AGGIELIFE

This year the number of the edge of reality and beyond 611360M 200

AggieCon31 invades Texas AggieCon31 invades Texas A&M with special guests **APRIM** Harlin Ellison, Terry Prachett

ng off their platformis ry list, Rosenbuschsilar The guests of honor include writers Terry

Big Even

he students stay and take

ou're walking across

ice the lighting is really In addition to the standard discussion and autoover to Commons, are graph sessions, Ellison will participate in a Texas ome and pickup your Cage Match, which varies significantly from the ient government? No.5 tandard question-and-answer session. to? Yes." Rosenbu "We got the name [Texas Cage Match] of the got to equip that office panel from professional wrestling, which some my ill know this is where w officers are aficionados of," Crocker said. e a problem, an issue or "The Texas Cage Match is a panel discussion n we need to follow up m whatever topic happens to crop up at the time," back to them letting th Crocker said. "It will be styled in such a way that being done on the issue? Harlan Ellison will be on the panel for the full time, student body presidentn while the rest of the panel will consist of whatev-

to effectively relay those er other guest decides to sit and discuss the topic O University decision with him. usch said. e real power of student aregular basis will recognize Harlan Ellison," said esn't come in the abili eal power is the people. geCon and a recent Texas A&M Graduate. "He's spected that have the a a frequent guest, and they like to invite him back nicate and the breadth really influence the ad his campus," Rosenbust biggest names, and their work is widely read by au-

diences beyond the genre. "Harlan Ellison has been called the Lewis Carevent as large as Greek and SBSLC are on a moroll of the 20th century by the L.A. Post, and Terry rams that other organization Pratchett was recently revealed [by the British Book ral greeks put on every a Track] to be the most popular English author ever, ney Greek Olympiad gross rated ahead of [J.R.R.] Tolkien, [Charles] Dickens, nd [William] Shakespeare," Crocker said.

Friday, March 24, 2000

BY JUAN LOYA

The Battalion

n eclectic collection of activities is ap-

AggieCon31, MSC Cepheid Variable's an-

al science fiction, fantasy and horror convention.

We include everything from literature to comic

oks, television to movies," said Michael Crocker,

ctor of AggieCon and a senior English major.

While last year's convention had media person-

ties, such as Ted Raimi ("Xena," "Hercules") and

igel Bennett (Harrison Bergeron), as guests, this

Pratchett and Harlan Ellison. Ellison, writer of sev-

ral award-winning short stories and novels, will be

"Anyone who watches 'Politically Incorrect' on

tephanie Smith, public relations director for Ag-

Ellison and Pratchett are two of sci-fi/fantasy's

ecause he's such a forceful personality."

year's AggieCon has more literary-theme

attending AggieCon for the third time.

proaching Aggieland this week - namely

imed at black greeks In Britain, Pratchett is the decade's best-selling ing fiction author, with more than 10.5 million eks are the only ones white sales during the 1990's. In addition to writing the enting these rules, they

popular Discworld series, he collaborated with ward-winning writer Neil Gaiman on the novel ate and that there might Good Omens, which is being made into a film by nding on the nature of director Terry Gilliam (12 Monkeys, Fear and oathing in Las Vegas). y depends on the chara

Sci-fi and fantasy artists are also well represented at this year's convention. Among them is Tim Bradstreet, whose work has been seen in comic books such as "Vampire: the Masquerade" and 'The Crow: City of Angels.'

And as ever, AggieCon offers a wide variety of panels and events to participate in.

"I feel we have at least something for everyone," Crocker said. "We are having a police equipment demonstration on Saturday, a children's reading by one of our guests. Also, many of the panels with our author guests deal with writing fiction [and sometimes non-fiction] in general.'

Guest author Thomas W. Knowles, in addition to the writing several western novels, recently wrote They Rode For The Lone Star, a book detailing the history of the Texas Rangers. He is participating in three panels, including "Writing as a Career" and "Weird Wild West".

Also on the panel agenda are discussions such as "Star Wars: Same Old Hype?" and "Wicca 101.' Pratchett leads the panel "Humor in Writing"

on Friday. "Terry is known for his humor in his work," Crocker said. "Everything he writes has an almost

tongue-in-cheek style to it. He will be discussing how he accomplishes this feel from book to book and has maintained it through over 30 books in publication." Smith said there have been few changes made

to this year's Aggiecon program. "There are a few more discussion panels than last year, generally Q&A sessions between guests and the audience," Smith said. "In past years we've had large events or demonstrations that took up more time - we held a wedding last year on Friday afternoon — so this year we have a bit more

time for our regular panel sessions.' Though there are no vows being exchanged this

year, there are still plenty of special events taking place, including a costume contest on Saturday evening, a masquerade ball (with DJ Radio Free Oz) and a Saturday performance of The Rocky Horror Picture Show

AggieCon is also sponsoring a charity auction benefiting Scotty's House, a non-profit child advocacy center in Bryan-College Station.

Last year's AggieCon raised more than \$2,100 and the convention's sponsors hope to surpass that amount this year.

AggieCon runs through Sunday, and the events taking place are many. Additional information on convention is available the http://cepheid.tamu.edu/aggiecon.

RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

at doesn't exist. n is a primarily whitea npiad]," Hodge said. a scheduling concer ety and security para sed us to reevaluate the n happened on the same

s a similar event and t

ivate parties. dents at this school, w and unless you havet ng served," he said. om having these part and that the open panyl

organizations to maint npus with quality prog



Photo Editor Photo Editor oto Editor ecek, Graphics Editor na, Graphics Editor Night News Editor hoff, Radio Producer ton, Web Editor , Science & Technology F

Vages, Bradley Atchison, Kimbe Sallie Turner, Patric Schneider, h O'Farrell, Melissa Sackett, S In O' Farreil, Melissa Sacket, s-usan Redding, el Ruenes, Eric Andraos, Jeffrey Si rson, Richard Horne, David Spttill III, & Sean Gillespie. stant: Cristina Padron, Beth Alapië arrie Bennett, Marc Gether, Kindf elissa Maricle, Jamie Moris & Kell tt: Noni Sridhara; Whitoey Stor, ran Locker, Almunden Allo Gills an Locker, Almudena Alba, Ch

Brent Barkley OLOGY - Scott Jenkins & Yolanda

n the Division of Student Media.⁸ m phone: 845-3313; Fax: 845-26

attalion. For campus, local, and ratio in 015 Reed McDonald, and click ho

p a single copy of The Battalion R emester and \$17.50 for the sum nera shots all and spring semesters and Mor as A&M University. Periodicals Per eed McDonald Building, Texas W

ms, one almost wishes that

MOVIEREVIEWS

Starring Jet Li and Russell Wong Directed by Andrzej Bartkowiak

While extremely entertaining and cked with amazing action scenes, neo Must Die falls short of what it ald have been — an action classic. Featuring Hong Kong action sensaion Jet Li in his first American, leadgrole, this movie is full of beautifulchoreographed fight scenes. wever, the script for this story does t do justice to Li's acting talents. Han (Li) is an ex-cop who breaks out of a Hong Kong prison when he

earns of his brother's death in Ameria. Han travels to America where he finds himself in the middle of a war beween his father and a gangster played y Delroy Lindo.

Though the premise has great poential, it is obvious that the screenvriters lost track of the human element of the story by introducing a slew of ide stories that go nowhere.

The cinematography by Andrzej Partkowiak, in his directorial debut, nakes the story take a back seat.

Bartkowiak infuses the action scenes ith great energy, using rapid-fire editng and a barrage of constantly moving

However, having viewed what Li is apable of in some of his Hong Kong heightens the fight's intensity.

REEL CRITIQUE

Romeo Must Die



watching this that everyone involved

The movie looks great, but rather

than being a lean hour and a half, it tries

ma and was stretched out to two hours

- making the audience feel that a lot

It is obvious that the director and

The action is fast and furious and

Unfortunately, Romeo Must Die

producers intended this to just be an en-

tertaining popcorn-fare, and that is ex-

there it a lot of it — fights occur about

once every 10 minutes or so.

sold the film a little short.

of that time was wasted.

actly what it is.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROTHERS Jet Li finds himself outgunned Romeo Must Die.

Bartkowiak would have let Li's amazing acrobatics propel the fight scenes rather than relying on flashy camera tricks

But one camera trick that does work to pretend it has some elements of drawell in the film is similar to the technique used by David O. Russell in Three Kings.

In the middle of a fight scene, the picture suddenly cuts to a digital image of a person's skeleton and then shows a bone being broken as it is hit.

Russell did nearly the same thing by showing the bullets actually entering the body and lodging in various organs in Three Kings.

In both films, this clever shot

teeters on the brink of greatness but falls short of the goal. (Grade: C+) One just gets the feeling while - Matt McCormick

Celine Dion sings at LPGA golf tour

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (AP) - Celine Dion came out of retirement long enough to sing five songs for fellow golf enthusiasts.

"I'm nervous. haven't trained," she told about 1,000 people at-

tending a dinner Wednesday night for the LPGA Nabisco Championship tournament. She and husband Rene Angelil played in the event earlier in the day.

Dion's performance at the Palm Springs Convention Center was her first since a farewell concert on New Year's Eve in Montreal. She began a two-vear hiatus in January.

Dion, 31, has a new look - a super-short blond haircut. Singing to pre-recorded music, she did a version of Frank Sinatra's "All The Way," with Sinatra's voice accompanying her.

Vatel will open **Cannes** festival

PARIS (AP) - Vatel, starring Gerard Depardieu and Uma Thurman, will open the Cannes Film Festival this year, organizers said Thursday.

The film, a period movie in English about the Duke of Conde's valet, was made by British director Roland Joffe and will have its world premiere May 10. It isn't up for competition. Joffe's film The Mission took the coveted Palme d'Or at Cannes in 1986.

French actress Virginie Ledoyen, who starred with Leonardo DiCaprio in The Beach, will be the master of ceremonies.

Also on Cannes' first night, French New Wave director Jean-Luc Godard

People in the News

will present a 12 minute film essay that recounts the 20th century through his eyes.

Alex Trebek sued by airline security

TORRANCE, Calif. (AP) - An airline security employee has filed a lawsuit against Alex Trebek over an alleged flap last year at Los Angeles International Airport.

Marlene Andrade, 31, of Hawthorne, claims that the 59-yearold "Jeopardy!" game show host tried to get an oversized bag past her United Airlines security gate last May.

She contends that Trebek became upset when she asked him to put the bag on a conveyor belt that has a metal guard at its mouth to check bag sizes

Trebek lifted the metal template as if he had the same privileges as airline employees, and slammed it on her hand when she intervened, Andrade said in papers filed Monday in Superior Court.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages. Trebek had no comment.

Speilberg starts new film Website

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Calling all filmmakers: Steven Spielberg and Ron Howard want to see your work.

The directors are launching a short-film Website this spring called

Pop.com and said Wednesday they plan an Internet movie showcase, Popfest

SPIELBERG

The films that earn the best grades from Internet users will be reviewed by

Pop.com's partners, including Spielberg, his DreamWorks co-founders Jeffrey Katzenberg and David Geffen, Ron Howard and Brian Grazer.

Some of the filmmakers could be offered production deals with Dream-Works, Imagine or Pop.com. Filmmakers can submit movies up to 30 minutes long.

Harrelson denied state court appeal

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) - Woody Harrelson's marijuana possession case is back to a county court now after losing a state Supreme Court appeal.



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HARREL SON Harrelson plant-

ed four hemp seeds in 1996, knowing he would be arrested, so he could challenge a Kentucky law outlawing possession of any part of the cannabis plant.

Through three different courts, Harrelson has argued the statute is unconstitutional because it doesn't distinguish between marijuana and hemp, which contains only minute amounts of THC.

The state's high court ruled Thursday there's no difference between the two. "The mere fact that hemp may contain less THC than marijuana is of no consequence," Justice Donald Wintersheimer wrote.

The misdemeanor carries a potential fine and little possibility for iail time.

Harrelson, 38, has invested in a hemp clothing company and touts hemp's potential for saving trees. He has argued that if paper manufacturers used hemp instead of trees to make paper, there would be no need to cut down the nation's forests.