

Students can become casualties playing new kind of war game

By CAROLE FERGUSON
Staff Writer

A man camouflaged in army fatigues and green face paint carefully crawls through leaves and underbrush.

The enemy is sure to be lurking nearby, so he remains quiet and alert as he guards his team's flag. An enemy soldier leaps out from behind a tree and takes aim. "Pop!" The man on the ground is splattered with red, and the enemy captures his flag.

The soldiers are from a group of friendly UNC graduate students of business administration who battled each other in a wooded field outside of Durham. The scene may have resembled warfare, but actually the students were playing TAG, an adult version of capture the flag, complete with toy CO₂-powered guns that shoot paint pellets. And they were not on a battleground, but on 60 acres of land owned by Ed Fadel of Triangle Adventure Games.

Fadel, a 1984 Duke graduate, started TAG last April on his land off U.S. Highway 70 near Durham. "I try to get people away from the

preconception — the war thing," Fadel said. "It's just a great way to have fun and blow off steam."

Since the game originated several years ago in New Hampshire, it has been gaining popularity all over the country. Fadel first played in Washington, D.C., where there are at least four different companies, he said. The game is more widespread in the North and West, but it is now becoming more popular in the South, Fadel said.

The graduate students put in a hard day of fighting Sept. 18, and by the end of their games, they had all "died" at least once.

Each team's object was to capture the opponent's flag and return it to their base while protecting their own flag.

"We're not worried about the flags," one enthusiastic member of the red team said. "It's body count we're worried about."

But according to group member John McCurdy, the students were really just out to have a good time. "We're just a bunch of MBA students sharpening our competitive edge," he

said. "We'll take on Harvard anytime."

The teams tried to develop strategies, but eventually they had to "forget teams, groups, strategies and just go for it," as one player put it.

The fighters enjoyed the excitement and suspense of combat, but they agreed they were glad they did not have to fight in a real war. Emmett Daily realized just how glad he was when he was shot over his heart. "It is a weird feeling," he said. "... I'm thankful to be alive."

Hal Fletcher was the only casualty of the day. A pellet hit him in the mouth during the last game, so he had to sit out to attend to his wounded lip. "Wear a helmet," Fletcher suggested. "If you don't get hit in the head, you don't get hurt."

Protective goggles are provided and required for safety, and Fadel said he is looking into getting some with face protection. He said the pellets are virtually harmless, but they may sting a little when shot at close range.

Most of the participants at TAG,



Dyed-in-the-wool warriors of the TAG games

so far, have been students, Fadel said. Groups of 20 people or more, like the graduate students, can come play any day of the week for an

afternoon of make-believe combat. Fadel said he is counting on plenty of future business from UNC, Duke and N.C. State. "It's a great activity

for fraternities." He hopes to get some interest from sororities too. For information about TAG call 933-0110.

BoDeans receives mixed reactions after delay of concert

BoDeans manager Mark McCraw explained it best when he said the BoDeans like to give 100 percent at each show.

Well, maybe that explains why the band's sound check Wednesday night lasted two hours and delayed their first show at Rhythm Alley two hours.

The crowd waiting in the alley for the club's doors to open grew impatient as they could hear the BoDean hit "Fadeaway" being evaluated by the band's technicians. Some people waited as long as three hours for the 8 p.m. show to start at 9:45 p.m.

The BoDeans, from Wisconsin, were scheduled to do two shows with the last one at 11 p.m. Everyone

James Burrus Concert

knew the band would have to cut some songs out of their set to fit both of the shows into the night.

To make up for the long delay the band put 100 percent into their show. The BoDeans played almost non-stop for an hour, stopping only three or four times to catch their breath.

They stuffed songs off their critically acclaimed Slash/Warner Brothers album "Love & Hope & Sex & Dreams" along with some new material that will be on their next

LP into the shortened time slot. Normally the sets last an hour and a half, said drummer Guy BoDean after the show.

After the show, Guy said it usually takes them four hours to set up the equipment, and Rhythm Alley did not start setting up the PA equipment and sound board until 7:20 p.m.

Though the set was plagued with a variety of sound problems, the distinctive BoDean sound, accentuated in lead singer Sammy BoDean's midwestern twang, still managed to break through.

This week's issue of Triangle Live compared Sammy to early Dylan on helium. Sammy must have taken an

overdose before the show, then. A great example of his unique accent occurred during "Misery" as he drew out the pronunciation of the word to "mizz-o-ree."

The band was able to get through "Fadeaway" without any sound problems, and it was one of the best songs performed that night with guitarist Beau BoDean providing a short solo introduction to the song.

Unfortunately the band's luck did not extend to every song. "She's A Runaway" suffered all sorts of sound problems from guitar feedback to distorted and high voice levels.

The band apologized throughout the night for the wait and the sound troubles.

The band's three-song encore was

the best segment of the concert. The band played "Be My Girl," a song they played in Milwaukee before their record contract.

"Sometimes we do stuff we have not done in a long time to keep out spirit alive on stage," Guy said.

Some of the fans seemed content with the performance while others could not forget the long wait.

"We waited longer than you played," yelled a guy from the back of the club.

"But it was worth it," answered another fan.

The band's album has sold 80,000 copies, Guy said. "At this point we play to a cult of people," he said.

"You have to have a certain aspect in your music to go from a cult following to a mass following without turning your little cult off."

"I think this band has that because we have a sound that a lot of people are going to embrace. It's just a matter of getting it out there," said Guy.

One way the BoDeans are doing this is by appearing on American Bandstand Oct. 25.

Incidentally, the guys in the band are not brothers. Sammy got the band's name from Jethro Bodine of "The Beverly Hillbillies," and they decided to also use it as the last part in their own names.

Purdy's innovates with progressive music

By ALEXANDRA MANN
Staff Writer

For as many times as Purdy's has changed its name in the past few years, it has never really changed its image. Until now.

It started as an idea, became a possibility, was then recognized as something of a necessity and is now a reality. We're talking about the fact that progressive music (for lack of a better or more specific term) has come to Purdy's, and the establishment's days as a completely funk dance club may be numbered.

"Over the past few months we've noticed that Chapel Hill itself has changed a great deal," said Alan Mason, head DJ and main proponent of the idea. "People seem to be more into '60s and progressive rock 'n' roll, and I think they're tired of the same old dance floor stuff because a lot of it sounds the same. They're looking for an alternative, and we're ready to provide that."

But the change is by no means complete. Currently, Purdy's is reserving only Wednesday and Friday nights for the new playlists. Thursdays and Saturdays are still largely what people have learned to expect from Purdy's, but even on those nights, the old format is mixed with a little of what Wednesdays and Fridays offer.

The question, of course, is whether or not Chapel Hill, so accustomed to the Purdy's format, will accept the change. But according to Mason and

manager Jeff Pierce, who gave the idea its trial run on Sept. 19, it already has. They both agree there has been little or no negative feedback, and that everyone who is there on those nights loves it, and very few people are turned off by it.

"There was always a certain amount of discontent with the funk set-up," said Pierce, who has managed the place for about a year. "I'm happy it's worked out the way it has because I was afraid for a while that we would cut our own throats with this thing. I just don't feel like we're taking a chance anymore."

An itemized list of what people are likely to hear on Wednesdays and Fridays would take all day, but a starting sample would include the Beatles, the Smiths, Elvis Costello, INXS, the Bo Deans, English Beat, Steve Winwood, Talking Heads, the Clash, the B-52's, Simple Minds, R.E.M., Adam Ant, Beat Rodeo, the Romantics, and the list goes on and on. If you don't like any of those groups and you want to hear something else? Request it. That's what they want.

"We want to expand people's taste in music a little," said Mason, "but we mainly want to play what's good."

Pierce added that the music they play is not quite as "alternative" as it once was, that it's come to be more mainstream than in the past and that increasingly large numbers of people are ready not just to sit around and listen to it, but to dance to it. And

because Purdy's is the only establishment in Chapel Hill with a dance floor, accommodating as many people as possible is becoming more important.

The rock 'n' roll section at Purdy's now amounts to a grand total of about 500 albums and Mason, who is solely responsible for buying the records, has been buying almost every new release, as well as essential and popular albums of the past few years. That's where the variety comes in.

"I read Rolling Stone, The Spectator and keep up with the Billboard charts," Mason said, "and what I've

found is that there are very few barriers now. Everybody is influenced by everybody else, and that gives us flexibility on Wednesdays and Fridays. We can please a lot more people."

While a complete changeover to the new format will not occur anytime in the near future, and Thursdays and Saturdays should accommodate the old Purdy's regulars, Pierce and Mason are well on their way to developing a whole new clientele, or at least adding to the old one. What happens after that seems to be pretty much in the hands of the Chapel Hill dancing public.

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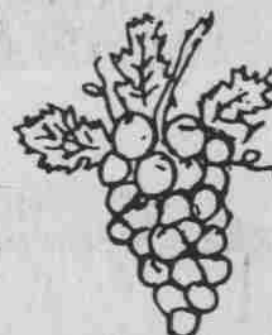
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