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April FOOIS ISSUE! Write back, or else!



Inside: Cartoon Laws of Physics / Agility vs. Dexterity / Mini-reviews Car Wars / Ysgarth to DragonQuest creature conversion and a DQ denizen and more!

PAPYRUSTM #6 April Fools!

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Scribbles from the Scribe What's the difference?

I was introduced to RPG by the old blue covered basic D&D game. From there I graduated to AD&D in what seemed a natural progression. Then one day a relative gave me a boxed D&D expert set as a gift and it took me many years to recover.

It took me several months of reading and re-reading to realize that there must be an updated version of the basic rules. This was after a week of trying to come to grips with the fact that race and class were the same in the D&D expert rules. I was still confused, which way was TSR going? I couldn't believe the answer was, both ways! Even after I settled the controversy in my head, it was reawakened by the rebirth and death of DragonQuest at TSR. I thought, now here's a really different way to do a FRPG, based on skills vice class, but alas it has died of apathy and been partially absorbed into the AD&D 2nd edition (look for it, it's in there). Speaking of the 2nd edition, now I see even less reason to differentiate. Why are these two systems segregated so? TSR even

produced a DragonQuest/AD&D adventure before it produced it's first D&D/AD&D (Hollow World Campaign), what is their logic?

I have always chosen to ignore the difference. A D&D elf is an AD&D elven fighter/mu, right? I have had no problems using D&D adventures, creatures and variants with AD&D. The stats are the same, the combat systems are the same and the vocabulary is the same. Can anyone explain why? Is there a marketing strategy or some sort of business savvy I am missing? Am I over simplifying the similarities? I think not, gamers are notoriously bad business men. I believe the dual existence of D&D/AD&D was a bad decision that got out of hand years ago and no one has had the guts to stop it. AD&D should be what it is, a variant of D&D (or visa versa). I don't see any more simplicity in the current D&D rules compendium than in the AD&D books. The only glimmer of intelligence in this whole mess is the new D&D basic role-playing/board game, which is a natural extension of TSR's Dungeon game toward FRPGs.

If TSR never wakes up,

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don't kid yourself, with few exceptions AD&D gamers can still easily use D&D material and with a couple of more exceptions the reverse is also true. The least compatible section would have to be the D&D Immortals rules, but I'm sure any DM worth his salt could use it as an AD&D supplement and run some great D&D Immortals adventures in his AD&D world.

If I were TSR and I wanted to support 2 different FRPGs in my line, I would have combined D&D/AD&D as variants of one another and kept up support for DragonQuest to compete with other nonclass/skill based systems like RuneQuest, Fantasy Hero and GURPS Fantasy. Just as ICE supports Rolemaster, MERP and Fantasy Hero, TSR could support D&D/AD&D and DragonQuest (remember the Conan RPG?). The proof is in TSR's DQ1, The Shattered Stone adventure module which contains stats for both AD&D (Forgotten Realms campaign) In fact, it wouldn't and DO. be a far stretch to use the DQ system (just as Chaosim, Hero and SJG) with other genre and/or settings. But who am I to blow against the wind (we'll see, more DragonQuest to follow).

feet per second per second takes over.

Cartoon Law II.

Any body in motion will tend to remain in motion until solid matter intervenes suddenly.

ex. Whether shot from a cannon or in hot pursuit on foot, cartoon characters are so absolute in their momentum that only a telephone pole or an outsize boulder retards their forward motion absolutely. Sir Isaac Newton called this sudden termination of motion the stooge's surcease.

Cartoon Law III.

Any body passing through solid matter will leave a perforation conforming to its perimeter. Also called the silhouette of passage, this phenomenon is the speciality of victims of directed pressure explosions and of reckless cowards who are so eager to escape that they exit directly through the wall of a house, leaving a cookie-cutout perfect hole. The threat of skunks or matrimony often catalyzes this reaction.

April Fools Feature

THE LAWS OF CARTOON PHYSICS By Trevor Paquette and Lt. Justin D. Baldwin, from SJG's Illuminati BBS (512)4477-4449 Cartoon Law I.

Any body suspended in space will remain in space until made aware of its situation.

ex. Daffy Duck steps off a cliff, expecting further pastureland. He loiters in midair, soliloquizing flippantly, until he chances to look down. At this point, the familiar principle of 32

Cartoon Law IV.

The time required for an object to fall twenty stories is greater than or equal to the time it takes for whoever knocked it off the ledge to spiral down twenty flights to attempt to capture it unbroken. Such an object is inevitably priceless, the attempt to capture it inevitably unsuccessful.

Cartoon Law V.

All principles of gravity are negated by fear. Psychic forces are sufficient in most bodies for a shock to propel them directly away from the earth's surface. A spooky noise or an adversary's signature sound will induce motion upward, usually to the cradle of a chandelier, a treetop, or the crest of a flagpole. The feet of a character who is running or the wheels of a speeding auto need never touch the ground, especially when in flight.

Cartoon Law VI.

As speed increases, objects can be in several places at once. This is particularly true of tooth-and-claw fights, in which a character's head may be glimpsed emerging from the cloud of altercation at several places simultaneously. This effect is common as well among bodies that are spinning or being throttled. A 'wacky' character has the option of self-replication only at manic high speeds and may ricochet off walls to achieve the velocity required.

Cartoon Law VII.

Certain bodies can pass through solid walls painted to resemble tunnel entrances: This trompe others cannot. l'oeil inconsistency has baffled generation, but at least it is known that whoever paints an entrance on a wall's surface to trick an opponent will be unable to pursue him into this theoretical space. The painter is flattened against the wall when he attempts to follow into the painting. This is ultimately a problem of art, not of science.

disassembled, but they cannot be destroyed. After a few moments of blinking self pity, they reinflate, elongate, snap back, or solidify.

Corollary: A cat will assume the shape of its container.

Cartoon Law IX.

Endorsements

Alarums & Excursions, the largest and predominant RPG Amatuer Press Association (APA). Published by Lee Gold (ICE Vikings, GURPS Japan, Lands of Adventure, Land of the Rising Sun). Don't just read, participate! For more information send a SASE to, Lee Gold, 3965 Alla Road, Los Angeles, CA 90066

Silver Griffin, a semi-pro,

Cartoon Law VIII.

Any violent rearrangement of feline matter is impermanent. Cartoon cats possess even more deaths than the traditional nine lives might comfortably afford. They can be decimated, spliced, splayed, accordion pleated, spindled, or independent magazine on RPGs. For more information send a SASE to, Devlin Janax editor, Silver Griffin, P.O. Box 1751, St. Paul, MN 55101.

Agility vs Dexterity: expanding AD&D/D&D character generation by Nick Parenti (edited version appears in Silver

Griffin #22)

Is every watch maker and safe cracker also a gymnast? Can every acrobat and dancer perform brain surgery? Is dexterity the same as agility? In most cases the answer is the same, no. If you look up the word dexterity in your dictionary it may define it as skill and/or ease in using the hands. Agility may be defined as nimbleness, or the ability to move with quick and easy grace. These different definitions, for the above similar words, are applied below to expand character uniqueness.

There are game systems that provide characters with both dexterity and agility scores (eg DragonQuest, Lands of Adventure), others provide for one or the other to define both. The following is a guide to separating the two. Although this is specifically geared toward AD&D and D&D, it can be used to expand personal attributes in other game systems, Gamma World and Villains & Vigilantes come to mind.

TSR's fantasy game rules use a single dexterity attribute score for both physical agility and manual dexterity, but this can be easily changed. Using two attributes vice one is just a matter of categorizing the skills and/or abilities dependent upon the original, single, score into agility or dexterity dependent skills and/or abilities (see table 1 on page 5). The next step is to add the extra roll for determining an additional ability score and ensuring that the previous adjustments made to the single score are again categorized as agility or dexterity based or possibly both (see table 1 on page 5), You are now ready to expand the physical realness of your gaming. With this system thieves may have to choose between a life as a cutpurse or a cat burglar based on the strengths of their dexterity and agility scores. Now Bards and Illusionists may not be able to dodge arrows as well as Rangers even though their manual skills far exceed a

Ranger's. Dwarven smiths can now create the intricate works of art they are renown for even though they can't perform yoga.

Ysgarth to DragonQuest, a simple creature conversions to help DQ players use the Ysgarth creatures in the pullout section of Papyrus #5.

Name:

Natural Habitat: (from text)

Frequency: (from text) Number: (from text)

Description: (from text)

Talents, Skills, and Magic: (from text)

Movement Rates: TMR*50yds/min, (Note - Humanoid Running: 250)

PS: STR MD: DEX AG: AGI MA: TAL EN: CON FT: * WP: WIL PC: (JUD+INT)/2 PB: APP TMR: ** NA: AV***

Weapons: See attacks and defenses, normally listed just below statistics and above descriptive text. For nonweapon/natural weapon attacks: use Skill Rating (SR) for Base Chance and divide Maximum Damage (MD) by 10 (round off to the nearest whole number) to get the Damage Modifier. This is a rough approximation an may need massaging.

Comments: (from text)

- * = Calculated from Endurance (EN)
- ** = Calculated from Agility
 (AG)
- ***= Use most logical of the 3 AV values normally provided (usually the highest). AV score always assumes humanoids are wearing armor.

TABLE 1 for Agility vs Dexterity (starts on page 3) Agility Based ---VS--- Dexterity Based General Speed Accuracy Acrobatics Ambidextrous Spell Casting Grace Ability AC Adjustment Missile Attack Adjustment Related Defensive Adjustment Reaction Adjustment Two Weapon Combat Hide in Shadows Pick Locks Class Related Move Silent Find/Remove/Set Traps Skills Tightrope Walking Pick Pockets Pole Vaulting Tumbling Evasion Tumbling Falling Tumbling Attack Skills Dancing Cobbling Seamstress/Tailor Pottery Musical Instrument Seamanship Charioteering Rope Use Gem Cutting Forgery Set Snares Juggling Bowyer/Fletcher Class Ranger Minimum = 13 Ranger Minimum = 6 * * Thief Minimum = 9Thief Minimum = 9 *** Minimum Illusionist Minimum = 16 Scores Transmuter Minimum = 15 Bard Minimum = 12

Aging		
Old Age	-2 to Agility	-1 to Dexterity
Venerable	-1 to Agility	-1 to Dexterity
Racial		
Min/Max		
Dwarf	3/17	3/18 (smith skills)
Elf*	6/18	6/18
Gnome	3/17	3/18 (gem cutting)
Half Elf	6/18	6/18
Halfling	7/18	7/18
_	-for 1st	Edition-
Half Orc	3/17	3/17

- * Elves and Half Elves receive +1 to one or the other, but never both.
- ** Agility replaces Dexterity as a Prime Requisite for Rangers.
- *** Agility becomes an additional Prime Requisite for Thieves.

Peculiar Personalities (?) Car Wars cars from SJG's Illuminati BBS (ibid). By: SEAN WHALEN Date: 5/21/91 Sleek and powerful a great first car. This litle beauty has what it takes, Driver, JD(b), MML(f), 25 point hubs, 25 point guards, armor F/25 R/20 L/20 T/10 U/13 B/22, Acc 5, HC:4, top speed 92.5 cost \$4521, weight 2495Lb OFTION I Remove 2(two) points armor and add SWC, cost \$4999

Leave them burning for your car. Let them get a little hot under the collar. The new FIRE DRAKE will turn there dreams of victory into ashes. Ready for Division Five Dueling this little baby has flames aplenty. FIRE DRAKE Compact, Std. chassis, Med PP, Hvy. susp., PR Tires, Driver, LFT(R), LFT(L), SD(B), Fake Ramplate, APMOR(F.15 R.12 L.12 T.5 U.5

ARMOR(F:15,R:12,L:12,T:5,U:5, B:15), Accel 5, HC:3, Cost \$4997, Weight 3549 Lb, Top Speed 100.

A favorite tactic is to set up a car for a ram and when it manovers away from you blast it with the light flame thrower and manuever behind it slightly to the left or right, just enough to be in your side arc, and stick there. You have to stay close due to the range limitation inherant in the weapon, but he'll most likely catch fire about the third or forth shot freeing you to prusue other targets. Quite often the SD is droped and a ramplate is added.

pleased. Any pulp or recent history RPG enthusiast will find the fold-up figures and props, and Generating Characters for Adventures section useful. Gamers of any genre will find the: Random Ruins, Dealing With the Unknown, Spicing Up Chases, Runes and Secret Writings and Sample Ruin Maps, sections useful to different degrees. A good deal of the info is non-system dependent and conversion of most of the remaining info seems easy enough.

This stuff is good! The random ruin generator not only creates the map but helps develope the whys, whats and whoms of a ruin. Another innovation is in the "chase scene" flow charts, easy, quick and fun. I don't know what the original cover price was but if you see it for \$4 or less, buy it!

The Convert, a Fantasy Masters FRPG adventure by F. Mentzer, for New Infinities Prod., Inc. Yes, I know the Fantasy Master line is advertised as generic but I had to put it in writing, it's true. With varying degrees of work, the Fantasy Master system will work with any game.

More Dungeon For Your \$ More RPG supplements that have hidden, generic uses.

Indiana Jones, Judges Survival
Pack, by H. Johnson, for TSR.
 I took Tony Lee's advice
and sought out this game
accessory. Although I paid a
little more than the \$1 Tony
boasted of, I am still very

DragonLance Adventures, by Hickman & Weis for AD&D. This \$15 sourcebook, for a sorry excuse of a campaign setting, just caught my attention when it went on sale (\$5 or less from what I've seen). Written for the AD&D1, it is fully compatible with AD&D2. If you use a TSR FRPG, or not, the info in here is worth the reduced price. It contains: Descriptions, histories and PC info for Krynn's unique races (including minotaur as PCs). Places of interest, creatures,

spells, magic items, deities, non-weapon proficiencies, NPCs, etc. It details the world, it's weather, history and universe. You can hate the DL campaign and still find \$5+ of worth in this hard cover book, check it out.

I did not purchase the Greyhawk Adventures book because even at the sale price it lacked unique and interesting information. You may still want to take a peek at it due to the reduced price.

Fantasy Hero (2nd ed, Larry Elmore cover), a campaign book for the Hero sys, by R. Bell, for ICE/Hero.

That's right, it has generic uses, but at its normal cover price you may want to check it out first.

The Campaign book section has an excellent introduction on what to base characters on. There are some unique PC races offered that, with the conversion material in the appendix, can be used with any system. The character archetypes provides excellent templates for creating characters in a skill based system as well as a class based system (it could very well supplant the need for The Complete Thief's Handbook, for example). The skill lists and explanations are also helpful. The Magic System Concept, Original Magic System Design, and Campaign Ground Rules Sheets are extremely valuable They provide and exportable. excellent checklists for GMs and outlines for players. The Conventions of "Genre" Fantasy section is equally valuable to anyone starting a new campaign. In general there are lots of tools for GMs of any fantasy game. The Source Book section holds a campaign setting, interesting NPCs and some good adventures too. The appendix contains conversion material for Fantasy Hero 1st ed., AD&D, GURPS and Role Master (a DQ conversion would not be difficult, hmmm).

You may fire when ready, but I'll stick to my guns, this is a usable generic supplement. As I said, it will be difficult to find on sale, so sneak a peek before you lay out your \$s.

Tredroy, a GURPS Fantasy City by A. von Thorn, for SJG. I got this one for \$4, another discount well worth the cost. If you read the back cover, the second to last sentence acknowledges the use of the book with other systems. Within it gives hints on using it with SciFi or Espionage backgrounds as well.

The city is well defined yet not overly detailed. It is multicultural and full of intrigue. Politics, economics, theology, guilds, customs and law all receive ample explanation. Find it, check it out and decide for yourself. I find it works extremely well with RQ Cities and the Conan geomorphs I described in Papyrus #5.

Ingenious Items

These are magical items are from Ragnarok's Necropolis of Dreams BBS, (512)472-6905. They are described in some detail, covering their powers and appearance, plus other appropriate information for use with Ysgarth and AD&D/D&D FRPGs. Note that none of these items are easy to analyze, and none have instructions.

Ring of Ehzar

This is a small ring of black metal. When it is worn, it causes horrible apparitions of demons and monsters to appear behind the wearer. Those who see them rising up behind him will be horrified and run in terror, but if he turns around to see the cause, they will become real and rip him to shreds.

Seeds of Ostoxanbandi

This is a bag with 30 small white pebbles, which when placed in the ground and left their over night will grow into skeletal warriors (1 per seed). These warriors will serve the planter until the fall of the next night.

Wand of Greater Sealings This wand is limited to 3 charges. It has the power to seal doors and gates of a magical nature which have been opened. It seals them permanently, with a sealing spell of 100th level, which cannot be broken by a spell of lower level. The wand must be touched to the door to be sealed, and is 3ft long.

Key of Azadeghi This 'key' is actually a long metal rod with inscriptions all over it, giving a lengthy phonetic chant to use while touching the rod to designated spots to open the Gate of Darkness. It will work only once in every 10 years, and dispells sealing spells of up to 200th level. Discus of Dismemberment

This is a combat weapon with unusual properties. It strikes at missile range as +5/+5 with 50% sword of sharpness, always hitting at a joint when it hits. It also returns every 3rd Combat Round to the user. Unfortunately there is a, 60-Skill Level of discus, percent of fumbling and hitting oneself every time it is used.

Staff of Tab'id

This 4ft long staff of ancient, petrified wood is a very powerful magic item. It has 50 charges, which may be expended at a variable rate as needed. Each charge dismisses one level worth of extra planal being to his plane of origin if the bearer can strike that being with it and if the being fails his save. Extra charges can be expended to lower the save at -1 per extra charge. It cannot be recharged.

Entity Encounters

The Swamp Reaper, for DragonQuest by Nick Parenti

Dark Arm of Sutekh

This is a cestus, designed to be worn on the right hand and made of a reddish crystal. In addition to working as +2/+2 doing 1D12 damage as a cestus, it makes the wearer's hand totally immune to magic of all kinds, allowing him to touch and manipulate otherwise deadly items. It is also fire, cold and radiation proof. Name: Swamp Reaper Natural Habitat: Swamp, Marsh Frequency: Very Rare Number: 1-3(1)

Description: 12' tall, carapace armored behemoth. Its neckless head is crowned by a pair of rams horns. Clothing is limited to trophies and interesting items from past victims. The left hand has evolved to resemble a small, bare tree or fallen limb.

Their carapace is flexible and sinew-like giving the appearance of gnarled tree roots. With its nostrils located at the front of a protruding ridge above its eyes, it can breath submerged.

Talents, Skills, and Magic: No magical abilities, skills or talents. Can use crude weapons of up to giant size but will not attain any rank in their use.

Movement Rates: Running: 400-500

PS:18-36 MD: 4-22 AG: 3-21 MA: 5-8 EN:30-40 FT:18-24 WP: 4-22 PC:20-25 PB:0 IMR:10-12 NA: Hide absorbs 5 DP

Weapons: The creatures' usual tactic is to lay hidden beneath the swamp's muddy surface with only its left claw exposed. The claw is used like a trap (+3 damage modifier) to capture passing victims, humanoids are their favorite. The victims are then drowned, eaten alive (+4 damage modifier/bite) or bashed against a hard surface while still in the grip of the claw (+3 damage modifier/bash). If pressed into combat these creatures will employ crude weapons, a claw attack and/or attempt to ram large victims with its horns (+8 damage modifier).

use large snow drifts to conceal themselves from their prey.

SUPPORT FOR DRAGONQUEST -Since my review of DragonQuest in Papyrus #3, I have found it is not so un-supported as I had thought. The following references apply:

DRAGON MAGAZINE NUM PAGE ARTICLE TITLE 68 TRAVEL AND THREADS 49 FOR DRAGONQUEST THE VERSATILE 57 24 MAGICIAN 78 84 THE THRILL OF THE HUNT 20 82 ENHANCING THE ENCHANTER 86 24 THE WARRIOR ALTERNATIVE 89 42 LEARN MAGIC BY THE MONTH 92 62 GOING UP AND GETTING WET GETTING IN OVER YOUR 96 56 HEAD 97 28 FOR A FULLER BACKGROUND IMAGINE MAGAZINE INTRODUCTION AND ? 7 SCENARIO 16 25 SETHOTEP DRAGONQUEST/D&D/AD&D EGYPTIAN ADVENTURE ARES MAGAZINE (check any issue before #14) 7 5 THE HOUSE OF KURIN DRAGONQUEST ADVENTURE DRAGON NOTES RULES 30 CLARIFICATION 13 38 QUESTING- COLLEGE OF SUMMONING EXPANSION 45 THE TREASURE OF SOCANTRI, DRAGONQUEST ADVENTURE 12ADVENTURES IN ALBION 9 QUESTING- NEW 36 CHARACTER RACES SPI PRODUCTS 2ND EDITION RULES THE PALACE OF ONTONCLE -ADVENTURE

Comments: "Mating" occurs yearly. Reapers are asexual and mate by injecting dormant a egg into a live, humanoid victim via a small stinger at the base of the left claws palm. Once set free the victim will not appear harmed until the next time they view a swamp or marsh. At this point they will insist on settling in there, and will fall seriously ill within 4 months. After 1 week of illness they will die and their body will then be absorbed by the growing reaper within them.

A variant race exist in cold, snowy wastes. These grey, woolly, Arctic Reapers are hairy copies of their swamp dwelling cousins. They

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THE BLADE OF ALLECTUS -ADVENTURE THE ENCHANTED WOOD - ADVENTURE ARCANE WISDOM - RULES SUPPLEMENT THE DRAGONQUEST RANDOMIZED DUNGEON KIT - ACCESSORY FRONTIERS OF ALUSIA - CAMPAIGN ARENA OF DEATH - GLADIATORIAL COMBAT GAME IN THE WORLD OF DRAGONQUEST

TSR PRODUCTS **3RD EDITION RULES** DQ1, THE SHATTERED STATUE -AD&D/DQ FORGOTTEN REALMS ADVENTURE AND RULES EXPANSION

JUDGES GUILD PRODUCTS HEROES AND VILLIANS - DQ NPCs, FOR ALUSIA CAMPAIGN OR OTHERS MAGEBIRD QUEST - DQ ADVENTURE IN ALUSIA OR OTHER STAR SILVER TREK - DQ ADVENTURE IN ALUSIA OR OTHER

CHAOSIM PRODUCT THIEVES WORLD - ADVENTURE PACK (note - not Thieves World Companion)

SIGMA AWARDS 1991 Society of Independent Game Manufacturers

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Please select your top three choices in each of the following categories. Anything published in the calendar year 1991 is eligible. Please include your mailing address for verification purposes at the end of your ballot. Only one ballot per person. All ballots are due in to the address given below by June 1, 1992. Results will be announced at GenCon.

Best Role-Playing Game

Best Role-Playing Game Aid or Supplement

Best Board/Strategy Game

Best Board/Strategy Game Aid

Best Miniature Figure/Figure Line

Best Computer Game

Best Play-by-Mail Game

Best Role-Playing Game TORG West End Games

Best RPG Aid/Supplement Pantheon Ragnarok Enterprises

Best Strategy Game Car Wars Card Game Steve Jackson Games

Best Strategy Game Aid Genestealers Games Workshop

Best Miniature Figure Star Wars Line Grenadier

Best Computer Game **Railroad Tycoon** Microprose

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Name: Address: City:	State:	Zip:
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	Best Periodical Roleplayer eve Jackson Gam	
	GMA AWAR 7th St., Austin,	