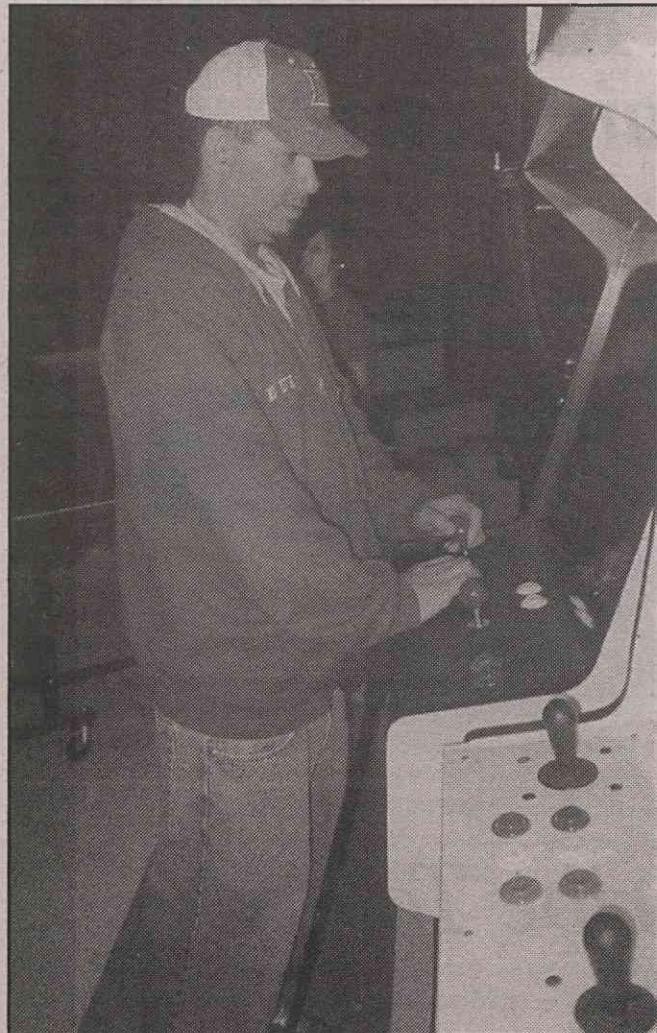


Above: The Game Expo offered fans an opportunity to show off their gaming skills.



How could one gather hundreds of people of different ages for nine hours straight on a Saturday at Wayne Community College? Have a video game expo!

On Feb. 4, Wayne Community College held its first annual Video Game Expo. The event was presented by Phi Beta Lambda and sponsored by EB Games, NCisp.net, Bawls energy drink and ITSS Inc.

It took place in the WLC building and showed off the many video game platforms available, along with the most popular games for each system. Platforms such as the Playstation 2, Nintendo Gamecube, the Xbox and the Xbox 360 were all there.

The main attraction for many was the Xbox 360. It is the newest of the systems and also supports the best graphics. However, with only a limited number available in town, for many gamers the expo offered the only chance they had to experience it.

Along with the modern game

Top, left: Gamers enjoy a game of Dance Dance Revolution.
Bottom: The arcade brought a retro feel to the Expo.

Story and photos by
CANDIDO VEGA-CRUZ

consoles, the mighty arcade was also at the event. With titles such as Marvel Vs. Capcom, Pac-Man, King of Fighters and Contra, older gamers had the chance to relive some memories with the now endangered species.

Other big attractions were the game tournaments. Gamers had a chance to show off their skills competing against other players in games such as Halo 2 and Madden 06. The winners of each tournament received trophies and prizes.

Many of the people who showed up for the event were WCC students. One of them was Tim Smith.

"I am a fan of videogames," he said, "and play about 3 hours a day."

WCC student Kentrell Chadwick said, "I came for the game play. I am a big fan, and I have been playing for years."

The event also showed that videogames appeal to different age groups. Tim Hobson, 13, said, "I came in particular to see Madden 06. I love video games

and I have been here (at the expo) since it started."

Dana Hill, 21, said, "I came to enjoy gameplay with fellow gamers."

The expo helped to do away with the notion that videogames only appeal to guys. With a steady balance of guys and girls present, it was obvious that the gap was closing on the once male-dominated pastime.

Present at the event were the co-founders of *WomenGamers.com*, Phaedra Boinodiris and Ismini Roby. They offered advice to gamers on how to get into the videogame industry and what they might expect if they made it.

"Get involved in the IGDA (International Game Developers Association), beta testing, artwork, and have a portfolio ready," Ms. Ismini said. "The job market in the videogame industry is very competitive, so get involved and be able to show your passion."

With several hundred people attending, the gaming expo was a huge success, leaving many gamers satisfied with the wide array of games and prizes.

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