Game Workshop to close 35 Stores
Posted by arsthein - 2007/05/11 03:17

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I think some people here could be interested:

http://www.icv2.com/articles/news/10547.html

I sense the flames coming... ;-)

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Game Workshop to close 35 Stores
Posted by David Wasilewski - 2007/05/11 05:26

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I blame the Lord of the Rings hype - it seemed blindingly obvious that they would get a big spike in sales while the films were running and then it would all die down after the kids went onto 'the next craze.'

Continual price hikes and the fact we now pay the same amount in money for plastic figures that you used to be able to get in metal doesn't help. (Heck, I think twice about buying GW stuff now and I am lucky enough to be an adult with a well paid job - never mind being a kid on pocket money or a student).

(Fan the flames, fan the flames)

Dave :)

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Game Workshop to close 35 Stores
Posted by jkratzer - 2007/05/11 06:04

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NOW do you guys understand what I've been flaming and raving about for so long?
Especially Dave's commentary about rising prices and the plastic/metal controversy?

WHY do people so often refuse to believe me?
Guys, I'm 55 years old; I've BEEN run over by this truck before!

GW has NEVER been willing to look for the warning signs; that's why they go through so many reorganizations, so many declines in sales, so MUCH hassle! They take the colonial attitude: "We have what they NEED, we can control the supply of (fill in your own material goods here) to maximize our profits! Never mind that they can go find it somewhere else; we'll just take that over, too."
It's a monopolistic approach to business practices, and it is one that ONLY works in a locked-colony relationship. The GW bosses seem to think they have a monopoly on gaming items, when they do NOT. Look at the number of game systems they have tried to introduce over the years; Blood Bowl, BattleFleet Gothic, Warmaster, 40K Epic; those are just the ones I'VE seen come and go. Blood Bowl has been a 'gone' item that I've seen come back and go away again; Epic is on what, the THIRD incarnation? BFG and Warmaster have both come and gone since I started miniature/D&D gaming, only 7 years ago! Every one of the games I just listed is now either a 'legacy' game (one they only sell through their Black

Library links or 'selected' GW stores), not a front-line item, or just plain unsupported.
And mark my words, here; LotR will be legacied within 3 years - IF it takes that long!
GW is trying to dominate the miniature- and war-gaming universe, and it ain't gonna happen!

Just MY $0.02 worth.

Jim

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Game Workshop to close 35 Stores

Posted by Dante - 2007/05/11 13:40

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Haven't they (GW) been here before? Announcement about closing stores, cutting staff, etc. etc. etc. Theyr'e like freakin' cockroaches man, they just keep coming back again and again.

I agree that it's absolutely ridiculous to keep raising prices on little pieces of plastic like they do. The tin stuff, I can see to a certain extent, but still. Maybe this is just the next wave of red for them until something new and "improved" comes out for the mini-masses to sink their money into.

I stopped buying GW stuff years ago. I thought that the prices for single models were getting ridiculous back then. Now when I look at a SINGLE model for $12 or more, I just laugh my ass off and keep walking.

Make me want to lock away all of the "vintage" GW stuff that I have and then sell it in about 10 years on the next version of eBay. I could probably retire! ha ha...

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Game Workshop to close 35 Stores

Posted by L - 2007/05/11 14:28

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I agree, GW definitely has a crazy (non-)business plan. They just don't seem to think things out at all. They remind me of this joke:

A guy is standing on a streetcorner with a cup of pencils, holding a sign that says "PENCILS FOR SALE."
"Say," says a passerby, "how much for the pencils?"

"Ten thousand dollars each!" smiles the man. The passerby is shocked.
"How many pencils do you expect to sell at that price!?" he asks, outraged.

"I only have to sell ONE!" is the exasperated reply.

In any case, there is some stuff that I do like from GW. Not just in terms of sculpt/design, but as a business model. Having sprues with multiple parts and lots of customizing capacity is neat, and the box sets from them are a decent deal. But, yeah, for single models or basic metal -- who are they kidding?

L

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Game Workshop to close 35 Stores

Posted by Dead - 2007/05/12 10:42

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Ok, I can confirm these GW changes here in Japan. Last year in Tokyo, a big GW center was closed. I was very suprised about that. Strangely, at the same period of time, I also began to stop painting or collecting GW stuff myself due to work. I guess it was mainly because of the time it takes to paint, and the freakin prices. I started getting WOTC plasticrack. Then, the next couple of weeks that I went to my FLGS, which controlled the GW shop before, and they had glass cases set up, with lots of WOTC plasti rare minis, and a few bargin boxes and wire shelfs with commons and uncommons. So, I just want to say that the pre-paint trend is over here too. Myself included. I don't mind painting a few terrain pieces though. I just wish that my FLGS had SWM. No problem, that is what ebay is for. :)

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Game Workshop to close 35 Stores

Posted by willypold - 2007/05/12 12:38

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And if you walk over to the Rackham AT-43 forum, you'll find a whole bunch of people (me included) who've discovered the alternate world of pre-painted minis in complete unitboxes, where you see what you get. Prices are comparable to GW, but I guess the painting has to be paid for somehow.

The non-randomness is something that appeals to me, as I can get exactly what I want. When comparing with the regular plasticrack from WotC you have to remember that you have to pay for a lot of useless multiples in order to get all of the rares, which means that a full set of a D&D or SWM expansion can leave a quite empty space in your cash reserve...

Rackham's sculpting quality is as good as GW or even superior in some cases.

Playing with miniatures is far from dead, but I guess GW is going to have to make room for some other companies and also different ways of producing and marketing the games and the miniatures. Just take a look at the huge boxed games with tons of minis, like for example Descent and similar games.

But just because I've jumped into the AT-43 game doesn't mean that I will abandon my Tyranids and Space Orks! My Tyranids just got a new colour scheme, by the way - inspired by Madagascan hissing cockroaches! :-)

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