Candy man sitting on death row

Associated Press
HOUSTON — They call him "the candy man" on Huntsville's death row. To Houston children, he's "the man who ruined Halloween."

He is Ronald C. O'Bryan and his

role in a year-old horror story may have changed forever the traditional childhood celebration of Hallo-

O'Bryan was convicted last summer of murdering his 8-year-old son, Timothy, with poisoned trickor-treat candy. The youngster died on Halloween night only a short while after taking two gulps of cyanide-laced confection.

Chilling memories of that Oc-

tober night still linger in this city, (abc) INTERSTATE Theatres 846-6714 & 846-1151 UNIVERSITY SQUARE SHOPPING CENTER FREE STREET DANCE FRI. NITE PRIZES!! "AMERICAN



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forming the final persuasion for many parents and civic groups to stop or to alter the trick-or-treat cus-

Thousands of children, who last Halloween went door-to-door collecting candy with the mock threat of "trick or treat," this year will go to carnivals, parties or just stay home.

"There are just too many nuts out there to risk it any more," said one Officials in the Houston suburbs

of Bellaire, Missouri City, El Lago and La Porte agree. Each community has officially discouraged trick-

In Deer Park, where the O'Bryan family lived, school and city officials plan a city-wide carnival for some 2,000 children.

Many other officials, who believe the trick-or-treat tradition is just too deeply ingrained to stop altogether, are promoting an idea that will cut the risks and keep the fun.

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Instead of collecting candy on their outing, thousands of children will collect "punkin' money", the brainstorm of Mrs. Pate Nufer, a Houston mother.

At her suggestion, several Houston chain stores are printing sheets of five-cent and two-cent coupons which will be handed out to children instead of candy. The coupons can be redeemed at stores for "anything but cigarettes and beer," said

"I dreamed up 'punkinickels' for five-cent denominations and 'punkinduals' for two-cent coupons," she said. "I think it sounds better than telling kids they're trick or treating for paper.

Homes participating in the coupon system will post a picture of "Jolly Jack O'Lantern", another creation by Mrs. Nufer. Her plan is being promoted by children in Harris County will par-

Mrs. Nufer said she believes the program will "keep the fun in Halloween, but take the fear out.

O'Bryan, the 30-year-old man convicted in the case that triggered the trick-or-treat changes, will spend Halloween this year on Huntsville's death row with 26

other men sentenced to death. A Houston jury last June found

According to testimony, O'Bryan distributed five packages of poisoned candy during a trick-ortreat outing. He gave one each to his son and to his dauther.

O'Bryan guilty of killing his son to

collect on more than \$30,000 in life

Timothy was the only child to sample the candy and an autopsy showed the youngster ate enough cyanide to kill several people

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