

Holiday Greetings!

It is always an honor and a pleasure to have the opportunity to address fellow game enthusiasts, whether in person or by the print medium. However, it is a bit hard to get into the proverbial Spirit of Yuletide when the grass is still green and the sun overhead is warm and comforting. Alas, that is the effect of the dreaded Leadtime Beast! Bear with me, Good Readers, while I work my perceptions round to the future date when you will be reading this.

The RPGA™ Network is still in its infancy. This is but its second winter and already it has developed into a large and meaningful body. The growth and progress planned for by Frank Mentzer are now the oversight of Kim Eastland, for I dragged Frank off to assist with the vast D&D® game system completion and AD&D™ game work. Frank was loath to leave, just as I hesitated to ask him to do so, but Kim as steward of the Network satisfied us all. While Frank, Francois Marcela-Froideval, and I work to improve and expand your FRPG enjoyment, the Learned Mr. Eastland has a far broader concern — the continuation of your association's plans and projects, and the broadening of activities so that the Network will be able to provide you with even more in the new year to come.

It is a difficult task to establish a new organization, set its goals, make its plans, and then proceed to carry the whole effort through. There are always unforeseen factors, difficulties and delays which test the mettle of the stoutest heart! Yet the RPGA Network has provided you with excellent tournaments for two seasons now, publishes an excellent newsletter, and offers an ever-expanding list of special modules and other products at reduced prices for RPGA members! Not bad, but . . .

The goals established initially have not been met uniformly. It is desired by all that the Network offer more products, and over the course of the coming year I am certain you will all be delighted with what Kim has in store for you. More information exchange and service is desired, and this aspect will likewise be improved. Of course, there are also plans for continued development of sponsored events and tournaments — some which extend well beyond 1983. We hope to be able to provide or approve AD&D™ game tournaments and rate the participants of such events. Eventually, this service will be extended to as many covered RPG's as possible. It is desirable to coordinate activities more closely with the UK Players Association — and what about some interchange with the French Gaming Federation? With its founder and president immediately available here, we should certainly be in a position to take

positive steps in that direction.

It has long been my personal desire to develop tournament play to a degree where truly superior scenarios, evenly judged, bring the winner not only acclaim but some heavy-duty benefits as well. This might, in fact, be accomplished in the 1983 GEN CON® Game Fair AD&D Open Tournament. Can we manage to select a winner and send him or her to England to participate in a tournament there? It looks quite possible! In the same vein, can the AD&D Invitational Tournament be established so as to include rated RPGA Network members and cooperating tournament DM's? Again, this seems quite possible now, if on alternating years the Open and Invitational winners were sent to participate in events in other countries. Other meaningful rewards are also under consideration too. This is not to denigrate the current award system but rather to augment it so as to make the successes even more meaningful.

The Holiday Season has many meanings, and this is merely one of many you will receive, but I do hope that it will fill you with the good cheer associated with this time of year. We all wish you the best, now and in the New Year. I trust that all members will be delighted with what your association does for you in 1983 and plans for the years to come. Both Frank Mentzer and I will be on hand, as needed, to contribute what we may, and Kim Eastland will, I am sure, provide you all with the direction which best assures an ever-growing and better association. Neither Kim, nor Frank, nor I can do it alone — or in conjunction. As the name says, it is an association of gamers who enjoy role playing games. It is also up to you, Fellow Members, to contribute your share of the direction and development of the Network. Of course, your membership alone is con-



siderable, as is your support of association activities, tournaments, and so on. We also need your help in recruiting new members, giving us the benefit of your ideas and opinions, and by being active members. If RPGA Network members put on demonstrations and serve as spokesman for our hobby, it will go far towards building an even larger audience, bringing in new members, and dispelling the charges that role playing is occultist and a form of "behavior modification" somehow aimed at subverting the nation's youth. Network members are the best proof that RPG's increase thinking and reasoning ability, improve all forms of useful skills, and (best of all) are good, clean fun!

Thanks for your support and participation in 1982. May you all have a most happy holiday season and a marvelous year to come. If all goes well, I should be doing this again next year at this time, and with your kind assistance, the report and message for the following New Year will be better still!

E. Gary Gygax