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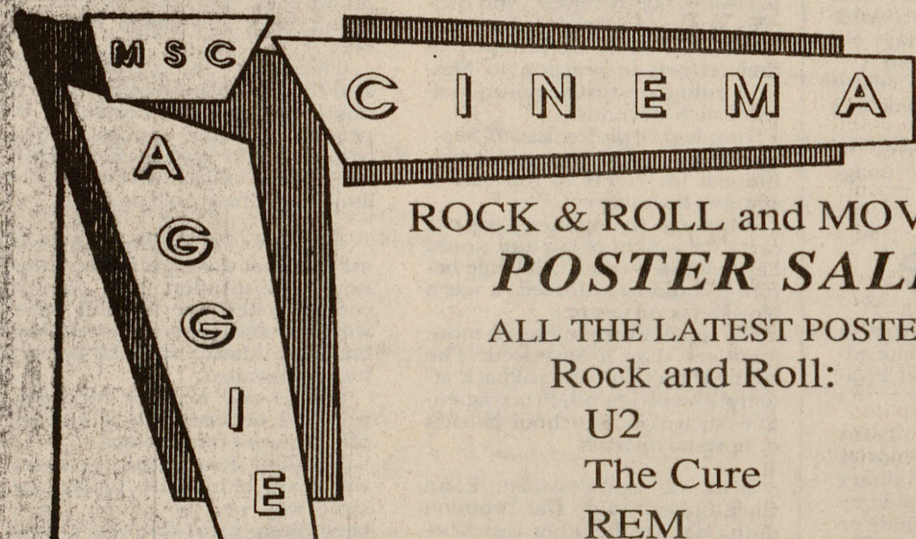
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Mon.-Thurs., Oct. 5-8, 9:30-5:30

Friday, Oct. 9, 9:30-4:00

MSC Main Hallway

# AGGIELAND PHOTOS THIS WEEK

Oct. 5 — Oct. 9

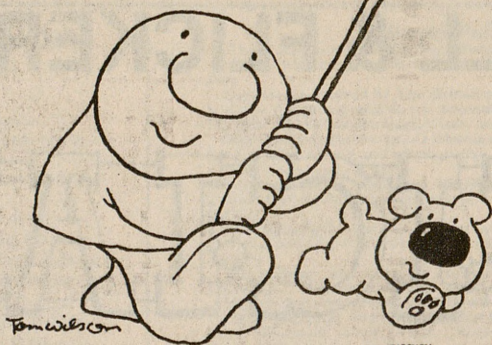
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### Warped



by Scott McCull

### Waldo



by Kevin Thom

## Third Novacon convention attracts more game players

By Deborah L. West  
 Reporter

Attendance was up for this weekend's third annual Novacon wargamers' convention and the participants say the real heat of battle didn't begin until after the organized gaming was over. In fact, many warriors didn't surrender their fantasies until the wee hours of the morning.

"Novacon is really a dress rehearsal for our big spring convention, Warcon," Daralyn Wallace, adviser for the MSC NOVA committee, said. "The spring convention is probably the largest and longest-running gaming convention in the country." The 14th statewide convention will attract about 400 people, she said.

From Friday afternoon to Sunday morning about 65 people played war games, while committee members overseeing the convention communicated by two-way radio. About 20 more people played this time compared to last year, said Tim Gray, a junior computer science major and NOVA member.

"After the organized stuff, the real fun begins," Gray said. "Most people make up their own fantasy role-playing games. Real wargamers understand."

Many participants were doing battle with fictional characters until 2 a.m. on both Saturday and Sunday, said Robert Sanford, vice chairman of convention registration.

Wallace said, "We have everything from medieval to modern warfare games." One of the more popular medieval games, advanced Dungeons and Dragons, is a fantasy role-playing game loosely based on J.R.R. Tolkien's books. People have been playing Dungeons and Dragons for at least 15 years, she said.

Wallace said fantasy-oriented games can help teach people to think.

"There is a definite logic to them, and to win you have to stay on your toes," she said.

Starfleet Battle, Harpoon and Squad Leaders are popular games at NOVA conventions, Sanford said. Starfleet Battle is based on Gene Roddenberry's "Star Trek" tele-



Graphic by Robbyn L. Lee

vision series. Harpoon is a modern naval warfare game and Squad Leaders is a World War II game.

Charles Reyes, chairman of the MSC Cepheid Variable said another fantasy role-playing game in which people pretend to be comic-book heroes is fun. "Champions is a happy game," he said.

Screenings of Japanese cartoons were popular at the convention, Wallace said. "The Japanese are very good at animation and there are a few English subtitles," Wallace said.

NOVA sells space to vendors that wish to sell souvenirs in their "dealer's room," Wallace said. Vendors sell games, classic and current comic books, character miniatures and art.

Andy Hunter, a junior at A&M Consolidated High School, drew Dungeons and Dragons character portraits for \$5. Hunter created images from the unique qualities and features of the participants' game characters.

Novacon made more money this year than members thought it would, Gray said. All money earned will pay committee expenses, he said.

Novacon should be called "Nova-caine," because it's the quick and painless convention, Wallace said. "It's a small convention that is planned and executed in a month."

"NOVA is basically a break-even committee," Wallace said. "We're interested in student development." "The students learn a lot of responsibility."

NOVA was called Gromes when it was a part of the MSC Recreation committee.

"It came into its own about five years ago," Wallace said. "Because only costs \$4 a year, it is a real cheap committee to join."

Every weekend NOVA has games in the MSC for all under-20s. They also have teaching sessions and tournaments, Wallace said.

The people in NOVA are creative, Wallace said. Members of the committee often make up their own games, she said. "Nuclear Morality" was made up by one of the members and often is played during weekend gaming sessions, Wallace said.

## Officials deny claims of unethical conduct

CORSICANA (AP) — Three top city officials said there was nothing illegal or unethical about their week-long Wyoming hunting trip hosted by an engineering firm that oversees the city's two largest construction projects.

City Manager Craig Lonon, Mayor Jim Gill and City Commissioner Patrick Sherman traveled to the Medicine Bow Lodge near Saratoga, Wyo., for the trip last month that was hosted by Knowlton-English-Flowers Inc., a Bedford firm, the Corsicana Daily Sun reported on Sunday.

The firm is the consultant on a \$4 million water-intake and pump station that recently was completed and on a \$1.3 million project at a water-treatment facility.

Bill Flowers, a partner in the firm, said his company's attorneys determined it was not illegal to offer the trip. The firm has been taking city officials to the combination hunting-trip-seminar for about 10 years, he said.

Gill, Sherman, Lonon and city engineer Gary Anderson have at-

tended in the past, Flowers said.

Flowers said seminar participants were treated to hunting, fishing and sightseeing when they were viewing videotapes about the competing firm. He said the company showed about four hours of videotapes when participants were sitting or standing around discussing.

"I have never cast a vote and would have never cast a vote to make a nickel," Gill said. "It didn't cost the city a dime and we got a lot out of it because of the interaction with other city officials."

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