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With the flattering news from Scott Bizar of Fantasy Games Unlimited that Games Day IV, with an attendance of 2,500 ranked No. 2 in the world after Origins (see Games Day report on page 13), British gamers should feel proud of themselves to have put their hobby in such an eminent position. We would like to thank all the White Dwarf readers who attended, and look forward to seeing those who didn’t next year.

Many readers, after having consumed the Advanced D&D Players’ Handbook so eagerly, are enquiring as to the release date of the Referee’s Guide. We have recently been informed by Gary Gygax that the publication date will be well into 1979 and maybe as far back as August. However, Gary has promised to send us the Combat Table from the Referee’s Guide for publication in White Dwarf if completed far enough in advance of the other material to be included in the manuscript.

Last issue we published our first mini dungeon, The Lichway. Many readers wrote in to ask the name of the designer. We are pleased to say that The Lichway was the creation of Albie Fiore a full-time member of the White Dwarf staff. Watch out for Albie’s next creation coming soon . . . . .

Finally, we regret that we have had to raise the price of White Dwarf across the Atlantic. This is due to the continuing fall of the dollar together with a rise in shipping costs.
TALISMANS OF TEKUMEL

THE DAZZLING ARMLET OF OBEDIENCE

If a character can get this armlet onto the arm of another person, he may then give that person up to three orders at a time, one of which is usually not to take the armlet off.

He can change the orders as he wishes as long as there are never more than three at once. If the wearer chooses to disobey, he is immediately disintegrated into a cloud of hydrogen ions with no chance of revivification. This threat is strong enough to stop even the bravest warriors, so many wily people have made fakes with which they order their victims about. Owing to this number of fakes, there is only a 10% chance that any Armlet will actually disintegrate a disobedient wearer.

The Armlet was designed for the biceps of a warrior so will not fit anyone of below average strength, nor most women. There are thought to be about five genuine Armlets with between 40 to 50 fakes.

THE CAPSULES OF DISPELLING MAGIC

This is a leather pouch holding 1-100 glass capsules containing dispel magic spells. These capsules can be thrown 100 feet or slung (in a sling) 300 feet. On contact they shatter covering a volume 10 x 10 x 10 cubic feet dispelling any magic in the volume for two turns. There is also a 50 per cent chance of the bag containing 1-10 capsules holding other spells, the spell names written on the capsules in some ancient language.

There are a number of these pouches but the number is obviously on the decrease as people use them up.

THE STEEL SASH OF STRENGTH

This belt is magically endowed with the power to banish any fear or panic from the mind of the wearer, thus enabling him to think clearly and calmly. It protects him from anything which would cause fear or panic or which relies on psychosomatic destruction, such as illusions or apparitions, or which seeks to confuse or force him into actions against his will, like madness or hypnosis.

The wearer would also add +2 to hitting chances and +1 to saving throws.

The only problem with the belt is that, since the wearer is totally fearless, if he happens to be of low intelligence, he may well do something dumb.

Most scholars believe there are but two or three of these belts.

THE MAGIC-CLEAVING BLADE OF TERR’WOBEE

This sword was made a long time ago by the warrior, Terr’wobee, who had an insane hatred of magicians and magic. The holder of the sword is able to “see” any magic which is in sight and strike out at it, treating it as AC9 and destroying the magic if he hits. Thus magical armour would lose its magical enchantment, a revivified person would drop dead, a “controlled” door would open, magic gas would disappear, etc. The power of “Eyes” and similar technological devices are regarded as magical by this sword. Another ability of the sword is to hack spells in mid-air. If any spells are fired at the user, before it hits him he has a chance to chop it apart. He treats it as AC9 and if he hits the spell it is destroyed. But the user can only attack one spell per combat round. The sword has an intelligence and ego of 51, hates magic users of any alignment and is aligned towards warriors, attacking any other profession who would dare to pick it up, it does not receive any bonuses towards hitting but treats anyone who knows a spell as AC9 and does triple the normal damage. When the user of this sword attacks someone wearing magic armour, he must state whether he is attacking the person or the armour. If he attacks the person, treat it as an ordinary attack, but if he attacks the armour, it is treated as AC9, etc. He could also attack a magical sword, shield or any other item of a magical nature in his victim’s possession. The sword itself happens to function by magic but Terr’wobee thought this was a small price to pay for the deeds it could do.

There is only one of these swords.

THE GIRDLE OF ABSTINENCE

Created by an ancient sect of monks who abhorred the destruction of any life, it simply enables a person to survive without the use of any food or drink for an infinite period and, due to this power of letting the body function without outside help, it enables a person to also function without oxygen and provides immunity to poisons. Since the monks were all rather emaciated, the girdle will not fit anyone with both strength and constitution over 75 or either characteristic over 90.

At the height of its development, the monastery had about 30 members, so there should be about 30 of these girdles in existence.
THE KILT OF THE FLAMING LORD

A rich northern noble with an allergy to animal skins and pyromaniac tendencies had this magical kilt made from steel mesh. It does away with the need for other clothing since it keeps the wearer and his possessions warm in the cold, cool in the hot, and dry in the wet. These protective spells are so powerful that they protect the user from fire, cold spells, acid or any other fluid or temperature weapons. The lord only had one of these kilts made.

THE POTENT PAMPOOTIES OF PREHISTORY

A long, long time ago someone killed the last cow and made these boots from the creature's skin. In their wrath, the gods cursed the boots. But many millenia later, an eminent wizard went to work and, after much energy and time, succeeded in making them slightly safer. At least, he managed to change it so that anyone wearing the boots is immune to their curse.

These pampooties look like an ordinary pair of boots but if anyone enters within ten feet they will soon smell the difference. The odour is so powerful that in order to enter or stay in the ten foot radius sphere requires a saving throw of 4%, increased by 1% for each 5% Psychic Ability. Automatons and undead are immune but other animals or monsters require a throw of 10%. Most animals will run after one unsuccessful attempt but extremely savage beasts, like the Feshenga, will keep trying until they get through or the wearer gets away.

The saving throw must be made each combat round in order to stay in the area and, even if it is made, the hitting possibilities of the man or beast are affected by the fact that he has an extra 50% chance of missing. If the character fails the saving throw but cannot get out of the area for some reason he then has a 75% chance of missing. These chances of missing throws are made after the character has managed to hit using normal procedures.

If anyone wears the boots for more than an hour, once he has taken them off the smell will still linger, disappearing at the rate of 14% to saving throws per hour. When putting the boots on again, he must make 2 saving throws in a row in order to get into the area and put them on.

Only one such pair of boots were made from the cow.

THE RAGING GAUNTLET OF THE JEWELLERS OF SHAM'ASH

This right-hand glove has various abilities and to create them uses gems as fuel. It can hold twelve gems and, at the expense of these, can do HD drains. The first HD costs 10,000K and each one after that 1000. Each ten foot range costs 10,000K and to get through any magical shield costs a further 10,000. Also the glove can increase the strength, dexterity or constitution of the user, each 10K raising the required characteristic by 1 for 10 combat rounds. A gem can only be used once, after which it is reduced to worthless stone, no matter how much of its value was actually used. Thus draining a 1HD creature using a 100,000K gem would reduce the jewel to stone even though only 10,000K was actually used. Everytime a gem is used, there is a 2% chance that it is faulty, resulting in the destruction of the glove and the user's hand. This chance is reduced to 1% if a jeweller/goldsmith has checked the gem beforehand. When found the glove will have from 1 to 12 still functioning gems. Check normally for value, putting them all up one bracket.

There are believed to be at least four of these weapons.

The UK soft cover printing of Advanced Dungeons & Dragons Players Handbook and Monster Manual are now available . . .

the first SF game to be released in Holland has now reached the UK with rules written in English. Entitled Metropolis and published by RAJ Publications, the game is for two players and is a battle between robots on land and sea . . .

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A regular feature introducing new and interesting monsters, edited by Don Turnbull.

promised you a goodly collection of curiosities this time and I hope you agree with my view that the quality of this collection is particularly high. Without further ado, let's examine them.

**Blink Skeleton**

by Brian Hanstock

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. appearing:</th>
<th>1D10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Armour Class:</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movement:</td>
<td>12&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hit Dice:</td>
<td>2D8+1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasure:</td>
<td>nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attack:</td>
<td>2 claws 1D4 each of weapon type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alignment:</td>
<td>neutral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intelligence:</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monstermark:</td>
<td>25.0 (level III in 12 levels)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This appears to be a regular skeleton but it has the ability to teleport, range 20'.

25% of Blink Skeletons have a 1-die magic missile.

**Comments:** another good upgrading of the regular Skeleton. I assume this turns on the Cleric/Undead table as a normal Skeleton, though there is a case, given it sometimes has limited magical power, for making it slightly stronger — say like a Ghoul.

**Inverse Monster**

by John Culver

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. appearing:</th>
<th>5D6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Armour class:</td>
<td>basic 9, but +4 to hit so effectively AC13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movement:</td>
<td>18&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hit Dice:</td>
<td>2D8+2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasure:</td>
<td>nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attack:</td>
<td>nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alignment:</td>
<td>neutral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intelligence:</td>
<td>well, you tell me!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monstermark:</td>
<td>not applicable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This creature is a Wizard's familiar in the form of a small black cat, usually left to guard the Wizard's chest of assorted magical items. It sits on the chest and only attacks if attempts are made to get at the chest, or if it itself is attacked. Although not very strong, it has the traditional nine lives of a cat. Each time it is killed (so long as it has not used up all 9) it is reborn stronger than it was before. For each life, add 1D8 to the hit dice (re-rolling hit points), add 1 point to damage of each attack, improve the AC by 1 and add 2" to the movement.

**Mimble**

by Tony Briskham

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. appearing:</th>
<th>1D6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Armour class:</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movement:</td>
<td>12&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hit Dice:</td>
<td>1D8+1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasure:</td>
<td>see below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attack:</td>
<td>1 bite (1D6) and two claws (1D4 each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alignment:</td>
<td>variable, as wizard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intelligence:</td>
<td>animal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Found jumping into walls, stuffing red-hot coals into its mouth or clubbing itself with a handy iron bar, this 3' high beastie can be somewhat unnerving. It suffers from extreme masochism and will throw itself on the nearest weapon. It has been known to gurgle with pleasure when hit by any weapon, boot or whatever. Unfortunately it can regenerate up to 8 hit points per melee round, even after it is killed, so it is entirely indestructible. It also tends to reflect spells back on the sender (10% chance per spell level of the spell actually affecting the Mimble). Mimbles will always try to locate and follow the greatest source of pain.

**Comments:** I am at a loss for words on this one — it is one of the few monsters which has raised a loud laugh on first reading its characteristics.
The Monstermark is rather meaningless since the party can break off combat at any time, the Familiar returning to guard the chest.

Comments: I'll bet there are many others who, like me, are saying "Why didn't I think of that?" the history tracks of a cat in D&D? An excellent and original idea. I want agree with the Comment about the Monstermark, but calculated it all the same in the event of the adventurers going on to "Familiar. It is interesting to observe the progression: First life 5.2 (level I); Second life 22.3 (level II); Third life 69.0 (level I); Fourth life 164.0 (level VII); Fifth life 324.6 (level I); Sixth life 587.8 (level X); Seventh life 1086.3 (level X); Eighth life 1874.8 (level XII); Ninth life an impressive 3872.5 (level XII of course).

So no-one is likely to get the Wizard's treasure.

One weakness, however, is the fact that the designer didn't give the Familiar any innate magical resistance - a sleep spell would do the trick as it stands. Obviously no Wizard would have overlooked such an obvious point, so I suggest the magic resistance of the same level as that of the Wizard, probably with an additional bonus of 2 on saving rolls due to high dexterity. Apart from anything else, this increases the Monstermark still further.

I add in a small voice — did you realise exactly what a powerful beast you were creating, Trevor?

by Roger Musson

No. appearing: 1D6
Armour class: 3
Movement: 10"/hr
Hit Dice: 4D8
Treasure: 100D20 gold pieces
Attack: 1 (special)
Alignment: neutral with evil tendencies
Intelligence: average
Monstermark: none

The Sandman is exactly what its name suggests — a man made entirely of sand. Everyone coming within 20' must save against magic or go to sleep, irrespective of level. Those who manage to stay awake must try to save again each time the Sandman touches them. The Sandman automatically attacks humans and never checks morale, but once it has succeeded in putting a victim to sleep, it never takes further action against him, leaving him quietly dozing while it goes off to search for someone else. If the encounter takes place in a lair, the Sandman will eject the sleepers into the corridor first.

Sleepers will not awaken for 30 minutes no matter what happens. Thereafter there is a 10% chance per 10 minutes of a sleeper waking, irrespective of level. Those who manage to stay awake must try to save against the Sandman's touch each time it attacks them. The Sandman has magical resistance.

Comments: one of the more straightforward of the Musson creations, but still a threat for all that. A 30-minute sleep gives a 50% chance of waking monsters during this time — with no chance of awakening to defend. Again, the Sandman should I think have above-average magical resistance, and is vulnerable (just) to a sleep spell itself, for example. Wonder why the AC is so high?

by Brian Taylor

No. appearing: 1D6
Armour class: 7
Movement: 12"/hr
Hit Dice: 1D4
Treasure: Nil
Attack: 1 'open hand'
Alignment: Chaotic
Intelligence: None
Monstermark: About 1 (Level I in twelve levels)

These skeletons are indistinguishable from others, except that they carry no weapons. They were in former life the members of an ancient order of Monks and have retained important attributes of this character class — they move at Novice speed, and strike as a Novice doing 1D4 damage. However, if the die-roll is 25% or better than the required minimum hit chance the hit either stuns for 3D6 melee rounds (01-75) or kills the victim outright (76-00). For every ten skeletons present, there is a 10% cumulative chance that one of them is of a higher level of Monk, and, if one such is present it will have the movement and attacks appropriate to its level.

They are turned as ordinary skeletons by Clerics, but subject to the DM's discretion the higher levels of Eastern Skeleton can attain higher 'undead levels' on the cleric/undead table.

Comments: I am still wondering about the name — why 'eastern'? There have been a number of attempts to 'upgrade' the lowly skeleton, or to provide stronger versions of skeletons to surprise a party expecting easy pickings. This is one of the most logical attempts I have seen, though a skeleton which could kill with a single blow might be ruled too powerful by DMs. Perhaps the stun/kill option should be allowed to saving roll?

No. appearing: 1
Armour class: 6
Movement: 12"/hr
Hit Dice: 7D0+8
Treasure: Nil
Attack: two claws (2.5 each) and one bite (2-12)
Alignment: Lawful-Evil
Intelligence: Average
Monstermark: 208 (level IX in 12 levels)

The Warlock Cat is a demon-familiar invisible in light, visible in darkness as a wrathlike outline with glowing crimson eyes. It has the form of a tiger-sized domestic cat.

It can only be harmed by magic weapons and magical damage bonuses do not apply (so a +2 dagger would do 1D4 damage, not 1D4+2). It will attach itself to a character and serve him, fighting off other monsters, scouting for treasure or whatever. It communicates by telepathy with its master only.

There is a price. Every gaming day it must devour one character; the master must himself choose the victim on pain of being devoured himself. Monsters will not satisify this demand, and the Cat is impervious to magic of the Charm variety.

Comments: one sort of familiar, most magic-users would be better off without, particularly since the PH now includes the Find Familiar spell. There should be some restriction on the 'master' it will choose, if it has a choice; it would prefer evil, or at least neutral, alignments and would probably only latch onto a magic-user, not a cleric or even an assassin.

Perhaps it should also have a higher magic resistance?

by Roger Musson

No. appearing: 1
Armour class: 8
Movement: 12" (18" flying)
Hit Dice: 1D4
Treasure: Not a hope
Attack: None (theoretically one hit @ 1D4)
Alignment: Evil-chaotic (or so it says)
Intelligence: Average
Monstermark: None

The Bragger looks just like an ordinary Imp. He wanders around the dungeon looking for people to talk to. He loves to brag at length about how terribly EVIL he is, often with blood-curdling imitations of his victims' screams (which may attract other monsters). Actually, he's never been known to kill anyone in his life and probably hasn't got the nerve. If attacked, he usually ignores it and goes on jabbering — he is 75% magic resistant and therefore feels safe, what with such a low AC. Usually the only thing which will cause him to separate from a party is daylight, which he abhors. He delights especially in annoying low-level paladins.

Comments: a dungeonmaster's delight whose usefulness is in inverse proportion to the frequency of its appearance. The first time it is met, the party will no doubt take ages, and have many trying experiences, before finding there's not much hope of getting rid of it, and the only way for them to handle the situation is to leave the dungeon by the nearest exist and go in another way. Future meetings need not last long, but progressively the beast will become more annoying to players and DM alike since it will simply be a nuisance and add nothing to the game once its "properties" are known (though there will be times when it is confused with an ordinary Imp, adding a new dimension of uncertainty).

I suggest one or two in every dungeon, but no more — and certainly no fewer!
The Dahdi is a mutant Mummy who was turned out of the pyramid when it tried to wear the trousers and control the purse-strings. It cannot be distinguished from a normal Mummy except that there is a 25% chance that the bandages on its face will have slipped allowing one black eye (a present from the Mummy who turned it out) to be seen. Some of its bandages may no longer be present and it may present rather a tatty appearance.

It cannot be affected by charm, sleep or mind-controlling/reading spells, but unlike normal Undead it is impervious to magical and silver weapons. Only normal weapons affect it. If fire is used, the flaming oil or fireball is hurled back at the attacker with base score of 12 or better to hit (fireball damage as spell; flaming oil etc. 1D8 first round, 2D6 second round, then fire goes out). Holy Water is repelled towards the attackers and converted to acid (damage as fire). Any liquid containing alcohol, beer or wine etc., thrown at the Dahdi adds 1 to its Hit Dice each time. Only plain, non-holy water can injure or kill it (damage as fire).

Turning away by Clerics is reversed from normal. 1st, 2nd and 3rd level Clerics automatically turn a Dahdi away; a 4th level requires greater than 2 on 2D6, 5th level greater than 4, 6th level greater than 6, 7th level greater than 8, 8th level greater than 10, 9th level and above have no effect.

A bandage from a Dahdi, when used to bind wounds, heals 1D10 points of damage in (20 minus constitution) turns. The DM should roll for the number of bandages the Dahdi still has intact when first encountered. A bandage can only be used once. The healing properties of the Dahdi last only 5 turns after the Dahdi has been killed.

Obviously the rot of the Mummy’s touch does not apply to the Dahdi.

Comments: this one made me carol loud and long with delight being in the good old tradition of the Nilbog and my own Withra (in which I obviously delight!). And if there are Mummies, there must of course be Dahdies. . .

Mervyn included an account of a scenario indicating their use which is well worth passing on to you. “By use of legend and rumour, in my case a tomb painting showing healers removing bandages from a suitable Mummy and using them on wounded Undead, a Mummy who miraculously is repaired and dancing about in the next scene, my group of players knew something of its existence. However the first they encountered was naturally enough, attacked as a Mummy — with fire. They reaped their own reward — first degree burns.

A desperate 2nd level Cleric advanced to minister to the damaged fighter and inadvertently said “Boo!” — the Dahdi ran away! The back-up members of the expedition, realising that this might be the healing Mummy, gave chase. Through the door, round the next bend . . . Ah! There he was . . . only he wasn’t. It was the scout for a group of Mummies sent out to ensure that the Dahdi didn’t attempt to return to the tomb!

The resulting confusion would have gladdened your heart, I am sure. Loud were the screams that the DM was changing the rules and being unfair. An unfair DM? Never — what a suggestion!!!

Yes, I would have howled with mirth with the best of them (as a DM, of course — as a player I would no doubt have complained like hell . . .) An excellent creation, Mervyn, and one which the Greenlanders will not thank you for creating. I must leave the last word on this subject to Mervyn again — “. . .one might consider the Behbi, son of Mummy and Dahdi . . .”

So, still chortling about the Dahdi, Mimble and Sandman especially, we close the factory doors again, but I can promise you more fun and more useful and interesting monsters next time. Though my own imagination is limited and goes in fits and starts, it seems that the collective imagination of White Dwarf readers is infinite — we can run many more issues of the Factory yet before we get to the bottom of the barrel.
The Electric Chest  
by Stephen Home

A treasure chest is suspended by a steel cable over a beam. The cable cannot be cut through by normal weapons and is attached to a winch, which is made of metal, with a handle, also of metal. In the floor, directly under the chest, is a metal plate which is charged by a strong electrical current. The plate cannot be seen directly from the chest. When the chest is lowered it will make contact with the plate sending a nasty shock through the cable to the unlucky holder of the winch. The damage is up to the DM.

Instant Vampire  
by John Evans

A party passes a moderately quiet part of the dungeon and will notice red dust on the floor. No tracks are left in the dust (even by the party) and it does not seem to be disturbed by anything. However, should blood be spilt on the dust, it will revivify the vampire of which it is the essence. The vampire was not permanently slain, hence this relic of its vileness remains. Holy water spilt on the dust does 3D8 of damage to the vampire. Nasty DMs could give it a saving throw, halving damage, fractional damage not counting.

Party would be surprised on a 1-5 on a D6. The vampire does not receive only one free go as it must collect itself to emerge a minotaur (or a goblin if you are a kind DM). This will happen if there are other characters in the room. If the minotaur is killed, he will permanently slay, hence this relic of its vileness remains. Holy water spilt on the dust does 3D8 of damage to the vampire. Nasty DMs could give it a saving throw, halving damage, fractional damage not counting.

Puddles & Pitfalls  
by Deirdre Evans

A rough mud road in the wilderness is dotted with puddles; but one puddle is a 20 foot deep water filled pit - very dangerous for travellers in plate armour.

Watch Your Step  
by Deirdre Evans

Adventurers seldom seem to check for traps on stairs, so a trip-wire that releases a large boulder from the ceiling at the head of the stairs may catch them napping. The boulder will tumble down the stairway striking all those in its path for 3-36 points of damage. Those who manage to jump aside can be determined by saving vs. stone taking into account any dexterity bonus.

And now the winning entry in the competition. First prize of a White Dwarf T-shirt goes to Roger Musson, whose entry below, was cut above the others in many ways. A good combination of mechanics and monsters that seems almost certain to rain misery upon misery on any unfortunate who encounter it.

The Pit and Rope Trick  
by Roger Musson

Party enters the room through door (A) and sees a 10' x 10' x 10' pit in the centre (B) and also the rope (C), which is stretched taut between the iron ring in the floor of the pit, and a hole in the ceiling through which it vanishes. (This hole is very narrow.) On the floor of the pit is some treasure scattered about (D). What they don't see is that the whole pit is filled by a large Gelatinous Cube (E). Some DMs rule that these are naturally invisible in poor dungeon light, others that Cubes are only translucent rather than transparent. This Cube has had Invisibility cast upon it for good measure! The rope is coated with chemicals to protect it from dissolution - these chemicals are also highly inflammable. Once the Cube has been discovered, since it is very difficult to hack at something below foot level, the party may decide to burn the thing with oil. Alas! The ceiling just above the pit is a large loose block which is supported by the rope (C) which loops over the pulley (G), and is knotted at (H) into four strands, one to each corner. When the rope burns, down comes the block, squelch into the pit, sending up a shower of pulverised Cube over everybody standing round. And if getting paralysed by the shower wasn't bad enough, there is a colony of Yellow Mould (I) on top of the loose block, which will not take kindly to the violent fall.

Highly Strung  
by Jack Baker

The walls of a room are smoothly mirrored, including the back of the door, which closes automatically, so that it is a secret door. Four taut ropes descend from small holes in the ceiling and are tied to rings set in the floor near each corner. These ropes hold the floor up! In the centre three chains hang from small holes in the ceiling with 30' of their length coiled on the floor. If one chain is pulled the floor descends slowly and imperceptibly, another causes it to rise and the third causes it to stop. Since the walls are mirrored it will appear that the ceiling is moving. The chains are of fixed length, so heaven help any who descend more than 30 odd feet, or for that matter any who sever the ropes.
Let's start by setting the stage: Gary Gygax, a pivotal figure in the world of role-playing games, wrote about 'realism' in his letter in *White Dwarf* 9, which I'll discuss shortly. To understand the context, let's dive into the letter pages where readers share their thoughts on the 'realism' argument.

Dear WD,

I find myself in sympathy with the editorial on the subject of realism. Realism in fantasy games is almost defeating the object of playing them when carried to extremes. Realism is a necessary part of the game atmosphere, but to introduce die rolls and charts for every aspect in my opinion slows up the game too much. It bores the players and makes the time taken to simulate something quite unrealistic as play is slowed down so.

Most of the realism-type rules I think particularly of the % chance of trout-tickling etc. in *Foresters* (see *White Dwarf* 9) I find a bit upplayable when carried down to extreme levels. But it does no harm to have such rules available if some players require such detailed information. I conclude that realism should be adjusted to whatever level players and referees prefer, regardless of other peoples' opinions.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Slack, Reading, Berks.

Dear WD,

The trouble with this realism debate is that too many assume that realism means (a) excessive complication (b) perfectionism. But neither of these are at all necessary, and probably not desirable either. Where an invocation of realism is worthwhile, though, are those sections of the rules that are not so much an oversimplification but are just plainly queer. To maintain, for instance, that it takes a light horse 5 mins to travel 240' (which is about 0.5 mph) is quite silly, and it takes the players and makes the time taken to simulate something quite unrealistic as play is slowed down so.

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I conclude that realism should be adjusted to whatever level players and referees prefer, regardless of other peoples' opinions.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Slack, Reading, Berks.

Gary Gygax claimed (in the same letter) that 'statements regarding “realism” in a game must go out the window'. Well, the original rules do have a certain amount of realism in them, so should they go out of the window too? No, of course not. But there is no disadvantage in rational, realistic rules. They do improve the game. They do add to the fun. They do make the game more complicated, but it does not suffer because of that. They do make nonsense of the sort of thing written by the so-called 'experts'. So What? As long as you get fun out of the game.

Fight On!
Hugh Tonks, Chelmsford.

Dear WD,

To play a good game of D&D, players' imaginations must make sure that the Dungeon in which they play is real and the dice being thrown fantasy. After all where is the entertainment in throwing sets of dice to discover the fate of a list of characteristics? Therefore to maintain this frame of mind, events in the dungeon must be credible according to the BASIC laws of a world (any world), and to say that a hero should be able to survive the breath of a dragon while chained to the wall just because it aids character development is ridiculous; the fantasy dungeon melts away before our eyes and we are left with the world of polyhedral dice, cups of cold undrunk tea, and piles of littered paper all covered with lists of figures carrying half forgotten meanings.

I hope my point has been made, and I advise all DMs to think carefully the next time they decide to aid a player by giving him a chance that he should not really have.

Q.E.D.

Roger Coult, Grimsby.

Dear WD,

You were quite right when you stated in last issue's editorial that there is no set way to play D&D. Nobody has the right to set himself up as a standard, either by claiming to be an 'authority' or even by quoting Gary Gygax — who has about as much control over his creation as the original Sorcerer's apprentice! Therefore, when discussing 'realism' in D&D it is important to state first how the game could be played.

If you are playing D&D as a 'game' — see Lew Pulsipher's articles in *White Dwarf* issues 1, 3, 4 and 5 — then it is probable that a rigid set of rules is being used which is known to all the players and the function of the DM is merely to generate new scenarios within the game system. In this sort of play, I can see no reason at all why D&D should be 'realistic' as all the players know exactly what to expect.

However, that sort of play does not really exploit D&D to its full potential. The players are not really 'role-playing' they are manoeuvring their pieces in a form of personalised wargame. In order to enjoy the full flavour of role-playing, I believe it is necessary to play D&D as a Kriegspiel, ie. a game in which the rules are known only to the umpire and the players make decisions as they would in 'real' life.

In this sort of game it is essential that the players have access to any information (eg. social customs) that their characters would have and that, after allowing for such things as magic, has enough internal consistency for the players to make rational decisions and not be caught out by loopholes in the rules. This does not mean that players should be deluged with trivia which are irrelevant to their actions, nor that they should be straight-jacketted into a society which accurately reflects France on August 3rd, 1123 AD. D&D is about fantasy and the players will not enjoy it unless the world is designed to enable their fantasies to be fulfilled.

'Realism', therefore, is only required in certain types of play and even then 'consistency' would probably be a better word to use. Authorities can be very useful in setting up the logic of your world but there is no reason to follow them slavishly. You never know, they might be wrong.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Tamlyn, Southampton.
A report by Ian Livingstone

On Saturday, 28th October 1978, at Seymour Hall, London W1, Games Workshop held its fourth GAMES DAY. To say the event was a success is a bit of an understatement! Some 2,500 people turned up on the day to participate in all the fun and games.

For those people unacquainted with GAMES DAY, perhaps a few words of introduction are necessary. The event was first staged in 1975 with the intention of bringing games playing, as a hobby, to a much wider audience. To this end it was decided that not only war and fantasy games would be featured, but other interesting and obscure games. Thus GAMES DAY has retained its unique appeal which this year made it Britain's No. 1 games event.

There was certainly something for everybody who attended. The demonstrations put on by the clubs were of the usual excellent standard, both visually and in play. Tabletop demonstrations of Middle Earth, Zulu Wars, The Old West, Naval Battles, WW1 Aerial Battles, WW2 Tank Battles and Chariot Races were well received, and a huge French Grand Prix race game using model cars attracted many onlookers. People wishing to improve their figure painting talents were able to tap the combined talents of Steve Kemp and Shaun Fuller who demonstrated basic painting techniques. Steve and Shaun also judged the Painting Competition.

In keeping with the unique flavour of GAMES DAY, there was the infamous Auction and also two 'corners' - Computer Corner and Inventors' Corner. The former was a demonstration on three micro-computers of two science fiction games – Death Star Attack and Star Trek. In the Inventors' Corner were Eric Solomon playing Spellmaker, David Wells playing Checkpoint Challenge and David Parlett playing Ninety Nine.

Of course, the D&D competition attracted its usual high attendance, and the organisers worked flat out all day to stay on schedule. Other competitions running throughout the day included Cosmic Encounter, Diplomacy, Knights of the Round Table, and many others.

The 20+ trade stands were kept very busy all day and many reported record takings for any convention ever! This was probably due in part to the fact there were many new releases at GAMES DAY including SPI's War of the Ring, the UK edition of the Advanced D&D Players' Handbook and many new miniature figures.

For the first time at GAMES DAY, there was a special guest of honour. We were very pleased to have Scott Bizar, director of Fantasy Games Unlimited, fly over from the USA specially for GAMES DAY. Scott was available all day to answer gamers' questions and also handed out the prizes to the competition winners. They were:

- Dungeons & Dragons – J. Baillie
- Cosmic Encounter – D. Thorby
- King Arthur's Knights – S. Hayes
- The Old West – G. Smith
- Death Star Attack – Mr Donovan
- Star Trek – H. Robertson
- 25mm Figure Painting – N. Bibby and Mr. Chandler (equal 1st)
- 54mm Figure Painting – D. Mills
- Diorama Painting – Mr Wiggley

Already plans are in hand for next year's GAMES DAY, and we hope you will continue to support Britain's No.1 games event. We would like to thank South London Warlords, Harlow Wargames Group, Naval Wargames Society, Chestnut Lodge Wargames Group, Basingstoke Sorcerer's League, Skirmish Wargames, London Go Centre, London Draughts Association, Dave Rotor, Hugh Walters, Mike Ferguson, Rob Easterby, Andy Fletcher, Kendall Johns, Chris O'Dell, Steve Kemp, Shaun Fuller, Eric Solomon, David Wells and Scott Bizar for their efforts, and of course all the Games Workshop and White Dwarf personnel for their willingness to work ridiculous hours.

Brief Comments from an American Observer:

“Most Britons probably feel that the larger British conventions in the wargames field and fantasy games area are far smaller and less important than the better known conventions in the States. In fact, the size of conventions such as Games Day is very comparable to an American convention. The attendance at this year's Games Day (over 2000) would rank as the second largest convention in the States after Origins. Though many US conventions draw 1500 gamers, few reach 2000 or higher in attendance in a single day. The facilities available and activities at Games Day were certainly up to the standards of any US convention and I must confess to having thoroughly enjoyed myself at this year’s Games Day and am already making my plans to attend next year’s convention, which promises to be even bigger and better. Games Day has proven to be one of the most interesting and enjoyable conventions of the year.”

Scott Bizar, Fantasy Games Unlimited

Left: From right to left, Games Workshop personnel, Steve Jackson, Albie Fiore and Ian Livingstone watch on as Scott Bizar of Fantasy Games Unlimited hands out the prizes. Centre: One of the entries in the diorama painting competition featuring a model of one of the Battlestar Galactica space vessels. Right: Games inventor Eric Solomon (right) playing his latest game, Spellmaker.
"Citizens of that time were much concerned about their dignity and honour, defending both in duels to the death. Loss of life among innocent bystanders and damage to property resulted in stringent regulations to be passed against the use of energy pistols and other high velocity projectile weapons. An age of elegance was ushered in with citizens using the LIGHT SWORD (a fixed field energy projector) at close quarters to resolve points of honour."

(Light Swords: Their History and Use, Reel No. 572 2487 Sioux Falls Gazette.)

PLAYING THE GAME
LIGHT SWORD is a combat simulation played with characters created by the rules. Each player may have one or more such characters in play. Combat is a combination of skill and luck in the game using the character's abilities and the weapons he chooses as the basis. The winner is the player whose character survives the Arena of Honour.

CHARACTERISTICS
Players can decide to be male or female. Each character starts off with the base values on Table 1 below, to which can be added bonus points derived from rolling a six-sided die once and multiplying the result by 5. The bonus points may be distributed among the characteristics at will, though none may exceed 30.

Table 1: Base Values

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strength (ST)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speed (SP)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflex/Intuition (RI)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build (B)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ABILITIES
Each characteristic results in different abilities which are relevant to combat, e.g. great strength allows a person to wear armour. Thus each characteristic contributes to the character's ATTACK COMBAT POINTS (ACP) and his DEFENSIVE COMBAT POINTS (DCP).

Strength — Each Strength point = 1 ACP and ½ DCP. A Strength of 25+ allows wearing of armour which increases the defence by 3 DCP per Strength point over 25, but armour reduces all ACP derived from Speed in half.

Speed — Each Speed point = 2 ACP and ½ DCP. A speed of 25+ allows for 2 attacks per combat turn.

Reflex/Intuition — Each RI point = ¼ ACP and 2 DCP. An RI of 25+ allows the character to add +2 to the opponent's die roll.

Build — Each Build point = 2 ACP and 1 DCP. A Build of 25+ allows a character 3 ACP per Build point but a Build of less than 20 allows a character an additional DCP for every point over 10.

CHOICE OF WEAPONS
Before the actual game starts, the players must choose the sort of duel they desire to satisfy their honour:
Friendly: With Metal Swords
Honourable Wounds: To settle minor disputes and matters of honour, this duel is fought until first blood is drawn. Any weapon except the Light Sword may be used.
To the Death: Serious matters of honour or revenge are at stake and any weapon may be used.

WEAPONS
There are 4 weapons available to a player's character. The choice of weapon depends on the character's skill. Table 2 below lists these weapons, whether they are thrusting (T), cutting (C), or both (C/T). The skill required to use them and the damage done by each is also shown.

Table 2: Details of Weapons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weapon</th>
<th>Damage</th>
<th>Skill</th>
<th>Damage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Metal Sword</td>
<td>20 pts</td>
<td>15 ST</td>
<td>20 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Force Blade</td>
<td>25 pts*</td>
<td>15 SP</td>
<td>25 pts*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Slasher</td>
<td>30 pts*</td>
<td>25 B</td>
<td>30 pts*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Light Sword</td>
<td>40 pts*</td>
<td>25 RI</td>
<td>40 pts*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* indicates that if the Sword scores a hit, a die roll of 1 on a six sided die means instant death.

WEAPON RELATIONSHIP
Some weapons are better than others and their use results in an advantage. The advantage is expressed in terms of additions to the attacker's ACP when facing certain swords. In Table 3, numbers on the left of the / represent the advantage for a Cut, those on the right of the / the advantage for a Thrust.

Table 3: Weapon Advantages
COMBAT

There are three target areas: the Arms (A), the Legs (L), and the Body (B). Each player secretly chooses a movement: Back, Stand, Forward, or Charge; then a target area; (and whether with a cut or thrust; and also a defence: High Defence (HD), Low Defence (LD), and Special Defence (SD). SD is used only when the opponent has another attack in the round, due to speed of 25+ and only if the player defending has no second attack. Both players then reveal their choices and refer to Table 4 below. The numbers in this table are added to or subtracted from the die roll on the COMBAT MATRIX, Table 5. Both players are considered to attack simultaneously.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 4: Attacker’s Modifications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Defender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stand</td>
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<tr>
<td>HD</td>
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<tr>
<td>LD</td>
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<tr>
<td>SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WOUNDS

Only ACP and DCP are affected by wounds. Reduce the defender’s ACP and DCP by the following after a hit:

Arm Hit: 2 x Weapon Damage Pts = ACP Lost
1 x Weapon Damage Pts = DCP Lost

Leg Hit*: 1 x Weapon Damage Pts = ACP Lost
½ x Weapon Damage Pts = DCP Lost

*Leg hits of 40 or more Weapon Damage Points means no second attack from the defender beginning the next complete round.

Body Hit*: 1 x Weapon Damage Pts = ACP Lost
2 x Weapon Damage Pts = DCP Lost

* Body hits of at least a total of 40 Weapon Damage Points means defender loses any +2 on opponent’s die roll advantage.

DEFENCE CHOICE EFFECTS

If the defender chooses the Low Defence and the attacker chose a Leg Attack, then the Weapon Damage inflicted is reduced by half prior to assessing the effect under WOUNDS. A High Defence will reduce Weapon Damage by half against a Body Attack.

EDITORIAL NOTE:

Players who wish to continue with the same character may develop their own system of awarding experience points and levels. The system for expertise given in Fantasy Games Unlimited’s Rapier & Dagger is to be recommended as a guideline for character development.

Table 5: Combat Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Combat Point Difference (of the Attacker)</th>
<th>-50</th>
<th>+50</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>-15</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal Sword</td>
<td>2/4</td>
<td>3/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Force Blade</td>
<td>3/6</td>
<td>6/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slasher</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>1/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light Sword</td>
<td>1/3</td>
<td>1/1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The attacker compares his ACPs with the DCPs of the defender. The row is determined by the attacker’s weapon, the column by the difference in ACP and DCP. The figure on the left of the / is for a cut, the other for a thrust. Two six-sided die are rolled and modifications from Table 4 added or subtracted. A HIT is scored with a total equal to or less than the number indicated.
OPEN BOX examines Science Fiction and Fantasy games and rulebooks currently in the shops. The reviews have been written by either independent authorities or members of the White Dwarf Test Panel. The OVERALL figures on a 1–10 scale, rates the game itself taking all factors into consideration.

GAMMA WORLD
TSR Hobbies Inc — £6.95

With so many sets of rules for fantasy role-playing games flooding the market at the moment, the task of the new purchaser who wants to select just one set from the masses available is getting more and more difficult. How does one distinguish one set of rules from another? It's even more difficult in this genre than in the field of, say, board wargames since one of the essences of a role-playing game is that the referee (DM or whatever) is limited only by his imagination, whereas other game-types have regularised rules which at once inhibit and comfortably define the game. So if a game turns out to be unsatisfactory in play, are the rules at fault? Or the referee? Or even the players?

Nor does this make the reviewer's task easy . . . . .

Let me deal with the obvious aspects first. This is a boxed game in that the rules, the map and a set of polyhedral dice (a nice touch, this) are housed in a colourful box which should attract the eye and single it out from its brethren on the shelves. The map (about 24″ x 16″) shows a continent not unlike North America on a hexagonal grid; it shows natural geographical features (mountains, rivers, lakes and the like) together with the locations of the largest cities of the Ancients. The referee is free to add terrain features — forests, swamps, active volcanoes and whatever else he thinks fit. He will note, too, that a number of the Ancients' cities are now under water.

For this is a future-world game; the year is 2471 and the world has passed through a period of unprecedented devastation (the history is related, in fearsome terms, at the beginning of the rules). There are a few surviving pockets of humanity but many life-forms have been rendered extinct and others have mutated in horrifying ways. Players assume the character of a Pure Strain Human (without physical or mental mutation), mutated human or mutated animal. The name of the game is survival in the face of the terrifying world in which the players' personae must now live. Yes, there are many resemblances to the earlier TSR game Metamorphosis Alpha (a much underrated set of rules in my humble opinion).

The rules are, of course, complete and explicit — we would expect this from TSR anyway. Briefly, they span Creating Characters, mental and physical Mutations (for humans, animals and plants), Time and Movement, Combat and Encounters, Creatures (nearly 50 of them, very credible and graced with better names than the creatures in Metamorphosis Alpha), Cryptic Alliances (humans, mutated humans and creatures banded together in secret of semi-secret organisations), Hazards (radiation and poison in particular), Artifacts and Equipment (a very comprehensive section) and Experience. At the end of the rules booklet there is a very useful section headed Example Of Play which contains useful design and play hints for the newcomer and experienced hand alike. Finally, all the important reference material has been assembled on half a dozen perforated pages for quick and easy reference.

One particular new system caught my eye — a set of charts which players use to see whether they can determine the nature of an unknown artifact. Fiddling around with something unfamiliar can be a rewarding process (when you find out, somewhat to your surprise, exactly what the thing is and how it works) or a suicidal venture (when you unwittingly set off an explosive device and leave your mortal frame for ever). As an attempt at regularising this sort of exploratory process these charts are welcome.

So there are the makings of a game here which no-one should find difficult to translate into game terms and an interesting design. I found it more coherent than many other sets of rules I have read and more complete than most.

And Gamma World is good quality — let there be no mistake. This has not been thrown together in haste by earnest amateurs over glasses of cheap booze. It is a thoroughly professional job which deserves a place on the shelf (and the playing table) of anyone remotely interested in the science fiction game-setting.

Overall: 9
Don Turnbull

THE REALM OF YOLMI
West Coast Games — £4.95

This is, in effect, technological D&D. The game is set on a future Earth which has suffered catastrophe not dissimilar to that which struck the world in Gamma World by TSR — men are semi-barbaric, animals have been mutated, automatons roam rampant. A leading news commentator has found immortality through drugs and has started his own religious sect — the UNDEAD of YOLMI (Cronk).

The rules are peppered with attempts at humour and what are obviously 'in-jokes'. I wasn't particularly amused, but other readers may find it funnier than I did.

This attempt at light banter rather spoiled the rules for me, though they appear to be complete and comprehensive if you can stomach the unnecessary attempts at wit. The book itself is around 120 pages long, A4 size and neatly bound in one of those spiral plastic binders.

I will stick to Gamma World, though adherents of that game may find some useful hints within Yolmi.

Overall: 2
Don Turnbull
ADVANCED DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS — PLAYERS HANDBOOK

TSR Hobbies Inc — £6.95

The quality of recent TSR publications is really most impressive — here is another hard-bound book, in the same style as the Monster Manual (reviewed in White Dwarf 8), which will gladden the heart of even the most discerning.

A word of explanation will not come amiss, particularly for newcomers to D&D. The original D&D rules and supplements are gradually being revised and replaced by a second edition. The first part of the second edition is the basic rule-book Dungeons & Dragons, which comes either separately or in a boxed set including geometrons, monsters and treasure assortments and a set of polyhedral dice, forming a complete basic game-system which can be used in isolation from the rest of the material and which is of particular value to the newcomer. The second part is the Monster Manual, the third part is the Players Handbook and the fourth part is the eagerly-awaited Referees Guide which is in course of preparation. Finally TSR will add a much-expanded second edition of the Gods Demi-Gods and Heroes supplement. As I see it, the Monster Manual, Players Handbook and Dungeon-Masters Guide will form the complete game-system for Advanced D&D, with GDG&H as an optional extra.

The Players Handbook does not, therefore, contain information which will later appear in the Referees Guide — the treasure tables and descriptions, cleric/Undead matrix, listings of magical artifacts and their properties. Which means that the inexperienced DM will have rather a hairy time if his players are all armed with the new Players Handbook (though he should find enough information to carry him through in the first edition rules and supplements).

I don’t think I have ever seen a product sell so quickly as did the Handbook when it first appeared on the Games Workshop stand at Dragonmeet. As Ian Livingstone remarked (he was standing on one side with a slightly bemused air, watching the crowds press forward in the queue for their copies), it was as though Games Workshop had suddenly invented sliced bread. As I am sure many others did, I burned the midnight oil after Dragonmeet perusing this new acquisition and becoming more and more engrossed.

When I first started reading the Handbook, I jotted down notes of changes which had been made to the original rules, but it wasn’t long before I realised that a review which listed all the changes would be nearly as long as the Handbook itself. Sufficient to say that whereas the original rules are ambiguous and muddled, the Handbook is a detailed and coherent game-system, and very sophisticated.

A few examples (there are many) will serve to illustrate: fighters, clerics and thieves have improved hit-dice (D10, D8 and D6 respectively); the effects of strength on hit probability, damage, weight allowed, open doors are changed; high intelligence confers slightly more chance of spell knowledge and language facility; wisdom now gives clerics a spell-bonus while low wisdom gives a chance of spell failure; there are new charts delineating the effects of constitution, dexterity and charisma; there are five main character classes (including the Monk) and five sub-classes (Ranger, Paladin, Druid, Illusionist and Assassin) each with its own ‘experience’ table; most classes find it slightly harder to gain promotion above third or fourth levels; first level clerics now have one spell; paladins are much more powerful but have to satisfy more rigorous criteria; supplies are much more expensive; there is a non-decimal monetary system in which 1GP is now worth 20SP for example, and huge lists of spells and their descriptions (many new ones in all classes), multi-classed characters, the seven races and their advantages/disadvantages and many other things.

However those who have grown up on the first edition need not be alarmed — all this is completely compatible with the familiar system and I don’t believe it will be long before the necessary changes and adjustments are taken under the belt; as in all things practice and habit are great teachers, I have no shadow of a doubt that the Advanced rules will be assimilated and incorporated into campaigns currently in progress, though the DM will, as always, have the final say as to what is and what isn’t allowed in his dungeon/world.

Of course, perhaps the most important function of the Handbook is as a source of reference; no more searching through stacks of magazines and books to find the information you are seeking (dammit — what issue of Strategic Review contains the stats for rangers? and where did I put the copies of Strategic Review anyway?). Pretty well everything needed is here, carefully compiled and indexed; if it isn’t here, it is in the Referees Guide of which I for one can’t wait for my copy. There is little more I can say. If you already have a copy, you may share my apprehension at the amount of time it is going to take to digest all this new material, but I suspect you also share my whole-hearted welcome of it. If you haven’t, and you are the least bit interested in D&D, the sooner you get a copy the better. I said of the Monster Manual that it was TSR’s most impressive publication to date; that is no longer true — this accolade must belong to the Handbook which is nothing short of a triumph.

Overall: 10

THE MANUAL OF AURANIA

Singh, Wagner & Stehle — £1.75

I suppose one would describe this 30-page booklet as a D&D play-aid. It contains a miscellany of D&D ideas — new character classes, new monsters and a couple of random reincarnation tables. The Manual is stencil-printed and contains a number of illustrations which have reproduced excellently.

The text is by no means clear of errors; even in the acknowledgements there is a misprint of one of the contributors’ names which is a pretty bad start. However the errors need not confuse a sensible reader.

I am not enthusiastic about increasing the number of character classes in D&D, so the first section did not fire me with great enthusiasm. Those who like expanding the range of character classes may find something here to interest them, though it seems to me that most, if not all, these new creations are stronger than they should be, with no corresponding increase in weak points.

I can take the reincarnation charts or leave them — no doubt others have been compiled in similar vein. A 4% chance of reappearing as a Golden Dragon seems to me rather high, for instance — the same chance as reappearing as a Gnome and four times the chance of reappearing as an Ent. No doubt any table of this sort could be argued at length and inconclusively. There are nearly 60 monsters, including six types of Troll, nine Undead and the inevitable nine Dragons. It is in this section that I think most readers will find their main interest lies. I particularly liked the Undead section (though was sorry to see yet another Banshee appear, dissimilar to both of those we have at the moment) and will be using some of these. Elsewhere Lewis Carroll has been used as a ‘source’ — we have the Jel-Jel Bird, the Snark, the Boojum, the Bandersnacht (sicl) and the Jabberwock — not particularly imaginative, but fiction sources are running dry rather rapidly for monster-creators.

On the whole, it’s not a bad booklet and a reasonable buy for the money.

Overall: 4

Don Turnbull
A t the back of Book 2 in Traveller two pages are spent detailing how a character may increase skills already possessed, or temporarily increase his combat requisites (strength, endurance and dexterity). What it basically boils down to is if you spend 8 years training you can increase a skill by +1. Even then there is only a 40% chance that your character will be able to stick the course (8+ on 2D6). Although the book does not say it, presumably you can do other things during those 8 years and just attend a regular refresher course — a sort of night school. Whatever happened to good old full time education? In the Traveller universe it seems to be ignored once you reach the age of 18.

Last issue I presented methods of increasing skills already possessed by continuous use. That part was fairly straightforward and can be applied to most SM’s universes. This time I shall describe ways of gaining new skills through various means of full and part time education. This means that the methods are purely subjective and depend very much on how the SM has decided to run his universe. What I am providing here is merely notes and ideas for you to adapt as you see fit to your particular campaign.

First of all I’ll deal with the hard slog method of enrollment at a school or university and spending 5 days a week learning the subject(s) desired. This should take a relatively short time depending on the number being learned. Assume that up to four subjects can be studied at one time as long as they are fairly compatible (see Table 1 below).

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subjects</th>
<th>I</th>
<th>II</th>
<th>III</th>
<th>IV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Piloting</td>
<td>Computing</td>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>Medi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ship’s Boat</td>
<td>Navigation</td>
<td>Steward</td>
<td>(count as 2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air/Raft</td>
<td>Electronics</td>
<td>Leadership</td>
<td>two</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacc Suit</td>
<td>Mechanics</td>
<td>Tactics</td>
<td>(count as 2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Taking combinations of subjects in the same column should be relatively easy. It should be possible, though more difficult, to take subjects from two columns. (Remember we are dealing with, or may be dealing with, university or college equivalents with planned curricula and usually only those courses that are relatively popular will be available — I suggest a roll of 7+ on 2D6 to see if a choice is possible). Choices from three columns should be hard to accommodate (12+) and should usually only be available through private education.

The time taken for such education should also depend on the number of courses being taken. Assume that the university or college operates all year round and that there are regular 3 month examinations in each subject, and when you pass an exam it means you are qualified in that subject at level 1. See Table II below for the length of time a course should take and the basic scores on 2D6 needed to pass.

Table II

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of subjects taken</th>
<th>Length of Course</th>
<th>Score needed to pass each Exam.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>5+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>9 months</td>
<td>6+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>6+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9 months</td>
<td>7+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Allow the following modifications. Intelligence 8+ = DM +1. Education 8+ = DM +1 except for those subjects which require an education of 8+ to take in the first place (see Book 1 page 11). Intelligence 5- = DM -1; Education 5- = DM -1. Also roll 3D6 and consult Table III for further modifications due to attitude to study.

Table III

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Die roll</th>
<th>Effect</th>
<th>DM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Only here for the social life</td>
<td>-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Only here for the beer</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>Doesn’t work hard at all (optionally extend course by 6 months or suffer DM)</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Still doesn’t like hard work but not as bad as before (optionally extend course by 3 months or suffer DM)</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-13</td>
<td>Perfectly average student</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-15</td>
<td>Hard working</td>
<td>+1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Very hard working — reduce length of course by 3 months</td>
<td>+1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Burns the midnight oil — reduce length of course by 3 months</td>
<td>+2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Takes to course like a duck to water. Half length of course. Also when taking exams any natural roll of 11 or 12 means that he has qualified at a skill level of +2 in that subject</td>
<td>+3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Having obtained a skill level of 1 in the required ability the character can now go on to increase his skill through continued use, as outlined last issue, or spend more time at college training to higher levels. For skills above +1 I would suggest that no more than 2 subjects be taken at one time and that the length of time increases rapidly with the skill level, eg. +2 = 18 months, +3 = 48 months (+3 Medic is equivalent to a doctor which requires 5 or 6 years at present day standards).

Of course the details given here are assuming that the education methods are not much different from present day methods. We can assume that technologies of the future will probably develop much better teaching aids than are available to us today. I shall include here a short section on educational aids developed for use in my campaign. Once again the use of these methods, and their availability is purely subjective — you may not even have such methods in your universe.

There are two main types available. They are:

(a) Hypnotapes: the subject goes into periodic trances while details of the necessary information are fed into his mind. Hypnotape technology starts in worlds of Technological level 7, where applied use of tapes will have the time taken to study a course and give an exam DM of +1 to Technological level 12 hypnotapes where 24 hrs application will give you a skill level of +1.

(b) RNA: the subject is given regular doses of RNA which has the same effect as various hypnotapes. The advantages of RNA are (i) any skill, including combat skills can be learned, and not just those listed on Table I, which are all hypnotapes will cover, and (ii) there is no theoretical limit to the skill level to which RNA can raise you. However, I have ruled that there is a practical limit of +3, although higher levels can be researched. Technology for RNA should begin around level 12, and end at about level 15 or 16.

The second sort of education available is apprenticeship. Here you can be taken on as an apprentice in a trade that can teach you the skill you want. Any non-combat skills can usually be learned here at least to level +1. ‘Free Trader’ type ships are the best to enroll with as the types of skills they need and use cover nearly all the skills found on the table in Book 1. (The only exceptions I can think of would be Admin, Tactics and Forward Observer and these aren’t the most popular skills anyway).
Apprenticeship should be for a number of voyages or years (although I can imagine that any 'bright' pupil would be quite welcome to stay on as a full member of the crew of most 'Free Trader' ships). For every 3 voyages or 6 months roll two dice to see if the character has learned his 'trade'. To succeed in this a score of 8+ must be rolled. However, add to the score +1 for every skill level of the person teaching the character and any DMs generated on Table IV below.

**Table IV**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>DM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Uncommunicative person, very poor teacher</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Poor teacher, does not put ideas over well</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Average teacher</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Good teacher</td>
<td>+1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Excellent teacher</td>
<td>+2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of course the player should not know (except possibly by rumour) what sort of teacher his 'boss' is. More than one subject may be taken at a time and if this is done add an extra two months or one voyage for each extra skill being learned to a maximum of 4 skills (1 year or 6 voyages).

One advantage of apprenticeships over universities or colleges is the cost. Fees are very expensive for universities, while a favourable reaction will result in the apprentice being paid a wage. However, apprenticeships do turn out to be unreliable and can be terminated by the 'employer' at any time.

Some skills, such as gambling, will require only a short time to master at level 1. Allow, say, five weeks hard study minus 1 week for each level of the tutor. For this skill, apprenticeship or universities are not needed, merely a willing teacher.

Similar ideas also apply to combat skills. In fact a good swordsman may even set up an official fencing school to teach blade combat and there may be marksmen's clubs to learn gun combat. Usually 'legal' lessons in weapons specifically used for 'sport' will be quite easy to be taught the use of. (It all depends on the law level of the planet). For another thing about combat skills is once you've learned to use a sword it's not too difficult to use a foil, and firing a revolver is not too different from firing a body pistol. In Table V below I have listed the weapons available in Book 1 into groups. Once you have learned the use of one weapon in a group then you will be able to use any of the others in the same group at a skill level of half the skill in the particular weapon you are specialising in (round half levels down).

**Table V**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I</th>
<th>II</th>
<th>III</th>
<th>IV</th>
<th>V</th>
<th>VI</th>
<th>VII</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dagger</td>
<td>Foil</td>
<td>Spear</td>
<td>Halberd</td>
<td>Body Pistol</td>
<td>Smg</td>
<td>Shotgun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blade</td>
<td>Cutlass</td>
<td>Pike</td>
<td>Auto Pistol</td>
<td>Laser Carbine</td>
<td>Laser Rifle</td>
<td>Auto Rifle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gudge</td>
<td>Sword</td>
<td>Broadsword</td>
<td>Bayonet</td>
<td>Carbine</td>
<td>Carbine</td>
<td>Auto Rifle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Finally we get to the increase in requisites. Theoretically it should be impossible to make a person stronger, or more dextrous, or give him greater endurance without undergoing major surgery. Yet any of the forces you can join will increase your requisites if you get the right die roll, and this increase is permanent. The only way I can see in which this can be justified is that although there is no actual increase in physique the character receives training in how to use his abilities more effectively. (Think of Japanese Samurai; originally these men were no more dextrous than their neighbours, but because of training moved faster, reached faster and outfought most other 'hand-to-hand' combatants.)

If a character wishes to increase his combat requisites he must find a teacher (such teachers should be fairly rare and will probably be booked up well in advance) and spend time learning how to increase these scores. Every three months he must roll 7+ for each ability to gain +1 up to a maximum of 4 more than his original roll. (Eg. If a person originally rolled 9 for strength and then joined the Navy and during his time there added 2, if when he left he wished to increase his strength further he could add a maximum of 2 more to it, to total 13.)

Alternate to the above method I have worked out an experience system for those that continually fight hand-to-hand combat and thus gain more skill in combat. It is based purely on the damage caused in melee with modifiers. After a melee, if a character has survived, calculate the total number of points of damage inflicted by that character and multiply this score by 20 and divide by the average damage done by the weapon(s) he was using. (Average damage = minimum score + maximum score divided by two, eg. a cutlass does 20 + 4 damage, average damage = 6 + 16 / 2 = 11). The resulting score is the earned experience. Once enough experience has been earned (see Table VI below) increase the requisite by 1 and start earning experience all over again.

**Table VI**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increase requisite from</th>
<th>Experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 - 3</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 - 4</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 - 5</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 - 8</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 - 9</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 - 10</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 - 11</td>
<td>1400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 - 12</td>
<td>1600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 - 13</td>
<td>1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 - 14</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 - 15</td>
<td>2200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Non-combat requisites, with the exception of social status, can be increased as outlined for the first part of combat requisites. For increase in social status have a look at En Garde for a few ideas of what it involves.

Well I guess that just about wraps it up for experience in the game of Traveller. If anyone has any comments or ideas on improving the system I would certainly like to hear from them. Please write to me care of White Dwarf.
Chapter Three

IN GREENGORM FOREST

Hero and his band, seeking means to lift the woe brooding over Fandoll City, had aided the Gondemarian dwarves in battle with a twofold reward—a mysterious pouch of “Swan Bones” and directions to the north, through sinister Greengorm Forest.

The forest darkened as the weary band penetrated further, and strange portents flickered beneath the twisted trees, always too distant to be clearly seen. Thick forms that coiled and oiled again dissolving in uneasy vapours as the horsemen pressed on.

Madoc gave voice to their feelings: “I’m grateful, almost, for this green gloom. Some things I’d rather not see too clearly.” His joking tones cheered none; but Anvar snarled: “I’m not.”

“II

Hero quite forgot the peering phantom that had snapped the cords of delight was something better not caught their gaze; a lumpish dwarf-thing, all bones he had been a phantasm, a hollow shell, a wisp of nothing?” Anvar rasped. “Else, if good Hero falls, nothing?”

Pursio murmured, “Aye, these wondrous Swan Bones? What is their power?”

“Here Pursio, here!” he called into the twilight thickened and the shadow-shapes coiled as though all realised without a word, for the mist-things were being driven from the forest. “TwN King supposed I knew, my master. I studied the Great Lore, therein were care put out from the surrounding woods. “My master, are you there?” Some bond began to form. “Are you there, princess! We... will you dance on the wind with your great rough friend, to Mother Sulphur’s court. We...”

Dreams came wherein those that drifted out from the surrounding woods, “My master, are you there?” Some bond began to form. “Are you there, princess! We...”

Dreams came wherein those that drifted out from the surrounding woods, “My master, are you there?” Some bond began to form. “Are you there, princess! We...”

And again he wakened, stiff and bowed, to find himself in a figure, a man clad in outlandish tongue. “A bard of my rank, think you, should bawl away on horseback?” But with pursed lips, pursed eyebrows, he broke into a bawdy song which (though Hero winced) lifted their spirits well enough as twilight thickened and the shadow-shapes danced beneath the increasingly gnarled and mossy trees.

An uncertain time after, Hero decided that true night was close; “We camp here,” he called when next they found a clearing. Spirits were higher now, for the writhing ghost-forms faded with the greenish light; their menace also dwindled with familiarity. This disturbed Hero, and (while Lucas laid a hand on his shoulder) he spoke quiet words with little result. “We are less affrighted, having come so far without hurt. Think you that this forest seeks to lull us?”

“Twill d’un bob sas,” swore Rhys in an outlawish tongue. “A brand of my rank, think you, should bawl away on horseback?” But with pursed lips, pursed eyebrows, he broke into a bawdy song which (though Hero winced) lifted their spirits well enough as twilight thickened and the shadow-shapes danced beneath the increasingly gnarled and mossy trees.

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I, which he placed in Hero's eager hands — and I — my heart was still hot from words time for foolery."

Sulphur, evilly reputed coven queen and sorceress, of will. . . . Her head throbbed in a steady trot. Clearing after clearing went by, her gait was smooth and sere, and moss alone. She . . . she . . .I could not but obey her."

With sudden agility, he was before them, his heart ached for both."

"And so they cannot touch us," said Hero."

"The sword-hilt lay beneath his right hand, the sword-blade was speared-pierced; Anvar and Morgan had hacked the orc's breast with so many blows that the orc's armor was being dragged from under it."

"It was I," said Anvar truly. "So I came to her, for she was so lovely and — my heart was still hot from words spoken earlier — forgive me, Hero! She took the pouches from you, but I said that if they were so well she must not carry them, and laughing she gave them to me. Oh, I was bewildered, my mind was blank, my heart was hot from words spoken earlier — forgive me, Hero! She took the pouches from you, but I said that if they were so well she must not carry them, and laughing she gave them to me."

"There is but one hope," said the ever-swayingечен; an idea."

"This path brings us to the Twins of Linsi, friends, less than a league hence.""

"I swear!" The knife was pressing close. "It was I, which he placed in Hero's eager hands — and I — my heart was still hot from words time for foolery.""

"Aye," said Anvar. "So I helped her take them from you, for she was so lovely and — my heart was still hot from words spoken earlier — forgive me, Hero! She took the pouches from you, but I said that if they were so well she must not carry them, and laughing she gave them to me. Oh, I was bewildered, my mind was blank, my heart was hot from words spoken earlier — forgive me, Hero! She took the pouches from you, but I said that if they were so well she must not carry them, and laughing she gave them to me."

"Good thought," said Pursio."

"Then out with it, friend, for assuredly it will need the aid of wiser counselors," said Pursio.

"The sword-hilt lay beneath his right hand, the sword-blade was speared-pierced; Anvar and Morgan had hacked the orc's breast with so many blows that the orc's armor was being dragged from under it."

"And so she gave them to me. Oh, I was bemused, my mind was blank, my heart was hot from words spoken earlier — forgive me, Hero! She took the pouches from you, but I said that if they were so well she must not carry them, and laughing she gave them to me."

"I think I'll take you for my own," said Anvar about his left arm, whose throbbing Pursio felt."

"It was I," said Anvar truly. "So I came to her, for she was so lovely and — my heart was still hot from words spoken earlier — forgive me, Hero! She took the pouches from you, but I said that if they were so well she must not carry them, and laughing she gave them to me. Oh, I was bewildered, my mind was blank, my heart was hot from words spoken earlier — forgive me, Hero! She took the pouches from you, but I said that if they were so well she must not carry them, and laughing she gave them to me."

"Nearer the sun, friend, for assuredly it will need the aid of wiser counselors," said Pursio.

"The sword-hilt lay beneath his right hand, the sword-blade was speared-pierced; Anvar and Morgan had hacked the orc's breast with so many blows that the orc's armor was being dragged from under it."

"And so she gave them to me. Oh, I was bemused, my mind was blank, my heart was hot from words spoken earlier — forgive me, Hero! She took the pouches from you, but I said that if they were so well she must not carry them, and laughing she gave them to me."

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