

# War machines, dragons invade campus

By JOHN BRASHER  
Campus Reporter

This weekend panzer tank divisions, ironclads, space fighters, nuclear bombs and hundreds of soldiers will descend upon the Texas A&M University campus.

It's all part of Warcon '80, a wargame and hobby convention organized by the Texas A&M Gromets and funded by the Memorial Student Center Recreation Committee.

The Gromets (Games Replication of Military, Economic and Tactical Situations) have staged the convention at Texas A&M for the past couple of years and it has grown to become the largest annual war games convention in Texas and surrounding states.

John Westover, Gromets chairman, said the convention has always been held at Texas A&M because the University has the facilities to house the events and the manpower and funding to sponsor a convention of this nature.

"The structure of the convention is divided into dealers and guests who demonstrate and market their war games and other products such as models, miniature trains and other

crafts," Westover said. "At the same time, we have about 230 people registered to sit down at the tables and play the various games," he said.

The war games are divided into two categories: board games and role-playing games.

"The board games consist of units of war machines and people, with each unit having its own designation of movement, power and strength. Each piece is moved around, like in a chess game, and the goal is to defend your borders, destroy or capture your opponent's pieces or capture

his country," Westover said.

Board games include ironclad ship battles, panzer tank engagements, starfleet battles, nuclear warfare and various other combat engagements.

The role-playing games require the players to use their imagination and act out the events.

"The player puts himself into the role of a person in an actual event. No boards are used and the idea is to predict what your challenger will do and try to out-think him," Westover said.

The role-playing games include

Epilogue, an-adventure set in the post-Armageddon days, and The Fantasy Trio, a medieval approach to warfare.

The most popular and fastest growing of the role-playing games is Dungeons and Dragons, based on Western mythology. It puts players against various monsters and traps while they seek treasures and magical items.

Westover said the manufacturers of the games research the weapons thoroughly to find out which ones fly faster, shoot farther, maneuver the

best, and cause the most damage. The results are then gathered and the specifications are listed for each military piece.

Westover said people from all walks of life participate in the games and the only prerequisite is that the player have a knowledge of the time period of the game.

"We have kids 12 years old who compete against high school students, teams from other universities, professors and people who play for a hobby."

A special miniature collection of detailed antique British soldiers worth over \$3,600 will be featured at the convention, along with other objects that don't pertain to war.

Seminars on different aspects of war games will be conducted with war films, documentaries, demonstrations, model contests and microcomputer displays.

Warcon '80 will be in the MSC Rudder Tower beginning at 10 a.m. through Sunday. There is a \$2 entrance fee for anyone who wants to attend the convention.

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## Black bass catch sets Texas record

United Press International  
PITTSBURG, Texas — Sure, sure, it was a nice-sized fish. The biggest he had ever caught. But a record? Naw, it couldn't be a record.

But then this guy boated by and happened to see the fish. "Say, that's bigger than the one I caught a couple of years ago, and I hold the lake record."

Jimmy Kimbell eyeballed the stranger, and then took another look at the black bass swimming around in the livewell of his boat. Well, it was

pretty big, he decided.

Ah, what the heck. He headed back to the dock at Lake Monticello. There was a little bait shop down the road where he had weighed fish before.

Just curious. No harm in throwing it on the scales.

When he walked in the door, the lady behind the counter gave out a loud yelp.

"I've told this story so many times I'm getting tired of it," laughed Kimbell, who Saturday became the new

owner of the state's record for the biggest bass catch.

"I knew the state record was 13 something, but when we put it on the scales and the needle jumped past 14, I knew I had it."

A few furious phone calls later the area Parks and Wildlife warden was standing over Kimbell's shoulder, eyeing the scales. The final, certified measurement was 14 pounds, 1 1/2 ounces — 9 1/2 ounces more than the previous record.

"At the time I caught it I didn't

have any vision of it being a state record," he said. "I knew it was a good fish, but not a record. I had never seen a 14-pounder before."

Since Saturday, the automobile service department manager said he had gotten many phone calls of congratulations and had been asked time and time again to repeat the tale of the catch.

"I had gone out about 8:15 (a.m.) to do some crappie fishing. I wasn't having any luck so I switched to bass. It'd been at it about half an hour be-

fore she struck."

The huge black bass was a Florida variety stocked into Lake Monticello in 1974. The East Texas lake is comparatively warm waters help Florida fish grow large, but the Parks and Wildlife Department said 8-pounders were considered unusual.

Kimbell said the female fish loaded with eggs currently was in deep freeze and soon would be deeped off at the taxidermist.

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## U.S., Mexico to agree on future spill action

United Press International  
HOUSTON — Without agreeing on liability of history's worst oil spill, Mexico and the United States will sign documents within the next 60 days specifying the action each will take in the event of another well blowout, U.S. Ambassador-at-large Robert Krueger said Thursday.

Krueger cited the expected agreement as one of several recent signs of cooperation between Mexico and the

United States.

Krueger said the agreement will require the immediate notification of the other party in the event of a well blowout or tanker spill and includes methods by which the response teams of each nation will be governed.

"Mexico would like very much to cap Ixtoc I," Krueger said. "They have put a great deal of effort into it. It has been the largest oil spill on

record and clearly any reading of public statements and press accounts (from Mexico) would indicate that they want very urgently to cap the well."

"We were told about two weeks ago that they thought that within three weeks they'd probably have the well capped."

"I did, for example, hear back in August that they thought then that they would be able in September to cap the oil and that didn't turn out to be accurate."

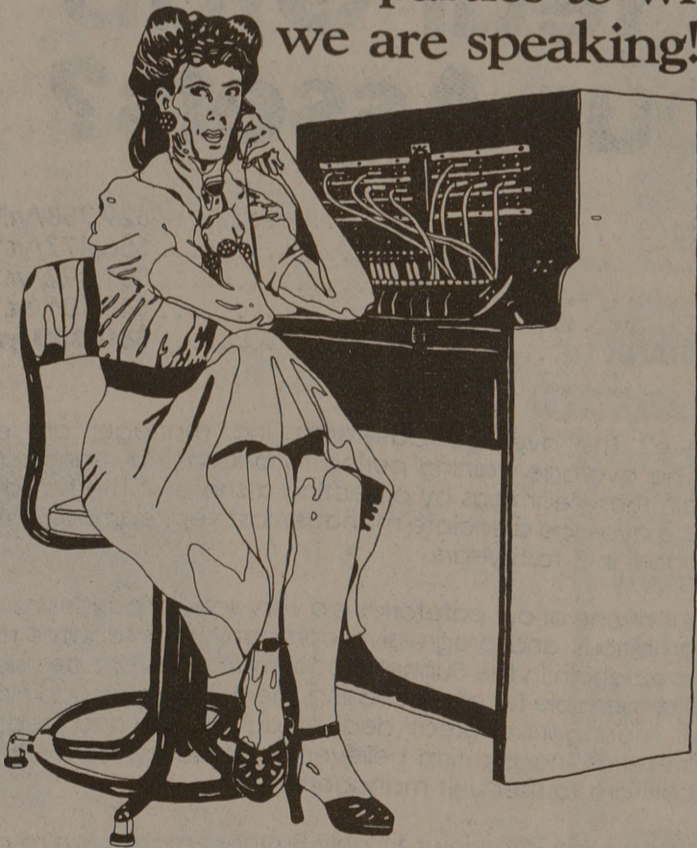
Krueger said the 8-month-old spill of Campeche had "ruffled feathers" on both sides of the border — "on this side because of damaged people have suffered and on the other side because of the possibility of legal action."

Damage suits in excess of \$30 million have been filed since the spill, though none have been decided.

Krueger said the Carter administration felt from the first days after the spill that it would be beneficial to confer with Mexican government representatives about cleanup liability.

In addition to the expected oil spill agreement, Krueger cited the purchase of an additional 4.8 million tons of U.S. grain by Mexico after Carter embargoed the sale of grain to the Soviet Union and Mexico's co-authorship of the United Nations resolution condemning the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan as signs of stable, friendly relations between the North American neighbors.

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