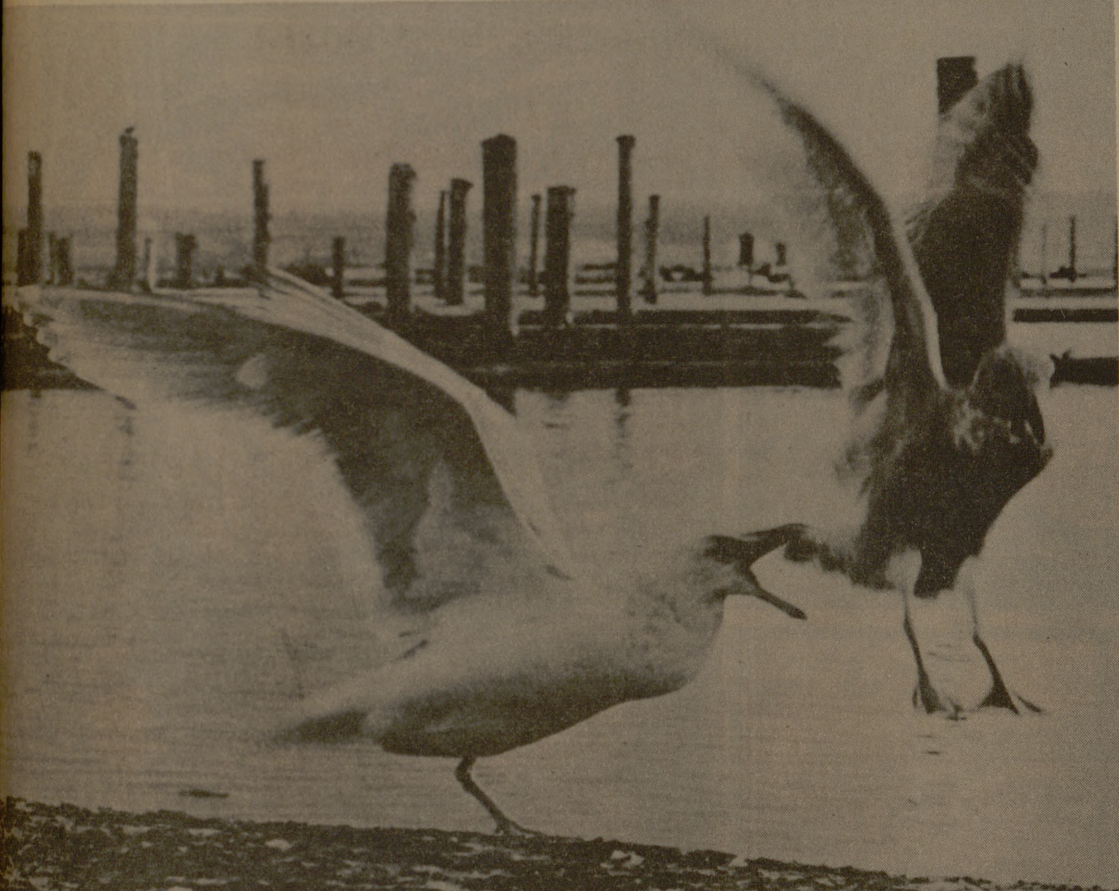


Science fiction convention to feature movies, auction

By BRAD ELLIS
 "The Forbin Project" and "The Eaters" head the list of films to be shown at the Cepheid Variable science fiction convention.
 The Cepheid Variable Science Fiction Club of A&M will host the convention, Aggie Con III, in Bryan at the Holiday Inn, April 13. The convention is expected to attract book collectors and comic book dealers from all over Texas and possibly Oklahoma. Earl Blair and Ken Donnell are among the movie collectors who are promised to bring films.
 The main event at any convention is the action in the Dealers' Room. Collectors display their materials on tables rented from the sponsoring club. Buying and selling goes on from morning until late night.
 Some dealers will bring materials they bought or otherwise

accumulated especially for the purpose of selling at the convention. Their commercial efforts always yield a profit, sometimes quite a bit of money. The common fare encompasses comic books, paperback books, movie stills, radio tapes, movie posters and even Mickey Mouse watches. Some rare old items that command the premium prices are issues of the old "Doc Savage" and "Shadow" pulp magazines. Very early Superman and Donald Duck comic books from the '30s and '40s, and early '50s Entertaining Comics like "Weird Fantasy," often go for \$10 or more.
 Whenever movies are not being shown, that room will be used to hold auctions. The auctions are unpredictable. They may run all day or just a few minutes, depending on how much material is to be auctioned. There is no restriction on what can be auc-

tioned and generally everything is. Excitement runs high and usually someone will get so caught up in the competition fervor, he will bid far higher than he intended to.
 Aggie Con III will be more like a Texas fandom party than anything else. Everyone is invited to attend the convention and the seminar on science fiction to be held April 8 in the Physics Building.
 Although the Cepheid Variable Club has sponsored two fan gatherings in the past, this is the club's first real convention. The club is exceptional among college fan groups in that it competes in size, wealth and activity with city clubs like the Dallas Science Fiction Society. College clubs are plagued with a transitory and seasonal membership, but this has not daunted the A&M club.



PEGLEG BILL, A ONE-LEGGED SEAGULL, drives off a young competitor from his home for more than 25 years, the old pilings of an Anacortes, Wash., company pond. In 1947, a millworker rescued the bird when a bullet had left one leg smashed and dangling. A co-worker, Clyde LeMaister, still packs an extra sandwich daily for Pegleg Bill. (AP Wirephoto)

Life is quiet and dangerous for the soldiers in Ireland

BELFAST (AP) — For British soldiers in the streets of Northern Ireland, it is a war against a hidden enemy.
 Any man on patrol, no matter how quiet the streets may seem, can run into a sniper's bullet at any time.
 More and more often the British soldiers, sent here in response to an appeal from the Roman Catholic minority in 1969, are being taunted by an enemy who inflicts injury or death and melts away into the civilian population.

Part of the soldier's job in combating guerrilla war is to seek to bring the enemy into the open. At night, in Belfast, troops with blackened faces flit from corner to corner in the Catholic areas with the aim of getting shot at—so that they can shoot back.
 A private soldier gets an average of \$9.10 a day. The rates vary according to length of service. Out of this he pays for some of his food and smaller items of uniform. It's an all-volunteer

army. Recruiting relies heavily on family tradition. Most units include several sets of brothers.
 The army was first called on to the streets of Northern Ireland in August 1969. No soldier was killed until February 1971. Now the army's death toll stands at 56. More than 400 soldiers have been wounded.
 There now are 15,000 soldiers on duty here. Men on frontline duty come for a tour of four to six months. During that time they are perpetually on call, except for one rest day a month.
 And even on the rest day they must keep inside their makeshift barracks—old bus depots, disused factories. Any soldier who went out to a bar or the movies would risk assassination.
 On a Sunday afternoon the soldiers may attend an inter-denominational church service. They sing hymns, pray together, listen to their chaplain.
 But then it is back to duty in flak jackets, with loaded rifles, tut into the streets where even women and children stone them and curse them.

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