

Dungeons and Dragons still popular

Battling the 'dreaded grey slime'

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

They've come to work their way through dark, dangerous alien chambers and conquer new worlds teeming with old wealth.

They're sorcerers, hobbits, warriors, spell weavers, elves and half-elves in tennis shoes and blue jeans.

They battle against a host of bad guys including witches, orks, ogres, giants, various dragons and the dreaded grey slime.

The worlds they discover, like the evils they meet, exist only in their imaginations and as diagrams on graph paper.

The murky subterranean passages come to life only at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month in the Farmington Community Library.

That's when teens and college students from the surrounding area congregate to play Dungeons and Dragons.

The game, which gained notoriety when it was mentioned in the disappearance of a 16-year-old college student in East Lansing last year, manages to weave its spell for those who fell in love with fantasy literature and wanted more.

"Playing is more realistic than reading the books," said Paul Schmidt, 16, a Southfield High School junior. Schmidt enjoyed science fiction and fantasy literature but ached for more action. He read the rules for Dungeons and Dragons and the game began to interest him.

BESIDES gaining a way to change the outcome of the adventures told in fantasy books, Schmidt discovered that the game was an outlet for aggression.

"You can release yourself. You can't hit someone in the head in real life, but you can hit an ork on the head in the game."

With his penchant for action, Schmidt is pleased with his character in the game, a fighter. It was chosen through the roll of the dice but Schmidt admits he'd rather fight than cast a spell as a sorcerer.

The game involves a party of humans and mystical creatures who are about to enter into a cave, old temple, castle or other structure.

By asking the Dungeon Master about their surroundings the group must choose its next move, attempt to recover the treasure and exit alive.

Only the Dungeon Master knows all the pitfalls and dangers lurking for the party. Only the master knows the exact layout of the room.

Players make their own diagrams as they discover their surroundings. And they consult each member of the party before they make their next move.

Although the game has acquired a cult reputation, players deny that it is a cult.

"Dungeons and Dragons got a lot of bad press," said Tim Pilon, of Joe's Hobby Shop in Farmington. The shop sponsors the game night at the library.

IN SPITE of the notoriety during the Dallas Eggbert disappearance last year, players remained faithful to the game. So faithful that Joe's Hobby Shop moved it's games into the library because the store became too crowded, according to Pilon.

"It's a game of an intellectual nature," said Pilon. "The kids here are a cut above the other youngsters."

The players who gather at the library regularly have formed their own elected steering committee which rules on different disputes within the games.

To insure uniform standards during

the four different games simultaneously conducted at the library, the steering committee had each player sign an index card which listed his or her character, the character's level of strength and other playing details.

Announcements are made before the games begin. Between formal sessions, the committee meets to formulate dungeons and game plans for the next meeting.

As the characters and players gain experience they graduate to different levels of strength.

A character's fortune in the game depends on the player's ability.

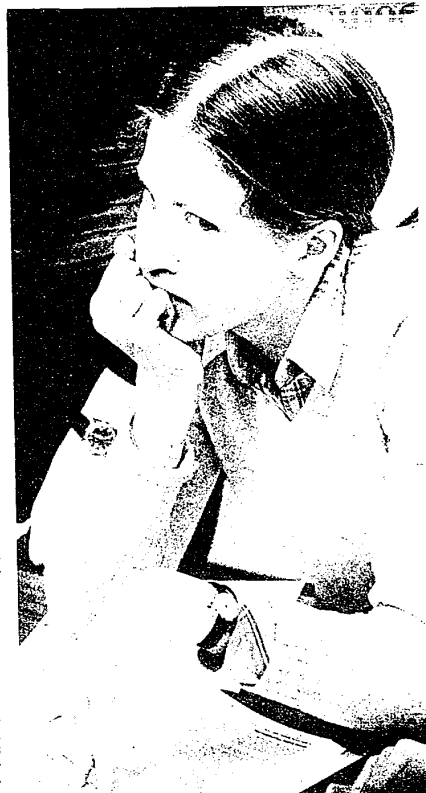
"It's the only game I know which takes intelligence or creativity. It's not like Monopoly," said Keith Briggs, 15, a Harrison High School senior.

"IT PROVIDES a chance to learn leadership and it's recreation. I can work on it anywhere. If I'm bored at home I can work on my dungeon at home," said Briggs, a fighter in the game when he isn't a Dungeon Master.

He became interested in the game two years ago and now attends different Dungeons and Dragons conventions as well as playing the game in the library.

The intellectual nature of the game, touted by Dungeon fans, attracted Briggs.

"It tends to run that more intelligent persons play it. Now it's spreading out and that's not always true anymore."



Amy Williams plots her next move in a game of Dungeons and Dragons.

'You can't hit someone in the head in real life, but you can hit an ork in the game.'

— Paul Schmidt



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THE INSIDE * ANGLE

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

RINGADINDA DING — Ma Bell is setting out to woo the tourists who truck through Michigan. (Look, Harriet, there's a deer.) Mich Bell and the Michigan Department of Transportation are posting signs along major freeways to let motorists know public coin phones are available at rest areas and tourist information centers throughout the state. The first of 75 signs measuring 30-by-36 inches were recently erected at the eastbound I-96 rest stop west of Howell. The metal signs show a white telephone on a blue background.

PERSONAL Ecology for Handicappers is a half-day seminar on fashions, sewing, adapting clothing and special grooming techniques beginning at 9 a.m., Feb. 9 at Rehabilitation Institute's Center for Independent Living, 4 East Alexandrine in the Detroit Medical Center. The seminar will include discussions and demonstrations of clothing and fashions, sewing tips for adaptations as well as new assistive aids and appliances for the handicapped. Transportation and lunch are available at a nominal fee. To register or for additional information call 494-9726.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTES honoring Frank J. Koch of Farmington Hills, former owner of Koch Metal Products in Redford, have helped enlarge the L.L. Richard J. Koch Memorial Scholarship Fund at Madonna College, Livonia. Frank J. Koch, who died Dec. 14, 1979, was the uncle of L.L. Koch of Plymouth who died Jan. 26, 1979.

Gifts honoring her husband were directed to the Koch Scholarship by Mrs. Orena Koch as a memorial to her husband and her nephew and his work with the Wayne County Sheriff's Department. The L.L. Richard Koch Scholarship is awarded annually to a student majoring in criminal justice at Madonna College. Persons interested in contributing toward the scholarship write to Sr. Mary Lauriana, Madonna College, 36600 Schoolcraft, Livonia, 48150.

HENRY FORD HOSPITAL West Bloomfield Center is offering free blood pressure screenings twice a week from 1 to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Center, 6777 West Maple, 2½ miles west of Orchard Lake Road. The screening is painless and takes five minutes. Appointments are unnecessary and persons don't have to be patients at the center to participate. For further information call 661-4100.

HELP US SING out in praise of an unsung hero. Know someone who has managed to live graciously and determinedly through the most trying circumstances? Someone who helped you or others in time of need and then didn't go out and

sing his or her own praises? Send us their name and address and tell us about them. Send us your name and address, too to 23352 Farmington Road, Farmington, 48024. The winner will be announced the first week of March. Staff of the Farmington Observer will act as judges.

The winner will receive two tickets to the show of his or her choice at the Fisher Theater. The seats, needless to say, will be excellent.

ANGLES IS GEARING up to send a salute to Dr. John H. Richardson of Farmington. Richardson was installed as the 98th president of the Michigan Veterinary Medical Association during the annual postgraduate conference for veterinarians this month at Michigan State University. Richardson has been a Farmington resident for 19 years and was mayor pro-tem in 1972. He was mayor in 1973. Richardson is the owner and director of the Plaza Veterinary Hospital, P.C. He is the son of Mrs. Eva Richardson of East Lansing. His wife Shirley is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Volkema of Holland. And here's an IA salute to Dr. Richardson for his new post, a bouquet of exclamation points: !!!!!!!!!!!!! (Think of them as waving tails of friendly pooches and kitties.)

A NINE session course in care of sick persons in the home will be offered from 1 to 3 p.m. Feb. 13, 20, 27, March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2 and 9 at the Red Cross Oak Park Regional Office, 25900 Greenfield, Oak Park. The course in home nursing offers instruction in areas such as bathing the patient, bed making, monitoring pulse, temperature and respiration, diet and nutrition, medications and body mechanics. The course is free but students will be required to purchase a \$4.11 textbook at the class. Registration is required. Call the Oak Park office at 968-2255 for further information and to register.

TEMPLE Kol Ami, 5085 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield will celebrate Tu b'Shvat with a family dinner and service. The family dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. and the service is scheduled for 7:45 p.m. Feb. 1. The celebration is the Hebrew version of Arbor Day. It is based on the Biblical injunction pertaining to tithes from fruit trees (Leviticus, chapter 19, verse 23-25). The holiday is now celebrated through planting of thousands of trees in Israel and by tasting the fruits from trees grown in that land.

THE GALICJA Song and Dance Ensemble will offer a program of Polish folk songs and dances at 8 p.m., Feb. 3 at Madonna College in Livonia. The troupe has presented Polish folk dances in the metropolitan Detroit area and around the country. Members of the group are second and third generation descendants of Polish immigrants.

LIGHTS...CAMERA...ACTION

"Even if we don't marry millionaires, we'll still look like a million in Bob Mackie underfashions"

"We may never be rich, but it's nice to know that underneath it all we'll look it in BOB MACKIE for GLYDONS' utterly luxurious intimate apparel. Luscious shades of pearl or periwinkle (because we demand to be indulged) done up in non-cling Antron® III nylon (because we're practical too). Hmmm...wonder if Bob Mackie's a millionaire?"

Left: Lace bra, \$12 and lace-lashed top points of satiny tricot, \$14. Right: All-lace corset, and satiny peltis-slip, asymmetrically sliced with lace, \$21 each. All in sizes S-M-L, except the bra, which comes in sizes 32, 34 and 36. In New Reflections Intimate Apparel, at Northland, Eastland, Oakland, Southland, Fairlane, Twelve Oaks, Flint and Ann Arbor stores only.

HUDSON'S
California adventure

