

Why did he pick on me?

By NANCY ANDERSEN
Battalion Staff

I walked from the well-lit Culpeper Plaza parking lot into the darkness of the Jaycees' haunted house. I began to have my doubts about this assignment.

It had to have been my epic story about the potholes that would cause my group to do this to me? I quickly looked over my group, looking for a pothole in the form of a large rat to protect me. Unfortunately, my group was composed of 10 junior high school kids and a married couple with two kids. I'll bet my group arranged that, too.

The ghoul's warning bet the trip did little to reassure me. My fears were confirmed as I told to crawl on my hands and knees through a dark tunnel.

After climbing out of the tunnel, the darkened ordeal was over. I was faced with a long hallway

complete with graffiti and flashing lights. Safety at last, I thought. However, my piece of mind disappeared quickly as a hunchback jumped out of nowhere at me.

A safe distance away, the guide explained the first scene — a real Texas-style hanging of a skeleton. Walking along the uneven dirt path, my group came upon an electric chair execution in progress. Our guide quickly warned us to keep away from the railing and to stand on a wooden plank to insulate us from a possible shock. Hastily we obeyed.

Then some of the more blood-thirsty members of the group started screaming to the executioner to flip the switch and fry the victim. He did and for a few seconds, the insulated board began to vibrate from the shock.

As we hurriedly moved on, a conch ahead with a chainsaw jumped out of nowhere at us.

Professor's goal to promote creative engineering at A&M

Inspiration and awareness are the goals of Dr. Charles A. Rodenberger, director of the Junior Engineering Technical Society (JETS) and assistant dean of the College of Engineering at Texas A&M University.

Rodenberger is also the JETS national president. "JETS is good for guidance," he said. "I see it as working like the Future Farmers of America, not to recruit but to make people aware of the effect of engineers and the profession on society."

"Engineering's greatest impact is on pocketbooks, but people don't realize it," Rodenberger said.

"We have great examples today in electronics," he said. "A television set is less expensive today than when they first came out." Rodenberger predicts similar advances

soon with lasers, computers and automation.

Recently, graduate students in Rodenberger's systems engineering course presented an idea for a braille computer terminal that could open educational and career opportunities for the blind.

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