

# Make believe

## Dungeons and Dragons is roll-playing for fun

By MIKE SCANLON

Let's try to lay this out — you'll pardon the expression — logically.

First, that we're dealing with a game. Stuff like *Grimm's World*, *Chivalry and Sorcery*, *Tunnels and Trolls*, *Metamorphosis Alpha*, and the ever-popular *Dungeons and Dragons*.

The difficulty in seeking logic is obvious.

All these are games. They have no end. There are no winners. But you can get killed playing these games, or at least your game persona can be. And when that happens the war, as they say in the movies, is over for you. So while there are no winners, the dead guys are losers. Presumably.

Like sunsets, though, the rules of the game can change daily. Just what are we dealing with here? Fantasy, of course. And also "Monster Manual," "Dungeonmaster's Guide," "Deities and Demigods." These are the rulebooks, sort of.

"A lot of things are the dungeonmaster's preference. In fact, everything is the dungeonmaster's preference — if he doesn't prefer it, it doesn't exist. The rules are only there because the dungeonmaster hasn't used his eraser yet," said Jim Vaughn.

"No matter what rules the dungeonmaster writes down, you can't force him to stick by it," says Vaughn. "Do not tick off the dungeonmaster. His word is the last word."

DUNGEONMASTER, by the way, a term derived from the *Dungeons and Dragons* game, is losing popularity to the more mundane alternatives of "referee" or "judge." The dungeonmaster holds court over a game played usually by no more than six participants. "Just as Fritos is a form of corn chip, *Dungeons and Dragons* is a form of role-playing game. It happens to be the most advertised, the most notorious and the oldest, by a couple of months," Vaughn explained.

### Open swimming planned for fall

All residents in the Farmington area interested in swimming and recreation open swimming for the fall.

North Farmington High's pool opens 7-9:15 p.m. Mondays, Sept. 8 to Dec. 15. Farmington High's pool opens 7-9:15 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 10 to Dec. 17.

All children 17 and under, including the pool before 8:15 p.m. Children must be accompanied by a parent if their chin height is below 38 inches.

There is a 50-cent fee for children under 17 years old. Adult fee is 75 cents.

For additional information, contact the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department, 31555 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, or call 474-6115.

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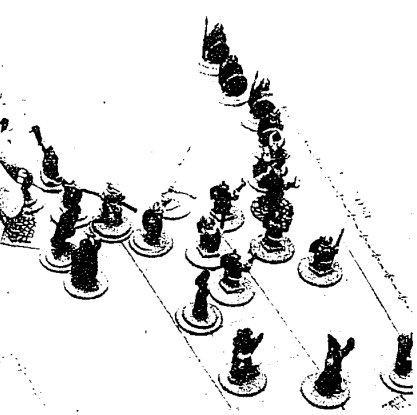
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These miniature lead figures are not really necessary to fantasy role-playing games like "Dungeons and Dragons" but they help players keep track. The dice at the left of the photo are part of an assortment of strangely-shaped "bones" that offer up to 100 potential different point totals. (Staff Photo by Art Emanuele)

### College studies family life

Are children the property of their parents? Is there an ideal husband or an ideal wife? Is one kind of family better than another?

These and other questions concerning the evolution of the contemporary family will be explored during the 1980-81 school year through a series of dramatic presentations at Madonna College, beginning Oct. 15.

The project, which coincides with the celebration of the International Year of the Family, combines an original play and three films with related lectures to evoke meaningful discussion of the changing values and role of the family unit.

Partially funded by a grant from the Michigan Council for the Humanities, the presentations are paired in eight sessions 7-10 p.m. Thursdays in the Residence Hall and Activities Center on Madonna's Livonia campus. The series will open Oct. 16 with Dr. Michael Pritchard, associate professor and chairman of the department of philosophy at Western Michigan University. Pritchard will discuss the values and changing roles of the family. The film "I Never Sang for My Father," based on the play by Robert Anderson will follow on Oct. 23.

A discussion of "Power of Love in the Family Unit" with Dr. Paul Lacey, professor of English language and literature at Earlham College in Richmond, Ind., will continue the series on Nov. 23 in the Madonna College Residence Hall. "The Human Comedy," the film based on the novel by William Saroyan, will follow on Nov. 20. Families in conflict will be the theme of two sessions during Term II. Dr. Margaret Sosnowski, commissioner of public welfare for the city of Philadelphia, will lead a discussion on Jan. 15.

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