

'Magic sweeps nation, leaving trail of addicts behind

by Jon Roberts
Staff Writer

There is a card game sweeping across the nation. It's being played in coffee houses, on airplanes, in libraries and at the lunch table. The game is called Magic: the Gathering. It's a collectible role-playing card game.

The card game quite simply consists of trading cards that pit two players or wizards against each other in a duel of magic. Both players have a deck of cards which represent a wizard's library of magical knowledge or spells.

Using these cards, each player casts spells and summon creatures to defeat their opponents. There are a lot of different types of creatures, some well known like goblins, ogres and dragons. Some are not so well known, like norritts, sprites and orcs.

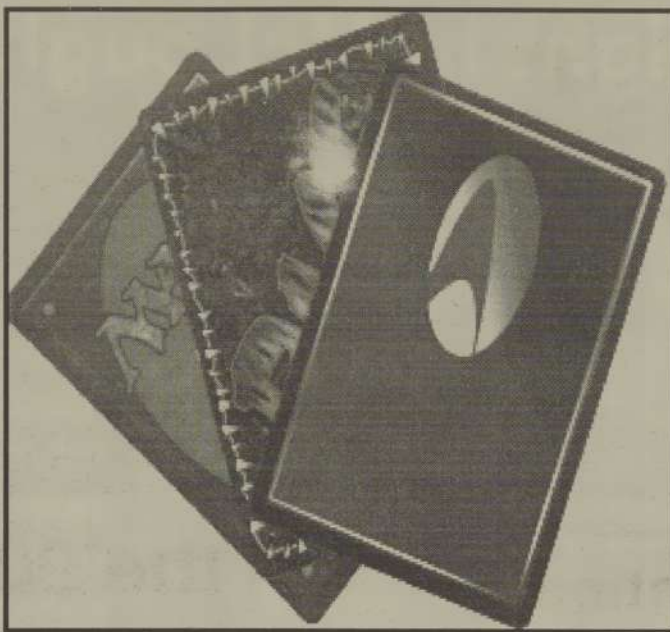
These cards are not only a game they are collectible, too. Counting the unlimited set and the four expansion sets there have been released almost 1,000 cards for the Magic: the Gathering card game.

The Magic cards act sort of like fantasy baseball cards, you can trade them, sell them and some are rarer than others. There is one main difference between baseball cards and Magic cards and that is you can play a game with Magic cards.

Trading cards have been around since cigarette manufacturers first put pictures of baseball players in packages of their product. The baseball card industry took off from there.

In the last few years cards have been expanding their subject matter from just baseball to other sports, comic book heroes and fantasy art. The card industry was becoming boring at times

with cards coming out including everything from mass murders to famous artists. The trading and collecting of these cards has created a booming industry that has been growing like no other industry in America today. In this industry collectors try and figure out the best deals with fellow collectors to obtain rare and valuable ones. It used to be that collectors would just collect cards for their



Magic, Rage and Star Trek are among the popular new games spreading rapidly across the nation.

financial gain or to complete collections. Now with the introduction of card games, collectors have another reason to collect cards.

That's not saying that these gaming cards are not worth money because they are worth quite a lot depending on the rarity of the card. The first edition set of 295 Magic cards (there have been four editions) is worth \$2,750.

The card games are a mix between the traditional role-playing

most of their time trying to guess the other player's hand, much like in poker. The ability to bluff is an important part of the game, too.

Even though there are a lot of similarities, gaming cards have created a completely novel type of gaming. Because there are so many possible variations on deck size and ways of playing each contest is a unique experience.

The easiest way to understand the game is to go buy a starter set

which costs about \$8.95. The starter deck come with 60 cards and a rule book. Then if you like it you can buy booster packs, which cost about \$2.95 each, to build up your deck.

Magic was the first mainstream card game of its kind, but in that it has characters that the person playing can pretend to be.

Recently there has been a Star Trek card game, that combines Star Trek with the game in a very appealing manner. This game is really starting to take off, with both trekkies and collectors.

There are also several other new games coming out over the summer like Rage, a game about werewolves, Magic Ice Age, an expansion set for the Magic game, and a card game based on the movie Highlander. These are just a few of the games coming out this summer.

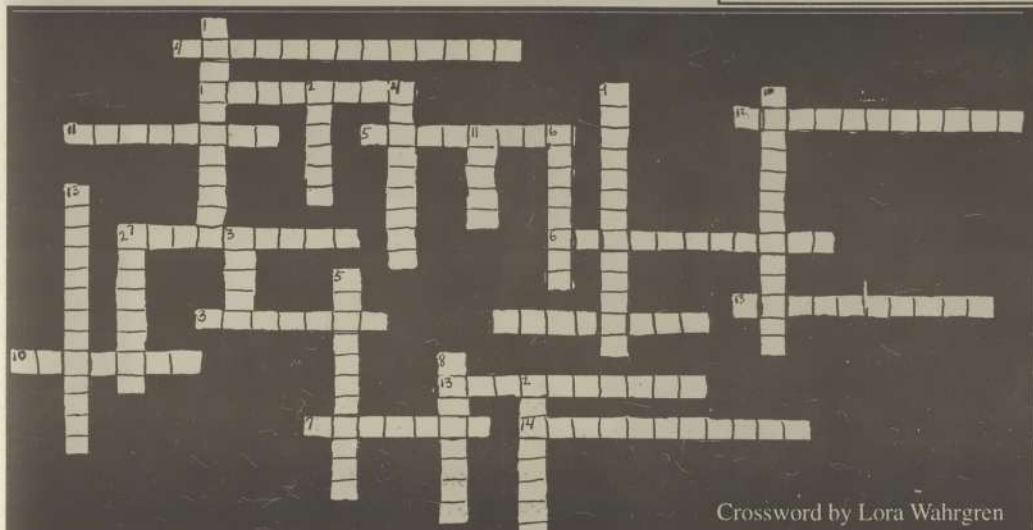
Card games are here to stay so jump on the band-wagon because once you've played a card game once you will be hooked. It becomes more than just a game it becomes an addiction. But this is one addiction that can be good for you.

ACROSS

1. Tom Cruise's call name in Top Gun
2. Same as 007
3. Mario Van Peeple's new movie, also a large cat
4. She first starred in E.T and is dating the lead bassist of "Hole"
5. He played Louie in "Interview with the Vampire"
6. Star of the Die Hard Trilogy
7. Starred in "French Kiss" and is married to Dennis Quaid
8. Pulp Fiction's drug overdosed freak
9. The movie in which Nicole Kidman is held hostage on her sail boat
10. The movie in which Steve Martin dressed as an annoying idiot
11. Dating actor Johnny Depp
12. The movie that Tom Hanks received Best Actor 1995
13. She is married to David Justice
14. Billy Madison and Saturday Night Live actor

DOWN

1. Denzel Washington's new movie
 2. Liam Neeson and Jessica Lang's Irish flick
 3. The main lion in the "Lion King"
 4. 1980's movie with Daniel son and Mr. Miagi
 5. He's in "Above the Law" and "Marked for Death"
 6. Chris Farley's big hit
 7. He stars in "Ace Ventura" and in "Dumb and Dumber"
 8. Steven Spielberg's dinosaur movie "----- Park"
 9. "While You Were Sleeping" and "Speed's" main actress
 10. Mrs. Doubtfire
 11. Holly Hunter didn't verbally speak in this movie
 12. He was in "Grease" and most recently "Pulp Fiction"
 13. She is married to Bugsy in "Bugsy" and to Clyde in "Bonnie and Clyde"
- (Answers on page ten)



Crossword by Lora Wahrgren

Concerts to pay for recordings

by Jocelyn Gauthier
Feature Editor

Several jazzy concerts are under way for CCC music students starting today and continuing through June 4.

At 7:30 p.m., tonight, in the Gregory Forum, instrumental jazz students will perform under the direction of Tom Wakeling. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for students and free for seniors and children under 12.

At 8 p.m., Thursday, in the forum, vocal jazz groups Straight Ahead and Mainstream will perform, including feature performances by internationally acclaimed professional jazz vocalists Nancy King, Steve Christofferson and Wakeling. The performance is a benefit concert to raise money to record a compact disc of some of the vocal jazz ensembles. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$3 for students

and free for seniors and children 12 and under. Auditions to join the Mainstream and Straight Ahead groups are under way through June 5. For more information on auditions, call ext. 2434.

At 7 p.m., Monday, in the forum the Chamber Music Ensemble will perform a free and open to the public concert centering on Brahms' "Liebeslieder Walzer" for voices and four-hands piano.

The music department recently began its chamber music program and is still seeking instrumentalists and vocalists to join the ensembles. Involvement requires attending a one-credit class, participation in practice sessions and ongoing instruction groups and a \$40 fee. For more information, contact Judy Hylton at ext. 2433.

At 7:30 p.m., May 25, in the forum, Straight Ahead and Mainstream will perform an "In Appre-

ciation" concert for community supporters of CCC's jazz programs.

At 3 p.m., May 28, at St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, the Chamber Singers will perform several historically significant pieces, including works by J.S. Bach and "Berliner Messe" by Arvo Part. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$3 for students and free for senior citizens.

The church is located at S.E. 18th and Division in Portland. The singers recently performed for the American Choral Directors Association conference at Pacific University in Forest Grove. Auditions to join the Chamber Singers for next year are under way through June 5. For more information call ext. 2434. They will also perform at 7:30 p.m., June 4 in the Forum.

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