

CRIES FROM THE ATTIC™

MY GENCON REPORT...



You would think that after seventeen years in the business and fourteen GenCons as an exhibitor that I'd be accustomed to it all. But it seems like each year GenCon manages to get bigger and better and blow me away.

This year was no exception.

Not only did I get my picture taken with the Gawdfather of Role-playing but managed to shake hands a chat with folks I've looked up to for many years and whose work I've always admired.

Matt Forbeck, Dave Arneson, Lou Zocchi, Kevin Seimbeida, Frank Mentzer... And that's the short list. I also had an opportunity to finally meet Erol Otus (who is doing an upcoming cover for KODT). It was Erol's first Gen Con in 27 years so it was a thrill to finally meet him for the first time face to face.

At **Origins** in July I found myself at a table with Larry Elmore, Frank Chadwick, Rick Loomis and Steve Jackson (and feeling very unworthy in such company).

I think that's one of the things I love most about this hobby and conventions like **GenCon**. Designers, artists and writers you admire most are so accesible and fan friendly.

Oh yes — I'm a fanboy. Those who know me are aware of it only too well.

Shaking hands with someone responsible for a game

that brought myself and my friends so many hours of entertainment and fellowship. It's hard to keep the goofy fanboy smile from creeping across my face.

GenCon '07 was one of the best cons I've ever been too (even though they scheduled the **KODT Live Reading** at five different hotels at the exact same time). In fact the size of the crowd waiting the first day to get inside was a bit daunting.

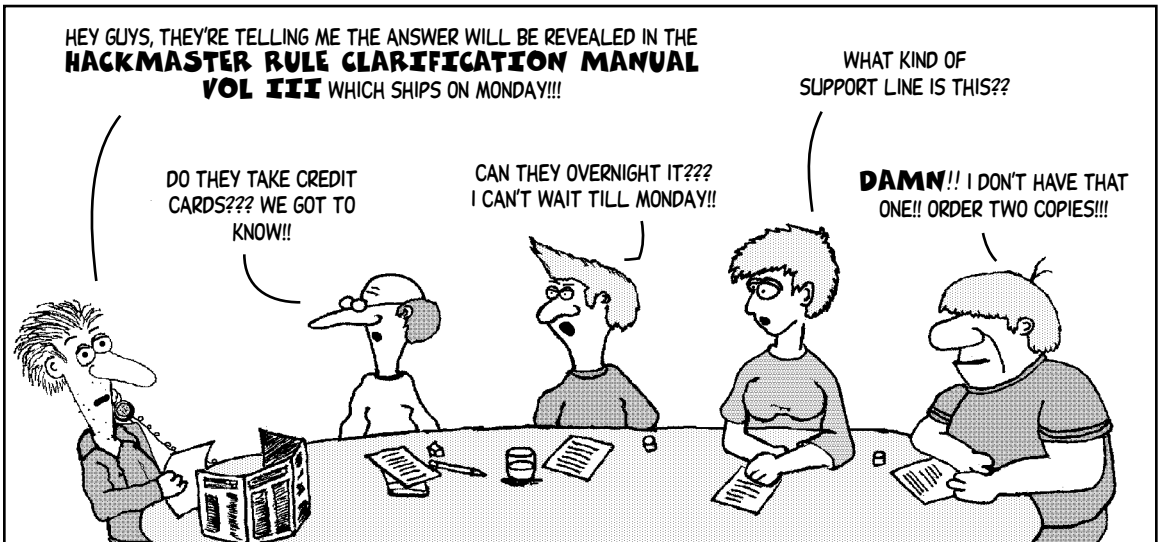
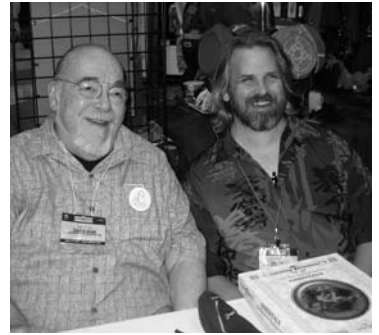
If GenCon is any indication, gaming is alive and well. Between the endless procession of people through our booth, back-to-back demos and after hour events like the **KenzerCo Meet and Greet** and **KODT Live Reading** the show left us more optimistic about the future of our small hobby than ever.

My only complaint about GenCon is that it only happens once a year.

Game on!

Jolly R. Blackburn

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ABOVE: TEN YEARS AGO THIS MONTH -- FROM ISSUE ELEVEN OF *KNIGHTS OF THE DINNER TABLE*.