

# Fantasy game conjures up medieval romance

by DAN DILLON

To its aficionados, it's affectionately known as D and D.

To the uninitiated, it's a labyrinth of confusing twists and turns dictated by one player who the others think of as a god. Which he apparently is — in the game — because he holds the fate of the others in his hand.

Nevertheless, Dungeons and Dragons has nestled into the subconscious of enough game players that it has established a worldwide following in less than 10 years. The labyrinth can be straightened out for willing Sandy residents beginning tonight, Jan. 22, when an ongoing game is begun at the Sandy Community School trailer at 7 p.m.

It will be ongoing assuredly, because two of the coordinators spent six months on the first game they ever played.

Bryan Zimmerman and Jack Harris caught the bug from Bryan's older brother, Tim, "a game fanatic," according to Bryan. Six months later, they had completed their first dungeon and begun what can be a lifelong pursuit of experience points and control of a worldwide network of D and D fanatics.

"I think a lot of people are going to be D and D addicts after this class," Zimmerman said.

In its most basic sense, Dungeons and Dragons is a fantasy, role-playing game for adults 12 years old and up. Each player creates a character who may be such things as a dwarf, human fighter or cleric. The



Chip Jones and Bryan Zimmerman warmed up with Dungeonmaster Jack Harris this week for tonight's inaugural session of Dungeons and Dragons. The figures at right represent players and the monsters they encounter.

characters are then plunged into an adventure in a series of dungeons, tunnels and secret rooms run by the Dungeonmaster, or referee.

The dungeons are filled with untold evils and fortunes. As the players engage in game after game, their characters grow in power and ability.

The game is limited only by the imagination of the players and the inventiveness of the Dungeonmaster who designs the dungeons. The results of combat are

resolved by rolling special dice. Death is elimination from the game, loss of all gained experience points and the unhappy task of beginning at level one.

And the players get caught up in the game.

"Later on we get talking about it like it's a real experience," Harris said.

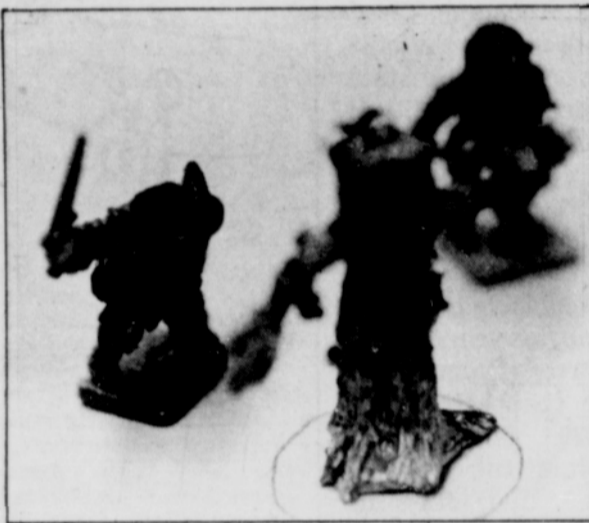
He'll serve as Dungeonmaster in the Community School game and said it is well within his realm to drop a few hints if he doesn't like what the players are doing and

bump them off if they keep it up.

That possibility doesn't set well with his two classmates at Cedar Ridge School who have spent months gaining levels of experience.

"I don't know," said Zimmerman who after 18 months is a fourth level player, "sometimes it's not very good."

Like if your friend zaps you in a friendly game of Dungeons and Dragons and sends you back to square one right in the middle of your quest to build a castle.



Photos by Dan Dillon

# Expert outlines senior legislation

Nursing homes are home for 13,000 people in Oregon. The average person there is 79 years old and female. And if you are 60 years or older, your chances are one in five that you, too, will be a resident of a nursing home someday.

So says Cecil Posey, president of the United Seniors, a coalition of organizations concerned with the rights of senior adults in Oregon.

Posey talked to senior citizens at the Gresham Senior Center Friday about legislation United Seniors plans to support in the 1981 session of the Oregon Legislature.

Three major areas concern seniors most, Posey says, economic security, health and security such as freedom from crime and abuse.

"Our primary interest is to keep secure property tax relief. We want to keep people in their homes and out of institutional care settings. Income tax relief gives little back to seniors because most of us (seniors) do not earn much income," explained the 71-year-old former lobbyist with the Oregon Education Association.

Other important legislation United Seniors will support this session include:

— Continued funding for Oregon Project Independence, a program designed to keep the elderly living in their own homes by providing programs like weatherization, telephone contact and homemaking help.

— Increased tax credit to those who provide home care for an elderly person.

— Provide for a long-term ombudsman for seniors. This would include the provision that the Health division can act upon the complaints.

— Increasing retired public employees income by more than the standard two percent each year.

— Requiring group insurance issued in other states meet Oregon standards.

— Requiring the posting of signs to indicate handicapped parking spots.

In addition to Posey's talk, Terry Ann Rogers, a lobbyist for Citizens' Coalition for Better Nursing Home Care, explained nine bills she will introduce this session to improve care in Oregon's 199 nursing homes.

Of major importance, she said, is a bill to prohibit discrimination against Medicaid patients.

"Medicaid patients stay an average of 10 days longer in a hospital before being trans-

ferred to a nursing home than do private paying patients," Rogers said.

And, she added, when private pay patients exhaust their funds, and switch to Medicaid to meet nursing home expenses, they are often transferred out of the facility.

Rogers will also lobby for passage of a bill that will require nursing homes provide their financial records to the public to determine where public funding is spent. The bill will also require annual summaries of complaints and penalties against the nursing home be made public.

"This will, we hope, improve care in terms of actually making nursing homes compete because then the public would be able to see a report of their care," Rogers said.

Much of the legislation Rogers plans to introduce concerns nurse's aides in nursing homes, the "primary providers of care," she said. "Nurse's aides are traditionally poor quality with high turnover," she said.

One bill would raise the minimum wage for nurse's aides to the same wages a nurse's aide receives in a hospital. Another would require that aides receive

standard testing before certification, and if because of poor care, an aide could also be decertified.

"There is no way now to decertify a nurse's aide. If an aide is cited for patient abuse, she can just quit that job and go to another care center. There is no uniform way now to check credentials," Rogers said.

Although the state requires that nursing homes be inspected on a regular basis, the only program training investigators is a one-week federal course.

"There are 1,500 regulations nursing homes must comply with and that's quite mind-boggling. But surveyors get only one week of training. What this bill would do is upgrade training

of surveyors so, for example, we won't have a sanitarian looking at a facility's social services program," Rogers said.

Both Posey and Rogers said the success of their bills is tied to good testimony when the bills are in the legislative committees.

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## Frequent burglaries plague Boring couple

BORING — Julie and Rich Hager are hoping their neighbors will help them out a little.

The Hagers, 12815 SE School Ave., have been the victims of two burglaries in seven weeks. And they suspect the same group of local teenagers in both incidents.

During the first burglary, which occurred about 2:30 a.m. Dec. 1, Julie's car was stripped of its tape deck and stereo and \$2,000-worth of tools and small motors was taken from their garage, she said.

During the second burglary, which occurred about 7 p.m. Sunday, all of Rick's work tools, a large black tool box, several appliance parts and other items were stolen from inside the canopy of their pick-up truck, she said. The truck was parked at their home.

The loss, which could be much more than in the previous theft, may not be covered by insurance, she said.

This doesn't count the time their home was broken into on Jan. 4. Apparently the Hagers returned home in time to scare off the intruders, because they found nothing missing, she said.

Julie, 26, believes the Jan. 4 break-in and Sunday's burglary could have been prevented if neighbors in the

area had been more alert. "We have neighbors here close... but people just don't watch," she said. "We try to watch out for everything. If other people would do that, I think that really would have saved us."

The Hagers' back door was left open following the Jan. 4 break-in. "If someone had noticed, who knows, maybe they would have been caught," she said.

Sunday, a neighbor noticed that lights left on in the Hager home had been turned off but apparently did nothing about it, she said. It was her children, at a babysitter's home across the street, who noticed a teenage boy carrying a box of tools into a light-colored, 1966-model Ford, she said. They then alerted their parents, who were attending a dance at the Boring Grange a few blocks away.

The same light-colored Ford was connected to three other theft reports Sunday, Julie said. Sgt. Pat Reed, a detective with the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office, could not confirm that, Monday but he did say there are suspects in the Hager case.

"If people would get together and report anything suspicious, it would really help," Julie said. "They'd be helping themselves."

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Dale Edwards Church Phone  
PASTOR 668-5589

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