


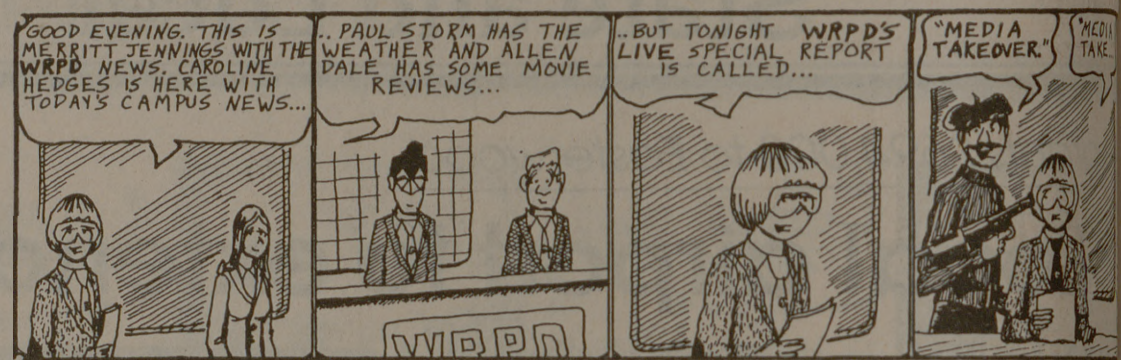
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Warped

by Scott McCull



A&M researcher plays Soviet in U.S. government war game

By SCOTT SUTHERLAND
Staff Writer

A Texas A&M researcher has been playing the role of Russia in a Star Wars game with the U.S. Military.

Dr. Richard Thomas, head of the Center for Strategic Technology Research, says the center participated as a member of the red team in a Department of Defense drill.

The drill was designed to test a satellite's ability to knock down Soviet ICBM's before they can strike their targets in the United States and to explore the Soviets' ability to shoot down a satellite, Thomas says.

When the defense department is considering a new weapon, it assembles red, white and blue teams, which compete in a war game acting as Soviet and American forces.

The red and blue teams were composed of military officers and engineers from private industry. Thomas was the only University professor involved in the games.

The white team, the Rand Corporation, served as the umpire of the game.

Since the game is based on simulated warfare, the white team makes sure each team's responses are documented. It also chooses the winner when the game is completed.

The blue team — acting as the U.S. military — deploys the satellite weapon, while the red team — the Soviets — tries to knock it down.

Thomas says the group relied on Soviet military reports and papers written by Soviet officers to second-guess what the Soviet Union would do. He says this military doctrine is considered a highly reliable source for researchers.

Thomas says Soviet military officers write about their plans and ideas quite extensively. And because of the Soviet military's highly cen-

When the defense department is considering a new weapon, it assembles teams, which compete in a war game acting as Soviet and American forces.

tralized chain of command, these papers are considered Soviet military policy, Thomas says.

Thomas adds that the Soviets have written about a space-based defense plan for the past 20 years.

"The Soviets regard space as the high ground in battle," Thomas says, "and they understand whoever controls that high ground has the advantage in a confrontation."

President Reagan labeled this satellite system "Strategic Defense Initiative" during a speech in March of 1985. In that speech, Reagan asked Congress to appropriate funds for further research and development of SDI.

However, Congress was skeptical about a satellite system that could hit a moving target from great distances. One congressman called it "nothing more than a billion dollar pipe dream."

But Thomas says he feels the system is workable and SDI is hardly a pipe dream.

"I think we can have something in the sky within 10 years," Thomas says. "The most important thing we have to decide is what type of system we want to use."

A great deal of the debate over the feasibility of a space-based defense has centered over the question of what type of firing system will be used.

Not all of the weapons had pleas-

ing results in their ability to defend against nuclear attack, Thomas says. The results of the game are mixed, but Thomas says that he has a better idea of what system is best.

Thomas says the real objective of the game is to determine the reliable and cost-effective system the United States. In effect, he says, the real winner of the game is the American people, because the game helps direct constructive energy in one direction.

Thomas also says the Soviet doctrine he has researched provides evidence that the Soviets have been working on their own system.

And, he says, their surprise we have begun extensive research on our system is just a front.

"The Soviets have known quite some time that we have been working on a space system, we've known about theirs," Thomas says. "It's just when they hear the president say we are going to do more research that they get worried."

Thomas also says the Soviets are slightly ahead of us in SDI research but not so far ahead that we can't catch them. Once the Soviet American technology is revealed, Thomas says he believes we will pass them.

And Thomas says he is convinced that the Soviets' fear of our technological might is the reason for their antics at Geneva.

"It's no secret that the Soviets are ahead of us in space-based research, but they don't want to compete with us at this stage," Thomas says. "Anything they do to stall us works to their advantage," he says. "They don't want us to beat them at SDI the way we beat the moon."

Mexico aid plan to be presented

By MEG CADIGAN
Staff Writer

International Student Association President Luis Rodriguez and the president of the Mexican Student Association will present plans of aid for Mexican earthquake victims to the Memorial Student Center Council today.

The council will hold its fourth regular meeting in 216T MSC at 7 p.m.

President Denis Davis will announce the appointment of two new council members, Executive Vice President for Marketing and Person-

nel Robert Bisor and Vice President of Finance Perry Eichor.

Also, Joe Acosta recently was named chairman of CAMAC, Committee for Awareness of Mexican/American Culture.

Executive Vice President for Programs David Klosterboer and Vice President for Development Jill Thrash will be giving reports to the council.

Thrash's report will cover a recent Enrichment Fund Board Meeting. The board has not met for the last 18 months because they had few solid agenda items and were more concerned with day-to-day functioning, Thrash said.

Student Government's goals for the year also will be presented to the council.

Several MSC leadership positions are still open, according to a council memo:

- Vice President for Cultural Programs.
- Director of Operations Planning and Research.
- Director of Financial Planning and Analysis.
- Amateur Radio Chairman.
- International Program Committee Chairman.

Anyone interested in these positions should contact Davis or Bisor.

MSC POLITICAL FORUM

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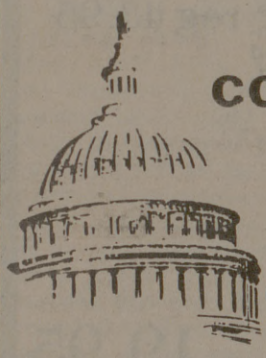
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