

Fantasy game...

Continued from Page 2

Player level also affects the dexterity, speed, intelligence and strength of a character—all play a part in how much the character can carry in the way of treasure or weapons. If the player is a magic user, the level affects what type of spells he may cast.

During the course of a game, the player also can earn his own riches (to buy horses, potent weapons, aid), learn languages (including dragonese, wild horse, elfin) and contract new spells that may be necessary (like cure-disease, fear, magic boxes), all of which come with levels.

All of the written rules for D&D stem from Gygax's four books, *The Dungeon Masters' Guide*, the *Players' Handbook*, the *Monster Manual* and *Deities and Demigods*. According to Thaut, the rules are shaped just enough so that the master still can vary the game at his will.

Players attempt to become familiar with the handbook, as well as the *Monster Manual*, since the master offers only a limited description of exactly what they are facing, and never tells them how to defeat it.

"Every monster you run across takes a lot of thought and strategy to defeat," Sklenar said.

Sunday afternoon

Sklenar, a fourth-level ranger, plays D&D with several other members of Harper Nine at Davis' apartment on Sunday afternoons. A recent happening in their current adventure lost them one of their regular players' characters and almost his friendship.

"It happened like this," Hitch explained. "We had been paid so much by this king to take a message to some elves in the middle of a forest. First we ran into these stirgies (giant mosquitos with fewer than nine points hit), and then a pack of tigers. We didn't lose anybody, but our hits were hurt enough so that when we got to the forest, monsters hit us so hard there was no way we were all going to live through it," Hitch said.

"But, somehow, the group survived through the first attacks, but a Displacer Beast (panther-like animal with snake-like appendages) rendered all but three of the group unconscious.

"Finally, the stag beetles came at us," Hitch said. "We had set up some logs to fall on anything that moved in, but they missed. Then we brewed two of them with fire, and there was just this one left."

The only hope was to ward the beetle away from the camp.

However, player Brent Welch decided to attack the beetle regardless of the odds and his own diminished hit point count.

Only one blow

"It only took one blow from the beetle to knock him out," Hitch said. "I can't remember exactly what the beetle did then, but I do know that we ran out, and more or less, threw Welch at the beetle to satisfy him and lead him away from the camp. It worked, because after he chewed up Welch, he went away."

The action pleased everyone in the camp except for Welch.

"I'm sure those guys fed me to the stag beetle. They could have saved me, but what did they do? And after all I did for them..." he said.

"Did he ever get mad at us after that," Hitch recalled. "He went into Bob's bedroom and pouted till the rest of us were finished. We went down to McDonalds' after that and he still wouldn't speak to us. Even when he got over glaring at us and ignoring us, that was all we heard for weeks. We still hear about it."

The whole success of the game hinges on how vivid and real the player can make it, Alonzo said, and it's that aspect Gygax thrives on.

A national tournament called "Gen Con" for D&D players has been in existence since 1975. Miniature pieces that the master can manipulate for a more realistic aspect sell well, according to Thaut. These sell for between \$10 and \$200.

Despite bad publicity D&D got when a 15-year-old Michigan State student disappeared while allegedly playing it in 1979, the game is still popular, at least on a cult level.

"People like to imagine and get away from the real world sometimes," Alonzo said.



Think Summer!

Think jobs, vacations, and summer courses you take with you.

If you want to earn college credit this summer but you won't be on campus, the UNL Division of Continuing Studies Independent Study Program may be just right for you. For information on the wide variety of college credit courses that go where you do, call 472-1933 or come to 511 Nebraska Hall.



UNL does not discriminate in its academic, admissions or employment programs and abides by all federal regulations pertaining to same.

Shorts, shorts. Don't wait any longer.

S to XL. \$8.50.
Shorts No. 3. All-American poly-cotton shorts in navy with white side panels and red piping on the legs. Sizes S to XL. \$11.00.
Shorts No. 4. A poly-cotton hit in red

with three white stripes on the sides. Sizes S to XL. \$8.50.
Top No. 5. A poly-cotton top in powder blue with white, yellow, and powder blue accents on the raglan sleeves. Sizes S to XL. \$12.95. Shorts No. 5. Matching

poly-cotton shorts in powder blue with white accent piping and gray imprint. Sizes S to XL. \$8.95.



Open Monday-Friday, 8-5:30, Saturday, 9-5:30

NEBRASKA BOOKSTORE

12th & R Streets in Lincoln Center 476-0111

bookstore