

'Waker' successfully expands Zelda series in a cartoony blast of color

The latest 'Zelda' incarnation gives fans a little bit of everything to spice up the Nintendo gaming tradition

Game review

Mason West
Movies/Music/TV Columnist

With each Nintendo system, a Zelda game that sets a new standard for adventure games appears. Just the mention of a new Zelda is comforting — like hearing a favorite distant relative is coming to visit.

It's impossible to sum up the importance of the previous 15 years of Zelda. Each game builds on the next, preserving the spirit of the Zelda myth while adapting the technology to kick the Joneses in the ass.

This rich history has converged in "The Legend of Zelda: The Wind Waker." It is everything a modern Zelda game should be: fun, challenging, innovative and beautiful. Its base is sound, being fundamentally similar to the Nintendo 64 incarnations, but the look is completely reinvented, endowing new joy into gaming.

The game is a living cartoon: a stylized explosion of color that moves like a symphony of Crayola. Just the sight of it makes you smile. Characters have facial expressions that say more than any dialogue could — which is good, because "Wind Waker" only uses emphatic soundbytes. Where other cell-shaded games have outlined shapes in black, "Wind Waker" wisely uses contrasts of solid color that smooth the edges. Enemies explode in puffs of purple smoke. Link leaves tiny, wet footprints after getting out of the water. There is an endless list of small details that make the game incredible.

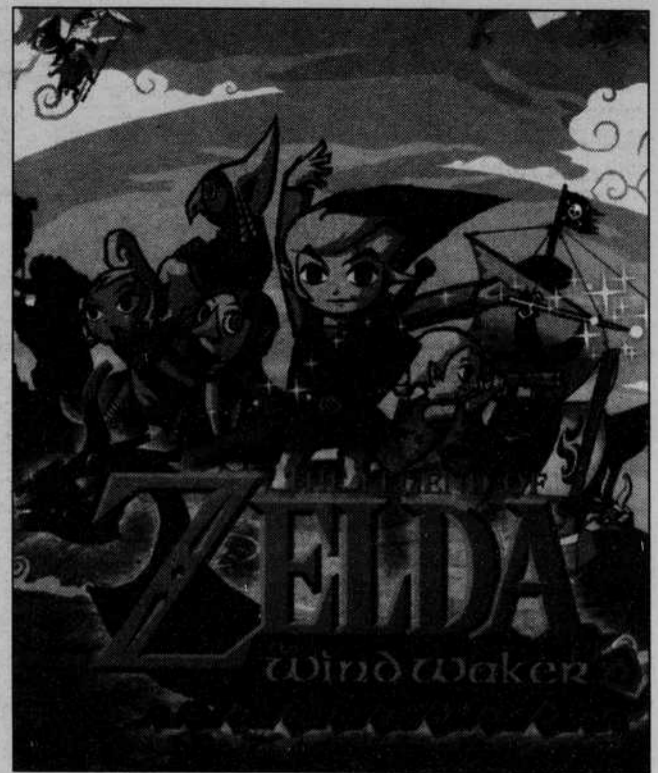
This drastic change in style makes the game look childish, but this is not just a game for kids. Nintendo developers have to bring the younger demographic into the fold, but they have just as much responsibility to the devoted older fans, which they fulfill by incorporating the nostalgic with the new.

All Link's favorite weapons are back and beefed up. There is a new parry sword technique allowing Link to dodge an attack and launch one of his own. The boomerang can now target multiple items in one throw. A grappling hook is used for swinging and climbing as well as hoisting sunken treasure. The new Deku Leaf also has a dual purpose: fanning powerful gusts of air and serving as parachute to glide over long distances.

The most innovative aspect of the game is the ability to link with a Game Boy Advance so a second player can control Tingle, a sprite who can help Link with hints, items and attacks. A two-player option has been absent from previous Zeldas and is much appreciated here.

The world in "Wind Waker" is huge, and the opportunity to explore its complexity should draw all gamers. Link sails from island to island through a sprawling ocean by changing the direction of the wind with a musical wand — the Wind Waker. Sailing straight across the world would take at least 15 minutes without stopping to inspect ships and islands found along the way. Sailing is sometimes boring, and sadly, the world is flat so you can't get on the right side of the map by going past the left boundary.

I'd wager that at a later point in the game, Link can warp to various locations with certain songs as in "Ocarina of Time." But honestly, 15 hours of play didn't get me very far. The story in "Wind Waker" takes place in the distant future after the events from Ocarina. It can only be assumed that Link is a reincarnation of the ancient hero, but he is questing to save his sister — there has been no mention of Princess Zelda. The



Courtesy

likely candidate for that role, should it appear, is the young pirate leader Tetra, who vaguely helps Link on his quest.

But searching to answer these questions only makes playing the game more exciting. The story of an ordinary boy drawn to an extraordinary destiny never gets old, and the combination of great stories with engaging game play ensures Zelda's repeated success. It is an awesome and reassuring feat that a game as highly anticipated as "Wind Waker" can exceed all expectations.

Contact the Pulse columnist at masonwest@dailymerald.com. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

Pulse brief

Magyar musicians to perform on campus

Students will have two opportunities to explore a part of East European culture on Wednesday. Kálmán Balogh and The Gypsy Cimbalom Band from Hungary will give a free lecture-demonstration at noon in 229 McKenzie. The lecture will be open to the entire community. The band will also perform at 8 p.m. at Café Paradiso, located at 115 W. Broadway. Tickets will be available at the door, \$13 for adults and \$9 for students.

— Jacquelyn Lewis

Carlson

continued from page 9

earth-friendly way is to go to Bring Recycling Center. Bring is one of the oldest non-profit recycling centers in the country and takes in nearly 40 tons of used material per month. In addition to stacks of doors and glass and old car parts, they have all sorts of gardening pots. If you're willing to search through the labyrinth of junk, you can pick out more interesting vessels. I found two old

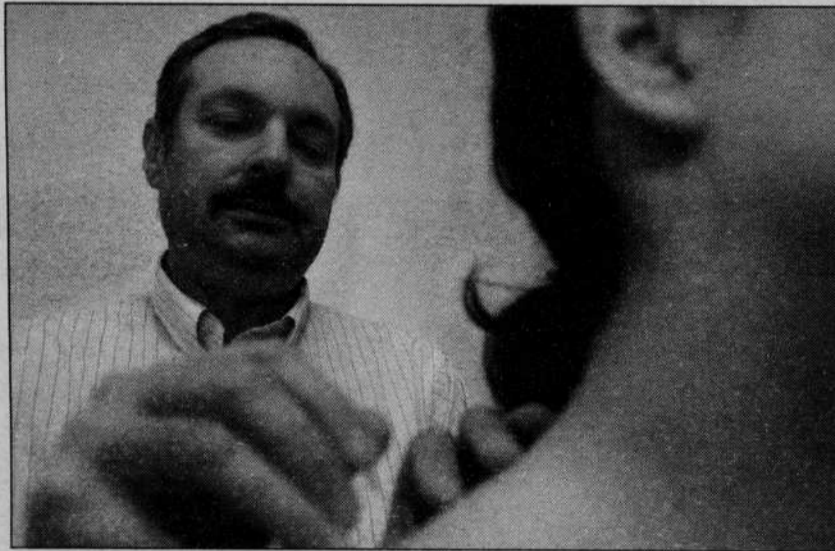
feta cheese tins with colorful designs to pot my tomatoes in. I lined a wood crate with plastic window screen for my peas and carrots. I also bought five pots and two tomato cages. Total cost: \$1.

I haven't potted my plants yet. I'm keeping them in their plastic starter pots until the weather warms up. It is too cold outside for the lettuce and peas, and it won't be warm enough for the tomatoes until late spring or early summer. I'll take the cold weather plants outside on sunny days as long as there is the danger of frost. Until then, they'll sit

in a sun-filled window. Vegetables require about eight hours of sunshine per day to grow good produce, though lettuce can grow on only four or five hours of light.

I spoke with my mom on Saturday and realized I still have a ways to go before I truly become her. While we both gardened that day, only I bought stiletto heels.

Contact the Pulse columnist at nikacarlson@dailymerald.com. Her opinions do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.



Resident practitioner Stuart Greenleaf practices out of his office, located at 1245 Charnelton St. #3. Acupuncture involves the insertion of needles into the body to relieve health problems, most commonly in the back and neck.
Adam Amato
Emerald

Acupuncture

continued from page 9

treatment that sends mild electronic impulses through the needles at specific points. Greenleaf, who designed his own equipment, said the process is ideal for selective nerve ending stimulation and precise tissue penetration.

Acupuncture Alternatives even offers needleless acupuncture for children and especially sensitive adults. Greenleaf applies gentle electronic impulses to points on the surface of the skin. In some cases, tiny metal pellets or magnets positioned at acupuncture — without the needles. Greenleaf also has his share of success

stories. He recalled a 20-year-old woman suffering from intense headaches after a bout of meningitis. He said the patient had become dependent on medication. After a number of treatments, Greenleaf said the woman's condition had improved substantially.

Harmon and Greenleaf both said they believe the future of acupuncture is an increased sensitivity to the benefits of alternative medicine. Both said they hope the practice will be incorporated into everyday use in the near future.

"We're making progress in that direction every day," Harmon said.

Contact the senior pulse reporter at ryanbornheimer@dailymerald.com.

join us at the 9th annual

Holistic Options for Planet Earth Sustainability

Eco-Design Arts Conference

APRIL 10-13, 2003

Events will include:

Keynote Speakers: Stuart Cowan, Lois Arkin, Kathryn McCamant, Mark Lakeman, Richard Register, panels and workshops
24 hour design charrette
Saturday night party



Ecological Urbanism

U of O School of Architecture and Allied Arts

<http://edc.uoregon.edu/>

(541) 346-3696



IPNOSI

women's clothing

shoes hats

jewelry purses gifts

1022 Willamette • Eugene, OR • 541.345.7028

Free Camera Health Check

April 8-11, 1-3 pm

- ✓ Shutter Speeds
- ✓ Exposure Metering
- ✓ Flash Synch
- ✓ Film Transport

gerlach's
camera center
849 E. 13th
*Division of Dot Dotsons

Advertise in Oregon Daily Emerald Classifieds! Call 346-4343!