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challenges Mr. Butt-Kicker himself, but does he win?

detailing his every move from mowing lawns, all the way



INSIDE Exclusive insight from a NWC Champ.

THE CHASE VS. THE CATCH

DOUBLE DRAGON

> *SJOERD RUTTEN* *xtingthed*

Did you know that the “tip-of-the-tongue” sensation is actually a networking error in your brain? So next time you can’t come up with the name of that one game you’re looking for, blame your grey matter! My cortex failed me badly when I was digging up childhood memories of NES games. Hence began my search, for what later seemed to be Double Dragon.

The Chase

The memories I have of NES games are 100% coupled to the person I played them with, since I never had a NES of my own. I remembered playing an awesome beat-em up at a friend’s house. The game had co-op gameplay, you could do various fighting moves, and the opening scene involved a kidnapped girlfriend. The main reason I wanted this game was because of the fun we had in co-op and I wanted to show my girlfriend that NES games really can be fun!

Even if you didn’t read the title of this article you’re now probably screaming “it’s Double Dragon, you douche!” but when I started expanding my NES library I was a total noob and not in any NES community. So how do you look for a game, when you have no clue about its name? I did what everyone would do - ask around in the local snack bar! Another thing about the game I remembered was that it also had an arcade version, because I had seen it in the snack bar years and years before. After a little pondering the owner gave me some names: Street Fighter 2, Final Fight and Double Dragon. Taking these names and running down a NES pricelist gave me my answer. Double Dragon was the game I was looking for! The chase so far had been a complicated one, but the purchase that followed was a piece of cake. After filling in Double Dragon at eBay tons of results came rolling out and I picked up a cheap copy for \$5 that arrived the next week :)

Conclusion: 8, took me some effort but in the end I got it!



The Catch

So after pestering people about old arcade cabinets and breaking my skull over childhood memories I finally had what I wanted, Double Dragon!

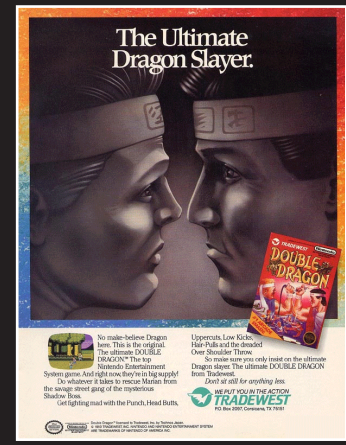
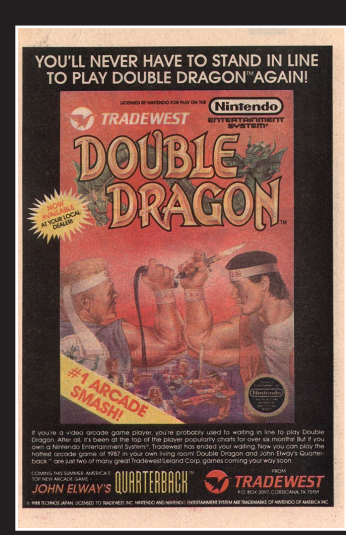
I sat down with my girlfriend, explained to her what the game was about (pretty much just kick and punch everything that moves) and popped it into my toaster.

Okay, two-player game, start. What the... where did the second player go? My first thought was that I made a mistake somewhere, but after trying again (and again) I looked it up and what seemed to be the problem? Double Dragon doesn’t have a co-op mode!! I had apparently fallen for a common beginner’s mistake to buy Double Dragon 1 while it is Double Dragon 2 that supports the two-player co-op mode. All those good memories didn’t come from playing this game. I was saddened and I had once again failed to show my girlfriend that NES games are fun to play together.

Standalone the game is great; it’s one of the classics on the system that everybody loves. It’s one of the oldest and best beat-em ups featuring a good arsenal of moves and many different enemies. The flaws it has are mostly due to its age and arcade origin; with some skill you’re facing the end boss within a few hours and after a while the game tends to get repetitive.

Overall Double Dragon is a great game that is loved by many, but my experience with it started off wrong; damn you Acclaim for not putting in a co-op mode!!

Conclusion: 6.5. DD is a great game, but I wanted it for the co-op!!!



DOUBLE DRAGON



NWC CHAMP: ROBIN MIHARA



> **ROBIN MIHARA** *robin*

Part 1 Portland

Some time in the spring of 1990 I was sitting around watching TV, when my uncle hands me the living section of the paper and says "page 8". I thought it was a little weird that he would actually close the paper then ask me to open it up again. Then I saw why. In the middle of the full page advertisement there was a picture of Mario and the title "POWER-FEST."

I was 13 at the time and honestly, the best video game player I knew. I was at the point where I would pass games in 2 days, so it no longer made any sense to buy them (I only rented). My record was passing the game Rygar about two hours after getting it. After a while I would only buy games that you couldn't pass quickly like Dragon Warrior and Nobunaga's Ambition. The whole time, from '86 (when NES came out) to '90 I always had wondered if I might be the best player in the world. (I was a cocky kid!)

I opened the paper and realized that it was my chance to find out. Only problem is I had never played Tetris. I'd maybe rented it once, but I wasn't a fan of puzzle games. I guess this is a good time to explain what happens in the NWC video game, for those of you who don't know.

Total playtime for each round was 6 minutes and 21 seconds. The idea behind this odd number was to give 2 minutes to each game with 21 seconds of in-between graphics.

They chose 3 games that they thought everyone had played, and which covered a range of different gaming styles:

Super Mario Bros. – The player must gather 50 coins as fast as possible, at which time the game stops and automatically switches to ...

Rad Racer – The player must pass the 1st course (I don't think I had played much Rad Racer either.... I also wasn't a fan of racing games!)

Tetris – The player finished the remaining time here. It was the most important because like 97% of your final score was

made here (the Tetris score was multiplied by 25 when totaled). It was not only important to get multiple Tetrises for their large bonus score, but you had to get them at the high levels (this version would go up levels every 5 lines instead of every 10).

To give you a reference point you needed 175,000 total points to become a quarter finalist. Once you reached that, you got a chance to go on stage to try and become a semi-finalist (200,000 points). Semi-finalists were invited back Sunday (It was a Fri, Sat, Sun event). These scores were so easy for us to obtain that a few people could just run to 3-1 in Mario and "rock the turtle" to qualify. Rumor has it that when the NWC first started on tour, the highest scores were around 500,000 or less. By the time it hit Portland (my town) I think the winning scores were a little less than a million.

OK, so I rented Tetris and Rad Racer and in a not-so-serious way, to get ready for this competition. When I got to the competition I played a few times. I qualified easily, but my scores were not impressive in anyway. My high in Portland I think was around 790,000, and would probably take the game of my life to even make the top 7.

On the second day a boy around my age arrived from wherever the tour had just been. The boy's name was Kenny Welch. Kenny had a flawless Mario routine that ended perfectly at the coin box in the 1-2 pipe. He was pretty fast at Rad Racer, but in Tetris, he was on a different planet.

Now listen. I've seen Michael Jordan in his prime. I've seen Tiger Woods and Michael Phelps and Lance. All of them are amazing. Kenny was more impressive. It's hard to explain why. I think the difference is that in Tetris, the pieces are falling so fast that you don't have time to think before another one is falling. He was astounding you again before you could even come to grips with the last piece that just fell. With MJ you have time to breathe in between miraculous baskets... Kenny was keeping you in awe every moment. I had never been one to watch someone else play video games, but with this kid, you could have just sat me down with a bag of popcorn and I'd be in heaven for hours.

Count to 10 in your head..... Kenny just slammed down another 20 pieces in a per-



fect, solid Tetris wall.... he was that fast.

Kenny had one flaw though. He would freeze up when he got to the finals. I'm not sure how many cities he had been to at that point, but apparently his dad was flying him around, following the tour until he won. I think Kenny was home-schooled (a lot of the finalists were ...Thor?) and could afford to take the time.

Let me take this time to explain how the competition was set up.

100 or so 6-foot-high machines surrounded a large stage. 50 on either side each with a lone controller. I still remember all the newcomers, saying "99 guys! Whooooaaaa!" when Mario began. The Powerfest had some other stuff going on as well.... a half pipe I think, some new games to try for free (the competition was 3 bucks a try). Honestly I don't remember what there was because I only was focused on the competition area.

When you hit 200k or more, you got an envelope with a VIP pass, 2 guest passes and a letter explaining what was coming up in the next round. So Sunday you got 1 chance (out of maybe a few hundred semi finalists) to make the top 7 in your age category: 11 and under, 12 - 17, or 18 and up. The top 7 played on stage with 2 big screens and 2 announcers similar to The Wizard w/ Fred Savage, and the top 2 scores played a final heads-up game to determine the winner for that city - 1 in each age category.



> *nwc champ: robin, cont.*

Then at the end of the tour, they took all 90 winners, from 29 cities (they had 2 winners each from L.A.) and played the same format in Universal Studios Hollywood (although they had planned originally for the finals to be in Florida.) So 30 players ... then 7 ... then 2 ... and finally, the winner. Got it?

OK where was I ... Kenny. When Sunday came around, I knew I had very little chance of winning. I really just wanted to see Kenny play some more, and maybe squeeze into the top 7 and ... who knows?? The hour finally came (I think my mom had given me a \$20 or so to practice up before the big game) and I took my station. A friend from middle school was coincidentally next to me. I remember hoping that I'd beat him in Mario so badly that he'd get nervous. Mario was my game at that point. The big countdown and we're off!

Sadly I don't remember exactly how the beginning of my game went. I do remember my Tetris wall being absolutely perfect (a feat for me at that time) all the way up to the top, where I died ... without a single tetris. I was heartbroken. I think I started crying (embarrassed as hell with my friend right next to me). I couldn't believe after all of my progress, I just choked at the end (in all fairness, if you have a "wall" in Tetris and the long piece doesn't come... a beginner is just screwed).

Now my mom and I had made a friend on the tour named Lisa Hartman (I think) and she was a very pretty, 20 something staff member who was traveling with the tour. To this day, I don't know if she was responsible, but something great happened after I lost. Before the top 7 were named, the announcers took 7 "grown-ups" who looked like they knew nothing about Nintendo and let them play on stage for laughs. Maybe it was coincidence, but my whole family got chosen. Mom, Uncle and Grandmother went up and took their controllers..... It was hilarious. My mom never got out of Mario, Gramma couldn't even figure out that Mario only could go right (she kept trying to go left) and Uncle Joe actually had experience and made it to Tetris. My grandmother got the most cheers from the audience of maybe 300, and my uncle won (sitting in the number one seat

AKA the "throne"). It was a great end to what was a terrible moment for me.

Then they played the real finals. A kid named Dallas won the young group, I can't remember the adult, and Kenny made it to the top 2 and then LOST AGAIN!!! I know I had heard it before, but he really just forgot how to play Tetris. I couldn't believe it. The kid who beat him wasn't half the player Kenny was. It was amazing to see. The entire day was remarkable.

Little did I know this would not be the last time I saw Mr. Kenny Welch in action.

A couple weeks later, after thinking about the whole experience and playing my new favorite game Tetris daily, I made a crazy decision. I decided I was going to save money all summer and take a bus to California and meet up with the tour, like Kenny was doing, and win one of these suckers for myself.

Part 2 Oakland

That summer was all about mowing lawns. I had a thermometer drawn (think Breakin' 2) with a goal of \$300 to take a bus to Oakland and try this thing again. Meanwhile, Nintendo Power the magazine had some pictures up of Thor, Jason Orlando, Nick Membrez-Weiler and some other champs. They also had a mail-in contest for the NWC cartridge (the pic they had was grey, we didn't realize it was gold back then) which I taped to my wall next to my bed. Through all my practicing, I really wanted that cart more than anything in the world. I used to touch the picture and say a little prayer (and I'm not even religious), hoping that I would win that contest for it. I'm not sure why I wanted it so much. I'd think about it all the time though. When all the lawns were mowed three long months later, my mom and I bought 2 "Green Tortoise" tickets to Oakland, California.

My Tetris game had gotten much better over that summer. (For those of you who played the NES version, I could get to level 20 and had a high score of around 500,000) I had no idea how much I would score, but I wondered if I was now as good as Kenny. I also wondered if it would be he and I in the finals there. My Mario was very fast and Rad Racer

> *nwc champ: robin, cont.*

was good as well. I used to practice for 3+ hours a day with my mom recording scores. I really felt prepared on the ride down there.

The ride was kind of strange. Green Tortoise was a hippie bus with a huge community bed in the back, 2 booth style tables in the middle and normal sideways facing seats in the front. We sat up front as the rest of them sang songs and played drums. I was not a happy camper, and was just eager to get there. When we arrived, we took a cab to the nearest motel and checked in. Walking into the Powerfest there was great. It didn't seem real to a 13 year old to obsess over something for so long and then finally live it. Finally I had made it there.

I had set myself 3 goals for the 3 days in Oakland. Friday I wanted to establish myself as a top player (like Kenny had in Portland) and get the announcers talking about me, which I did right away. I scored over a million right off the bat, and saw that my hard work had paid off. For Saturday, I hoped to break 2 million (something only a few players had done back then). And Sunday was all about getting that trophy.

I bought a stack of 3 dollar "practice" tickets and started playing. Oakland was maybe 3 - 5 times more crowded than Portland and there was usually a wait to play. Lisa was there and was happy to see us. She informed us that Kenny had finally won a few cities prior and did not expect to see him in Oakland. The news was bittersweet. I had been very eager to see him and compete with him, but was relieved that I didn't have to play against a "2 mil" player for the title. One of the announcers was gone, and it seemed larger, but all and all things were familiar.

I made a lot of friends in the waiting areas, mostly boys around my age, one of whom was a writer for his school paper. He saw how good I was and followed my progress so he could write about me if I won. I can't remember his name. There was also a kid named Chris Tang who was almost as good as me, but not quite. He was really nice and had square "Nintendo built thumbs".

My scores were good the first two days. 1,300,000 - 2,000,000 - 900,000 - 1,650,000 - 1,950,000 -

2,100,000 - 1,100,000. No one was worrying me. I thought that unless someone flew in at the last day, this was my trophy to lose.

Sunday finally came and I was in the 1st group of 100 to play the semis. My writer friend was behind me waiting to compete himself. Three months of preparation was coming down to this game. Mario started and as usual, I flew through before anyone around me. Rad Racer was a breeze - good players learned to crash at the end on purpose because it slowed you down faster at the finish line. I looked back at my friend and he said I had about 3 mins for Tetris (which was a lot of time). Tetris went great at first. I had a bunch of Tetrises right off the bat without any holes.

Then the same thing happened..... I got my freakin' wall up high and NO LONG PIECE. I remember thinking "oh Jesus oh Jesus oh Jesus" as it was happening. It was like a nightmare. I "died" with probably a full minute to go. I looked back in terror at my friend and he had his calculator out and said "it's OK.... you're OK". I breathed a sigh of relief. Maybe I had scored enough to make the top 7. After what seemed like a decade, the game stopped and I saw my total. 1,100,000. A bad score for me, in comparison. But was it enough?

I went back to where the high scorers were standing and right away there was a kid, older than me shouting "I kicked some butt!!" to one of the staff members. His score was higher than mine at around 1,300,000 I believe. I asked him what his high was and he said that 1,300,000 was his highest score ever. That was good news. They had lined up 7 chairs and we sat in order from highest to lowest and had to wait for the other (what seemed like) two billion competitors to see if we were knocked out. I was in second position behind "Mr. butt-kicker."

The second wave of kids played..... Some seating rearranged, but not me. I was still in second. Then the 3rd wave..... still no change to my seat. I started getting a little more comfortable. I told Mr. Butt Kick my story of coming from Portland. He wasn't a very nice fellow. He also didn't seem to sweat that I had scored almost double his high.



> *nwc champ: robin, cont.*

Then, after a half an hour or so, he tried to guilt trip me into throwing the match. Yeah, his words were "Damn, if you lose you can just go to another city again. I can't afford that. This is my only chance." He was looking down trying to look pathetic. You gotta be kidding dude.

The last wave of players came and went and we were still 1 and 2. I actually preferred not to be #1 because in the "throne" seat the screen was a little too close for my liking. Chris Tang had also cracked the top 7 barely, if I remember correctly. We made our way onto the stage. And once again my life came down to this one game. Like before, I flew through the 1st 2 games (being the best at Mario really only gave me a 1 - 5 second advantage, but that was a lot if you needed it) and got in to Tetris 1st. Then I played perfectly. I don't think I had a single gap. Tetrises were coming like lightning. When the game stopped the announcer yelled "TWO MILLION!! We have not seen that here before!!" that was my score. 2,100,000 I think. I look to the left (expecting it to be Chris) and I see Mr. Butt Kick pointing at me as he yells "I'M GONNA KICK YOUR BUTT!!!!" for the whole audience to hear. He liked that phrase.

I was relieved I was playing him and not

Chris. As long as I didn't blow it, I could beat this guy no problem. My mom joined me on stage. We had planned on her warning me when there were 30 seconds left if and when I got that far. The game began. 1st two games... lightning. Tetris came and I didn't blow it. I played almost as good a game as before, and listening to the announcers it seemed to be over with a lot of time left. When time came, I knew I had dominated even his best score, and I stood and raised my finger like Larry Bird did in that 3 point contest (before the ball had gone through the net), before the score was even totaled. My mom saw the finger and said "did you win?" (I hadn't heard her 30 second warning over the noise). 1,950,000. I don't remember what Mr. BK was, but I think it was less than 1,000,000. I'm not sure, but I think at that time 1.9 was the largest final winning score to date.

I hardly remember the trophy "ceremony", but I do remember being in the back with the suits signing all their clipboards. I got a check for 250\$, a Game Boy, and a gift certificate for Reebok "Pegasus" shoes (which I never cashed in). As I was signing all this stuff, kind of in shock, I looked up and saw Mr. BK staring at me. He was filling out a

2nd place form :)

My mom and I hung out and watched them take it all apart. I was in a dream. What now? She told me that the winner of the adult group had a technique in Mario where he didn't get the mushroom and ran through it small. Very risky, but he was faster than me. Outside in an empty parking lot, my mom and I called a taxi. A little boy around 7 (by himself for whatever reason) came up to me and asked for my autograph on his hat. My 1st autograph (sigh). We waited for like an hour and a car filled with tipsy happy NWC staff pulled up. Lisa was in there. They told us to jump in and they drove us to our motel.

Once I got home, I got to show off my trophy in school. I was still practicing everyday (I had a "small" Mario version now which was much faster) and when the Finals came close, my mother proposed an idea to me. If I was willing to spend the \$250 I had won, we could fly to Tampa Bay, Florida to practice up at the last stop of the tour (1 week before the finals). It took me 2 seconds to decide. "Let's do it."

[That's all for this month, be on the lookout for more from Robin in January!]



Lots of pics!





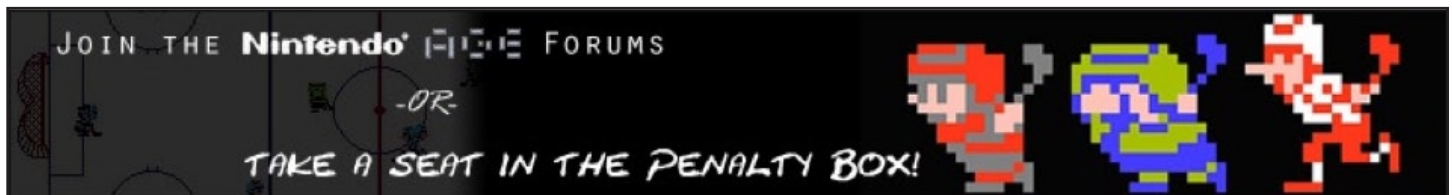
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3-D World Runner	4	0	Baseball Simulator 1.000	5	0	Bugs Bunny B'day Blowout	5	+1
10 Yard Fight	3	0	Baseball Stars	9	0	Bugs Bunny Crazy Castle	7	0
720	4	0	Baseball Stars 2	13	0	Bump 'N Jump	4	0
1942	8	0	Bases Loaded	3	0	Burai Fighter	4	0
1943	-7	0	Bases Loaded 2	4	+1	Burgertime	-5	-4
8 Eyes	4	0	Bases Loaded 3	3	0	Cabal	4	-2
Abadox	4	0	Bases Loaded 4	9	0	Caesar's Palace	4	-1
Action 52	59	+9	Batman	5	+1	California Games	7	-1
AD&D Dragonstrike	11	0	Batman Return of the Joker	8	-1	Caltron 6 in 1	164	-81
AD&D Heroes of the Lance	-5	0	Batman Returns	4	-1	Captain America	8	+1
AD&D Hillsfar	20	-3	Battle Chess	5	0	Captain Comic	7	0
AD&D Pool of Radiance	10	0	Battle of Olympus	5	0	Captain Planet	7	0
Addams Family	6	0	Battleship	7	0	Captain Skyhawk	3	0
Adventure Island	8	-2	Battletank	4	0	Casino Kid	3	0
Adventure Island 2	11	-1	Battletoads	10	0	Casino Kid 2	19	-1
Adventure Island 3	19	0	Battletoads & Double Dragon	19	+1	Castelian	6	+1
After Burner	4	+1	Bayou Billy	4	+1	Castle of Deceit	47	+13
Air Fortress	4	0	Bee 52	11	+3	Castle of Dragon	4	-2
Airwolf	4	+1	Beetlejuice	7	-4	Castlequest	5	0
Al Unser Jr's Turbo Racing	-4	0	Best of the Best	8	+1	Castlevania	10	+1
Alfred Chicken	11	-2	Bible Adventures	8	+1	Castlevania 2	6	0
Alien 3	9	+1	Bible Buffet	30	+8	Castlevania 3	10	0
Alien Syndrome	4	+1	Big Bird's Hide & Speak	4	+1	Caveman Games	6	0
All Pro Basketball	4	+1	Big Foot	4	0	Challenge of the Dragon	46	+7
Alpha Mission	4	+1	Big Nose Freaks Out	18	+1	Championship Bowling	-3	0
Amagon	4	0	Big Nose Freaks Out (Aladdin)	15	+1	Championship Pool	7	0
American Gladiators	5	0	Big Nose the Caveman	10	+2	Cheetahmen 2	561	+61
Anticipation	3	0	Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure	5	0	Chessmaster	5	+1
Arch Rivals	4	0	Bill Elliot's NASCAR Challenge	4	0	Chiller	48	+22
Archon	-5	0	Bionic Commando	6	0	Chip N' Dale Resc. Rangers	-7	0
Arkanoid	11	+1	Black Bass	5	-2	Chip N' Dale Resc. Rangers 2	34	+5
Arkista's Ring	8	0	Blackjack	24	+4	Chubby Cherub	11	+1
Astyanax	3	0	Blades of Steel	4	-2	Circus Caper	4	+1
Athena	4	0	Blaster Master	4	0	City Connection	4	0
Athletic World	-6	0	Blue Marlin	9	0	Clash at Demonhead	-4	0
Attack of the Killer Tomatoes	8	0	Blues Brothers	13	0	Classic Concentration	7	0
Baby Boomer	35	+14	Bo Jackson Baseball	5	+1	Cliffhanger	10	+1
Back to the Future	4	+1	Bomberman	9	0	Clu Clu Land	4	0
Back to the Future 2 & 3	5	0	Bomberman 2	24	+2	Cobra Command	4	0
Bad Dudes	4	+1	Bonk's Adventure	63	+13	Cobra Triangle	-4	0
Bad News Baseball	6	0	Boulder Dash	7	0	Codename: Viper	4	-1
Bad Street Brawler	4	+1	Boy and His Blob, A	5	+1	Color A Dinosaur	11	0
Balloon Fight	7	+1	Break Time	5	0	Commando	4	+1
Bandit Kings of Ancient China	28	+5	Breakthru	3	-2	Conan	12	-2
Barbie	-5	0	Bubble Bath Babes	653	+133	Conflict	12	+3
Bard's Tale	7	0	Bubble Bobble	14	0	Conquest of Crystal Palace	4	0
Base Wars	5	0	Bubble Bobble 2	108	+3	Contra	16	+1
Baseball	4	+1	Bucky O'Hare	15	+3	Contra Force	27	0



Cool World	10	+2	Dragon Warrior 2	20	+2	Gauntlet (unlicensed)	4	0
Cowboy Kid	19	-3	Dragon Warrior 3	29	+3	Gauntlet 2	5	+1
Crash a/t Boys St. Challenge	10	0	Dragon Warrior 4	37	-1	Gemfire	19	0
Crash Dummies, Incredible	6	+1	Dragon's Lair	6	0	Genghis Kahn	8	-1
Crystal Mines	20	+1	Duck Hunt	9	+1	George Foreman KO Boxing	3	-0
Crystalis	7	0	Duck Tales	8	0	Ghost Lion	15	+2
Cyberball	4	0	Duck Tales 2	28	-2	Ghostbusters	5	0
Cybernoid	4	0	Dudes with Attitude	4	-1	Ghostbusters 2	5	-2
Dance Aerobics	5	0	Dungeon Magic	4	0	Ghosts 'N Goblins	6	+1
Danny Sullivan's Indy Heat	9	+1	Dusty Diamond's All Star Softball	27	+3	Ghoul School	6	-0
Darkman	4	0	Dyno Warz	3	0	Gilligan's Island	8	0
Darkwing Duck	10	+1	Elevator Action	6	+1	Goal!	3	0
Dash Galaxy	4	0	Eliminator Boat Duel	5	0	Goal! 2	7	0
DayDreamin' Davey	4	0	Empire Strikes Back	11	+1	Godzilla	4	0
Days of Thunder	3	0	Everet/Lendel Top Player's Tennis	3	0	Godzilla 2	20	-2
Deadly Towers	4	+1	Excitebike	6	-2	Gold Medal Challenge	7	0
Death Race	20	+8	Exodus	9	+2	Golf	4	+1
Deathbots	7	0	F-117a Stealth	5	0	Golf Challenge Pebble Beach	4	0



Defender 2	4	0	F-15 City War	5	0	Golf Grand Slam	5	0
Defender of the Crown	4	0	F-15 Strike Eagle	4	+1	Golgo 13: Top Secret Episode	3	-0
Defenders of Dynatron City	4	-1	Family Feud	11	-2	Goonies 2	5	+1
Déjà Vu	5	0	Fantastic Adv. Dizzy (Aladdin)	11	+1	Gotcha!	3	0
Demon Sword	4	+1	Fantastic Adventures of Dizzy	6	0	Gradius	4	0
Desert Commander	4	+1	Fantasy Zone	6	-2	Great Waldo Search	9	-1
Destination Earthstar	3	0	Faria	15	-1	Greg Norman's Golf Power	4	-0
Destiny of an Emperor	11	+2	Faxanadu	4	0	Gremlins 2	4	0
Dick Tracy	4	+1	Felix the Cat	10	0	Guardian Legend	4	0
Die Hard	15	0	Ferrari Grand Prix	4	0	Guerilla War	5	0
Dig Dug 2	5	+1	Fester's Quest	4	+1	Gumshoe	6	+1
Digger T. Rock	5	0	Final Fantasy	13	+2	Gun Nac	23	+4
Dino Riki	4	0	Fire and Ice	26	-2	Gunsmoke	10	+2
Dirty Harry	5	+1	Fire Hawk	5	0	Gyromite	5	+1
Disney Adv. Magic Kingdom	4	0	Fisher Price Firehouse Rescue	8	0	Gyruss	3	0
Dizzy: Adventurer (Aladdin)	17	-2	Fisher Price I Can Remember	4	0	Harlem Globetrotters	4	0
Donkey Kong	14	+3	Fisher Price Perfect Fit	4	0	Hatris	8	-0
Donkey Kong 3	8	0	Fist of the North Star	5	-1	Heavy Barrel	4	-1
Donkey Kong Classics	10	0	Flight of the Intruder	5	0	Heavy Shreddin'	4	0
Donkey Kong Jr.	9	0	Flintstones	9	+1	High Speed	5	-1
Donkey Kong Jr. Math	11	-1	Flintstones 2 Surprise Dino Peak	202	+55	Hogan's Alley	8	0
Double Dare	7	0	Flying Dragon	4	+1	Hollywood Squares	5	+1
Double Dragon	7	0	Flying Warriors	4	0	Home Alone	4	0
Double Dragon 2	6	0	Formula One: Built to Win	10	0	Home Alone 2	3	0
Double Dragon 3	9	0	Frankenstein	8	+1	Hook	4	0
Double Dribble	3	0	Freedom Force	6	0	Hoops	3	0
Double Strike	7	+1	Friday the 13th	5	0	Hot Slots	541	-59
Dr. Chaos	4	0	Fun House	4	-1	Hudson Hawk	3	0
Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde	3	0	G.I. Joe: Real American Hero	19	+6	Hunt for Red October	3	0
Dr. Mario	6	0	G.I. Joe: Atlantis Factor	11	0	Hydlide	3	0
Dracula	9	0	Galactic Crusader	25	+13	Ice Climber	7	0
Dragon Fighter	19	0	Galaga	7	0	Ice Hockey	3	-0
Dragon Power	4	0	Galaxy 5000	10	0	Ikari Warriors	4	0
Dragon Spirit	5	+1	Gargoyles Quest 2	11	+3	Ikari Warriors 2	4	0
Dragon Warrior	5	+1	Gauntlet (licensed)	4	0	Ikari Warriors 3	8	+1



Platoon	4	+1	RoadBlasters	3	0	Smash TV	4	0
Play Action Football	3	0	Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves	4	0	Snake Rattle 'N Roll	5	0
Popeye	6	0	Robocop	4	+1	Snake's Revenge	8	0
POW	3	0	Robocop 2	5	0	Snoopy's Silly Sports	5	0
Power Blade	5	+1	Robocop 3	7	0	Snow Brothers	-44	-2
Power Blade 2	28	+2	Robodemons	19	0	Soccer	5	0
Power Punch 2	7	-1	RoboWarrior	4	+1	Solar Jetman	4	0
P'radikus Conflict	23	+14	Rock N' Ball	3	0	Solitaire	20	+2
Predator	4	+1	Rocket Ranger	3	0	Solomon's Key	6	0
Prince of Persia	9	0	Rocketeer	4	0	Solstice	-3	-0
Princess Tomato	17	+1	Rockin' Kats	11	0	Space Shuttle	5	0
Pro Sport Hockey	13	0	Rocky and Bullwinkle	7	0	Spelunker	5	0
Pro Wrestling	3	0	Roger Clemens Baseball	3	0	Spider-Man: Sinister Six	7	+1
Pugsley's Scavenger Hunt	8	-1	Rollerball	4	0	Spiritual Warfare	8	-1
Punch-Out!!	9	+1	Rollerblade Racer	5	0	Spot	-4	-0
Punisher	6	0	Rollergames	3	0	Spy Hunter	4	0
Puss 'N Boots	5	+1	Rolling Thunder	3	0	Spy vs. Spy	5	0
Puzzle	6	-2	Romance o/t Three Kingdoms	8	+1	Spoon	10	-2

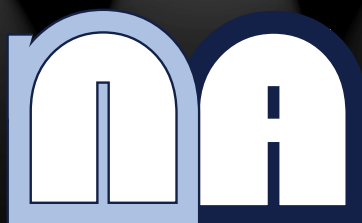


Puzznic	8	+1	Romance o/t Three Kingdoms 2	18	-1	Stack Up	24	0
Pyramid	8	0	Roundball	4	0	Stadium Events	1042	-58
Q*Bert	6	+1	Rush N' Attack	4	0	Stanley	8	+1
Qix	15	+4	Rygar	5	0	Star Force	5	+1
Quattro Adventure	5	0	SCAT	10	+3	Star Soldier	3	0
Quattro Adventure (Aladdin)	12	0	Secret Scout	90	-10	Star Trek: 25th Anniversary	6	0
Quattro Arcade	9	-3	Section Z	4	+1	Star Trek: Next Generation	-10	-0
Quattro Sports	4	0	Seicross	4	+1	Star Voyager	3	0
Quattro Sports (Aladdin)	9	-2	Sesame Street 1-2-3	4	0	Star Wars	8	+1
R.B.I. Baseball (Licensed)	6	-2	Sesame Street 1-2-3/A-B-C	7	+1	Starship Hector	4	0
R.B.I. Baseball (Unlicensed)	9	-2	Sesame Street A-B-C	4	0	StarTropics	4	0
R.B.I. Baseball 2	6	-1	Sesame Street Countdown	5	+1	Stealth	-3	-0
R.B.I. Baseball 3	5	0	Shadow of the Ninja	9	+2	Stinger	5	+1
R.C. Pro-Am Racing	5	+1	Shadowgate	5	+1	Street Cop	10	+1
R.C. Pro-Am Racing 2	26	+1	Shatterhand	5	0	Street Fighter 2010	4	0
Race America, Alex DeMeo's	10	0	Shingen the Ruler	6	+2	Strider	4	0
Racket Attack	4	0	Shinobi	7	0	Stunt Kids	-18	-0
Rad Gravity	4	0	Shockwave	5	+1	Sunday Funday	43	+5
Rad Racer	3	0	Shooting Range	9	0	Super C	12	+1
Rad Racer 2	4	-2	Short Order/Eggsplode	7	0	Super Cars	9	-2
Rad Racket	44	+25	Side Pocket	4	0	Super Dodge Ball	12	0
Raid 2020	7	0	Silent Assault	13	+5	Super Glove Ball	-4	+1
Raid on Bungeling Bay	4	-1	Silent Service	3	-2	Super Mario Brothers	8	0
Rainbow Islands	20	+2	Silk Worm	6	+1	Super Mario Brothers 2	12	+1
Rally Bike	5	0	Silver Surfer	6	0	Super Mario Brothers 3	11	+1
Rambo	4	0	Simpsons: Bart vs. The World	5	0	Super Mario/Duck Hunt	9	+3
Rampage	6	0	Simpsons: Radioactive Man	7	0	Super Mario/D. Hunt/WCTM	-5	-0
Rampart	6	0	Simpsons: Space Mutants	6	0	Super Pitfall	6	+1
Remote Control, MTV's	4	+1	Skate or Die	3	0	Super Spike V'Ball	5	+1
Ren and Stimpy: Buckaroos	9	0	Skate or Die 2	4	0	Super Spike V'Ball/W. Cup	4	-1
Renegade	4	0	Ski or Die	3	0	Super Sprint	4	0
Rescue: Embassy Mission	4	+1	Skull and Crossbones	5	-2	Super Spy Hunter	-10	+2
Ring King	4	0	Sky Shark	4	-2	Super Team Games	4	0
River City Ransom	15	0	Skykid	5	-1	Superman	7	-1
Road Runner	5	0	Slalom	4	0	Swamp Thing	12	-2



Sword Master	15	+2	Ultimate League Soccer	11	-1	Win, Lose or Draw	3	0
Swords & Serpents	4	0	Ultimate Stuntman	5	-3	Winter Games	4	0
T&C Surf Design	4	+1	Uncharted Waters	15	+2	Wizardry	5	0
T&C Surf Design 2 Thrillas	6	0	Uninvited	15	0	Wizardry 2: Knight/Diamonds	14	+3
Taboo: The Sixth Sense	—	—	Untouchables	—	—	Wizards & Warriors	—	—
Tag Team Wrestling	3	0	Urban Champion	4	-2	Wizards & Warriors 3	11	-3
Tagin' Dragon	20	-4	Vegas Dream	3	0	Wolverine	6	+1
Talespin	7	+1	Venice Beach Volleyball	5	0	World Champ	6	-1
Target: Renegade	3	-1	Vice: Project Doom	5	+1	World Class Track Meet	4	-2
Tecmo Baseball	—	—	Videomation	—	—	World Cup Soccer	—	—
Tecmo Bowl	6	0	Vindicators	3	-1	World Games	5	+1
Tecmo Cup Soccer	14	+2	Volleyball	3	0	Wrath of the Black Manta	4	0
Tecmo NBA Basketball	4	0	Wacky Races	18	+2	Wrecking Crew	6	0
Tecmo Super Bowl	13	+1	Wall Street Kid	4	0	WURM	4	0
Tecmo World Wrestling	—	—	Wally Bear and the No! Gang	—	—	WWF King of the Ring	—	—
Teenage Mut. Ninja Turtles	5	-1	Wario's Woods	10	+1	WWF Steel Cage	5	-1
Teenage Mut. Ninja Turtles 2	7	0	Wayne Gretzky Hockey	4	+1	WWF Wrestlemania	4	0
Teenage Mut. Ninja Turtles 3	13	0	Wayne's World	18	0	WWF Wrestlemania Chall.	4	0
Teenage Mut. Ninja Turt. TF	26	-1	WCW: World Champ. Wrestling	4	0	Xenophobe	4	0
Tennis	—	—	Werewolf	—	—	Xevious	—	—
Terminator	8	+2	Wheel of Fortune	5	+1	Xexyz	5	+1
Terminator 2: Judgement Day	4	0	Wheel of Fortune: Family Edition	4	0	X-Men	5	0
Terra Cresta	6	0	Wheel of Fortune: Junior Edition	3	0	Yo! Noid	6	0
Tetris (Nintendo licensed)	7	+1	Wheel of Fortune: Vanna White	5	0	Yoshi	6	-1
Tetris (Tengen unlicensed)	—	—	Where in Time/Carmen San.	—	—	Yoshi's Cookie	—	—
Tetris 2	6	0	Where's Waldo?	6	0	Young Indiana Jones	12	+1
Three Stooges	4	0	Who Framed Roger Rabbit?	5	0	Zanac	4	0
Thunder and Lightning	7	-2	Whomp 'Em	6	-1	Zelda 2: The Adv. of Link	9	+1
Thunderbirds	4	+1	Widget	9	+1	Zen Intergalactic Ninja	8	+1
Thundercade	—	—	Wild Gunman	—	—	Zoda's Revenge StarTropics 2	—	—
Tiger Heli	4	+1	Willow	5	0	Zombie Nation	18	-3
Tiles of Fate	7	0						
Time Lord	4	0						
Times of Lore	9	-2						
Tiny Toon Adventures	—	—						
Tiny Toon Adventures 2	8	0						
Tiny Toon Cartoon Workshop	5	-2						
To The Earth	4	0						
Toki	6	0						
Tom and Jerry	—	—						
Tom Sawyer	3	-1						
Tombs and Treasure	7	-1						
Toobin'	7	0						
Top Gun	4	+1						
Top Gun 2	—	—						
Total Recall	3	0						
Totally Rad	4	0						
Touchdown Fever	5	+1						
Toxic Crusader	8	-2						
Track and Field	—	—						
Track and Field 2	4	+1						
Treasure Master	6	+2						
Trick Shooting	5	+1						
Trog	5	0						
Trojan	—	—						
Trolls on Treasure Island	12	+1						
Twin Cobra	4	0						
Twin Eagle	5	0						
Ultima: Exodus	4	0						
Ultima: Quest of the Avatar	—	—						
Ultima: Warriors of Destiny	18	+2						
Ultimate Air Combat	7	-1						
Ultimate Basketball	3	0						





Member Spotlight: LIMBOFUNK

[Name:] Otto.

[Age:] 24.

[Location:] New York.

[Occupation:] State Employee.

[From what little I know, it seems like you've been collecting a long time. When did you start, and what prompted you to do so?] I actually sort of started by accident. In 10th grade (Late 1999) I had to come up with a hobby to do an oral presentation on for my English class. I seriously had no hobbies (other than playing video games and sitting on the computer) so I decided to make up the notion that I collected old video games. I grabbed a controller, a copy of Zelda w/ manual I had bought for \$.25 at a garage sale, a Nintendo hints book and a few other odds and ends, threw them into a box and did my presentation on the spot. The rest of the class had a ton of questions afterwards and were really interested, so that's what wound up sparking my interest in collecting. I got a B on the report.

[Wow, that might be the best answer I've ever gotten on that one. How did you go from that to collecting test equipment?] Well I still collect the regular games, just not to an excessive extent. I usually only pick anything up if

I get it for a very good price. The reason I got so enthralled with collecting test equipment is actually in part because of NGD. There was a Yellow Zelda cart on ebay that he outbid me on by around \$8, so I was pretty annoyed (this was before a lot of the test equipment was as well known in collecting as it is today). I had really wanted it and vowed to get one, so I wound up doing a ton of research into the old Authorized Service Centers. I made a few contacts and just started getting a ton of test equipment and other Service Center items for very reasonable prices so I decided to start getting as much as I could (The Yellow Zelda actually wound up being the first cart I received...yay!). The notion that there wasn't much known about them was a nice side bonus as I've made very interesting discoveries about some of the items and the World Class Service program as a whole.

[So would you say the Zelda Test Cartridge is the highlight of your collection?] As far as the test equipment, that is my favorite item just because it signifies the start of that niche of collecting to me. My favorite items are actually the original games that I had growing up. I have them all CIB and on display sepa-

rately from my other games.

[How many games do you have total?]

Right around 550...I usually only get games when I can get them around \$1 or so loose and around \$3-\$5 CIB...I really haven't adjusted to all these crazy high prices, but I do have some really nice games in my collection that I've gotten on the cheap.

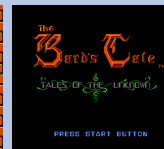
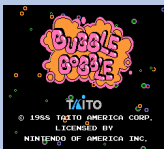
[While we're on the subject, what's it like having your mom on the site?]

Haha, I think it's pretty cool actually. The NES was the first system our family had and we used to play together a lot when I was younger. When I lived at home she used to look over my shoulder all the time when I was on NESWorld and ask me what was going on or what I was posting about. It drove me nuts, but now I kind of miss it...when she asked if I could make her an account for Nintendoage, I was more than happy to. It's a great thing when you can share your hobby, which is usually a big part of your life, with those you love.



LIMBOFUNK's TOP 5 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Legend of Zelda,
2. Bubble Bobble,
3. Princess Tomato,
4. Bard's Tale,
5. Caveman Games



Retro Review of the Month

> **JONATHAN PICKENS** *nesguy*

The King of Kong: A Fistful of Quarters is not a classic gaming movie; rather, it is a movie about classic gaming. Following the rivalry between Donkey Kong high score contenders Steve Wiebe and Billy Mitchell, this documentary goes not only into the inner workings of competitive arcade gaming, but also delves into the personal lives of its central figures. This is where the movie garners much of its charm and humor, looking at the dedication it takes to be the best at something, and the lengths to which someone must devote themselves to achieve their goal.

Early on, the movie outlines the rise of the arcade competition scene, the establishment of the Twin Galaxies scoreboard, and how Billy Mitchell came to fame. The “villain” of the story, Billy Mitchell is not only the source of this gaming confrontation, but also much of its humor. He is truly a stranger-than-fiction character who represents everything that pins gamers as backward, out-of-the-social-loop folk. He has long hair, styled into a pseudo-mullet, wears jeans and cowboy boots with his shirt and tie (which is always something patriotic), and is married to a woman whose augmentations are much more impressive than her conversational skills. Add to this fantastic equation that he sells his own hot-sauce brand for a living, and you have a bona-fide winner when it comes in the form of Billy Mitchell. Billy’s claims to fame include not only the record for Donkey Kong, but also at one point or another for Donkey Kong Jr., Pac-Man, Burgertime, and Centipede.

For everything that Billy Mitchell is, Steve Wiebe is not. He is not a gamer, he seems to possess a modicum of fashion-sense, and his wife is a very normal and supportive spouse. Despite his obvious obsessive-compulsive nature, Steve is the “good-guy” of the story, continually overcoming and fighting against the closed and suspicious in-group that is classic arcade gaming. A man of many talents, including the ability to play several instruments, Steve has apparently thrown himself into several hobbies over the years, with video gaming being his most recent passion.

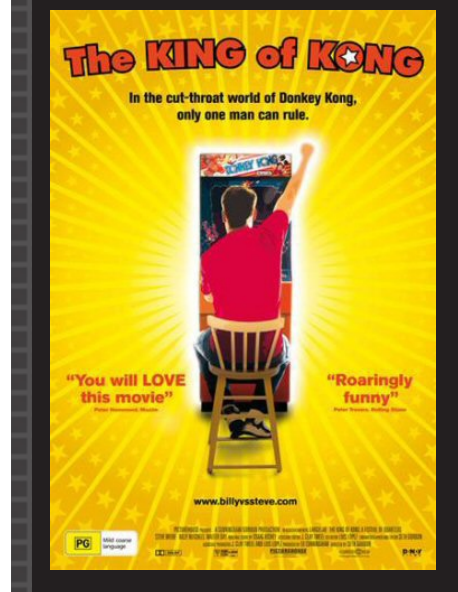
While it is easy to like Steve Wiebe



from the get-go, I personally found those feelings had changed by the end of the film. After watching him have a few “four year-old who dropped his ice cream” -type crying moments, I was really sort of tired of him. At that point, I was just looking forward to the next hilarious Billy moment, to see how he would try to snub the underdog again. Fortunately, the movie diverts at several points to the minor players involved, which add quite a bit of amusing distraction. The two that stand out the most are Brian Kuh and Roy Shildt. The first is a wannabe Kong champion, who is retired despite being in his apparent early 30’s, and spends all day at the video arcade trying to break records. The latter is the real star of the supporting cast; Roy Shildt is the self-proclaimed “Mr. Awesome,” whose video game record in Missile Command compels him to believe he is entitled to the accolades of the masses, and even stars in Playgirl magazine as a result of his “awesomeness”.

One of the many highlights of the DVD extras is the full-length self-produced video of Mr. Awesome promoting the comic book he created about his life.

All in all, King of Kong is rather entertaining. The content is suitable for almost the whole family, and rather “geek-lite” to be honest. It takes plenty of time to explain all



the elements needed to understand the film, including why high scores were important when you couldn’t “beat” a game, what technical terms like “kill screens” are, and who Twin Galaxies is and their role in this story. A satisfying way to spend 90 minutes, King of Kong will easily bring you back for repeat viewings.

Rating: 3 1/2 out of 5 stars

Retro Rating: n/a

Next month: Get ready for some plumber power, paisanos, it's *The Mario Bros. movie*, featuring the all-star cast of Bob Hoskins, John Leguizamo and Dennis Hopper!

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Faegly the Skeleton in

Sealed.....
TO DEATH!!!!

Let's see here, uh huh, I, what, holy! A sealed Stack-Up! You have to be kidding! 2 bucks!? Wowkie! That's, wait, another one! Talk about the find of an afterlife! Same price too! Hmm, but how do I know these are real seals? The only way is to consult the all knowing, the cocky...

Bronty!

King of the dinoseals, crown prince of plastic delicacies! Sealed forgen, beglicken, somethingrather, whatever.

Well here's his house, but, what, what is this odd glare? Is this plastic? Why is there plastic all over his house? Hmm, he must have had it bombed for insects or something. Looks okay now.

Hey, Bronty, check it out! I found two sealed Stack-Ups for 4 bucks! I need to know if they're legit before I dump the other one or trade it!

Cough, hack, let's see here. Criss-cross jump jump vertical seamstress seal intact. Yep, legit. Hey, wait a second. How did you get here?

Oh, I just tore a little hole in your bug tent, you forgot to take it off. Looks like it didn't work too well, this place is still infested. What have you been doing?

Fool! The insects matter not! You've just decreased the value of this house! It was sealed, you idiot! I had to pay double to check to make sure the diagonal Ronjiggy seal was correct! You just cost me a fortune! How am I ever going to find another house sealed like this? You fool! Ahhhh!

Huh? Yeah, good one, mind if I grab a bit of a bite to eat? I lost a quadrillion calories when I found the games.

Of course not, don't you see, the door is CLOSED, sealed! You can't possibly open it to have a bit bite bitty pitty!

What? Hey, come to think of it, you look a little famished there, Mr. Pitty. Have you been eating anything? This place is a mess!

Never maggot! Eating requires the opening of lids, boxes and containers! This in turn decreases their value!

Man, you sound a little burned out from all of this sealed crap. How about we just drink a bit bite of some water? Here I'll just...

Ah ha! Haha! You call yourself a collector? Opening the valve in turn unseals the pipe! This, in turn, also decreases its value! Ha, water! Ha!

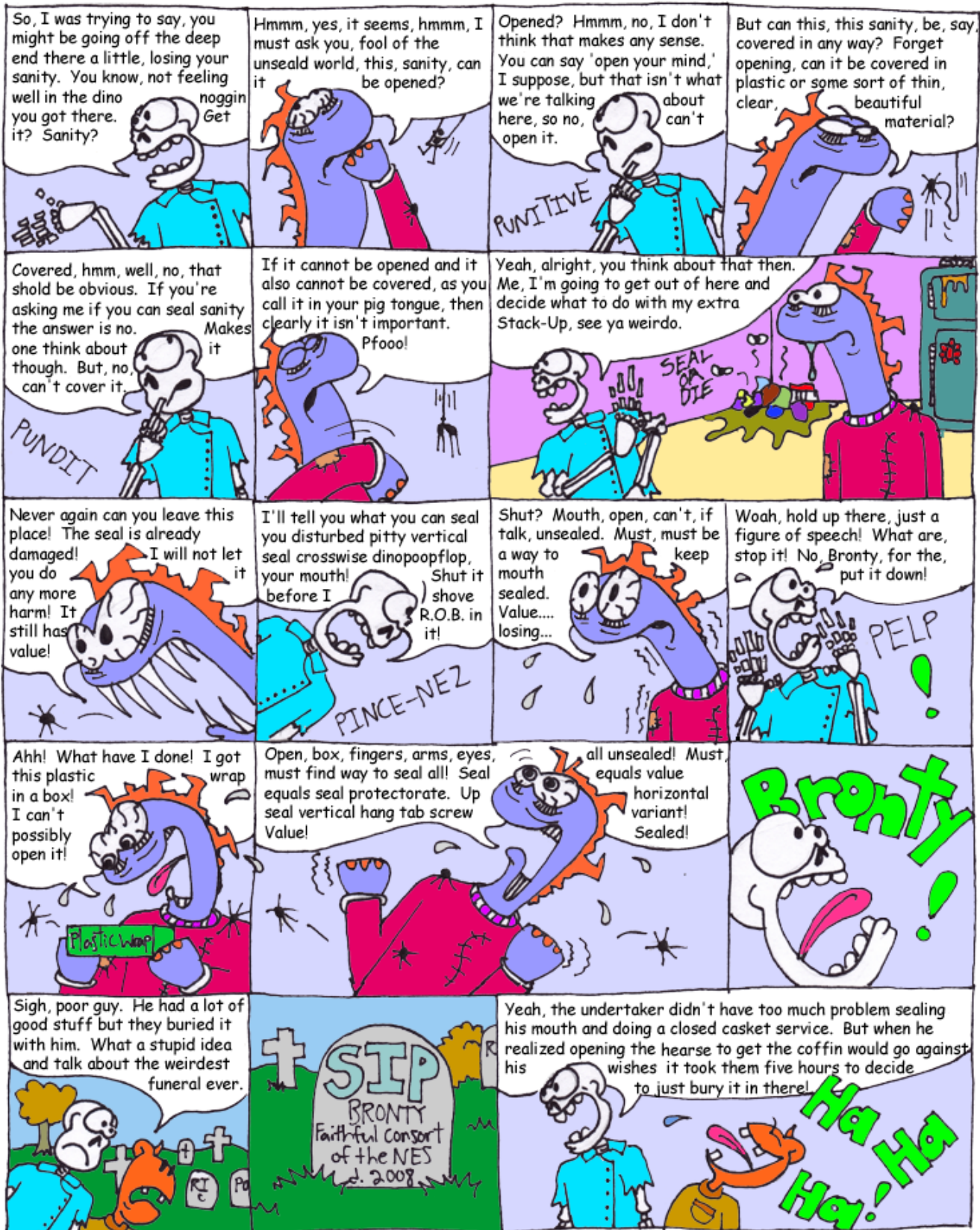
No water too? Yeah, okay, I'd say from the looks of it this also decreases sanity at the same time.

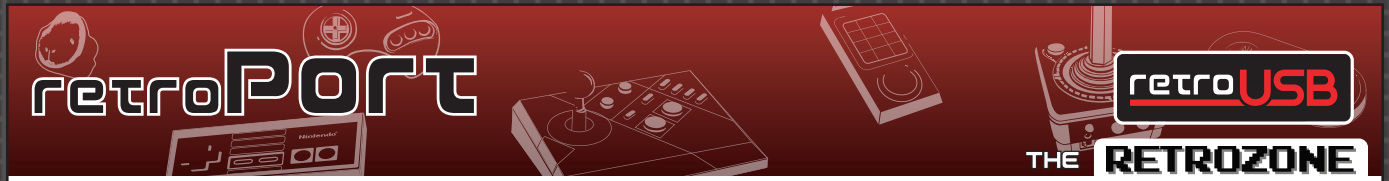
Sanity? Do I own that? Hmm, is it a Color Dreams game? Sachen? Better write it down.

What? No, it's umm, hmm, uh, sanity, you know, abstract, I think. Like the ability to think and reason and such or something.

PENSIVE

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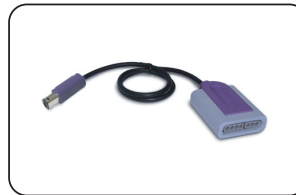


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