

Beagle - B -

## Author To Open Series

"Whimsical, evocative, tantalizing . . ." These are a few of the adjectives critics have applied to Peter S. Beagle's newest book, *THE LAST UNICORN*.

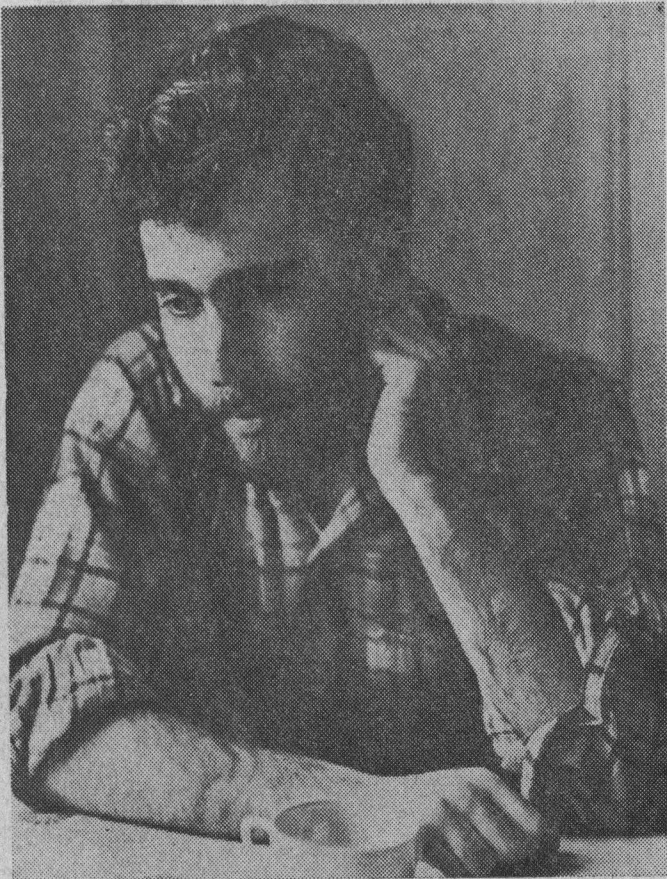
Beagle will be reading from his book and discussing it Sunday at 8 p.m. at The Catalyst. The public is invited.

The program is the first in a series of Sunday evening talks entitled "The Author Speaks," being sponsored by Book Shop Santa Cruz. Future programs will include concerts, discussion groups and musicales, it was announced.

Beagle's book, which is published by Viking Press, tells the story of a quest—the search of the Unicorn for her lost fellows. She is joined in her travels by Schmendrick the Magician, and Molly Grue. They end up at King Haggard's castle where the Red Bull is encountered in a terrifying sequence and Prince Lir enters the scene.

The book seems to be right in the swim of the current spotlight — what with unicorns being sung about in popular ballads . . .

But if you think this sounds like a tale of fantasy for children — change your mind right now. Beautifully and hauntingly told as it is, when you plumb the depths you realize Beagle had a lot more to tell than just a fairy tale. His book resounds with a kind of deep poetry that



Peter S. Beagle, author of *THE LAST UNICORN*

touches the wellsprings of humanity itself . . . You finish reading it, realizing that perhaps here has been spelled out the reason for life on earth: the quest for the truth of self.

Peter Beagle was born in New York City in 1939 and graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1959.

The following year he published his first book, *A FINE AND PRIVATE PLACE*, which drew applause from critics.

He has traveled in Europe and spent a year at Stanford University on a writing fellowship. He and his family now live in Santa Cruz.

Margaret Koch