

Chill, Shadowrun among events

Gaming convention to be held

By NICOLE SUBRIZI
Staff Writer

Sorcerers, super heroes and war commanders will come together this weekend as the Round Table Gaming Society holds its 6th annual convention at USC.

The convention agenda is set as a complete weekend of board and role-playing games. Anyone can compete in a maximum of four games in return for a \$7 dollar registration fee.

"We'll basically be playing games all weekend," Society Convention Coordinator Trella Cherry said.

The convention begins Friday with a rules session and the first two rounds of competition. Competition rounds three through 16 will be Saturday, and the final round will be Sunday.

"Anyone who has an interest in board games and role-playing games is welcome — all you need is interest," society member Erik Nimz said. "Anybody who has at one time or another enjoyed gaming would have a perfect opportunity to get reacquainted with it."

Several games will be offered during each round. Board games such as Diplomacy, Ameoba Wars and Battlesystem, and role-playing games like Chill, Pendragon and Villians and Vigilantes are single-round events. Tournament competitions will run for a series of rounds. The convention will offer Advanced Dungeons and Dragons, Shadowrun, Champions RPG, The Best Friend train game and Avalon Hill Classics Wars Games tournaments.

Cherry said role-playing games require the player to assume the role of a character in the games. For example, Shadowrun characters "make livings in shadows," Champions characters are super heroes and Best Friend characters build and sell train lines, she said.



"It's basically problem-solving a lot of the times," she said.

Cherry expects a strong turnout for the Shadowrun tournament. "Shadowrun is a new game that's really hot right now," she said.

Shadowrun is a role-playing game set in the year 2050. Science has progressed to the point where computers are equivalent to the human mind, and magic has been reinstated in society. The combination of high technology and high sorcery sets the

Nimz wrote a 147-page script for the Shadowrun tournament at the convention. In his script, the players are hired to deliver a package and the delivery does not go as smoothly as foreseen, he said.

The society expects 100 to 150 people to attend the convention. Cherry said that as of March, people from Clemson, Aiken and even Tennessee had registered. A Canadian may be coming for the Best Friend train game, she said. The convention has been adver-

tised in *Dragon*, a gaming magazine, since January.

"I think that we are going to have a first-rate small convention this year," Nimz said. He hopes the conventions will continue to improve and get bigger over the years.

Anyone interested in attending the convention should either contact Cherry (779-1924) or attend registration Friday at 4 p.m. in Russell House. Registration will continue throughout the weekend.

Ex-coach recalls grand ole times

By DAVID BOWDEN
Viewpoint Editor

Pat Riley, one of the greatest coaches in NBA history, was at the Koger Center Thursday night, presenting his speech "Staying One Step Ahead of the Posse."

Riley gave an interview with local press before his speech, answering questions about his career in the NBA and his future plans.

Riley is a gregarious man, obviously accustomed to being interviewed. He was candid about coaching and his new career at NBC since his retirement from the NBA in June 1990.

When asked what it felt like to be out of coaching, Riley said, "The first Lakers game I saw (after retirement), I looked down and said 'Who the hell is that guy coaching my team?'" (referring to new Lakers coach Mike Dunleavy, a former player at USC). Riley had been with the Lakers for 22 years as a player and coach.

Of all his NBA statistics (including the highest winning percentage of any coach in history and the most playoff wins of any coach), Riley said he was most proud of the team's almost constant victories.

"If you talk about winning, there is only one thing; there is no difference between winning and success. I think winning championships is the ultimate," he said. The Lakers had 13 playoff appearances and six NBA championships when he was with them, including four championships with him as head coach.

When asked what characteristics made him a successful coach, Riley humbly replied, "What characteristics made me a successful coach? Magic Johnson. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. I think I learned the job. I learned just like anybody else; I had a role."

The dapperly dressed coach turned serious when he talked about why he was giving this speaking tour. "We are just getting out of what I call the Decade of the Disease of More. The stock market... the homeless, crime, one thing after another. There was not very good leadership in the '80s, and now we have an opportunity to do something about it."

When another reporter asked the inevitable question of whether he was through with coaching, Riley responded, "I think so. I really do."

Unless everything really just goes down the tubes... I've got a full plate right now."

Sports Illustrated recently quoted star Laker guard Magic Johnson as saying that he one day wants to buy the team. Riley said Johnson "would be an excellent owner. I think he will probably someday get in if he could... I don't know if he has that kind of bread yet."

Rumors are flying about another Laker player as well. *The National* was reporting that forward James Worthy might be traded to another team. Riley said it was just that, rumor.

He went on to say, "That's the ultimate contradiction about teaching players what it is to be part of a team. You have to teach loyalty and trust... on the other hand, the player gives that kind of loyalty and that kind of trust and then he reads his name in the paper that he might get traded... There isn't anybody above getting traded because it is a business."

As for the future of his successor Mike Dunleavy, Riley said, "I don't know... the jury is out. He is a competitor. He was a lot like me; we were sort of journeymen players, never really the stars of the league, but we contributed."

"He is very bright, he understands the game, and I think when Jerry West (the owner of the Lakers) picked him, there were a lot of the qualities he saw in some of the other people who have played for the Lakers and coached for the Lakers." Riley also said Dunleavy is probably more popular in South Carolina now that he is coach of the L.A. Lakers than when he played at the university.

Riley predicted that there was no way the NBA champion Detroit Pistons would win three straight crowns if Isiah Thomas didn't return for the playoffs.

As for the defending NCAA national champion UNLV Runnin' Rebels, Riley was a little off in his prognostication: "I don't think anybody's going to beat UNLV. If they were to be beaten, it would have been earlier in the NCAA playoffs."

He did state his opinion on the controversy over whether or not UNLV could play at the professional level: "They're a talented ball club, they would win a few games, but only three out of 82."

Campus tour guides enjoy job

By AMY BARCOMB
Staff Writer

The Carolina Tour Guide Association has just completed its first year as a student organization at USC.

"It's still very much a fledgling activity," Scott King, the organization's adviser, said. "Next year we'll get student activity fees, and we hope to add little things like T-shirts and name tags for the tour guides to make them more prestigious."

The Carolina Tour Guide Association conducts 10 scheduled tours a week, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. during the school year, and five tours a week during the summer only at 10 a.m. because of the heat.

Normally 15 people go on each tour, and spring is their busiest time of the year, King said. With 35 students in the association, there are enough guides that each student only gives one or two tours a month

depending on the schedule.

Corey Cushing, a broadcasting junior, has been with the association since its beginning in January 1990. He was the association's vice president this past year.

Cushing decided to join the association because the tour he went on before coming to USC was what sold him on the university, he said.

"It's fun to show off the university and everything it has to offer," he said. "It also gives me a good chance to meet different people I might not otherwise have a chance to meet."

The campus tours offer prospective students a chance to see what life at USC is really like, history junior Monica Zein said.

"A tour of the campus is the first connection with the school for most students from out of town," she said.

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