

Game relieves tension, frustration

# Central Texans learn 'survival'

Associated Press

LAKE BELTON — On a cold winter morning, a band of a dozen fatigued men take positions in a wooded and briar-patched Texas field, preparing for an assault on an enemy camp.

Some of the "soldiers" will be killed. Others will be wounded.

There hasn't been a surprise, "Red Dawn" attack by communist insurgents. The events are not even part of a Fort Hood military exercise. And in reality, those "killed" and "wounded" will, within an hour, be back in the woods preparing for another assault.

The name of the game is survival. Despite some military trappings, the action is closer to a game of cowboys and Indians than military war games.

Survival games have moved into Central Texas. Participants and sponsors believe the games may become the latest craze, allowing those who play the games to act out any number of scenarios while releasing tension and frustration.

Survival Games of Central Texas Inc. began operation in November and provides participants with 25 acres of rough terrain on which teams and individuals can battle.

"It's a gentleman's game," says Dick Gooch. Gooch and Dr. Dave Webster own and operate Survival Games.

Those involved, however, generally look like anything but gentlemen.

Standard dress is camouflage fatigues. Even the faces of the play-soldiers are camouflaged with paint.

"The games can be as mental or as physical as you want," says Gooch,

owner and operator of The Racquet Club of Temple.

Gooch's partner, Webster, is a family practice doctor in Temple.

"I deal with sick and depressed people all week long," Webster says. "I love to come out here and see these people laughing and smiling."

Gooch says, "It's a great chance to

*"I deal with sick and depressed people all week long. I love to come out here and see these people laughing and smiling."*  
— Dr. Dave Webster, general practitioner, Temple

be a kid again. To capture the flag. To play chess in the woods."

Gooch and Webster had heard about the growing popularity of survival games in other parts of the country and decided it was time to introduce the games to Central Texas.

The carbon dioxide guns propel the 3-inch paint pellets accurately for 10 to 15 yards. When struck by a paint pellet, the "wounded" participant will feel the impact, although, reportedly, there is no pain.

A person hit in the torso below the neck and above the waist is considered killed and must sit out the remainder of the game.

A person hit in another area of the body, such as the legs or arms, is considered wounded and must sit out five minutes at the base camp before getting back into action.

Head shots are illegal and do not

count. All participants are required to wear goggles when they are on the field of action.

Shots that splatter off trees or bushes do not count.

A game ends when a team's flag is captured. If no one captures a flag within one hour, the game is called and the winner is determined by the number of participants "killed" or "wounded."

Participants rent the pistols and receive two ammunition canisters containing 20 rounds, for \$19.

The games generally are played by two teams, each with a maximum of 15 players.

The teams are designated as the Gold Team or the Red Team, with each player wearing a colored ribbon.

The playing field is divided into

*"It gives you something to do on Sunday besides sitting in front of the television watching football."*

— Ken McDonald, welding company employee and leader of the "Wild Bunch."

halves, each with a variety of terrain identified by name on a large map at the base camp.

Gooch and Webster serve as officials for the game. They designate the general area where each team will place its flag. After the design-

ation is made, the teams move out and place their flags.

Once the flags are positioned, the game begins. Each team determines a strategy, such as a mass assault on the opposing flag, or an intensive defense of its own flag.

One team moves through the woods. When the "enemy" is encountered, "gunplay" breaks out.

They contacted the national Survival Games headquarters in Northhampton, N.H. and were granted franchise rights for Bell and McLennan counties.

They leased property near Lake Belton, purchased more than 30 carbon dioxide-powered pistols that shoot exploding paint pellets, and opened their camp for business.

Several survival game teams already have been formed in the Temple area. One team is called the "Wild Bunch," a group of about 12 Temple area men that has become particularly successful.

During a recent weekend excursion, the "Wild Bunch" managed to defeat a team of Fort Hood soldiers.

Ken McDonald, employee of a Temple welding company and leader of the "Wild Bunch," says the majority of his team members are friends who grew up in the Temple area and graduated from the same high school he attended.

McDonald says his team members got hooked the first time they played and now participate virtually every weekend.

"It gives you something to do on Sunday besides sitting in front of the television watching football," McDonald says.

## Drug king isolated for instigating penitentiary brawl

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Reputed drug baron Rafael Caro Quintero will be held in an isolation cell for 30 days as punishment for violent conduct in the Northern Prison, the government newspaper El Nacional reported Tuesday.

Caro Quintero, charged in the murder of U.S. special narcotics agent Enrique Camarena Salazar last year, earlier had been reported in a

weekend brawl.

A photographer from the newspaper Excelsior, however, was allowed inside. Its afternoon editions Tuesday carried a photograph of a smiling Caro Quintero inside the spartan cell, showing no signs of injuries.

A statement from the General Direction of Prisons and Centers of Social Readaptation, carried by the government daily, said Caro Quintero helped trigger an outbreak of vio-

lence among inmates after three guards searched his cell Saturday night.

It said he tried to prevent the surprise search, in which jewels, a color television, wine and other possessions that prisoners are not allowed to have were confiscated.

Caro Quintero did not suffer any serious injuries, the statement said.

Excelsior reported Monday that the guards were trying to find money and valuables rumored to be

in Caro Quintero's room at the prison.

The prisoner's lawyer, Fernando Rojo Coronado said in a complaint filed with a local court that dollars, pesos and jewels worth about \$625,000 were missing from the room after the search.

Antonio Sanchez Galindo, general director of prisons in Mexico City, said luxury items had been available to Caro Quintero because of corruption still lingering within the system.

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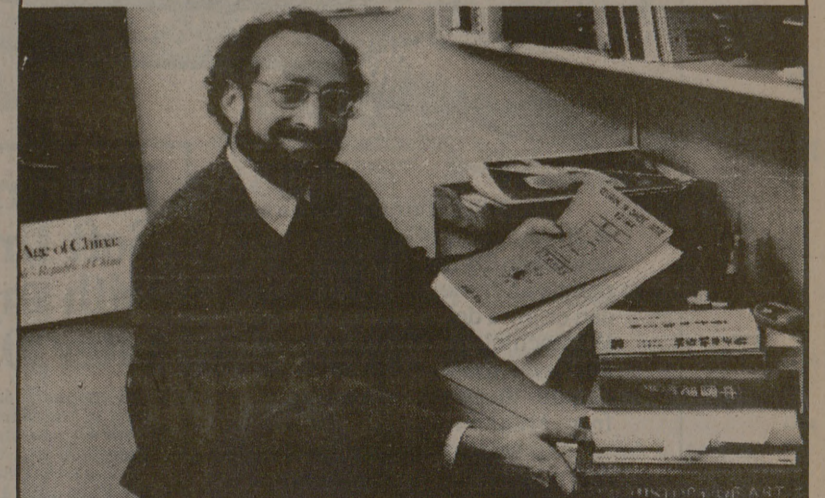
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