

Valentine Personals

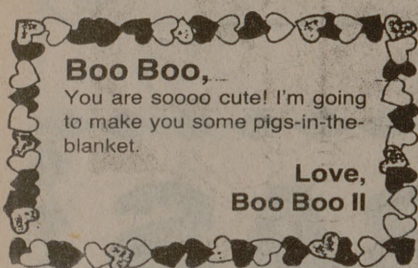
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WarCon highlights wars of past, future in games

By Shane Hall
Reporter

Famous battles of the past were reenacted and wars of the future were fought this past weekend as MSC Nova held its 14th Annual WarCon Wargaming Convention.

WarCon, the oldest gaming convention of its kind in the state, features tournaments in games ranging from Advanced Dungeons and Dragons to futuristic wargames such as Starfleet Battles.

Some games, commonly called role-playing games, require players to assume a character when playing. One of these games, Car Wars, is described by WarCon Director Jackson Roberts as being based upon the "Mad Max" films. Roberts, a sophomore general studies major, says players have the opportunity to design the cars they use in the game, arming them with weapons and armorplating them.

Mike Bechel, director of the Car Wars tournament, cites it as his favorite game, and describes the game as being similar to chess.

Another game, Starfleet Battles, is one of the most complex games of its kind, Roberts says. He says the game is similar to naval combat wargames, and that the game's designer was a naval consultant.

Open gaming took place in a large room on the second floor of the Memorial Student Center, with a different game at each table. In Kingmaker, a wargame based upon the War of the Roses, players acting as feudal lords compete for control of medieval England. At another table, the second world war is re-enacted in Axis and Allies, a wargame made by Milton-Bradley. Roberts says Axis and Allies is less complex than most other World War II games.

Several tables down, time recedes back to 5,000 B.C., as players pit ancient tribes against one another in the game Civilization. One player, Roger Dubbs, says the game is fun to play, but that some games are close historical simulations.

"Some of the games are interesting from a historical point of view. This one (Civilization) is kind of quasi-historical," Dubbs says. "It's not really the most historical thing in the world, but some of the games are very close military simulations."

Michael Kalinowski is leading the forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization against the Warsaw Pact armies in the game NATO, which depicts what could be the next war in Europe. He says the game starts with a Soviet military buildup and a subsequent push into East Germany.

"My object is to stop that push and if I can, capture a Warsaw Pact city," Kalinowski says. "If I can do that then victory will almost assuredly be mine."

Kalinowski adds that he had just used airstrikes to eliminate three Soviet armored divisions.

"Right now I'm trying to decide whether to escalate this battle into nuclear," he says.

Some of the games involve use of miniature military vehicles or ships. Microarmor and Naval Miniatures are two examples. James Bass, co-director of the Microarmor tournament, describes the game as a tactical simulation of modern armored warfare in Europe. The tournament's other director, Mike Traubert, says he likes the tactical and psychological aspects of the game.

"You have to think," Traubert explains. "This is not a boardgame where you have to follow strictly defined rules. It's a freeform game and almost any outcome is possible."

In a room adjacent to the armor tournament, the battle of land in World War I is re-enacted in Naval Miniatures. Mike Kamei, senior geography major, directs the tournament. Kamei is also in charge of the grenade toss, an event that is unique to WarCon.

Kamei says the grenade toss is an idea of the Nova recreation committee, and that the idea was incorporated into WarCon. The event involves use of inactive World War II hand grenades.

"It (the grenade toss) gets people out of the fluorescent and gets them outside to see some good old Vitamin D," Kamei says.

Roberts says the grenade toss involves five different challenges: blowing up a bunker, attacking and that the player with the overall score wins.

Roberts is in charge of a game called Sleuth. He describes it as a role-playing mystery game. Roberts says the players sign a mystery and that each player is given some clues, specific information that each player knows. Players then try to solve the mystery.

However, the most popular role-playing game, Roberts says, is Advanced Dungeons and Dragons. He says players have characters with specified strengths and abilities, and that the person who uses the intelligence and is the most creative thinker does the best.

Roberts says the people who play these games often are very intelligent.

"A lot of the people are really sharp," Roberts says. "Some of the most intelligent people I've ever seen play these games."

Company helps train A&M cadets for officer school

By Joe Jimenez
Reporter

Despite a bad weather forecast, the Recon Company, an extracurricular organization for Texas A&M Corps of Cadets members, participated in a field training exercise that began at 6 Saturday morning.

"The exercise went reasonably well," said Maj. John D. McGuire, military adviser for Recon Company and Naval ROTC staff member. "The people who participated in the squads were relatively inexperienced and made 'new-people' mistakes. I believe that most of the participants gained an appreciation for the skills that are required to perform an ambush."

Although Recon Company is a voluntary extracurricular organization, it is highly recommended for juniors in the Corps who plan to attend Officer Candidate School for the Marine Corps, Company Commander Wayne Harrison said.

Dallas Morris, lieutenant in the Corps of Cadets and motivational officer, said that cadets go to OCS the summer after his junior year for six weeks in Quantico, Va.

"If a cadet completes OCS, then upon graduation from A&M he will be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps," Morris said.

For the 70 participating cadets, the day began at 6 a.m. in a Military Sciences Building classroom. The members were instructed on the day's events by Sgt. Justin Rodriguez, a student in the Marine Enlisted Commissioning and Education Program.

He explained how a squad patrol is when it is on an ambush mission. Each squad has 13 members, who also make up three fire teams within the squad, he said.

The type of ambush Rodriguez focused on was the L-ambush. In this, he said, squad members position themselves parallel to a road or an open area, with about a third of the members extending in the opposite direction of the ambush. The extension is used to keep the enemy from circling around the squad once the attack has begun, he said.

When Rodriguez finished his instructions, the members finished camouflaging their faces and gathered their gear. They were issued rifles and accessories from the MSB Armory.

After reorganizing at the Range Science Center, located next to Easterwood Airport, the company was divided into three squads. The company was instructed on safety and cadets tested their rifles.

The 2nd Squad left to set up an ambush in an unspecified area between two checkpoints. After 30 minutes of maneuvering, the squad set up an ambush just beyond a creek and waited for members of another squad to walk into a trap.

Within 15 minutes, rifles began to fire as members of the 3rd Squad noticed the front of an ambush and sent a member to circle around. When the firing stopped, the 3rd Squad emerged victorious.

In the after-battle critique, McGuire said, "The ambush squad members were positioned too close together and didn't remain still. Also, the 3rd Squad had a member slip past the back security of the ambush."

The 2nd Squad regrouped to maneuver down its designated path, as the 3rd Squad set up an ambush for the 1st Squad.

While waiting for a squad to ambush, the 1st Squad leader noticed that the path of the 2nd Squad cut behind his group's ambush. Before the team could adjust to their path, members of the 2nd Squad spotted the ambush and began firing.

Squad 2 took a lunch break as the 1st and 3rd squads completed their ambushes.

When lunch was finished, members of the 2nd Squad set up an ambush away from an open path. As they sat still, the 3rd Squad cadets avoided the open path and were in an ambush before they knew it.

The two squads returned in different directions to the reorganizing area. With no ammunition, the 2nd Squad circled back into an ambush on its way to the area.

In a post-patrol critique to the entire company, McGuire said the maneuvers were not as good as those he had seen in the past. He said the cadet bunched up together too much and the fire teams stayed too close together, which resulted in cadets falling behind team leaders and having to run to catch up.

He also offered the cadets tips on how to handle ambush situations.

"In an ambush, you need to be still and pick your position carefully," he said. "You don't have to be right on the ambush path, as long as you can focus in on your killing-zone area."

He also mentioned that the glare from a rifle or glasses can give an ambush away. To keep a rifle from reflecting the sun, McGuire suggested wrapping olive-green tape and pieces of burlap around it.

Harrison said the company tries to participate in this kind of field training two or three times a semester. He also said the company will participate in a five-mile run Tuesday.

John Hicks, a Corps freshman, said he enjoyed the exercise.

"I've been looking forward to this weekend for a long time," Hicks said. "I had a lot of fun."

Another freshman cadet, Conley Chafin, said the day was challenging. "Ambushing is a lot harder than I thought — keeping still and everything," Chafin said.

Dallas Ballet to perform in Marshall

MARSHALL (AP) — Financial woes have proved *tutu* much for the Dallas Ballet to continue performing this season in its home city, but the troupe is preparing to pirouette its way into Marshall this weekend.

Krista Welch, who was a member of the chorus when the Dallas Ballet opened the Marshall Theater at the Civic Center in 1984, fine-tuning "Pas d'Esclave" with Soviet defector Andrei Usenko for the weekend's performance.

"It'll be nice going back to Marshall," she said. "It's always nice doing a performance. You're in good shape, and you're hard."

Welch translates for Usenko, who speaks limited English, but uses gestures and body movement to relay his message. Dancers in the troupe understand what he means when he discusses dancing.

Marshall's offer to the Dallas Ballet came at a time when it needed something to be excited about," rehearsal assistant Thea Clower said.

Instead of sitting idly by, waiting for another chance to dance, performers are busy preparing for a production of "Dallas Ballet Gala" Saturday and Sunday.

As of this past weekend, 1,000 tickets had been sold, the *Marshall News-Messenger* reported.

Grandmother arrested again for drug sales

HOUSTON (AP) — A 76-year-old grandmother on probation for three previous drug convictions is in trouble with the law again.

Sally Hubbard was arrested Thursday at her Houston home after police said an undercover officer allegedly bought a pill from her, authorities said.

A state judge refused to set her for her during an appearance Monday. A two-count indictment charged her with delivery of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance.

Her attorney said she was the latest turn of events called.

"She's a very patient lady," attorney Jim Tatum. "She has a lot of things in her lifetime. I would say she is not hysterical."

In her first brush with the law in 1985, she was arrested in connection with allegedly selling pills and alcohol at her home. She was arrested again that year, when officers found pills, guns and cash at the home. In March 1986, she was placed on probation for 10 years after pleading guilty to three drug charges, the show.



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