

Simulation Exercise Brings The Learning Experience Closer to the Student

A Inter-Nation Simulation Competition developed and directed by the Political Science Department brought eighty High School students to UNC-A on January 15 to participate in a unique and exciting educational experience.

Inter-Nation Simulation is a "game" designed to help students grasp the complexities and intricacies of world politics by involving them in an artificial setting where they must make the decisions and guide the nation through peace and war.

Earlier in the term, UNC-A students took this "game" to eight area high schools where they asked teachers and students to participate first in learning basic simulation and then, later, to engage in an area-wide competition.

Team-taught courses were arranged to get the high school students acquainted with the simulation exercise which has become a well-known and well-received teaching aid in many political science courses at UNC-A.

Dr. Bahrum Farzanegan who arranged the competition and who had a controlling hand in most of the events leading up the competition, said, "We're interested in trying to make the educational experience were real to

the student by making him part of the situation, part of a life and death situation."

Eight area high schools participated in the event. When it was all over Dorb, a small, semi-industrialized nation (Asheville School) was judged best overall.

In the competition, there were two coalitions, the Blue and the Grey, lead respectively by the two atotic powers in the simulation world, Algo and Zena. The

events which followed showed a steady deterioration of the allies of Algo and a shift in the balance in opposition to Algo's tyranny of the coalition. The pressure on the system was a fuel crisis, a shortage in the vital Farzanium supplies of the world powers. The Farzanium mines, however, were located in the neutral zone between Dorb and Yora and much of the jostling and pushing in the world camps was aimed at the

partitioning of the Farzanium resources among the coalitions.

By the end of the exercise, the coalitions had been dissolved and Algo had stormed out of its share of International Organization meetings.

The competition was carried out with the aid of computer resources supplied by Educational Computing Services. Carl Ballard, a former UNC-A student and author of the computer

version of the simulation ran much of the computer service for the simulation competition. Also used for the competition was a system of closed circuit TV which connected leaders of nations to International Organization Meetings as well as let viewers in the Humanities Lecture Hall watch the action in the simulation.

Dr. Farzanegan and the other organizers of the competition found the experience rewarding, so rewarding in fact, that Dr. Farzanegan wants to have another competition next year with thirty nations.



Representatives of the various nations present their opinions in the International Organization meeting.



The internal workings of the simulation nation include the management of an economy, trade agreements, as well as international diplomacy. Here a nation sorts through communiques, World Times Reports, and trade agreements with other nations.

Communications: Power-Systems Behind The Press at UNC-A

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only persons left from the time when the original Ridgerunner was created and since he has helped the paper during its many fights for autonomy from the SGA has rather a maternal role in the operation of this newspaper; he is the administrator whose interests are most tied to the newspaper.

By all rights, the Student Affairs Officer should be the liaison between the student press and the administration but since Dr. Riggs has both a knowledge of the past as well as having had a controlling hand in the creation of the publication, he is that "liaison".

When plans were made to change the name of the newspaper last year, he rushed in to state that it would take many meetings and conferences between the SGA, the newspaper, and the administration before the name could be changed. Similarly, recently when a new policy statement was produced, Dr. Riggs conducted the meetings and in fact, directed much of the thrust of the statement.

Dr. Riggs is probably more responsible for the existence of a newspaper on this campus than any other single entity. His personal force and insistence have kept the paper "constant", if not a little staid.

When staff appointments are made at the end of the year, the ceremony takes place in Dr. Riggs' office for legitimacy. When it was hinted at last year that the Ridgerunner would not choose a faculty advisor, Dean Riggs issued a few rejoinders to remind the staff that an advisor was de rigeur.

This is not meant as an indictment of Dr. Riggs; it is only meant to clarify one of the most intangible of power relationships on this campus. The content of this newspaper is not controlled by the Vice-Chancellor but the spirit is.

SOME PREDICTIONS

There is every possibility at this point that UNC-A will have a weekly newspaper by the end of this year. That is the aim of the present staff.

But there are some changes that must be made in the near future: first, there must be more student involvement in and interest in the Ridgerunner, as well as faculty involvement.

Secondly, there has to be more happening at UNC-A to justify the existence of a weekly newspaper; the members of the "academic community" will have to begin to take advantage of the communication available to them. Indeed, this is the recurring theme in all evaluation of the media at UNC-A; the withering away of powerful media and competent media due to the lack of interest and lack of student use.

If there is any cure for the colorless and insipid tone of much of the media at UNC-A, it is a greater amount of student interest. (More next week)

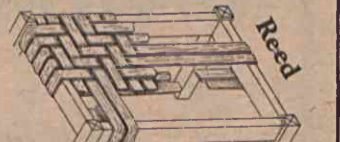
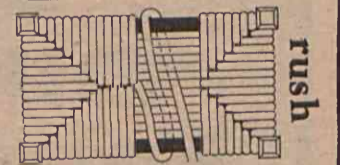
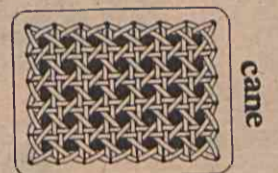
Film Society

Hardy Kruger and Patricia Gozzi star in the film, which features music by Maurice Jarre, composer of "Lawrence of Arabia" and "Dr. Zhivago."

Single admission for "Sundays and Cybele" is 75¢ for students, \$1.25 for faculty and staff.

Season subscriptions for all seven films in the UNC-A Film Society spring series will be on sale at \$3.00 for students, \$5.00 for faculty and staff, with a special \$7.50 rate for individual-plus-spouse.

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