

**LIMESTONE PUBLISHING**

# **NEWS**

*"Bogus News, Genuine Propaganda."* **FREE!**

# **SASQUATCH ROLEPLAYING RAMPAGE!!!**

**NEW "Chain of Being" RPG  
is Target of Yeti Raid!**

*Pope declares: RPGs "really fun!"*



**CHURCH OUTRAGED**

**SHOCKING  
PHOTOS!**



**LIMESTONE PUBLISHING  
EXCLUSIVE REPORT**

## **THE UNDEAD MENACE**

**...and the Eden  
Studios game that  
can save you!**

# Unsubstantiated Reports of People Rising from Their Graves in Rural Wisconsin!

## Eleven Missing!

Unsubstantiated rumors of dead people climbing out of their graves were reported last week in the small community of Willard in rural Wisconsin. These stories continue not to be substantiated, despite the disappearance of eleven people. This fact comes as no surprise to Gill Romero, National Zombie Expert, who also stated that he thinks it's a good bet zombies are responsible. "When that many people just disappear, you can usually just assume the walking dead got 'em," he elaborated.

So far, government officials

have declined to comment on these inexplicable disappearances, except to say that "even if it's true that the dead are rising, it's probably just a weather balloon." In a hasty phone interview punctuated by sporadic gunfire, Dana Etchison, a Willard morgue administrator, scoffed at that idea. "Zombies don't really look very much like weather balloons," she said. "Actually, these zombies looked more like walking dead people."

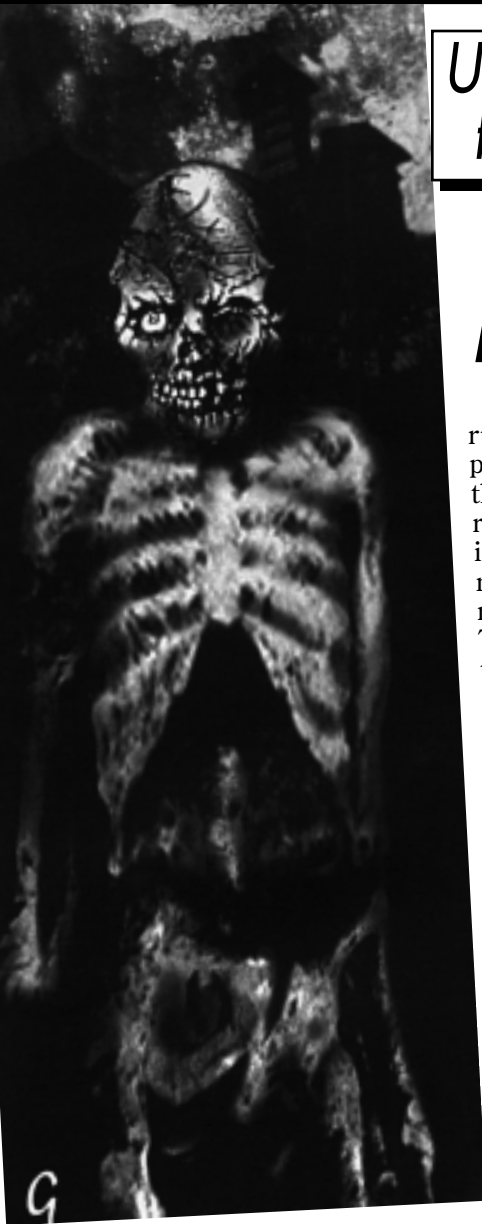
So what can you do, now that it seems likely that these undead will soon be rising all over the world, and most likely coming to your town? "Invest in many copies of *All Flesh Must Be Eaten*, the Eden Studios RPG," advised previously mentioned Zombie Expert Romero.

"Sure, it's just a game, but I'm telling you—that book says it all. Learn about zombie diets, find out how many Dead Points they have, and discover how many times you

have to nuke them before they fall down. Zombies are surprisingly diverse, and this book is the source on them. Plus, the book's functional 7.5 x 9.5 size and attractive, hardbound cover makes it ideal for throwing at close range. And I do believe that the deluxe version, which will have an in-spine napalm projector, will come out later this year."

When contacted for comment, Eden Studios declined to interview, denied responsibility for the placement of weather balloons in Willard, and indicated that they are not prepared to offer a pyrotechnic version of *All Flesh Must Be Eaten* until the zombie menace presents more of a threat.

—STAFF WRITER Todd Q. Noral



Artist's conception of alleged weather balloon

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\*Possible side effects include drowsiness, dry mouth, excessive earwax, skin rash, chronic sneezing, profuse sweating, weight gain, tough skin, thin squeaky voice, loss of color vision, apnea, loose stool, tinnitus, hot and cold flashes, thinning of the blood, cauliflower ear, loss of appetite, sensitivity to light, sensitivity to darkness, hypersensitivity to precious metals, hair loss, hydrophobia, inflammation of random body parts, aggravated allergies, hemophilia, fingernail curling, sudden loss of table manners, tentacle growth, projectile vomiting, tendency to glow in dim light, clumsiness, stupidity, temporary schizophrenia, impotence, rectal hemorrhaging, leprosy, and in less than 30% of cases, spontaneous combustion.

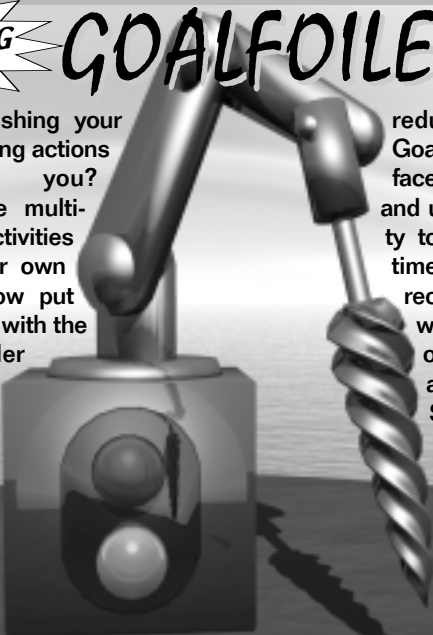
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reduce happiness—only the Goalfoiler 3000!™ actually interfaces directly with your brain and utterly eradicates your ability to reason, one neuron at a time. Order now, and you'll also receive a short, blunt object with which to hit yourself over the head! And for the all-time high price of \$499.97, you can't win! Call now!

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# Chain of Being™

## The Seriously Humorous Fantasy Roleplaying Game

"Hi, I'm Brogo Ragabottom and I'm here to tell you about *Chain of Being*. That's partially because it's just such a great game, but mostly, I admit, because I find myself in need of some quick gleep and the good folks at Limestone Publishing agreed to throw some my way if I'd spill the beans. I bet you're wondering, how did an enterprising young halfling like myself get into your world of players and gamemasters with nothing more than the shirt on my back, a sword, and a bag of beholder jerky? Well, that's a long story involving a binding contract to an eccentric secret society, a career-breakingly large consignment of that previously mentioned jerky, a horde of hungry orcs, and the astonishingly well-timed appearance of a rip in the fabric of gameality. But I'd better not go into that, because the people in that society I mentioned don't appreciate it when people talk about them



Photo credit: Dominick Veldman

any more than they enjoy it when people innocently stumble into their secret laboratories and accidental

activate eldritch artifacts without their explicit permission.

Anyway, essentially my job here today is to introduce this text block over here on my left, and I can hardly consider my quest discharged until I reveal it. So now, without further ado, here are just a few things you might do when playing the game *Chain of Being*. Go ahead and read it; I'll wait right here."

[Editor's Note: Brogo now pauses while you, the gentle reader, peruse the side box. He then resumes his monologue:]

"I'd go into more detail, but there really is just too much to tell, and besides—I just snared a really great deal with New Line Productions and Peter Jackson in a promo for *Lord of the Rings*. I gotta call my agent!"

Brogo

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  - Beware the fearsome Textile Monster, which just does not stop until it has eaten every single shred of your clothing!
  - Topple corrupt ancient underwater governments ruled by merbovines!
  - Find yourself in the employ of the queen, trying to collect 30% income tax from adventurers fresh from a dungeon raid!
- ...and much more!**

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# Hairy Humanoids yen for RPG action!!!

## "A Sasquatch Stole My CoB!"

Authorities warn that it may be necessary to keep gaming supplies under lock and key, due to an inexplicable sasquatch encounter this past week. "I just don't understand it," exclaimed Trella County Sheriff Don Wickwa. "We get rashes of sightings every year, but I've never heard of the beasts ever taking anything from people."

"I didn't even see it until it grabbed my copy of *Chain of Being*, the new fantasy roleplaying game from Limestone Publishing," claimed an irate Russell T. Weeks of South Wetpatch. "Then it leafed through the book, giggled, and took off through the underbrush. I was so shocked that I had just seen a sasquatch, I didn't notice right away that it had taken my book."

Local officials admitted disbelief in Weeks' story initially, leading to a community-wide controversy. "At first I thought it was a prank call, since it was such an outrageous claim," stated 911 operator Bonnie Swanson. "But after the calls started coming in, we had to treat it seriously."

Bonnie took 14 other calls the night of Saturday, March 5th. Reactions ranged from concerned to hysterical.

"I remember that it was carrying a book," said Sandy LaLonde of East Patch County, who was visiting her sister in the area that night. "You just don't forget a thing like that." She spotted the creature as it crossed the street behind her parked car.

"Judging from the 911 call logs," said Sheriff Wickwa, "it seems the creature bumbled all over the county that night with its nose buried in some kind of book. Actually, the book, which we can assume was Russell's, seems to be the most consistent

element amongst the reports. Many even reported seeing the title."

At the prompting of City Hall and a number of eminent citizens who had actually seen the creature, the police conducted a brief search of Meeker State Park, ending Monday, when the search party concluded, as Deputy Cody Durcell put it, "if there ever was a sasquatch in Meeker State Park, it must know how to fly! There's just no sign of anything like that in the whole park."

Outraged by what they called the local police department's "token search," yokels mounted their own "Quatch Posse." The posse concluded its search on Thursday and came out of the woods empty-handed after searching roughly the same area, having run clean out of pork sandwiches.

"That creature can't be found because it don't want to be found," mused Nathaniel Cugelhorn, a resident of rural Trella County. "Only comes out when it wants things normal folks have and just takes 'em. I remember when a similar animal come lookin' for light bulbs and canvas-covered canteens in '32. It's as simple as that—the beast just found what he was

looking fer—this time."

The woods are quiet now and show no signs of any miscreancy by hairy humanoids with big feet. Life in Trella County has returned to normal: the doughnuts at Don's Donut Warehouse are put out as usual, Bob's US 30 Bait Depot offers a sale on leeches to weekend anglers, and the police are busy with tasks befitting officers of the law, not rogue cryptozoologists.

"It was over before you knew it, with all the searches, one right after another," said Peggy LaLonde of Peggy's Qwicky-Kut Boutique Shoppe. "I kind of wish it had lasted. It was fun—exciting, you know? I guess it was a once-in-a-lifetime sort of thing. Now it's just back to the same old gossip."

However, for some, there is little closure to these events. "I still hear those giggles when I'm lying in bed at night," bemoaned a sleepless Weeks. "I don't know

if I'll ever see my copy of *CoB* again!"

—STAFF WRITER  
Foob Thunklestein

*Editor's Note: We here at the Limestone Publishing News found this article on our doorstep one morning. Since the game Chain of Being isn't out yet, we can only conclude that it must be from the future!*

### Cat Rolls Dice!

TALAHASSEE, Florida — Suzie Blandish owns a ginger tabby which has learned how to roll dice! "Buster seems to prefer rolling d10s," Suzie explains, "but he will futz with almost any dice he can get his paws on." Suzie has been getting on in years recently, and she has grown to appreciate Buster's services. "My arthritis really acts up sometimes, so this has been a godsend for my roleplaying activities. Buster not only rolls my dice for me, he fetches them when they roll under the couch!" The only problem is, Buster just hates rolling zeros. "Whenever he rolls two or more at a time, he retreats under the bed and refuses to come out for hours."

—STAFF WRITER Skunkweed Manyjohns



**Advanced Computer Enhancement reveals the face of gaming-crazed beast for first time ever!!!**

Photo courtesy of the Center for Diagnostic Primate Imaging

# Vatican Makes Ruling on Roleplaying Games



Earlier this week, in a surprise move for the Vatican, Pope John Paul II released an apostolic letter clarifying at last a matter of church doctrine which has been vigorously debated since the mid-1970s. This letter set to rest for the foreseeable future the old question of whether or not roleplaying games are a tool of Satan. The pope's answer, in short, was no. His Holiness startled some with this statement, but many were shocked when he actually went so far as to state that in his opinion, many roleplaying games are (in His words) "really fun" and that He Himself is, in fact, an avid gamer.

The pope has already received ample criticism for His statement, but John Paul has never shirked controversy before. His encyclicals "The Dangers of Genetic Manipulation," "Audiences on Original Sin," "Dignity and Vocation of Women," and "How Much I Love Snack Cakes," for example, have provoked much debate, and it seems that His stand on roleplaying will spark similarly strong feelings in believers and skeptics alike.

As John Paul elaborated in the letter, "roleplaying most like-

ly does not result in the corruption of one's soul, and it will almost certainly not bring about the apocalypse." The pope went on to add that roleplaying an evil character need not necessarily make you evil, as long as you don't do it on Sunday. A man of firm conviction with 23 solid years of His papacy behind Him, the pope is determined to make a strong case for the popular hobby which is now almost 30 years old.

For instance, in an interview with *TIME* magazine, the pope revealed that the reason that the Dead Sea Scrolls have been kept from the world is that they contain ample evidence that the ancient Hebrews were gamers. "Enough is enough," the pope declared sharply. "It's about time somebody told the whole truth about those texts." The pope pooh-poohed the criticism that roleplaying encourages blood drinking and lurking around in underground tunnels with swords. "Anyone who says that it does is probably some sort of fundie," He added.

The pope then revealed that He has been roleplaying off and on since 1982, and that He has exchanged some correspondence with E. Gary Gygax, co-creator of *Dungeons and Dragons*, the first modern roleplaying game. He spoke fondly of those years, and mentioned that He has even talked

recently with higher-ups at *Wizards of the Coast*. "I don't like to toot my own horn, but I actually had some input into third edition," His Holiness revealed.

The pope's recent statement is already boosting sales for roleplaying industry giants like *Wizards of the Coast* and *White Wolf Publishing*. The pope also discussed passionately His interest in seeing the new fantasy roleplaying game from *Limestone Publishing*. "I hear it's supposed to come out sometime in 2002," the pope said with enthusiasm. "Frankly, some of the stuff I've read about it is downright hilarious."

Then the pope became somber. "Another thing I've been playing lately is *Little Fears*, that neat new game by Key 20 Publishing. Basically, I'm still just a kid at heart, and I have to admit I'm still terrified of closet monsters. I guess it's kind of therapeutic—the game helps me deal with my deepest insecurities."

Pope John Paul II is, in general, a very relaxed and gentle man. Still, for all His ease and charisma, He becomes slightly defensive when asked to justify His position on roleplaying. "I just like fighting imaginary dramatic battles against demonic foes," He stated. "I don't see what's so wrong with that."

—STAFF WRITER

Sasha René Bobbenstack



John Paul II fails a piety check.

# Epic Absurdity!

Chain of Being: A Seriously Humorous Fantasy Roleplaying Game  
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## Other Articles in Limestone Publishing News Found to Be Blatantly False!

In a study conducted by the Foundation for the Elimination of Propaganda Created for the Purpose of Producing, Marketing, and Distributing Roleplaying

Games (FEPCPPMDRPG), issued later this week, information in the Limestone Publishing News was found to be largely false or misleading, says Mike Locathah,

founder of this independent industry watchdog. Locathah takes a hard-line approach to these violations. "We don't let them get away with these sorts of things," he stated. "If

they're allowed to do it, soon the entire roleplaying and wargaming industry will be putting out these weird little newsletters, and the whole hobby will collapse into anarchy."

FEPCPPMDRPG correspondent Nicki Ettercap was more sympathetic. "How is a new company going to get anybody to pay attention to its products without making a few utterly preposterous claims?" she asked. Still, she also stated that she thought it was important to hold them to the facts, and she asked Limestone Publishing to please clarify whether the falsehoods in the Limestone Publishing News were simply errors or whether they were deliberate lies.

To their credit, Limestone Publishing was forthcoming in admitting that their misrepresentation of certain facts had been deliberate. "It's true," sighed Limestone Publishing's Chief Public Relations Correspondent, Dan Geyer. "All that crap about the pope, the stuff about the sasquatch—it's just drivel, mostly. And some of those ads? Pure falderal." He hastened to add that since you can't raise your stats in real life, he wouldn't have thought anyone would have taken that Vitastat ad seriously. "But then, I can be pretty naïve sometimes," he admitted.

In the wake of this public relations disaster for Limestone Publishing, LSP's Chief Internal Activities Coordination Facilitator Justin Williams stated, "Woe is us! The only thing we have going for us now is a good game. We'll just have to hope it comes out in time to weather us from the coming storm of criticism from the media."

—STAFF WRITER *Ira Mudbaum*

THE CLOSET DOOR OPENS  
SUMMER 2001

# little fears

the role-playing game of  
childhood terror

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