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Dr. John Lenihan, a Texas A&M University history professor, explains that the science fiction films of the 1950s were mirrors of the time, the cold war.

Battalion photo colin Crombie

50s flicks scarry, but reflect times

By CATHY TERRELL Battalion Reporter

There's more to science fiction films of the 1950s than watching giant creatures wreaking havoc over a city, a Texas A&M University history professor said Tuesday night.

Dr. John Lenihan in a speech sponsored by Cepheid Variable said that although the films are primarily entertainment, they reflect the views of an

anxiety-ridden decade.
"In the 1950s disaster seemed imminent," Lenihan said. "The danger of nuclear war, invasion of the country and communist ubversion was always there.

Therefore, science fiction films of this time concentrated on nudear peril and alien invaders.

"These alien invaders were

given the qualities that we asociate with the communists, such as lack of human emotion, no ethical morals and the use of subversive activities, like taking over of minds," Lenihan said. The character of the decade produced three basic types of ilms, Lenihan said.

The predominant theme was that the United States was under the threat of an alien force and that the country must be strong and ready for the coming strug-

Movies such as "The Invasion of the Body Snatchers" and "Invaders from Mars" dealt with this

movies have some creature eventually destroyed by team-work of the military and the country's best scientists.

The end of the movies, however, always leaves some doubt about whether more creatures, or communist threats, are waiting to be discovered.

Another type of movie, including "It Came from Outer Space" and "The Day the Earth Stood Still," gave the message that America was too hostile and intolerant of others.

The human-like creature in The Day the Earth Stood Still" tells Earth that if it does not stop exploding bombs and threatening war, it will be destroyed.

Religion was the answer in the third type of films, Lenihan said. One example was "The War of the Worlds," in which people flocked to churches and pray to stop the alien invasion.

Lenihan criticized today's science fiction films.

'Star Wars' is obviously campy, putting the audience on. There's not too much message in 'Star Wars.'

Lenihan researches science fiction films the way some people cure insomnia — by watching them on the Late, late show.

Lenihan viewed more than 500 western films doing research for his doctorate. A book form of his doctorate research of western theme, the professor said. The movies will be out in the fall.

Discussion, but no decision on CS housing grant guides

By KEVIN HIGGINBOTHAM

The College Station City Council discussed various methods of dis-tributing Rehabilitation Grant money in a shirtsleeve session Wednesday but made no decision.

The city has budgeted \$50,000 for the housing rehabilitation project. The money is surplus street repair funds received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in 1977.

Planner Jim Callaway suggested the money be distributed along the same lines as HUD's Section eight housing grants. To operate under Section 8 of the HUD code, grants for house repairs would be distributed according to the appli-

cant's annual income and the condi-tion of the building to be repaired. Callaway said that applications for the grants would be reviewed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The grants, which could range up to \$5,000 each, are to be used to repair homes to meet HUD

If the homes are not brought up to standards, however, the city can't claim the money from HUD, Calla-

that the city should determine whether a renovation would meet HUD requirements before a grant is and other city property, and would

possibilities for the new city logo.

College Station.

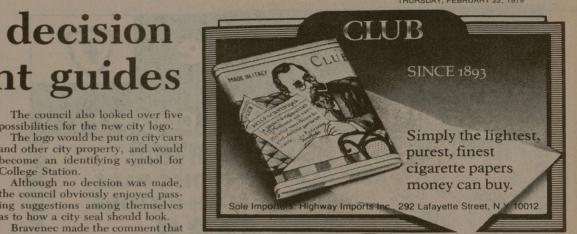
The only reason the city is putting money into this is to get Brownie points with HUD, otherwise we'd use the money to pave streets," said Councilman Gary Halter, who suggested that one criterion for the housing project be the number of people that could be asplatter to cook a turkey on.

"But we aren't going to use the money to pave streets," said Bravenec, "we're going to use it to rehabilitate homes. Do you mean 50 \$1,000 grants would be better than 10 \$5,000?"

Halter stressed that since the criteria for success of the project will be HUD's and not the city's or the citizen's, consideration should be given to meeting HUD's wishes.

Bravenec suggested that the initial screening of applicants be done by Callaway and then a list be given to the committee for further consid-

The council will look into the matter further during Thursday's regu-





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Chinese pay millions

years of off-and-on negotiations. The sale is the first by a U.S. helicopter

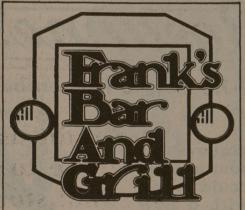
liners for a reported \$125 million. In year

1978, Boeing sold three 747SPs and options on two more for a reported

The sale of the 15-place, twin engine helicopters was announced to coincide with the visit of Han Hsu, a Chinese official expected to be named assistant minister of foreign affairs for the Americas and

The Chinese will use the helicopmanufacturer, he said.

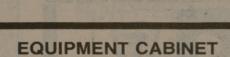
The Boeing Co. made the first afters tale to the People's Republic afters to survey mineral deposits and to support offshore petroleum drilling, Bell officials said. They are scheduled for delivery between aircraft sale to the People's Republic scheduled for delivery between in 1972 when it sold 10 707 jet airSeptember and December of this



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