

THE BATTALION

Vol. 72 No. 43
10 Pages

Tuesday, October 31, 1978
College Station, Texas

News Dept. 845-2611
Business Dept. 845-2611

Scared silly in '38

- Millions of Americans listened to the "War of the Worlds" 40 years ago this Halloween on radio and believed it. For details on one of the better tricks of the time, see page 7.
- A folklorist says that if a caterpillar has a little yellow on his nose, the winter will be cold in the early part of the winter on page 8.

State comptroller says former aide resentful

United Press International
AUSTIN — State Comptroller Bob Bullock said a former aide scheduled to testify about alleged improprieties in the agency is acting out of resentment toward another staffer and a desire to please the media.

"Bill's a little warped," Bullock told UPI on Monday, discussing Bill Collier, one of three top Bullock aides who resigned earlier this month complaining the comptroller abused his staff and position.

Collier was scheduled to testify Monday to the Travis County grand jury about his allegations.

"From the time Bill came over here members of the press really needled him and said, 'Well you sold out.' To reconcile himself with the press this was his way of getting back into the fold. How you (reporters) all thought about him meant everything to him," Bullock said.

Bullock said Collier, a former reporter for the Houston Chronicle, sought information by searching desks and private records to supply the media with stories.

Bullock said Collier, a former director of

tax information, had a grudge against Deputy Comptroller Ralph Wayne.

"Bill Collier had the worst hate on for Ralph Wayne that I've ever seen," Bullock said. "Collier was jealous of Ralph. It became an obsession with him."

Bullock said he spent a lot of time with Collier before Wayne joined the staff in February 1977.

"We ran around together. We drank beer together. After Ralph came that dropped off. It just so happened that I quit going very much," Bullock said.

Bullock said he talked to Wayne about Collier's criticism but, "I never did believe all that. I trust Ralph Wayne. He's done me a cracker jack job. I kind of watched his secretary a little bit when I had time. Occasionally I'd see her writing a check. Hell, Leslie (Bullock's secretary) writes my checks. If they're going to send me to jail for my secretary writing my check, hell let's just get on with it, get the paddy wagon over here and we're on our way," he said.

Bullock said he had regarded Collier as

a good, rather close friend — "I treated him almost like a son" and was shocked that Collier would go through office files and remove material.

"Bill Collier sneaked around for a good period of time — some period of months — principally at night in other people's offices picking up one or two memos along with my medical records," Bullock said. "They took my medical records out of (my secretary's) desk. I don't really think that's any of Bill Collier's business."

Collier acknowledged he took a copy of a medical record indicating doctors prescribed lithium for Bullock to combat a manic depression condition. Collier said he took other documents to substantiate allegations Bullock used the comptroller's office for political purposes.

"I guess I could be characterized as a sneak thief but, hell it doesn't bother my conscience one bit," Collier said. "I have a pass key to the whole building. I didn't break into anything. It wasn't like I was anywhere I wasn't supposed to be."

Collier said he quit when Bullock failed to act on his complaint that Deputy Comptroller Ralph Wayne used state secretaries and aide Jay Brummett to handle his personal business deals while on the state payroll.

Collier said typewriter ribbons he removed from the machine used by Wayne's secretary showed "she did almost no state work." He denied his complaints to Bullock about Wayne or to Austin prosecutors about the comptroller's office were motivated by jealousy of Wayne or concern for reporters' opinions. "Bullock would like to think that because that would make it easier to understand," Collier said. "Bullock doesn't understand when things bother someone's conscience."

"Most of the time over there I felt like we were really doing some good. That agency is a hell of a lot better for Bullock being over there," Collier said. "I agree that he did a good job. I just don't think that he does anymore. Bullock's personal tragedies — his health, his son, his marriage, his drinking problems — have contributed to a situation where control of the office has just slipped and he can't get it back."

Texans to vote on 9 amendments

United Press International
AUSTIN — A capsule of nine proposed constitutional amendments being submitted to Texas voters Nov. 7:

—No. 1: Permits the state to purchase products manufactured by non-profit sheltered workshops for the handicapped without taking competitive bids.

—No. 2: Permits local governments to issue revenue bonds to finance construction of industrial facilities, which then could be leased to private industry.

—No. 3: Authorizes cities to issue tax

increment bonds for re-development of blighted areas, with the bonds paid for from higher taxes collected on the redeveloped property.

—No. 4: Exempts solar and wind powered energy devices from property taxes.

—No. 5: Expands jurisdiction of the justice of the peace courts in civil cases up to \$500.

—No. 6: Permits the Legislature to expand membership on the courts of civil appeals and allows the courts to hear cases in sections.

—No. 7: Abolishes the State Building Commission.

—No. 8: Permits water districts to issue bonds and use tax revenues for firefighting purposes.

Who's not coming to dinner

Cronkite upset over name use

United Press International
HOUSTON — A department store catalogue invited nearly a million people to have dinner with Walter Cronkite. The problem was, however, no one mentioned it to the CBS anchorman.

The \$94,125 item in the Sakowitz Christmas catalogue was supposed to be humorous — giving an opportunity to "be somebody" — but Cronkite apparently didn't see it that way.

Describing Cronkite as "furious," a spokesman for CBS has demanded Sakowitz "cease and desist sending out the catalogues, destroy all catalogues still in the store's possession and notify all those who have already received them that Walter Cronkite's name was included without his authorization or knowledge and that the store cannot possibly deliver Walter Cronkite for the dinner party as advertised."

Store President Robert T. Sakowitz said the item offered the \$94,125 chance to dine with Cronkite, Bruce Jenner, Dr. Joyce Brothers, Minnesota Fats and the like. He says the flap is a misunderstanding.

"We didn't mean to upset Mr. Cronkite and we're sorry," he said. "It is simply a tongue-in-cheek 'Ultimate Gift to Be Somebody.' Our attorneys are discussing the matter with their attorneys now."

He said all the catalogues — which trad-

itionally include high-priced thrill gifts — have been mailed out. He declined to say how many there were, other than that it was "less than a million."

As of Friday, Bruce Jenner, Olympic decathlon winner, was the only other celebrity to question the offer, and "he called to find out what it was all about and then called back to apologize and say he thought it was fine," Sakowitz said.

"It was never intended to guarantee that all those people would be there. That's why we used the word 'like' in the item. We have not been in this business 76 years

to misrepresent things to our public."

Sakowitz said the names came from Program Corporation of America, a speaker and celebrity bureau, "and we were working in good faith that they represent these people."

The CBS spokesman said he had "never heard of Program Corporation of America" and Harriett Turner, national sales director of the Hartsdale, N.Y., firm said she was not surprised he would say that.

She said Sakowitz asked the firm for names and prices and that publication was never discussed.

Off the presses, but hot

United Press International
BATON ROUGE, La. — Publishers of Gris Gris, a south Louisiana weekly newspaper, have learned a new meaning for "hot off the press."

A run of 12,000 newspapers, almost the entire weekly output, was stolen from the Gris Gris offices before it could be distributed.

"We've been threatened, and we've been hauled into court and we've had people mockingly burn newspapers on our doorsteps," editor Sandy Branch said Monday. "We've just never had someone

cart off 12,000 of them before."

Branch said a disgruntled former route person who was dismissed last week may have taken the papers. She said police were investigating.

"You know I've gotten mad at people, really mad," she said, "but never mad enough to go to the trouble of hauling off a ton of newspapers."

"I think it's a scream," said Branch. "What else can you do but laugh?"

She said a new run was being readied and should be on the stands late today or Wednesday.



Battalion photo by Karen Cornelison

Kiss me — Trick or Treat?

This ghoulish face doesn't belong to the wearer, Beau McVay. It is one of the millions of mass-produced likenesses of Gene Simmons, the lead singer of the rock group "Kiss." It's

another of the disguises many Texas A&M University students will be wearing tonight for trick-or-treating or to attend one of the many activities planned for Halloween.

Tower says since he opposed programs he's on Carter administration's 'hit list'

By DOUG GRAHAM
Battalion Staff

John Tower said he is on the Carter administration's "hit list" Monday night in Rudder Tower.

"I have known for some days that I'm on the administration hit list, which means now they've joined the AFL-CIO in opposing me in this election," the Republican senator from Texas said. "I can only conclude that the reason is that I have opposed the administration on certain of its programs and policies that I considered to be in the national interest and not in the interest of Texas."

Tower said much of Carter's disfavor came from the senator's opposition to the

Labor Reform bill that was defeated in 1977.

The AFL-CIO supported the bill, which Tower said circumvented Texas' right-to-work laws.

Right-to-work laws ban agreements that force employees to join unions in order to work.

The Labor Reform bill would have made it possible to unionize a shop without a majority of the workers voting for unionization. Under the law, a unionized business could deduct union dues from its workers' paychecks, whether or not they were union members.

Tower said the White House has been

sending political help to Texas in an effort to stifle his campaign. Carter's son Chip, First Lady Rosalynn and cabinet officials Patricia Harris of HUD and Joseph Califano of HEW recently visited Texas.

"I don't know who they'll send next," he said.

Tower said that although opinion polls differ on his chances of winning, he feels his strength will come from those who are most likely to vote.

He said that a low voter turnout has been predicted for Nov. 7. Thus, Tower said, those who will turn out will be high probability voters. That will help his chances, he said. Even so, Tower said the race will be too close to call.

IT'S HALLOWEEN

By DIANE BLAKE
Battalion Staff

Haunting around for some Halloween fun? Several organizations in the Bryan-College Station area are brewing up plans for some bewitching events.

Of course, a grave problem for most students will be deciding witch event to attend.

The Resident Housing Association is sponsoring a costume contest at 5:30 p.m. in Sbis and Commons ceterias. The contest is open to anyone on campus.

Prizes of free food at several local restaurants will be given to contestants having the most original, most outstanding, sexiest, scariest, best all-around or best group costume.

Last year, winners of the best group costume came as a six-pack of beer and another came as a set of teeth, said Lorri Richards, president of Krueger Hall.

The women's residence halls will

be open for trick-or-treating 7-8 p.m. and the men's will be open 8-9 p.m.

The Bread for the World organization will sponsor a trick-or-treat for UNICEF in the College Station area. Anyone wanting to participate should meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 701, Rudder Tower.

The organization will go trick-or-treating in groups of four and will have refreshments at 9:30 p.m.

Aggie Cinema is holding a costume contest in Rudder Theater before showing the Alfred Hitchcock thriller, "Psycho."

Winners will be chosen by audience applause and the best three will receive a gift certificate to Fish Richard's, Pelican's Wharf or Rosewood Junction.

The First Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest and auction will be in the Rudder Mall. The contest will be at noon and the auction will be at

1 p.m. until the pumpkins are sold.

Prizes include a dinner for two at TJ's, two movie tickets, a pumpkin filled with candy and a pumpkin pie.

Pumpkins will be provided, but contestants must bring their own carving tools. Entry fee is 50 cents.

The Bryan-College Station Jaycees have a haunted house on Texas Avenue across from Randy Simms Barbeque. The house, which Jaycees president Kenny Mallard said is "guaranteed to scare you," will feature Count Dracula's mausoleum, a grave room and a man-eating monster.

The house will be open from 7 p.m. to midnight. The \$1 admission will go to the Jaycees' Toys for Tots fund.

Another haunted house is located in the Walton Hall lounge. Admission is 50 cents for a tour that Walton Hall residents promise will really shake you up.

For shaking of a different kind, students can attend a Halloween Disco Dance at the MSC Basement Coffeehouse from 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is free to anyone wearing a costume.

A Halloween dance for Commons residents only will be in the Commons at 9 p.m.

The Agriculture Economics Club will sponsor a Halloween party from 8-12 midnight at Quonset Hut B. There will be costume and dance contests and free beer for anyone interested.

Upperclassmen in the Corps can trick-or-treat the freshmen at 10 p.m.

