

Role-playing club members practice foreign diplomacy

By ERIC CHILTON
Staff Writer

Have you ever wanted to be the absolute ruler of a country so you could make all the decisions? If so, you should look into the Carolina Amateur Diplomats.

David Hood, a junior political science and speech major from Charlotte, is president of this new UNC club. Hood said the Carolina Amateur Diplomats, or the C.A.D.'s as they call themselves, is a group of individuals who enjoy a role-playing game called Diplomacy.

"It started with a group of friends from my high school who used to play Diplomacy several times a week during the summer," said Hood. "Several of us came to school here, met others who enjoyed the game, and now we have a strong membership."

Hood organized the group and recruited new members throughout his freshman and sophomore years,

pushing the membership to its current enrollment. The club was recently recognized by the University as an official club.

"There are currently about 20 members in the club, including one professor," said Hood.

Diplomacy can be played a variety of ways. The game involves seven players, each of whom represent a different country. Each country has several supply centers that serve as the objectives of the game. Each player must use his best diplomatic negotiations to join with other players and conquer the remaining countries. The object of the game is to obtain a wealth of supply centers. The player who gets 18 of the 34 supply centers wins the game.

"Winning isn't everything because a player's score is an average of several games," said Hood. "Therefore you could ally with a strong country, finish second and still come out in a good situation."

Diplomacy does not have to be played in one sitting. The C.A.D.'s have incorporated themselves into a large network of games that can be played by mail.

"I play the game with people from all over the nation and Canada," Hood said. "We make one move a month and inform each other by mail. The entire game takes about a year if it is played this way."

Hood keeps the club updated by writing to nationally published magazines. There are hundreds of magazines that deal with the Diplo-

macy game. Hood subscribes to The Diplomat and The Appalachian General magazines.

The magazines publish the strategic game moves that are made each month in thousands of ongoing Diplomacy games across the country.

"We eventually want to publish a magazine of our own that would cover a lot of games and game reports on a national scale, and possibly even get some overseas subscribers," said Hood. He said the game is popular in England. C.A.D. plans to hold a conven-

tion on the UNC campus May 23 and 24. The convention would bring Diplomacy players from all over the nation to meet and discuss the game.

"There is an entire network of conventions across the United States, so we decided to start one of our own and implement it into the network," said Hood. "We are going to call it Dixiecon, since it will serve this region of the nation."

The club will hold a continual tournament with two rounds on the first day and a final round on the second day, followed by an awards

ceremony. The top seven players will receive trophies or plaques.

Hood said the convention is not just for Diplomacy players. "This is really a game lover's convention," he said. "We will be having many other competitions such as Risk, Dungeons and Dragons, and Chess while the Diplomacy games are progressing."

The Carolina Amateur Diplomats is looking for people with an interest in games. For more information call Hood, president of or Jeff A. Taylor, the club's vice-president.

Students make plans for volunteer work in African villages

By CORIN ORTLAM
Staff Writer

Summer plans for college students might include working a job, visiting friends, or getting an internship in a particular field of work. For two UNC students, summer plans are a journey to Africa.

Katie White and Rainey Counihan will travel to Africa through a program sponsored by Operation Crossroads Africa. Crossroads is a non-profit organization based in New York that sends a select group of Americans to live and work with rural village communities in Africa.

In 1962, John F. Kennedy called Operation Crossroads Africa "the progenitor of the Peace Corps." Over the past 29 years, Crossroads has sent more than 6,000 volunteers to 35 English-, French-, and Portuguese-speaking African countries. The work includes such projects as providing clinical, medical and nursing services, health education, and agricultural development, as well as building schools, health clinics, and community facilities.

White, a senior majoring in speech communications, said her main goal while in Africa will be to study the oral traditions and story-telling talents of the African people. "Everyone says the best place to study communication is West Africa," says White.

Counihan, a junior health policy and administration major, will travel to Africa with a medical team. "I will either be building a medical facility or aiding doctors, but most of all I will be learning," says Counihan.

White and Counihan got interested in the Crossroads program through different channels. White visited Morocco in the fall of 1983. "I just fell in love with all of the sights and sounds," she says. Her years of French training helped her communicate in the French-speaking country.

A publicity campaign by the International Students two years ago sparked Counihan's interest. Unable to go last year, Counihan applied and was accepted to go this summer.

The entire 7-week program costs \$3,250. A large percentage of participants raise the money through college, community, and church groups. "Part of the philosophy of the program is to share your experience with the community," says White.

White is selling \$1 raffle tickets that will give the winner a West African tour or a Caribbean vacation

for two. During the last week in May, she is sponsoring a bike-a-thon from Chapel Hill to Raleigh to Durham (approximately 100 miles.) During three days at the end of the month, White will camp on the Eno River to listen to famous story-teller Louise Kessel. In June, White hopes to organize a community yard sale in which half of the proceeds will go towards her trip and half will go to the community.

Counihan is raising the bulk of her money in her hometown in Maryland. By offering to do presentations both before and after her trip, she is asking area civic organizations to donate money. She and several of her friends are working to get \$1 pledges to swim 1,000 laps in a swim-a-thon.

Both UNC students have had help from several professors. Ann Dunbar, an associate professor in the African studies department, has been to Africa five times, once with Operation Crossroads. "For the money, Crossroads gives a more comprehensive view of Africa than any tour because you stay in one place for seven weeks rather than traveling from town to town," Dunbar said. "You gain a stronger sense of the culture, changes, and family life of the Africans."

"The biggest test that Americans face is that the projects require you to expend a lot of energy to get something done that you don't have to here. It's comparable to getting information from the IRS," says Dunbar.

Both White and Counihan are looking with anticipation to their journeys. They are most excited about the opportunity to share what they have learned with others. "I hate to think that people are over-exposed to the problems in Africa and miss out on the cultural aspects," says White. "It is really a beautiful country."



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