

Haunted house held in basement

by Darla Bucaram

Battalion Reporter
Just listening to the eerie organ notes from Bach's Toccata and Fugue was enough to make a few witches and ballerinas ask their mothers to take

them home even before they passed the gypsy fortune teller who sold death passes to the environmental design department's haunted house Sunday night.

And perhaps it was a good thing, for the music was nothing

compared to the experience awaiting the strange sorts who made it through the narrow black entrance at the basement of the Langford Architectural Center.

Nobody was prepared for the ghost that came flying out of a dimly lit hallway, but even less were they ready to see the torso of a man sticking out of the ground, his intestines spreading smoothly beneath his sliced waist.

Since there always are exceptions to the rule, a few people were not too scared—or so they affirmed—after coming out of the haunted house.

One such person was 9-year-old Justin McCue of College Station, who claims he even was "scaring the monsters in there."

Perhaps if you want to find out if you have the nerves of steel that Justin does, you should

try the environmental design department's haunted house anytime from 6 to 11 tonight.

Special detective division

A&M cops solve crimes

by Tricia Parker

Battalion Reporter
Although it may lack the drama of Hill Street Blues and the life and death confrontations faced by officers on "The Hill," the Texas A&M University Police department does have a criminal investigation division.

The criminal investigation division of the University police, headed by Maj. Josephine Hoelscher, is made up of four plainclothes officers, all proficient in fingerprinting and composite drawing.

Hoelscher and her small staff investigate every stolen bicycle, every missing wallet, and every case of disappearing office equipment reported to the department. The criminal investigation division also investigates violent crimes such as rape or assault, that although rare, do occur on campus.

But Hoelscher says, "We haven't had a problem with serious crime here."

Last year, 70 liquor violations, 26 assaults, 15 drug offenses, two robberies and one attempted rape in the area were reported.

"Our biggest problem here," Hoelscher says, "is with theft — theft of bicycles, bill-

folds and money left in plain sight. Students leave their purses open and in plain view. Someone just comes along and picks it up."

Thefts last year totaled \$225,425. Of that amount, bicycles accounted for \$44,990, miscellaneous books, plants and construction materials accounted for \$52,615, office equipment accounted for \$28,011 and radios and televisions accounted for \$31,430. Only \$46,908 worth of the property was recovered.

Recovering stolen property is difficult because often it takes victims of crime a few days to realize they've been robbed, Hoelscher says. People think their belongings have just been borrowed until they don't show up for a few weeks. By then, she says, it's hard to find a lead.

Inevitably there are cases for which the division has no leads. Detective Bill Wade says that when this happens the division doesn't give up. Instead, he says, it tries to find a pattern in the crime. Wade says anything the detective finds is important because it may be useful in solving a case later on.

Sometimes the detective's job is hampered by a witness' inability to remember signifi-

cant details. But the investigators have an answer for that — detective Will Scott, a hypnotist.

"It's not like a lot of people think," Scott says, "like getting up on a stage and turning people into chickens. It's not like that at all. You actually are aware of everything that's going on around you."

Scott says the technique merely puts subjects in a more relaxed frame of mind so they can recall details with greater clarity and accuracy.

Scott, who was trained at the Therapeutic and Forensic Hypnosis Institute of Texas, says hypnosis mainly is used to recall mundane things like license plate numbers. However, last year, Scott used it to solve an armed robbery case in Bryan.

The clerk at the robbed store could not remember enough about the suspect to give police any real leads. Under hypnosis the clerk remembered the man's features more clearly as well as other bits of information that helped solve the case.

Scott says hypnosis is never used on suspects. One reason is that a subject cannot be hypnotized against his will. And if he were, Scott says, the suspect possibly could lie even better

under hypnosis.

Hoelscher says hypnosis is usually used to solve crimes that are a bit more complex. The detectives routinely use fingerprinting and composite drawing techniques.

Officer Rick Flores, an investigator's job began when someone reports a crime

Hoelscher says that the suspect in a stolen case is referred to the Department of Student Affairs, that, the police department has no control over the Department of Student Affairs chooses to do.

Another little-known function of the criminal investigation division is to investigate students for the arrest of warrants. Hoelscher says sometimes students pay tickets, and the department issues an arrest warrant which the division is to the student.

Hoelscher says the division is asked to go to the police station to post bond.

When the investigation must arrest someone, take them to the Bryan County jail.

The jurisdiction of the division and the police general is limited to the on campus.

HOWDY FRESHMEN

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Couple battles to save son

United Press International

VAN — A pediatrician advised Gary and Yvonne Coselmon to let their son die. If the 1-year-old lived, he would be a vegetable, the doctor said.

Bacterial meningitis, a complication from an undetected ear infection, was ravaging the baby's nervous system.

Daniel did die — twice. His heart stopped five minutes once and 22 minutes another time.

He was revived, but remained in a coma. Fluid built up in his head.

An operation might save him, the doctor said, but advised the Coselmons to let the infant die.

They ordered the operation, and Daniel lived. He has a severe brain injury, and is what society calls a vegetable. But the Coselmon's aren't buying society's labels.

Yvonne spends 14 hours seven days a week trying to bring Daniel back. Slowly, they have seen him re-establish contact with life and his environment.

Yvonne recalls the "blue, embryo-shaped little baby" four years ago, unaware of anything except perhaps his mother's presence, stirring from a seven-week coma.

Daniel's skin tone has since returned. His alert blue eyes are only slightly hooded now.

Today almost 5, Daniel lies in a relaxed fetal position on the couple's living room floor. The room, now Daniel's room, is a dimly lit reminiscence of a science-fiction dungeon.

A harness hangs from a swing-like apparatus. A coffin-sized wooden box with a transparent plastic lid holds cluster of stadium-sized light bulbs. Wires and electric buzzers line the sides of the box.

A three-foot-wide ramp in the center of the room leads nowhere. So does a path of blue-and-white checkered tiles on the

floor. Lights wired to timers protrude from the walls. Only a solitary corner bookshelf hints that this was once a living room.

In this room, Yvonne and dozens of volunteers bombard Daniel's senses with stimulation. They are trying to reach him.

Except for two daily 30-minute naps, the assault on Daniel's senses is constant. From the moment he awakens until the day ends 14 hours later, Daniel is subjected to the rigors of about 300 exercises and routines. The average exercise lasts three minutes.

"There was never any talk of the future. They told us not to expect anything from him. They didn't have the hope of potential for our son that we had."

Gary, 29, and Yvonne, 26, have been on this schedule since February 1982, but they could not have done it without a network of volunteers who share the family's hopes for Daniel and assist in the daily therapy.

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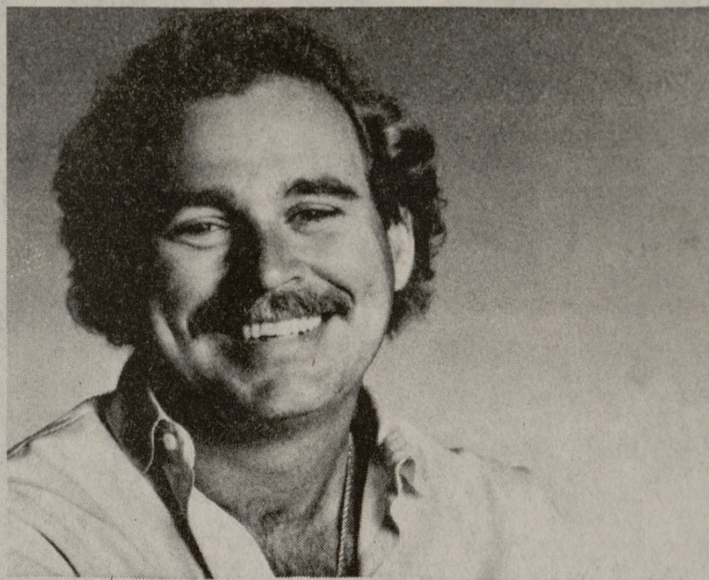
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