

# CRIES FROM THE ATTIC™



## HACK AND SLASH DEAD...? I THINK NOT...

A funny thing happened between issues... A few weeks ago letters of complaint started showing up on my email account (jolly@kenzerco.com for those of you who don't have it).

The complaints weren't aimed at me, mind you. Rather they were letters complaining that a certain 'someone' had proclaimed "hack and slash" role-playing dead in another magazine.

What? Are you kidding me?

I personally haven't seen the article in question.

No idea what the writer intended to convey. As far as I know his comments could have been intended to push buttons. Or perhaps just some over-generalizing.

Not important really — I have no desire to mention who said it or where it appeared. For the truth is, I've run into the claim numerous times in recent years. So the following isn't directed at the article in question. Rather it's directed at those readers who specifically wanted to know what my thoughts on the matter were. Well...

### Hack and Slash is Alive and Well!

There, I said it. Now you know where I stand. I didn't conduct an office poll, but I'll go out on a limb and say that pretty much everyone here agrees.

But don't take my word on it. Look around. You'll see it all around you. From popular games like HackMaster, Castles and Crusades, Goodman Game's Classic Crawls... To favorites like Munchkin,

Kobolds Ate My Baby, All Flesh Must be Eaten...

Killing things and taking their stuff is just part of the gamer culture. So is humor (which we're also told has no place in role-playing according to certain quarters.) Hey --why should the World of War Craft crowd have all the fun...?

This doesn't mean role-playing shouldn't involve deeper and more meaningful activity. I'm just saying H&S has its place and will always be around.

And no — I'm not throwing down the gauntlet. Just reminding people that gamers come in all shapes and sizes. And we also come with our own likes and dislikes. As well as our own styles of play.

Some of us flock to d20. Others to *Palladium Book's Rifts*. Others still to *Vampire, Exalted, Noblis* or what have you (Hey — even *Aces and Eights*!!).

And you know what? Ask anyone who plays one of the above games or one of dozens (even hundreds) of other titles out there....?

I'm sure they'll ALL tell you the same thing. That their game of choice (and playing style) is the best.

That attitude is part of gamer culture too.

So, to those of you who wanted my thoughts on the matter. There you have it.

Happy Crawling!!

Jolly R. Blackburn

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