

CRIES FROM THE ATTIC

THIS AND THAT AND SOME OF THIS AGAIN...



Well — another con season draws to a close. I always know when it's that time, because I'm usually behind schedule on **Knights of the Dinner Table** again. Although we fared a bit better this year since we managed to squeeze a Special Issue of KODT in there somewhere (**Last Man Standing**).

I'm still sort of reeling from our trip to GenCon a few weeks ago. What a show it was. If there's still any doubt in anyone's mind about the future of gaming, they should know that Gen Con Indy 2008 is boasting a 6% growth over 2007. Not too shabby.

According to the organizers, 28,600 unique and over 95,800 turnstile attendees converged on Indianapolis for the show. That's good news for everyone. A lot happened at the show but I'll try to sum up some of the highlights (and at least one low).

- **Dave Arneson** accepting a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Ennies. I've met Dave numerous times in person over the years but I've never had the privilege of seeing him speak before an audience. Until the 2008 Ennie Awards that is. Seeing Dave's eye's light up and experiencing his quick wit and charming stories first hand was a highlight of the show for me. A well deserved award and a nice guy all around.

- **Guest Auctioneers** at the **GenCon Charity Auction**. The **D-team** was invited to oversee the auctioning off of a pair of dice bags with some KODT doodles etched on them by yours truly. Over two-hundred bucks was raised for a good cause. Best of all the auction broke the \$10,000 goal they had set for this year.

- **"Naomi's Fight" Dice** — we were touched when Marc Farrimond dropped off some of the dice he had made to raise awareness for his granddaughter's fight against cystic fibrosis. Especially when we learned so many KODT readers had showed up at his booth donate to the cause. Anyone interested in learning more is encouraged to go to www.naomisfight.co.uk.

- **Gary Gygax Tributes and Remembrances** — It was nice to see GenCon officially acknowledge its founder's passing. A minute of

silence was observed in the dealers room at noon on Saturday. And a honkin' huge D-twenty that puts Bob's "King of All Dice" to shame die-wise was auctioned off to charity in Gary's name. One of the "O's" on the 8 face of the die was actually an opening into which gamers could deposit dice and notes. Nice touch.

On the last day of the con I was exiting Champions across the street from the Convention Center when it dawned on me the last time I saw Gary was in the same spot, on the same day last year. Smoking a cigarette with regular gamers on the steps and telling stories. I think that's how I'll always remember the old man.

Now for the low...

In issue 140 and 142 we created a fictitious character called "**The Door Nazi**." At the Live Reading at GenCon we came face to face with the Door Nazi and realized he was quite real.

I won't go into the full details here but the long and short of it is GenCon security volunteer (Ivan the Terrible) interrupted the **KODT Live Reading** and attempted to throw myself, Dave Kenzer and Steve Johansson out for not having our badges.

Now being kicked out of your own event is something we thought could only happen in KODT. We were wrong. Fortunately, Dave Kenzer won the intimidation roll-off and Ivan lost. He had to resort to frantically calling for 'back up' as he was ignored and the show went on as planned. It did cross our minds we were being "Punked" but we're assured Ivan was the 'real deal' and 'just doing his job'.

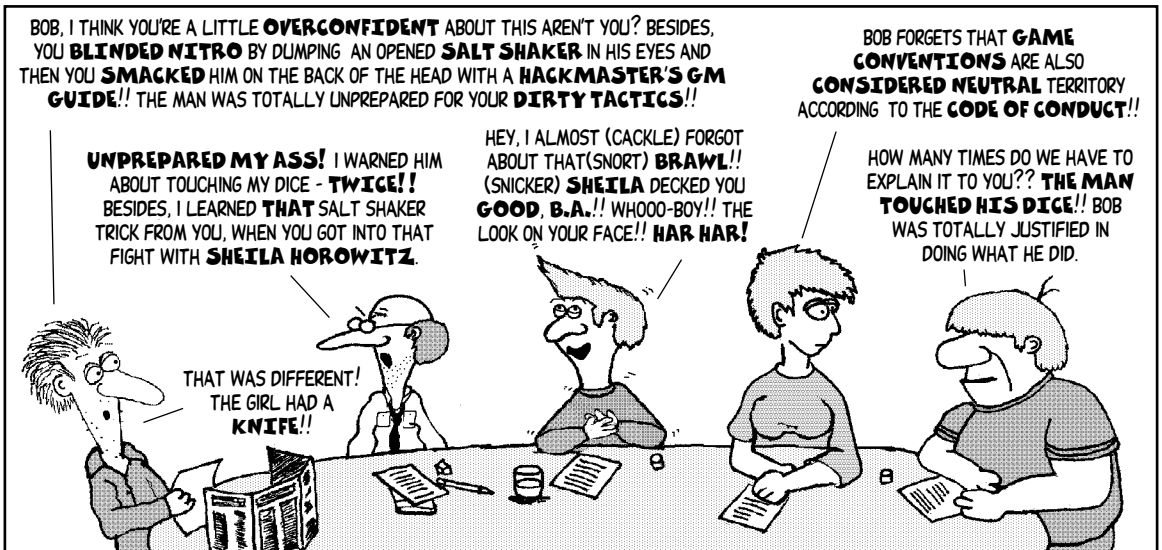
Only thing that could have made this story better would be if Ivan had been wearing a Stormtrooper costume.

Enjoy the issue, folks. And keep those badges nearby.

Game On,

Jolly R. Blackburn

August 21st, 2008



TEN YEARS AGO THIS MONTH: This panel from **Knights of the Dinner Table** Issue 23 — one of the first references to Sheila Horowitz.