M'i don't know. If I was 10, I probably wouldn't want to play this game. But, these kids seem to like it.'

Ron Cronan Gags and Games



Some of the more popular disca include Poison (variations of skulls and crossbones), any that depict sports teams or players, aswblades (discs with jagged edgrams that change pictures when you turn them. For girl Poggra—Pogs is equally popular among boys and girls—the flowery dealigns and Looney Tunes seem most sought after.

As for slammers, the heavier,

As for slammers, the heavier, the better — although parents with smaller kids would do well to stay away from the thick brass once or those with roughed edges.



Stam bam: These are three of the more popular slammers with area Pog-men.
Slammers are made of metal, aluminum, brass or heavy plastic. In the game of Pogs,
slammers are slapped onto a stack of Pogs (cardboard discs) with the object of flipping
them over. You get to keep the Pogs you flip.

a bootlegged one depicting O.J. Simpson behind bars — the O.J. (in the) Slammer.

Parting advice

Parting advice.

Parents, don't spend a lot of time fretting about the seemingly pointlessness of the Pogs. Enjoy the fact that something relatively inexpensive and non-violent has

budged your kids away from the video screen.

Take them to the local card or collectible store. Let them browse the bins, let them po Pog wild if they want to, but whatver you do, don't play Pogs with them. You will only humiliste yourself.

"Adults aren't any good at it," Theriot said. "It's a skill only kids can master. We have a 9-

and-up category in our tourna-ments and adults do enter, but they never make it into the Final Four."

Four."

And don't fret too much about the lonely Sega games. There are reports that the fad, though just now blossoming here, is waning on the west coast.

"This could be the Pet Rock of the 90's," and Lagasse.

Playing for keeps becoming a worry for Pog parents

By CHRIS McCosky

If there has been any negative parental rumbling about Pogs, it's that playing the game for keeps is a mild precursor to gambling. "Yeah, you know, playing Pogs at 10, taking lines on Lions games at 20," and Cris Laganse, owner of Diamonda and Ice Sports Cards in Livonia, one of many card and collectible shops caught up in the new Pogmania craze sweeping through the area. He was inklure, of course. But

He was joking, of course. But the concern is there. In fact, Jack-son County schools, South Lyon and several other districts across

the state have benned Pogs.

Kids are, in effect, gambling
their diacs when they play Pogs
for keeps. And, in some cases, the
battle for Pogs has triggered some
playground fighting. Even the
World Pog Federation, which
owns the name and rights to the
game, is concerned.

"One of the wings of our corporation is education," said Brian Theriot, WPF vice president for marketing and promotion. "We encourage kids to come up with other ways to play the game. Instead of playing for keeps, we

have structured games based on point systems. Certain Pogs aworth certain point values. It's a fun way to use adding and subtraction skills that they are learning in school."

The WFF is also marketing Pog Baseball, Pog Hockey, Pog Football and Pog Basketball as variations to playing for keeps.

Here's how Pog Baseball is played:

Here's how Fog Baseball is played:
You use four Fogs. Stack them face down in the middle of the board. Each player takes turns alamming or batting. You gast three outs per inning. You make an out by missing or failing to flip any of the four. If you flip one, it's a single. Flip two, double; three, triple; four, home run. You keep track to the base runners and runs.

track to the base runners and runs.

For hockey, or soccer if you prefer, each player puts up four of five Fogs. Each player designates one disc as a goal Fog. Mix and stack, then take turns slamming. If you flip your opponent's goal Fog you score.

"Mostly, the kids will make up their own games," Theriot said.

"That's one of the great things about Fogs. It allows them to be creative. There is no wrong way to play."

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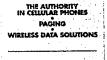
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