

# Laser video game targeted to boost slumping industry

by Tim Ward

**Battalion Reporter**  
When Dirk the Daring enters the castle and slays the dragons with his swift sword, he may not only save Princess Daphnia but also the video game business.

A new laser video game, "Dragon's Lair," may be just what the doctor ordered to help the slumping video game business, says Ross Todaro Jr. of Todaro Amusement and Vending Service.

Cinematronics Inc., in California, developed the new game in hopes of boosting video game sales and interests, he said.

Todaro said "Dragon's Lair" is the first video game to use a laser recorded disk and a video playback machine.

"What they've done is eliminate a lot of chips and transistors and put the information on a laser disk," Todaro said. "An image is projected from the disk to a television-type screen. The player is really watching the video playback of a cartoon."

The Memorial Student Center game room received one of the video games last Thursday. There are 20 of the dragon games in Texas, and Texas A&M's is the only one between Houston and Dallas.

Texas A&M was chosen as a site for the game because of the great access to young college students, he said.

"Cinematronics wanted this game played and tested by college students," Todaro said. "The video skills of A&M students are very high, and I believe if the game were tested in any other location I wouldn't be doing the manufacturers justice."

Todaro said the laser video game costs twice as much as the regular games and may be a gamble to buy.

"These games are for testing and may become popular right now and then fade away," he said. "They cost about \$4,800, and we don't know if they will pay for themselves. Because of the slump, that's a gamble we must take."

## Texas climber's body recovered on Monday

**United Press International**  
ASPEN, Colo. — Pitkin County authorities have recovered the body of a hiker who fell 800 feet down the east face of North Maroon Peak near Aspen during the weekend.

The sheriff's office identified the victim as "Champ" Wesley Baron of Conroe, Texas.

Undersheriff Don Davis says it appeared Baron tipped backwards and was unable to regain his balance because of his heavy backpack. Officers in a helicopter recovered his body Monday.

Davis said Baron and his companion were not roped together because the terrain was not difficult.

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Legs up!

staff photo by Brenda Lay on char

John Marion, a junior electrical engineering major from Houston, keeps in shape doing leg lifts by the aerobics track. In addition to the track, there are several monkey bars and chin-up bars around the aerobics track for warming up or cooling down.

## Energy efficient design to cut greenhouse costs

by Yvonne Cuzick

**Battalion Reporter**  
An energy efficient greenhouse design is being extensively tested at Texas A&M.

Dr. C. H. M. Van Bavel, soil and crop sciences professor, along with other researchers,

has found that by running water over the greenhouse roof, heating and cooling costs can be cut, making the fluid-roof design more economical.

The roof is made of blue-green heat absorbing glass, which makes the entire green-

house into an active solar collector, Van Bavel says.

During the summer, the glass allows 66 percent of light to enter the greenhouse but only 24 percent of the radiation.

During the winter, the house can be heated by running hot water through the tubing placed six inches above the surface or by running water over the roof.

Not only does the new cut heating and cooling, but it also reduces plantpiration, a key measure of by at least 50 percent enables the plants to take in carbon dioxide which increases production levels, Van Bavel says.

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