

Old School Gaming

The once popular Adventure genre is **alive** in Europe.

By Karen Zierler

Once the most popular form of computer game, the Adventure genre has waned to near non-existence. People new to computer gaming will never know just how prevalent adventure titles were, like: the **Zork** series, **Sherlock Holmes**, the **Blackstone Chronicles**, the **Broken Sword** series, the **Gabriel Knight** series and many more. These games were the staple of every early gamer, taking them through the story-book lives of heroes and antiheroes. The stories were well written, and the games themselves involved puzzle solving in order to unlock more of the story.

Hardcore adventure fans have tried everything under their power to keep the genre alive. However, one by one publishers killed off any projects for new adventure games: Speculation over what brought about the demise of the genre has raged online. Folks have blamed just about everything—from the popularity of **Myst**, considered not a true adventure, to lack of good marketing.

Whatever the case, it is hard to find a good adventure in the works in the U.S. Only one, **Escape from Monkey Island** (lucasarts.com/products/monkey4/), the

fourth in the humorous **Monkey Island** series, is expected out later this year. But the genre is still alive in Europe, especially in the Paris offices of a small developer called Arxel Tribe (arxel.com). Arxel is producing adventure titles with a European flare, and is even publishing their own titles.

Their games are not for the faint-hearted. The two most recent are **The Ring: The Legend of the Nibelungen**, and **Faust**. For any literature and music majors out there, you'll get the idea. However, both titles are modern and full of interest for even the novice.

Another title expected out soon takes things to epic proportions. The first installment of **The Legend of the Prophet and the Assassin** is a tale of the Templar Knight Tancredi, who is betrayed by his religion and country. To exact revenge he begins to track down the false prophet, Simon de Lancrois, and in his journey becomes a legendary bandit in the wilds of the Arabian deserts. If adventures are your thing, keep an eye out for it sometime next month. For the first time Arxel Tribe will release **The Legend of the Prophet and the Assassin** simultaneously in the U.S. and Europe. •

The adventure genre is still alive in Europe, where a small developer call Arxel Tribe is turning out great games.



Monkey Island



Legend of the Prophet and the Assassin



The Ring: The Legend of the Nibelungen



Faust

Salary Comparison: the Big 12

	Head Football Coach	President	Average Professor
Texas Tech	\$250,000	\$236,000	\$79,900
Texas	\$201,200	\$311,000	\$89,400
Texas A&M	\$301,200	\$250,000	\$80,500
Nebraska	\$209,250	\$209,780	\$78,200
Oklahoma	\$175,000	\$216,522	\$77,900
Kansas State	\$190,000	\$193,572	\$66,900
Colorado	\$154,500	\$285,000	\$74,400
Missouri	\$180,400	\$204,540	\$79,000
Iowa State	\$158,360	\$195,000	\$83,200
Kansas	\$122,548	\$207,489	\$74,200
Oklahoma State	\$137,000	\$200,000	\$70,500
Baylor	Unavailable*	\$239,922	\$77,300

*Baylor officials declined to disclose coaching salaries



Texas A&M football coach R.C. Slocum.



Texas A&M University President Ray Bowen.