

2,500 expected to attend AggieCon 18

By Melanie Perkins
Staff Writer

The largest science-fiction and fantasy convention in the Southwest — AggieCon 18 — will converge on the Texas A&M campus Thursday through Sunday.

Drawing more than 2,500 people annually from as far away as New York and California, the event is sponsored by MSC Cepheid Variable — one of the largest on-campus science-fiction organizations in the United States.

Throughout the weekend, the convention will feature panels and readings by well-known science-fiction and fantasy authors and artists, a masquerade ball, an art show with professional and amateur art, a 125-

table dealer's room, trivia games, a video program, autograph sessions, a banquet, parties and movies.

Ben Bova, former fiction editor of OMNI magazine and president of the National Space Society, will attend AggieCon 18 as the guest of honor. Bova has published several popular science articles as well as science-fiction novels, including "Voyagers II: The Alien Within," his most recent novel. He will address the convention at 3 p.m. Saturday in 601 Rudder.

Other special guests include artist Rowena Morrill, author Christopher Stasheff, publisher Kerry O'Quinn and author Steven Gould.

A local band will provide music at the masquerade ball, beginning at 10 p.m. Saturday in the MSC. At the



ball, a group of masked judges will award prizes for the best costumes.

Just before the ball, Cat Boxe Theater — a Houston-based street theater troupe — will present a 10-minute play, "The Reverend," described as an irreverent, cynical and quite funny comedy.

Guest art will be displayed in the MSC gallery throughout the week-

end, and works by other professional and amateur artists will be displayed in 701 Rudder. Art from both displays will be auctioned Saturday night, also in 701 Rudder.

Saturday at 6 p.m., the AggieCon banquet will feature a special menu including Cornish game hen. Toastmaster Gould will address the banquet, and Cat Boxe Theater will present "Little Red — the Hood," an audience participation play. Seating is limited but tickets are available for \$10 at Rudder Box Office.

AggieCon 18 will show these movies: "The Sword in the Stone," "Sleeping Beauty" and "Something Wicked This Way Comes" on Thursday night; "Big Trouble in Little China," "Escape From New York" and "The Thing" on Friday night;

"Alien," "Aliens" and "Poltergeist" on Saturday night and "Labyrinth" on Sunday afternoon.

Proceeds from "Labyrinth" ticket sales will go to Twin City Mission Inc.

This year, participants will be able to purchase movie tickets separate from regular convention tickets.

AggieCon opening ceremonies are Thursday at 4 p.m. at Rudder Fountain. Tickets for the entire event are \$9 for students and \$13 for non-students and are available at Rudder Box Office. Programs, listing events, times and locations, will be issued with the tickets.

Reduced-rate tickets are available for those who wish only to attend certain parts of the program.

Oil tycoon Murchison dies at 63

DALLAS (AP) — Clinton Murchison Jr., a legendary oil tycoon who created the Dallas Cowboys football team only to lose it to health, died Monday after a lengthy illness, officials said. He was 63.

Cowboys president Schramm said Tuesday it was a very sad day because Murchison worked with him for 25 years in a very emotional business. "When you look at the Dallas Cowboys over a 25-year period, there's only maybe a couple of teams in history that have had the success that the Cowboys had."

"Everybody has coaches who body has general manager players. But over that 25-year period, what set the Cowboys was the uniqueness of Clinton Murchison."

The Murchison fortune, one of the biggest in Texas, began with Clinton's famed wildcat oilman, it was an estimated \$250 million.

Murchison's later bankruptcy forced even the sale of Murchison's 25-acre estate in north Dallas, bringing to a bitter end the more fascinating Texas "wheeler-dealer" saga.

Officials: Record lows ravaged state fruit crop

(AP) — Farmers burned stacks of tires in orchards and ran water near the base of trees in last-minute attempts to save crops, but freezing temperatures set record lows across Texas Tuesday and ravaged many fruit trees, officials said.

Texas' \$10 million fruit industry sustained sizable losses, Texas A&M University horticulturist Calvin Lyons said Tuesday.

"We've had some major crop losses across the state," said Lyons, who also works with the Texas Agriculture Extension Service. "There has been a lot of damage to our fruit."

Lyons said growers and county extension agents across Texas were trying to tally the wintry weather's damage. He said it will take several days to determine how bad it was, but he estimated it could total millions of dollars.

"It looks severe, but we won't know for a few more days," he said.

Especially hard hit were peach crops in several areas, including Fredericksburg, Weatherford and Stephenville, Lyons said. Grape crops in West and North Texas also suffered losses.

"There's been heavy damage in East Texas between last night and this morning — both

peaches and blueberries," Lyons said Tuesday.

"It's almost a total loss," Parker County peach grower Hugh Murphy said, estimating his loss at \$30,000 to \$40,000.

But Lyons said he does not anticipate any damage to South Texas' citrus crops because temperatures there did not get cold enough.

Growers will have to evaluate the damage to determine if there is enough fruit left to warrant continued insect- and disease-control efforts, he said.

"I don't think it will be a total loss," Lyons said of the fruit crop. Unprotected vegetable

crops also were at risk and probably were damaged, but most of those can be replanted while fruits generally cannot, Lyons said.

The National Weather Service said record low temperatures were set Tuesday at Brownsville, with 39 degrees; Corpus Christi, 30; Houston, 33; Port Arthur, 29; Austin, 30; and Dallas-Fort Worth, 30.

Tuesday's forecast called for fair weather across Texas with a warming trend continuing through today. Temperatures today are expected to be in the 70s and 80s, the weather service said.



This is the week: April 2-5, 1987

Guest of Honor: **Ben Bova**
President of National Space Society;
Author; former Fiction Editor of OMNI

AggieCon 18 Movies

Thursday Night:

- The Sword in the Stone
- Sleeping Beauty
- Something Wicked This Way Comes

Friday Night:

- Big Trouble in Little China
- Escape From New York
- The Thing

Saturday Night:

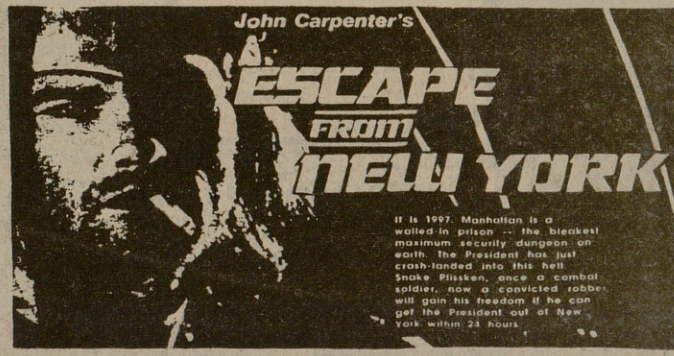
- Alien
- Aliens
- Poltergeist

Sunday Afternoon:

- Labyrinth



Sleeping Beauty



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- ✡ Rabbi Petter Tarrow (Texas A&M Univ.)

Date: Thursday, April 2nd, 1987.
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: M.S.C. TAMU Room 201

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