND YOU SAY YOU **"USED"** TO FEED THEM???
I'M AFRAID TO ASK THIS QUESTION, BUT HOW
LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOU'VE FED THEM??

**WHO CARES,
SARA??** THEY'RE JUST
NPCS FOR GAWD'S SAKE!!

THINK OF ALL
THE MONEY WE
SAVED ON FOOD!!

I DUNNO. SIX
MONTHS OF GAME
TIME MAYBE. GIVE
OR TAKE A FEW
WEEKS.



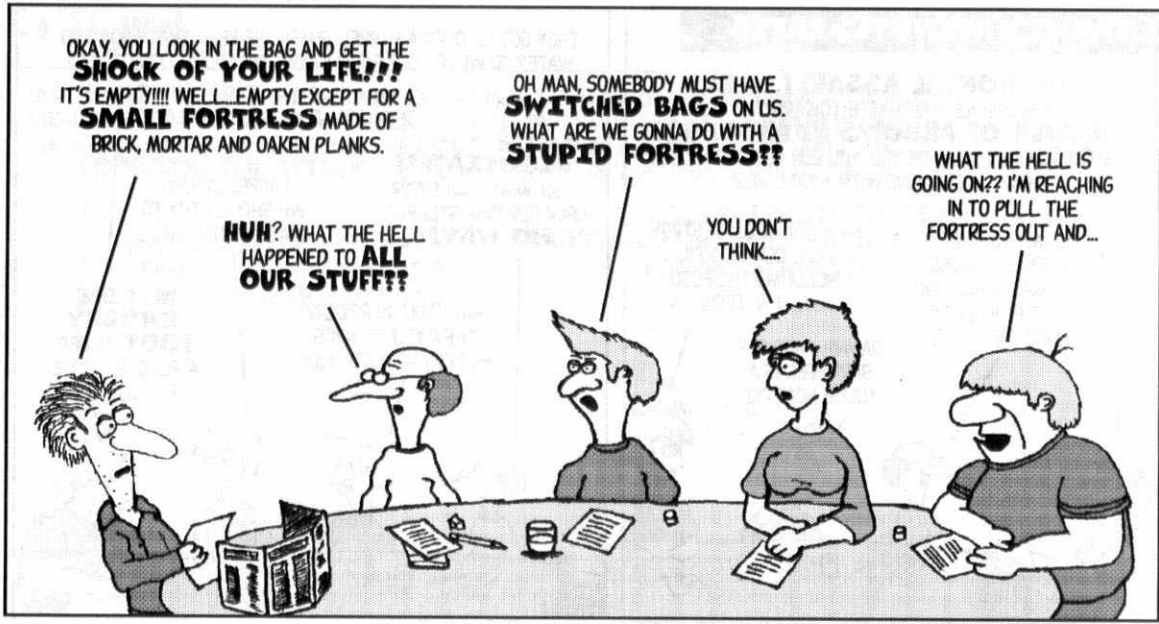
WELL, LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO DIG A **MASS GRAVE**
AND BURY SOME BODIES. WHAT'S THE **BIG DEAL?** AT LEAST
THIS DESERT SAND WILL MAKE FOR **EASY DIGGIN'.**

LORDY!! **CAN YOU
IMAGINE THE
SMELL??**
I BET THEY'RE PRETTY
RIPE BY NOW!!

I'M SO DISAPPOINTED
IN YOU, BRIAN. I CAN'T
EVEN TELL YOU.

WELL, I GUESS
I'LL (GULP) LOOK
IN THE BAG!!

*See Bundle of Trouble Volume Three [KODT#8] "Balance of Terror"



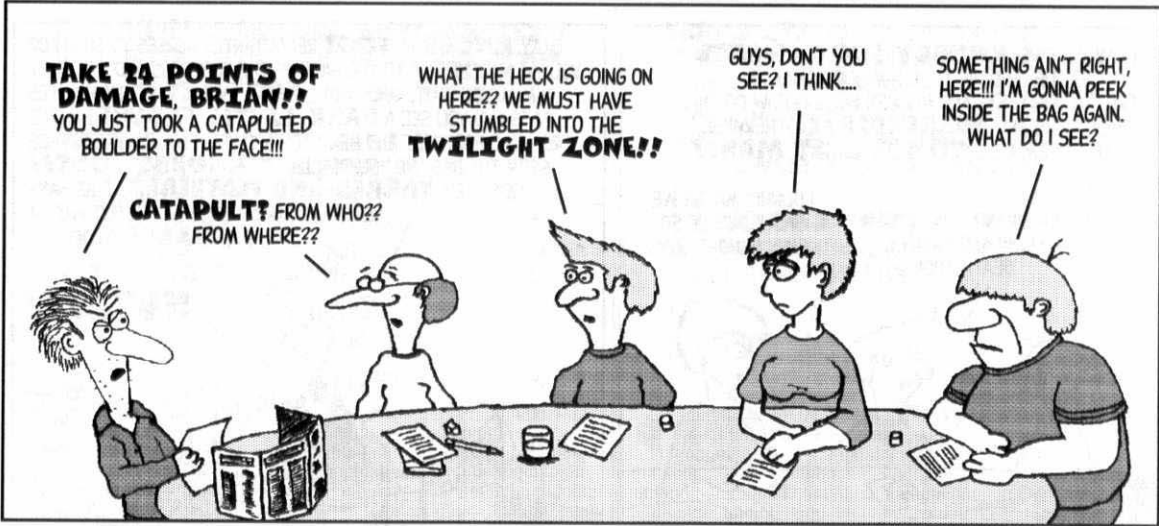
OKAY, YOU LOOK IN THE BAG AND GET THE **SHOCK OF YOUR LIFE!!!** IT'S EMPTY!!!! WELL...EMPTY EXCEPT FOR A **SMALL FORTRESS** MADE OF BRICK, MORTAR AND OAKEN PLANKS.

OH MAN, SOMEBODY MUST HAVE **SWITCHED BAGS** ON US. WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO WITH A **STUPID FORTRESS??**

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?? I'M REACHING IN TO PULL THE FORTRESS OUT AND...

HUH? WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO **ALL OUR STUFF??**

YOU DON'T THINK...



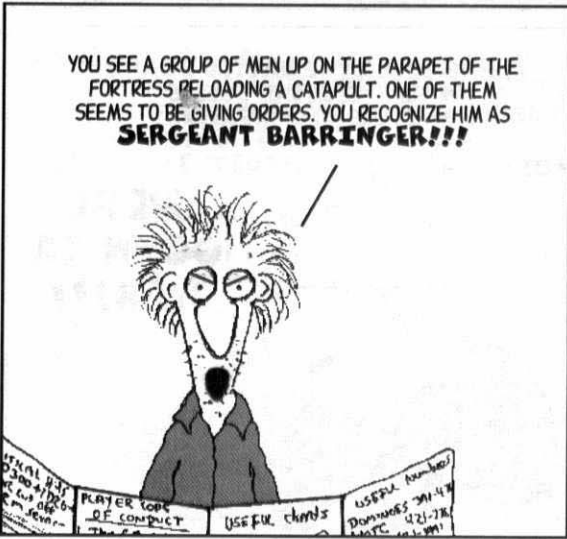
TAKE 24 POINTS OF DAMAGE, BRIAN!!! YOU JUST TOOK A CATAPULTED BOULDER TO THE FACE!!!

WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON HERE?? WE MUST HAVE STUMBLERD INTO THE **TWILIGHT ZONE!!**

GUYS, DON'T YOU SEE? I THINK....

SOMETHING AIN'T RIGHT, HERE!!! I'M GONNA PEEK INSIDE THE BAG AGAIN. WHAT DO I SEE?

CATAPULT? FROM WHO??
FROM WHERE??



YOU SEE A GROUP OF MEN UP ON THE PARAPET OF THE FORTRESS RELOADING A CATAPULT. ONE OF THEM SEEMS TO BE GIVING ORDERS. YOU RECOGNIZE HIM AS **SERGEANT BARRINGER!!!**



MY SERGEANT BARRINGER?? YOU MEAN ALL OUR MEN ARE STILL ALIVE??

IDIOTS!! FIGURE IT OUT!! THEY'VE BEEN LIVING OFF **OUR SUPPLIES!!** AND THEY'VE BUILT A FORTRESS!!

BUT HOW'D THEY SURVIVE ALL THIS TIME WITHOUT ANY FOOD OR WATER??

BASTARDS!! THEY HAVE ALL OUR STUFF!!!! MY SPELL BOOKS! MY MAHOGANY FURNITURE!! **MY ARMOIRE!!**

TWENTY MINUTES LATER...

YOUR **FRONTAL ASSAULT** IS QUICKLY REPULSED!!!! AS YOU CHARGE TOWARD THE KEEP A **SHOWER OF ARROWS** AND **CROSSBOW BOLTS** RAIN DOWN ON YOU. YOU RUN OUT OF THE BAG, BARELY ESCAPING WITH YOUR LIVES!!

DAMN, WE CAN'T EVEN GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO HACK ANY OF THEM!!! LET'S BURN THEM OUT!!

NO WAY!! WE'LL DESTROY ALL OUR STUFF!! INCLUDING THE FOOD AND WATER!!!

DAMN!!! THAT SGT BARRINGER IS A TOUGH HOMBRE!!



THEY GOT US OVER A BARREL GUYS!!! WE NEED THAT FOOD AND WATER OR WE'RE DONE FOR!!! I THINK WE SHOULD NEGOTIATE!!

NEGOTIATE??
YOU MEAN PARLEY???
FOR OUR OWN STUFF???
NO WAY!!

I AGREE BRIAN!!!
WE SHOULD TRY TO REASON WITH THEM.

HAVE YOU NO PRIDE??
THEY'RE JUST NPCs
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!!

WE'LL SEND **KNOBBY FOOT** UNDER A FLAG OF TRUCE TO NEGOTIATE!!



OKAY, WE GIVE **KNOBBY FOOT** A **WHITE FLAG** AND WE TELL HIM OUR DEMANDS. **BARRINGER** AND HIS MEN WILL THROW DOWN THEIR ARMS AND **SURRENDER!!** OTHERWISE WE KILL THEM ALL - **TO THE LAST MAN!!**

YEAH!!! AND IT WILL BE A SLOW AND PAINFUL DEATH TOO!!

I DUNNO! MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T BE SO HEAVY HANDED GUYS.



OKAY, **KNOBBY FOOT** RELUCTANTLY AGREES TO GO IN FOR YOU. HE MARCHES UP TO THE GATE OF THE FORTRESS AND THEY LET HIM IN. YOU WAIT... AND WAIT... **AND WAIT**. FORTY MINUTES PASS AND YOU SEE A **DARK LITTLE FIGURE** EMERGE FROM THE FORTRESS AND HEAD TOWARD YOU. FINALLY, IT EMERGES FROM THE BAG AND YOU REALIZE IT'S **KNOBBY FOOT!!** HE'S BEEN **TARRED-AND-FEATHERED!!** HE SAYS SERGEANT BARRINGER SENT HIM OUT WITH A **MESSAGE** TO DELIVER.

NUTS!!!



CUTE, VERY CUTE!!! I STICK MY HEAD IN THE BAG AND SCREAM REALLY LOUD, **'YER ALL GONNA DIE IN THERE!!'**

OKAY, YOU HEAR A **CATAPULT BEING FIRED!!** TAKE 18 POINTS OF DAMAGE, BOB!! YOU WERE JUST HIT WITH A **MAHOGANY ARMOIRE!!**

OH MY!!! THEY KNEW HOW IMPORTANT THAT ARMOIRE WAS TO BRIAN!!

DAMN!!!



YA BETTER BREAK OUT THE **BATTLE-BOARD** AND GUMMY-BEARS B.A.!!! 'CAUSE AS SOON AS WE'RE OUT OF THIS DESERT...

WE'RE GOIN' TA WAR!!!

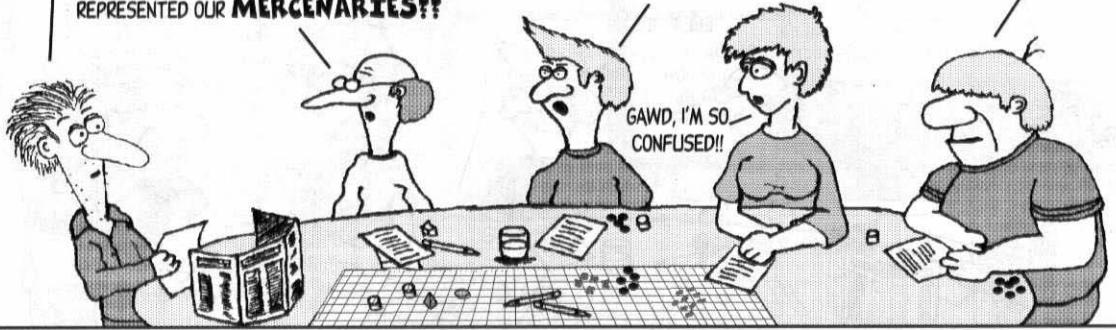


OKAY, **BARRINGER'S PHALANX** EMERGES FROM THE SOUTH CORNER OF THE FORTRESS TO EXECUTE A BEAUTIFUL **FLANKING MANEUVER** ON YOU. UH...DAVE, CAN YOU MOVE THE **GUMMY BEARS** UP BEHIND THE PENCILS?? AT THE SAME TIME **BOOT STRAP'S ARCHERS** TO THE NORTH LAUNCH A **COORDINATED ATTACK**. CAN YOU MOVE THE **M&M'S FOUR SQUARES** TO THE SOUTH?

DAMN IT!! HOLD ON A MINUTE!! I THOUGHT THE **GUMMY BEARS** REPRESENTED OUR **MERCENARIES??**

NO, THEY'RE THE **CHOCOLATE COATED CASHEWS!!** I THOUGHT THE **RAISINETTES** WERE THE **ARCHERS??** !!

GAWD, I'M SO CONFUSED!!



THE CASHEWS ARE OUR MERCENARIES?? DAMN, I THOUGHT THEY WERE JUST ANOTHER SNACK. I'VE BEEN MUNCHIN' ON 'EM PRETTY HEAVY DOWN HERE.

I THOUGHT WE WERE TAKING SOME HEAVY CASUALTIES ON THE LEFT FLANK. **WHAT WERE YOU THINKING??**

WAIT A MINUTE!! THEN WHO DID YOU CAST THAT MASS-HEALING SPELL ON LAST ROUND??

UH... ON THE M&M'S OF COURSE. UH-OH.

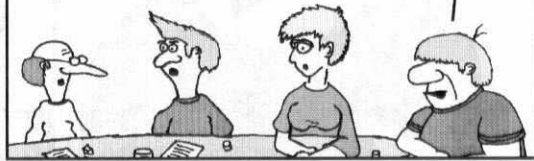


THAT'S IT!! I'M MOVING MY CHARACTER BACK TO THE REAR SO I CAN KEEP AN EYE ON YOU. I DON'T WANT YOU CASTING ANYMORE SPELLS UNLESS... **HEY, WAIT A MINUTE??** WHAT HAPPENED TO MY CHARACTER?? **IT'S THE JOLLY-POACHER SWEET-N-SOUR CANDY!!**

THAT WAS YOU?? I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE BOTTLE CAP?? **SORRY!!**

NO, BRIAN'S THE BOTTLE CAP. RIGHT BRIAN??

NO, I'M A FOUR-SIDER.



COME ON GUYS!! YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO CONQUER THE BAG OF HEFTY CAPACITY FOR **FOUR HOURS!!** NOW YOU GOT ME CONFUSED. IF THE **CHOCOLATE COATED CASHEWS** REPRESENT THE **MERCENARIES** THEN WHERE THE HELL IS **FERRET-FACE FREDDIE'S PIKE BATTALION??**

WHO THE HELL CARES?? DAVE ATE MY JOLLY-POACHER!!!

OH I REMEMBER, THE **RED M&M'S** ARE **PIKE SOLDIERS** AND THE **GREEN M&M'S** ARE **CATAPULT CREWS!!**

I SAID I WAS SORRY!

OOPS!! YOU BETTER SCRATCH A FEW PIKEMEN, B.A.!! I HAVE A WEAK SPOT FOR THE RED ONES!!



I have to comment on this strip in particular. This one, along with those which follow (and much of Issue 15) was written by David Kenzer and myself on his laptop as we manned the KenzerCo booth at Pentacon '97 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. (I guess we had a lot of time on our hands). It has to rank as one of the best times I've ever spent with Dave. We were having such a good time 'picking on Bob' in the strip(s) that I'm sure most of the jokes didn't even make it on paper. Anyway, there are certain moments when I'm made acutely aware of just how fortunate I am to be in this line of work and to eventually fall in with the group of guys (and gals) I'm working with now. This was one of those moments. — Jolly

AFTER THE BATTLE...

WHAT A DISASTER!!!
WE'VE BEEN BUILDING UP TO THIS BATTLE FOR THREE WEEKS AND IT WAS **TOTAL CHAOS!!**

WE NEED TO GET OUR HANDS ON SOME REAL HONEST-TO-GOODNESS **LEAD MINIATURES!**
BRIAN MY MAIN MAN, WHY DON'T YOU BRING INTO YOUR **FIGURE COLLECTION** AND BRING THEM TO THE GAME NEXT WEEK??

WHAT A GOOD IDEA!! IT WOULD BE A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW OFF YOUR MINIATURE PAINTING SKILLS, BRIAN!!

HUH?? NO WAY IN HELL WE'RE PLAYING WITH MY MINIATURES. **ARE YOU NUTS??** THEY'RE WORKS OF ART!!! YOU DON'T **PLAY** WITH THEM!!!

GREAT IDEA!!!



WOULD YOU ASK DA VINCI IF YOU COULD PLAY WITH THE MONA LISA?? WOULD YOU ASK MICHELANGELO IF YOU COULD PLAY IN THE SISTINE CHAPEL???

I DON'T THINK SO!!! MY FIGURES ARE FOR SHOW!!! THEY WILL NEVER BE TOUCHED BY HUMAN HANDS!!!

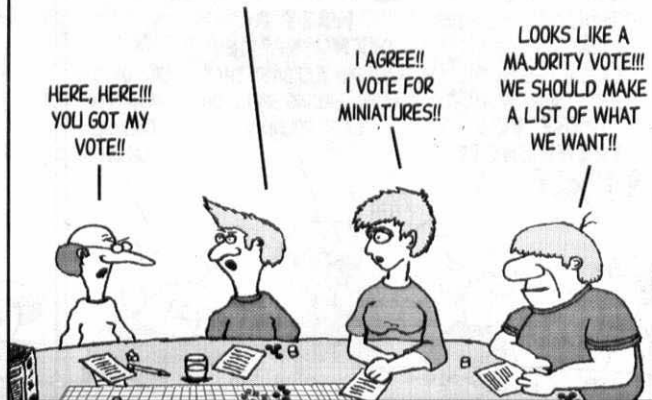
WELL THIS TOTALLY SUCKS!!!

I SAY WE USE THE GROUP TREASURY AND INVEST IN A FEW MINIATURES AND PROPS FOR FUTURE BATTLES.

HERE, HERE!!!
YOU GOT MY VOTE!!

I AGREE!!
I VOTE FOR MINIATURES!!

LOOKS LIKE A MAJORITY VOTE!!!
WE SHOULD MAKE A LIST OF WHAT WE WANT!!



TWENTY MINUTES LATER...

OKAY, I HAVE ONE **HALFLING TORCH BEARER**, ONE **HUMAN FIGHTER**, ONE **FEMALE RANGER** (FULLY CLOTHED), ONE **GRAND WIZARD** WITH **BROWNIE FAMILIAR**, A RANDOM ASSORTMENT OF **ORCS, GNOLLS, GNOMES, LIZARDMEN** ETC. ONE **COW** (MAGICAL-LOOKING, IF THEY HAVE ONE), AND...WHAT'S THIS AGAIN BOB? I CAN'T READ YOUR WRITING.

A DWARVEN THIEF-FIGHTER WITH A BRAIDED BEARD BRANDISHING A CROSSBOW AND WEARING STUDDED LEATHER ARMOR. HE SHOULD ALSO HAVE A HOODED CAPE. OOH OOOH, IF YOU CAN, FIND ONE WITH A RING ON HIS LEFT HAND, MIDDLE FINGER. THAT WOULD ROCK!!!

MAKE SURE MY FIGHTER HAS A HUGE SWORD!!

OH BROTHER!!!

GREAT!! THIS WILL REALLY ENHANCE THE GAME!!



THE NEXT DAY.....

**WEIRD PETE'S
GAMES PIT**
OFFICIAL HACKMASTER™
TOURNEY SITE

ISN'T SHE BEAUTIFUL??
THIS IS KIT M-24
BORDERLAND KEEP!

50% OFF!!! REINDEER SLAYER!!!
Includes Toy Shop Assault and Rebel Claus!!

GET YOUR
CHARACTER
TATTOOS THIS
SATURDAY!!

OPEN

PAINTBALL
GUNS MUST
BE CHECKED
AT COUNTER

GARY JACKSON
HOLIDAY CD
JUST IN!!

THEY'RE HERE!!!!
HACKMETAL
THE OFFICIAL HACKMASTER LINE
OF MINIATURES
AND DIORAMAS!

95% off on all Troll limb miniatures

FIFTY NINE BUCKS AND TAX AND SHE'S ALL
YOURS!!! I'LL EVEN THROW IN A BAG OF 100
DEFECTIVE **HACKMETAL** FIGURES!!

DEFECTIVE??

THERE'S HARDLY ANYTHING WRONG
WITH THEM. THEY JUST DIDN'T PASS
QUALITY CONTROL THAT'S ALL.

DARN, I WAS GIVEN A
LIST OF SPECIFIC
MINIATURES TO GET.
BUT THIS IS QUITE
A DEAL. HMMM-
MM...THE HELL
WITH IT. THE GUYS
ARE GOING TO LOVE
HAVING A
DIORAMA TO PLAY
WITH. I'LL TAKE IT!!

GUESS HOW
MANY DICE
ARE IN THE
LAVA LAMP!!

THE FOLLOWING WEEK...

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
HE'S GOT TWO LEFT HANDS AND NO
FACE!!! IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE??

YOU'RE LUCKY!!! MINE'S FEET ARE ON
BACKWARDS!! AND HE'S GOT BREASTS..

BIG ONES!!

WELL AT LEAST HE HAS CLOTHES ON. MINE'S
COMPLETELY NAKED EXCEPT FOR A PAIR OF
KNEE-HIGH LEATHER BOOTS. WHAT GIVES??

MINE JUST LOOKS LIKE A
BLOB OF METAL!!

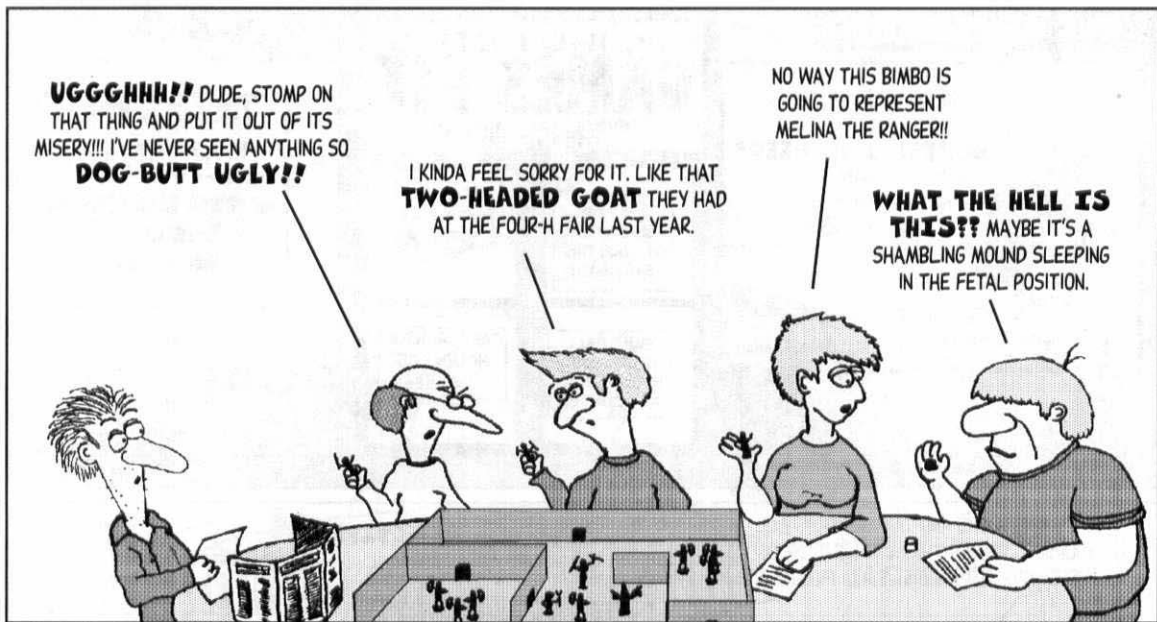
Pete obviously rips-off B.A. here. Interesting how B.A. ponders the sale in a Jack and the Beanstalk-like manner. Bob's first line in panel 3 says it all. - Dave

UGGGHHH!! DUDE, STOMP ON THAT THING AND PUT IT OUT OF ITS MISERY!!! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING SO **DOG-BUTT UGLY!!**

I KINDA FEEL SORRY FOR IT. LIKE THAT **TWO-HEADED GOAT** THEY HAD AT THE FOUR-H FAIR LAST YEAR.

NO WAY THIS BIMBO IS GOING TO REPRESENT MELINA THE RANGER!!

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS!! MAYBE IT'S A SHAMBLING MOUND SLEEPING IN THE FETAL POSITION.



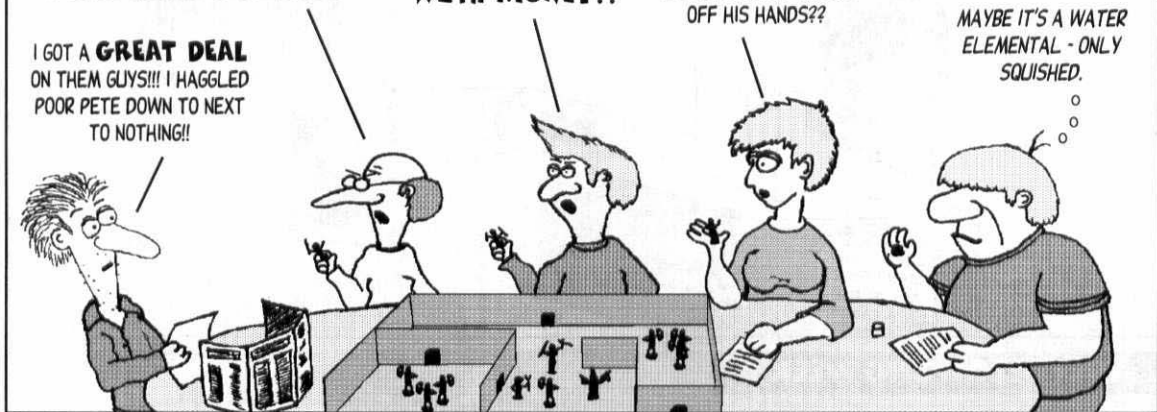
ALL RIGHT, YOU GOT SOME EXPLAINING TO DO, B.A.!!! WHAT'S THE DEAL?? WHAT'S WITH THE **CRAPPY** MINIATURES??

YOU MEAN YOU PAID FOR THESE?? **WITH MONEY??**

B.A., HOW IN THE WORLD DID YOU LET PETE TALK YOU INTO TAKING THESE OFF HIS HANDS??

MAYBE IT'S A WATER ELEMENTAL - ONLY SQUISHED.

I GOT A **GREAT DEAL** ON THEM GUYS!!! I HAGGLED POOR PETE DOWN TO NEXT TO NOTHING!!



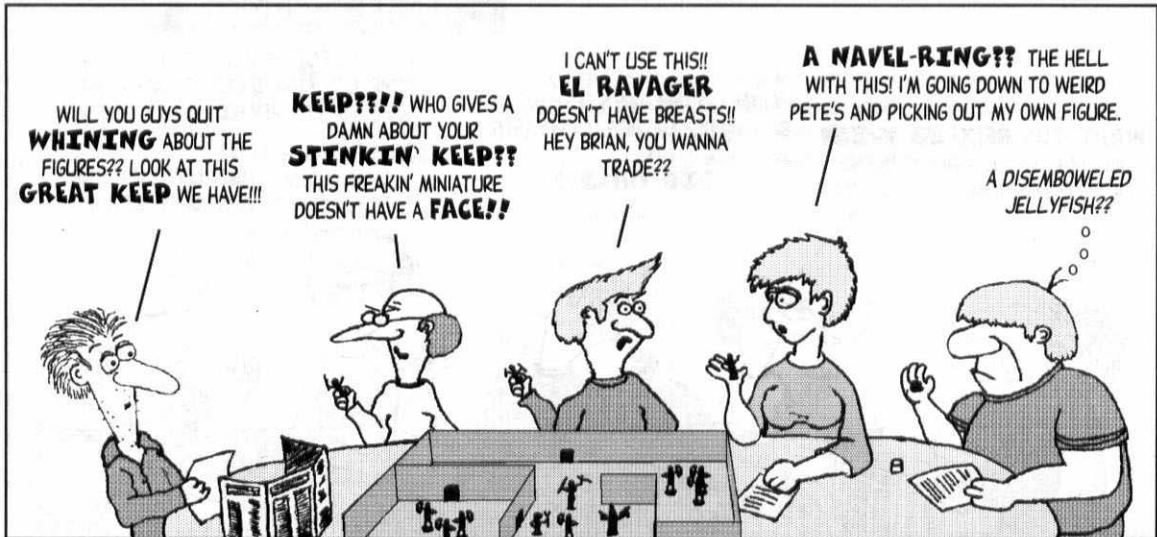
WILL YOU GUYS QUIT **WHINING** ABOUT THE FIGURES?? LOOK AT THIS **GREAT KEEP** WE HAVE!!!

KEEP!!!! WHO GIVES A DAMN ABOUT YOUR **STINKIN' KEEP!!** THIS FREAKIN' MINIATURE DOESN'T HAVE A **FACE!!**

I CAN'T USE THIS!! **EL RAVAGER** DOESN'T HAVE BREASTS!! HEY BRIAN, YOU WANNA TRADE??

A NAVEL-RING?? THE HELL WITH THIS! I'M GOING DOWN TO WEIRD PETE'S AND PICKING OUT MY OWN FIGURE.

A **DISEMBOWELED JELLYFISH??**



AFTER FORTY MINUTES OF COMPLAINING...

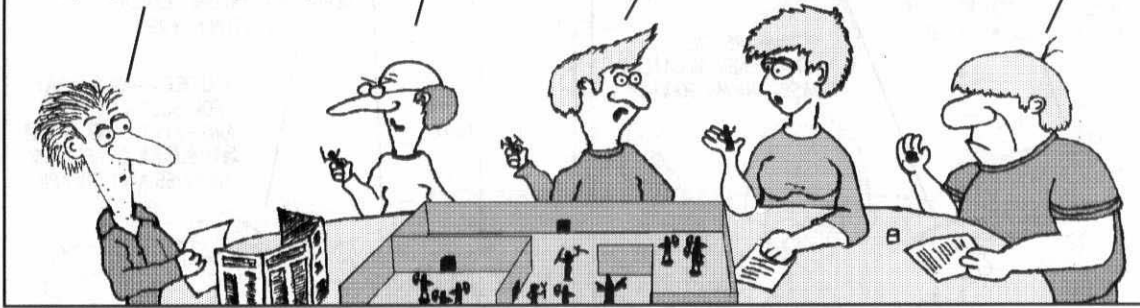
ALL RIGHT ALREADY...
ALL RIGHT!!
LOOK GUYS, THERE'S STILL
25 BUCKS LEFT IN THE
TREASURY. WHY DON'T YOU
JUST DIVVY IT UP AND GO PICK
OUT YOUR OWN **LOUSY**
MINIATURES!! WILL
THAT MAKE EVERYONE **HAPPY?**

DEAL!! I'M GOING
TO PICK OUT A
MINIATURE WORTHY
OF REPRESENTING
KNUCKLES
THE SIXTH!!

YEAH, I'M GOING
DOWN TO WEIRD
PETE'S FIRST THING
IN THE MORNING!!

I'LL MEET YOU THERE DAVE.
HEY, BRIAN, WOULD YOU BE A DEAR AND
PAINT OUR MINIATURES FOR US?

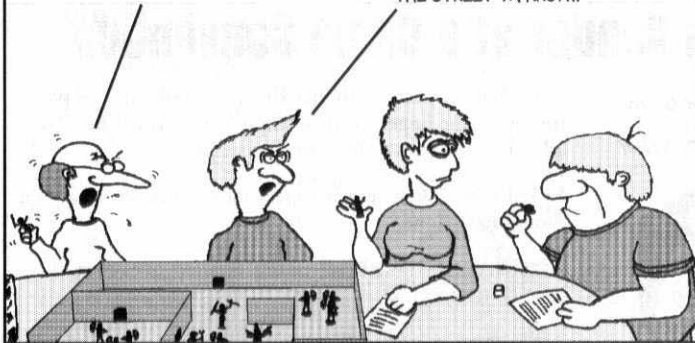
SURE, YOU WANT **SLOP-N-GO**,
TABLE-TOP OR **MUSEUM**
QUALITY? I HAVE A PRICING
BROCHURE IN MY BRIEF CASE.



PRICING!!!!
WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS... YOU... YOU...
CHISELER!!!

YEAH!!
WE'RE NOT STRANGERS OFF
THE STREET YA KNOW!!

OKAY, I'LL GIVE YOU A TWENTY PERCENT
DISCOUNT AND THROW IN A FREE ANNUAL
TOUCH-UP AND **THREE**
COATS OF DURO-SHEEN!!



THE FOLLOWING WEEK...

WOW!! THAT'S SOME
FIGURE, BOB!! WHERE ON
EARTH DID YOU FIND IT?

IT'S FROM **EARL SLACKMOZER'S** PERSONAL
COLLECTION. I HAD TO PAY A PRETTY PENNY FOR IT,
BUT IT WAS WORTH IT. IT'S AN AUTHENTIC
METALRAGE FIGURE HANDCRAFTED IN 1978
BEFORE THEY WENT UNDER. **IT'S AWESOME!!**

OOOOOOHHH,
MY PRECIOUS!

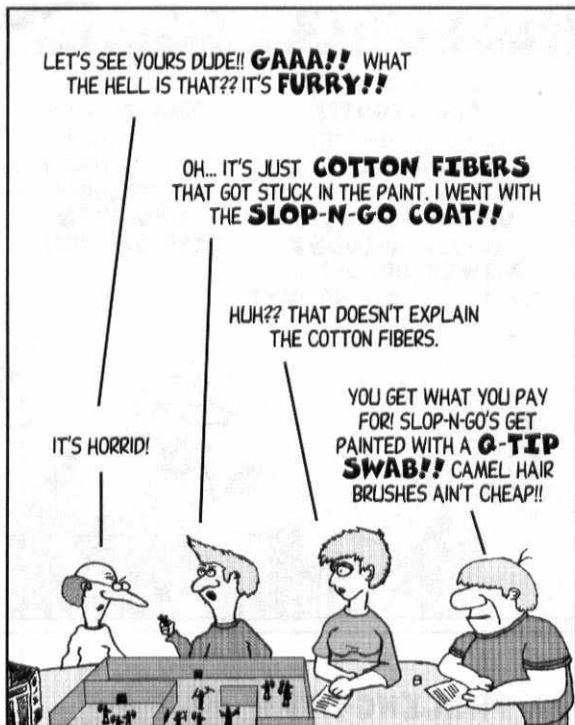
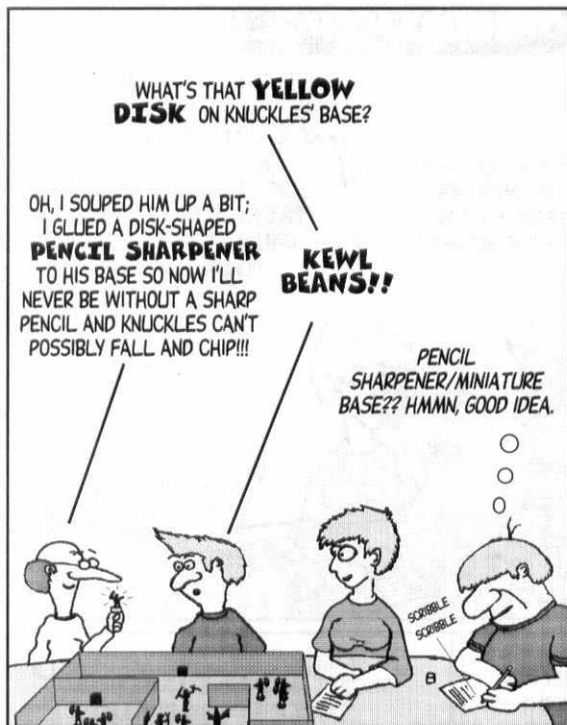
EARL LET **THAT** PIECE GO??
WHAT AN IDIOT!!!
YOU'VE GOT A HISTORICAL PIECE
OF WORK THERE BOB. I DON'T THINK
YOU SHOULD BE SUBJECTING IT TO
THE RIGORS OF PLAY.

BEAUTIFUL!!

EARL
SLACKMOZER???



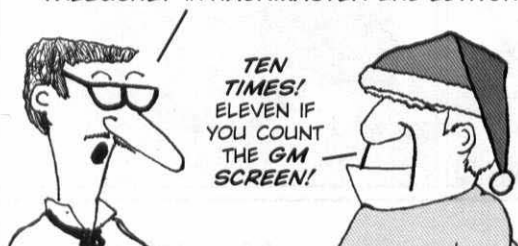
Here we see some insight into Brian's dark side. He never lets the bonds of friendship get between him and a profit. Kinda like Weird Pete. Perhaps Brian has a future retail career ahead of him! - Dave



Note how Brian steals Bob's pencil sharpener idea. Incidentally, at GenCon '98, a K&C intern showed up at the booth with some miniatures with pencil-sharpener bases. I think we even sold a few. - Dave

14 Ways to Annoy a Vendor at a Game Convention

OKAY, OKAY, I **GIVE UP!!** I HAVE NO **FRICKIN' IDEA** HOW MANY TIMES I MISPELLED **TREBUCHET** IN **HACKMASTER 2ND EDITION!**



Believe it or not exhibitors at game conventions lead really uneventful lives. They love nothing more than to have folks come by their booths to harass and liven up their day. Next time you're at a con, be sure to visit the exhibitors' hall and try some of these suggestions.

- Pick up his latest product, skim through it and say, "Oh... I had this idea 15 years ago."
- Pick up his latest product and comment how beautiful the cover is. Start to pull out your money as if you are going to buy a copy and then say, "How the hell did you get Elmore to do a cover for you?" When the vendor informs you the work isn't Elmore's, look disappointed and say, "Oh." Walk away.
- Ask to meet the designer/author, then hang around the booth all day and when anyone approaches the booth, proudly announce, "Hey! I know these guys!!!"
- Tell him all about your really cool Paladin-Assassin.
- Closely inspect a product for flaws and rub the paper through your fingers as if to imply that it is cheap. Then ask, "Is this what the final version will look like?"
- Tell him, "Wow, that's a great idea but here's what you should have done."
- Interrupt his lunch by asking detailed questions every time he tries to take a bite.
- Sit down at one of his demo tables and start playing a competitor's game.
- Tell him there's a really good game of [his system] going on in the men's room. He should go check it out.
- Eat a gyros or burger with raw onions. Then hang around his booth and talk to everyone continuously making sure to get really close to their faces.
- Keep him at his booth late by talking and asking stupid questions. When security asks you to leave tell them that you are with him.
- Insist on calling him "Suzie Sweetcakes" and repeatedly ask him what time he gets off.
- Ask for a demo of his game. Just as he is explaining the rules to you, put your hands in your pockets and abruptly walk away with no explanation.
- Walk up to a game designer who you recognize and ask, "Who are you??!" When he tells you, look disappointed and say, "Oh... you're nobody."

The Best Little Warhorse

BY JOLLY R. BLACKBURN AND DAVID S. KENZER

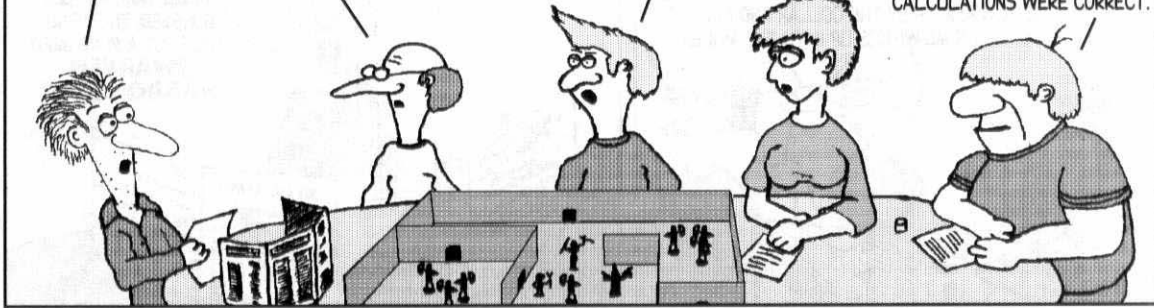
OKAY, AS YOU ROUND THE BEND IN THE TRAIL, A SMALL VILLAGE COMES INTO SIGHT. WISPY-STREAMS OF SMOKE RISE FROM THE CHIMNEYS OF A HALF-DOZEN BUILDINGS. THERE APPEARS TO BE A SMALL TEMPLE, A GENERAL STORE, A BLACKSMITH SHOP AND OF COURSE AN INN.

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE SHE DIDN'T MAKE THAT SIMPLE JUMP. DAMN!!

MAYBE THE BLACKSMITH HAS A HORSE TO SELL!! I'VE GOT TO FIND A REPLACEMENT FOR **DOOR STOP!!**

YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN A HORSE WEARING PLATE-BARDING AND LOADED DOWN WITH 75,000 GOLD PIECES, SIX TAPESTRIES AND A FAT DWARF COULDN'T JUMP A GORGE!!

THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A HEADWIND!! I'M **SURE** MY CALCULATIONS WERE CORRECT.



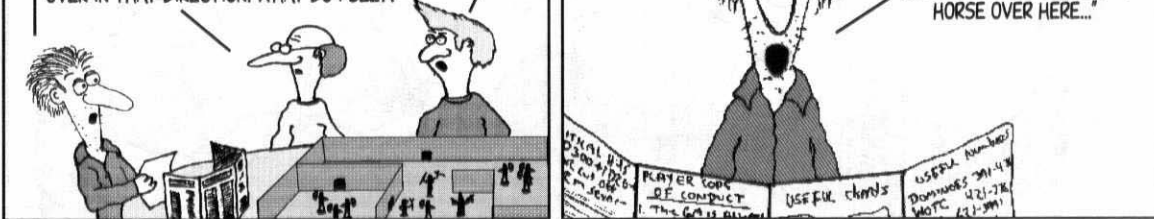
OKAY, THE BLACKSMITH TAKES YOU OUT BACK AND SHOWS YOU WHAT HE HAS. THERE ARE TWO PENS. ONE TO THE **LEFT** AND ONE TO THE **RIGHT**. THE BLACKSMITH **USHERS** YOU QUICKLY TOWARD THE RIGHT. THERE ARE FOUR OR FIVE RATHER **ORDINARY**-LOOKING HORSES MUNCHING ON A PILE OF STRAW.

YOU SEE WHAT APPEARS TO BE A **SMALL MULE!!** TWO STABLE BOYS ARE BUSY TENDING TO IT. ONE IS BRUSHING DOWN THE MULE'S COAT. THE OTHER STABLE BOY IS HOLDING A BUCKET FILLED WITH OATS WHILE THE MULE EATS FROM IT. THE BLACKSMITH NOTICES YOU LOOKING TOWARD THE MULE AND QUICKLY STEPS IN FRONT OF YOU.

ORDINARY!! I WANT SOMETHING SPECIAL. SAY, HE SEEMED PRETTY QUICK TO LEAD ME AWAY FROM THAT PEN ON THE LEFT. WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?? I'M LOOKING OVER IN THAT DIRECTION. WHAT DO I SEE??

HE'S UP TO SOMETHING!!

"NOTHING IN THAT PEN WORTH YOUR ATTENTION" HE SAYS NERVOUSLY, "NOW... IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PICK OUT A HORSE OVER HERE..."



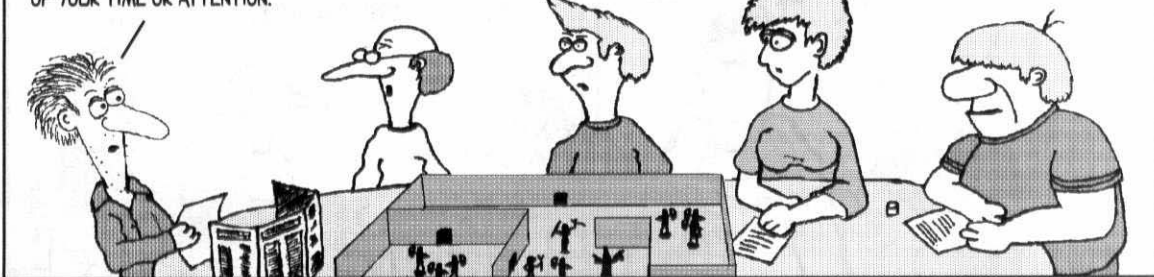
HELLO!! SOMETHING IS DEFINITELY GOING ON HERE. THIS **JERK** REALLY DOESN'T WANT ME LOOKING AT THAT MULE HUH?? I'M MARCHING PAST HIM TOWARD THE MULE.

I THINK YOU'RE ON TO SOMETHING, BOB. DON'T WORRY, I'VE GOT YOU COVERED.

GUYS... IT'S JUST A MULE. STILL.....THIS GUY IS ACTING VERY SUSPICIOUSLY.

LOOK HOW HE'S PAMPERING IT. MUST BE A PRETTY **SPECIAL MULE!!**

HE FRANTICALLY BEGS YOU TO IGNORE THE MULE!! HE SAYS IT'S NOT EVEN WORTHY OF YOUR TIME OR ATTENTION.

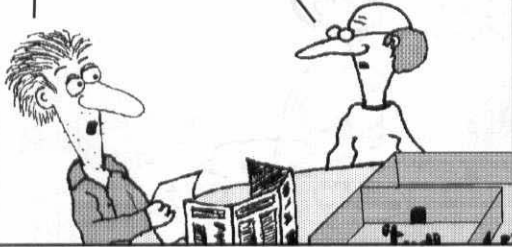


B.A.'s obviously pushing Bob's buttons. Also, Door Stop got robbed, dude. - Dave

OKAY, I'M LOOKIN' THIS MULE OVER PRETTY GOOD.
WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT HIM?? HUH??

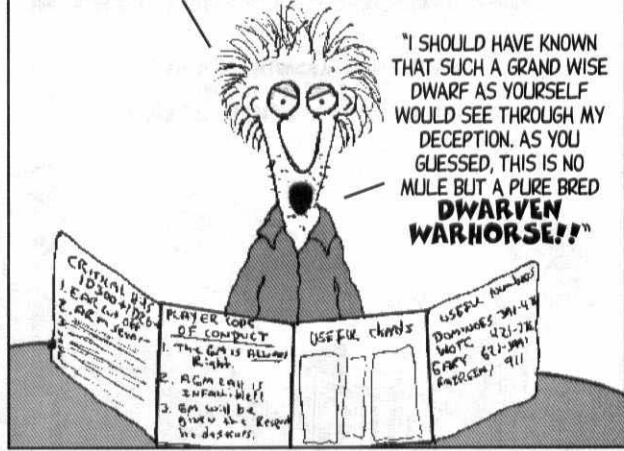
WELL... I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE ANY
SPECIAL SKILLS REGARDING MULES OR
THEIR QUALITIES. FROM YOUR LAYMAN'S
POINT OF VIEW HE'S JUST AN ORDINARY,
RUN-OF-THE-MILL MULE.

OKAY, I GUESS WE DO THIS THE HARD WAY. I GRAB
THE BLACKSMITH BY THE COLLAR AND DEMAND
HE TELLS ME WHAT'S UP WITH THE MULE!!



AT FIRST, THE BLACKSMITH DENIES THERE IS ANYTHING SPECIAL
ABOUT THE MULE. FINALLY, HE GIVES IN AND WITH A **HEAVY
SIGH OF REGRET** HE TELLS YOU THE MULE IS HIS
PRIZED POSSESSION. "I'M SORRY SIR!" HE EXPLAINS,
"I SAW THAT YOU WERE A **DWARF** AND I WAS AFRAID YOU
WOULD RECOGNIZE THE ANIMAL FOR WHAT HE TRULY IS."

"I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN
THAT SUCH A GRAND WISE
DWARF AS YOURSELF
WOULD SEE THROUGH MY
DECEPTION. AS YOU
GUESSED, THIS IS NO
MULE BUT A PURE BRED
**DWARVEN
WARHORSE!!**"



CRITICAL HIT!
1. EAT AND WIN
2. RGM CAN
3. ...

**PLAYER CODE
OF CONDUCT**
1. THE GM IS ALWAYS
Right.
2. RGM CAN IF
INFAN-WELL!
3. GM WILL BE
GIVE YOU A REVEN
NO DISCOUNT.

USEFUL CHARMS

USEFUL NUMBERS
DWARVEN 301-4
MATE 421-716
GARY 611-301
FIREBORN 911

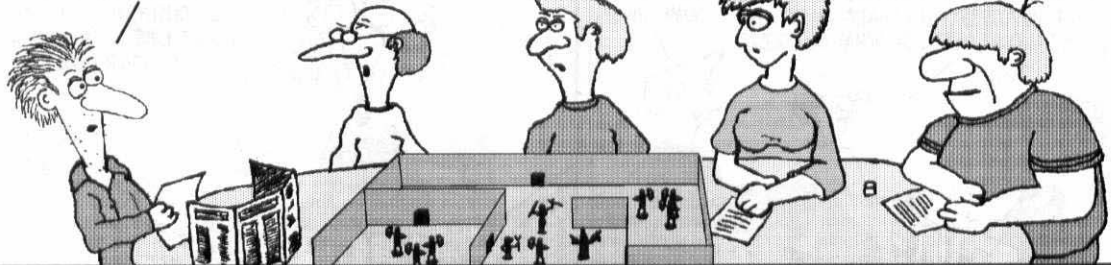
UH HUH!!! JUST AS I...
(SPUTTER)...GURT, DING...
**A DWARVEN
WARHORSE???**

OH WOW!!! DUDE!!!
IT'S THE PERFECT
MOUNT FOR YOU!!

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A
DWARVEN WARHORSE BEFORE.
I'D BE CAREFUL, BOB. I THINK
THIS GUY IS A SCAM ARTIST.

HMMM... THEY'RE
CERTAINLY NOT LISTED
IN ANY **OFFICIAL**
HACKMASTER BOOKS.

OH YES SIR. I KNEW YOU HAD AN
EYE FOR QUALITY, SIR. BUT I'M
AFRAID HE'S NOT FOR SALE.



I WANT THAT
WAR HORSE
AND I'M NOT LEAVIN'
WITHOUT HIM!! I'M OFFERING
THE BLACKSMITH **5,000
GOLD** PIECES RIGHT OFF
THE CLIFF!!! WE'RE GOING TO DO
SOME **SERIOUS
HAGGLING** HERE.

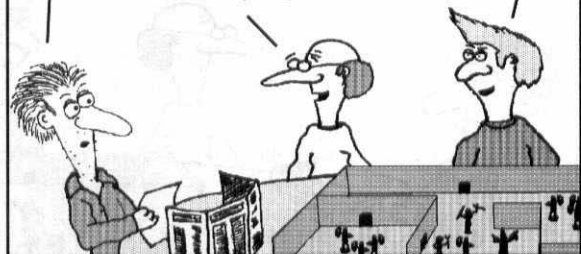


TWENTY MINUTES LATER...

THE BLACKSMITH SCRATCHES HIS CHIN FOR A MOMENT AND
SMILES. HE ACCEPTS YOUR OFFER. **10,000 IN GOLD,**
A **NEVER-EMPTY MEAD TANKARD** AND A
PAIR OF **OPOSSUM-SKIN BOOTS**. "YOU JUST
BOUGHT YOURSELF A **DWARVEN WARHORSE.**"

HOODY-HOO!! SLUCKER!!!
THOSE OPOSSUM-SKIN BOOTS
WERE WORTHLESS!!! **HA HA!!**

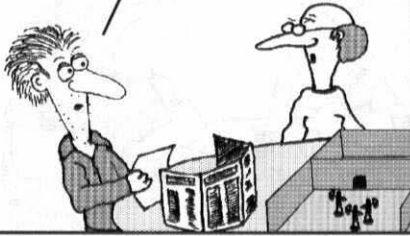
WHAT A MAROON!! YOU
SURE SHOWED HIM.



KEWL!!

I'M GOING TO NAME HIM **MIKE!!**
I'LL SADDLE HIM UP AND TAKE HIM FOR A
RIDE. I WANT TO START THE BONDING PROCESS
IMMEDIATELY.

AS YOU ATTEMPT TO PUT A
SADDLE ON HIM, HE **SPINS
AROUND AND KICKS
YOU** IN THE **GNADS** FOR
12 POINTS OF DAMAGE!!!



**DID YOU HEAR THAT??
12 POINTS OF DAMAGE!!!**

MIKE ROCKS!!! HE'S THE BEST LITTLE
WARHORSE EVER!!!

OH YEAH, HE'LL
BE A BIG HIT AT
PARTIES!

HE'S A SPIRITED LITTLE
CUSS!!! THAT'S A GOOD SIGN.
YOU MADE OUT!!

WOW!!! 12 POINTS!!!



OKAY, WHILE DAVE HOLDS ON TO THE REIGNS, I'LL
SNEAK UP AND PLACE THE SADDLE ON MIKE. I'LL BE
CAREFUL TO AVOID THOSE HINDLEGS THIS TIME!!

AS SOON AS MIKE FEELS THE
SADDLE ON HIS BACK HE
REACHES ROUND AND BITES
DAVE FOR 8 POINTS OF
DAMAGE. HE THEN SPINS
AROUND AND KICKS YOU AGAIN,
BOB, FOR 9 POINTS OF DAMAGE.

YOW!!

I'M BACKING AWAY!!!
HE'S DANGEROUS!!!



OH MAN, ISN'T HE **WONDERFUL???**
I LOVE HIM!!! HE'S THE **BEST
HORSE** I'VE EVER OWNED!!!

BOB, I THINK YOU'VE
BEEN TAKEN. WE
SHOULD GO DEMAND
YOUR MONEY BACK.

I DUNNO. HE KINDA
SCARES ME.



AS THE GROUP PREPARES TO RIDE OUT OF TOWN...

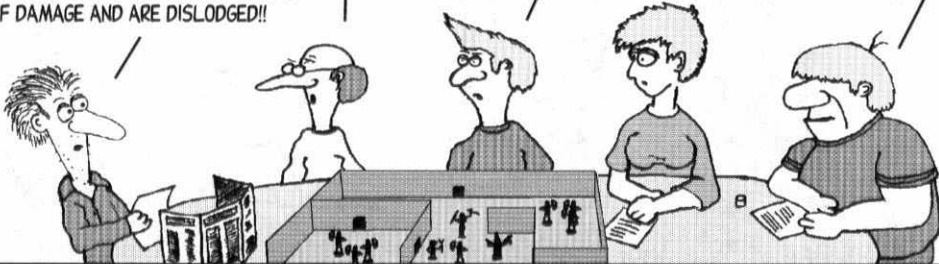
OKAY, ONCE I'M ON MIKE, I'LL SIGNAL FOR DAVE TO TAKE THE BLINDFOLD
OFF. I GOT A REAL GOOD GRIP ON THE REIGNS THIS TIME!!!

AS SOON AS THE BLINDFOLD COMES OFF,
LITTLE MIKE IMMEDIATELY MAKES A MAD
DASH TOWARD A GROVE OF TREES ON THE
EDGE OF THE VILLAGE. HE RUNS UNDER A
LOW-HANGING LIMB. YOU TAKE FIVE POINTS
OF DAMAGE AND ARE DISLODGED!!

IT'S OKAY, BOB!! I THINK YOU'RE
WEARING HIM OUT. TAKE
ANOTHER SWIG OF HEALING
POTION AND CLIMB BACK ON.

THIS IS BRUTAL!!!
THAT MULE IS
KILLING BOB!!

HELL, IF YOU WANTED
SOMEONE TO BEAT THE
CRAP OUT OF YOU I WOULD
HAVE DONE IT FOR LESS
THAN 10,000 GOLD PIECES!!



We show throughout this issue B.A.'s heavily-concealed, but ever-present, Felton Mean Streak (inherited from his mother's side, I'm sure). - Dave

AS YOU RIDE UP TO THE CITY GATES OF **FANGAERIE** YOU NOTICE A **BEGGAR** STANDING AT THE SIDE OF THE GATE WITH HIS **THREE-LEGGED DOG**¹. THE DOG LIMPS TOWARD YOU AND STARTS BARKING AT YOUR MULE BOB. **MIKE** IS REALLY GETTING SKITTISH AS THE DOG NIPS AT HIS LEGS AND TAIL.

JUST IGNORE THE DOG GLYUS!!! I DON'T WANT TO CAUSE ANY TROUBLE IN **GILEAD'S TOWN**².

DAMN DOG!! I'M GOING TO LEAN OVER IN MY SADDLE AND KICK THE CRAP OUT OF HIM!!!! AND FOR THE LAST TIME MIKE'S NOT A MULE!!!

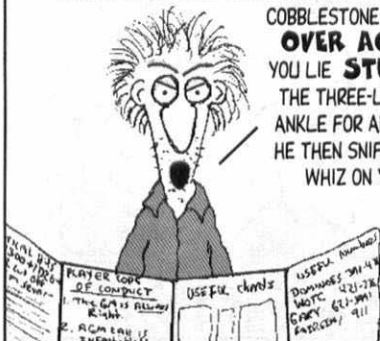
OH NO!!! IT'S THAT STUPID MUTT AGAIN!! HE REMEMBERS US!!!

POOR LITTLE THREE-LEGGED DOGGIE.



BOB, YOUR **MULE** GETS **SPOOKED** BY THE DOG AND BOLTS. SINCE YOU WERE TRYING TO KICK THE DOG, THE **SUDDEN LURCH** CAUSES YOU TO TOPPLE FROM THE SADDLE. YOUR FOOT IS STUCK IN THE STIRRUP AND YOU ARE DRAGGED **75 FEET** THROUGH **REFUSE FILLED GUTTERS**. YOU TAKE **??** POINTS OF **DAMAGE** FROM YOUR **SKULL CRACKING** ON THE

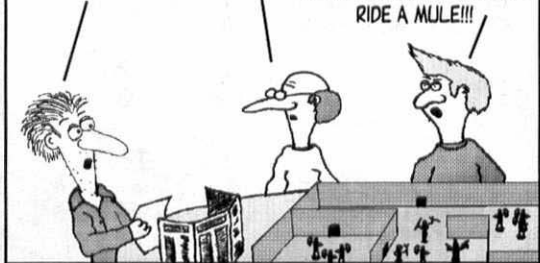
COBBLESTONE **OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN**. OH, AND WHILE YOU LIE **STUNNED** IN THE GUTTER, THE THREE-LEGGED DOG NIPS AT YOUR ANKLE FOR ANOTHER **2** POINTS. HE THEN SNIFFS AT YOUR LEG, TAKES A WHIZ ON YOU AND LIMPS AWAY.



WHAT IS THIS?? PICK ON BOB DAY?? **DAMN!!** I'M HOPPING MAD NOW!!! I'M GOING TO **HACK** THAT **STUPID MUTT** TO PIECES!!!

THE BEGGAR IS BELLY LAUGHING SO HARD HE FALLS TO HIS KNEES.

I'M GOING TO RUN THE BEGGAR THROUGH WITH MY HACKMASTER +12!!!! NOBODY LAUGHS AT MY COMRADE IN ARMS!!! EVEN IF HE DOES RIDE A MULE!!!



TEN MINUTES LATER...

THE DOG IS STANDING OVER THE BODY OF HIS MASTER AS IF HE IS TRYING TO PROTECT HIM. YOUR **CROSSBOW BOLT** MISSES AND HITS THE **BEGGAR'S CORPSE** ONCE AGAIN WITH A **SICKENING THUD**.

STAND STILL YOU STUPID MUTT!! I'M FIRING ANOTHER VOLLEY OF BOLTS.

THAT'S THE FIFTH TIME YOU'VE MISSED **MR. MAGOO!**



C'MON BOB!!! WE BETTER GET MOVING. YOU KNOW HOW TOUGH THE **BEGGAR-MOBS** ARE IN THIS TOWN.

NOT YET!!!! THAT POOCH IS **GOING DOWN!!**



¹ See Bundle of Trouble Volume Four [KODT#12] "Overbearing Situation"
² See Bundle of Trouble Volume Four [KODT#12] "Just for the Helm of it"

One of the things I love about the 'continuing story' approach we took with KoDT is that we've been able to develop the characters. Certain strips (and sometimes just a single panel) can really take a character to new levels as far as development. I think it's interesting that we see a side of Brian we've never seen before in the top panel of this page as he expresses sympathy for the "three-legged dog". B.A. would later use Brian's affinity for small animals against him in Dancing With PitBulls. [KODT#19] — Jolly

MOMENTS LATER...

TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T TAKE DAVE'S ADVICE BOB. AN **ANGRY MOB** OF BEGGARS SUDDENLY POURS OUT OF THE GATE AND QUICKLY **OVERBEARS** YOU!!! THEY PUMMEL YOU **SENSELESS** WITH **ROCKS** AND **CLUBS** BEFORE DRAGGIN' YOU BEFORE **LORD GILEAD!!***

YEAH, GOOD OL' GILEAD WILL STRAIGHTEN THIS MESS OUT!! YOU LUCKED OUT BOB!!!

DON'T FOOL YOURSELF, BOB!!! I KNOW GILEAD AND I'M SURE HE RUNS A FAIR AND UNBIASED COURT!!

B.A., WE'LL FOLLOW BEHIND AND SEE WHAT UNFOLDS.

GILEAD?? HA HA!!

THE JOKE'S ON THEM. WAIT 'TIL THEY FIND OUT ME AND GILEAD ARE TIGHT. I'LL HAVE THEIR HEADS ON A SPIT!!

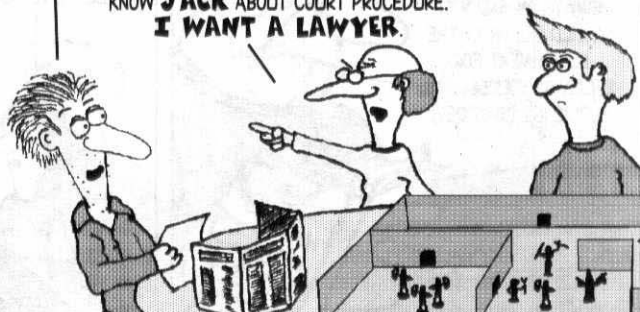


AFTER HEARING THE ACCUSATIONS MADE AGAINST YOU, AND REVIEWING THE EVIDENCE, LORD GILEAD DECIDES TO HAND THE MATTER OVER TO HIS MAGISTRATE FOR TRIAL. HE ORDERS YOUR MULE IMPOUNDED AND TAKES THE THREE-LEGGED DOG INTO PROTECTIVE CUSTODY. YOU ARE PLACED IN CHAINS AND HAULED TO COURT.

AS THE TRIAL UNFOLDS....

FOR THE LAST TIME, NO!! THE MAGISTRATE WON'T ALLOW YOU TO CROSS EXAMINE THE DOG AS PART OF YOUR DEFENSE. **LET IT GO!!**

THIS BLOWS!! B.A., YOU DON'T KNOW **JACK** ABOUT COURT PROCEDURE. **I WANT A LAWYER.**



TWENTY MINUTES LATER...

I TELL THIS **QUOTE, JUDGE, UNQUOTE, TO BITE ME!!** YOU HEAR THAT?? **YOU CAN JUST BITE ME!!** I AIN'T TAKIN' THIS CRAP ANYMORE. I WANT MY DAMN **WAR HORSE** AND ALL MY **STUFF** BACK. THEN I'LL JUST BE ON MY MERRY LITTLE WAY!!! **ALL RIGHT!!**

THE MAGISTRATE IS **FURIOUS!!** HE ANNOUNCES HE IS READY TO **PRONOUNCE SENTENCE.** AS **PUNISHMENT** FOR THE **MURDER** OF THE BEGGAR YOU WILL HAVE YOUR **LEFT LEG HACKED OFF AT THE KNEE!!**



*See *Bundle of Trouble Volume Four* [KODT#12] "Just for the Helm of it"

Just like in issue 38, B.A. really lays into Bob after Bob tells B.A. to "Bite me!". - Dave

**WHA... WHA...
WHAT???**

YOU HEARD ME!! IT'S
THE LEGAL PUNISH-
MENT FOR MURDERING
A BEGGAR!!!!
**REMOVAL OF
A LIMB!!!**

**YOU WERE
ROBBED DUDE!!**
B.A. IS JUST MAKING
THIS UP AS HE GOES!!

NO, NO, DAVE!! B.A. IS RIGHT
ON THE MONEY. HE MUST
HAVE A COPY OF
HACKLAW WHICH HAS
48 PAGES OF THE
KING'S CODE.
WOW, THEY ONLY PRINTED
500 COPIES OF THAT BOOK.

OH MY...

THIS IS ALL YER FAULT!!
YOU KILLED THAT BEGGAR AND FRAMED ME!!
STEP UP THERE AND TELL THE TRUTH!!!
MAKE IT RIGHT!!

OH MY...



YEP, RIGHT HERE. PAGES 29
TO 30. MURDERING A
MEMBER OF THE LOWER
CLASS IS PUNISHABLE BY
SEVERING A LIMB.

EWWWWW, AND YOU
SHOULD SEE WHAT THE
PUNISHMENT FOR
RELIEVING YOURSELF IN
PUBLIC IS!!! (SHUDDER)



I'M SORRY STRANGER, DO I KNOW YOU??
I DON'T THINK WE'VE MET HAVE WE??

**YOU'RE DENYING
KNUCKLES??** DUDE.....
HOW COULD YOU?? AFTER
ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH!!

SORRY BOB, EL RAVAGER IS YOUR FRIEND
AND ALL, BUT HE DOESN'T GO OUT ON A
LIMB FOR ANYONE. SNICKER-SNICKER

(CACKLE) GOOD
ONE, DAVE!!



THE MAGISTRATE TIRES OF YOUR **WHINING** AND
BEGGING. HE ORDERS THE COURT TO CARRY OUT THE
SENTENCE IMMEDIATELY. TWO GUARDS GRAB YOU AND THROW
YOU TO THE GROUND. THEN THEY DRAG YOU FROM THE COURT
ROOM AND **CHOP OFF YOUR LEFT LEG** JUST ABOVE
THE KNEE. THEY TOSS YOU BACK ON THE STREET WHERE YOU
LIE BLEEDING IN SHOCK. OH, I ALMOST FORGOT, THEY FEED
YOUR LEG TO THE **THREE-LEGGED DOG.**



GAAAA!! CHOP
OFF??... FEED DOG??...
LEG??... SHOCK??...

HO HO!! HOW HILARIOUS!!!
THEY FEED YOUR LEG TO THAT STUPID
MUTT!! **HAR HAR!!**

I RUSH OUT AND CAUTERIZE
KNUCKLE'S WOUND.
I FOLLOW WITH
3 CURE SPELLS.



AS SARA IS TENDING TO YOUR WOUNDS, BOB, YOU SEE **LORD GILEAD** APPROACHING. HE IS BEING CARRIED ON A ROYAL LITTER. UPON SEEING THE PARTY, HE MOTIONS FOR HIS LITTER-BEARERS TO HALT. HE LOOKS DOWN AT YOU **SADLY** AND **SHAKES HIS HEAD**. "I HAVE ASKED THE COURT TO HAVE MERCY ON YOU. YOUR **MULE** AND BELONGINGS WILL BE RETURNED. BUT YOU MUST LEAVE THE CITY AND **NEVER RETURN** HERE!" WITH THAT HE CONTINUES ON DOWN THE STREET.



MIKE'S NOT A MULE!! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY THAT??

WELL, WE BETTER GET YOUR STUFF AND GET OUT OF DODGE!!!! THOSE BEGGARS MAY STILL BE TICKED OFF AT US.

GEE... GILEAD DIDN'T EVEN SAY HELLO TO ME. YOU THINK HE'S MAD AT ME??

WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN TO THAT POOR THREE-LEGGED DOGGIE?? HE'S GOT NO ONE TO TAKE CARE OF HIM.

HERE POOCHIE, POOCHIE!!

TWENTY MINUTES LATER...

SORRY BOB!! YOU TRY TO MOUNT MIKE ONCE AGAIN AND FALL OFF THE OTHER SIDE INTO THE MUCK AND MIRE. **KNobby FOOT** CAN'T STAND WATCHING YOUR PATHETIC ATTEMPTS ANY LONGER. HE RUSHES FORWARD TO HELP YOU GET ON YOUR MULE.

AWW C'MON BOB!! I HATE SEEN' YA LIKE THIS. **KNUCKLES IS A SURVIVOR DUDE!!** HE'LL FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS!!

TELL HIM TO LEAVE ME ALONE. (SNIFF) I'LL JUST LAY HERE. **MY CHARACTER IS RUINED!!** YOU GUYS GO ON WITHOUT ME. (SOB)

HE'S RIGHT BOB!!! HAVING ONE LEG GIVES HIM A LOT OF CHARACTER!!

ACTUALLY, ACCORDING TO HACKLAW, MAIMING IS A SIGN OF SHAME!!



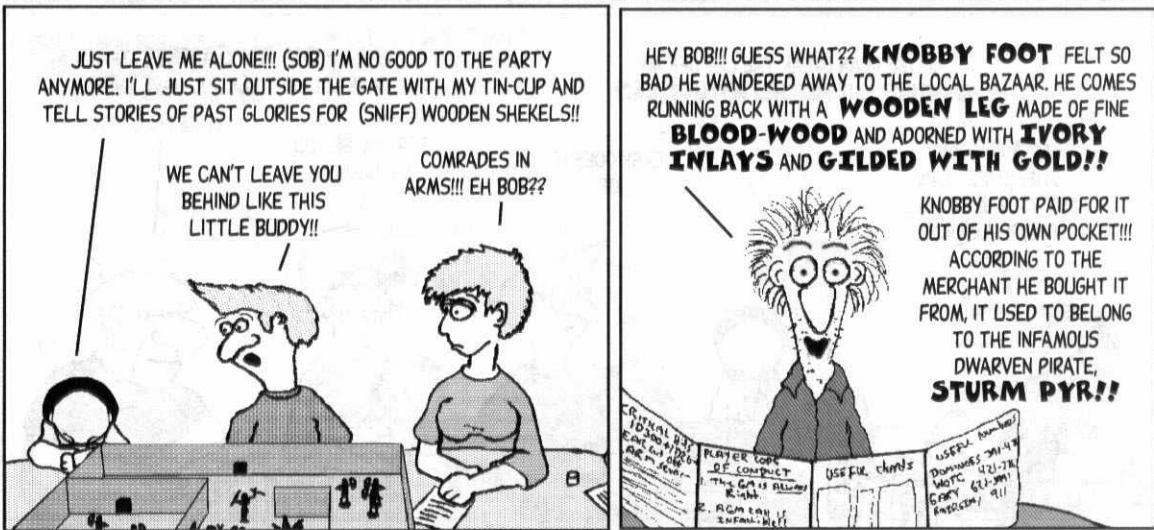
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!!! (SOB) I'M NO GOOD TO THE PARTY ANYMORE. I'LL JUST SIT OUTSIDE THE GATE WITH MY TIN-CLIP AND TELL STORIES OF PAST GLORIES FOR (SNIFF) WOODEN SHEKELS!!

HEY BOB!!! GUESS WHAT?? **KNobby FOOT** FELT SO BAD HE WANDERED AWAY TO THE LOCAL BAZAAR. HE COMES RUNNING BACK WITH A **WOODEN LEG** MADE OF FINE **BLOOD-WOOD** AND ADORNED WITH **IVORY INLAYS** AND **GILDED WITH GOLD!!**

WE CAN'T LEAVE YOU BEHIND LIKE THIS LITTLE BUDDY!!

COMRADES IN ARMS!!! EH BOB??

KNobby FOOT PAID FOR IT OUT OF HIS OWN POCKET!! ACCORDING TO THE MERCHANT HE BOUGHT IT FROM, IT USED TO BELONG TO THE INFAMOUS DWARVEN PIRATE, **STURM PYR!!**



Interestingly enough, several readers commented on how sensitive Brian is because Teflon Billy cared so much about the "poor three-legged doggie". Of course, the Brian fans that wrote in were able to overlook Brian's "Chisler" dark side. - Dave

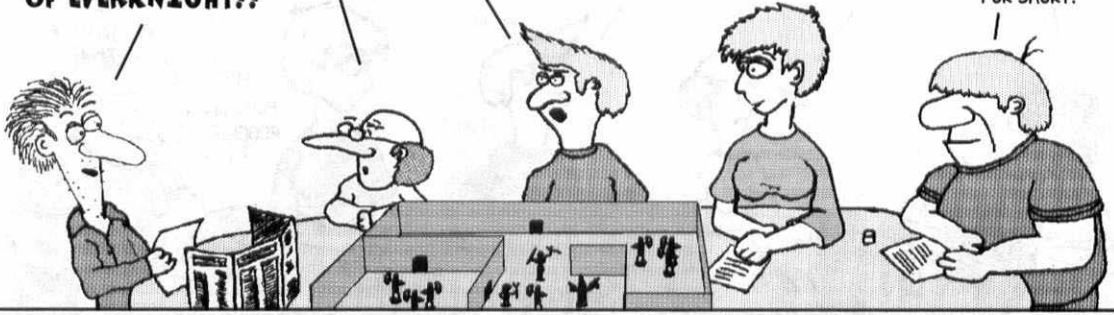
HUH?? STURM PYRE??
HE SOUNDS (SNIFF) FAMILIAR. WHO WAS HE??

STURM PYRE WAS **BANISHED** BY THE **DWARVES** UNJUSTLY!!! HE BECAME THE MOST FEARED OF ALL PIRATES. HE SURE DIDN'T LET SOMETHING AS TRIVIAL AS THE LOSS OF A LIMB KEEP HIM FROM **TERRORIZING** THE **RED BEAR COAST** FOR SIXTY YEARS!!!

DUH!! JUST ONE OF THE ORIGINAL **HACKMASTERS** IN **GARY JACKSON'S** PAPERBACK NOVEL, **THE HACKMASTERS OF EVERKNIGHT!!**

MAN, I COULDN'T GET THROUGH THAT BOOK. EVERYTIME THEY **HACKED** SOMETHING THEY BROKE INTO TWELVE PAGES OF **EPIC POETRY**.

OH YEAH!! THEY USED TO CALL HIM **STUMPY** FOR SHORT.



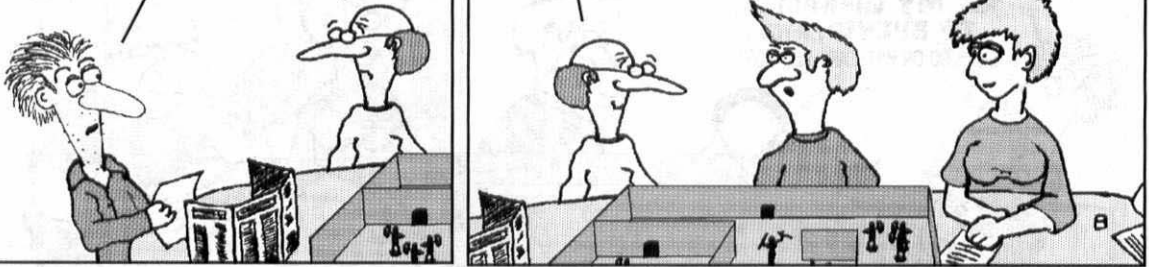
REALLY? YOU'RE NOT JUST (SNIFF) MAKING THIS UP?? **STURM PYRE** ONLY HAD **ONE LEG??** AND YOU SAY THIS IS HIS VERY OWN **WOODEN LEG??**

THAT'S RIGHT!!! I'M TELLING THE TRUTH!!!

HEY, MAYBE A ONE-LEGGED DWARF AIN'T SO BAD. **HUH??**

YER **TWICE THE DWARF** THAT **STUMPY-DUDE** WAS!!! IF HE COULD **KICK ASS** WITH **ONE LEG**, WHY CAN'T YOU??

YOU'LL NEVER KNOW UNTIL YOU TRY, BOB!!!



MAYBE I CAN BREAK THE LEG OFF MY MINIATURE SO IT MATCHES **KNUCKLES**.

ARE YOU INSANE?? THAT'S A RARE COLLECTIBLE YOU HAVE THERE!!!

ATTA BOY, BOB!! STIFF UPPER LIP!! PUT YOUR BEST... ER... FOOT FORWARD!!!

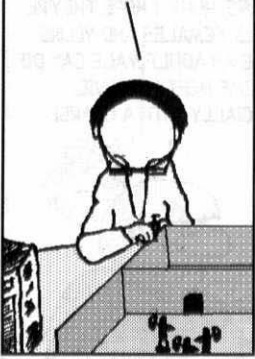
EASY DOES IT BOB...

BOB, MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T...



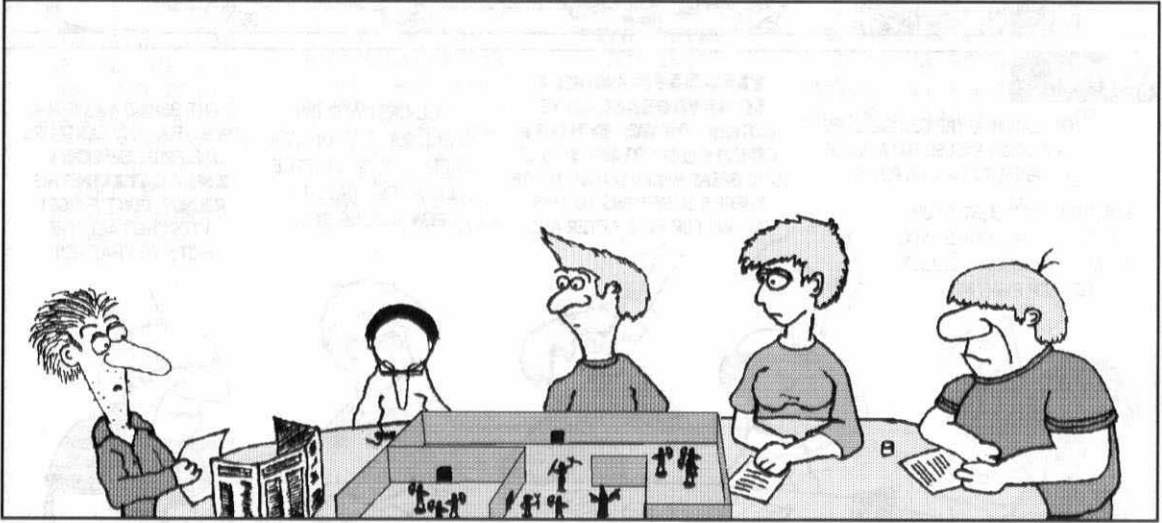
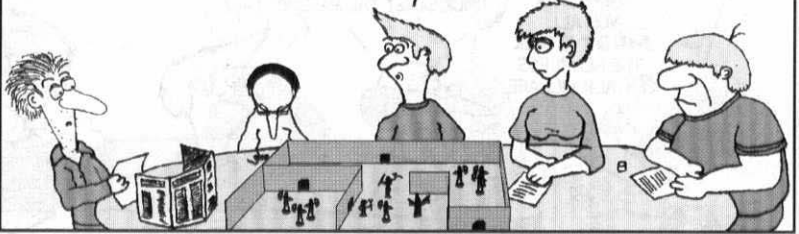
After this issue we also received some letters asking us to "lay off Bob!" I guess some readers felt Bob had had enough abuse. The thing I like about Bob is his resiliency. He almost lost it, but he came back from the edge. I wonder what'd happen to him in a world without gaming? Uh, if he couldn't get any Prozac that is. - Dave

UMMMRRFFFF!!
MAN, THIS THING IS
PRETTY TOUGH!
IF I CAN JUST PRY THE
LEGS APART I THINK
I CAN... **UMMRFFFF!!**



SNNNAAAPPPI!

DAAAAMMMMMNNNN...



(SIGH) C'MON BOB. IT'S NOT THAT
BAD. YOU CAN ALWAYS BUY
ANOTHER MINIATURE FOR
KNUCKLES.

**NOT LIKE THAT
ONE!!** IT WAS A ONE
OF A KIND AND IT'S
RUINED!! (SOB)

BOB, HAVE YOU BEEN
UNDER A LOT OF
STRESS LATELY??

HEY BOB, WHAT YA GOIN' TO
DO WITH THAT PENCIL
SHARPENER BASE??

MAYBE BRIAN CAN
FIX IT. WHY DON'T
YOU LET HIM TRY??

NO!! JUST THROW
IT AWAY!! **IT
WON'T EVEN
STAND UP!!**

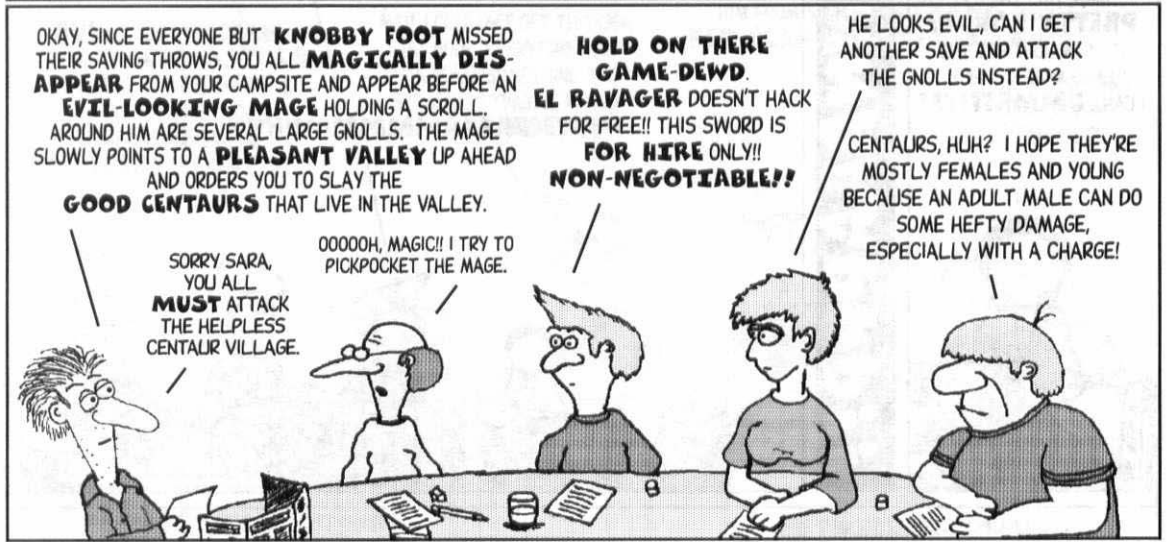
TOTALED...



TO BE CONTINUED

When dealing with a comic strip that deals mostly with "talking heads" there's a real tendency to have everybody yacking ALL the time. [It's not unusual to see a character saying something or making a comment that has little or nothing to do with the storyline.] I coined the phrase, "table chatter" to describe the technique and I think it's one aspect of KoDT that helps make the reader feel as though he or she is sitting at a gaming table with his or her friends. David Kenzer, however, has a knack for knowing when to say NOTHING at all. - as witnessed above (center panel). — Jolly

AFTER READING "ADVENTURER SUMMONING" B.A. FELTON THOUGHT IT WOULD MAKE THE PERFECT ADVENTURE FOR HIS NEXT GAME SESSION. AS THE PLAYERS ASSEMBLE, B.A. SITS BEHIND HIS SCREEN TO RUN HIS "BEST ADVENTURE EVER!!" LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS...



OKAY, SINCE EVERYONE BUT **KNobby FOOT** MISSED THEIR SAVING THROWS, YOU ALL **MAGICALLY DIS-APPEAR** FROM YOUR CAMPSITE AND APPEAR BEFORE AN **EVIL-LOOKING MAGE** HOLDING A SCROLL. AROUND HIM ARE SEVERAL LARGE GNOLLS. THE MAGE SLOWLY POINTS TO A **PLEASANT VALLEY** UP AHEAD AND ORDERS YOU TO SLAY THE **GOOD CENTAURS** THAT LIVE IN THE VALLEY.

SORRY SARA, YOU ALL **MUST** ATTACK THE HELPLESS CENTAUR VILLAGE.

OOOOOH, MAGIC!! I TRY TO PICKPOCKET THE MAGE.

HOLD ON THERE GAME-DEW. EL RAVAGER DOESN'T HACK FOR FREE!! THIS SWORD IS FOR HIRE ONLY!! **NON-NEGOTIABLE!!**

HE LOOKS EVIL, CAN I GET ANOTHER SAVE AND ATTACK THE GNOLLS INSTEAD?

CENTAURS, HUH? I HOPE THEY'RE MOSTLY FEMALES AND YOUNG BECAUSE AN ADULT MALE CAN DO SOME HEFTY DAMAGE, ESPECIALLY WITH A CHARGE!



LATER...

I'M SEARCHING THE CORPSE. DOES THIS SORRY EXCUSE FOR A HORSE HAVE A POLICH OR A PURSE?

BOB, YOU CAN'T JUST STOP AND SEARCH THE BODIES. YOU ARE MAGICALLY COMPELLED TO KEEP FIGHTING.

YEESSS!! ANOTHER 18, **EL RAVAGER** SLAYS YET ANOTHER CENTAUR. MY **BODY COUNT** IS UP TO **6!!!!** THIS IS SOME GREAT HACKING, B.A.! MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING TO THIS HACKING FOR FREE AFTER ALL.

I'LL CAST A SLOW SPELL B.A. IT'S AN AREA EFFECT; WITH A LITTLE LUCK IT'LL CATCH A FEW GNOLLS, TOO.

RIGHT BEHIND YA WITH 4, DAVE. B.A., ANY CENTAURS DIE FROM **SMOKE INHALATION** THIS ROUND? DON'T FORGET I TORCHED ALL THE EXITS TO THAT HUT.



YES BRIAN, THE SMOKE FROM YOUR BUILDING FIRE CHOKES **3 MORE YEARLINGS**.

SHEESH, IF I CAN'T SEARCH IT, I MIGHT AS WELL SKIN IT. I BET CENTAUR TASTES LIKE VENISON.

HEH, GOOD THINKING BOB. WE'LL BE **SMOKING CENTAUR SAUSAGE** WHEN THE BATTLE'S DONE.

BOB, I ADMIRE YOUR ATTEMPT TO MINIMIZE THE CARNAGE AGAINST THESE GOOD CREATURES, BUT DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S A BIT GROSS?

YES! THAT PUTS ME AT **7 KILLS**, ONE MORE THAN DAVE.

* This strip was part of a special insert in issue 14 which included an adventure set in the *Kingdoms of Kalamar*™ [Adventurer Summoning]. It shows what happened when B.A. actually ran the scenario for the Knights.

I'M SORRY, BOB, IF YOU CONTINUE TO **AVOID COMBAT** BY **PLAYING AROUND** WITH THE DEAD BODIES, I'LL HAVE TO **TAKE YOUR RECORD SHEET** AND RUN **KNUCKLES** MYSELF.

WHAT??? I'VE FAILED MY PICK-POCKET'S ROLLS BEFORE AND YOU NEVER TOOK MY RECORD SHEET AWAY. BRIAN, CAN HE DO THAT?

I KNOW IT DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT BOB, BUT IT'S O.K. TO ATTACK, WE'RE UNDER A CHARM RIGHT NOW.

RING OF HEFTY DAMAGE, HUH? YOU FORCED MY HAND. B.A., I'M SNAPPING MY **STAFF OF ENDLESS NAPALM RAIN** AND CALLING FORTH A **RETRIBUTIVE STRIKE!!!**

7 KILLS, HUH? I'M NOT HOLDING BACK ANYMORE! I'M USING THE **LAST CHARGE** IN MY **RING OF HEFTY DAMAGE** TO BRING DOWN THAT **PREGNANT CENTAUR**. THAT OUGHTA COUNT AS **TWO KILLS!**



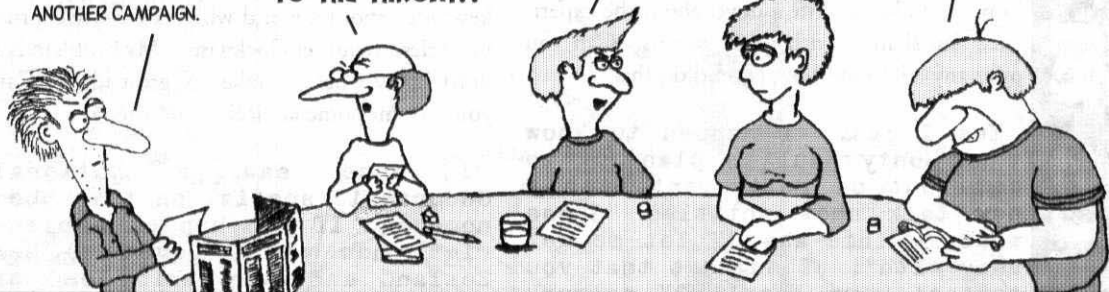
COME ON, BRIAN. DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE DOING? A **RETRIBUTIVE STRIKE** FROM THAT STAFF HAS THE POWER TO SLAY ALL OF THE CENTAURS, GNOLLS AND YOUR CHARACTERS ENDING YET ANOTHER CAMPAIGN.

NO WAY, I'M TURNING **KNUCKLES** OVER TO YOU B.A. YOU'LL MAKE HIM INTO A **WUSS NPC** LIKE THOSE STUPID GNOLLS STANDING AROUND BEHIND US. I'D RATHER DIE. **KAMIKAZE BOLT TO THE THROAT!!**

RETRIBUTIVE STRIKE! NOT IF I BREAK IT FIRST. **CALLED SHOT TO BRIAN'S STAFF**. ROLL FOR INITIATIVE, TOUGH GUY.

B.A., AREN'T WE ALL CHARMED? SHOULDN'T **EL RAVAGER** AND **TEFLON BILLY** BE FIGHTING THE CENTAURS INSTEAD OF EACH OTHER?

LUCKY 10 SIDER DON'T FAIL ME NOW!



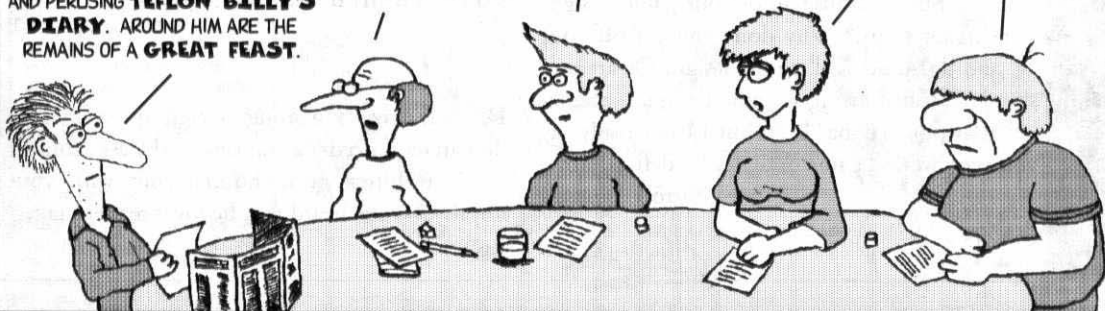
SARA'S RIGHT, THE MONSTER SUMMONING SPELL RUNS OUT THIS ROUND. YOUR CHARACTERS DISAPPEAR FROM THE VILLAGE AND REAPPEAR AT YOUR CAMPSITE. YOU SEE **KNobby FOOT** SEATED ALONE BY THE FIRE. HE'S WEARING **KNUCKLES' SUNDAY BEST** AND PERUSING **TEFLON BILLY'S DIARY**. AROUND HIM ARE THE REMAINS OF A **GREAT FEAST**.

YOU SET ME UP B.A. YOU WERE TRYING TO DRIVE ME TO SUICIDE AND NOW EVERYTHING IS... **WHA-WHAT?? KNUCKLES' SUNDAY BEST!**

FINAL BODY COUNT: BRIAN 7, DAVE 6. PAY UP, DAVE!! OR SHOULD I ADD IT TO YOUR TAB?

DAMN! I NEED A RULING, B.A. SHOULDN'T THE YEARLINGS ONLY COUNT AS HALF KILLS?

OH IF ONLY THERE WERE EXPERIENCE POINTS FOR SAVING THE CAMPAIGN!





Bitter Stevil

STEVIL'S BITTER PULPIT

Editor's Note: We are proud to announce that after months of negotiations we have been able come to terms with "bitter" Stevil and have installed him as our official **KODT** gaming advice columnist. You may be familiar with his work in the esteemed publications *HackWeek* and *Ladies Hack Journal*.

Dear Bitter Stevil,

Something incredible happened during my HackMaster campaign last night! My character (a 12th level thief named DeathReaver) confronted the gawd Luvia. Guess what? I killed him!!! I'd like to write a novel about the experience and share it with other gamers. Can you offer any advice on how I could do this?

Yes I can. I happen to know that Monty Haul is planning to come out of retirement with a new talk show entitled "Guess what my lame-ass GM let me get away with". I suggest that you contact your local FOX network affiliate and book yourself as a studio member for the debut show.

Stevil

Dear Bitter Stevil,

Are so bitter because all of your game designs were major flops?? Why don't you get off your ass and do some 'real' game design. Or are you simply satisfied being a game-designer wannabe?? (I would say has-been but I can't really say you ever 'were' a game designer by definition).

Nitro Ferguson

Well now Mr. Ferguson, better a flop than a bomb, eh? Hmm, I wonder how to prime this satchel of C-4 I'm sending out to a friend. Maybe you could give me a few pointers... Give my regards to your probation officer,

Stevil

Dear Stevil,

Why won't you big ass "game designers" come to my lame ass "convention"?

If I wanted to waste my time babysitting a bunch of prepubescent magic zombies I would save my money and just run my "big ass" over to saturday morning detention at James Polk junior high school. Hell, the turnout would probably be better!

Stevil

Dear Bitter Stevil,

I want to be a game designer. I have a really kewl idea about a world where all the rivers run in circles. (counter clockwise). My problem is I don't know where to take my great ideas. Can you give me some advice?

I once saw a National Geographic special on this phenomenon. If you hop on a plane right now you can get to New Zealand and dump this load of crap right where it belongs - in the freakin' toilet!! Flush and you'll be able to witness first hand water flowing counter clockwise. P.S. please forward a copy of your travel arrangements to me so that I can alert the authorities to invalidate your return visa.

Stevil

Do you have a gaming related question that desparately needs answering? Please contact Stevil at bitter_stevil@hotmail.com with your inquiry. We've heard that he loves reader mail...

The first installment of Stevil's Bitter Pulpit. We came up with the idea for this column way back when we were writing issue 6. Almost a year later it finally saw print. I'm a big fan of this and hope to revive it someday soon. - Dave



KENZER AND COMPANY

Knights of the Dinner Table #15

"Mama Told Me Not to Play"

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Internet: jollyrb@aol.com (editorial inquiries only) or KenzerCo@aol.com (all other inquiries). World Wide Web: <http://members.aol.com/telkin/kenzerco.html>

Mailing Address: Kenzer and Company, 830 W. Main Street, PMB114, Lake Zurich, IL 60047

Submissions: We accept submissions for strip ideas, jokes, cartoons, etc. We are interested in running anything that other gamers and fans would enjoy. Send a S.A.S.E. for writer's guidelines to the address listed above or E-mail restin@aol.com.

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Knights of the Dinner Table™

M A G A Z I N E

"Mama Told Me Not to Play"

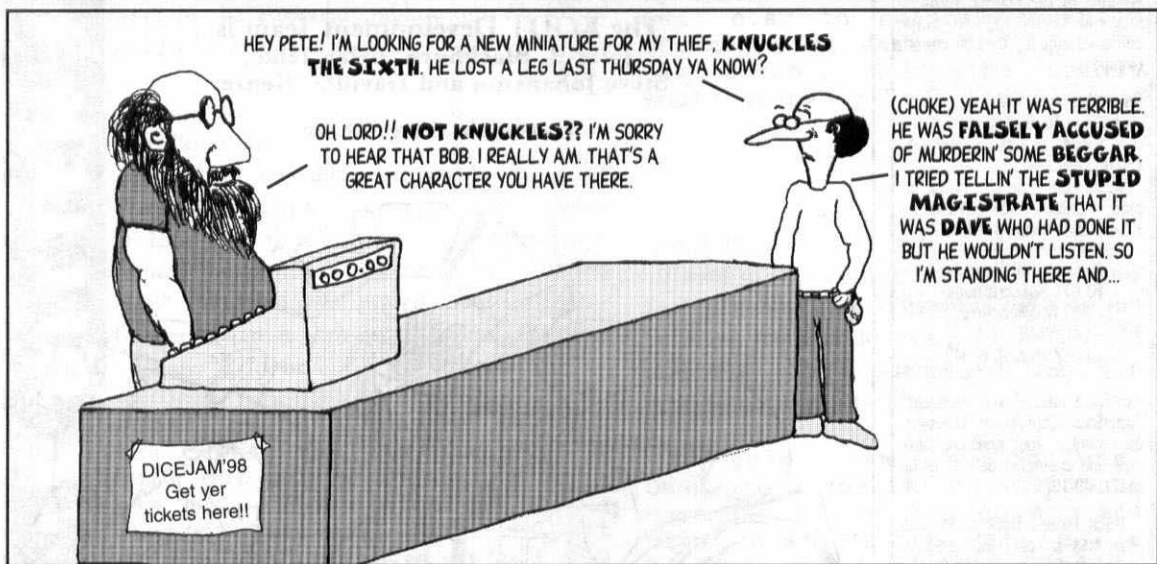
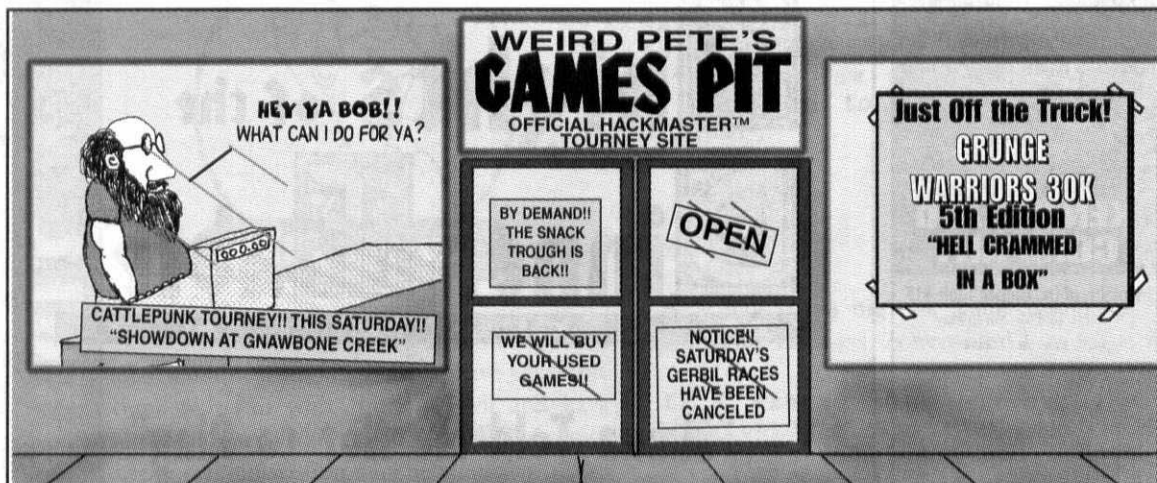
The KODT Development Team is
Jolly R. Blackburn, Brian Jelke,
Steve Johansson and David S. Kenzer

Cover Art by George Vrbanic



Supply and Demand

BY JOLLY R. BLACKBURN AND DAVID S. KENZER
 IDEA SUGGESTED BY HAL MCKINNEY

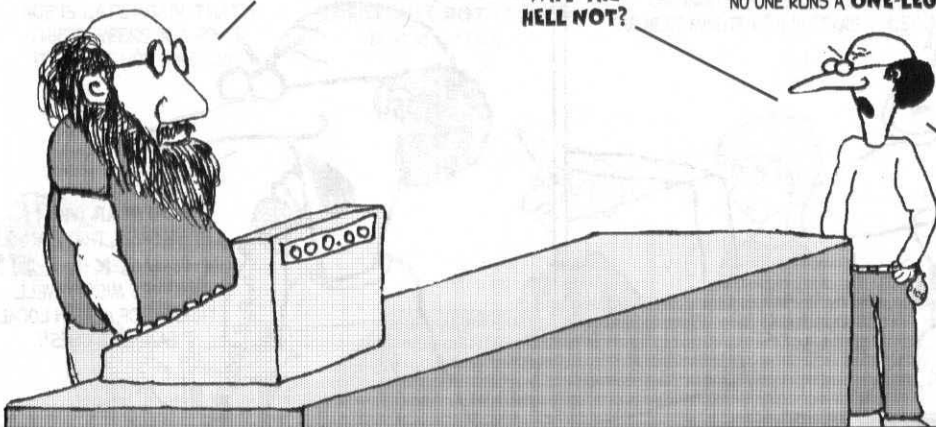


AWW, I THINK I MAY HAVE SOMETHING LIKE THAT IN THE BACK... **WHOAH**, DID YOU SAY **ONE-LEGGED??** NO WAY YOU'RE GONNA FIND THAT!!

WHY THE HELL NOT?

IT'S A SIMPLE MATTER OF **SUPPLY AND DEMAND**, SON. NO DEMAND - NO SUPPLY!! NO ONE'S GONNA WASTE THEIR TIME PUTTING OUT A **ONE-LEGGED DWARF!!** WHO WOULD BUY IT?? NO ONE RUNS A **ONE-LEGGED DWARF!!**

SHOWS HOW MUCH YOU KNOW. **I'M RUNNING A ONE-LEGGED DWARF!!** IT'S NOT FAIR!! THERE'S GOTTA BE SOMEBODY I CAN COMPLAIN TO!!



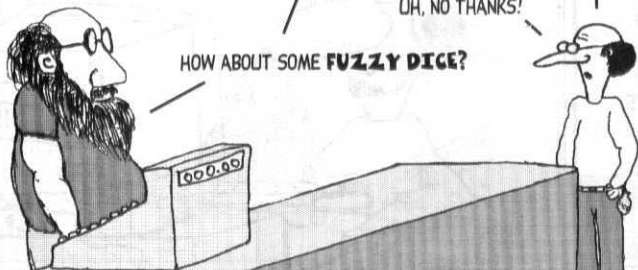
WELL.... I GUESS YOU COULD CALL THE **GARY JACKSON CUSTOMER SUPPORT LINE**. IF YOU MAKE A NUISANCE OF YOURSELF THEY JUST MIGHT CRACK AND DEVELOP ONE. BUT A **ONE-LEGGED DWARF??** IT'S A LONG SHOT!

OH, I'LL CALL ALRIGHT!! THANKS PETE.

SAY, CAN I INTEREST YOU IN SOME **HACKMASTER POCKET PROTECTORS?** GOT ALL THE **HTK CHARTS** PRINTED RIGHT ON 'EM.

UH, NO THANKS!

HOW ABOUT SOME **FUZZY DICE?**



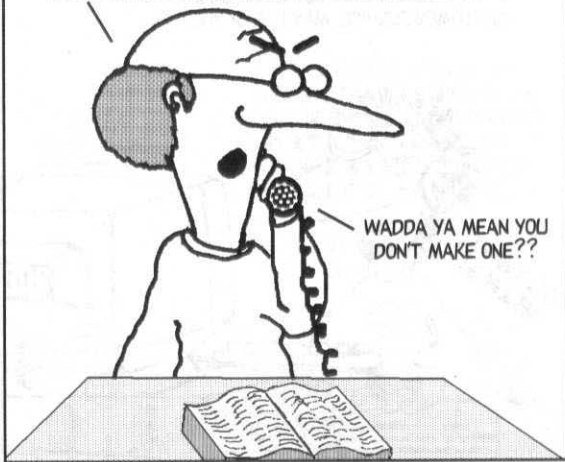
ARMED WITH DETERMINATION AND WEIRD PETE'S ADVICE, BOB SETS FORTH ON A QUEST!! COME HELL OR HIGH WATER, THERE WOULD BE A ONE-LEGGED DWARF SERIES FOR GARY JACKSON'S HACKMETAL LINE OF FINE MINIATURES!!

HARD EIGHT ENTERPRISES!! CUSTOMER SERVICE, MAY I HELP YOU??



I'D LIKE TO ORDER A **ONE-LEGGED DWARVEN MINIATURE**. OH, AND IF YOU HAVE IT, I'D LIKE ONE ARMED WITH A CROSSBOW AND A RING ON HIS LEFT HAND, MIDDLE FINGER.

WADDA YA MEAN YOU DONT MAKE ONE??

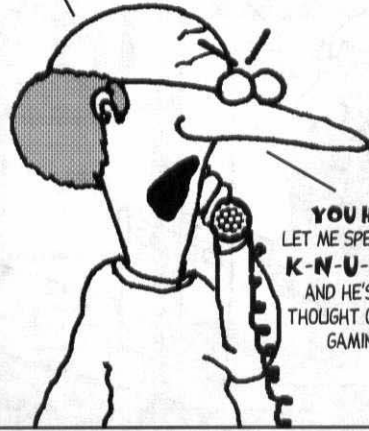


YOU DID SAY A 'ONE-LEGGED DWARF' DIDN'T YOU, SIR??
WELL WHO IN THEIR RIGHT MIND PLAYS A **ONE-LEGGED DWARF??** THAT'S SO LAME!!! ROLL UP A **NEW CHARACTER** FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!!



**SIR, YOUR LANGUAGE!
PLEASE!!**

WHO WOULD PLAY A ONE-LEGGED DWARF?? **WHO WOULD PLAY A ONE-LEGGED DWARF?? LAME YOU SAY??** WELL LOOK YOU STUPID JERK!! IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT **I** PLAY A ONE-LEGGED DWARF AND HIS NAME IS **KNUCKLES THE SIXTH!!!**



**YOU HEAR ME!!!
LET ME SPELL THAT FOR YOU!
K-N-U-C-K-L-E-S!!!
AND HE'S MIGHTY WELL
THOUGHT OF HERE IN LOCAL
GAMING CIRCLES!!**

AND LET ME TELL YA SOMETHING ELSE
MISTER PEE-ON!!! YOU KNOW WHO ELSE PLAYS A LAME-
ASS ONE-LEGGED DWARF?? HUH?? YOU'RE BOSS - THAT'S
WHO!! **GARY HIMSELF!!!** EVER HEAR OF **STURM PYR**
THE DWARVEN PIRATE?? HUH **MISTER LACKEY??**



WELL MAYBE YOU
SHOULD READ
GARY'S NOVEL!! IT'S
ALL IN THERE!!!

STURM PYRE?? GIVE ME A BREAK, HUH?? MAYBE
YOU SHOULD READ GARY'S NOVEL AGAIN, **JERK!!**
THAT CHARACTER WAS A JOKE!! WHY DO YOU THINK
GARY KILLED HIM OFF IN THE SECOND BOOK? **HUH?**



UH-OH. I JUST LOST FIVE
POINTS FOR THAT*.

CLICK!

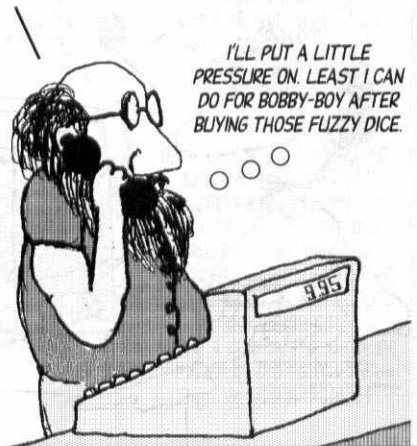
A FEW MOMENTS LATER...

HARD EIGHT ENTERPRISES!!
CUSTOMER SERVICE, MAY I HELP YOU??



**BRING!
BRING!**

HEY DO YOU CARRY ANY ONE-LEGGED DWARVEN
MINIATURES?? UH HUH...YOU DON'T? I SEE. HMMM...
HEY, PUT ME THROUGH TO GARY WOULD YA?? I'LL HOLD.

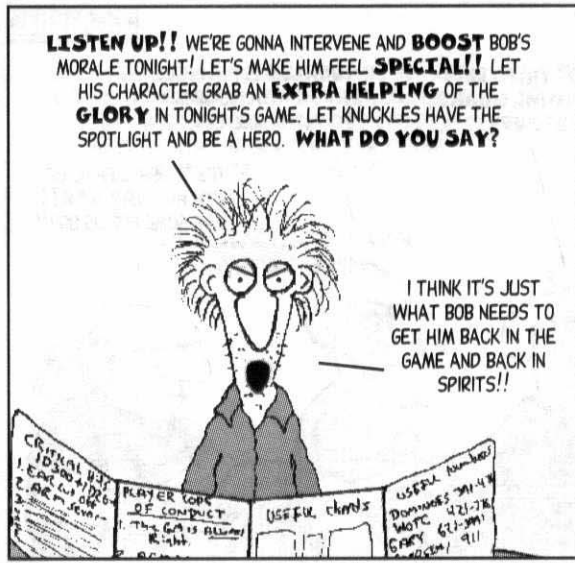
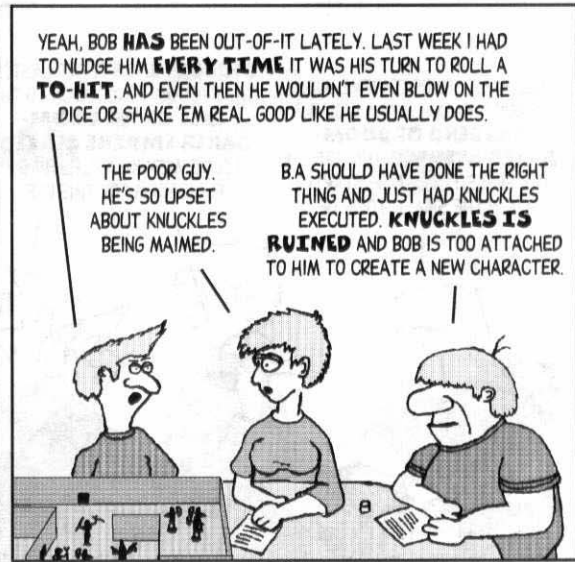
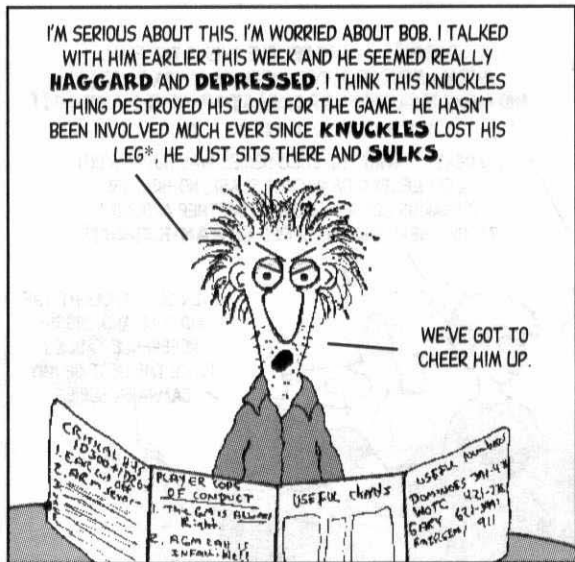
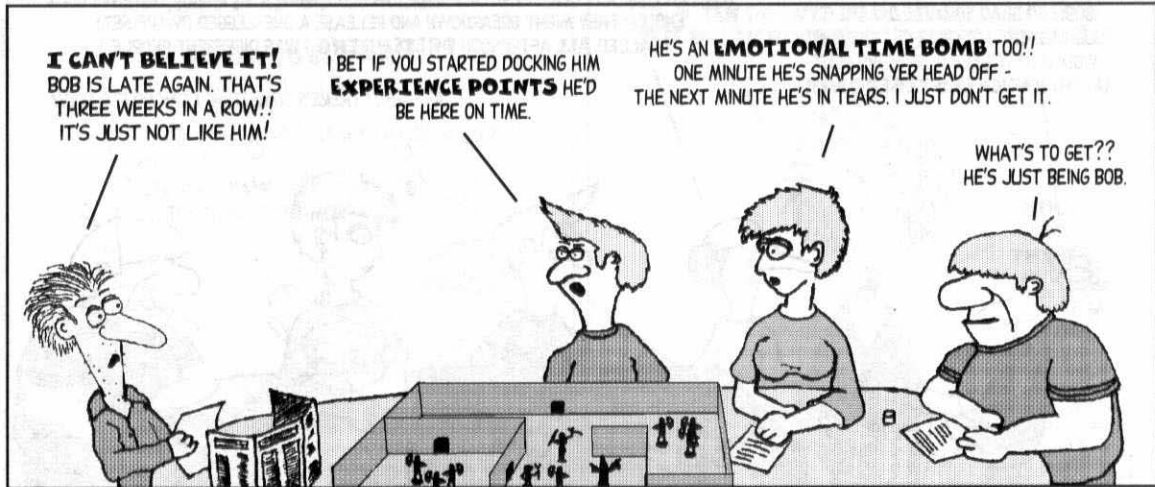


I'LL PUT A LITTLE
PRESSURE ON. LEAST I CAN
DO FOR BOBBY-BOY AFTER
BUYING THOSE FUZZY DICE.

* See Tales From the Vault, page 50 [Familiar #8]

The Trouble With Bob

BY JOLLY R. BLACKBURN AND DAVID S. KENZER



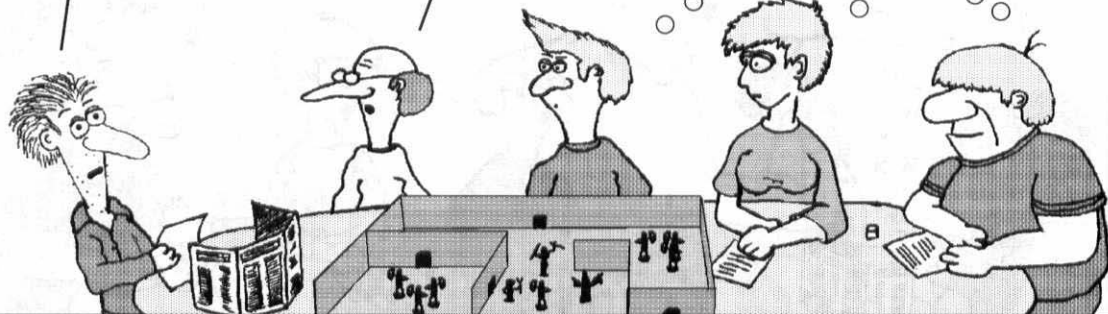
* See page 41.

FORTY MINUTES LATER...

BOB!! SO GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT. TOUGH ADVENTURE TONIGHT!! THE PARTY WOULD HAVE BEEN HURTIN' WITHOUT (AHEM) **KNUCKLE'S FIREPOWER.**

SORRY I'M LATE. I WENT DOWN TO **WEIRD PETE'S** TO FIND A MINIATURE FOR **KNUCKLES.** NO LUCK!! PETE SAID IF I PESTERED **HARD EIGHT ENTERPRISES** ENOUGH THEY MIGHT BREAKDOWN AND RELEASE A ONE-LEGGED DWARF SET. I CALLED **ALL** AFTERNOON **PRETENDING** I WAS DIFFERENT PEOPLE.

AAAAHH!! THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN DO FOR BOB!!



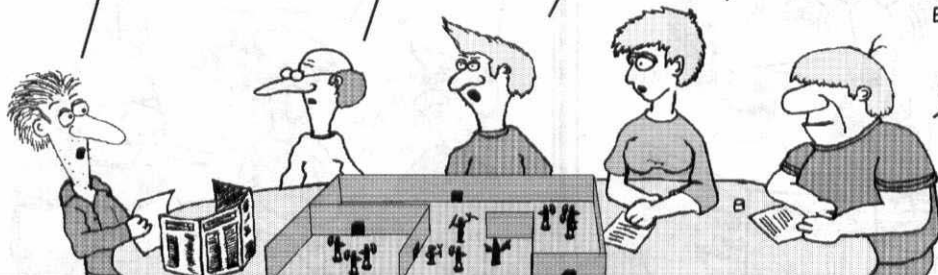
ALL RIGHT, TONIGHT WE'RE GOING TO RUN THROUGH **MODULE Z-45: RAIDERS OF DOOM-SAKER STEPPES.** IT'S HOT OFF THE PRESS!! YOU'LL BE STARTING OUT IN THE SMALL TOWN OF....

MODULE Z-45?? AT LAST!! THE EXCITING CONCLUSION TO THE **FALL OF THE DOOM-SAKER EMPIRE SERIES.** I SURE WISH **KNUCKLES** WAS IN FULL FORM FOR THIS ONE.

WOW!! I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS THE FINAL INSTALLMENT TO **GARY'S ULTIMATE CAMPAIGN-SERIES.** AND I HEAR IT CARRIES A **HACKFACTOR FIVE RATING!!**

BIG DEAL! (YAWN) THE **ZULU** SERIES WAS NOTHING BUT A COLLECTION OF **HACK-N-SLASH, NO-BRAINER** SCENARIOS LOOSELY WOVEN TOGETHER AROUND A RATHER WEAK AND UNINSPIRED **CONAN-RIPOFF!**

EVEN SO, I THOUGHT THE INDEXING AND CROSS-REFERENCE TABLES WERE THE BEST OF ANY CAMPAIGN SERIES.



AS THE ADVENTURE UNFOLDS...

OKAY, DAVE AS YOU KICK THE DOOR IN YOU SURPRISE **THREE GNOME GUARDS!!** LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE THE INITIATIVE.

OH..UH (AHEM), **THREE OF THEM EH??** I'M PULLING BACK. THESE **GNOME GUARDS** HAVE BEEN FAIRLY TOUGH CUSTOMERS SO FAR.

KNUCKLES IS WREAKING HAVOC WITH HIS CROSSBOW TONIGHT!! GOOD JOB, BOB!!

IT'S TOUGH KEEPING UP WITH HIM. **HAR HAR!!** SAVE SOME FOR US BOB!!

I WASTE 'EM WITH MY CROSSBOW!!!

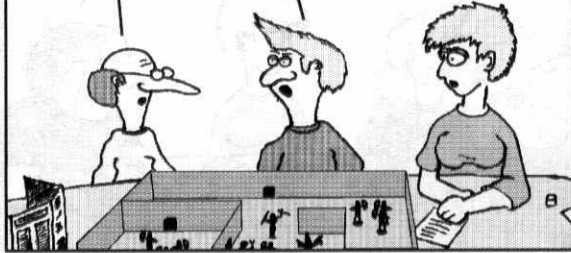


DAMN!! I FUMBLER AGAIN!! HEY DAVE, WHAT'S GOING ON??
YOU CAN'T STAND THE HEAT?? YOU'RE GETTIN' TO
BE A **HEAVY LOAD** TO CARRY YA KNOW??

I'M GETTIN' TO BE A WHAT??
LISTEN YOU LITTLE...

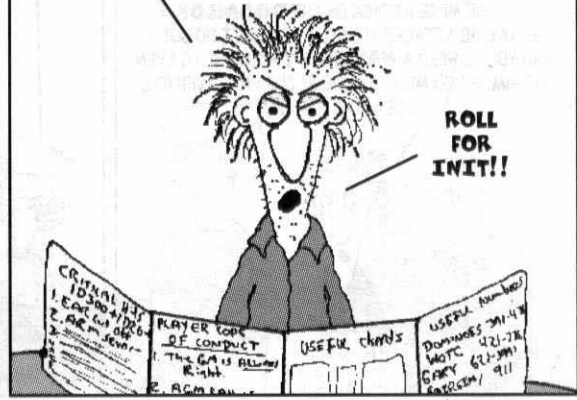
DAVE?? (AHEM) MAYBE BOB'S RIGHT.

...OH, YEAH, MAYBE HE IS. SORRY BOB.
I'LL TRY TO HELP OUT MORE. (GRRRR)



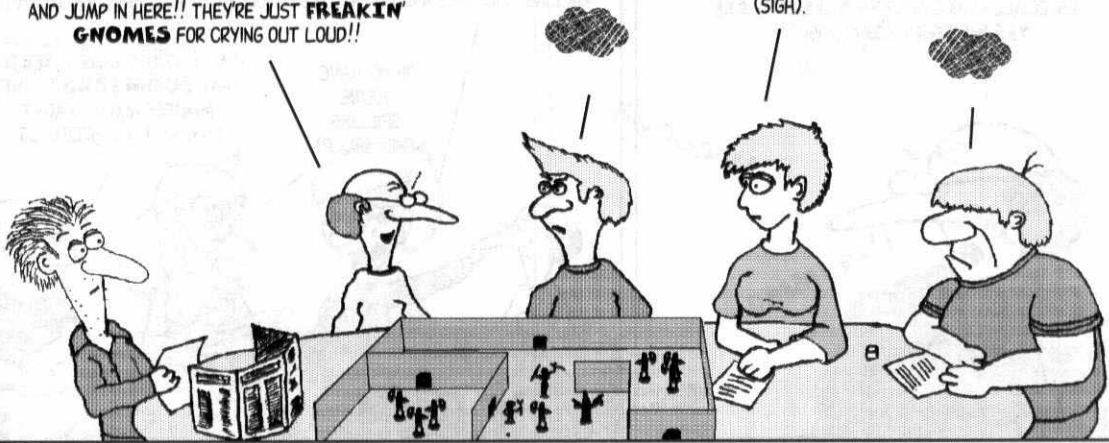
WELL, SINCE **BOB FUMBLER**, THE GNOMES GET TO ATTACK.
THEY FIRE **THREE ARROWS**. TWO STRIKE **DAVE** FOR A
TOTAL OF **TEN POINTS OF DAMAGE!!** THE LAST ONE
STRIKES **BRIAN** FOR **FOUR POINTS OF DAMAGE!!**

**ROLL
FOR
INIT!!**



C'MON YOU SLACKERS!! I COULD USE A
LITTLE HELP HERE. SHOW SOME FIGHTING SPIRIT
AND JUMP IN HERE!! THEY'RE JUST **FREAKIN'
GNOMES** FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!!

SORRY BOB!! WE'RE
RIGHT BEHIND YOU
(SIGH).



LATER...

OKAY DAVE, THE **DOOM LORD** HITS YOU SQUARELY
WITH HIS **MACE** AND KNOCKS YOU INTO A COLUMN OF
STONE. **YOU'RE KNOCKED OUT COLD!**
THIS MEANS THAT **KNUCKLES THE THIEF**
IS THE ONLY ONE LEFT STANDING!!

(MOAN) IT'S OK BOB. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT
KNUCKLES HERE. YOU JUST STAND FAST!!
ROLL THOSE DICE AGAIN BIG GUY!! YOU CAN DO IT!!

THAT'S RIGHT BOB!!
YOU ALWAYS COME
THROUGH IN A PINCH!

WE KNOW YOU CAN
DO IT BOB!!! NO
PRESSURE, HERE.

DAMN!! I FUMBLER AGAIN!
THAT'S THE FIFTH TIME.

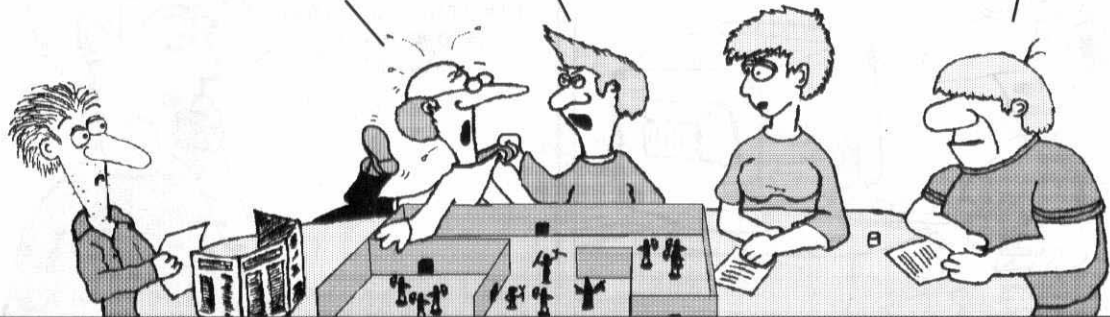


AFRAID OF A FIGHT?? WHO'S AFRAID OF A FIGHT??
HUH?? YOU TALKIN' TO ME?? HUH?? YOU TALKIN' TO ME??

DAVE!!
LET HIM GO!!
YOU HEAR ME??
LET HIM GO DAVE!!!

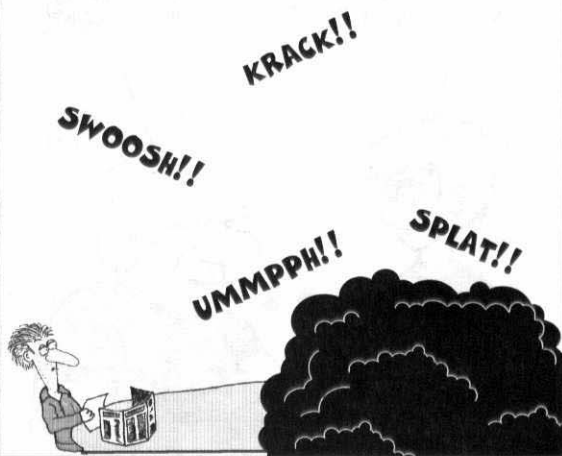
YEAH DAVE, SAVE
A PIECE OF HIM
FOR ME!!

HEY..WHAA...ERP...LEGGO!!
LEGGO DAVE!!
C'MON...LEGGO OF ME!!



I SAID, "LET HIM GO!!"

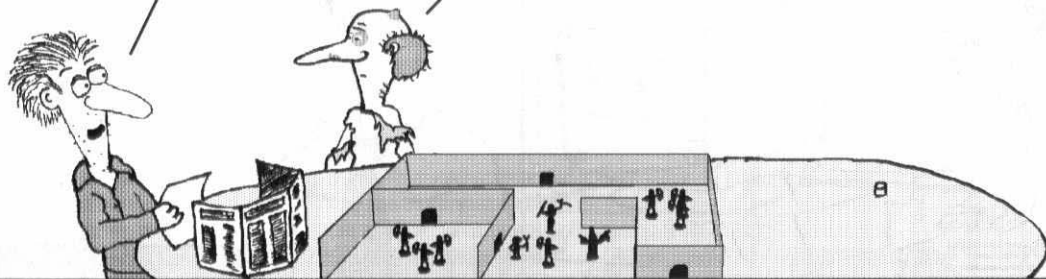
EEYAA, EYAA, HROOO,
WHAAA... GEEEE... EEYA



LATER THAT NIGHT...

IT'S NICE TO HAVE
YOU BACK BOB.
IT REALLY IS!

YOU GOT ANY
ASPIRIN'?



The Gary Jackson Files: A Sure Thing!

SUGGESTED BY HAL MCKINNEY



It's funny, but we started issue 14 with this strip idea (suggested by Hal from *Thunderbolt Mountain*, the same guy that made the KoDT miniatures...a great fan and friend). In the process of laying a foundation for it, we wrote one and a half issues! - Dave

FIRST OFF, I'M PULLING THE PLUG ON **GANGSTA HACK!!** I DON'T CARE HOW HOT ON IT YOU GUYS ARE, I JUST DON'T SEE A MARKET FOR A ROLEPLAYING GAME ABOUT THE **GANGSTA RAP WARS**. SO I'M NIPPIN IT IN THE BUD!!! I DON'T WANT ANOTHER **ABE, BABES & ROLLERBLADES** FIASCO ON MY HANDS.

DAMN GARY!!! I PUT A LOT OF LATE NIGHTS INTO THOSE **RAP-SONG MATRICES!!**

GOOD CALL, **GEE-JAY!!** I NEVER REALLY UNDERSTOOD THE CONCEPT!

OH SIR, I'D REALLY HATE TO SEE **GANGSTA HACK GO!!**

THAT'S GONNA LEAVE A BIG HOLE IN OUR PRODUCTION SCHEDULE!



I JUST LOOKED AT THE LATEST SALES FIGURES AND THERE'S NO CONTEST. **HACKMASTER** IS STILL PAYING THE BILLS AROUND HERE. SURE, SALES HAVE BEEN DIPPING THE LAST THREE QUARTERS BUT IT'S STILL THE BEST MOVING PRODUCT WE HAVE. SO I THINK WE SHOULD REVAMP THE OLD LADY AND RELAUNCH WITH A **NEW EDITION!**

HMMMM, I COULD WORK IN THOSE **DOG-PADDLING RULES** I WORKED UP.

HACKMASTER 4TH EDITION?? BUT SIR WE JUST RELEASED THE 3RD EDITION NINE MONTHS AGO!!! WE'RE STILL GETTING FLACK FROM THE FANS BECAUSE IT WAS HOT ON THE HEELS OF 2ND EDITION!!

MARVELOUS IDEA, **GEE-JAY!!** BRILLIANT!!

AND I'VE BEEN WORKING ON SPLITTING EDGED WEAPONS INTO HONED-EDGE AND SERRATED-EDGE CLASSES!



BAAAA!!! THIRD EDITION FLOUNDERED BECAUSE I LET YOU GUYS TALK ME OUT OF MY **"THIRTY-THREE PERCENT MORE RULE-OF-THUMB."** IT'S ALWAYS SERVED ME WELL. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FLUFF THE PAGE COUNT UP 33% AND THE FANS WILL EAT IT UP.

12 POINT I BELIEVE!!! WE COULD BUMP IT UP TO 14 POINT AND INCREASE THE LEADING A BIT, LIKE WE DID ON **CATTLEPUNK 2ND EDITION**. THAT SHOULD INCREASE THE OVERALL PAGE COUNT BY **22 PERCENT!**

HEY **PETE**, WHAT POINT-SIZE WAS THE BODY TEXT IN **3RD EDITION??**

GOOD IDEA!! AND WE CAN ADD SIDE-BARS WITH REDUNDANT INFORMATION TO GAIN THE OTHER **11 PERCENT!**



THERE, SEE HOW EASY THAT WAS?? MAKE IT HAPPEN BOYS!! I WANT IT ON THE STREETS IN FOUR WEEKS!! NOW THEN, WE HAVE ANOTHER BIT OF BUSINESS. ACCORDING TO **CUSTOMER SERVICE THERE'S BEEN A RASH OF REQUESTS FOR A CERTAIN **HACKMETAL MINIATURE**. TROUBLE IS - WE DON'T MAKE THIS PARTICULAR FIGURE!! OVER THE PAST WEEK AND A HALF WE'VE HAD **159** REQUESTS FOR A **ONE-LEGGED DWARF FIGURE!!** SOUND FAMILIAR??**

THAT'S RIGHT!!! JUST LIKE **STURM PYRE!** THE ONE FIGURE YOU MORONS TALKED ME OUT OF PRODUCING!!

GOOD LORD!!
YOU MEAN LIKE... LIKE...

I DON'T GET IT! **STUMPY** WAS JUST ABOUT THE LAMEST CHARACTER FROM THE **EVERKNIGHT BOOKS!!** WHO THE HELL WOULD WANT A FIGURE OF HIM??

ONE-LEGGED DWARF??
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!!



LAME?? GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF YER BUTT PETE!! STURM PYRE WAS A TRAGIC HERO!! I ALWAYS KNEW HE HAD A CULT FOLLOWING!! WHY I LET YOU GUYS TALK ME INTO KILLING HIM OFF I'LL NEVER KNOW. JUST ANOTHER REMINDER THAT MY OWN **GUT FEELING IS INFALLIBLE!!!**

YOU KNOW, A GOOD **STURM PYRE** FIGURE IS JUST WHAT WE NEEDED TO SPEAR-HEAD THE RELEASE OF OUR **HACKMETAL LINE**. IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GET THAT SCULPTOR, WHAT'S HIS NAME?? **TROY MIER** ON THE PHONE!! TELL HIM I WANT TO SEE SOME **STURM PYRE** MASTERS BY MONDAY MORNING!! EDMUND, PULL THE **SWACK IRON DRAGON BROOD LINE** FROM PRODUCTION!! I WANT TO START CRANKING OUT **STUMPY** FIGS BY THE END OF THE NEXT WEEK!!

RIGHT AWAY GARY!!
I'LL PULL THE
SPRING CATALOG AS
WELL AND GET IT
UPDATED!!

TROY MIER? HE'S
THE BEST ALRIGHT!!
I'M ON IT, **GEE-JAY!!**

YOU WANT THAT
FIGURE WITH OR
WITHOUT THE BLOOD-
WOOD PEGLEG,
GEE JAY?

LET'S MOVE IT
GENTLEMEN!!
LOOK ALIVE!!



A WEEK LATER AT THE HARD EIGHT FOUNDRY...

I'M TELLIN' YA **EDMUND**, THIS IS A **SURE THING!** I DON'T THINK **10,000 UNITS** IS GOING TO BE ENOUGH. BETTER DOUBLE THE PRODUCTION RUN!!

(SIGH) I SURE HOPE YOU KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE DOING SIR!

OF COURSE I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING!!! I BUILT
THIS COMPANY BY ACTING ON MY RAW INSTINCT
AND THAT OL' RELIABLE **GUT FEELING!!!**
A SURE THING I TELL YOU!!



A FEW DAYS LATER...

LOOK AT HIM!! HE'S BEAUTIFUL!!!
LOOK AT THE DETAIL!! YOU CAN EVEN SEE
THE **LITTLE RING** ON THE MIDDLE
FINGER OF HIS LEFT HAND!! THIS BABY IS
GOING **FLY OFF THE SHELF** I TELL YA!!

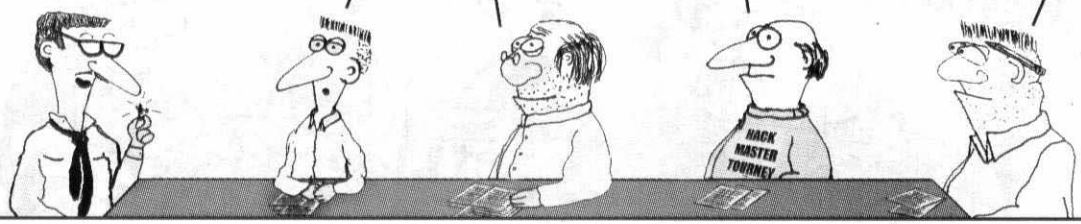
SIR, WHAT'S THAT PECULIAR
LOOKING **YELLOW**
THING ON HIS BASE??

JUST ANOTHER **BRILLIANT FLASH OF
INSPIRATION** THAT CAME TO ME. **PENCIL
SHARPENER BASES FOR MINIATURES!!**
(PATENT PENDING). THAT WAY YOU ALWAYS HAVE A
PENCIL SHARPENER HANDY DURING A GAME AND AT
THE SAME TIME IT KEEPS YOUR FIGURE FROM FALLING
OFF AND GETTING DAMAGED. NEAT HUH??

SHEER GENIUS **GEE-JAY!!**
THAT'S WHAT IT IS!!

THE OLD MAN STILL
HAS IT!!! **BRAVO!**

WE EVEN REINFORCED THE
ONE LEG TO MAKE IT MORE
DURABLE!!



AWH, SO YOU DID!! GOOD JOB PETE!! YOU KNOW THIS
MAKES ME WANT TO PULL OUT **STURM PYRE'S**
CHARACTER SHEET AND PLAY HIM AGAIN. EVERYBODY
USED TO LAUGH AT POOR **STURM PYRE** BUT LOOK
WHO'S SPORTIN' A PEWTER PROFILE!! HA HA.....HUH?

WHAT THE
HELL??



SIR?? WHAT'S WRONG??

HE'S MISSING THE **WRONG LEG!!**
**STUMPY WAS MISSING HIS
RIGHT LEG NOT HIS LEFT LEG!!**

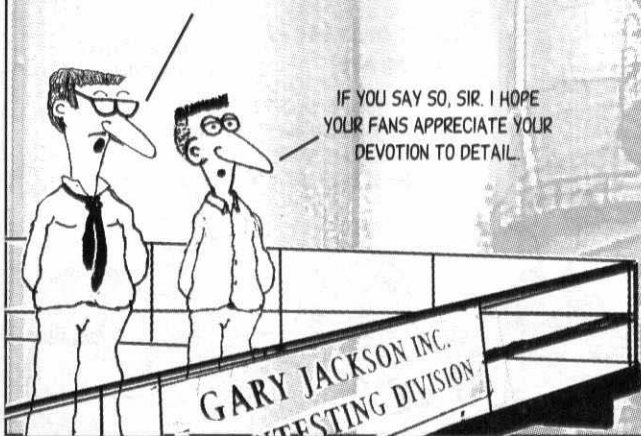
(GULP) SURELY, SIR,
IT DOESN'T REALLY
MATTER...



FIVE DAYS LATER AFTER MELTING DOWN 20,000 FIGURES AND RETOOLING, PRODUCTION RESUMES

HELL, IT COST ME A FORTUNE TO START OVER FROM SCRATCH BUT IT WILL BE WORTH IT.
I REFUSE TO PUT OUT A **STURM PYRE** FIGURE THAT'S ANATOMICALLY INCORRECT!

IF YOU SAY SO, SIR. I HOPE
YOUR FANS APPRECIATE YOUR
DEVOTION TO DETAIL.



I still crack up when I think of what a fan-boy Gary is at heart. Just like Bob, the miniatures had to be exactly like his one-legged dwarf.
- Dave

The Tangled Web

BY JOLLY R. BLACKBURN, STEVE JOHANSSON AND DAVID S. KENZER

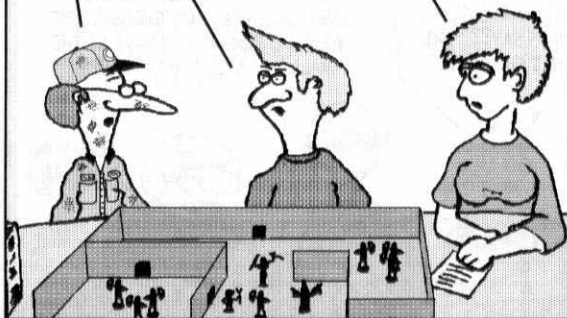


* See *Tales From the Vault Volume Four* [KoDT #11] "The Empty Chair" (Bob tells his Dad he's attending Dave's funeral)

FORTUNATELY I'VE BEEN HIDING MY **DICE BAG** IN THE **SPARE TIRE WELL** OF MY **CHEVETTE**. IT WAS A CLOSE CALL THOUGH.

OKAY, OKAY, BUT THE GET-UP?? WHAT'S WITH THE GOOFY GET-UP??

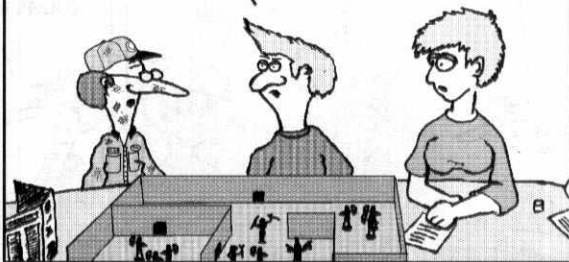
C'MON BOB, YOU GOT US HANGING ON EVERY WORD HERE!!



I TOLD YA!! MY DAD WAS SUSPICIOUS. I RAN OUT OF EXCUSES. SO I TOLD HIM I TOOK A JOB AT **NAYNER'S MOTORCYCLE REPAIR SHOP** OVER ON MEMORIAL DRIVE. I COULDN'T THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE TO SAY.

YOU?? A BIKE MECHANIC?? WHAT A STRETCH!!!

SO YOU WENT OUT AND BOUGHT THIS FAKE MECHANIC'S OUTFIT?? JUST TO FOOL YOUR DAD??

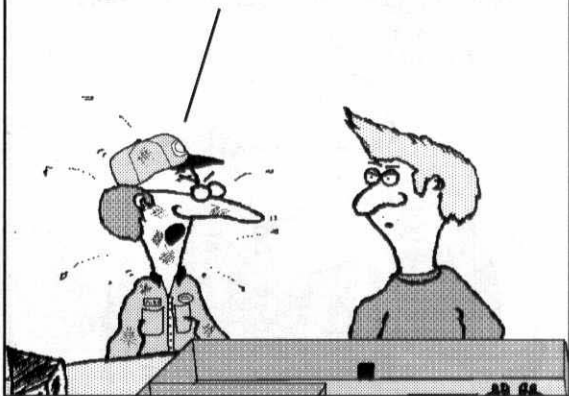


FAKE MY ASS!! ON THE WAY TO THE GAME I NOTICED MY DAD WAS SHADOWING ME SO I HAD TO BACKTRACK AND MAKE MY WAY TO **NAYNER'S SHOP**. I THOUGHT I'D JUST DUCK INSIDE AND HANG TIGHT UNTIL HE LEFT. **NO SUCH LUCK!** HE SAT IN THE PARKING LOT AND CASED THE JOINT. I HAD NO CHOICE. I HAD TO STEAL SOME OVERALLS AND WALK AROUND LIKE I WORKED THERE.

UH...DIDN'T ANYONE NOTICE YOU??

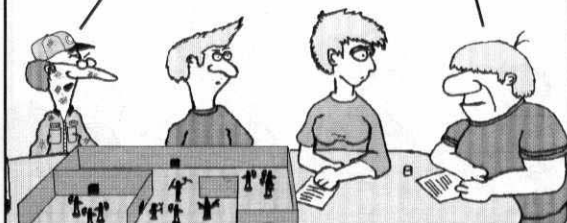


HELL YES THEY NOTICED ME!! THEY ALMOST KILLED ME!! I HAD TO HIDE IN A **GREASE RAG HAMPER** UNTIL I COULD MAKE A BREAK FOR IT!!



I'M PROUD OF YOU BOB!! YOU'VE DEMONSTRATED SOME REAL **SURVIVAL SKILLS**. YOU ACTED FAST ON YOUR FEET! YOUR FINELY-HONED INSTINCTS SAVED YOU!! AND JUST WHERE DID YOU LEARN THOSE SKILLS, HUH?? **RIGHT HERE AT THE GAMING TABLE!!**

WELL MY LITTLE BAG OF TRICKS IS JUST ABOUT EMPTY, PAL!! I'M RUNNING OUT OF EXCUSES AND THE OLD MAN IS CLOSING IN ON ME. MY GAMING DAYS (CHOKE) ARE NUMBERED.



WHAT'S THIS?? DO MY EARS DECEIVE ME?? IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE THROWING IN THE TOWEL, BOB!! WOULD AN **ADMISSION OF DEFEAT** EVER ROLL FROM THE LIPS OF **KNUCKLES: KING OF THE WALL CLIMBERS??**

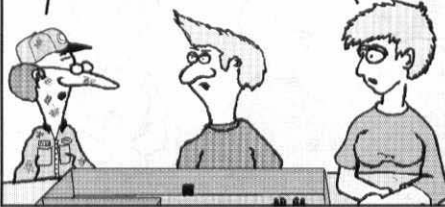
I THINK NOT!



SO WHAT IF YOUR DAD ALMOST NABBED YOU? YOU PULLED IT OFF DIDN'T YA?? THE ODDS WERE STACKED AGAINST YOU!! **YOU ROLLED A NATURAL TWENTY DUDE!!** YOU SHOULD BE BELLOWING OUT A BIG '**HOODY HOO**' RIGHT NOW!

GEE, I DIDN'T THINK OF IT THAT WAY! I WAS PRETTY RESOURCEFUL.

GREAT! AND HE WAS SO CLOSE TO LEARNING A LESSON.



FOR SIX MONTHS I'VE BEEN GAMING BEHIND MY DAD'S BACK AND HE'S NEVER CAUGHT ME! THIS WAS JUST A CLOSE CALL - THAT'S ALL!! A LITTLE REMINDER THAT I NEED TO BE MORE CAREFUL AND BETTER PREPARED.

NOW YOU'RE SOUNDING LIKE **KNUCKLES THE THIEF!** ATTA' BOY, BOB!!

HELL YEAH! WHAT'S GARY JACKSON ALWAYS SAY?? "**THE GAME MUST GO ON!!**"

I'M WARNING YOU BOB!! EVERY LIE EVENTUALLY GETS UNCOVERED!! LIKE YOUR DAD RUNNING INTO DAVE AT THE MALL!! IT WILL ALWAYS HAPPEN!

GOOD POINT SARA!



I THINK WE OWE YOU AN APOLOGY, BOB. **WE'VE LET YOU DOWN!** IN THE GAME WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN A TEAM - **US AGAINST THE WORLD!!** BUT WE'VE BEEN LETTING YOU FIGHT A **LOVELY BATTLE** IN YOUR EFFORTS TO JUST MAKE IT TO THE GAME EACH WEEK. TONIGHT THAT CHANGES. FROM NOW ON, WE'RE GOING TO FACE THAT CHALLENGE AS A **TEAM!!**



WHA... WHADDA YA MEAN?? YOU GUYS ARE GOING TO HELP ME??

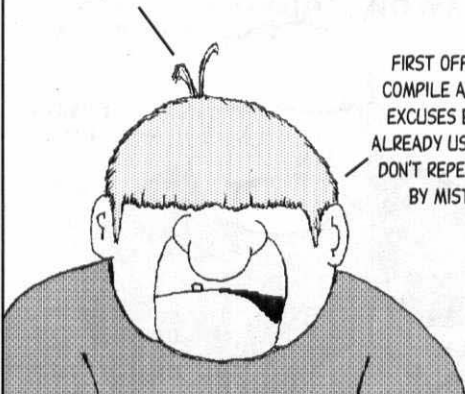
EXACTLY!! WE'RE GONNA LOOK AT THIS PROBLEM IN GAME TERMS AND DEVELOP A STRATEGY - HEDGE YOUR BETS - PUT THE ODDS IN YOUR FAVOR!!

AWH MAN! THIS IS SO KEWL!! IT'LL BE LIKE JUST ANOTHER GAME WE'RE PLAYING FROM WEEK TO WEEK. IF YOU SHOW UP - WE'RE ALL WINNERS!!! **HA HA!!**



NOW WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS TO PUT OUR HEADS TOGETHER AND COMPILE THE **ULTIMATE LIST OF EXCUSES!!** GOOD RELIABLE EXCUSES!! ONES THAT CAN'T BE VERIFIED AND WON'T COME BACK TO HALUNT US LIKE '**DAVE'S FUNERAL**'. WE GOTTA DEVISE A SYSTEM SO BOB IS NEVER CAUGHT OFF GUARD AGAIN.

FIRST OFF, LET'S COMPILE A LIST OF EXCUSES BOB HAS ALREADY USED SO WE DON'T REPEAT THEM BY MISTAKE.



FORTY MINUTES LATER...

...INTERVIEW WITH THE **FBI**, THEN THERE WAS DAVE'S FUNERAL, BOWLING LEAGUE, STUDYING AT THE LIBRARY FOR THE **GMAT**, VOLUNTEER FOR THE **RE-ELECT DAN QUAYLE CAMPAIGN**, THEN THERE WAS THE **ADOPT THE HIGHWAY PROGRAM**, TRYING OUT FOR A PART IN A PLAY (**STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE**), COMET WATCHING, STUDYING FOR THE **MENSA EXAM**, SHUFFLE BOARD TOURNEY, VISITIN' OLD PEOPLE, BOUNCER AT THE SPORTS BAR, GIVING BLOOD, JOINED A BAND, NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH VOLUNTEER, TAKING UP JOGGING, INTERVIEW WITH **NASA**...



...RUNNING FOR **COUNTY TREASURER**, SHOPPING AT THE MALL, SEARCHING FOR AN ALTERNATOR FOR MY **CHEVETTE**, GOING ON A DATE, HACKYSACK LEAGUE, **RIIDE-ALONG** WITH THE MUNCIE POLICE DEPARTMENT, ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG (OVERNIGHTER), PROGRAMMING SOFTWARE FOR **MICROSOFT**, LECTURING ON THE UNIVERSITY CIRCUIT, VOLUNTEER WORK AT THE SOUP KITCHEN, REWINDING TAPES AT **BIG BIG VIDEO**. AND... UH... OF COURSE WORKING AT **NAYNER'S BIKE SHOP**. THAT'S JUST ABOUT IT.

OH DUDE, I HAD NO IDEA. I'M SORRY WE WEREN'T THERE FOR YOU!

GOOD LORD!! ALL THE LIES. POOR BOB.

SCORBLE
SCORBLE

OKAY, NOW FOR THE SECOND STAGE. WE COME UP WITH 500 FOOLPROOF EXCUSES!!! WE SORT THEM BASED ON DIFFICULTY OF VERIFICATION AND BELIEVABILITY!! ONCE WE HAVE THESE WE'LL CREATE A SERIES OF RANDOM EXCUSE TABLES AND PUT THEM ALL TOGETHER TO FORM A **BOOK OF EXCUSES** THAT BOB CAN CARRY WITH HIM AT ALL TIMES.

AN HOUR LATER...

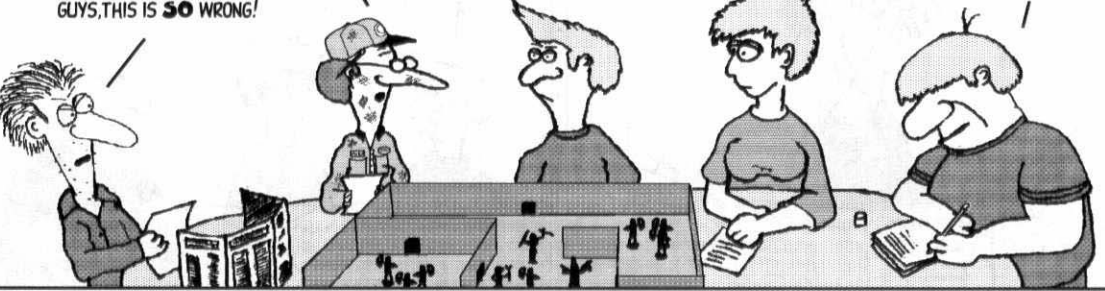
OH, OH, HERE'S ONE!! I'M HELPIN' **BOY SCOUT TROOP 54** BUILD AN **ULTRA-LIGHT AIRCRAFT** FOR THE **FAIRMONT SESQUI-CENTENNIAL!**

HOW ABOUT VOLUNTEER WORK FOR THE **MUNCIE CRISIS LINE??**

HERE'S ONE! YOU WERE ASKED TO BE A GUEST SPEAKER FOR **LIAR'S ANONYMOUS!!**

GOOD ONES! THOSE WOULD FIT NICELY ON **TABLE G: COMMUNITY SERVICE**. KEEP EM' COMIN' GUYS!! WE NEED A FEW MORE FOR **TABLE B: EMPLOYMENT PURSUITS**.

GUYS, THIS IS **SO** WRONG!



OKAY, THAT SHOULD DO IT!! WE HAVE 500 **EXCUSES** SPREAD OUT OVER **25 10x20 RANDOM EXCUSE TABLES!** I'LL TYPE THIS UP AND PRINT OUT AN EXCUSE BOOKLET FOR EACH OF US. EACH ENTRY WILL HAVE ITS OWN CORRESPONDING **CHALLENGE** AND **PASSWORD**. THAT WAY IF, IN AN EMERGENCY, BOB NEEDS TO HAVE ONE OF US VOUCH FOR HIM WE CAN USE THE CODE WORDS IN A CONVERSATION TO CONVEY WHICH EXCUSE IS BEING UTILIZED. I SUGGEST WE UPDATE THE BOOKS EVERY SIX TO EIGHT WEEKS!! **ANY QUESTIONS?**

I'M TOUCHED!! I THINK I'M GONNA CRY!

HEY, THE GAME MUST GO ON, DUDE!!

(MOAN)

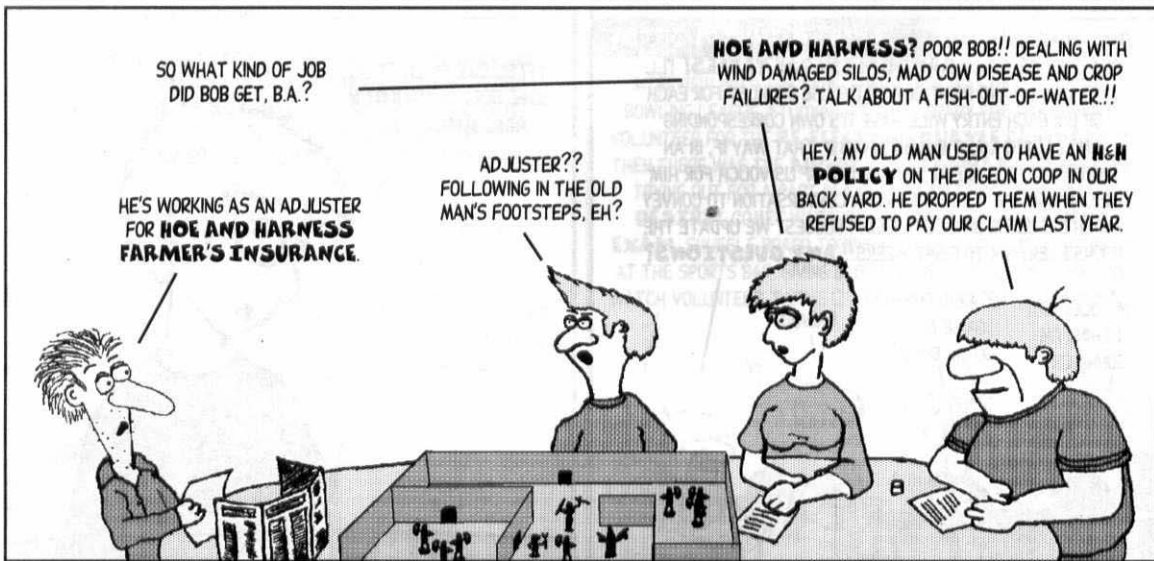
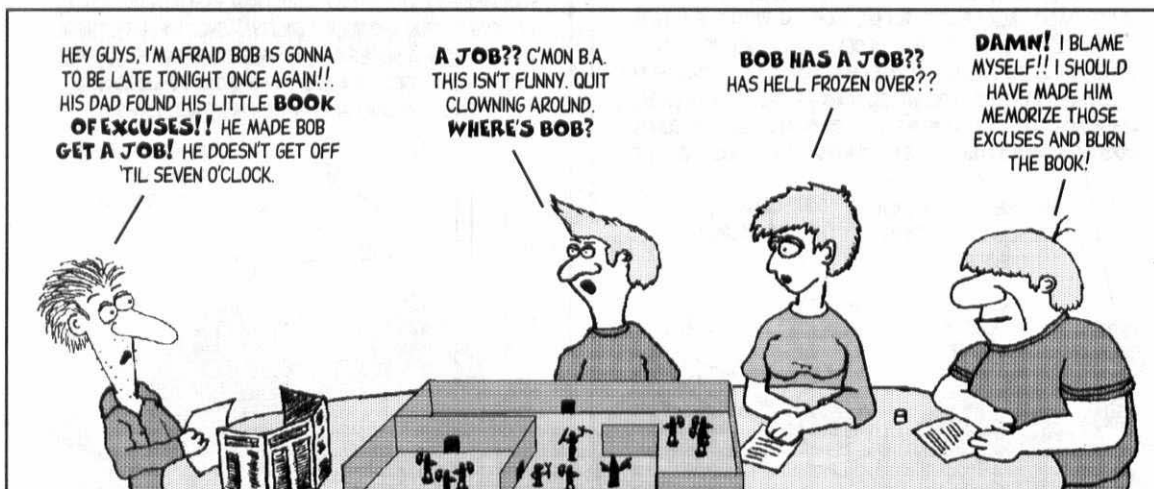
I FEEL LIKE I'M ENTERING SOME SORT OF **UNHOLY ALLIANCE**. (SIGH)



One again we had a bit too much fun with this list. I think running for Alderman was my favorite. Or maybe interview with NASA. - Dave

For the Love of Knuckles

BY JOLLY R. BLACKBURN, STEVE JOHANSSON AND DAVID S. KENZER

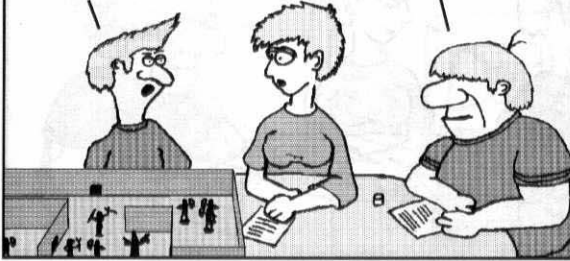


YEAH, THAT ADJUSTER WAS PRETTY SLICK. WE ALMOST HAD HIM CONVINCED THOSE PIGEONS WERE STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.

I KNOW I SHOULDN'T ASK... BUT... UH, JUST WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PIGEONS?

BRIAN AND I RECREATED THE **BATTLE OF BRITAIN** IN HIS BACKYARD.

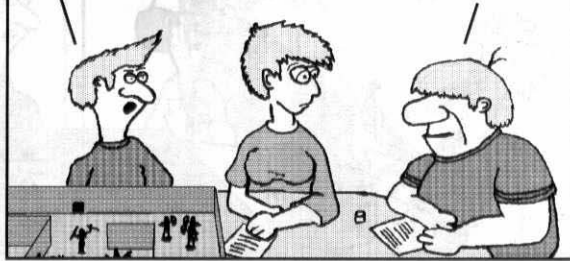
YEAH, IT WAS PRETTY KEWL. THE PIGEONS REPRESENTED LUFTWAFFE BOMBERS!!



SMALL **PIE PANS** FILLED WITH **CRACKED CORN** SITUATED AROUND THE BACKYARD REPRESENTED VARIOUS BRITISH **INDUSTRIAL CITIES** OF STRATEGIC IMPORT.

IF A PIGEON MANAGED TO LAND ON ONE OF THE PANS IT MEANT A SUCCESSFUL BOMBING RUN ON THAT CITY.

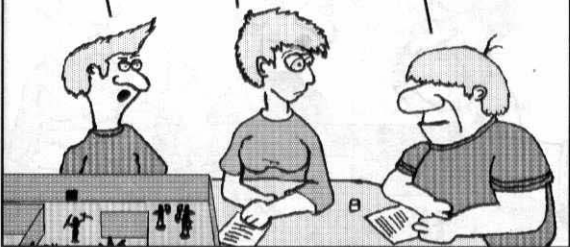
DAVE AND I PLAYED THE BRITS. WE USED **ROMAN CANDLES** AND **BOTTLE ROCKETS** FOR FLAK GUNS.



YOU MEAN YOU... BRIAN, PLEASE TELL ME YOU DIDN'T **SLAUGHTER** THOSE POOR INNOCENT PIGEONS WITH **ROMAN CANDLES**!!

OH IT WAS AWESOME!! WE DROPPED 35 ENEMY AIRCRAFT AND ONLY LOST ONE CITY.

UNFORTUNATELY ONE **'ENEMY BOMBER'** BURST INTO FLAMES AND **KAMIKAZED** THE TOOL SHED. SINCE THE SHED WASN'T FACTORED INTO THE GAME IT HAD NO AFFECT ON THE VICTORY CONDITIONS, THANK GAWD.



WELL, I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR TOOL SHED BRIAN, BUT LET'S CHANGE THE SUBJECT. I'M FIGURIN' BOB IS REALLY DOWN IN THE DUMPS RIGHT ABOUT NOW. HOWEVER, I WAS DOWN AT **WEIRD PETE'S** TODAY AND I'VE GOT A **LITTLE SURPRISE** FOR BOB!! **HEH HEH!** IT'S REALLY GONNA PICK THE OL' BOY'S SPIRITS UP. **I GUARANTEE IT!!**



FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER...

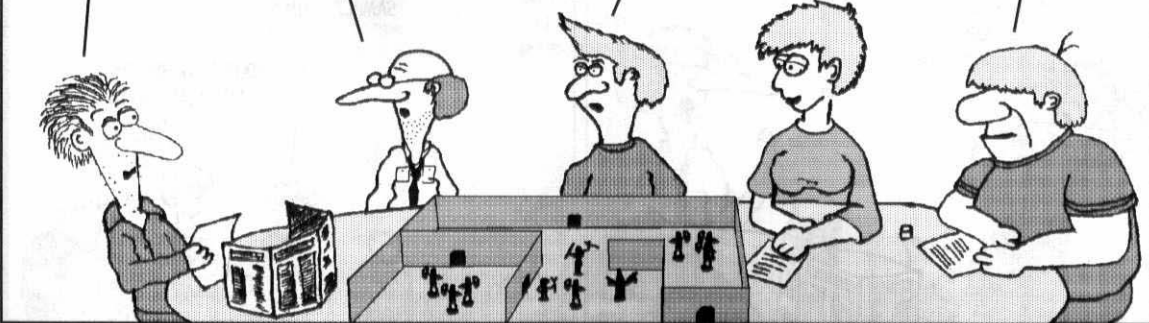
HEY BOB, HOW'S IT GOING?

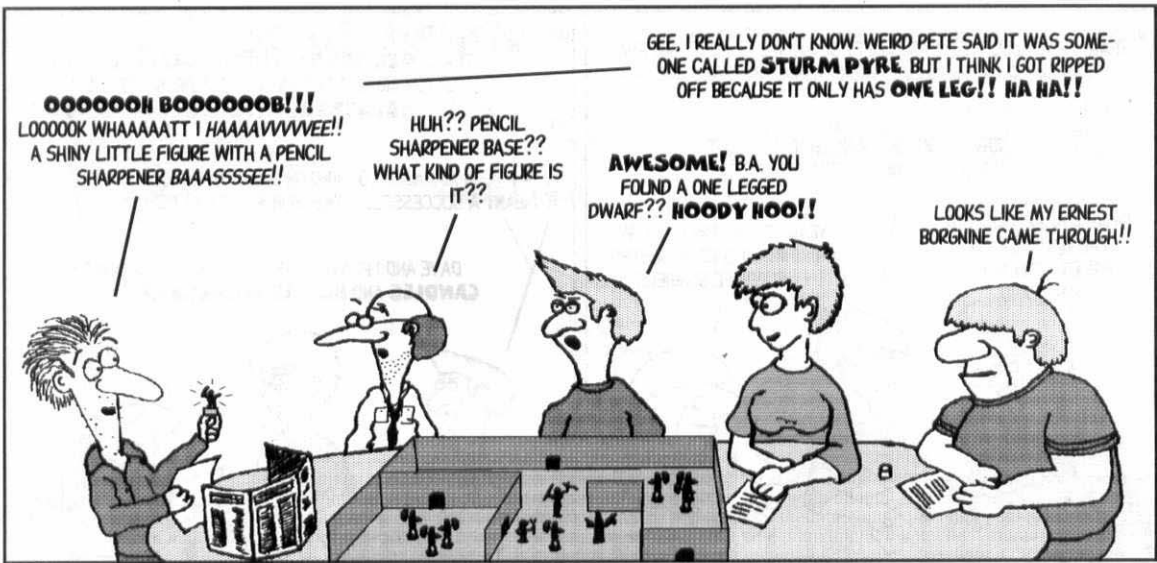
SORRY I'M LATE. **OLD MAN FESTER** HAS A VIRULENT STRAIN OF **HOOF-ROT** SWEEPING HIS **HOLSTEIN HERD**. I HAD TO GO COLLECT SOME **STOOL SAMPLES** FOR THE LAB.

WHOA, YOU'RE LIKE THAT DUDE **QUINCY** ON THAT OLD TV SHOW. **KEWL!**

WOW, IT SOUNDS LIKE SUCH AN EXCITING JOB, BOB! YOU'RE SO LUCKY!!

HOOF-ROT??





OOOOOOH BOOOOOOB!!!
LOOOOOK WHAAAAATT I HAAAAVVVVVEE!!
A SHINY LITTLE FIGURE WITH A PENCIL
SHARPENER BAAASSSSEE!!

HUH?? PENCIL
SHARPENER BASE??
WHAT KIND OF FIGURE IS
IT??

**AWESOME! B.A. YOU
FOUND A ONE LEGGED
DWARF?? HOODY HOO!!**

LOOKS LIKE MY ERNEST
BORGNIENE CAME THROUGH!!

GEE, I REALLY DON'T KNOW. WEIRD PETE SAID IT WAS SOME-
ONE CALLED **STURM PYRE**. BUT I THINK I GOT RIPPED
OFF BECAUSE IT ONLY HAS **ONE LEG!! HA HA!!**



OH HE'S BEAUTIFUL!!! HE'S PERFECT!!!
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU GUYS!!

A **GREAT MINIATURE** FOR
A **GREAT CHARACTER, BOB!!**



**WOW!! IT'S ALL THERE. BRAIDED BEARD, STUDED LEATHER
ARMOR, RING ON THE LEFT HAND. INCREDIBLE!**

**AND LOOK, HE EVEN HAS A
BLOODWOOD PEG LEG ON HIS
RIGHT... ON HIS... ON HIS...**

????!!

PRETTY **SWEET**.
EH BOB??



WHAT IS THIS?? SOME KIND OF SICK JOKE??
HE'S MISSING THE WRONG LEG!!!



UH...SO BOB?? HOW DO YOU
GO ABOUT GETTIN' A STOOL
SAMPLE FROM A COW?

YOU'RE NOT HELPING THE
SITUATION, DAVE!!

The Gary Jackson Files: Return to Sender!

HARD EIGHT ENTERPRISES!! I'M YOUR CUSTOMER SERVICE REP, **TULEY**. MAY I HELP YOU??



THIS IS THE **GAMES PIT!!** WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON UP THERE?? I JUST RECEIVED TWENTY MORE CASES OF THOSE **DAMN ONE-LEGGED DWARF** BLISTER PACKS!! I CAN'T MOVE WHAT I'VE GOT!! YER TAKIN' THIS CRAP BACK YOU HEAR ME??



I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND IT!! THE BOTTOM HAS FALLEN OUT OF THE ONE-LEGGED DWARF MARKET!!! WHAT'S UP WITH THAT??



IT'S CRAZY!! ACCORDING TO THE SALES DEPARTMENT WE'VE ONLY SOLD ONE, COUNT 'EM **ONE** STURM PYRE FIGURE!! AND THAT ONE WAS LATER RETURNED WITH NO EXPLANATION.

YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK **GARY?** IT'S JUST A HUNCH BUT I SMELL **CORPORATE ESPIONAGE** AT WORK HERE. I THINK THOSE **BASTARDS** OVER AT **BISON HEAD GAMES** SET US UP FOR A FALL!!! I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST THEM!!

REMEMBER WHAT THEY DID TO OUR BOOTH AT **GARYCON '95??** I'M STILL PICKIN' THE **WATERMELON SEEDS** OUT OF MY PENNY LOAFERS FROM THAT **STUPID STUNT!**



I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT THAT!! I'VE ALREADY PUT THE **ANTIGNANO BROTHERS** ON IT!! IF **BISON HEAD'S** BEHIND THIS, WE'LL SETTLE THE SCORE. DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT THAT! MEANWHILE, WE HAVE A PROBLEM. WE'VE GOT 20,000 UNITS OF ONE-LEGGED DWARVES COMING BACK TO THE WAREHOUSE. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH THEM??

HEY, I'VE GOT IT!! WE WRITE A TOURNAMENT MODULE BASED ON A RAIDING HORDE OF ONE-LEGGED DWARVES!! THOUSANDS OF 'EM!!! WE COULD PACKAGE A HUNDRED **STURM PYRE'S** WITH EVERY MODULE!!

MAYBE WE COULD REPACKAGE THEM OR SOMETHING??

WE COULD CUT OFF BOTH LEGS AND CALL THEM **PYGMY-DWARVES!**

YOU'RE ON TO SOMETHING. MAYBE A NEW RACE OF DWARVES WHO CUT OFF THEIR RIGHT LEGS AS A SIGN OF REACHING MANHOOD!!



Bob'd be proud if he knew how much he was like Gary! - Dave

I LIKE WHAT I'M HEARING!!
KEEP THE IDEAS COMING
GENTLEMEN!! WE MAY BE ABLE
TO SALVAGE THIS SITUATION
YET!!

20,000 UNITS HUH?? HEY
THIS IS CRAZY BUT WHAT IF
WE JUST CUT THE FIGURES
UP AND PACKAGED THEM AS
'BOX OF DWARVEN
BODY PARTS' ??

I LIKE WHAT YOU'RE THINKIN' BUT THE NAME IS WRONG. HOW
ABOUT 'BUILD YOUR OWN DWARF KITS' ?? ADD A BIT
OF A PUZZLE-ELEMENT TO IT - MAKES 'EM MORE APPEALING.

HEY, IT COULD BE THE START OF A NEW PRODUCT LINE.
THE 'BUILD YOUR OWN' SERIES, MIGHT EVEN BE A
GOOD WAY TO GET RID OF THOSE **MONKEY-WITH-
A-BAYONET** FIGURES WE DID LAST YEAR!!

SWEET!

TALK ABOUT TEAM WORK,
HOOO-AAAAH!!

TWO WEEKS LATER...

WHAT CAN
I TELL YA BOB?

**HACKMASTER 4TH EDITION IS COMING!!!
RESERVE YOUR COPY HERE!!!**

**WEIRD PETE'S
GAMES PIT**
OFFICIAL HACKMASTER™
TOURNEY SITE

**NO! WE DON'T
HAVE DWARVEN
RIGHT LEGS**

OPEN

**THE NEW
HACK JOURNAL
HAS NOT
ARRIVED!!**

**NO-REFUNDS
ON BUILD YER
OWN KITS!!**

**JUST IN!!!
"BUILD YOUR
OWN KITS"
BUILD YER OWN DWARF
BUILD YOUR OWN MONKEY**

THE **BUILD-YOUR-OWN-KITS** ARE PACKAGED WITH **RANDOM BODY PARTS**.
IF YOU BUY ENOUGH KITS, EVENTUALLY YOU'LL FIND A **RIGHT LEG**. OR...YOU MAY WANT TO
PICK UP A FEW **'BOX OF DWARVEN BODY PARTS'** SETS AND TRY YOUR LUCK THERE.
APPARENTLY THE RIGHT LEG IS A RARE ITEM BUT ONE WILL TURN UP EVENTUALLY!!

**BUY ENOUGH KITS?? I ALREADY HAVE
TWENTY KITS!! THIS SUCKS!!
I'M THIS CLOSE TO HAVING MY ONE-LEGGED
DWARF!! ALL I NEED IS A FREAKIN' RIGHT LEG!!**

**WELL DON'T YELL AT ME!! I HAVE NO
IDEA WHY THESE THINGS HAPPEN!!**

This issue had more Gary Jackson panels than any issue we've ever run before or after. Typically not as popular as the Knights, this time, our readers just ate it up. The tight coupling to the actual Knights and seeing the results of each Hard 8 move made these strips more endearing than usual. - Dave

KODIT

APPROVED
BY THE
Hard 8
Enterprises
AUTHORITY

IT AIN'T OVER
TIL IT'S OVER!!

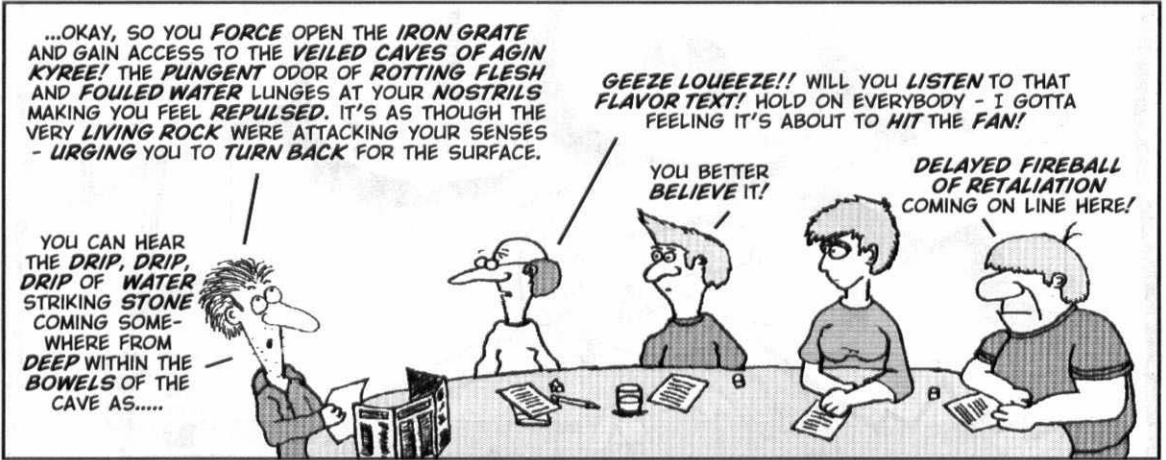
**CHIN UP
BUNKY!!**
THE FUN AIN'T
OVER YET.

20 PAGES!!
OF **ALL NEW**
MATERIAL

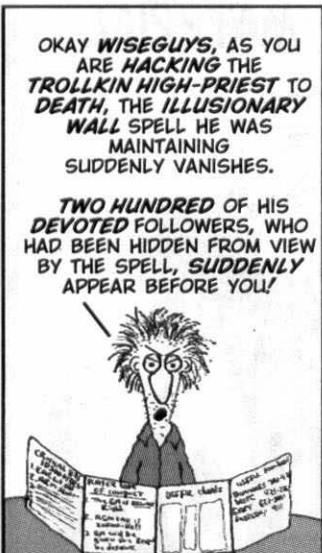
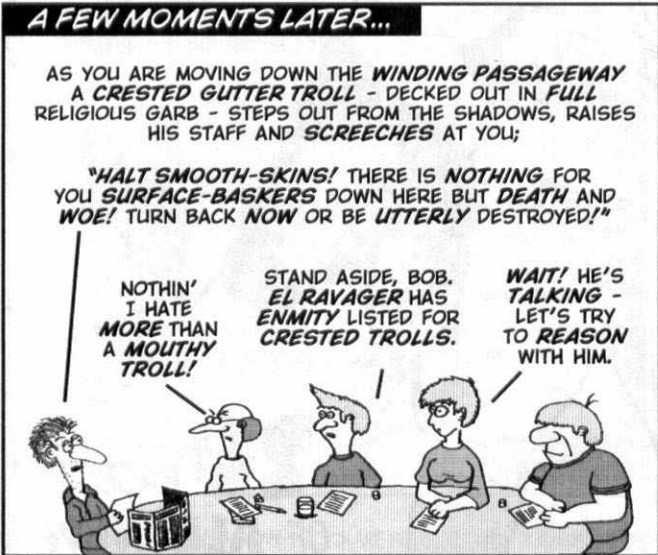
BONUS SECTION

Troll Story*

BY JOLLY BLACKBURN AND STEVE JOHANSSON



A FEW MOMENTS LATER...



* This story is a continuation of "The Barringer Rebellion" from page 26.

QUICK! BRIAN! REACH IN YOUR BAG OF HOLDING AND TOSS ME MY SWORD, "TROLL SLAPPER"! IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE!

SORRY DAVE! BARRINGER FROZE OUR BAG ASSETS FOR FAILING TO PAY OUR MONTHLY STORAGE FEES. REMEMBER? HE WON'T EVEN TALK TO US UNTIL WE COUGH UP THE 9,876 G.P.S IN LATE FEES AND PENALTIES.

HE'S RIGHT!

I'VE HAD IT ABOUT UP TO HERE WITH BARRINGER AND HIS EXTORTION! THAT'S OUR STUFF IN THAT BAG AND WE HAVE A RIGHT TO USE IT WHENEVER WE WANT TO.

YEAH IT'S OUR BAG! HE'S SQUATTING! HE SHOULD BE PAYING US RENT.

TECHNICALLY IT'S NOT OUR BAG ANYMORE, GUYS.

ACCORDING TO THE TERMS OF THE PEACE TREATY WE SIGNED WITH HIM, "BAG WORLD" IS A FREE AND INDEPENDENT NATION. BARRINGER WAS JUST BEING GRACIOUS BY OFFERING TO STORE OUR PROPERTY FOR US - FOR A SMALL FEE OF COURSE.

SMALL FEE MY ASS!

FORTY MINUTES LATER....

OKAY, DAVE, YOUR SLASHING ATTACK TAKES OUT THE LAST TROLL AND DECAPITATES HIM. YOU'VE NOW SECURED THIS SECTION OF PASSAGEWAY. UNFORTUNATELY, AFTER SEARCHING THE AREA THEY WERE GUARDING YOU FIND IT'S JUST A DEAD END PASSAGEWAY. THERE'S NOTHING OF VALUE HERE - ONLY TRASH AND LOOSE SOIL!

CRIPES!! THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-TWO GUTTER TROLLS GIVE THEIR LIVES EN-MASSE TO GUARD SOME STINKIN' DEBRIS-FILLED PASSAGEWAY? AND FOR WHAT??!!

I DON'T GET IT! THIS WAS WORTHLESS REAL ESTATE FROM AN EXPERIENCE POINT AND TREASURE POINT OF VIEW

IT STILL BURNS MY ASS THAT BARRINGER WOULDN'T LET ME DRAW "TROLL SLAPPER" FROM THE BAG. DAMN I COULD HAVE USED THAT SWORD.

YEAH BUT YOU MADE A GOOD SHOWING, DUDE. EVEN WITHOUT 'TROLL SLAPPER'

HEY, THOSE RE-GENS* PUT UP ONE HELL OF A FIGHT. IT WAS TOOTH AND NAIL ALL THE WAY. THERE FOR A WHILE, JUST FOR A ROUND OR TWO, I THOUGHT THEY'D GOTTEN THE BETTER OF THE 'OL' RAY" BUT THEN I ROLLED THAT CRIT AND THINGS TURNED AROUND AFTER THAT.

YEAH, THAT WAS CLOSE! I WAS KINDA WORRIED ABOUT YOU THERE, DUDE! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU DROP BELOW FIFTY HIT POINTS IN AGES.

SOMETHING LIKE THIS REALLY MAKES YOU PAUSE AND COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS. KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

YOU JUST HAD TO ADMIRE THEM - DIDN'T YOU?

* HackJockey slang for 'trolls' referring to their regenerative powers.

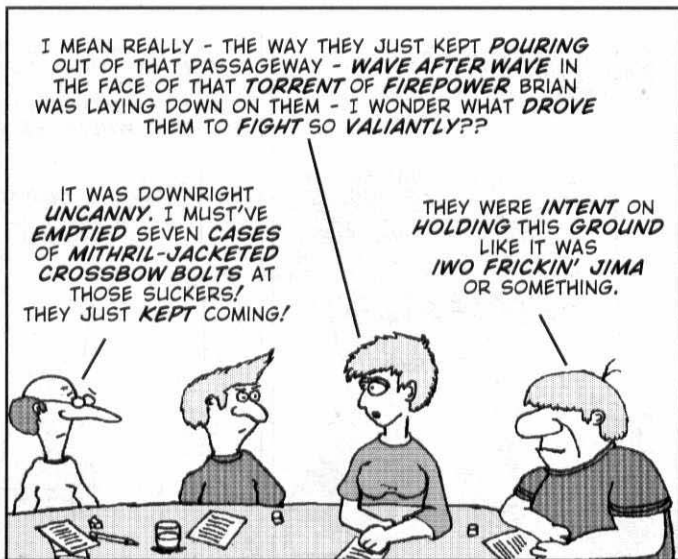


??!!!

SAY WHAT?

THE TROLLS! YOU HAD TO ADMIRE THEM!

I DON'T FOLLOW.



I MEAN REALLY - THE WAY THEY JUST KEPT POURING OUT OF THAT PASSAGEWAY - WAVE AFTER WAVE IN THE FACE OF THAT TORRENT OF FIREPOWER BRIAN WAS LAYING DOWN ON THEM - I WONDER WHAT DROVE THEM TO FIGHT SO VALIANTLY??

IT WAS DOWNRIGHT UNCANNY. I MUST'VE EMPTIED SEVEN CASES OF MITHRIL-JACKETED CROSSBOW BOLTS AT THOSE SUCKERS! THEY JUST KEPT COMING!

THEY WERE INTENT ON HOLDING THIS GROUND LIKE IT WAS IWO FRICKIN' JIMA OR SOMETHING.



YEP, THOSE BOYS DIED FINE! DAMN WORTHY ADVERSARIES ANYWAY YOU CUT IT. YOU JUST DON'T SEE THAT KIND A VALOR IN FANTASY ROLE-PLAY ANYMORE. ESPECIALLY IN MEMBERS OF THE TROLLKIN RACE.

YOU ARE SO RIGHT! I THINK B.A. SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR GETTING SO INVOLVED WITH THE ROLE WHILE PLAYING IT OUT.

DEFINITELY! SOME OF THOSE TROLLKIN WAR CRIES STOOD MY HAIR ON END.



SAY, THANKS!!! IT'S NOT OFTEN YOU GUYS REALLY NOTICE ALL THE ATTENTION TO DETAIL I PUT INTO THESE THINGS. YOU KNOW, I SPENT NEARLY FOUR HOURS ON THE TROLLKIN HAND GESTURES AND THREAT POSTURES ALONE! I BASED THEM ON SOME FIELD OBSERVATIONS THE RENOWNED PRIMATOLOGIST, FORREST DAMILLE, RECORDED IN HIS BOOK, 'THE BABOONS OF SOUTHERN...

YEAH, YEAH, THAT'S GREAT B.A., BUT DON'T RUIN THE MAGIC FOR US BY PEELING BACK THE VINYL.

OH....SURE THING. GOOD POINT.

KUDOS, B.A.!



WHAT'S WITH ALL THIS PRAISE ABOUT THE FRICKIN' TROLLS? THEY WEREN'T SO GREAT! THE ONLY REASON THEY WERE RUNNING OUT OF THAT PASSAGEWAY WAS TO ESCAPE THE END OF MY SWORD! AIN'T NO VALOR TO IT. IN MY BOOK IT'S CALLED COWARDICE!

DAVE, CHILL! REMEMBER WHAT SKRAAG FALLOW SAID IN THE HACKMASTERS OF EVERKNIGHT? "A TRUE WARRIOR IS ONLY AS GREAT AS THOSE HE FINDS WORTHY OF FIGHTING!"

EXACTLY!



HALLO!!! EXCUSE ME!! I REALLY HATE TO BREAK UP THIS LITTLE "SAVE THE TROLL LOVEFEST" THING YOU GOT GOING ON OVER HERE BUT THOSE FRICKIN' RE-GENS KICKED MY ASS!!

HEY, I TOOK SOME DAMAGE TOO. YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME!

I'M NOT TALKIN' ABOUT TAKING A FEW STRAY HITS HERE AND THERE LIKE YOU, MR. SPELL-HAPPY. I WAS IN THE THICK OF IT MAN! I WAS INTO TROLL-GOO RIGHT UP TO MY FREAKIN' EYEBROWS!

THOSE TROLLS **ROCKED!** B.A. TOOK A **RACE** WHICH ARE **TYPICALLY** USED AS SO MUCH **DUNGEON-FODDER** AND MADE THEM **REALLY** SPECIAL. I THINK **TEFLON BILLY** HAS LEARNED A **WHOLE NEW** LEVEL OF **RESPECT** FOR THESE GUYS. COURSE, I'M NO **EXPERT** ON THE SUBJECT. -SIGH- EVER SINCE **TIMMY JACKSON** SCREWED WITH THEIR "**HABITAT AND SOCIETY**" ENTRIES IN **HACKLOPEDIA SECOND EDITION** I CAN'T SAY I **REALLY UNDERSTAND** THE COMMON **GUTTER TROLL** ANYMORE.

RESPECT?!!

LIKE **SARA** SAID, YOU GOTTA ADMIRE THAT KIND OF **COURAGE!**



-SNEER- I GUESS SOMEONE WHO **RUNS** FROM THEIR FIGHTS IS **EASILY IMPRESSED** BY THE **COURAGE** OF OTHERS.

RUNS FROM A FIGHT? I TOLD YOU - I WAS MAKING A **TACTICAL REDEPLOYMENT** IN ORDER TO BEAR **MORE FIREPOWER** ON THE ENEMY!



I DON'T WANT TO **HEAR** ABOUT IT!

WHILE YOU WERE "**REDEPLOYING**" I **LOST AN ARM** FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!!

AN ENTIRE ARM!!!!



HEY!!! WHY DO YOU HAVE TO KEEP BRINGIN' UP THE **ARM THING?** HUH? I SAID I WAS **SORRY!** MY **CROSSBOW JAMMED!!!** I HAD TO **BEAT OFF** THAT **FRONTAL ASSAULT** WITH **SOMETHING!** YOUR **SEVERED ARM** JUST HAPPENED TO BE **HANDY!**

AN ARM REMOVED BY **FRIENDLY FIRE** I MIGHT ADD!



THERE YOU GO AGAIN! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO **APOLOGIZE?!!** I'VE NEVER USED A **+5 BOOMERANG OF CLEAVING** BEFORE! HOW THE HELL WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW YOU HAD TO **COMPENSATE** FOR ITS **RETURN FLIGHT PATH?**

THESE THINGS HAPPEN IN THE **FOG OF WAR!**



LOOK, ALL I'M SAYING HERE IS, **BEFORE** YOU GO **HEAPING** OUT ALL THIS **PITY, PRAISE** AND **VALOR-CRAP** UPON OUR **FRIGGIN' ENEMIES....**

HOW 'BOUT LAYING SOME **RIGHT HERE?!**

AT THE FEET OF THE GUY WHO SAVED ALL YOUR **BUTTS?!**

SAVED OUR **BUTTS? YOU?!!**



WHAT ABOUT THAT **COVERING FIRE** I LAID ON YOU? YOU THINK IT WAS **EASY JUGGLING** TACTICAL SPELLS AND DETERMINING THE **PROPER RANGES** AND **AREAS OF EFFECT** IN THOSE **TWISTY, TINY PASSAGES?**

WAAA...WHAT?? YOU COMPARING **SPELL-LOBBING** TO **FACE-TO-FACE, IN-THE-TRENCHES HACKING?!!** I WAS FIGHTING ALL BY MY **LONESOME** OUT THERE!

ALONE?!! NOW JUST A **GOSH DERN** MINUTE!

SHYA' RIGHT! THEN HOW **DID** I KILL MORE **TROLLS** THAN YOU? HUH?

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU SAID THAT?



TEN MINUTES LATER....

YOU WANT SOME OF THIS? HUH??

PUGKA-DA!

THE **FIGHTING** IS **REALLY NEVER** OVER UNTIL THE **BRAGGING RIGHTS** HAVE BEEN SETTLED.

FRAPPPTT!

GRIND! WRENCH!

PUDDA!

KRACK!



Hazardous Waste

BY JOLLY BLACKBURN AND STEVE JOHANSSON

SORRY BOB, AS YOU ARE ABOUT TO THROW THE **TROLL'S ARM** ON THE **BONFIRE** IT SUDDENLY **ANIMATES** AND SPRINGS TO LIFE. ITS **SHARP NASTY NAILS** CLAW AT YOUR THROAT AND **RIP AWAY** THE FLESH RESULTING IN A **HORRIBLE WOUND!** TAKE OFF **EIGHT POINTS** OF **DAMAGE!**

WAA...WHAT??!!! ARE YOU FOR REAL??!! I'M SICK OF THIS CRAP. THAT'S THE **FIFTH TIME** I'VE TAKEN **DAMAGE** FROM A **STINKIN'** PIECE OF **TROLL MEAT!**

WELL THE **HELL** WITH BRIAN'S IDEA OF **BURNING** ALL THESE **DEAD TROLLS**. THESE **BRUTES** ARE MORE DANGEROUS **DEAD** THAN **ALIVE!** IT'S GETTIN' KINDA **OLD** TAKING **DAMAGE** FROM **NASTIES** WE ALREADY **WASTED!**

HOLD UP, GUYS! WE **KNEW** THIS **PROJECT** WAS GOING TO BE FAIRLY **LABOR INTENSIVE** WHEN WE **STARTED**. WE CAN'T BE **DETERRED** FROM OUR **OBJECTIVE!** WE GOTTA **NEUTRALIZE** THESE **BOD-IES!** OTHERWISE, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO **FIGHT** THESE **GUYS OVER** AND **OVER AGAIN EVERYTIME** WE **COME OR GO** FROM THE **DUNGEON.**



OH ALL RIGHT! I GUESS I CAN TAKE A FEW **MORE HITS** FOR THE **TEAM**. BUT **FIRST**, TOSS ME SOME **HEALING-JUICE** AND A **SEWING KIT!** I GOTTA CLOSE SOME OF THESE **WOUNDS.**

I'M TELLIN' YA IF YOU'D **JUST COUGH UP** THE MONEY TO PAY OFF **BARRINGER** AND GET '**TROLL SLAPPER**' OUT OF THE BAG WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH ALL THIS. THAT **BLADE** IS PRETTY **SWEET** - ON A **HIT** IT AUTOMATICALLY PREVENTS **TROLL FLESH** FROM **REGENERATING!**

WELL I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF **CASH** ON HAND.



A WEE BIT LATER....

BOB, AS YOU RAISE THE **TROLL LEG** OVER YOUR HEAD TO TOSS IT ON THE **FLAMES** IT **KICKS** YOU RIGHT IN THE **FACE!** ITS **BIG TOE**, WHICH IS **AFFIXED** WITH A LONG, **GNARLED NAIL**, **GOUGES** YOU IN THE **RIGHT EYE SOCKET** FOR **SIX POINTS** OF **DAMAGE.**

GAAAA!!! WHAT THE....



IN **BLIND AGONY** YOU BEGIN TO **STRUGGLE** WITH THE **VIOLENTLY KICKING** LEG AS YOU **TRIP** OVER A **GRASPING TROLL ARM** AND **STUMBLE HEAD FIRST** INTO THE **BONFIRE** FOR ANOTHER **SEVEN** POINTS OF **BURN DAMAGE.** THEN, AS YOU ARE ATTEMPTING TO **BEAT OUT** THE **FLAMES** ON YOUR.....

THAT'S IT! I'M **HOPPING MAD** NOW!

DUDE, IT'S LIKE THIS **TROLL MEAT** HAS **MEMOREX** INGRAINED IN IT OR SOMETHING. THEY **REALLY** SEEM TO HAVE IT IN FOR YOU.

I DOUSE THE **FLAMES** WITH MY **RING OF WATER SIPHONING!**

C'MON GUYS, B.A. IS JUST TRYING TO **DELAY** US. WE NEED TO **PICK UP** THE **PACE**. IF WE CAN **BURN 6.75** BODIES PER **ROUND** WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO **COMPLETE** THE **JOB** IN....



O-O-O-OOH NO! FORGET IT, BRIAN!
WE'RE THROUGH DOING IT YOUR WAY.
I'M DONE GIVIN' UP
HIT-POINTS FOR THE CAUSE.

GUYS, I THINK BRIAN HAS A
VALID POINT. WE MUST GET RID
OF THESE CORPSES BEFORE THEY
RE-GEN OR WE'LL JUST HAVE TO
FIGHT THEM ALL OVER AGAIN.

LIKE I SAID, I'M
THROUGH WITH
BRIAN'S WAY.

I'M WITH BOB
ON THIS ONE.

BUT WE
CAN'T QUIT
NOW!



OKAY POP-N-FRESH, JUST
WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE WE DO
WITH THE TROLLS? ONE WAY OR
ANOTHER WE'RE GOING TO HAVE
TO DEAL WITH THEM.

WHY DO WE HAVE TO DEAL
WITH THEM? WHY NOT
SOMEBODY ELSE?

UH...MAYBE BECAUSE WE'RE
THE ONLY ONES HERE AND
THEY'RE IN OUR FACE??



WRONG, MISSY!
THERE IS SOMEONE
ELSE HERE!

IN FACT, WE'VE BEEN
LUGGING THEM
AROUND FOR THE
PAST SIX MONTHS!!

IT'S ABOUT TIME THEY
EARNED THEIR KEEP.



I SAY WE CHOP THE
TROLLS INTO IDDY
BIDDY PIECES AND TOSS
'EM IN "THE BAG"!

LET BARRINGER
AND HIS BOYS
DEAL WITH IT.

IN THE BAG?
BUT BOB,
THAT'S....



HEY...THAT'S AN AWESOME IDEA!!!
CAN YOU IMAGINE? THOSE
RE-GENNED TROLLS WILL BE POPPIN'
UP LIKE MUSHROOMS! BAG WORLD
WILL BE INFESTED WITH TROLLS!

WHOOAH, GUYS! BAD IDEA!!
ACCORDING TO PARAGRAPH FOUR,
SECTION TWO OF THE PEACE TREATY
WE SIGNED WITH BARRINGER
WE AGREED TO STOP
HARASSING HIS "REALM".

REALM??!!



GET A CLUE, SARA! THE MAN
AND HIS PEOPLE LIVE IN A
FREAKIN' BAG OF HOLDING!
THERE'S NO "REALM". YOU'RE
JUST BUYING INTO THAT
'RIGHT TO EXIST AS A FREE
AND INDEPENDENT PEOPLE'
CRAP HE LAID ON US DURING
THE TRUCE NEGOTIATIONS!

THAT MAY BE, BUT BY
SIGNING THAT TREATY
WE VALIDATED
THEIR CLAIM.

HMMRRF!



WE VALIDATED, NOTHING!
B.A. PULLED A FAST ONE ON
US AND BONED US WITH THAT
SO-CALLED, "TREATY"
HE FORCED UPON US!

IF HE HADN'T DISTRACTED ME
WITH THOSE "DANCING GIRLS"
AT THE PRE-SIGNING PARTY
THE NIGHT BEFORE I WOULD'VE
DETECTED THOSE HIDDEN
CLAUSES IN THE TREATY AND
DEMANDED CHANGES.



HEY, I WARNED YOU THAT BARRINGER WAS A SHREWD AND CRAFTY
LEADER AND THAT YOU SHOULD BE ON YOUR GUARD. BESIDES
I THINK YOU WERE TREATED MORE THAN FAIRLY AT THE BARGAINING
TABLE CONSIDERING YOU LOST THE WAR AND SUED FOR PEACE.

OH, BLOW IT OUT YER EAR, B.A.! YOUR WESSON OIL TACTICS
WERE PRETTY UNDERHANDED DURING THE WHOLE PEACE
PROCESS - EVEN FOR A SCRUFFY-FACED SCREEN LIZARD LIKE YOU!

WESSON OIL TACTICS?
WHAT THE HELL ARE
YOU TALKING ABOUT?

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT TEFLON BILLY
WAKING UP NAKED IN THE BACK OF
THAT MANURE CART HEADED OUT OF
TOWN! HE MISSED THE FINAL REVIEW
AND SIGNING OF THE TREATY!

HERE!
HERE!



YOU AS MUCH AS **ADMITTED** THAT IT WAS ONE OF THOSE '**ELVEN FANNY SHAKERS**' AT THE PARTY WHO SLIPPED ME THAT '**MICKEY**' IN MY **LEMON-SPRITZER**.

NEXT THING I KNOW I FIND MYSELF **HOGTIED** ON A **FAST WAGON** TO **HAGLEY TOWN** WITH A **HANG OVER** THE SIZE OF **STUTTGART** THROBING IN MY BRAIN.

THAT WAS **WRONG** AND YOU **KNOW** IT!



WRONG?! WHY? BECAUSE THINGS DIDN'T GO **YOUR** WAY FOR ONCE? **BIG DEAL!!** SO **BARRINGER** GOT THE **BEST** OF YOU. WHY DON'T YOU JUST **GET OVER IT** AND **MOVE ON?**

BECAUSE IT WAS A **BAD GM CALL!!** ONLY **TWO** PEOPLE KNEW THAT **TEFLON BILLY** HAD '**NUBILE FEMALE ELVES**' WRITTEN DOWN AS A **MAJOR WEAKNESS** ON HIS CHARACTER SHEET! MYSELF AND **YOU!!** IN OTHER WORDS, YOU HAD **BARRINGER** ACTING ON INFORMATION HE **DIDN'T** HAVE!

OH FOR... WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS A **DOZEN** TIMES. HE USED THAT **RING OF SCRYING** YOU HAD **STORED** IN THE **BAG** TO **ROOT** OUT YOUR **WEAKNESSES**.

THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE **WRONG!** NO WAY THAT HAPPENED.



THAT RING DIDN'T HAVE ANY **CHARGES** LEFT ON IT! EXCEPT FOR IT'S **BASE METALS** IT WAS **USELESS!**

I SAID IT **THEN** AND I SAY IT **NOW** - YOU SHOULD JUST **ADMIT** YOU WERE **WRONG** AND **REVERSE** YOUR **RULING?**

OH FOR CRYING OUT LOUD! WE'RE **NOT** GOING TO START **ARGUING** ABOUT THE **VALIDITY** OF THAT **TREATY** AGAIN. I MADE MY **RULING**. YOU GUYS **SIGNED** IT AND YOU'RE **ALL** BOUND BY IT. EVEN **YOU**, **BRIAN**. YOU GAVE YOUR **FAMILIAR** POWER-OF-ATTORNEY AND HE **SIGNED** FOR **YOU** BY **PROXY**. SO LET'S JUST **DROP** IT.

THAT'S NOT FAIR! **HODGY** WOULD **NEVER** SIGN SOMETHING WITHOUT **READING** IT! I TAUGHT HIM **BETTER** THAN THAT.

YEAH, WELL, WHILE YOU GUYS ARE STANDING AROUND **YACKING** ONE OF THE **TROLLS** LEAPS UP FROM THE **BODY HEAP** AND ATTACKS **KNUCKLES!**

ME??!

DAMN!!



THAT'S IT!! I'M GETTIN' RID OF THESE GUYS **RIGHT NOW!!** I'M CHUCKING **TROLL-MEAT** INTO '**THE BAG**' JUST AS **FAST** AS I CAN. IF **BARRINGER** HAS A PROBLEM WITH IT HE CAN TAKE IT UP WITH ME **AFTER** HE'S DEALT WITH THEM.

DAMN STRAIGHT THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO DO. I DONE TOLD YA I'M **HOPPIN' MAD!**

YOU **DO** REALIZE THIS WILL BE VIEWED AS A **HOSTILE ACT**. YOU'LL BE BREAKING THE **TREATY** YOU KNOW.

GIVE 'EM HELL, **BOBBY-BOY!** LET **LOOSE** THE **DOGS OF WAR!**

UH...ARE YOU **SURE** THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO DO, **BOB?**

ATTA BOY, **BOB!** I'M **RIGHT** BEHIND YOU. I'LL HOLD THE **BAG OPEN** FOR YA.

YEAH, YEAH, **WHATEVER!** QUE SERA SERA!

I'M **WARNING** YOU! THERE WILL BE **DIRE** CONSEQUENCES!

UH, **DIRE** CONSEQUENCES?

OH **GAWD!** WE'RE IN **BIG TROUBLE!**



OKAY, LET'S JUST **PAUSE** RIGHT HERE FOR A MOMENT. IT'S **OBVIOUS** YOU'RE **UPSET** BOB. MAYBE YOU'RE NOT **THINKING** CLEARLY. SO WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A FEW **DEEP BREATHS** AND **RECONSIDER** YOUR ACTIONS.



WHAT'S TO RECONSIDER? I **TOLD** YOU WHAT I'M DOING. IT SHOULD BE **RAINING** TROLL-MEAT ON **BARRINGER** AND HIS **CRONIES** JUST ABOUT NOW! SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST **FEED** THAT INTO YOUR LAME ASS '**FLAVOR TEXT**' GENERATOR AND READ IT BACK TO ME?

-GRRRR- BOB, I'M TRYING TO GIVE YOU A **FREE TICKET** HERE. I SUGGEST YOU **TAKE IT** 'COS YOU'RE ABOUT TO MAKE **HUGE** MISTAKE.

BOB, I **STRONGLY** ADVISE YOU TO ACCEPT **B.A.'S** OFFER. **RECONSIDER** YOUR ACTIONS!

CAREFUL, BOB! HE'S UP TO SOMETHING.

IT'S A **TRICK!**

LOOKS TO ME LIKE I GOT YOU **RUNNING SCARED!**



BOB, I'M AFRAID HE'S RIGHT ABOUT YOU MAKING A **HUGE MISTAKE**. DID YOU **FORGET** THAT **BARRINGER** INSISTED ON **EACH** OF US **SWEARING** A **BLOOD OATH** TO OUR **PATRON GAWDS** THAT WE WOULD **NOT** BREAK THE **TREATY**??

YEAH BUT I **NEVER** WOULD HAVE SIGNED THAT **STINKIN'** PIECE OF PAPER IF I'D KNOWN I'D ACTUALLY BE HELD TO IT.

WELL YOU **DID** AND YOU **ARE!**

I STILL SAY **POWER-OF-ATTORNEY** DOESN'T COVER **BLOOD OATHS**



ACCORDING TO THE SECTION OF THE TREATY YOU REFER TO AS "**HIDDEN CLAUSE NUMBER NINE**" IF WE **VIOLATE** THE TERMS OF THE **TREATY** WE'RE SUBJECT TO THE LOSS OF **EXPERIENCE POINTS** OR EVEN **LEVELS!**

SIMPLY PUT THE **GAWDS** THEMSELVES ARE **ENFORCING** THE **TREATY**.



I'M TIRED OF **BARRINGER** GETTIN' OVER ON US. I'M **SICK** OF IT. YOU HEAR ME? **SICK OF IT!** IT'S NOT **ENOUGH** THAT WE HAVE TO PAY A **STINKIN'** **STORAGE FEE** TO SOME **NPC JERK** EVERYTIME WE WANNA TAKE **SOMETHING** OUT OF THE BAG BUT **NOW** HE'S USING OUR **OWN GAWDS** AGAINST US? I'M **FUMING!!**

AND WHERE THE HELL DO THE **GAWDS** GET OFF STICKING THEIR **NOSES** INTO **OUR** AFFAIRS. **HUH?**

RUINS THE **GAME** FOR **EVERY ONE**.



YOU KNOW GUYS I HATE TO MENTION THIS BUT YOU BROUGHT THIS **UPON** YOURSELVES. **BARRINGER** WAS VERY **FRIENDLY** TOWARD US UNTIL YOU STARTED **HARASSING** HIM AND HIS MEN.

HARASSING? I HAVE **NO** IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!

YOU DON'T **HUH?** WELL LET ME **REFRESH** YOUR MEMORY.



BRIAN, DO YOU HAVE A COPY OF *BARRINGER'S DECLARATION OF WAR* IN YOUR BRIEF CASE?

OF COURSE. BUT FOR WHICH ONE? *BAGWAR ONE, TWO OR THREE?*

-SPUTTER- *THREE?* THERE WAS A *THIRD WAR???*!! HOW'D I MISS *THAT* ONE?

I UPGRADED THE '*INCIDENT*' OVER THE '*ARMOIRE*' FROM A *SKIRMISH* TO A '*WAR*' IN MY JOURNALS.

I THOUGHT THE *HEAVY CASUALTIES* ON *BOTH SIDES* JUSTIFIED IT.

YEAH, THAT "*SKIRMISH*" WAS A *BLOOD BATH!*

I LOST SOME *GOOD MEN* THAT DAY. -SIGH-

WE *ALL* DID DUDE. THE *DICE* TURNED ON US ON *THAT* ONE.

IT MEANT *REVISING* ALL MY *JOURNALS* BUT I THINK WE ENDED UP WITH A *MUCH* MORE ACCURATE RECORD OF THE *HISTORICAL CONFLICT* BETWEEN OURSELVES AND *BARRINGER*.

OKAY, OKAY, HOW ABOUT JUST GIVING ME THE *DECLARATION OF WAR* FOR *BAGWAR 2* THEN.

YOU GOT IT!

HEY, REMEMBER HOW *KNOBBY FOOT* TOOK AN *ARROW* FOR ME WHEN I CAUGHT MY *SPUR* ON THE RIGGING OF OUR *HEAVY TREBUCHET?*

WHY WOULDN'T HE? THE *LITTLE GUY* LOVES YOU.

YEAH, *BUMPIN'* UP HIS *IRON RATIONS* REALLY PUT HIS *LOYALTY MODIFIERS* INTO *OVERDRIVE!*

KLICK! KLICK!

LET'S SEE NOW, IF MEMORY SERVES IT SHOULD BE FILED UNDER *AGREEMENTS ENTERED INTO: INTER-DIMENSIONAL.....* OR WAS THAT *INTERNATIONAL?* TECHNICALLY IT FALLS UNDER *BOTH* CATEGORIES. HMMMMM.....

I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WOULD BE SO MUCH TROUBLE BRIAN. JUST FORGET...

AAAH, HERE IT IS!

HERE YA GO! I USUALLY MAKE MULTIPLE COPIES SO YOU CAN *KEEP* THIS ONE.

UH...THANKS, BRIAN.

OKAY ACCORDING TO *BARRINGER'S* OPENING STATEMENT *BAGWAR 2* WAS PRECIPITATED AFTER "HAVING *LONG ENDURED* THE *CEASELESS* PROVOCATIONS AND *UNENDING* HARASSMENT WHICH HAVE BROUGHT *GREAT GRIEF* AND *DEEP SORROW* UPON MY PEOPLE," LET'S SEE HE LISTS YOUR *ACTS OF AGGRESSION* HERE SOME WHERE.....OH, *HERE* WE ARE, AMONG THE *ACTS OF HARASSMENT* HE HAS LISTED: *PEEING* IN THE *BAG* AND USING IT AS A *PORT-A-POTTY*; *CASTING* A *PERPETUAL MAGIC MOUTH OF TAUNTING* OVER THE *BAG'S* OPENING AND COMMANDING IT TO *BROADCAST* INSULTS FOR 120 DAYS STRAIGHT; *HOLDING* THE *BAG UNDER WATER* RESULTING IN THE TRANSFERENCE OF *LAKE PLACID* FROM *GARWEEZE WURLD* TO *BAG WORLD*; *TOSSING* *RANDOM* OBJECTS INTO THE *BAG* SUCH AS *LARGE STONES*, A *CHURCH*, *FOUR MILK COWS*, A *SWACK IRON DRAGON*, ETC; *KNUCKLES* IS *SPECIFICALLY* MENTIONED HERE *TWELVE* TIMES FOR VARIOUS '*CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY*' FOR WHICH HE WAS *TRIED* AND *CONVICTED* IN *ABSENTIA!*

SOME NERVE *TAGGING* ME A *WAR CRIMINAL*.

IT'S CALLED *PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE!*

HEY, SOME OF THAT STUFF WORKED IN THEIR FAVOR! LIKE GIVING THEM A LAKE WHICH SOLVED THEIR WATER PROBLEM. THEY SHOULD'VE THANKED US FOR THAT LITTLE WIND FALL!!

JUST BECAUSE AN ACT OF AGRESSION HAD UNEXPECTED RESULTS DOESN'T NEGATE THE FACT THAT YOU WERE TRYING TO.... HOW DID YOU PUT IT? "DROWN THE BASTARDS LIKE RATS!"

YOU TAKING THEIR SIDE ON THIS?

WHAT'S YOUR POINT, SARA?

MY POINT IS THAT THE WAR ENDED WITH US AGREEING THAT WE WOULD "CEASE ALL HARASSMENT!" IN FACT THE TREATY GOES ON TO SAY THAT "ANY HARASSMENT AGAINST BAG WORLD" WOULD BE VIEWED AS AN "ACT OF AGRESSION" THUS BREAKING THE TREATY! WHICH OF COURSE MEANS WE WOULD STAND TO LOSE EXPERIENCE!

MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST SUCK IT UP AND BREAK IT ANYWAY! I CAN'T LIVE LIKE THIS.

FIRK DING BLASTIN' TREATY! IT TOTALLY FAVORS BARRINGER AND PUTS US AT A DISADVANTAGE.

AND WHAT THE HELL DID WE GET OUT OF THE DEAL? THE RIGHT TO STORE OUR EXCESS POSSESSIONS IN THE BAG FOR A STIFF STORAGE FEE? BIG WHOOP! I'M TELLING YA WE GOT ROYALLY BONED ON THE DEAL.

I JUST WISH I'D BEEN THERE FOR THE SIGNING! I NEVER WOULD HAVE LET THIS FLY!

OH....I SEE, SO IT'S MY FAULT NOW. IS THAT IT? LOOK AT THE TIME THOSE STORAGE-CONCESSIONS SEEMED LIKE A PRETTY LUCRATIVE BARGAINING CHIP. DON'T FORGET WE WERE TOTING AROUND 1,457,394 COPPER PIECES WE TOOK FROM SWIL GUT THE YOUNGER!

YEAH BUT LATER DURING THE 'SKIRMISH OVER THE ARMOIRE' HE CONFISCATED OUR ASSETS AND MELTED DOWN THOSE COINS TO PRODUCE ARMOR AND WEAPONS FOR HIS MEN.

NOBODY COULD HAVE FORESEEN THAT. WHAT AM I? KRESKIN?

STORAGE? THAT'S IT!

WAIT A MINUTE GUYS! THE ANSWER IS STARING US RIGHT IN THE FACE. WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO STORE OUR STUFF IN THE BAG - SO WHY DON'T WE USE IT? WE JUST HAVE TO PAY THE FEE WHEN TAKING AN ITEM BACK OUT. AND THE ONLY REQUIREMENT FOR STORING AN ITEM IS THAT IT MUST BE ACCOMPANIED WITH A INVENTORY TAG OR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE PERCENT SHELFING FEE IS TACKED ON TO THE STORAGE RATE.

SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS WE SHOULD STORE THE TROLLS IN THE BAG? HEH, HEH - SHEER GENIUS, BRIAN.

SURE WE CAN. IF THEY REFUSE THEY'LL BE IN VIOLATION OF THE TREATY.

BRIAN THAT IS TOTALLY AGAINST THE SPIRIT OF THE TREATY. DO YOU ACTUALLY THINK THE GAWDS ARE GOING TO LET YOU GET AWAY WITH THIS?

SPIRIT OF THE TREATY? SARA, YOU JUST DON'T GET IT!

WHERE THE **GAWDS** ARE CONCERNED THE **SPIRIT** OF A CONTRACT MEANS **SQUAT!!** EVERYTHING IS TAKEN **LITERALLY** WHEN IT COMES TO THE WAY THEY **INTERPRET** THESE TYPE OF THINGS..

WHICH IS **EXACTLY** WHY YOU HAVE TO **WORD** OUR **WISHES** SO CAREFULLY OTHERWISE IT GETS **TURNED** AROUND AND USED **AGAINST** YOU IN THE **WORST** POSSIBLE WAY.

THERE'S NOTHING IN THE **TREATY** ABOUT WHAT WE **CAN** OR **CAN'T** STORE IN THE **BAG!**



THIRTY MINUTES LATER....

OKAY, IT'S A **DEAL!** I PAY THE **CLAY-MASTER** 500 GOLD PIECES TO SCULPT ME A **DISEASED MUCK GOLEMN**. BUT I WANT HIM LOADED WITH THE REALLY **VIRULENT DISEASES** FROM TABLE **G-4** - NONE OF THAT WEAK STUFF FROM THE **A-TABLES**. I **STRESS** THE FACT THAT I **WON'T PAY** IF THE **GOLEMN** ISN'T TO SPEC.

HOLD ON BOB, GO AHEAD AND ORDER **TWO MORE** OF THE **MUCK GOLEMNS**. I HAVE SOME **GEMSTONES** HERE I CAN PAY HIM WITH.

SOON AS HE **DELIVERS** I'M **STORING** IT IN THE **BAG!**

HEY, PUT ME DOWN FOR ONE OF THOSE **BAD BOYS!**



A WEE BIT LATER....

OKAY BOB AS YOU **OPEN** THE **BAG** TO INSERT **PLAGUE-INFECTED RAT CARCASS** YOU ARE STRUCK WITH A LARGE BUNDLE OF **CATAPULTED TROLL FLESH!** TAKE OFF TWELVE HITPOINTS.

HUH?? TROLL FLESH? YOU MEAN.....?

THAT'S RIGHT. IT CAME FROM WITHIN THE **BAG**.

FOUL! THEY'RE **REFUSING** DELIVERY?



THERE IS A **NOTE** ATTACHED TO THE **BUNDLE**. IT READS, "**CEASE AND DESIST ORDER!** THE **OUTSIDERS** ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT INTRODUCING **HAZARDOUS ITEMS** UNDER THE GUISE OF '**STORING**' SAID ITEMS WILL **NOT BE TOLERATED** AND IS VIEWED AS **ACTS OF AGRESSION**. **DELIBERATE HOSTILITY** AND A **DIRECT VIOLATION** OF THE **TREATY**."

A **10,000 GOLD PIECE REPARATION** SHALL BE PAID **IMMEDIATELY** ALONG WITH THE **ASSURANCE** THAT THESE **HOSTILE ACTIONS** WILL **CEASE!**"

MY ANSWER IS TO **THROW** THE BUNDLE OF **TROLL MEAT** BACK IN THE **BAG!**

AND DON'T FORGET THE **RAT!**



I **REALLY** WISH YOU HADN'T DONE THAT GUYS - I **REALLY DO**. LOOKS LIKE YOU JUST **BROKE** THE **TREATY**.

NOW, IF YOU'D BE SO **KIND** AS TO EACH MARK OFF **ONE LEVEL** OF EXPERIENCE FROM YOUR **CHARACTER SHEETS**.



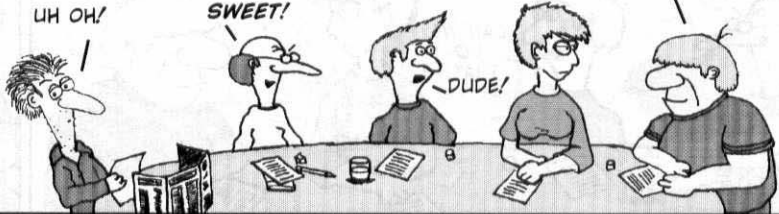
SORRY B.A.! BUT YOU **SCREWED UP!** THERE WAS A **SLIM CHANCE** YOU COULD HAVE **SUCCESSFULLY** ARGUED AGAINST OUR **INTERPRETATION** OF THE **WORDING** OF THE **TREATY** AND OUR **STANCE** THAT WE HAD A **RIGHT** TO STORE **HAZARDOUS ITEMS** IN THE **BAG**. I SUPPOSE IT COULD HAVE GONE **AGAINST** US BUT AT ANY RATE THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN SOME **DUE PROCESS** INVOLVED AND THE ORIGINAL **TREATY** WOULD HAVE REMAINED IN PLACE.

BUT HERE'S THE **PROBLEM!** **BARRINGER** JUST **FIRE**D UPON US WITH A **CATAPULT**. WHAT'S MORE THE **ATTACK** WAS **UNANNOUNCED!** THE LANGUAGE OF THE **TREATY** IS QUITE CLEAR ON THIS -**BARRINGER** JUST **BROKE** THE **TREATY!** THEREFORE **WE** ARE NO LONGER **BOUND** TO IT.

UH OH!

SWEET!

DUDE!



OKAY, OKAY, **BARRINGER** MADE A **MISTAKE** AND HE'S **MAN ENOUGH** TO ADMIT IT. HE **DEEPLY** APOLOGIZES AND SUGGESTS YOU **MEET** WITH HIS **AMBASSADOR** TO **AMEND** THE **TREATY** AND RESTORE THE **PEACEFUL** RELATIONS BOTH PARTIES HAVE ENJOYED OVER THESE PAST SEVERAL....

NOPE! SORRY! WE WANT A **NEW TREATY** WITH **OUR** TERMS OR WE PICK UP **ARMS** AND SETTLE IT ON THE **FIELD OF BATTLE!**

FIRK DING BLAST! YOU MEAN ANOTHER **BAG WAR?** NO WAY! **C'MON GUYS....LET'S NOT GO THERE - AGAIN!**

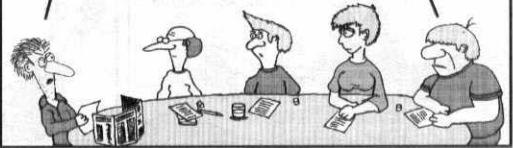


A FEW MINUTES LATER....

WELL **B.A.?** WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE? SINCE **BARRINGER** HAS **BROKEN** THE **TREATY** DO WE GO TO **WAR** OR DOES HE **SIT DOWN** AND HEAR **OUR** TERMS FOR RESTORING PEACE?

WAR??! BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THIS WAY. **BARRINGER** IS BENDING OVER **BACKWARDS** TO AVERT THIS **CRISIS!** WHY DON'T YOU **REASON** WITH....

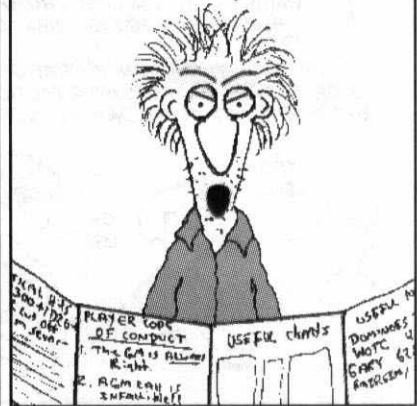
DO WE **RENEGOTIATE** THE **TREATY** OR DO WE GO TO **WAR?** IT'S **YOUR** CALL.



WELL GIVEN YOUR **UNWILLINGNESS** TO BE **FAIR** ABOUT THIS SITUATION I SUPPOSE MY ANSWER IS.....



WAR!



C'MON GUYS! LET'S **RECONVENE** AT **MY** PLACE SO WE CAN DISCUSS OUR **STRATEGY** - IN PRIVATE.



A FEW MINUTES LATER....

OH, SO **THAT'S** THE WAY IT'S GOING TO BE, EHP? I'D BETTER CALL **WEIRD PETE** AND ASK FOR A MEETING OF THE "**LOCAL AREA COUNCIL OF GAMEMASTERS**" I'M GOING TO NEED **ALL** THE **WAR-COUNCIL** AND ADVICE I CAN GARNER.

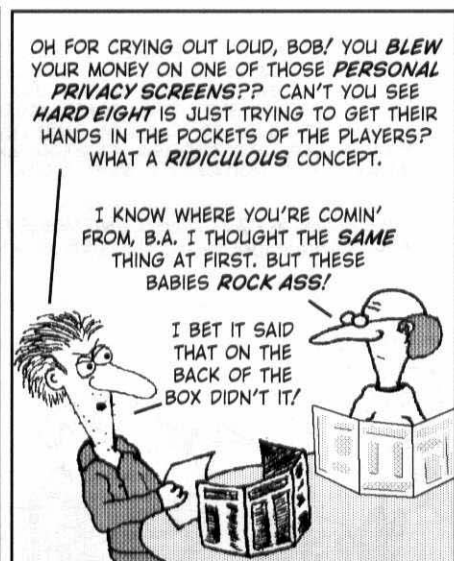
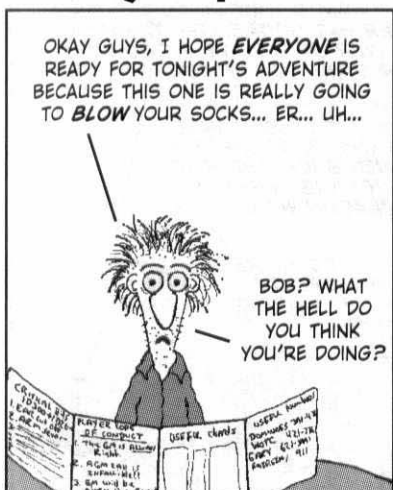
IF IT'S **WAR** THEY WANT IT'S A **WAR** I'LL GIVE THEM



CONTINUED IN **BUNDLES OF TROUBLE VOL: SIX "BAGWAR FOUR"**

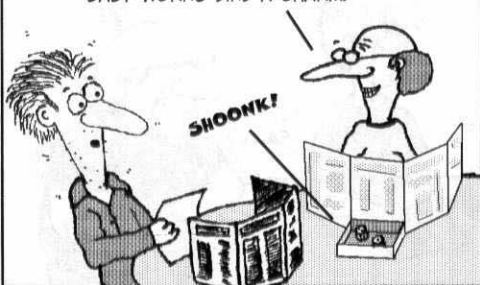
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BY JOLLY R. BLACKBURN



VOILA! BOX CARS, BABY!! ALL I HAVE TO DO IS INSERT THE PROPER DICE IN THE DICE CHUTE AND PUSH THE BUTTON - INSTANT RESULTS!!

OF COURSE FOR THOSE REALLY CRITICAL SITUATIONS I'LL WANT TO GO "MANUAL" BUT FOR MUNDANE DICE ROLLING THIS BABY WORKS LIKE A CHARM.



FINE! THAT'S JUST WONDERFUL! I'M SURE IT WAS WORTH EVERY PENNY OF THE THIRTY BUCKS YOU SPENT ON IT. -SIGH- LET'S JUST GET ON WITH THE GAME. SHALL WE?

ACTUALLY, THE COMPLETE SET-UP COST 68 BUCKS AND 97 CENTS. OF COURSE THAT DOESN'T INCLUDE THE EXTENDED WARRANTY PLAN THEY TALKED ME INTO SIGNING UP FOR. IT WAS TOTALLY WORTH IT. NOW I CAN GET THE QUARTERLY PLAYER TACTICAL INDEX UPDATES FOR 25 PERCENT OFF.

69 BUCKS???! BOY DID THEY SEE YOU COMING.

EXTENDED WARRANTY HUH? PETE DIDN'T FILL ME IN ON THAT OPTION.



LATER THAT NIGHT...

THE GATE'S BEEN BARRED FROM THE OTHER SIDE HUH? OKAY, I'M CHECKING OUT THE WALL. ARE THERE ANY WINDOWS OR OTHER SUITABLE ENTRY POINTS I COULD SCALE UP TO?

YES YOU CAN SEE AN OPEN WINDOW ABOUT FORTY FEET UP. HOWEVER THE WALL IS MADE OF HIGHLY DRESSED STONEMWORK - IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY TO CLIMB.

DRESSED STONEMWORK HUH? DAMN! I GUESS WE'LL SCOUT OUT THE SOUTHERN WALL TO SEE IF THINGS LOOK BETTER OVER THERE.

WHOA! HOLD UP BOB. AREN'T YOU FORGETTING SOMETHING?



FORGETTING SOMETHING? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

YOUR PLAYER TACTICAL INDEX, DUDE! THIS IS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO USE IT. WHY DON'T YOU CHECK OUT WHAT IT HAS TO SAY ABOUT CLIMBING WALLS?

HEY, YOU'RE RIGHT. I THINK I WILL.



A FEW SECONDS LATER...

ACCORDING TO THE INDEX IF I REMOVE MY FOOTWEAR I CAN SCALE A SEMI-SMOOTH SURFACE WITH NO DISCERNABLE PENALTY OR NEGATIVE MODIFIERS. THAT MEANS I SHOULD STILL HAVE A BASE 78.25 PERCENT CHANCE OF SUCCESSFULLY CLIMBING THAT WALL.

REMOVE YOUR FOOTWEAR? WHAT THE HELL???

WOW! YOU SOUND JUST LIKE BRIAN!



LOOKS LIKE YOU GOT SCREWED BOBBY-BOY! THE RULES DON'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT REMOVING YOUR FOOTWEAR TO CIRCUMVENT NEGATIVE MODIFIERS.

UH, YOU BETTER READ THE BACK OF THIS CARD, B.A. IT'S STAMPED WITH THE OFFICIAL H.M.P.A. SEAL OF APPROVAL INDICATING IT'S AN OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED RULE ADDENDUM TO HACKMASTER.

RULE ADDENDUM? SON OF A...



HEY, DO THOSE THINGS COME IN A **FIGHTER CONFIGURATION** AS WELL? I GOT A **TAX REFUND CHECK** COMIN' TO ME. MAYBE I'LL ORDER ONE OF THOSE **BAD PUPPIES**.

YOU BET THEY DO! IN FACT IF YOU GO TO **HARDEIGHT.COM** THERE'S AN **INTERACTIVE WORKSHEET** WHICH WILL HELP **TAILOR** A SCREEN TO FIT YOUR NEEDS AND TASTES - FOR A **NOMINAL FEE** OF COURSE, BUT IT'S WORTH IT.

OH C'MON, DAVE! B.A.'S RIGHT! THESE THINGS ARE JUST A **MARKETING SCHEME** DESIGNED TO SQUEEZE MORE **GAMER DOLLARS** FROM **HACKMASTER FANS**. THIS GAME USED TO BE BILLED AS A "**PENCIL AND PAPER**" GAME - REMEMBER?

NO WAY, SARA!



THERE'S BEEN A **DIRE NEED** FOR **PLAYER SCREENS** FOR **YEARS!!** BUT THE **GAMEMASTERS** HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A **STRONG LOBBY!!** YOU HEARD, B.A.! THEY CONSIDER THESE THINGS A **THREAT** TO THEIR **AUTHORITY**. THEY'VE BEEN **PRESSURING** HARDEIGHT TO KEEP THE CONCEPT **BURIED!**

YOU MAKE IT SOUND AS THOUGH **GARY JACKSON** IS **ONLY INTERESTED** IN MAKING A **FEW BUCKS!!** DO YOU KNOW HOW **LAUGHABLE** THAT IS?

OH **PA-LEEZE!!** YOU'RE JUST **SPEWING** SOME OF THE **HYPE** HARDEIGHT 'LEAKED' OUT TO BUILD **PRODUCT AWARENESS!**

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



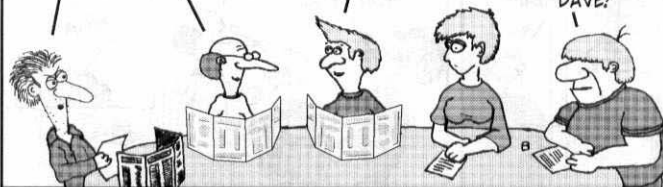
A WEEK LATER...

OH FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!!! DAVE??!! -SIGH- I SHOULD HAVE **KNOWN** YOU'D GET **DRAWN** INTO THIS **NONSENSE** TOO. I'M GLAD YOU HAVE **MONEY** TO **BURN**. MAYBE YOU **FORGOT** ABOUT THAT **FIFTY BUCKS** YOU OWE ME.

DUDE!! HOW'D YOU GET YOURS SO **QUICK??!!**

IT ONLY COST **TWENTY-FIVE BUCKS** TO PLACE A **RUSH ORDER**. IT JUST CAME IN THIS MORNING. STILL HAS THAT **NEW INK** SMELL TO IT.

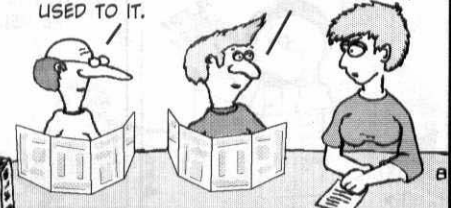
IT'S BEAUTIFUL, DAVE!



GUYS, IT **PAINS** ME TO THINK YOU'VE BEEN TAKEN **ADVANTAGE** OF. NEITHER ONE OF YOU HAVE THE **EXTRA CASH** TO WASTE ON THIS KIND OF **FRIVOLITY!!** BOB, YOU'VE GOT A **BAD TRANNY** IN YOUR **CHEVETTE** YOU COULD HAVE USED THAT **MONEY** ON. AND DAVE I THINK IT'S **TACKY** OF YOU TO SHOW UP WITH THAT THING WHEN YOU OWE **B.A.** MONEY.

I DON'T MIND **TOOLING** AROUND IN **FIRST GEAR**. I'M GETTING USED TO IT.

BUT THIS WILL **HELP** MY GAME, SARA. **EVERYONE** WILL **BENEFIT**.



A BIT LATER...

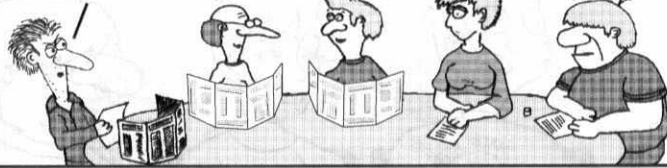
HERE'S MY RECOMMENDATION GUYS. ACCORDING TO MY **COMBAT ASSESSMENT MATRIX**, WITH OUR CURRENT **FIREPOWER** AND **SPELL** REPERTOIRE WE HAVE A **83.665 PERCENT** CHANCE OF SUCCESS. I THINK IT'S **WELL** WORTH THE RISK.

I AGREE BUT WHAT'S THE RATIO FOR **HIT-POINT LOSS** VS. **EXPERIENCE POINTS** GAINED?

NOT TOO BAD REALLY. WE'RE LOOKING AT LOSING A NET **17 HIT POINTS** FOR THE GROUP - PLUS OR MINUS 3 POINTS. SOME OF THAT WILL BE SOAKED UP BY THE **HENCHMEN** AND **HIRELINGS**.

OH FOR THE... **FIRK DING BLAST!!**

MY FIGURES SAY **19 POINTS** BUT THAT'S PRETTY GOOD, DAVE.



THE FOLLOWING WEEK...

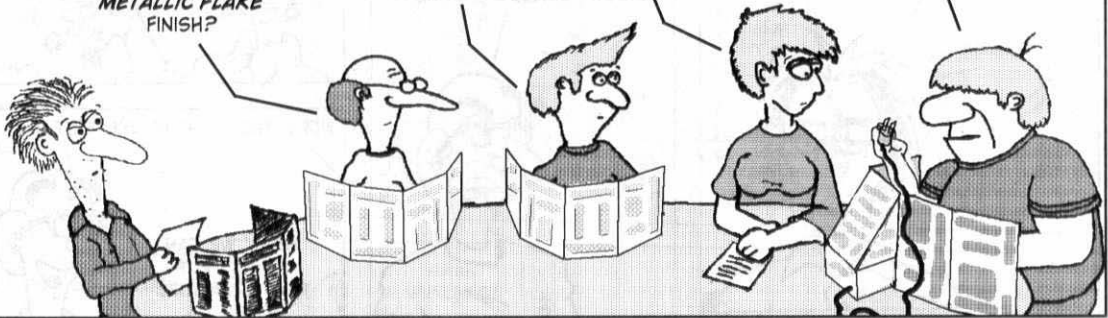
HEY **B.A.** YOU GOT AN **OUTLET** I CAN **PLUG** THIS IN TO?

WHOAH!! YOU WENT FOR THE **PEA-GREEN METALLIC FLAKE FINISH?**

DID IT COME WITH THE **CAR ADAPTER?**

OH, **BRIAN**, NOT YOU TOO?

I ORDERED THE **DELUXE MODEL**. COMES WITH **FLASH ROM STORAGE** AND A **PALM OS DATABASE** WHICH CAN LINK RIGHT TO **HARDS**.



LATER THAT SAME NIGHT...

HEY GUYS, HOLD OFF ON ORDERING THAT PIZZA FOR A FEW MINUTES. I'M STILL **DOWNLOADING** THOSE **HACK-MASTER RULE INDEX** UPDATES TO MY **SCREEN**.

WILL SOMEBODY PLEASE JUST **SHOOT ME?**

ACCORDING TO MY **PROBABILITY OF SUCCESS** MATRIX I SHOULD BE ABLE TO SURVIVE **2.75 BLASTS** OF **FIRE BREATH** SO I'M **CHARGING** THAT **DRAGON'S ASS!**

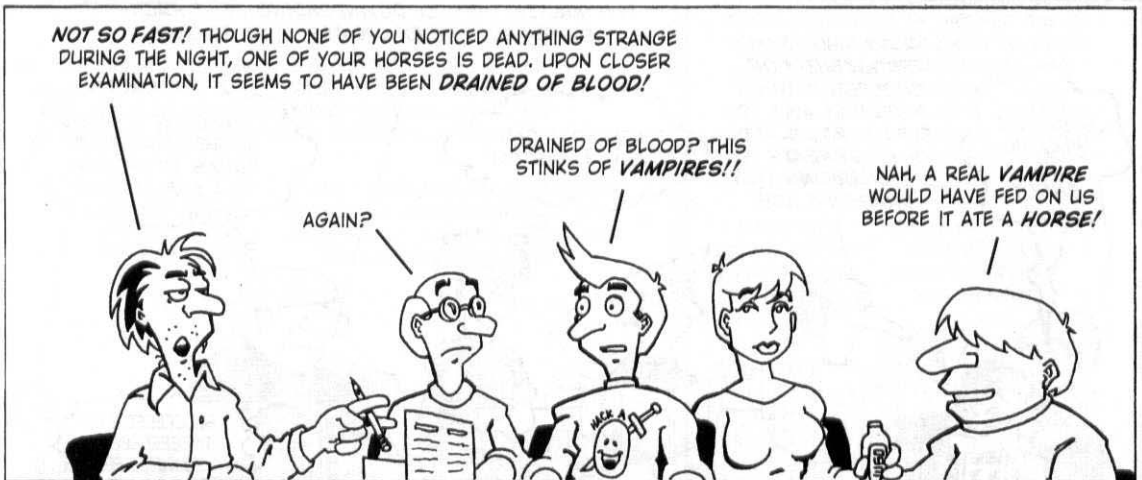
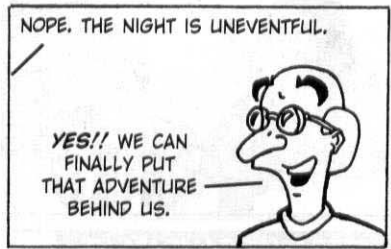
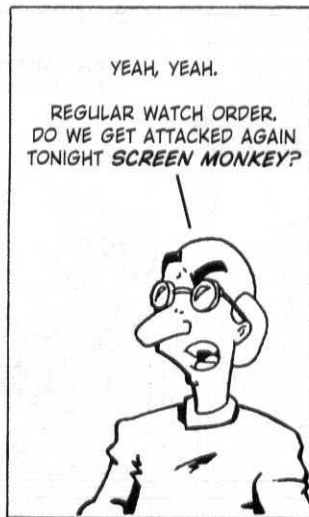
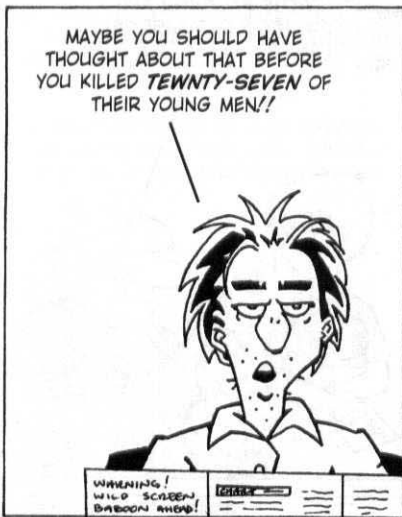
I WONDER IF THEY COME IN A **PASTEL?**

I SHOULD'VE COUGHED UP THE EXTRA **FIFTY BUCKS** TO **UPGRADE** TO A **56K MODEM**.



Kiksumath's Legacy

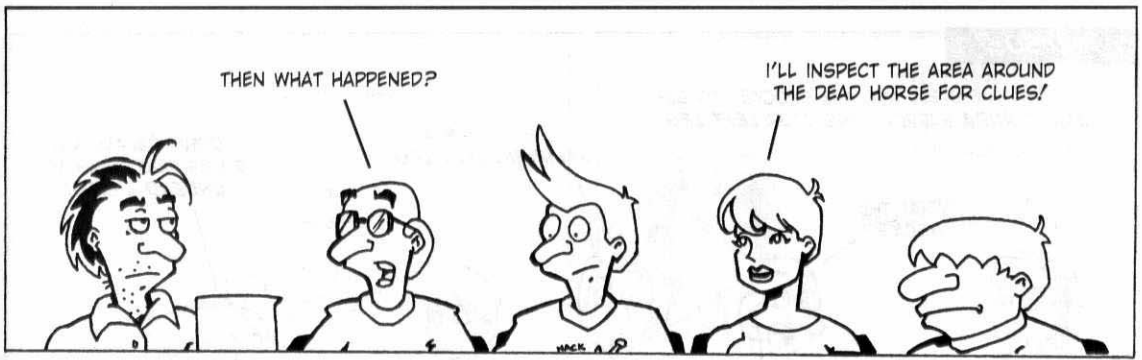
HOMEBREWED KODT BY KEN ALBERY



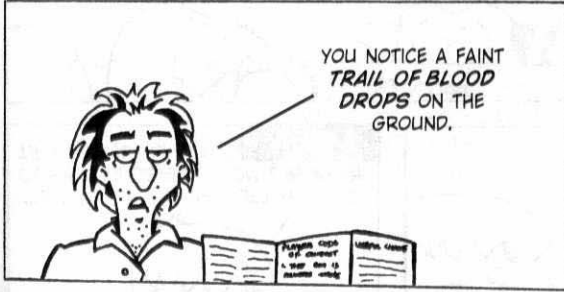
This story is a continuation of another Homebrewed KoDT which appeared in **Tales from the Vault Volume Two**.

THEN WHAT HAPPENED?

I'LL INSPECT THE AREA AROUND THE DEAD HORSE FOR CLUES!



YOU NOTICE A FAINT TRAIL OF BLOOD DROPS ON THE GROUND.



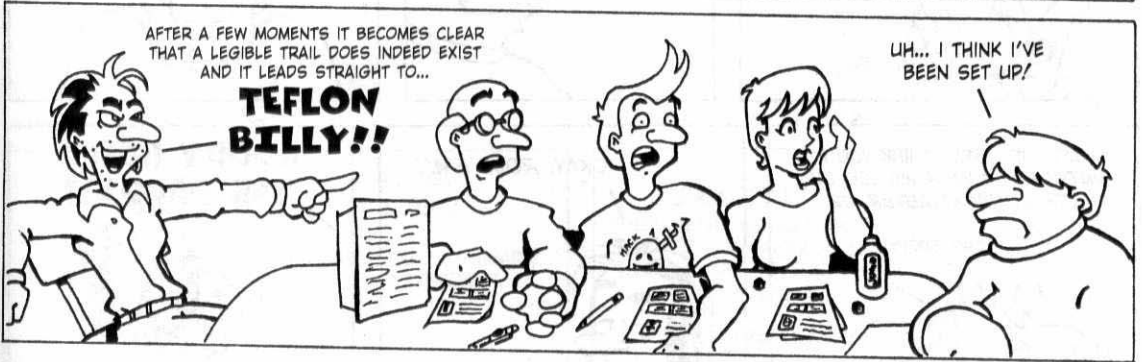
DOES THE BLOOD LEAD ANYWHERE? MAYBE IT LEFT AN INDICATION OF WHICH DIRECTION THE ATTACKER WENT.



AFTER A FEW MOMENTS IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT A LEGIBLE TRAIL DOES INDEED EXIST AND IT LEADS STRAIGHT TO...

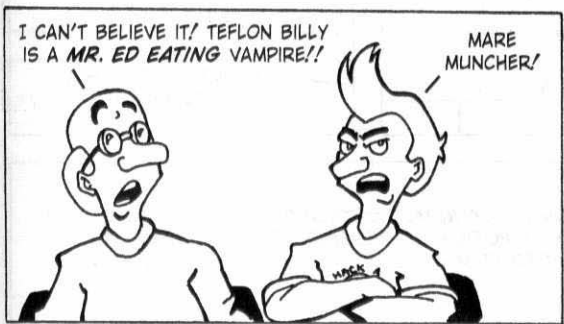
TEFLON BILLY!!

UH... I THINK I'VE BEEN SET UP!



I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! TEFLON BILLY IS A MR. ED EATING VAMPIRE!!

MARE MUNCHER!

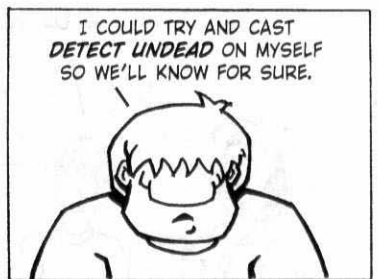


GUYS, HE CAN'T BE A VAMPIRE! HE'S BEEN WALKING AROUND IN DIRECT SUNLIGHT ALL DAY!



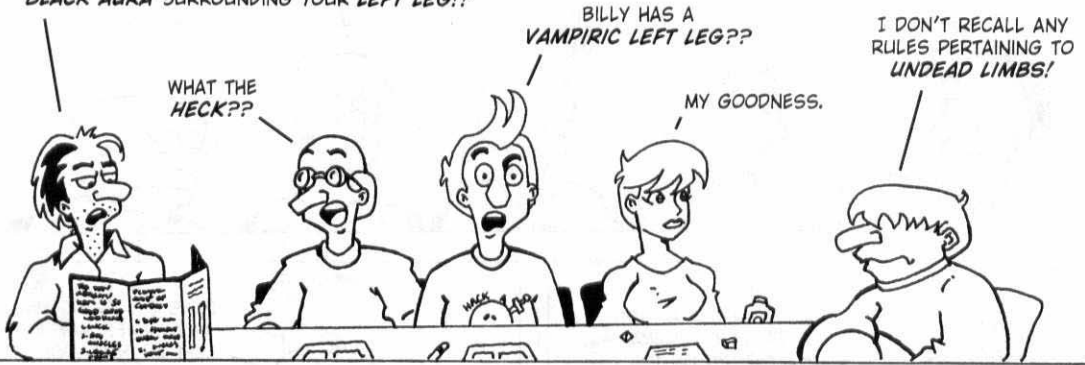
UH... NOT TO FAST SARA. IF KIKSUMATH, THE VAMPIRE THAT BIT ME, WAS A HIGH LEVEL VAMPIRE HE'D BE IMMUNE TO THE EFFECTS OF SUNLIGHT. IF HE TURNED ME INTO A BLOODSUCKER, I WOULD BE IMMUNE TOO!

I COULD TRY AND CAST DETECT UNDEAD ON MYSELF SO WE'LL KNOW FOR SURE.



AND SO...

YOU CAST THE SPELL AND ARE SHOCKED TO SEE A **BLACK AURA** SURROUNDING YOUR **LEFT LEG!!**



WHAT THE HECK???

BILLY HAS A **VAMPIRIC LEFT LEG???**

MY GOODNESS.

I DON'T RECALL ANY RULES PERTAINING TO **UNDEAD LIMBS!**

I WASTE IT WITH MY CROSSBOW!!



WAIT, WAIT. I HAVE AN IDEA...



LATER...

OKAY, I'M READY. IF **EL RAVAGER** WOULD BE SO KIND AS TO CHOP MY LEFT LEG OFF AT THE HIP...



OKAY, BUT I STILL THINK YOU'RE **NUTS!** B.A., I HACK HIS LEG OFF WITH MY **HACKMASTER +12.**

(SO LONG, BUDDY)



OKAY, **ROLL 'EM!!**



HOODY HOO'S YER DADDY??



I WOULD SAY THAT'S A NICE CLEAN CUT!

NIFTY. ONCE THE LEG IS OFF, I DRINK A **POTION OF EXTREME FORTITUDE** WHICH CUTS THE DAMAGE BY SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT. NEXT, I'LL DRINK MY **POTION OF REGENERATION** AND CAST **HASTE.** THIS CAUSES MY LEG TO GROW BACK IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND HEALS ANY REMAINING DAMAGE.

WHOA, DUDE!

BRILLIANT PLAYING BRIAN.

I'M NOT DONE YET...



WHAT'S THE LEG DOING?



NOTHING!!

IT'S LAYING MOTIONLESS ON THE GROUND...

AS I WOULD ASSUME MOST SEVERED LIMBS WOULD!!



NOT SO FAST! WE'VE ALREADY ESTABLISHED IT'S A VAMPIRIC LEG. WELL, IF THAT IS TRUE, THEN THERE ARE ONLY THREE WAYS TO KILL IT. ONE WOULD BE EXPOSURE TO SUNLIGHT. SECOND, YOU COULD DRIVE A STEAK THROUGH ITS HEART. THE THIRD OPTION WOULD BE TO BEHEAD IT!



IT'S A LEG!
A LEG!!

YOU CAN'T STAKE ITS HEART!
YOU CAN'T BEHEAD IT!



EXACTLY!!

SINCE WE'VE DEDUCED THAT IT IS INDEED HIGH ENOUGH LEVEL TO BE IMMUNE TO SUNLIGHT, IT'S INVINCIBLE!

I CAST *CHARM UNDEAD*.



ARRRRRRGGGGH!!

HOW MANY XPS DO I GET FOR CHOPPING OFF THE LEG?

ME AND MY TWO LEFT FEET HEAD OFF TO LOOK FOR A NEW HORSE.



b.a.

FELTON

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, **DAWG: 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. He's currently employed at **Pizza-A-Go Go**.



brian

VAN HOOSE

Brian is 27 years old and lives alone. He manages to make a modest living operating a local ISP and selling painted miniatures. Brian is typically



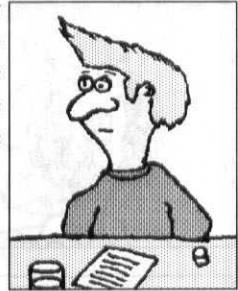
quiet and utters only three-word sentences unless a rule has been broken or his character has been maligned. Even though Brian can't remember his own phone number, he can recite entire passages of various rule books from memory. He used to claim to have a girlfriend (Alexis) who no one had ever seen. After being confronted by the other Knights on the subject, he refuses to discuss his dating life. And gawd help the poor soul who brings it up.

Knights of the Dinner Table™

Dave is 22 years old and attends Ball State University where he is studying cultural anthropology. He also has a minor in dance theory. (which he originally pursued as a ploy to meet chicks). He was introduced to role-playing by Bob whom he met at a local paintball tournament. (*He saved Bob's butt from a double-flanker*) 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.

dave

BOZWELL



bob

HERZOG

Bob is 26 years old and also lives with his parents. He currently works for his dad at the **Hoe and Harness Insurance Co.** In the past he has had a record of losing his job because of his temper and sharp tongue. Bob was the first dues paying member of the group. He's from the old school of role-playing and believes it's all about breaking things and killing people. He made the local papers twice when he got lost in the steam tunnels under the Ball State. (*The first time for seven days.*)



sara

FELTON

Sara is 25 years old and is B.A.'s cousin. She recently moved back to Muncie, Indiana from Wisconsin and is the newest member of the group. Unfortunately, Sara is also the only female in the group and fights a lonely battle to bring more role-play into the group's gaming sessions and less hack-n-slash. Sara has decided it is her sworn obligation to bring the other members of the group around to her style of play. She attempts to do this by example but occasionally has to resort to threats and physical bullying to make her point.



johnny

KIZINSKI

Johnny "Lucky" Kizinski was one of the original members of the **Knights of the Dinner Table Gaming Club**. He was highly respected by the other members for his gaming style and dedication to the game. He is mostly remembered, however, for his incredible luck with the dice and his uncanny habit of coming up with the right results at the right time. Mention his name around any gaming table in Muncie, Indiana and you're likely to hear the sad refrain, "the boy could play!" Johnny's story has an unhappy ending however. One night during a power session of **CattlePunk**, his luck ran out. He fumbled consecutively FIVE times, failed four saving throws, and missed twelve to-hits over the course of the evening. As a result four high level player characters met their demise. Johnny's unlucky streak haunted him in the weeks that followed and he eventually lost interest in the game and hung up his dice bag. He moved out of state and now manages a Big Juices in Wisconsin.



gary

JACKSON

Gary Jackson is fondly known as the “Gawdfather of Gaming” by millions of gaming enthusiasts around the world. His failing wargame company, Hard 8 Enterprises, was about to close its doors for good in 1977 when Gary tossed the dice on a hastily produced role-playing game, **The HackMasters of EverKnight™**. The first print run was quickly snapped off the shelves and soon frantic distributors were calling Gary’s three-man shop with pleas of

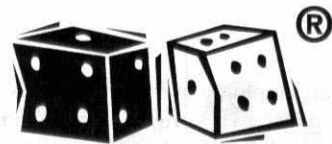
“More!” Gary has been riding Hackmaster spin-offs ever since. For those who want to know what ‘hard eight’ means, it refers to the game of craps where Gary has blown thousands of dollars of company money over the years on his frequent trips to Vegas.



edmund
FINLEY

Edmund Finely was once Gary Jackson’s paperboy. One morning he was coerced into filling an empty chair

during a play-testing session of HackMaster and became ensnared in ‘Gary’s Game’. That was twenty years ago and Edmund has been on the Hard 8 team ever since (though he’s only been on the payroll for the past four months). Edmund wears the proud title of “Director of Research and Development” and recently oversaw the production of his first written work, **Abe, Babes and RollerBlades™**, described as a “sexy, zany, time-travelling romp through history and fashion”.



Hard 8 Enterprises®

What do you want to Hack today?™

Jo Jo is one of Gary Jackson’s favorite, “yes-men”. When he bought out **Battle Cry Games** in 1984, Jo Jo Zeke came as part of the deal. For years Jo Jo was considered the “*King of Hex-and-Cardboard-Counter*” wargames and has over forty-two titles under his belt. His most famous game design was ‘The Pope’s Panzers’ a ‘what-if’ wargame simulation that rocked war gaming circles around the country. The sequel, ‘V-Rockets at the Vatican’ earned him his first **Gamers’ Choice Award** for best

game design. Jo Jo is now responsible for writing much of the flavor text for **HackMaster** adventures (something he has a knack for), and crunching rules. It is rumored he lives in his office at Hard Eight Enterprises.



jo jo
ZEKE

the antignano
BROTHERS

Very few people have ever seen the infamous Antignano Brothers. Those who have are usually reluctant to talk about it. It’s known that Gary Jackson has kept them on the payroll for years. Their checks are usually annotated with the cryptic words, “for various services rendered”. It is said that Vince and Tony Antignano wear grey, pinstripe suits with twenty-sider cuff links. A few years ago, Nitro Ferguson publicly insulted Gary Jackson at a convention. A few days later, he FedExed a letter of apology to Gary. It is rumored the Antignano Brothers paid him a ‘visit’.



pete
SKIPOWSKI

Pete has been with Gary Jackson since the beginning. In fact they met in college where they used to play epic sessions of MERC

ARMOR and BLAZING GUNS. When Gary started his company, Pete came onboard as his first full-time game designer (working for shares in the beginning). In recent years the friendship has been strained as Gary's projects have repeatedly over-shadowed Pete's pet projects. In fact Gary usually targets Pete for his much publicized verbal abuse and ego-bruising. Still, Pete is loyal to Gary and Hard 8 Enterprises and rarely complains.

Waco Bob is one of the original share holders of Hard 8. He really doesn't do much at the company other than agree with virtually every word that comes out of Gary's mouth. Waco has done well, financially, working with Gary and that seems to be enough to have earned his undying devotion. Waco does sit in on every playtesting session he can. But since he seems to love every game he plays, regardless of its flaws, his value as a playtester leaves a lot to be desired. He invariably fills out his playtester evaluation forms with, "This game is the next HackMaster!!"

'waco' bob
FORSEY



Tuley isn't an employee at Hard 8, nor is he considered an intern. He originally came to the company as part of a Summer Playtester program. He was tricked into running the company's customer service department by being led to believe it was a 'virtual corporation computer game' and that he was earning points based on how well he 'played' the game, which involved answering the phone and working out 'variable solutions' to each call. No one has mentioned the 'game' in quite some time and Tuley seems content to live in his office, occasionally order out for pizza and man his station.



tuley
PRISWINKLE



norman
BOWSER

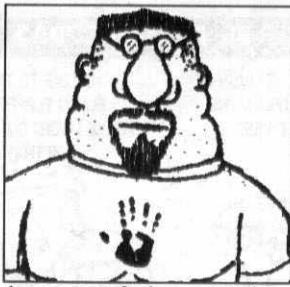
Norman Bowser is a role player who made good and realized his dream. He started out as a freelancer and began to pump so much HackMaster material into the Hard 8 offices that he was eventually asked to come on board. A few years ago he replaced Earl Slackmozer as the editor of HackJournal magazine and has been doing a bang up job of scratching the 'hack-n-slash' itch for thousands of fans. Gary has become so comfortable with Norman's writing ability that he has sanctioned all of Norman's material as 'official' Hackmaster material (even though Gary rarely reads Norman's work as of late). Norman has a long standing rivalry with Bitter Stevil. Norman cut Stevil's column from HackJournal soon after taking the helm.

timmy
JACKSON



Eight year old Timmy Jackson is Gary's youngest son. He is also the newly installed chief developer for the SpaceHack sci-fi roleplaying game. He had been responsible for development on the superhero frp Heroes and Zeroes, but was reassigned due to a rash of complaints following the release of H&Z's Background Tool Chest supplement. Gary, uncharacteristically emotional, felt terrible about this and has promised to make it up to Timmy by bringing his favorite TV hero, Xena the Warrior Princess, to the next HackCon.

nitro
FERGUESON



Victor Ferguson became known as the *Lord of Steam* when he adapted the HackMaster rules to live-action play and began taking hand picked groups of players on late night forays into the labyrinth of steam tunnels beneath Ball State University. After 'Ferguson's Folly' made national headlines (Victor and his group were lost for 7 days prompting a massive rescue search), the steam tunnels were secured and dozens of entrances were sealed with concrete. There are several contradicting accounts of what happened weeks later on the evening of January 5th, 1987 but it involved a satchel of C-4 high explosive, a miscalculation of the expected blast radius, and a medical evacuation of the Campus Administration Building which collapsed during an attempt to breach the steam tunnels. The incident earned Victor the nickname 'Nitro' and 5 years probation. Nitro has been president of the **Black Hand Gaming Society** for 8 years, taking over from Weird Pete.

stevil
VAN HOSTLE



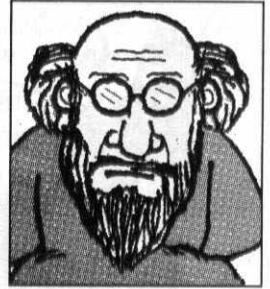
Stevil has a day job administering customer warranty claims. For years he satisfied his gaming itch through freelance work for various gaming industry publications. However, his divorce a couple of years back freed up time for him to get back into real gaming. He met Gordon Sheckberry at work [prior to his unfortunate(?) accident] and 'Gordo' subsequently introduced him to the **Black Hands**. He now commutes to Muncie every Friday night from his apartment in suburban Indianapolis.



BLACK HAND
GAMING SOCIETY

weird
PETE

"Weird" Pete Ashton is the sole proprietor of a local game store called the **Games Pit**. He is proud of the fact that he was one of the co-designers of the cult classic 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 but oddly



seems to be very bitter about the hobby he loves so much. He was a major stockholder in Hard 8 Enterprises but sold his shares mere days before HackMaster was released. Pete co-founded the **Black Hand Gaming Society** along with Nitro and served as president for the first four years of the club's existence. The backroom of Pete's shop serves as home table for the Society.

HEY B.A.?? WHAT'S WITH THE CAKE AND ALL THE BALLOONS AND STUFF?

WE'RE CELEBRATING OUR FIRST ANNIVERSARY!!! IT WAS A YEAR AGO THIS MONTH THAT WE JOINED THE **KENZERCO** TEAM!!

THIS ISN'T GOING TO INTERRUPT TONIGHT'S GAME IS IT??

WOW!! 1997 ROCKED!!!

I NEVER HAD SO MUCH FUN!!

I GOT A FEELING '98 IS GOING TO BE EVEN BETTER.

HEY, WHERE'S THE ICE CREAM?? YOU CAN'T HAVE CAKE WITHOUT ICE CREAM!!



This panel, celebrating the 1st year anniversary of KenzerCo picking up KODT originally appeared as part of the editorial in KODT#14. Sara's prediction proved true. In the two years since this panel appeared KODT's distribution has soared to almost 20,000 per month.

ROLE-PLAYING GAMES THAT SHOULD NEVER BE PART ONE "DAS BOOT THE RPG"

OKAY, YOU SEE THIS **DOUGLAS CLASS DESTROYER** BEARING DOWN ON YOU - 2,000 METERS AND CLOSING!!!

I DON'T CARE IF IT ENHANCES THE REALISM OF THE GAME!!! I'M NOT CLIMBING UNDER THE TABLE EVERYTIME OUR SUB DIVES!!!

NO TIME TO TALK *Freulin*!!! FLOOD TORPEDO TUBES 3 AND 4 WHILE I WORK OUT A TARGET-SOLUTION FOR THAT DESTROYER!!!

DIVE! DIVE! DIVE! HARD-RUDDER RIGHT 45 DEGREES!!! TAKE ME TO 80 METERS!!!!

Ja, Kapitan!!!!
HARD RUDDER RIGHT
45 DEGREES!!!! WE GOT SONAR PING!!!



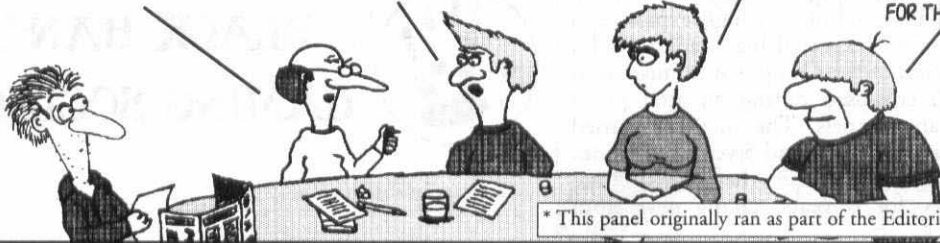
*This panel originally ran as part of the editorial in KODT#13. (In order to make more room for NEW material in the Bundles of Trouble™, editorials and Parting Shots™ have been pulled.)

CHECK IT OUT DUDE!!! WANT A PEZ?

OH WOW!!! YOU SNAGGED A **GARY JACKSON PEZ DISPENSER??**
I THOUGHT THEY WERE ALL SOLD OUT!!

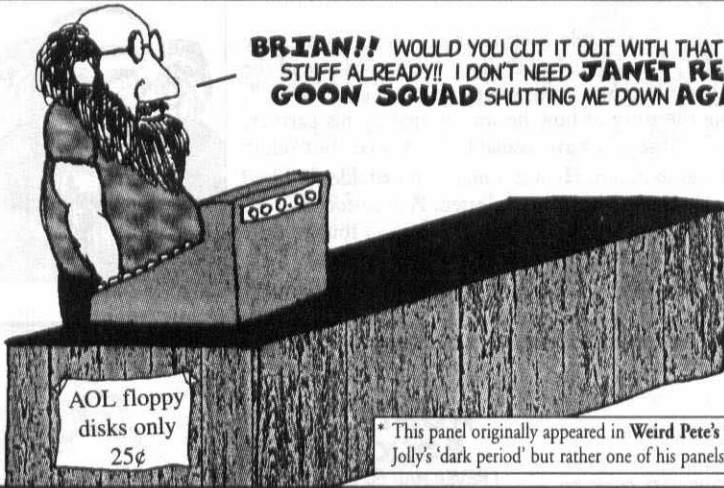
I'LL TAKE ONE AS LONG AS IT'S NOT LIME FLAVORED!!

HEY BOBBY-BOY, I'LL TRADE YOU MY GARY JACKSON ERASER HEAD FOR THE DISPENSER!!



* This panel originally ran as part of the Editorial in KODT# 14.

BRIAN!! WOULD YOU CUT IT OUT WITH THAT ESPIONAGE STUFF ALREADY!! I DON'T NEED **JANET RENO'S GOON SQUAD** SHUTTING ME DOWN AGAIN!!

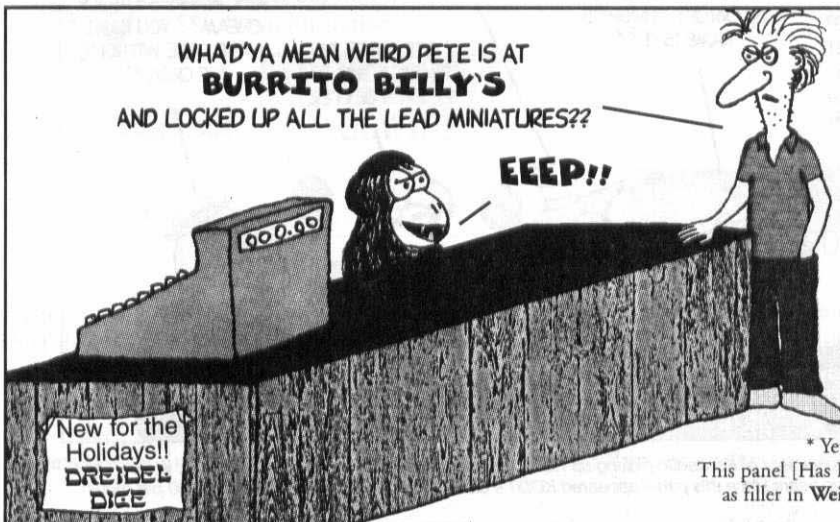


AOL floppy disks only 25¢

* This panel originally appeared in *Weird Pete's Bulletin Board* in issue 13. No, it's not artwork from Jolly's 'dark period' but rather one of his panels which has been re-rendered by Steve Johansson.

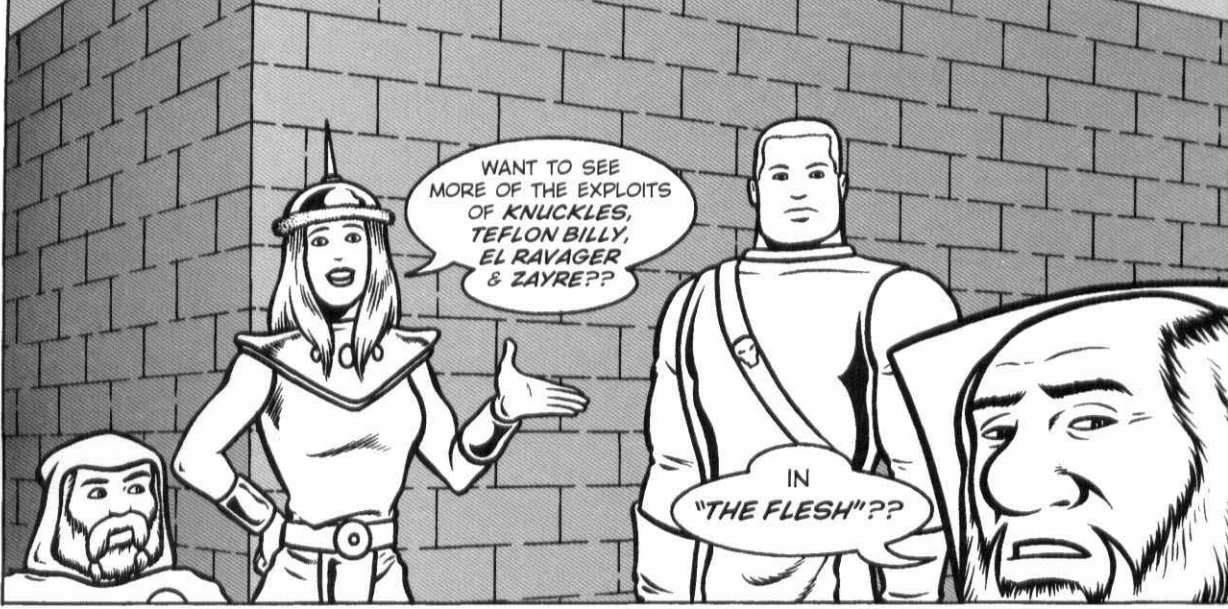
WHAD'YA MEAN WEIRD PETE IS AT **BURRITO BILLY'S** AND LOCKED UP ALL THE LEAD MINIATURES??

EEEP!!



New for the Holidays!!
DREIDEL DICE

* Yet another 'tweak' by Steve Johansson. This panel [Has B.A. gone G.Q.?] originally appeared as filler in *Weird Pete's Bulletin board* in issue 14.



WANT TO SEE
MORE OF THE EXPLOITS
OF *KNUCKLES,*
TEFLON BILLY,
EL RAVAGER
& *ZAYRE??*

IN
"THE FLESH"??

THEN CHECK OUT...

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LET THIS BE
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“To enjoy Knights [of the Dinner Table] you don't need to know any more about gaming than you'll learn from a quick trip through a local comics shop...with panel layouts consisting of a table with gaming geeks around it, the creators manage a surprising variety of plots. It's generous, insightful, text-packed and capable of evoking belly-laughs, even from non-gamers.”

Maggie Thompson
Editor, Comics Buyer's Guide

“While trading card games have been hogging most of the attention in the gaming industry in recent years, Knights has consistently championed role-playing games. As a crossover product, [between comics and gaming] it also serves as an ambassador to those on the outskirts of the gaming community.”

“One [game-related comic] that's certainly in the running to outperform all others is the award-winning Knights of the Dinner Table.”

Joyce Greenbolt
Comic Buyer's Guide

“Since opening my own gaming shop, one of the hottest products to come through the doors has been Knights of the Dinner Table. Every issue sells off the shelves, and hardly any gaming session goes by where I do not hear, “I waste 'em with my crossbow!” or “Fireballs coming on-line!” It is a great magazine and reminds me why I opened this shop in the first place: because gaming is a really enjoyable hobby and I want to promote it as much as I can. KODT does the same thing.”

Christopher Torres
Paradox Books

Knights of the Dinner Table

Issue #13

MEN THAT HACK

Originally Published: November, 1997

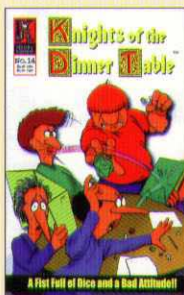


Knights of the Dinner Table

Issue #14

A Fist Full of Dice and a Bad Attitude!!

Originally Published: December, 1997



Knights of the Dinner Table

Issue #15

Mama Told Me Not to Play

Originally Published: January, 1998

