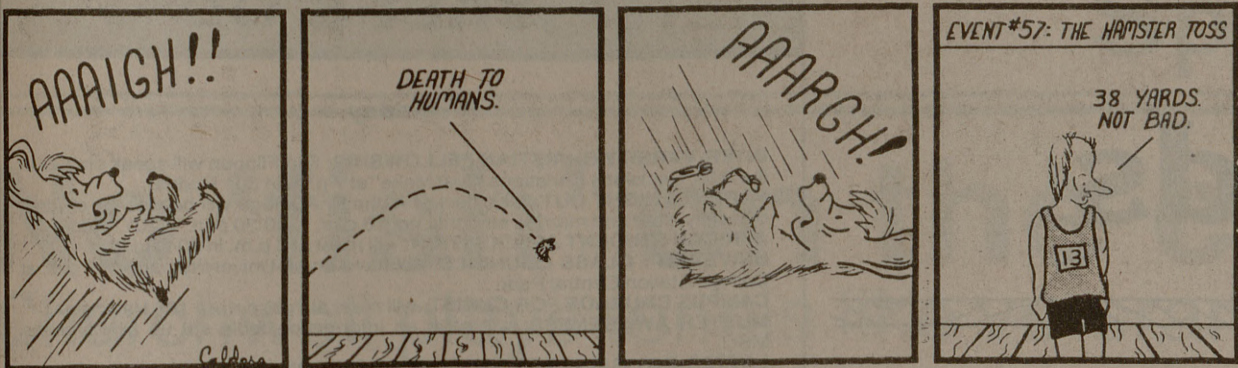


B Street



by Jon Caldara Agents say new weapons intensify risk near border

EL PASO (AP) — Guarding the U.S.-Mexican border is becoming more and more dangerous as drug smugglers arm themselves with increasingly sophisticated weapons, Border Patrol officials say.

Drug smugglers have been caught with anti-tank rockets, night-vision devices, automatic weapons and accurate high-powered rifles, deputy chief Border Patrol agent Gus De La Vina said. They seem to be more willing to use them, too, De La Vina said.

Smugglers have shot at agents five times in the past five months, and agents have had to draw their weapons 10 times during that period, De La Vina said. Agents have not returned fire and no one was injured in the incidents.

"It's becoming a very dangerous situation," he said.

He added that four Border Patrol agents probably averted a heavy fire-fight last Tuesday when their two patrol vehicles got flat tires just as agents were about to intercept a suspected drug shipment about 35 miles west of El Paso, near Anapra, N.M.

The agents couldn't intercept the shipment, so they followed vehicle tracks and footprints through the desert until they came upon a marijuana-filled horse trailer in front of a ranch house.

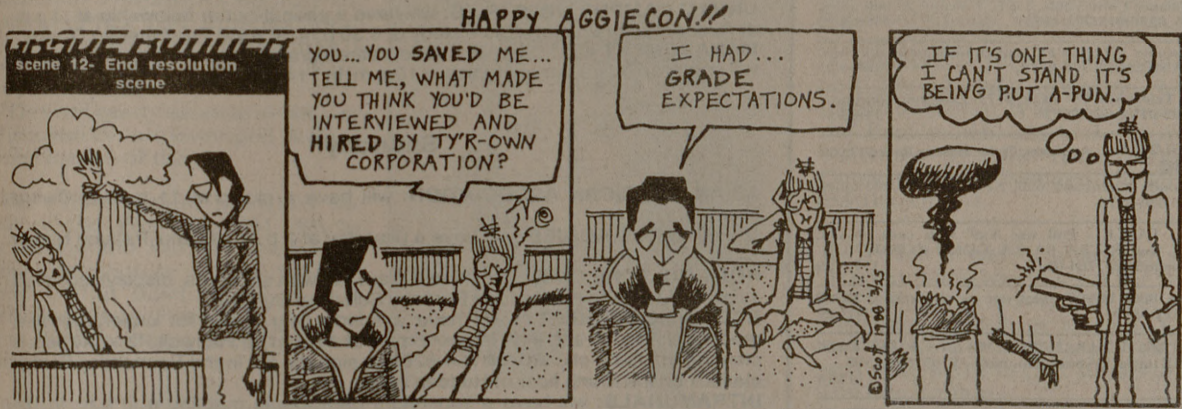
They seized 2,387 pounds of marijuana and arrested two men, who were charged with possession with intent to distribute.

De La Vina said agents later found out that seven to 10 people armed with AK-47 assault rifles had been stationed at the border crossing point. The armed guards stayed in Mexico and were not arrested.

"If the guys hadn't had flats, there would have been a hell of a fire-fight," De La Vina said.

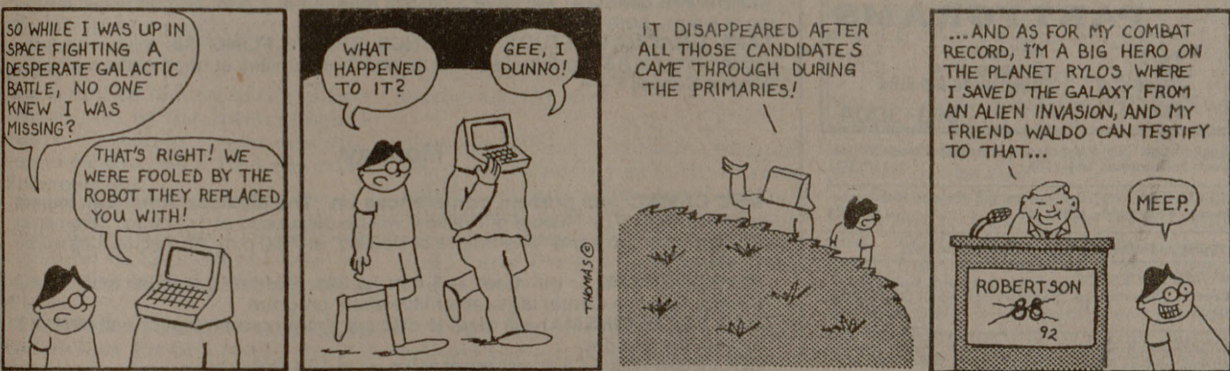
Warped

by Scott McCullar



Waldo

by Kevin Thomas



AggieCon convention attracts science fiction buffs to campus



By Shane Hall Reporter

Science fiction and fantasy aficionados began arriving at the Texas A&M campus Thursday for the first day of MSC Cepheid Variable's 19th annual AggieCon convention. The convention features various panels, films and other events. An art show and a dealer's room also are featured.

The art show highlights a variety of science fiction and fantasy art, ranging from drawings of Star Trek's Captain Kirk and Mr. Spock to paintings of dragons and unicorns. Marc Watkins, a graduate student in nautical archeology, is in charge of the art show. He says works by 40 to 50 artists are on display at this year's art show. The artists, Watkins adds, set their own prices for the works. He estimates 60 percent of the art on exhibition will be sold.

One artist whose work is on display this year is Otto Cordray. Cordray, an A&M graduate, has both drawings and paintings in his exhibit. He says most of his drawings are a collaboration with his friend Kevin Raley. Raley, a junior environmental design major, says he does the pencil work on many of the drawings while Cordray fills in the ink.

Cordray describes his artwork as "strange."

"My paintings are strange; my ink work is a little more down to earth," Cordray explains. He adds that his ink drawings are somewhat strange, but less so than his paintings.

Cordray says he gets his ideas for the ink drawings from Japanese animation. "As for my paintings, I just get as drunk as I can and get depressed and I go from there," he said.

The art show is in room 230 of the MSC. Open to the public, the show's admission is free.

In the dealer's room, people can purchase a variety of items ranging from comics such as "X-Men" and "Conan the Barbarian" to science fiction novels. Posters from movies such as "Predator" are also available. Chairman Jennifer Rich says some of the dealers carry handmade items, such as jewelry, and that others are involved in the buying and selling of comics and other items.

The dealer's room is located in



Brad Foster of Dallas displays posters at AggieCon '88 in the MSC Thursday. AggieCon continues

through Sunday with science fiction and fantasy movies and book sales. Admission is \$5 per day.

224 MSC and admission is free to those with an AggieCon pass. People without a pass are admitted to the dealer's room for 25 cents.

"A lot of people are interested in browsing around and buying some of the items on sale, but aren't interested in going to any of the dances or the movies," she says.

Rich says AggieCon is unique compared to other conventions of its kind because it has more of an emphasis on science fiction and fantasy authors.

"A lot of conventions these days

are mainly just the dealer's room and maybe an art show, and there's not much emphasis on those who write science fiction," she says. "AggieCon is unique in that we have a lot of writers and artists."

Authors Katherine Kurtz and Joe Haldeman are guests at this year's convention. Rich says past AggieCon's have featured such authors as Stephen Donaldson and Roger Zelazny.

Rich says a live role-playing game called Quest will be featured as well. She describes the game as similar to

Advanced Dungeons and Dragons. Quest has been a part of AggieCon for the past few years. Rich says, but that it was called the Cthulu for the past two years. Cthulu (pronounced "ku-thoo-loo"), Rich explains, is an evil being.

The opening ceremonies at this year's convention feature six bellydancers. Rich says the idea for having bellydancers came about because Cepheid Variable adviser Daralyn Wallace had taken a University Plus course in bellydancing.

About 1,700 people from around the state will attend this year's AggieCon, Rich says.



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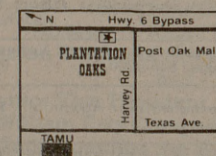
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