

Even SWC players like to trick or treat in scary costumes?



Richard Tijerina
Assistant Sports Editor

It happens every year on Oct. 31. Kids everywhere dress up in silly costumes and wander around neighborhoods, asking for candy. On the college scene, Halloween parties are held every year.

So what would happen if the Southwest Conference held "The Second Biggest Party in Texas" on Halloween, and only invited football players and coaches to attend?

Here's how some Texas A&M players and personalities from other SWC teams might have dressed up for the big Halloween bash. Trick or treat.

• **Aaron Wallace (A&M linebacker): Darth Vader.** Wallace is tall, powerful and imposing. He's also a definite "force" in the SWC.

• **Darren Grudt (A&M offensive lineman): "Norm Peterson" from "Cheers."** If you've seen Darren, you'd understand. He could be Normie's twin.

• **Darren Lewis (A&M running back): The Invisible Man.** Lewis, a Heisman Trophy candidate before the season, soon dropped out of the picture after the Aggies' first three games — two before live television audiences. Some games he'll rush for 60 yards, other games he'll bust open for 150.

• **Lance Pavlas (A&M quarterback): Wizard.** Pavlas has engineered some pretty miraculous drives this year. His performances were instrumental in the Aggies' upset over Houston and the winning drive against Baylor.

• **Robert Wilson (A&M fullback): A Bull.** "Bull" is Robert's nickname. Besides, at 6-0, 240 pounds, Wilson is built like a bull, so he won't even have to dress up.

• **Mike Jones (A&M tight end): A 6-4 Sheet of Flypaper.** Jones has been "Mr. Dependability" for the Aggies this season, catching 25 passes for 385 yards and two touchdowns. He waited until the Baylor game before he dropped a pass.

• **Bucky Richardson (A&M quarterback): Captain Ahab.** Richardson's knee injury suffered against Texas last year forced him to redshirt this season. When he comes back next year, he'll find himself fighting Pavlas for the Aggies' starting quarterback position.

• **Jeroy Robinson (A&M linebacker): The Incredible Hulk.** Robinson, a senior linebacker from Bryan, is reported to have the largest biceps in the Southwest Conference.

• **William Thomas (A&M linebacker): Himself.** There's always that one joker who just shows up for the candy. After spending his first two years as a safety, Thomas now

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Ags begin recruiting wars for 1990

Slocum has a lot of holes to fill in

By Richard Tijerina

Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M (4-1), Texas (3-0) and Arkansas (3-1) all are in a Southwest Conference race that looks like won't be resolved until the final week of the season. But there's another, perhaps more important, race the SWC is going through.

The Recruiting Wars. Coaching staffs from SWC schools are courting top high school prospects in Texas. A&M is no different. After this weekend's game with Southern Methodist, Aggie coaches will hit the road — watching their top prospects in action.

A&M Coach R.C. Slocum said the Aggies will be looking to fill key areas in next year's recruiting class. Last year, the Aggies were



Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

A&M Coach R.C. Slocum leads the Aggies onto Kyle Field in the season's first game — a 28-16 victory over Louisiana State. A&M hopes to win a recruiting war in the SWC in 1990 by signing the state's top high school prospects. Slocum said he'd like to sign 25 players in 1990.

SMU at Texas A&M

- **Site:** Kyle Field (72,387 cap.)
- **Kickoff:** 2 p.m.
- **Ranking:** A&M (20th), SMU (—)
- **Records:** A&M (6-2), SMU (2-5)
- **SWC Records:** A&M (4-1), SMU (0-5)
- **Series Record:** A&M leads 34-29-6
- **TV/Radio:** The game will not be televised live; KTAM (AM 1240)

look him in the eye and tell him what our direction is going to be at A&M. One of the things I've always tried to stress to young men in recruiting is you go to that school to get an education. We're getting out of line if we go in there and say football is the only reason to come to Texas A&M."

But the Aggies were hurt. After three years of banner recruiting seasons, A&M only managed to sign 13 players, none of whom have made a significant impact this year.

Many of last year's top recruits shyed away from A&M, fearing that it may receive the NCAA death penalty like SMU in 1986.

However, Slocum said Tuesday at his weekly press conference that A&M's recruiting problems are over, and that he's looking forward to a successful year.

"We've had very strong responses (from recruiting prospects)," Slocum said. "We

will have a good recruiting year. They're interested in the program here."

Nine Aggie coaches will travel across Texas in the coming weeks to look at prospective recruits. Slocum said Secondary Coach Tom Hayes will recruit in Dallas, Defensive Coordinator Bob Davies in Fort Worth, Defensive Line Coach Greg Mattison in West Texas, Running Backs Coach Jim Helms in Austin, San Antonio and Central Texas, Receivers Coach Robert Ford in Houston, Tight Ends Coach John Pearce in Houston, Offensive Coordinator Bob Toledo in Houston and its surrounding area, Offensive Line Coach Mike Sherman in Beaumont, Southeast Texas and Southeast Louisiana and Outside Linebackers Coach Kirk Doll in Northeast Texas and Northeast Louisiana.

"They're all guys that have good reputations as recruiters where they've been," Slo-

cum said. "They're good people that will go into a high school and represent us well."

Slocum said the Aggies will place emphasis on recruiting linemen and defensive backs. He also said the Aggies need another receiver to replace senior Percy Waddle, some young running backs (Darren Lewis will be a senior next year) and a quarterback.

The one area where A&M surprisingly will be strong in 1990 is the same one which was so suspect in 1989 — linebacker. Next year's group should be extremely strong with William Thomas, Anthony Williams, Quentin Coryatt, Tyrone Malone and James Webb.

Thomas and Williams are starting this season. Coryatt (6-4, 238) is huge and extremely physical, but will have to get over sitting out his first two years at A&M because of academic problems. Malone is a transfer from Louisiana State and Webb is senior Aaron Wallace's backup this year at the outside linebacker position.

Still, the Aggies won't be as fortunate in other areas of the team. Next year's squad will field a lot of seniors, and this year's weak recruiting class makes next year's more important.

"We lost some players last year in recruiting that we usually should have gotten," Slocum said. "Our squad has been depleted. We've got to go out and get some guys."

A&M recruiters can't actually visit with a high school recruit until December. The time from Nov. 1 to Dec. 1 is designated as an "evaluation period." Coaches can't talk to recruits until either Dec. 1 or after the player's end of his high school football season if his team is in the playoffs.

Slocum said the Aggies have narrowed their list of players they'd like to recruit down to about 200 names. They'll bring in about 50 or 60 recruits in for campus visits. Slocum said he hoped to sign at least 25 players in 1990.

Slocum said he doesn't trust so-called "blue-chip recruiting lists," which supposedly name the best high school players in the state. He said it's up to the coaches to mold a player, and that blue-chip players develop into college stars only 50 percent of the time.

"I'm not going to just recruit somebody because he can jump high and run fast and looks at college as a side thing," Slocum said. "I'm willing to take some time with a guy. Some coaches take good players and they screw them up."

hurt badly after a season of adversity.

In 1988, A&M started the season being slapped with an NCAA probation which eliminated any bowl appearances and limited scholarships over the next few years. Then, Coach Jackie Sherrill resigned during the crucial time of recruiting season.

During the press conference when he was named as Sherrill's successor, Slocum was asked if Sherrill's resignation and the probation would affect the Aggies' recruiting.

"Give us a chance to get in your home, sit down and tell you what we're all about," Slocum said last December. "I hope we'll get enough of those players, and I think we will. This is a strong enough institution."

"I can go into a young man's home and

Zimmer wins award

NEW YORK (AP) — Don Zimmer was named National League Manager of the Year Tuesday for leading the Chicago Cubs to the East Division title, his first championship as a manager.

Zimmer, who was run out of Boston for not leading the Red Sox to a division title in the late 1970's, received 23 of 24 first-place votes from a panel chosen by the Baseball Writers Association of America.

San Francisco's Roger

Craig, a close friend and former teammate of Zimmer, got the other first-place vote.

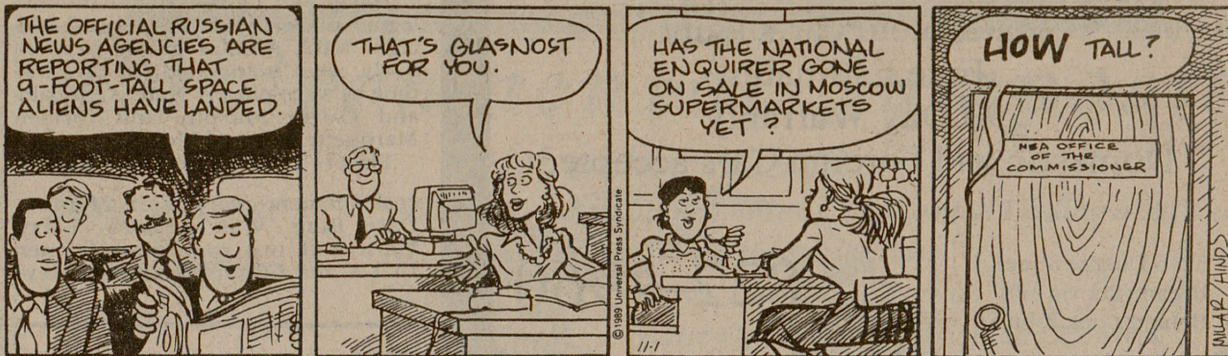
"You feel like you want to share it with everybody who played a part," Zimmer said, "the players who did the playing and Jim Frey, who hired me and got criticized for doing it. It just seemed like every move he made helped out the club."

Zimmer got 118 points in

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TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



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