

GAMERS

Continued from D1
unknown smaller game manufacturers.

Take, for example, the humorous card game Munchkin in which you get to kill monsters, steal treasure and backstab your buddy.

Players start off as a level one human with no class and draw from two decks of cards

— the dungeon deck and loot deck — and proceed to kick down doors in order to kill monsters, dodge curses and hoard loot along the way.

When a player kills monsters (such as Potted Plant, Lame Goblin, Goldfish, Plutonium Dragon or Great Cthulhu), they move up another level and gain more treasure.

And if card games aren't your thing, there's a Munchkin board game.

How about rolling dice to see if you're an ork who can pick up a chair, throw a bottle or bash someone during the insane board game of Brew-house Bash? It is an absurd game of bar fights between fantasy characters.

Then there is commercial game Rule Set for wartime play, where one supplies the board and pieces that war aficionados love doing as a hobby.

Bill Owen set up a board designed by his friend for the Rule Set game Command Decision.

He stretched the board out across a large table complete with terrain, villages and hand-painted miniature soldiers.

Baker and Owen then played as rivals on the battlefields of the World War II era. Baker strategically moved his American soldiers around the

board to take over towns and roads while trying to prevent Owen's German soldiers from invading them. It's a game Gen. George S. Patton would truly have loved.

Justin Dudley, who is a professional magician around Decatur, often works his game playing magic with the Decatur Gamers group.

"I have a closet full of weird games," he said. "I first started playing while at Richland Community College and met with some others who introduced me to some game shops," Dudley said.

"It becomes an obsession," he admitted. "You're not thinking about stuff when in the middle of a game, and it's a stress reliever for me."

Bob Sprague from Peoria also participates with the Decatur Gamers. He first learned about the group from his friend, local attorney Scott Reuter.

"There aren't a lot of places or groups to play games. Not everyone is comfortable gaming together," Sprague said.

Sprague and Reuter, like many of the other gamers in the group, attend a game convention hosted by Gen Con that takes place every year in Indianapolis.

Despite the economy, atten-

dance in August at the Gen Con convention approached 28,000, said Stacia Kirby with public relations for the company.

"We are like the Holy Grail of gaming conventions, as Gen Con appeals to all gamers. The convention is geared toward a gambit of players, from those who love games to the casual gamers," she said.

Gen Con embraces all gaming, except gambling, as the convention has 7,000 gaming events and 250 exhibits, Kirby added.

"I think being the biggest game convention inspires people to come; we are still the gamer's show that has stayed true to form."

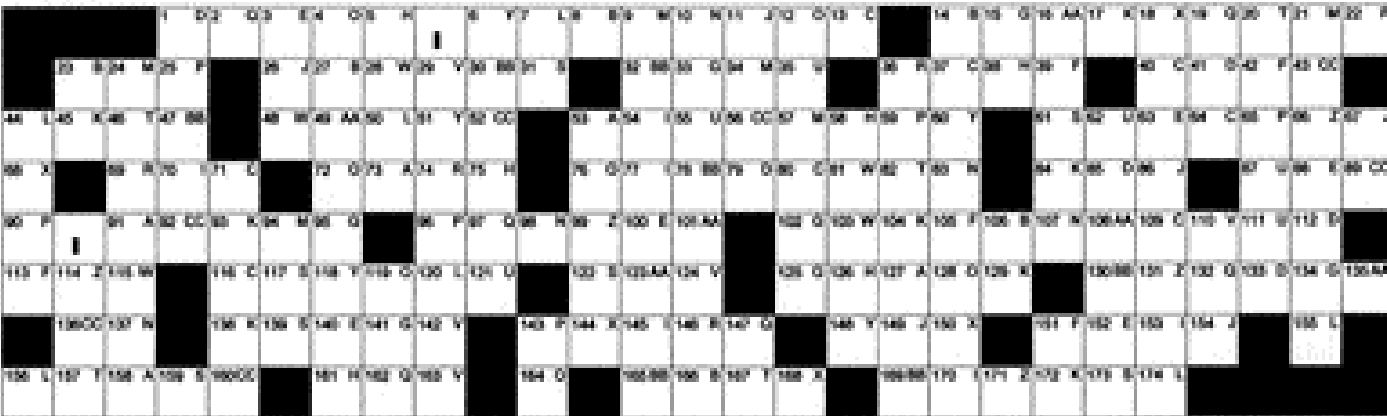
Matt Williams has attended his share of conventions. Yet, he is like many other adults who embrace the inner childhood spirit of having fun while intellectually dueling with others.

"We come together to play different games that we haven't played before, and it does become more of a social interest. A lot of the games are out of the mainstream and brings that certain niche of people together — who just like playing games," he said.

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1930s Hollywood

By Marny Elliott



A. Jewish cleric

127 73 91 53 158

B. Like Harry Potter's Hedwig

27 23 146 8 106 14

C. Low cut fringed shoes

G H I L L I E S
40 80 37 116 109 64 71 13

D. Durer or Rembrandt, e.g.

1 79 133 85 41 112

E. Dried grape

3 140 152 63 88 100

F. Flooded

113 181 42 105 39

G. Not any place

33 15 102 125 95 141 134

H. Milky way or Andromeda, e.g.

38 181 58 126 75 3

I. Any one of two

145 170 153 70 84 77

J. Chinese fruit

L I C H E E
67 11 26 154 149 86

K. Gilbert, Hammerstein, or Lerner

17 129 93 104 172 45 138 84

L. Kidney-shaped nuts

154 155 50 7 130 44 174

M. Highly ornamented

21 9 94 24 34 57

N. Woolen eaters

109 137 10 98 83

O. Like endpapers in old books

72 164 119 76 4 12 128

P. Throws out

59 96 90 65 143 25

Q. Not wide

162 2 147 132 97 19

R. Last base before home

69 36 146 74 22

S. Author Somerset

159 117 173 31 139 122 41

T. Different

30 46 157 167 82

U. Soft fabric

87 111 121 35 62 55

V. Ran in neutral

29 163 110 142 124

W. Surround

103 28 48 81 115

X. Out of the sun

68 144 168 150 18

Y. Little Lulu's boyfriend

6 118 51 148 60

Z. Talked too long

171 66 99 131 114

AA. Unnecessarity

49 123 135 106 16 101

BB. Gauzy fabric

169 47 32 165 130 78 30

CC. Superman's home planet

56 43 52 160 136 92 89

Solution on Page D5

Couple trading affronts put marriage on the line

Dear Abby: Several months ago, I made a terrible mistake and e-mailed "Tom," a friend I had a crush on, some topless pictures of myself. Tom rejected me because he is happily married. I am married, too, and when my husband, "Jake," discovered the pictures on our computer and realized what I had done, we discussed it and agreed to put them aside and never talk about them again.

Because Tom and I are friends and he was doing some repair work on our home, I have spoken to him on my cell phone numerous times. When Jake saw the phone records and realized I was still talking to Tom, he posted my pictures on an Internet porn site for all the world to see and blamed Tom so I wouldn't speak to him anymore.

Abby, Jake never told me I couldn't speak to Tom. That he made me believe that Tom was the bad guy is upsetting, even though I was wrong in the first place for sending my pictures to him. Do two wrongs make a right? I'm so upset by what Jake did that I don't want him to touch me. In fact, I want a divorce. I don't know what to do. Please help me.

— Linda in Texas

Dear Linda: Your husband was willing to forgive and forget the fact that you were trying to start an affair by sending the photos to Tom. When



DEAR ABBY

you "discussed it and agreed never to talk about them again," he took for granted that you would end the "friendship." And you should have. Your actions weren't platonic and were a threat to your own marriage. When your husband realized the flirtation was ongoing, he punished you in a cruel way.

Two wrongs do NOT make a right. And my advice to you and Jake is to sit down with a marriage counselor, figure out where your relationship went off track and decide, calmly, whether your marriage is worth saving.

Marriage changes son

Dear Abby: My son, "Jeremy," age 25, married his high school sweetheart a little more than a year ago. They live about 4½ hours away.

When Jeremy was growing up, he and I were very close. Since his marriage, I have tried not to call as often as I did when he was single. I do call, but now I limit it to once every few weeks, although he

rarely answers his phone. I wanted to let him call at his convenience.

He has told me that e-mail is the best way to reach him. The problem is, he doesn't respond to my e-mails, doesn't answer my calls and rarely phones me to see how our family is doing.

I was recently ill and Jeremy didn't even call to see how I was. I'm hurt, and part of me wants to tell him so. I'm afraid if I do I'll alienate him, but I feel he's already alienated. What should I do?

This is really starting to bother me. My son doesn't call his younger brother either (his best man) like before. Should we just back off and leave Jeremy alone?

— In a Spot in Virginia

Dear In a Spot: Your son's life has changed, and he has new responsibilities since his marriage, but that's no excuse for him not to answer calls and e-mails from you, especially if they are as few and far between as you have described. His behavior is extremely rude, and one can only hope it isn't because his bride has taken over and rules the roost. You deserve some answers, so by all means clear the air.

□ ■

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money order for \$6 to: Dear Abby — Wedding Booklet, Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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