

Space Gamer

OGAE[®]

**New Scenarios
New Units
New Rules**



Editor-in-Chief: Warren Spector
Assistant Editor: Allen Varney
News Editor: Scott Haring
Contributing Editors: William A. Barton
Matthew J. Costello
Jerry Epperson
Bob McLain
Rick Swan

Publisher: Steve Jackson
Production Manager: Marie Mahoney
Production Staff: C. Mara Lee
Kyle Miller
Kim Strombo

Business Manager: Mark Chandler
Advertising Manager: Caroline Chase
Circulation Manager: Creede Lambard

ART IN THIS ISSUE

Cover: Pat Zircher.
Line Art: Graham Chaffee: 26. Denis Loubet: 21, 23, 30, 34. Kyle Miller: 4, 14, 16-19, 24, 36. Kim Strombo: 10-13, 35. Allen Varney: IFM, 2. Dan Willems: 32.

Game Art: Columbia Games: 43. Game Designers' Workshop: 9. Gaming Universal: 38. Steve Jackson Games: 34.

Most game names are trademarks of the companies publishing those games. In particular: *Dungeons & Dragons*, *Advanced Dungeons & Dragons*, *D&D*, *AD&D*, *Star Frontiers*, and *DragonQuest* are trademarks of TSR, Inc.; *Marvel Super Heroes* and all Marvel characters, of the Marvel Comics Group; *Indiana Jones*, of Lucasfilm Ltd.; *The Fantasy Trip*, of Metagaming; *Timemaster*, of Pacesetter Ltd.; *Star Trek*, of Paramount Pictures; *Twilight: 2000* and *Traveller*, of Game Designers' Workshop; *Thieves' Guild*, of Gamelords Ltd.; *Paranoia*, of West End Games; *Call of Cthulhu* and *Masks of Nyarlathotep*, of Chaosium; *Tunnels & Trolls* and *Nuclear Escalation* of Blade/Flying Buffalo; and *Champions* and *Justice Inc.* of Hero Games. Use of a trademark to identify a product commented on in this magazine should not be construed as implying the sponsorship of the trademark holder. *Ogre*, *G.E.V.*, *Illuminati*, *Autoduel*, *Convoy*, *Cardboard Heroes*, *Undead*, *Killer*, the all-seeing pyramid, and the distinctive likeness of the Ogre are registered trademark of Steve Jackson Games Incorporated. All names of other games published by Steve Jackson Games Inc. are trademarks of Steve Jackson Games Inc., or used under license. Use of the name of any product without mention of trademark status should not be construed as a challenge to such status.

SPECIAL SECTION

Ogre/G.E.V.

The giant cybernetic tanks of 2085 are now just 100 years away. The "ante-centennial" of the very first minigame is observed in a battery of articles, beginning on page 24.

Operation Newspaper • Steve Jackson	24
Badlands • Steve Jackson, Creede Lambard, & Allen Varney	27
Jim Gould Left This in Our Mailbox	28
New Units for Ogre/G.E.V. • Jeff Bolton	29

ARTICLES

Cthulhu Sixty Years Later • Greg Porter Lovecraftian horror never goes out of style	11
Now Museum, Now You Don't • Allen Varney A TOON Adventure of bewitching attractions	16
Useless Tables Redux More silliness from a long-ago contest	20
Roleplaying Count Dracula • W. Peter Miller Vampiric guidelines for <i>Traveller</i> , <i>Champions</i> , or any RPG	21
New Cards for Nuclear Escalation • Richard Heli More ways to kill innocent millions	32
Adding Life to Undead in AD&D • Collins & Schabillon Making them more sensibly dangerous	34
A Simple Critical Hit System • Tom Riley Usable with any roleplaying game	36
Keeping Posted: The Rise & Fall of Gaming Universal • Bob McLain The publisher tells the bittersweet story of the late PBM mag	38

REVIEWS

Twilight: 2000 • Rick Swan	7
Masks of Nyarlathotep • Matthew J. Costello	14
Capsule Reviews	42

GAMES: *The Arcanum*, *The Palladium Role-Playing Game*. **SUPPLEMENTS:** *The Queen's Park Affair*, *Encyclopedia Harnica 3-11*, *Ace of Clubs*, *Catapult Run*, *The Cleopatra Gambit*, *Captif D'Yvoire*. **PLAY-BY-MAIL:** *Capitol*. **PUBLICATIONS:** *Playing With Fire*. **PLAY AIDS:** *Car Wars Expansion Set 6*, *Tricorder/Starship Sensors Interactive Display*. **MINIATURES:** *Star Frontiers Metal Miniatures*.

REGULAR FEATURES

Counter Intelligence • John M. Ford	2
Letters	4
Where We're Going • Steve Jackson	40
Finieous Fingers • J.D. Webster	41
Writer's/Artist's Guide	46
Scanner/Convention Calendar	47
Index to Advertisers	47
Murphy's Rules • Michael von Glahn	48
Subscriber Bonus: IQ 6 Talents for TFT • Michael E. Iacca	IFM

Space Gamer (ISSN 0194-9977, USPS 434-250) is published bi-monthly by Steve Jackson Games Incorporated, P.O. Box 18957, Austin, TX 78760-7957. Second class postage paid at Austin, TX. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Space Gamer*, P.O. Box 18957, Austin, TX 78760-8957.

All material is copyright © 1985 by Steve Jackson Games Incorporated. All rights reserved.

Printed in U.S.A. by Futura Press, Austin.

Subscription rates, effective 10/1/84: In the United States — 6 months (3 issues) \$8; one year (6 issues) \$13; 2 years (12 issues) \$23. A lifetime subscription is \$200. In Canada, add 50¢ per issue for postage and handling; for addresses outside the U.S. and Canada, add \$1 per issue for surface mail. Texas residents please add 5½% sales tax. International rates subject to change as postal rates change. Note: All payments MUST be in U.S. dollars, made by International Money Order, or checks drawn on a U.S. or Canadian bank.

TSR Sale Pending?

A Beverly Hills investment group has filed a letter of intent to "acquire a major position" in TSR, Inc., according to Dieter Sturm in TSR's public relations department. A second group has also expressed interest in "a major position" in TSR. Neither group has concluded its negotiations; Sturm said the situation may be resolved in late March or April. Sturm could not say what the negotiations would entail or what the "major position" would mean, but did not rule out an outright sale.

A letter of intent is not necessarily a firm offer, but Sturm characterized it as "very serious intentions pending definitive agreement." The letter involves certain dollar figures and conditions of sale, which Sturm did

not describe. He did not identify the groups involved; unconfirmed rumors have mentioned officials of the Lorimar television production company (Dallas), or former Lorimar employees. But Sturm said, "I know for a fact that it is not Lorimar" which filed the letter of intent. Another unconfirmed rumor says film director Steven Spielberg is one of the interested parties.

TSR has laid off 36 employees from all areas of the company except the design departments. Sturm cited a "continuation of decline in sales volume" for the layoffs. Although information was sketchy at press time, reports are that two of TSR's top executives, Brian and Kevin Blume, have also left the company or have been bought out. The only confirmed

fact is that Kevin Blume, the acting Chief Executive Officer at TSR, has "removed himself" from executive duties, which will be taken over by new CEO Richard Koenigs.

The decline in sales, said to be severe, has led TSR to change its marketing focus. "More attention will be paid to the hobby trade, as opposed to the mass market," Sturm said. "I think you'll see a lesser number of products 'cranked out' overall" from TSR, "but there will be ample supplies [of them] that have high quality standards — in materials and also in content. Mass market will still be important to the company; mass market provides opportunities to introduce people to roleplaying games — that, in turn, will create hobbyists."

In other TSR news, *60 Minutes*, the television news magazine, is preparing a feature story on the public outcry against *Dungeons & Dragons*. The story may air in April or May.

Sturm said sloping sales at TSR are possibly due to market saturation. But though sales of the basic *D&D* sets are off, modules and accessories continue strong. There are high expectations for the new *D&D Master Rules*, due this spring, and for two new hardcover *AD&D* volumes by Gary Gygax, due later in the year.

Convention Calendar

Austin, TX — WHO-TEX, April 26-28. Dr. Who convention. Contact Who-Tex, c/o Jim Zepeda, 841 Airport #49, Austin, TX 78702.

Denver, CO — ALTI-EGOS, April 26-28. SF con featuring Anne McCaffrey. Contact Alti-Egos, P.O. Box 261000, Lakewood, CO 80226.

Omaha, NE — CONTRETEMPTS 4, April 26-28. SF con with gaming, featuring Vonda N. McIntyre. Contact Contretemps 4, P.O. Box 45, Omaha, NE 68101.

Billings, MT — TREASURE CON III, April 26-28. SF con with some gaming, featuring George Takei and Phil Foglio. Contact Treasure Con III, P.O. Box 22111, Billings, MT 59104.

*Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada — THE WIZARD'S CHALLENGE '85, April 26-28. Gaming convention in the Great White North, with Steve Jackson as special guest. Contact the Wizard's Challenge, 1137 Elliott St., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada S7N 0V4.

Spokane, WA — GAME FAIRE '85, April 26-28. Gaming con. Contact Game Faire '85, c/o Book & Game Company, West 621 Mallon, Spokane, WA 99201.

Milwaukee, WI — MILCON, April 27-28. Gaming con. Contact MilCon, c/o Louis Mengsol, 5616 W. Cairdel Ln., Mequon, WI 53092.

Pompano Beach, FL — GOLD CON III, April 27-28. Gaming con. Contact Gold Con III, Broward Community College, North 1000

Coconut Creek Blvd., Pompano Beach, FL 33063.

*Tulsa, OK — CON-JURATION II, May 10-12, SF and gaming Con, featuring Mike Resnick and Scott Haring. Contact Con-Juration II, P.O. Box 690064, Tulsa, OK 74169.

Middleton, NY — MADNESS '85, May 11. SF, comics, gaming con — proceeds benefit local charity. Contact Madness '85, 34 South St., Middletown, NY 10940.

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada — KEYCON 85, May 17-19. SF and gaming con. Contact Keycon 85, P.O. Box 1378, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3C 4E6.

Honolulu, HI — HAWAIICON, May 17-19. Gaming con. Hawaii. Vacation package offered. **CANCELLED** HawaiiCon, Box 25445, Honolulu, HI 96825.

Bowling Green, OH — FALCON 85, May 24-26. Gaming con on Bowling Green campus. Contact FalCon 85, Conference Office, University Union, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH 43403.

Hamilton, Ontario, Canada — MIGS VI, May 26. Gaming con, featuring historical miniatures. Contact MIGS VI, c/o George M. Bawden, 11 Veevers Drive, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8K 5P6.

Astoria, IL — CAMPCON III, June 1. Gaming con. Contact CampCon III, Box 833, Astoria, IL 61501.

*Dallas, TX — DALLASCON '85, June 1-2. Gaming con. Contact DallasCon 85, 3304 Crater Ln., Plano, TX 75023.

Danbury, CT — HATCON 3, June 7-9. SF, art, and gaming con. Contact HatCon 3, 108 Park Ave., Danbury, CT 06810.

Steve Jackson Games will attend those conventions marked with an asterisk.

Corrections

In *Space Gamer 73* we incorrectly reported that the science fiction fandom computer bulletin board recently started in Austin, Texas, was sponsored by the Fandom Association of Central Texas (FACT). In fact, the board is an independent entity run by system operator Earl Cooley III, and is not associated with FACT. We regret the error. The phone number given is correct: (512) 836-SMOF.

In the description of Mayfair Games' 1985 schedule, the author of the *James Bond Q Manual* is Greg Gorden, not "Burden." Our apologies.

Advertisers Index

4 Sight	22
Adventure Systems	33
Close Simulations	44
Game Designers' Workshop	IFC, 15
Gamelords, Ltd.	35
Green Dragon Hobby	3
KSK Concepts	43
Privateer	45
Steve Jackson Games Inc.	5, 31, IBC, IBM
West End Games	BC