

# Haunted house spooks up fun

## OCA members to host 10th annual Halloween celebration

By Carrie Miura

THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University Off-Campus Aggies (OCA) are sponsoring their 10th annual haunted house on Oct. 31, benefiting the Brazos Valley Food Bank.

OCA's claim its haunted house is the largest in Bryan-College Station.

This year's theme is "Aggieland Spooktacular, Reconstruction... Pardon Our Progress."

Michael Jasek, treasurer of OCA, said the theme is based on the premise that the house is on the real estate market and is in the process of being sold.

There is a catch though — a bizarre set of 'murders' have been committed in each of the house's 30 rooms.

Jessica Reeves, director of the

project, said, "The people who walk through the house will be treated like perspective home-buyers and will be escorted by real estate agents (OCA members)."

Jasek said if the people who enter the haunted house (at their own risk) walk completely through it, they will be able to solve the mystery and find out exactly who committed the chain of murders.

It will take over 100 people to operate the house and man the mock laboratory, graveyard and other twisted rooms that the crew is preparing.

The haunted house will be open to the public Halloween night at 6 p.m.

OCA is also sponsoring a children's hour from 6-7 p.m.

"We want to try to give children something to do that is safe other than trick-or-treating,"

Jasek said.

OCA will provide a toned-down version of the house 'tour' with the lights on and without screaming by the characters.

When 7 p.m. rolls around, it is lights out and "if you make it out, you make it out," Jasek said.

From 1983-1990, the OCA haunted house has been held on campus, in places like the MSC and the Quadrangle. The house has been off campus since 1991.

This year's site has not yet been determined.

Attendance has increased each year. Last year's attendance reached 2,500 people.

People bringing a canned food item will receive \$1 off of the admission price.

Jasek said, "We're looking forward for this to be the best year we've ever had."

# RHA to make a run for the border

By Jan Higginbotham

THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University's Residence Hall Association decided Wednesday night to extend its hospitality across the United States-Mexico border later this month.

An international relationship began between Monterey Tech and Texas A&M University in February 1991 and will continue as the RHA and the Residence Life Staff Council send 12 representatives to Monterey Tech for the week of Oct. 26-31.

"This is a good training experience for the staff," said Michael Osterbuhr, northside area coordinator for the Residence Life Staff Council and RHA adviser.

"It's an awareness-builder for both schools. We have an opportunity to see things in a different perspective."

RHA decided Wednesday night to contribute one-fourth of the transportation cost for the trip to Monterey. The Residence Life Staff Council will contribute the remaining funds for the visit.

Chris Thompson, RHA president, said the experience will serve as an experiment for the RHA and

its representatives.

"We're looking at this as something we might want to adopt as a program to do every year," Thompson said.

The cultural exchange between A&M and Monterey Tech started in 1991 and has since gained momentum.

Representatives from Texas A&M have traveled to Monterey four times, and Monterey Tech students have visited College Station four times.

Last semester, Texas A&M sent two resident advisers (RAs) to Monterey Tech for the semester. Osterbuhr said Residence Life staff members are planning to send RAs to Mexico again next spring.

RHA is trying to get Monterey Tech's newly formed residence association to join the National Affiliation of College and University Residence Halls, Osterbuhr said.

"The more schools we have involved in the organization, the more we benefit," he said. "We're hoping this program will open a lot of doors for the people involved."

"It's hard to describe the effects," Osterbuhr said. "It will take a few years for the people involved to realize how the experience will benefit them."

# Tubularman

By Boomer Cardinale



# Fritch

By Critch



# Computer co. irked at Opus for shooting down toasters

# JUST THE BEGINNING

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Since Opus the penguin has taken to shooting flocks of flying toasters, a computer company is taking a legal Magnum to Opus.

When cartoonist Berkeley Breathed, a 1987 Pulitzer Prize winner, first walked into a software store, he "didn't see anything funny." So he designed the "Opus N' Bill Screen Saver" program for Toronto-based Delrina Corp.

Since the soaring appliances are the icon of Berkeley Systems Inc.'s popular "After Dark" program, the company doesn't think his choice of skeet is so neat. So the company is suing rival Delrina.

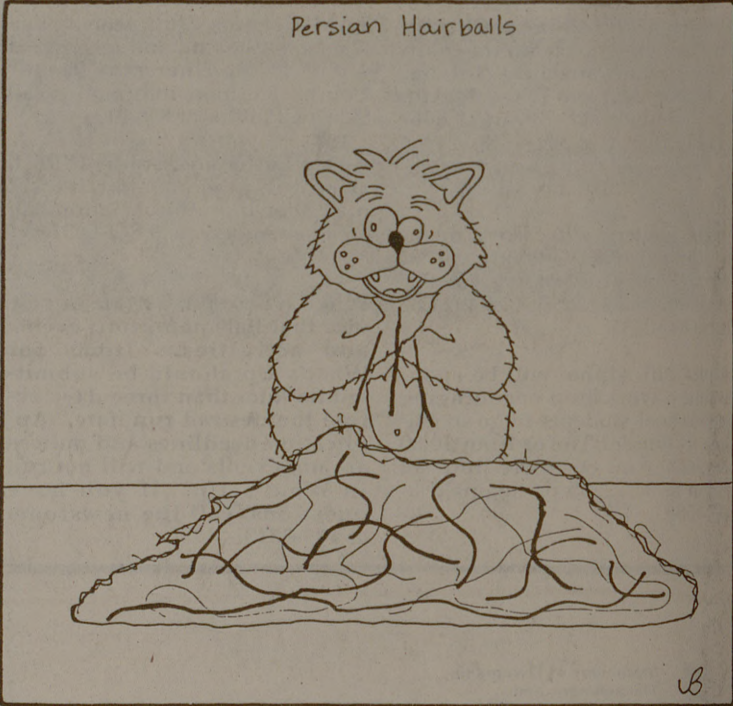
"They're essentially profiting on our brand," said Wes Boyd, co-founder, president and chief executive officer of the Berkeley, Calif., company.

"We worked very hard to establish a brand identity which is focused in and around this flying toaster image."

Delrina denies trying to mislead customers. It insists the program simply makes legitimate use of parody. And it's surprised by its competitor's lack of humor.

"They're in pretty good company. We make fun of Bill Clinton, too," said Mark Skapinker, president of Delrina.

"Berkeley Breathed's style is to make fun of everyone," he said. "They should certainly be honored."



By Jason Brown

Such flattery has gotten nowhere with Berkeley Systems. In a federal lawsuit filed Tuesday in San Francisco, it accuses Delrina of unfair competition and copyright and trademark infringement.

Breathed was not named as a defendant, and damages were not specified in the lawsuit, which seeks an order to wipe the offending toasters from the screen.

"Opus N' Bill" is among the latest screen-saver software, programs that float brief displays across monitors when computers

lay idle, preventing images from burning into the screen. They are becoming increasingly refined and entertaining, echoing old movies and television programs as well as comic strips.

Delrina's program features 16 animated sketches based on Breathed's wackily irreverent strips "Bloom County" and "Outland."

They include the demented Bill the Cat in a White House fling with first cat Socks, and parodies of President Clinton and Microsoft Corp. Chairman Bill Gates.

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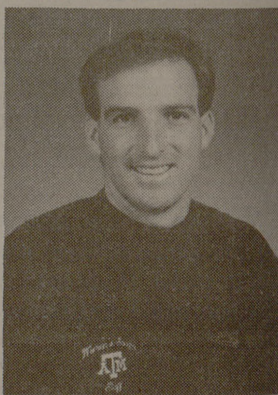
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