

'Rocky Horror' cultists star at midnight anniversary show

By RICHARD OLIVER
Battalion Staff

Some movies bring out the best in people, and some movies bring out the worst in people. The Rocky Horror Picture Show, however, just brings out the "weird" in people.

Saturday night at the Campus Theater on University Drive more than 400 Aggies and assorted other Rocky Horror Picture Show cultists gathered for the first anniversary of the movie's reign in the theater.

The movie has been the featured midnight movie at the Campus Theater for a year, and manager Mark Schulman was excited on the eve of the anniversary showing.

"We've had great success with the movie," he said. "Several times we've filled the theater on a Friday night, and that's about 714 people. This is going to be great."

The mood for the evening was set when Bill Schulman, owner of the theater, spurned the fire marshal's warning about

lighting candles in the theater. Schulman told the crowd "to hell with it," and the tone was set.

The movie centers around a young, engaged, and very normal couple named Brad and Janet. They have a flat tire in a lonely area one rainy night, and go for help at an old castle.

There they encounter the transsexual mad scientist, Dr. Frankenfurter, and a number of his equally unusual friends. Frankenfurter is developing a monster of sorts — a tanned muscleman named Rocky.

Audience participation has been instrumental in forming the movie's cult, many members of which go watch the show every week.

The crowd came prepared, throwing rice in the air during the wedding scene at the beginning of the movie to getting up and dancing and singing at the end.

The movie was peppered with dialogue from the audience along with quite a bit of physical participation.

When the heroine was forced to trek

through a rainstorm with a newspaper on her head, the audience followed suit, drawing out newspapers and covering their heads. Later in the movie, the newspapers were torn up and thrown in the air.

The crowd sang and danced along with the movie in parts, anticipating familiar lines and shouting them out in unison. People unfamiliar with the movie glanced around bewildered, as if more interested in the crowd reactions than the movie itself.

In a sense, the movie itself did finish second during the evening. The crowd was the real show, joyously dancing and having a good time.

"That's the whole reason everyone is here," said one Horror Show Fan. "It's an entire celebration in itself. The movie gives everyone an outlet to have a good time and generally be together."

Bill Ferguson, a local hairdresser and an ardent Horror Show Fan, said, "I just like the audience participation. It's all one big party."

The "party" lasted well after the movie

was over, with people milling around and talking, as if bound by a common bond.

One Aggie threaded his way through the crowd with his girlfriend, glancing left and right at the various costumes. He looked at his girlfriend curiously, and she simply shrugged and pointed at the door. Weirdness isn't for everyone.

In a costume contest was held prior to the movie, the costumes presented varied form a representation of Magenta, a female character in the movie, to a man in sequined bikini briefs.

Susan Doerge, a winner in the women's section of the contest, was excited about the movie.

"It's just fun to do. I'm a fan to the end" she said following the movie. "I love the crowd, the atmosphere and the movie. It's just like a club."

The crowd finally drifted out, and Mark and Bill Schulmango. Before Doerge went out the door, she turned and said, "It's a real experience going to this movie. Besides, where else besides a wedding can you get rice thrown on you?"



Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

Two of the female costume contestants pose for a photograph before Saturday night's Rocky Horror Picture Show first anniversary showing at College Station.

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Food for thought

Ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes at the restaurants where you eat? It's the business of the Texas Department of Health to find out. See page 8.

Hearings for bill begin today

Teacher tenure threatened

By JANE LYON
Battalion Reporter

Today could be the beginning of the end for a system that dates back to medieval times.

After postponement last Monday, hearings were rescheduled for today in the Higher Education Committee of the Texas legislature for House Bill 145, which would eliminate tenure as it is known at Texas A&M.

Briefly, tenure is a status granted to teachers after a probation period of six years, protecting them from dismissal upon retirement. Dismissing a teacher with tenure is almost impossible without a lengthy and complex hearing to show cause. At most colleges and universities, if tenure is not granted, the teacher is fired.

Rep. Frank Gaston, R-Dallas, filed H.B. 145 last December. The bill would abolish tenure as of September 1, 1980, and replace it with a system of renewable contracts for five or seven years. A "grandfather clause" in the bill would allow teachers currently tenured to keep this status until Sept. 1, 1990.

Dr. Jack Campbell, a professor of educational curriculum and instruction at Texas A&M and a member of the University's Academic Freedom, Tenure, and Responsibility Panel, says that abolition of tenure will threaten academic freedom.

If 145 should not survive, Gaston filed H.B. 1337 in March as a substitute. This bill would not abolish tenure but would require a continuous evaluation process of tenured teachers with more specific rea-

sons for their dismissal. Hearings for it also begin today.

"The tenure system was originally begun by professors to protect themselves," Gaston said last week. "There was no due process in the courts."

From a historical point of view, tenure in America gained support when the American Association of University Professors was created at Johns Hopkins University in 1913 to halt a trend of dismissing professors without cause. Between 1860 and 1914, 68 teachers were fired from 122 schools. Only six of the terminations were preceded by hearings.

In 1940, the AAUP's Statement of Principles was prepared and gave a definition of academic freedom and guidelines for dismissing a teacher that are accepted today by all but a few of the nation's four-year institutions.

Gaston illustrated several examples of what he called "tragedies of tenure."

"Tenure is a one-way street," he said. "It protects the professor but not the university."

He explained that once tenured, a professor has full rights to all resources within the university. He can even leave the university and teach elsewhere, but the university cannot do anything about it or dispose of the professor.

Gaston also said that professors who are applicants for tenure and do not receive it are black-spotted for life. They might be hired at other universities, but the fact that they did not receive tenure at the last school weighs heavily against their chances of getting another teaching position.

Finally, Gaston said that tenure denies academic freedom for teachers under the probation period. The schools tend to favor those who follow and stay in line with the school's accepted ideologies, thus limiting any creativity those teachers may have, he said.

As for the effect such a bill would have upon the state, Gaston commented, "It will have absolutely none, because there are too many good professors with applications in for teaching at schools in Texas right now."

He added that in recent years, there has been a flood of Ph.D.'s with nowhere to go.

Dr. Haskell Monroe, dean of faculties here, said he had not seen the bill or heard anything about it. He said he would want to study it before making any statement about the bill. He did say the bill would make it difficult for Texas to recruit good professors.

Campbell, a member of the Texas A&M Academic Freedom, Tenure and Responsibility Panel, said the panel had been

asked to send in opinions about the bills to TACT (Texas Association for College Teachers). Campbell is also a representative from Texas A&M for TACT.

"Ultimately, academic freedom will be threatened if tenure is abolished," Campbell said. "If they're trying to get rid of 'deadwood' (professors who exist on tenure with only a minimum amount of work), it will still be with us for years because of the grandfather clause."

He also said that many professors would be hesitant about starting research. Some research projects require an indefinite amount of time. With renewable contracts, a teacher would worry about having his research ended in midstream.

"In America, academic freedom has allowed for new experimentation and invention that has never been seen in other countries. In this way society has benefited."

Campbell said the system of tenure sometimes does protect deadwood and that it might not always protect the young professor during the probation period, but that there were abuses to be found in every system today.

"Teaching should be the highest precedent. That's what we're here for," Campbell said.

In the Feb. 9 issue of the Fortnightly, a newsletter for the faculty and staff at Texas A&M, it was announced that the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System in Austin, had modified its policy on academic freedom, tenure and responsibility but that it has no direct effect on Texas A&M's policy.

The University's present policy will be re-examined, but any decision regarding a change rests with Board of Regents.

The original Coordinating Board policy said that the only valid reasons for termination of tenured teachers were "professional incompetence, moral turpitude, gross negligence of professional responsibility or gross repeated failure to abide by the rules and regulations" of the Texas A&M University System.

In addition to these, the Coordinating Board has added "mental or physical disablement of a continuing nature, bona fide financial exigency or phasing out of institutional programs."

It has always been Texas A&M's position that a decision regarding tenure must be made during the next-to-last year of probation.

Currently 43.6 percent of the total faculty tenured at Texas A&M that could be affected by either of the bills. It can only be speculated what would happen to the whole state of Texas since it would be the only state in the union with such legislation.

Info leak suspect moved to new office

United Press International

WASHINGTON — John A. Tucci, the man suspected of "leaking" Supreme Court opinions from the court's closely guarded print shop, is being moved to another government office.

Chief Justice Warren Burger personally asked Tucci's boss, John Boyle, to move him, so Tucci will be reassigned without loss of status to his former linotype job — this time at the Government Printing Office's main plant instead of the court's private shop.

"I don't know what the man has done.

The only thing I have done is acceded to the wishes of the chief justice," Boyle said. "Burger just wanted this man out," he said.

The printing office personnel branch will investigate for possible regulations violations, but a spokesman said the office had no evidence to initiate any action against Tucci.

Burger acted in an apparent attempt to plug a rare leak in the high court's internal security after ABC-TV reporter Tim O'Brien last week reported in advance the outcome of two high court rulings.



Battalion photo by Liz Bailey

Balance, strength, nerve

Mike Norman of Stephen F. Austin State University competes in the bull riding Saturday morning at the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association's rodeo. The rodeo was at the Texas A&M Equestrian Center on FM 2818. Competition began Friday night; the last performance was Sunday morning.

Carter touted, Brown booted

United Press International

DETROIT — Most U.S. state Democratic chairpersons believe President Carter will be nominated for a second term but faces a tough campaign in 1980, a Detroit News survey shows.

In a copyright story in Sunday's editions, the News said 83 percent of the Democratic leaders expected Carter's nomination next year with 88 percent wanting to see Vice President Walter Mondale on the ticket again because of the "deep respect" party leaders hold for him.

The survey, the newspaper said, was taken during the spring meeting of the Association of State Democratic Chairpersons in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The News said Carter's wide support among the chairpersons came even though more than one-third said they thought Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., could win more popular votes than Carter in their home states.

Most of those surveyed, though, considered Kennedy's strength as academic because they did not expect him to fight Carter for the nomination.

The survey also said most of the party chairpersons thought a presidential campaign by Gov. Edmund Brown Jr. of California would fizzle.

"People think he's a little weird," said Nevada chairwoman Didi Carson. "It's his lifestyle and his apparent switch of principles from a liberal to somebody who wants a constitutional convention to balance the budget."

Although most of the chairpersons supported the Carter-Mondale team, the survey said most of them agreed it would be a tough campaign.

Regarding front-runners for the Republican presidential nomination, the survey showed the Democratic leaders with conflicting opinions.

Former California Gov. Ronald Reagan was seen as a strong candidate in the Plains states while former CIA Director George Bush of Texas labeled strong in his native New England.

Former Texas Gov. John Connally was seen by the Democratic chairpersons as strong throughout much of the South.

The newspaper said it viewed the opinions of the 50 chairpersons as important "because they reflect the grassroots attitudes within the Democratic Party."

Services for Ag pending

Services are pending in Meridian, Miss., for Charla Gwin, 21, a Texas A&M University veterinary medicine student found dead in her apartment here Wednesday night.

A ruling is pending with Justice of the Peace Mike Calliham. Police said the exact cause of death is still under investigation.

Gwin, a first-year veterinary student, was a former first sergeant and later company commander of the all-female W-1 unit in the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets.

Since Silver Taps ceremonies are not held after the Aggie Muster on April 21, the traditional student memorial service is expected to be this fall and will honor all students who die after Muster.

Gwin is the 12th student fatality of the current academic year.

Get it just right

Battalion photo by Lynn Blanco

Dennis Berthold, banjo player for the King's English String Band, was part of the entertainment at the College Station Arts Festival at Oak Park Saturday. Members of the band are all English professors at Texas A&M University.