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Informational Meeting  
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Rm 205 MSC  
Study Abroad Office  
Academic 101 845-0544



## Procrastination leads to taxation.

**An urgent message from Merrill Lynch: If you don't open an IRA by April 15, there's no time left to procrastinate.**

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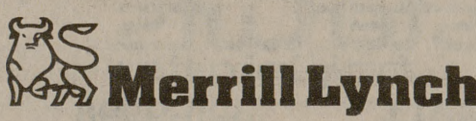
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\*An eligible IRA must be established and your contribution made before April 15, 1986.  
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## AggieCon attracts variety of people from Southwest

**By Karen Watson**  
Reporter

With the signal from Howard Waldrop, science fiction writer and toastmaster, four guest writers and an artist bit the heads off chocolate Easter bunnies with red and green cream filling, and AggieCon 17 was declared officially open.

AggieCon 17, which was held from April 3-6 in the Memorial Student Center and Rudder Tower and sponsored by the MSC Cepheid Variable, is the largest and oldest science fiction convention in the Southwest.

Yvonne DeGraw, vice chairman for public relations, said the convention attracts people from all over Texas and its neighboring states.

Some of the convention events included: panel discussions and seminars by professional science fiction writers such as George R.R. Martin and Orson Scott Card, a Secular Humanism Revival, art exhibitions, a masquerade contest with everything from a friendly wench to a barbarian huntress, dances, plays and games.

Dr. Roger Beaumont, faculty adviser for Cepheid Variable, said the administrators are "indulgent" about the conventions and just say, "Oh, that's interesting."

However, Timothy Cowden, an electronics technician for the Cyclotron Institute and a Cepheid member, said, "They've (administrators) tried to suppress it for years."

Science Fiction for many young people is a form of escapism, Beaumont said. He bought his first science fiction paperback in 1947 and it opened up a whole new universe, he said.

DeGraw said most of the people who attend these conventions and are in Cepheid are a bit different, but they enjoy being treated that way.

They're the type of "people who won't listen to the top 40 songs just because they're top 40," DeGraw said.

Charles Neighbors, a literary agent and A&M graduate, said many science fiction writers are willing to expose themselves to their fans.

"Writers accept the fans as an important part of what they're doing - kind of an extended family," Neighbors said.

In turn, the fans who are aspiring writers often find encouragement at conventions because they have a chance to see that professional writers are real human beings with real concerns, Neighbors said.

"But a lot of the people here won't ever write anything but checks and grocery lists," he said. "It's just a chance for them to meet their heroes and heroines."

Science fiction writer Lillian Stewart Carl said conventions are a great chance to gain publicity and make contact with readers.

"I've yet to have anyone connect my name on a PTA list with any of my books," she said. "Conventions also give students a chance to see the literary process - an expansion of the English class."

Science fiction usually attracts people who for one reason or another find their daily lives dull, Carl said. It's a mental vacation and a chance to dress up in fantasy costumes and play - even grown-ups need a chance to play, she said.

April Anderson, who was dressed as Penny Priddy from Buckaroo Banzai in a pink flapper costume and black fish net hose, said she came to the convention from Austin with The League of Lectroids for Lizardo, a Banzai fan club.

People interested in science fiction usually don't have anywhere else to channel their excitement, Anderson said. But when they get together at conventions, they're able to live out their fantasies with people who share their same interest, she said.

Most people interested in science fiction are individualists, Anderson said.

"My sister always wanted to know why I never joined a sorority, but I just couldn't see myself being told what to wear," she said. "You just don't find many people in them sewing leather on boots for kicks."

Ferk, a convention fan who legally changed her name because she enjoys "going through life as a four letter word," said people attend conventions because of "intellectual curiosity and mad passionate lust."

"These conventions usually have little to do with science fiction," Ferk said. "A lot of loose men and occasionally loose women attend cons."

But because of the literary figures here, this one's an exception, she said.

"I do read as well as lust," she said.

The typical convention fan is usually a bit brighter and a bit more maladjusted than the regular person, Ferk said.

### Collection valued to be displayed in MSC

## Over \$5 million in art given to A&M

**By Mary Ann Harvey**  
Staff Writer

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents recently accepted a collection of paintings, English Cameo Glass, art glass, Tiffany items and other selected works of art for permanent display in the Memorial Student Center.

The collection valued at over \$5 million was donated by J.W. Runyon, Class of '35, and consists of more than 60 paintings by American turn-of-the-century artists, including: American Impressionists Childe Hassam, Mary Cassatt and John Henry Twachtman; Robert Henri and his circle known as The Eight; and American Western Scene painters including Frederic Remington, Charles Russell, Henry Farny and Joseph H. Sharp (recently exhibited in the MSC Gallery).

Runyon first approached Dr. Robert Walker, vice president for development, and the Texas A&M Development Foundation in 1976 about

the possibility of bequeathing his art collections to A&M to be displayed in the MSC. Since then, the foundation and J. Wayne Stark, special assistant to the president for cultural development, have been working with Runyon to negotiate the proposed gift.

Stark said different portions of the Runyon Collection may be exhibited in the MSC as early as fall. To exhibit and house the entire Runyon Collections, the board resolved to reserve space in the Forsyth Alumni Center after it's vacated by the Association of Former Students. They also recognized the need for a visual arts facility of approximately 20,000 square feet in the planned expansion of the MSC, which is scheduled to begin in 1987.

The collections will be maintained, curated and exhibited by the Office of Cultural Development and the MSC director's office.

In the past, Runyon has donated numerous


## What's up

- Monday**
- ENGLISH DEPARTMENT:** will sponsor a mini writing course "Coherence: Making Meaning Relationships Clear" at 6:30 p.m. in 120 Blocker. The instructor will be Kim Brewer. For more information call 845-3452 or stop by 227 Blocker.
- TEXAS AGGIE BAR ASSOCIATION:** will award two \$500 scholarships to A&M Students entering law school in 1986. Applications are available to any student who has completed most or all of his pre-law work at A&M and has maintained 3.5+ overall grade-point ratio. Deadline is April 30. Interested students should contact Dr. Hillary Jessup in 101 Academic.
- AGGIES IN RUSSIA:** study abroad in Russia this summer from May 19 to June 29. The deadline for applying is April 15. For more information call Hugh Hughes, 268-4268.
- PARENT'S WEEKEND:** make your plans now! A complete schedule will be in The Battalion and at the MSC from Monday to April 13.
- POLITICAL FORUM:** will sponsor a lecture on "Gun Control: The Controversy" at 8 p.m. in Rudder Theater.
- MSC AGGIE CINEMA:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 502 Rudder.
- AGGIE TOASTMASTERS:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 120 Blocker.
- TAMU ONE-WHEELERS:** will meet at 5 p.m. in front of G. Rollie White Coliseum.
- Tuesday**
- ENGLISH DEPARTMENT:** will sponsor a mini writing course "Examining Tone: Open Your Persona and Say Ahhh" at 6:30 p.m. in 120 Blocker. The instructor will be Howard Cox. For more information call 845-3452 or stop by 227 Blocker.
- GALVESTON COUNTY HOMETOWN CLUB:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 410 Rudder to discuss an April 18 trip to New Braunfels and hold officer elections. For more information call Danny, 764-7106.
- NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN/TAMU ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL WOMEN:** Charlotte Sutton speaks on "Changing Perceptions of Women Executives in the Last 20 Years" at 7 p.m. in 206 MSC.
- SOCIETY OF MANUFACTURING ENGINEERS:** Dr. Neil Jefferies, the Center for Manufacturing Technology, and Ron Ellis will speak on "What is Happening in CAD/CAM" at 7 p.m. in 305 Fernier.
- AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR METALS:** Dr. W. Bradley will speak on "Case Histories in Failure Analysis" at 7 p.m. in 127B Zachry.
- MSC VARIETY SHOW:** will be held Friday at 7:30 p.m. in Rudder Auditorium. Tickets are available now at Rudder Box Office.
- ADVERTISING ASSOCIATION:** will meet at 5:30 p.m. in 163 Blocker.
- TAMU HORSEMAN'S ASSOCIATION:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 115 Kleberg.
- MEXICAN AMERICAN ENGINEERING SOCIETY:** will elect officers and discuss a San Antonio trip at 8:30 p.m. in 410 Rudder.
- COLLEGIATE FFA:** will hold officer elections at 7:30 p.m. in 208 Scoates.
- AGGIE DEMOCRATS:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 305 Rudder.
- BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 201 Veterinary Medicine Sciences.
- SPANISH CLUB:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. at the Flying Tomato.
- Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three days prior to desired publication date.**

## AG CONVOCATION and PICNIC

Saturday, April 12, 1986  
5:00 p.m. Systems Bldg. Lawn

Tickets \$4 at the MSC Box Office



For more info. call 845-3711

Sponsored by the College of Agriculture and the Student Ag Council