

MAKING LIFE MORE FUN

Multiplayer Video Game Brings Traditional Board Games Into The 21st Century

(NAPSA)—People have turned to board games for fun since the beginning of civilization. The “Royal Game of Ur” was played as long ago as 3,000 B.C. Board games have been found in ancient Egyptian tombs, presumably placed there for afterlife entertainment.

Even ancient Romans, Greeks and Egyptians played board games that are still popular today, such as backgammon, checkers, dominos and chess. For centuries, the attraction of board games has been universal—crossing geographic, cultural and age boundaries.

According to Jeffery Goldstein, Ph.D., professor at the University of Utrecht’s Department of Social and Organizational Psychology, board games provide a democratizing function, giving people of all ages and skill levels a chance to win. Dr. Goldstein also contends that, throughout history, board games have served as a metaphor for life in society.

For example, agricultural societies who were at the mercy of flood, drought and other natural disasters enjoyed games of chance, such as backgammon. Meanwhile, people in industrial societies, who felt they controlled their own destinies, preferred games of strategy, such as checkers or chess. During America’s Great Depression in the 1930s, Monopoly was introduced, providing an escape where one could acquire wealth and property by rolling the dice. As societies change, so do board games. In the ’70s and ’80s when video games burst onto the scene, some people thought it would be the end of the traditional board game.

Today, kids, teens and grown-ups alike love to gather around the screen for some friendly competition.

A multiplayer video game such as Nintendo’s new *Mario Party 4* for Nintendo Gamecube provides the best of two worlds: the camaraderie and interaction of traditional board games with the fast



You can spend a fun-filled day with Mario and his friends.

paced excitement of modern electronic entertainment. Multiplayer video games such as *Mario Party 4* provide quality playtime as well as foster communication and exchange between players in a lighthearted, relaxed atmosphere. Multiplayer video games bring members of different generations and backgrounds together. Even if a family member or friend has never played a Mario game before, the various player levels, individual handicaps and variety of games make *Mario Party 4* the perfect game for everyone to enjoy.

Fifty all-new mini-games, which include racing games, target-shooting games, and games of chance, are designed to get your competitive juices flowing. With various play scenarios, four players can pair off, all four can compete, you can break up into one-on-one contests, and much more.

“We need play like we need sleep,” says Dr. Goldstein. With *Mario Party 4*, the wildest multiplayer get-together Nintendo has ever thrown, there will be little sleep, but lots of play. We’ve seen game board play has survived and thrived through the centuries. No doubt if King Tut were alive today, the boy king would choose *Mario Party 4* for a royal party in the pyramid. *Mario Party 4* is available for the Nintendo GameCube at any software store or electronics outlet. You can learn more at www.nintendo.com.