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## Find out What the Hell Con is all about, from the humble beginnings to today's massive geek-fest

JAKE BLUMGART | STAFF WRITER

You've seen the chalk graffiti all over campus, the posters, the fliers, and the ads in the paper, and you're wondering what the hell is What the Hell Con? Where did it come from and from whose (or what's) fatal loins did it spring?

For those gentle readers not in the know, a "con" is a convention, generally one held to celebrate a specific geeky interest including, but not limited to, anime, comics and role-playing games (RPGs).

The origins of Guilford's WTH Con are shrouded in myth. As rumor has it, a large brown paper Kroger's bag filled with unmarked VHS tapes was bequeathed to several members of the Yachting Club by persons unknown, with the addendum "Get rid of this for the love of god." The story could have ended there but, adventurous lads that they were, the ending is a bit more sanguine than that.

"It turned out there were a lot of real bad movies in that bag. Hentai, Japanese animated porn basically. Real terrible stuff," said Sylvia Toth, vice president of the Yachting Club. "After watching about half a bags worth of VHS, one of the guys said: 'What the hell, we could make a con out of this.' Over the years we've put more funding into it, and it's turned into an actual convention."

And lo, a tradition was born.

At first, the Crap-A-Thon was the only event, an annual review of the original crappy material, but as the years progressed, events such as the Geek Auction, RPGs, a gaming room and Dai-kaiju battles were added.

"Imagine something like Godzilla vs. King Kong but substituting larger members of the Yachting Club for the legendary beasts," said Yachting Club president Dani Moran.

"We set up lots of cardboard boxes and make a fake town. Then we have lots of large guys, so they get in there, mix it up a bit, and throw each other around."

But it is the Con's special guests that really started to pull WTH Con out of relative obscurity.

"We started out making fun of cons, being

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



DAN KATZMAN/GUILFORDIAN  
 STUDENTS PLAY WARHAMMER 40,000.

## Q&A with Intramural Coordinator Mark Hargis

DYLAN GRAYSON | SENIOR WRITER

**How long has the intramural sports program at Guilford been around?**

Mark Hargis: Intramural sports have been here a long time. I know they've had basketball as far back as 1907. Other sports got added little by little over time.

**What is the purpose of intramural sports?**

People get the opportunity to compete with others in an array of activities. Intramurals aren't like club sports. Club sports compete against club sports at other schools. Intramural competition is within Guilford.

**What kinds of activities are featured?**

In the fall we had a football pick'em (people met each week to predict winners of NFL games), a fantasy football league, introduction to weight-training (to give students an opportunity to learn how to use our facilities in a safe and effective manner), a tennis league, soccer, etc. We got a pretty good turnout for some sports this fall.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## Tensions rise between Unites States and Iran

JAKE BLUMGART | STAFF WRITER

"God help us if that man in the White House preemptively bombs Iran," said Robert Duncan, assistant professor of political science. "Then the ship will really hit the sand, and any hope we had of supporting moderates in Iran will be gone. If we take military action we'll turn them all against us."

In recent weeks, the United States and

Iran have squared off in a series of increasingly belligerent exchanges that many people fear could lead to war.

The already tense relationship between the two countries has become further inflamed by Iran's nuclear program and alleged support of Hamas and Hezbollah, both of which are officially listed as terrorist organizations by the United States.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## Q&A with Max Carter about Bryan incident

BRICE TARLETON | PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Max Carter is the director of the Friends Center and Campus Ministry coordinator. He is involved in the Quaker community both here and in Palestine. Carter agreed to speak to The Guilfordian about the incident in Bryan on Jan. 20.

**Q:** What steps are you involved with that are currently being taken in response

to this incident?

**A:** This Sunday, we're having the big kick-off for a teach-in, with four different panels, dealing with issues like the culture of sport, the social aspect of college in terms of when has Guilford dealt with issues like this before, a forum on xenophobia and stereotyping, and one on the root of Quaker principles and testimonies.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

### Athlete Aid

Despite the fact that athletes receive an average of \$776 more financial aid, athletes receive an average of 5 percent less aid relative to their estimated financial need because their families earn 14 percent less.

Sports Page 3

### Core Proposal

The foreign languages department has proposed adding a 102 requirement to the core curriculum in order to set a stronger foundation for students, stirring discussion at a recent forum.

News Page 4

### Discernment

Frank Massey, IFP gifts-discernment coordinator, works to help students discover their personal gifts and strengths. Through guidance and counseling, he brings focus to life plans.

Features Page 8

### Evening of Love

Students, faculty, and staff gathered in the gallery of Founders to read poems as part of "Toward a Cartography of Love," a poetry reading in celebration of Eleanor Branch

Features Page 8

### Planck Satellite

Cosmologists plan to look at cosmic microwave background radiation with the Planck satellite in order to answer major questions about the origin of the universe and its future.

World & Nation Page 11