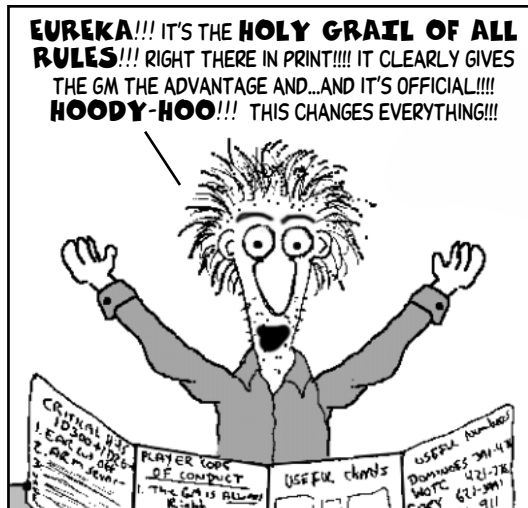
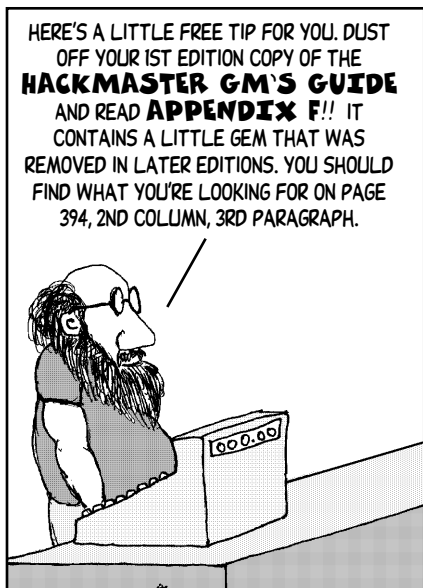


An Overbearing Situation

STORY SUGGESTED BY ROY GARGAGLIANO



THE FOLLOWING WEEK...

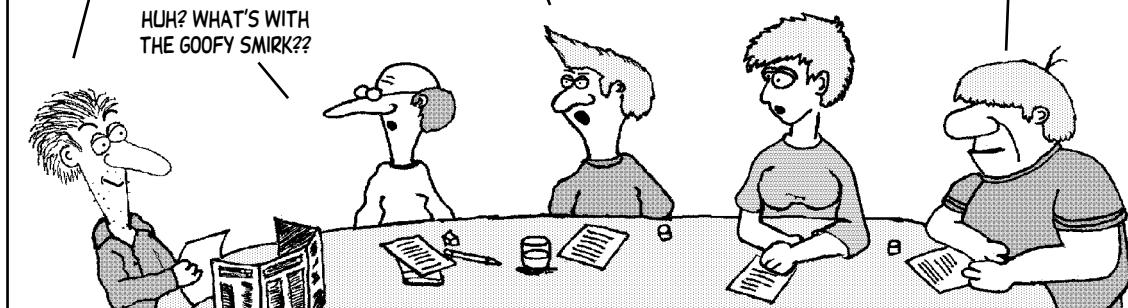
WELL GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY!!! (HEH HEH) I HOPE YOU'RE ALL PREPARED FOR TONIGHT'S ADVENTURE. YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO KNOW THAT I PUT A LOT OF **EXTRA EFFORT** INTO THIS WEEK'S OUTING.

HUH? WHAT'S WITH THE GOOFY SMIRK??

I DON'T LIKE HIS ATTITUDE, GUYS! SOMETHING'S UP. B.A. YOU HAVEN'T BEEN EXPERIMENTING WITH HOME-BREWED RULES AGAIN HAVE YOU?

HE DOES HAVE A PECULIAR LOOK ON HIS FACE.

GAWD I HOPE HE HASN'T TAMPERED WITH THE RULES AGAIN.



WILL YOU GUYS CHILL OUT?? I JUST HAPPEN TO BE EXCITED ABOUT TONIGHT'S GAME BECAUSE THINGS ARE GOING TO BE DIFFERENT FROM NOW....



UH OH!! YOU HEAR THAT??? LIKE A BIG FREAKIN' FOG HORN SOUNDING ALARM!!! I THINK YER RIGHT DAVE. HOME-BREWED RULE ALERT!! HOME-BREWED RULE ALERT!!!

FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!!! I JUST HOPE IT'S NOT ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE VARIANT FUMBLE CHARTS HE LIKES TO THROW ON US!!

DON'T EVEN THINK IT!!

THE GREAT RULE-MANGLER IS ABOUT TO STRIKE.



I THOUGHT HE LEARNED HIS LESSON WITH THOSE **FUMBLE CHARTS FOR MUNDANE TASKS??** YOU KNOW, THE ONES THAT SAID I CHIPPED MY TOOTH WITH A SPOON WHILE EATING A BOWL OF SOUP??

BUT GUYS....

AND I GOT TRENCH FOOT JUST BECAUSE I DRANK FROM A PUBLIC FOUNTAIN!

HMMRRFFF! I TOOK FOUR POINTS OF DAMAGE PUTTING ON MY ARMOR.

YOU WERE LUCKY! I GOT A PAPER CUT ON MY EYE WHILE READING A SCROLL.



DAMN IT!! DO YOU HAVE TO SHOOT DOWN EVERY IDEA I BRING TO THE TABLE BEFORE YOU EVEN HEAR ME OUT?? YOU THINK I'M STUPID OR SOMETHING?? HUH? BESIDES, NOTHING WAS SAID ABOUT HOME-BREWED RULES. EVERYTHING WILL BE OFFICIAL HACKMASTER RULES TONIGHT!!

WELL WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY SO?

LOOKS LIKE THE SCARECROW FOUND A BRAIN!!! LET'S PLAY!!

WHAT A RELIEF.

EVEN SO, LET'S STAY ON OUR TOES. IT STILL DOESN'T EXPLAIN THE STUPID SMIRK.

LATER THAT NIGHT...

AS YOU ARE ENTERING THE CITY YOU NOTICE A **BLIND BEGGAR** SITTING BY THE GATE WITH A MANGY, **THREE-LEGGED DOG**. AS YOU PASS BY, THE BEGGAR HOLDS OUT A TIN CLIP AND CRIES OUT, "ALMS FOR THE POOR! ALMS FOR THE POOR!"

HE'S BLIND EH?? I LOOK IN THE CLIP. HOW MUCH MONEY IS IN IT??

I'M WATCHIN' BOB'S **SACK** IN CASE ANYONE NOTICES.

OH GAWD, DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT. YOU GUYS ARE SO **PATHETIC!!**

I'M TRYING TO CHARM THE DOG!!

HUH?? I DUNNO. MAYBE FOUR OR FIVE SILVER PIECES. **WHO CARES??**

MY THIEF, KNUCKLES, USES HIS STEALTHY FINGERS TO TAKE THE SILVER PIECES FROM THE CLIP WHILE CLEVERLY REPLACING THEM WITH WORTHLESS SLUGS. (SNICKER)

OH THE MUTT IS COPPIN' AN ATTITUDE HUH?? I WHACK HIM WITH THE HILT OF MY SWORD!!

FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!! THE DOG IS JUST LOOKING OUT FOR HIS MASTER!!!

OKAY, AS SOON AS YOU DO THE **THREE-LEGGED DOG** BEGINS TO BARK LOUDLY AT YOU!!!

IT'S SO SAD HE ONLY HAS THREE LEGS. POOR POOCH.

DAVE SMACKS THE DOG ON THE HEAD WITH THE HILT OF HIS SWORD BUT IT ONLY CAUSES THE DOG TO YIP IN PAIN AND RESUME BARKING EVEN LOUDER!!!! SUDDENLY **FORTY-FIVE BEGGARS** WORK THEIR WAY OUT OF THE CROWD TO COME TO THEIR COMRADE'S AID. THEY ARE ARMED WITH **BLUNT WOODEN CLUBS, VARIOUS LENGTHS OF ROPE** AND **DAGGERS**.

BEGGARS?? YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING. WHAT A JOKE!!! I WASTE 'EM WITH MY **CROSSBOW!!!**

I LEAP INTO THE **UNRULY MOB OF BEGGARS** AND **MOW THEM DOWN** WITH MY **HACKMASTER+12**. THERE'LL BE NOTHING BUT **NUBS AND STUBS** LEFT WHEN I'M FINISHED!!

BUT...BUT...
(SIGH)

I GOT **FIREBALLS** COMING ONLINE!!!



NOT SO FAST GUYS!!! I'M IMPLEMENTING **OPTIONAL COMBAT RULE 56:12C, OVERBEARING**. YOU'LL FIND IT IN **APPENDIX F** IN THE **FIRST EDITION HACKMASTER GM'S GUIDE!!!** (AHEM) ACCORDING TO THAT RULE AN **ANGRY MOB** AUTOMATICALLY **SUCCESS** WHEN ATTEMPTING AN **OVERBEARING ATTACK** ON A **SINGLE TARGET**. ACCORDING TO CHAPTER 8 OF **THE GUIDE**, 10 BEGGARS CONSTITUTE A MOB!! SO YOU EACH HAVE TEN BEGGARS SUCCESSFULLY OVERBEARING YOU!!! **HEE-HEE-HOO!!!** AN OVERBEARED TARGET IS RENDERED COMPLETELY HELPLESS AND CAN BE DISARMED AND BOUND.

HUH? WHAT THE...

FOUL!!! THIS TOTALLY SUCKS!!

OH!!! NOT THE OVERBEARING RULES.

DAMN!!! HE'S COMBINED TWO FLAWED RULES AND CREATED A DEADLY TOOL!!



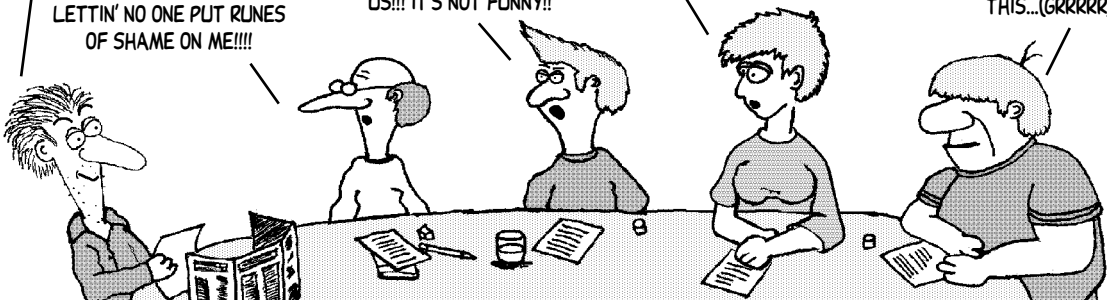
YOU ARE ALL QUICKLY OVERBEARED AND PUMMELED SENSELESS!!! **HAR HAR!!!** THIS IS GREAT!!! THE **ANGRY MOB OF BEGGARS** BIND YOU AND DRAG YOU DOWN THE MAIN STREET OF THE CITY TO THE MARKET PLACE. THERE THEY STRIP YOU OF ALL YOUR POSSESSIONS, TATTOO YOU WITH RUNES OF SHAME AND MAKE YOU DO HUMILIATING TRICKS TO AMUSE THE EVER-GROWING CROWD OF ON-LOOKERS. THEN THEY SUMMON THE MAGISTRATE AND DEMAND CRIMINAL PROSECUTION!!! **HAR!! HAR!!!**

RUNES OF SHAME??? I AIN'T LETTIN' NO ONE PUT RUNES OF SHAME ON ME!!!!

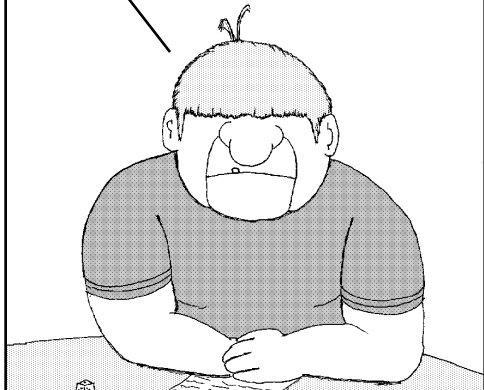
STOP SMIRKIN' AT US!!! IT'S NOT FUNNY!!

COME ON, B.A.!!! YOU'RE EXPLOITING A FEW OBSCURE, ANTIQUATED RULES!!!!

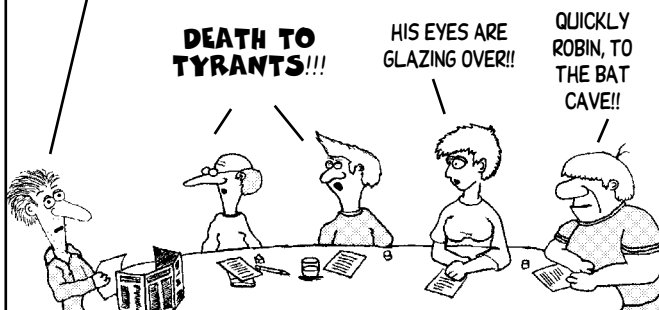
I'LL BET WEIRD PETE IS BEHIND THIS...(GRRRRR)



ALL RIGHT, B.A.!! I'M IMPRESSED. COMBINING THE LAME **OVERBEARING RULES** WITH THE **BEGGAR-CLAUSE** OF THE **ANGRY MOB RULES** WAS A BRILLIANT MOVE!!! I SALUTE YOU. OKAY?? BUT I SUGGEST WE BAN THIS PARTICULAR RULE-HYBRID FROM OUR TABLE. IT UNBALANCES THE GAME



AWH POOR BABIES!!!! **WAAAAAAAAAAAA**!!!! HOW'S IT FEEL GETTING A TASTE OF YOUR OWN MEDICINE?? **HUH???** YOU GUYS HAVE BEEN USING THE RULES AGAINST ME ALL THESE YEARS AND FINALLY, **FINALLY**, THE RULES WORK FOR ME!!! AND WHAT'S YOUR REACTION?? **YOU WANNA CRY ABOUT IT!!!!** WELL TOUGH NOOGIES!!!! THINGS ARE GOING TO CHANGE AROUND HERE. NOW BEFORE YOU GUYS ACT UP AND START GETTING OUT OF LINE, YOU'LL REMEMBER THE **LITTLE OVERBEARING BULLET** IN MY ARSENAL AND THINK TWICE ABOUT IT!!!!



THE FOLLOWING WEEK....

HUH??? WHAT DO YOU GUYS WANT TO DO AGAIN??

WE'RE WALKING AROUND THE CITY AND EACH OF US IS GOING TO HIRE TEN BEGGARS TO HANG OUT WITH US AT ALL TIMES.

YEAH!! WE'RE GONNA FEED THEM AND BUY THEM OFF. ALL THEY HAVE TO DO IS OVERBEAR ANYTHING THAT CROSSES OUR PATH!!!

LET'S GO OVERBEAR A DRAGON!!

YEAH WE THOUGHT IT OVER!!! THOSE OVERBEARING RULES WORK BOTH WAYS!!!



THE NEXT DAY....

WHAT?? **WHAT???** WHY THE HELL ARE YOU LOOKIN' AT ME LIKE THAT FOR??

