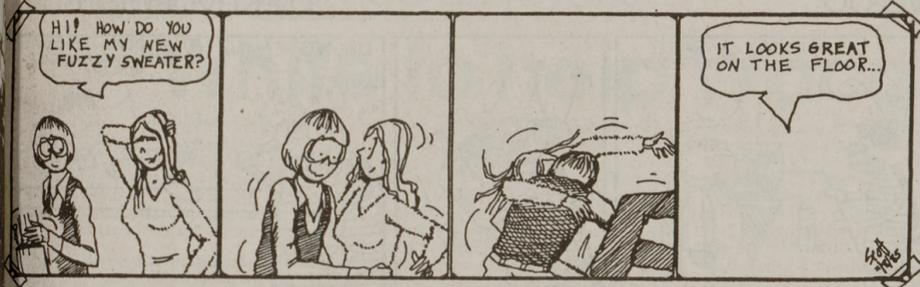


Warped

by Scott McCullar



Vets Day

B-CS American Legion post to hold ceremony on drill field

By TAMARA BELL  
Staff Writer

Veterans Day will be remembered at Texas A&M Monday in a ceremony on the General Ormand R. Simpson Drill Field at 11 a.m. Don Simons, Commander of Earl Graham Post No. 159 of the American Legion in Bryan-College Station, says the ceremony is an opportunity for students, faculty and staff to say they're proud to be an American. "Last year was the first year since 1946 that veterans in Bryan-College Station sponsored a combined community-wide event," Simons says. "This is the second year the program's been held at A&M, it was at Kyle Field last year, so who knows, it could become a new tradition." The program will begin with a speech by Herb Odell, the depart-

ment commander for the American Legion department of Texas. Odell will speak on the significance of Veterans Day. A flag that has flown over every military cemetery where Aggies are represented will fly over A&M during the ceremony, Simons says. The flag was given to the Legion last year by then Congressman Phil Gramm, Simons says. It has flown over the U.S. Capitol and the Arlington National Cemetery near the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It also has flown over the Pointe du Hoc in France where Gen. James Earl Rudder led U.S. Rangers ashore in 1944. The American National Cemetery in Manila, Philippines; Corrigador, where the first Aggie Muster occurred, and the Punch Bowl in Honolulu are other locations where the

flag has flown, Simons says. "Every war conflict in the 20th century, the two world wars, Korea and Vietnam, are represented by this flag," Simons says. "The flag was presented to President Frank Van-diver by us (the Legions) during last year's ceremony. Corps Commandant Donald Burton has given us permission to use the flag in this year's program." In addition to the Legion and the Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 159, Simons says the program also will be sponsored by the Brazos County Post No. 4692 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies' Auxiliary, the American GI Forum, the Reserve Officers Association, the Retired Officers Association, the Ag-gieland Air Force Association and the Disabled American Veterans.

Nova hosting convention for local 'gamers'

By JENS B. KOEPKE  
Senior Staff Writer

MSC Nova will host a convention this weekend on the fourth floor of Rudder Tower in which local "gamers" will compete in role-playing games and wargames. NOVACON I begins at 11 p.m. Saturday with registration. Game competition starts at 1 p.m. and continues through 3 p.m. Sunday. "We're trying to give local gamers a taste of gaming conventions before WARCON in the spring," said Steven Grape, student development officer of MSC Nova. WARCON is an annual gaming convention which attracts representatives from all over the country. It will be held Feb. 7-9. NOVACON was developed to provide local gamers an opportunity to experience a gaming convention before the larger WARCON and to give the committee a major fall event, Grape said.

Participants will compete in five different games: Champions, Squad Leader, Microarmor, Starfleet Battles and advanced Dungeons and Dragons. NOVACON will take a break with a Saturday midnight game of Nuclear War, a comedy card game in which players annihilate each other's population cards. Champions is a comic-book game in which four-man teams play out superhero roles and try to stop supervillains, Grape said. Squad leader, on the other hand, is an infantry combat game using World War II infantry units. Another combat game is Microarmor, which is a WWII tank battle between either a German and an American division or a German and a Soviet unit. A second type of Microarmor game involves a simulated WWII battle between American M-1 and Soviet T-74 tanks.

The most popular game among Nova members, Grape said, is Starfleet Battles, a game of starship combat based on the television series "Star Trek." The most popular game nationwide, however, is advanced Dungeons and Dragons, he said. The convention also has a game dealer's room where participants can catch up on all the newest games, Grape said. This provides local gamers an opportunity to find out what games are available in the community and where to buy them.

Professor: Taxpayers need choice

By CRAIG RENFRO  
Staff Writer

American taxpayers should have the choice of investing in Individual Retirement Accounts rather than being forced to contribute to the Social Security system, say Texas A&M accounting professors Dr. Dennis Lasilla and Dr. Karl Putnam. "This is sort of a Yuppie proposal in that it's not to eradicate the Social Security system, but to supplement it, by giving taxpayers more choice, and those who are good at investing can invest in an IRA," Putnam says. "It's purpose is not to eradicate the Social Security system, but to supplement it, by giving taxpayers more choice, and those who are good at investing can invest in an IRA." Lasilla says this proposal is very preliminary and any attempt to implement this would involve a careful study of the potential impact on the Social Security system and federal government revenues. Putnam says, "The Social Security administration wouldn't be in favor

of this. They would see it as skimming the cream." Lasilla says the proposal would reduce revenues taken in by the Social Security system, but it ultimately would reduce the benefits being paid out. The chief benefit of an IRA is the possibility of higher retirement benefits than the Social Security system provides, Lasilla says. Under the current Social Security system, employers hold back 7.05 percent from an employee's wages. Employers are required to pay an additional 7.05 percent. This money is deposited with the federal government into the Social Security fund. "An IRA would allow a worker the option of having that 14.1 percent put into an IRA, rather than put in to the federal government," Lasilla says. The current Social Security system's advantages are that it may be

the only retirement income that some workers may have, and it provides disability benefits, he says. The biggest drawback of the current Social Security system is workers who have a high income will have more money held back in taxes than the benefits they will receive when they retire, Lasilla says. "Our criticism is that higher income workers may not get out of it what they put in," he says. Putnam says it is necessary to go back to the time when the system started to find the root of the Social Security problem. When the system first started, there were 10 workers for every retired person, Putnam says. Now people live longer and there will be only two or three workers for every retired person, he says. "Our proposal gets away from the hand-to-mouth feeding of workers to retiree and allows for investing in an IRA," Putnam says.

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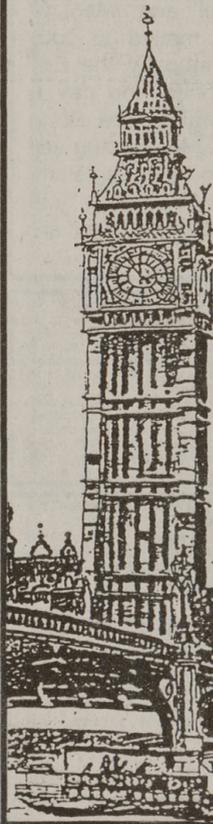
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7:00 p.m.  
MSC 201

Spring Semester in London

The University of Houston has reserved a number of spaces in its London program this spring for students from Texas A&M University.



- ★ Students register for a full-time schedule of classes, taught by British and American professors.
- ★ There are day excursions from London to supplement classroom instruction.
- ★ Classes include English literature, art, art history, Spanish, journalism, radio & TV, and music.
- ★ New suite housing is provided at a reasonable cost in "Houston House."
- ★ There is a ten-day midsemester break for European travel.

For more information:

- ★ Come to the Dean's Office, College of Liberal Arts, 802 Harrington Tower;
- ★ Visit with a representative from the University of Houston's London Program on Monday, November 11, from 11:30 to 2:30 at a table in the MSC.

NOW is the time to sign up — come in right away for details!