

# Sci-fi lovers visit AggieCon

by Mallous Kazemzadeh  
Battalion Reporter

Asteroids, nymphs, wizards and aliens are among the topics that attract thousands of people to Texas A&M for AggieCon, Cepheid Variable's annual science fiction convention.

AggieCon XIV, the 14th annual convention, will be held March 24 to 27, and is the largest science fiction convention in the Midwest, says Cathy Rylander, member of the club and editor displays.

She said the club expects approximately 3,000 people to attend. Delegates are expected from the Southwest and other areas such as Washington and Kansas.

Rylander said the convention will feature science fiction authors and artists, panel discussions, contests, art shows, slide shows and a wide variety of science fiction and fantasy films.

Some of the movies to be shown are "Camelot," "Excalibur," "Star Trek II-The Wrath of Khan," "Something Wicked Comes This Way," and "The Final Countdown."

The convention will host professional writers who will discuss topics such as how to write sci-

ence fiction and the role of women in science fiction, Rylander said.

The guest of honor at the convention will be Harry Harrison who wrote, "Make Room, Make Room," and special guest Steven R. Donaldson, author of "The Thomas Covenant Articles."

Other activities will include an auction of rare books and items, a costume party, a dealer's room where people can purchase science fiction items, and movies that will be shown in the Rumours Coffee House, Rylander said.

Cepheid Variable began in the late 1960s as an English department club and later became an MSC organization. Rylander said that from the beginning the main objective of the organization has been to learn more about science fiction and fantasy and to meet others who also have this same interest.

"Most of the excitement comes from meeting strangers who share the same hobby and the professionals who create science fiction," she said.

Cepheid Variable shows science fiction and fantasy films every Thursday night and often premieres films that are not yet on the market.

# local

## Elections soon for class agent

by Stephanie M. Ross  
Battalion Reporter

The 1983 class agents, who will have the responsibility of planning the five-year class reunion, will be elected during the Association of Former Students' Induction Banquet in April.

The class agent application, available at the Forsyth Alumni Center, includes a petition that 83 members of the senior class must sign. Candidates must return their applications by Friday to be eligible for the election.

The two class agents, typically one man and one woman, must be members of the graduating class of 1983 to be eligible to apply.

Several couples already have applied this year, said Joe Meyer, senior class president.

The agents serve a five-year term which begins after gradua-

tion. They will act as the link between former students and the school.

"Essentially, they do the class officers' jobs when we graduate," Meyer said.

Class agent duties include taking the money remaining in the class treasury and putting it in a bank account until it is needed for the class reunion in 1987. The class agents are the chief organizers of the reunion, and new class agents are elected at the reunion to take over the job for the next five years.

Providing information for the Texas Aggie, the former students' magazine, also is a duty of the class agents.

Class members may send information concerning achievements, weddings and relocation to the class agents and the agents will forward it to the Texas Aggie.

## A&M group hosting trip through Russia

by Craig Harris  
Battalion Reporter

A group of 47 Texans will leave for Russia Friday afternoon. The trip is being sponsored by the Texas A&M Center for Education and Research in Free Enterprise.

Steve Pejovich, director of the center; Larry Wolken, the center's associate director; and Joyce, a graduate student who serves as secretary for the center, are hosting the trip.

The remainder of the group consists of Texas high school students, teachers and businessmen. Joyce is the only Texas A&M student going on the trip. Brazos County high school students will be on the tour.

Pejovich will lecture on Soviet economics during the trip, but credit hours will be given for attending the tour.

The Texas A&M Center for Education and Research in Free Enterprise is a non-academic department that supports and encourages learning about how the enterprise system works through the classroom and on-site experience.

The center chose to visit the Soviet Union so interested people could see for themselves the difference between capitalism and communism.

"We could tell people over and over how much better capitalism is," Joyce said, "but that isn't the same as their seeing for themselves."

The group will not have all the freedoms they have in the United States while in Russia. Any photographs taken first must be approved by the Russian tour guides. Souvenirs must be checked and approved by Russian authorities before being taken from the country, and while group members may carry Bibles to read, they are not allowed to distribute them.

The tour group will visit Leningrad and Moscow before returning on April 3.

Pejovich said many people think traveling to Russia is a dangerous adventure, but it is not.

"It is a very cultural country,"

he said, "and it will be a pleasurable trip. But you must be careful what you say and do, and who you talk to, since it is a police state."

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American Council of Life Insurance bases its prediction on the latest Census Bureau projections that assume women's life expectancy will rise from the 1981 figure of 78.3 to 81.3 years in 2005 and 83.6 years in 2050. Comparable ages for men are 70.7, 73.3 and 83.6

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