

# MSC Cepheid Variable serves science fiction

By Susan C. Akin  
Reporter

Freshmen arriving at Texas A&M will be bombarded by numerous traditions, regulations and organizations.

For one of these organizations, playing Beat the Klingon, reading numerous science-fiction novels and having human chess matches are not out of the ordinary.

This unusual MSC committee is Cepheid Variable.

Cepheid Variable is a science-fiction fantasy committee that tries to promote science-fiction fantasy on campus by bringing authors and artists and conducting science-fiction fantasy films and conventions at A&M," Charles Reyes, chairman of Cepheid Variable, says.

"The purpose of Cepheid Variable is to allow people with a common interest in science-fiction fantasy to get together and act upon their interests," Reyes says. "Science fiction is anything that has to deal with the future, the past or things that are different. You can deal with the fantasy part of it, or you can deal with the fiction part of it."

Reyes says Cepheid Variable tries to include a large field of science-fiction to bring a combination of people into the organization.

"Cepheid has 'Star Trek' fans, members of NOVA (the MSC war-

games committee), members of the Society for Creative Anachronism and people who just like reading science fiction and playing strategic games," Reyes says.

"Cepheid might be viewed as a bunch of weirdos, but if people would look at what we're trying to promote — our dreams — they would understand us better," Reyes says. "If they don't have any dreams, they probably do have a bad conception of us."

Anyone interested in joining Cepheid Variable can go to its first meeting 8:30 p.m. Sept. 15 in 701 Rudder. Dues are \$3 per semester and \$5 per year.

Cepheid Variable's first event will be a showing of "Heavy Metal" Sept. 10. Freshmen with a paid fee slip and a current I.D. card will be allowed to enter free.

"'Heavy Metal' is a combination science-fiction-fantasy movie that's animated and has a soundtrack by many popular rock groups," Reyes says. "We will have two showings, probably at 7:30 p.m. and 9:45 p.m."

The movie will be followed by a human chess match outside the arches of the Quadrangle Sept. 11.

"This human chess match will be Cepheid Variable vs. the Society for Creative Anachronism," Reyes says. "Any organization or group of people can challenge Cepheid to a match if it wants."

Cepheid Variable's movies will be shown about once a month. They are popular science-fiction fantasy films that aren't shown very often. In the past Cepheid Variable has shown "Dr. Strangelove," "The Jungle Book," "The Terminator" and "Monty Python and the Holy Grail."

In the spring Cepheid Variable hopes to have two science-fiction conventions. The first, Not-So-Itty-BittyCon, tentatively is scheduled for the end of January and will feature Gene Roddenberry speaking about his new "Star Trek" series. Three "Star Trek" films will be shown.

The second convention is AggieCon. This large science-fiction convention will bring many authors, artists, trivia buffs and strategic game fanatics to the MSC March 24-27. People can buy science-fiction fantasy novels, hear new science-fiction poetry or play Dungeons and Dragons or Beat the Klingon.

"People should try to see Cepheid as a committee that is trying to bring hope and ideas for the future," Reyes says. "Don't be all technical. Don't be so engrossed in school work that you burn out. Cepheid is an escape and a form of recreation."

"If you have dreams of the future, dreams of the past, dreams of what could have been, or what might be, Cepheid Variable is there not to bury it but to let it out."

# OPAS to begin 15th season with dance, music programs

By Larissa-Starr Smith  
Reporter

The Opera and Performing Arts Society, beginning its 15th season, is responsible for bringing 13 major programs a year to Texas A&M, says Anne Black, program adviser to OPAS student committee and executive director of OPAS board of directors.

Any student interested in belonging to MSC OPAS can apply. Out of about 300 applicants, 180 students are chosen, Black says.

"Applicants who have experience and interest in the performing arts are certainly weighed heavier, but this doesn't mean that other applicants aren't accepted," Black says.

Committee members will work an average of five to 10 hours a week on their own time while an officer will work about of 30 hours, she says.

The general committee meets every other week and subcommittees meet weekly or biweekly, she says.

"In addition to programming, they (students) are doing student development, finances, and putting together a budget," Black says.

OPAS has a \$500,000 budget, Black says. Student fundraising is responsible for \$14,000 of the \$500,000, and the remainder is gathered from community contributions and ticket sales.

A student committee and a community group constitute OPAS, Black says. The president of the board of directors is a community member and the vice president is a student committee member.

"Both (the community and the students) work hand in hand to bring the performing arts to Texas A&M," Black says.

OPAS plans these programs for 1987-88:

- Nikolais Dance Theater — Sept. 22.
- Rotterdam Philharmonic with James Conlon, conductor, and Bella Davidovich, pianist — Oct. 13.
- "The Great Gershwin" starring Mel Tormé, Leslie Uggams and Peter Nero — Nov. 10.
- The Canadian Brass performing "Christmas with the Canadian Brass" — Dec. 1.
- Tokyo String Quartet — Jan. 28.
- Christopher Parkening, guitarist — Feb. 15.
- Mr. Jack Daniel's Original Silver Cornet Band — March 6.
- Music from Marlboro — April 15.
- "Beehive," a play — Sept. 30.
- "Singin' in the Rain" — Nov. 17.
- Marcel Marceau — Feb. 24.
- "Frankenstein" — March 30.
- "Cats" — date to be announced.



Battalion File Photo

Janine Riveire plays a bass cello during a practice of the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra. The BVSO has performed at A&M several times under the sponsorship of MSC OPAS.

# Performing arts society at A&M makes plans for Broadway shows

By Teree Thompson  
Reporter

The Texas A&M University Memorial Student Center Opera and Performing Arts Society has big plans for the 1987-88 academic year with its Broadway program.

The Broadway program was previously a part of MSC Town Hall. But this past year Broadway was transferred to OPAS.

"I think students are going to like OPAS a lot better now that we have added Broadway," says Dyan Foss, OPAS director of student development.

"Some people might not like opera or orchestras, but most likely there is something in OPAS Broadway that they can enjoy," she says. "We are trying to promote cultural awareness on campus and in the community."

The sophomore geophysics major says the society has several performances scheduled for this year.

One scheduled performance is by the Rotterdam Philharmonic with James Conlon as conductor and Bella Davidovich as pianist.

Also scheduled is the Nikolais Dance Theater, which Foss says promises to be an exciting performance.

Performing stars Mel Tormé, Leslie Uggams and Peter Nero also are scheduled to appear in "The Great Gershwin."

Foss says there is no cost to join OPAS. In order to join, students must fill out an application and sign up for an interview.

Pamphlets with specific directions can be picked up at MSC Open House at the beginning of the fall semester.

Foss says the society meets about twice a month. Also, each member must be on a subcommittee.

All OPAS subcommittees meet once a month, Foss says. "The meetings are pretty short," she says. "Other than that, you put in as much time as you want to put in. You can put in anywhere from five to six hours a month or five to six hours a week. Whatever you want to do."

Foss says she heard about OPAS at Fish Camp. OPAS was started 15 years ago and steadily is growing. The group is trying to pull in new members, she says.

In the 1987-88 school year alone OPAS gained 50 new members.

"The Bryan-College Station area doesn't have very much to offer in the area of fine arts," Foss says. She says OPAS Broadway hopes to offer the students and area residents an opportunity to enjoy performances such as operas, ballets, musicals and orchestras.

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