



## Happy Halloween!

The leaves are changing, the air is growing a little bit cooler, and X-mas decorations are going on sale (I have never understood why retailers feel the need to stay two holidays ahead of us). Yup, it's fall and Halloween is just around the corner. Even as an adult (that part is still in question depending on who you talk to) this is still my absolute favorite time of year. Pumpkin Pies, ghosts, goblins and scary movies make this a time of year unlike any other.

So in honor of my favorite time of year I am devoting almost this entire issue to things that go bump in the night.

We've got a list (You know how I love making lists) of my 31 favorite horror movies, my choices for the best horror themed games, a list of some good and scary books to read, and a few horror themed comics you may or may not have heard of.

Breaking from the Halloween theme we are also honored to bring you an interview

with one of the stars of the Sci-fi channel's Who Wants to be a Superhero, (drum roll please), **Hyper-Strike!**

Of course we have our usual reviews, and news that you expect. So kick back, break out the candy and enjoy.

Happy  
Halloween.



### Robert Jordan 1948 - 2007

James Oliver Rigney, Jr, better known to his legion of fans as Robert Jordan author of the Wheel of Time series, passed away on September 16, 2007. Mr. Jordan had been diagnosed with cardiac amyloidosis, and though he remained optimistic, telling fans not to worry, he eventually succumbed to the illness.

His passing left many fans saddened and wondering about the fate of the Wheel of Time series. According to numerous sources the 12th and final book of the series will be published. The book that Jordan gave the working title of *A Memory of Light*, will be completed using notes and recordings left

by Jordan. He reportedly shared many of the books details with those close to him to make sure the series ended as he had planned. It has been mentioned that the book will be over 1500 pages in order to tie up the numerous plot threads.

I know I speak for all of his fans when I say that he will be missed.

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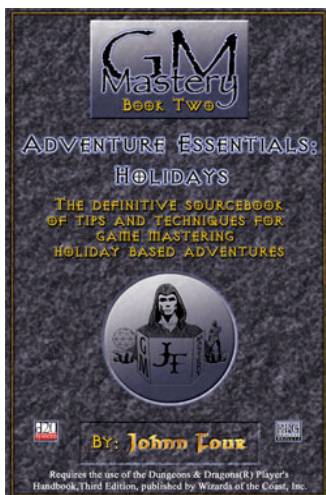
#### Words to Live by

- **"There are three things I have learned never to discuss with people: religion, politics and the Great Pumpkin."** — Linus Van Pelt in *It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown*
- **"If there's somethin' strange in your neighborhood / Who ya gonna call?"** — Ray Parker Jr., Theme to *Ghostbusters*

# 31 Favorite Halloween Movies

What is Halloween with out monster/horror themed movies. I have put together a little list, in no particular order, of my personal favorites. They range from the horrific to the hilarious, new and classic, and I highly recommend each and every one.

1. **Halloween(1978)**: This is one of my all time favorite movies to watch at this time of year. Sure it is a little dated, but it is a true classic and that scene where Michael Myers sits up after Jamie Lee Curtis thinks she's killed him still gets to me.
2. **The Howling**: It has werewolves at a commune and nudity plus they kill the star of the movie. It's almost perfect.
3. **Night of the Living Dead**: The movie that all other Zombie movies try to be.
4. **An American Werewolf in London**: Man gets bitten by a werewolf, man meets girl, man becomes a werewolf



and goes on a rampage in London. Awesome!

5. **Dawn of the Dead(2004)**: Yes I like the remake better than the original.
6. **Evil Dead**: A classic.
7. **Evil Dead 2**: Duh!
8. **Army of Darkness**: You just have to love this movie.
9. **Dagon**: I'm an H.P. Lovecraft fan and while this may not be the best adaptation of his work, I like it.
10. **In the Mouth of Madness**: Very Lovecraftian, and very good.
11. **Young Frankenstein**: If you don't love this movie then the terrorist win! It is just un-American!
12. **28 Days Later**: A new spin on zombies.
13. **28 Weeks Later**: It's not as good as the first one, but it has zombies. What more do you need?
14. **IT**: Face it clowns are scary. You know it's true.
15. **Shaun of the Dead**: I know this was suppose to be a zombie movie spoof, but it turned out to be one of the

best zombie movies made.

16. **Rosemary's baby**: Another dated, but still enjoyable classic.
17. **Ginger Snaps**: If you like werewolf movies you should definitely check this series out.
18. **Ginger Snaps 2**: Not as good as the first one, but still worth watching.
19. **Ginger Snaps Back**: My favorite of the Ginger Snaps series.
20. **The Devils Rejects**: I was not impressed with House of 1000 corpses, but the sequel more than made up for the first movies mistakes.
21. **The Secret Window**: My all time favorite Stephen King adaptation.
22. **Nightmare on Elm Street**: I like all of the Freddy movies, but this is the best of the best.
23. **Friday the 13th**: It is just your average, no brainer, teenage slasher movie, and what is better than that?
24. **The Texas Chainsaw Massacre (2003)**: Another instance where I like the remake better than the original.
25. **Bubba Ho-Tep**: How could you not like a movie with an elderly Elvis and a black JFK

*"Double, double toil and trouble /  
Fire burn, and cauldron bubble."*

*— William Shakespeare, Macbeth*

Continued page 3

## 31 favorite Halloween movies Continued from page 2

- fighting a mummy?
26. **Creep show**: I enjoy reading short stories and this is short stories you can watch!
  27. **Interview with the Vampire**: The only movie where Tom Cruise was great. Too bad he wasn't in the sequel cause it was horrific.
  28. **Saw**: The first one was brilliant, too bad they had to
  - make sequels.
  29. **Hostel**: Because of this movie I will never visit Europe.
  30. **Wind Chill**: A very good, under promoted little thriller.
  31. **Sleepy Hollow**: Yet another classic starring Johnny Depp.

Well these are my personal favorite movies to watch at Halloween. There is easily another 100 great movies that I could have put on the list, so believe me when I say it was difficult to choose, but narrowed it down to these. So if you are needing ideas on what to rent this Halloween, here you go. You may or may not like every movie on the list and that's fine, but I know you like some of them.

## My picks for the best Horror Themed Games

Whether you are a table top gamer or a video game enthusiast, few things can get you in the Halloween spirit like a game that can raise the hair on the back of your neck. So here is a short list for my top 10 picks of the best horror themed games and game supplements.

TTRPG = table top rpg

BG= board game

VG=video game

CCG= collectible card game

MG= miniatures game

1. **Silent Hill (VG)**: Personally this is the spookiest game I have ever played.
2. **Monte Cooke's World of Darkness (TTRPG)**: This is
3. **Call of Cthulhu (TTRPG)**: A true classic and probably the best horror themed rpg on the market.
4. **Resident Evil 2 (VG)**: For me this is the best in the series.
5. **Heroes of Horror (TTRPG)**: This D&D supplement is great for the GM wanting to run a horror themed session.
6. **Darkness & Dread (TTRPG)**: This d20 supplement put out by Fantasy Flight Games is an excellent choice for running a spooky, low magic fantasy game.

7. **Arkham Horror (BG)**: If you don't own it, buy it!

8. **Horroclix (MG)**: I'm not a big mini's game player but I have played this a few times and the figures are pretty cool.

9. **Call of Cthulhu (VG)**: This X-box game definitely captures the feel of a Lovecraftian tale.

10. **Buffy the Vampire Slayer (TTRPG)**: The rules are simple enough and the game is pretty fun. Definitely a good choice for a little Halloween one shot game.

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"Never trust anything that can think for itself if you can't see where it keeps its brain."  
— J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* (1998)

# 20 Questions with Hyper-Strike

Geek Gazette: Of all the "reality" shows out there, what motivated you to go on "Who Wants To Be A Superhero?"

Hyper-Strike: First off, I don't really watch TV anymore (I don't have satellite or cable). Secondly, the only other show I've ever even contemplated competing on is "America's Got Talent", but my dream circus act (the Super Impact Act!!!) isn't finished yet and I don't like their presentation of live performances anyway. So, WWTBASH was the only show I felt my current abilities suited me for!!!

GG: Were your friends and family supportive of your desire to be on the show?

HS: Definitely. Everyone was psyched, they all wanted to see me on TV!!!

GG: Why do you think Stan picked you to be a contestant?

HS: Oohh... Nice question!!! I think he was probably looking to have a younger contestant again, like Nitro-G from last year. He was also probably impressed by my real life martial arts and acrobatic abilities. And finally, if he was smart, he took into consideration the fact that I represent Japanese comics and culture more so than I do American. Japanese comics, animation, and videogames are extremely popular and he would be attracting a completely new fan base by selecting a contest-

ant who stood for those things. Not to mention it would be something completely new on the show!

GG: Were you a comic book fan???

HS: When I was a kid, films, television, and videogames were where I got most of my exposure to superheroes. I did read Spider-Man for a while, but that was mostly for Venom! Since then, I've read a few more American comics (Hellboy and Ultimate X-Men), but have become obsessed with Japanese comics! My favorite titles at the moment are One Piece, Bleach, Death Note, and Eyeshield 21. GO MANGA!!!

GG: A lot of the wanna be heroes that auditioned had kind of cheesy superhero identities. Yet, Hyper-Strike seems like a very plausible comic book character. How did you come up with that persona?

HS: Wow! Thanks very much! When I set out to make Hyper-Strike, I did my best to accommodate two things; 1.) Give him a set of powers and personality that I would enjoy reading about. 2.) Give him the powers that I would want the most most/would fit me best if I were granted some in real life. Because, after all, that's what the show is all about! It's not just your character that competes and gets immortalized, it's you! So I think the persona you create should be a combination of those two things.

GG: I think it's safe to say that you are a Dragonball Z fan and I assume

that influenced your signature attack?

HS: What's Dragonball Z???

True A: DRAGONBALL Z HAS INFLUENCED EVERY SINGLE AREA OF MY ENTIRE LIFE!!!! So, it was obviously impossible not to let it resonate (deeply) in the character of Hyper-Strike. Of course, the Hyper-Hyper Blast is a tip of the hat to the Kamehameha. Toriyama often gives things comical names in his comics, but the way they are executed in the comic makes them extremely cool. This is what I strove for with the Hyper-Hyper Blast!

GG: Was it intimidating to be under the scrutiny of a legend like Stan Lee???

HS: No way! It was awesome!!! I was truly glad to have someone so powerful and influential witnessing all my incredible deeds!!! ;)

GG: When you first got to the lair were there any of the other contestants that you felt would be your primary competition/rivals?

HS: Yes! I immediately identified The Defuser as my main

"Never laugh at live dragons."  
— J.R.R. Tolkien, in *The Hobbit* (1937)



# Hyper-Strike continued from page 4

rival, but also Whip Snap. She made an incredible impression on me after just one mission. However, and no one has to believe me on this, I also (privately) predicted within the first two days at the lair that myself, Hygena, and The Defuser would be the final three... I should have put down some cash!!!!

GG: Have you kept the costume that Stan gave you or did you go back to the original?

HS: While I must say that even to this day I prefer my original design over Stan's, I must also admit that Stan's grew on me over time... (Or did I lose weight??? ;) I am sticking with the suit that Stan gave me because I spent so much more time wearing it on the show, it's what my millions of adoring fans recognize me in, and I have so many memories attached to it. (And I lost the original...)

GG: Were some of the challenges as risky as they seemed to the audience or were the contestants under close supervision?

HS: Both! All the missions were very well supervised by professionals, but being a professional would only go so far if a snake bit you in the eyeball!!!

GG: Your physical skills and martial arts prowess gave you a definite advantage over some of the other contestants and is one of the reasons you were the hands down favorite to win. Were you, at least

somewhere in your mind, expecting to win or was it really up in the air???

HS: Ooohh! Another *excellent* question!!! I definitely thought I had as good a chance as The Defuser at winning right until Stan called out his name! In fact, I even thought I had the edge on him after the school challenge where I was voted the #1 favorite by the kids! I figured that was like a test sample to see who'd sell the most comics if they won, not to mention who'd have the most power to inspire today's youth!!! But alas... I think it was just a matter of taste between me and The Defuser. We were both pretty cool ;) and I have no trouble seeing why Stan or anyone for that matter would pick him as their favorite over myself. In regards to my martial arts and acrobatic skills being an advantage though, I felt they were simultaneously my greatest strength and weakness!!! They definitely got me attention and cool points, but I think they also distracted Stan from seeing (at least in the beginning) that I truly had the heart of a hero. I knew that was how it was gonna be going into it though, so I was careful not to get pigeon-holed as just the flippy-showoff guy. I made sure to demonstrate true character and likeability in addition to being a show-off! ;)

GG: Many of the contestants seemed to actually

form friendships during the course of the show, has this continued or did everyone go their separate ways???

HS: It was easy to make friends because we were all good people and were being put in such intense situations that forced us to rely on each other for support. Even after the first day we were very close. Now that the show has ended, we have all gone our separate ways in a sense; we live all over the country and have serious careers. But, we do keep in touch, and hopefully, we'll be seeing each other again soon at a Comic-Con near you!!!

GG: Were there any conflicts between the contestants that the audience didn't get to see???

HS: Nope. Not unless I was also unaware of them, which is unlikely... because I am a *ninja*.

GG: The Defuser won the competition and will have his comic published by Dark Horse, have you been approached by other comic book publishers wanting to publish a Hyper-Strike comic book???

HS: I wish I could say YES!!! But no... No one is brave enough to face a couple of petty lawsuits from Funimation.

"Clothes make a statement.  
Costumes tell a story."  
— Mason Cooley

## Hyper-Strike continued from page 5

GG: Have they told you when/if the Hyper-Strike action figure will be released???

HS: They haven't said anything, but I think only The Defuser should get an action figure made because he's the one who won! That'd be lame if they declared one person the winner and then we all got the same stuff!!! I wouldn't want to cheapen things for The Defuser!!!! (That prize could have been mine after all ;)

GG: You seem to genuinely have a knack for dealing with children as was evident in the classroom challenge. Is working with children something you enjoy and would like to continue doing so in the future???

HS: I do enjoy working with kids! I think helping kids and setting a good example for them is extremely important!!! However, my future plans do not involve working directly with children. I hope to become a star in the circus, then design videogames, and later, own an animation studio. However, I think my work in those mediums will continue to inspire and entertain children in a big way. One, because kids have good taste. And 2, because I remember exactly what I liked to watch and play when I was a

kid and will always bear that in mind when creating my masterpieces!

GG: The time away from friends and family seemed to really affect many of the contestants. Was there ever a time you just wanted to give up and go home???

HS: NEVER!!!!!!

GG: Has your newfound celebrity affected your everyday life???

HS: A little bit. Only one person has recognized me in public so far. But, everyday, I check my MySpace and get a bunch of awesome messages from a bunch of awesome fans! I love it!!!

GG: What are your plans now that the show is over or have we seen the last of Hyper-Strike???

HS: Hyper-Strike will never die. Unfortunately, other than appearances at Comic-Cons and similar events, he is not included in my immediate plans...

Super Impact Man on the other hand is!!! Super Impact Man is the character I perform as in the circus as well as the character that Hyper-Strike is based upon. So if you like Hyper-Strike, you'll love Super Impact Man!!! And, he's coming soon to a circus near you! Also, there's no doubt that everyone will be seeing a lot more of John Stork. That guy's gonna be famous!!!

GG: My daughter wants me to ask if you will be appearing at Gen-Con Indianapolis next year, as Feedback, Major Victory, and Fat Momma did this year. She has made me promise to take her so she can get your autograph and picture if you will be there.

HS: Next year?!? That's a long way off!!! I have no idea what Sci-Fi's planning for us, they like to keep us in the dark about these things till the last second. But that's alright... I love surprises!!!



*"By the pricking of my thumbs  
Something wicked this way  
comes." -Shakespeare*

# What to read this Halloween

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Sure games and movies are great, but what is Halloween with out scary stories? So here are my suggestions for what you should be reading to get in the spirit of the holiday.

## Comic Books

- **Hellboy** (Dark Horse Comics)
- **The Walking Dead** (Image Comics)
- **Marvel Zombies** (Marvel Comics)

## Novels and Short Story Collections

- **Wake up Screaming:** A collection of stories by H.P. Lovecraft
- **Don't open this book:** Another collection of Lovecraftian tales by

various authors.

- **Skeleton Crew:** A great short story collection by Stephen King. It includes the classics The Mist, Mrs. Todd's Shortcut and The Raft.
- **Cell:** Stephen King + Zombies= Awesome!
- **Ghost Story:** by Peter Straub. A must read classic.
- **The Bad Place:** by Dean Koontz
- **On Her Majesty's Occult Service:** A great blend of Sci-fi, horror, and humor by Charles Stross

- **The Book of Shadows:** by James Reese. If you like Anne Rice, you'll like this book.
- **I am Legend:** by Richard Matheson. Another classic.
- **Usher's Passing:** by Robert McCammon

## Something for the kiddies

- **Scary Stories to tell in the Dark :** by Alvin Schwartz
- **More Scary Stories to tell in the Dark:** by Alvin Schwartz
- **Scary Stories for Halloween Night:** by Carroll B. Colby

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# News and Rumors

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- 4e D&D is official and WotC is wasting no time trying to win fans over. There are at least two pre-4e books coming out. Classes and Races (Dec. '07) and Worlds and Monsters (Jan '08). I think they are only behind the scenes looks at designing 4e and not useful game material.
- The Battlestar Galactica RPG's website is finally up (bsg-rpg.com). Unfortunately it only has a link to take you back to the MWP web store.
- The Wolverine solo movie is green lighted and due out in 2009.
- We may not have heard the last of Harry Potter & friends It is **purely rumor**, but I have heard that Rowling may be exploring stories concerning other characters. I have also heard that she may be letting other writers take a crack at unseen corners of the Potterverse.
- Inquest magazine is being cancelled with issue 150. Another gaming mag bites the dust.
- Since Jackson and New Line have apparently settled the lawsuit. Fans may be getting the long awaited Hobbit movie after all.

"Where there is no imagination, there is no horror." -[Sir Arthur Conan Doyle](#)

"Come let us meet, with charm and spell,  
By magic arts our fates to tell."  
[Vintage Halloween Invitation](#)

"Nothing beats a haunted moonlit night on All Hallows Eve."  
[Kim Elizabeth](#)



# The Podcast Page

Just a few of the Podcast that I recommend and try to listen to regularly. All podcasts featured anywhere in the Gazette should be available for download on the shows website or from iTunes; unless noted otherwise.



[www.harpingmonkey.co](http://www.harpingmonkey.co)



<http://decoderringtheatre.com>



[www.nuketown.com](http://www.nuketown.com)



[www.wizards.com/default.asp?x=dnd/pod/2006111](http://www.wizards.com/default.asp?x=dnd/pod/2006111)



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<http://dragonpage.com>



[www.pulpgamer.com](http://www.pulpgamer.com)



[www.fistfulofcomics.com](http://www.fistfulofcomics.com)



[www.theartofroleplaying.com](http://www.theartofroleplaying.com)



# Where have all the geeks gone?

I recently got involved in a very good discussion with the gang over at the Nutgallery.com about why kids don't seem to be interested in games like D&D anymore. There was a lot of really good opinions from everyone, except jedijeff who said nothing useful (told ya).

After I contributed my two cents worth and logged off I continued to think about the topic. Why don't kids today care about table top adventure gaming like they did in the past? There are a ton of great games on the market and I would venture to say that we have some of the best games ever published available now. The quality of pen and paper games is probably the best I've seen in my nearly 20 years of gaming. That's not to say there were no good games out back then, some of them were great but a lot of them were less than stellar.

So if the gaming products produced are more diverse and of higher quality why are so few new gamers coming into the hobby?

I have a younger family member, we'll call him Tom, that would occasionally watch us play Dungeons & Dragons on the weekends when he was a kid. Since the rest of the group was also family it was decided that he was too young and he wasn't allowed to participate. Due to divorce and various other reasons that group fell apart and when Tom turned 15 he asked me once again to teach him to play D&D. Naturally, I said yes. He went to Gen Con with me, I bought him some books and he began sitting in regularly on game night.

At first everything was fine, I had introduced gaming to a new generation and he seemed to really like it. He made mistakes, which were understandable, but I began to notice that he kept making the same mistakes and asking the same questions. I asked him why he didn't know this stuff, after all he had read the book I bought him. Didn't he? The answer was he had only read the character creation rules quickly and skipped the rest.

I realized that reading rule books, creating characters and most other things that involve gaming can take a lot of time. This is something that never occurred to me because I, like most gamers, enjoy it. I

have bought books for games that I still have never played, just to read them.

Apparently kids just aren't into reading like they use to be. Sure a lot of them like Harry Potter, and a few of those kids may have made the leap to gaming, but for the most part reading ranks fairly low in importance. Plus there was a lot more time between Potter books than there is between gaming supplements and in some instances new editions.

Continued page 11



## **Fantasy Clip Ink: Spellcasters Set 1**

This month's image courtesy William McAusland and the gang over at Outland Arts

**[www.outlandarts.com](http://www.outlandarts.com)**

# Reviews

## Comic Books

### • Booster Gold

I can not tell you how happy I was to hear about this book. It is no secret that I am a big fan of Booster Gold and Blue Beetle. So far I've only read the first three issues and though I may be a bit biased, they were great. I had been worried that they would make the book too serious, or too silly, but I found my concern to be unnecessary. The book has it's funny moments, it is Booster Gold after all, but the stories lean toward serious side.

Booster has accepted the position of the greatest superhero that no one will ever know about, kind of a multiverse/time stream cop. Basically he has to correct errors in the time stream. In the current story arc he has to save the world's greatest heroes from being eliminated before they were even born. So far he has been accepted into the Justice League and turned it down, peacefully defeated Sinestro and gotten drunk with Jonah Hex. In return for his services Booster has demanded that he be allowed to save his buddy Ted Kord. The teaser they put in the back of issue #1 shows Booster, Blue Beetle I and Blue Beetle III saving Ted from Maxwell Lord. There was also a teaser from next summer's event Final Crisis.

All in all I think this book has the potential to be one of DC's best titles. You don't have to be a fan of BG to follow the story-

line which is a plus for new readers. All in all I highly recommend this book.

### • Transformers

A lot of people complained about this movie, and to a degree I can understand why. Very little was the same as the old cartoon, there were more humans than robots and there were some extremely silly and pointless moments. To be honest I really don't care, it was a fun movie. Sure I have issues with it, like the useless Australian Hacker, and the Marine that served no real purpose, but over all it was just plain old fashioned fun.

I heard one complaint about the fact that Optimus Prime had flames and lips! Give me break. The character has been a Gorilla for Pete's sake and so what if he has lips! They spent a lot of money and made a fun, summer film that could be enjoyed by die hard fans, and the general populace. Most importantly kids liked it. Which unless I am

mistaken is the core audience for a movie about toys.

We've survived Ewoks, Jar Jar Binks, Jazz Hands Spiderman, and Bat nipples. When you really think about it is Optimus Prime's lips that big of a deal?

### • Blue Beetle Companion

This book by Christopher Irving is a must have for not only Blue Beetle fans but comic fans in general. Reading it I not only learned a great deal about one of my all time favorite characters, but also a great deal of history about the comics industry, from first hand accounts by the pros who were there to experience it.

The book is a fast read, under 150 pages, chocked full of great info, vintage comic reprints and you can get it under \$15 if you shop on Amazon.com (\$16.95 in stores). I highly recommend this book to all BB fans and comic book history aficionados alike.

“Shadows of a thousand years rise again unseen,

Voices whisper in the trees, `Tonight is Halloween” **Dexter Kozen**

“At first cock-crow the ghosts must go, back to their quiet graves  
below.” **Theodosia Garrison**

“Proof of our society's decline is that Halloween has become a  
broad daylight event for many.” **Robert Kirby**

“The oldest and strongest emotion of mankind is fear, and the oldest  
and strongest kind of fear is fear of the unknown.” - **H. P. Lovecraft**

“Hold on, man. We don't go anywhere with "scary," "spooky,"  
"haunted," or "forbidden" in the title.” **From Scooby-Doo**

# Where have all the geeks gone? Continued from page 9

Another reason could be that that kids are just a lot busier than we were back then. There are more after school activities, more socializing and just a lot more for them to do than before.

Technology is another culprit, in my opinion, that is redirecting kids away from traditional gaming. It is so much easier to pop in a game and play for an hour or two when you want than it is to read, plan and spend 4+ hours playing a pen and paper game. If kids want to play D&D they can play it online, or play WoW instead. The key is they can do it when they want, they don't have to schedule their lives around game night. Which also may be why CCG's and Mini's games have become so popular.

Another way technology has impacted gaming is that it is

now ok to be a geek, but only the right kind of geek. If you like gaming it's cool, as long as it is on a console or PC. Sure you may not get beat up if you chuck dice, but most people won't be interested in discussing your game with you unless it's on X-box. Plus parents are more than willing to pay over \$300 for a console or drop \$50 on a game, but not so willing to pay \$40+ for a rule book, plus dice, not to mention supplements.

We gamers are another place where blame needs to be placed. Anyone who has ever attended a con can attest to the fact we are, generally, a friendly bunch, but we also tend to be an exclusive group. A lot of us, and I am as guilty of it as anyone else, tend to be selective about who we share our interest with. Some of this may stem from self preservation, but it is still a problem. We tend to hold

our games very near and dear and no one wants an outsider coming in and telling them that what they enjoy is dumb, or childish.

I also think that gaming companies need to find new ways to promote the products they produce. Few non gamers to go game shops, so why promote there almost exclusively?

So as a gamer I may not be happy with WotC's decision to release D&D 4e, I have to give them credit for attempting to bring our hobby into the 21st century with 4e's virtual tabletop. Maybe, just maybe, other companies will follow and this will breath some new life, and bring new players, into this hobby I have enjoyed for so many years. A hobby that will hopefully be around to be enjoyed by our grandchildren. That is if they can still read.



Sketch courtesy of William McAusland

[www.mcauslandstudios.com](http://www.mcauslandstudios.com)

"Sadly, Halloween, with our good-natured attempts to protect the little ones, from the increasingly dangerous traffic and the increasingly sick adults, has become an utter bore."

**-Lauren Springer**

# Convention Calendar

## October

- ◆ AnCon

Oct 26-28 Hudson, OH

[www.anothergamecon.com](http://www.anothergamecon.com)

## November

- ◆ VA Comicon

Nov. 11 Richmond, VA

[Www.VAComicon.com](http://Www.VAComicon.com)

- ◆ Wizard World Texas

Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> 2007

[www.wizarduniverse.com/conventions/texas.cfm](http://www.wizarduniverse.com/conventions/texas.cfm)

- ◆ AmberCon 2007

Nov 1-4 Portland OR

[www.amberconnw.org/](http://www.amberconnw.org/)

- ◆ Euro Quest

Nov. 9-12 Timonium, Maryland

[euroquest.gamesclubofmd.org](http://euroquest.gamesclubofmd.org)

- ◆ Chi-Tag

Nov 16-18 Chicago, IL

[www.chitag.com](http://www.chitag.com)

## December

- ◆ New York Anime Festival

Dec. 7-9 New York, NY

[www.nyanimefestival.com](http://www.nyanimefestival.com)

## 2008 Conventions

### January

- ◆ Chattacon

January 25-27, 2008 Chattanooga, TN

[www.chattacon.org](http://www.chattacon.org)

- ◆ FX International

January 25-27 Orlando, FL

[www.fxshow.com](http://www.fxshow.com)

- ◆ February

- ◆ WonderCon

February 22-24 San Francisco, CA

[www.comic-con.org](http://www.comic-con.org)

## March

### April

- ◆ New York Comic Con

April 18-20 New York, NY

[www.nycomiccon.com](http://www.nycomiccon.com)

### May

### June

### July

- ◆ Gen Con Australia

**July 3-6, 2008** Brisbane, Queensland

[www.genconoz.com](http://www.genconoz.com)

- ◆ San Diego Comic Con

July 24-27 San Diego, CA

[www.comic-con.org](http://www.comic-con.org)

### August

Gen Con Indy

August 14-17 Indianapolis, IN

[www.gencon.com/2008/indy](http://www.gencon.com/2008/indy)

- ◆ Gen Con UK

August 28-31 Reading University

[www.consupport.com](http://www.consupport.com)

### September

### October

- ◆ Flat Con

Oct. 3-5 Bloomington, IL

[www.flatcon.com](http://www.flatcon.com)

### November

### December

\*\* Ok guys and gals, one convention season is almost over but the new one will be starting before you know it. So send me those conventions listings! If you know of a convention in your area that you would like to promote, please email me the web address and I will be happy to add it to the list \*\*

Email:

[geekgazette@thegeekgazette.com](mailto:geekgazette@thegeekgazette.com)