



ENTERTAINMENT REVIEWS

BY ARLENE RIVERA



Wii can help you wait out the rain!

The beginning of March has come in like a lion, as they say. Now we have to wait inside for late March's lamb amidst all this rude weather. Going stir crazy yet? Well spring weather may not be here, but a few spring video games for Nintendo Wii have arrived early that may cure your restlessness.

Mushroom Men fun for all ages

"It all started one night when an ichorous green meteorite plummeted through the Earth's atmosphere, fracturing and showering the Earth with mysterious green space dust. Unbeknownst to mankind, the alien rock gave inert plant and fungal life the power to walk, talk, and think..."

We learn the background story for *Mushroom Men: The Spore Wars* early on as we began our journey as Pax, a mushroom given life by an alien meteor who is now on a quest to stop the war that has broken out between the other mushroom species.

You see, some spores have given in to the dark side and seek power over the others. Pax, while small and humble, has mysterious powers the others do not, and is therefore thrust into the role of reluctant hero.

The narration of the back story is hilarious, with creative writing and spectacular detail. Pax's physical world is just as thoughtful and unique; the environments are rich in color and full of hidden areas.

Game play is not extremely difficult, but not easy either. You have to spend some time searching to find what you need to survive and escape. Within each level are the building blocks for Pax's ever-increasing arsenal, which must be built from disregarded human items such as a toothpick with a thimble on the end. After all materials are gathered, weapons can be made, each more complex than the last.

Enemies are fun to take down, and there is no blood or reality-based violence, so kids should enjoy this one as well as adults.

DEADRISING—Chop Till You Drop

Before I say anything else, let me warn you that this one is for ages 17 and up due to some of the goriest gore I've ever seen.

That said, the gore is not a disturbing kind in this zombie slasher game, it's actually pretty funny. The humor is not an accident; this game was meant to make you laugh while you kill. It's a two-for-one deal if you need to relieve tension, exercising your funny bone and your dark side all in one.

The environment is a combo of the films *Dawn of the Dead*, a classic and scary zombie/horror flick, and *Sean of the Dead*, one of the funniest films ever made with just as much gore. If you love these films, you'll love this game.

You are Frank West, freelance photojournalist dropped by helicopter onto the

roof of a mall in Colorado. Game play takes place inside and around the mall, just like *Dawn of the Dead*. There are missions, but for the most part Frank is free to roam about, using anything and just about everything around him to fend off zombie fiends.

Guns are earned, and they're pretty cool, but the best weapons are all around you; mannequins, skateboards—to ride and kill with, benches, bikes... the list is endless. One of my favorites is a classic killer-for-humans-gone-rabid: the chainsaw, a shiny red one is included in this game as an homage to the great Ash of the *Evil Dead* movies and video games. You can find a few in the hardware store... as Ash says,

"Shop smart, shop S-mart."

Happy Hunting!

