

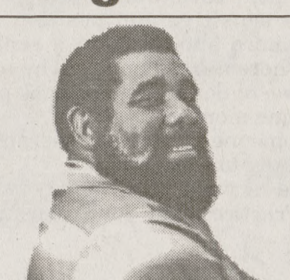
**THIS WEEK AT THE CANTINA**  
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 201 W. 26th St., Downtown Bryan  
 SEE OUR AD EVERY TUESDAY IN THE BATTALION!  
 For private parties call Willie at 822-3732  
 Drink Specials Wed. & Thurs. 5-10 pm  
 Open 5 pm - 1 am Wed. - Sat.  
 18 and older welcome

**FRIDAY 10/13**



**Miss Molly & the Whips**  
 R&B \$10

**SATURDAY 10/14**



**Big Otis**  
 Motown Soul \$8

**Dixie Theatre**  
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 Happy Hour: Wed. - Sat., 5-8 pm  
 Drink Specials • Music • Pool Tables  
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**FRIDAY 10/13**



**Storyville**  
 w/Tracy Conover  
 Blues/Rock \$8

**SATURDAY 10/14**



**All Carribean Band Liberation**  
 This event is not sponsored by the Carribean Club.  
 Reggae \$5

**BUFFALO JOE'S**

**Football Special**  
 Saturday, Sunday and Monday Nights  
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# We're lucky if we can avoid superstition

My grandmother is a witch. And it must be genetic, because I think my mom is one, too.

It doesn't really bother me, mostly because I'm largely skeptical and I've managed to stay on their good side.

But my mother, Samantha, learned some tricks from Endora, my grandmother, about how to make people's backs itch without touching them.

My mom had a great time twitching her finger in the direction of fellow passengers on train rides when she lived in New York.

She could also focus on people during tennis matches to make them win. I played tennis for a while, but only my dad ever came to see me, and when he did, I fell down and broke my wrist.

But the point is, that today is Friday the 13th, a day when witches and bad luck and all that other eerie crap makes us think. Having grown up around witches, I should be somewhat aware of the strange and mysterious forces at work today.

But there is nothing special about Friday the 13th. People like to say it's special — "It only happens like twice a year, man."

But guess what, Friday the 28th comes just



**MICHAEL LANDAUER**  
 AGGIELIFE EDITOR

as rarely, and they haven't even made a movie about that day yet.

But someone will have a crappy day today and say, "Well, it figures. It's Friday the 13th, you know."

Once I heard this spooky story about someone who had a bad day, and it wasn't even Friday the 13th.

Samantha and Endora may hex me for saying this, but chalking up bad luck to mysterious cosmic forces is a little childish.

Yet, we still believe. Psychic hotlines won't survive without making new friends. Astrologers can only get rich if they strike a few lucky chords with the people with deep pockets.

But no one makes money by telling people to control their own destiny, to suck it up and to live life for what it is. Well, no one except the makers of *Forrest Gump*, maybe.

Even worse than blaming a calendar for bad luck is the ancient art of chain mail.

No one really makes money on the scheme, mostly it just exists for annoyance.

I got a letter last summer that said St. Jude had started this whole phenomenon by placing good luck into a letter.

Then it fell into the hands of some witch, probably a relative, who passed it on to 10 friends to keep the chain growing.

Among the people who linked up with the chain were the Lucky Charms Leprechaun, Buster Douglass and O.J. Simpson.

One guy followed the letter's instructions and won \$3 gazillion in the lottery.

But another unlucky soul threw the letter away only to have his girlfriend dump him and a piano fall on his head.

Miraculously I have survived. I stared at the letter for a while. I wondered what terrible woe would befall me if I threw it away.

But then I thought about the millions of people who have probably thrown the letter away since Jude's time who didn't get the stories included in the letter's history.

For example, Bob may have thrown it away and stubbed his toe the very next day. May a really old guy got the letter and died of a heart-attack soon after. These strange occurrences were omitted, and for what?

I have an idea, but it seems pretty silly. It might be because luck is what you make of life, not the other way around.

Michael Landauer is a journalist

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### Bergman rewarded for his long-lasting love

NEW YORK (AP) — Ingmar Bergman's boyhood love for Lillian Gish had a happy ending: a \$200,000 award from the late actress' estate.

The 77-year-old Swedish director is this year's recipient of the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize.

Gish, who died in 1993, created the honor in her will, stipulating that it go to a person "who has made an outstanding contribution to the beauty of the world and to mankind's enjoyment and understanding of life" through the arts.

Linn Ullmann, Bergman's daughter with actress Liv Ullmann, collected the award Wednesday on his behalf. She read a statement from him thanking Gish and noting that, at age 9, Bergman fell in love

with the actress after seeing her in a film.

"Ever since that Monday night in March, nearly 70 years ago, I have tenderly preserved my young love for Lillian," Bergman said.

### Bassett found late filming strange

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Filming *Strange Days* made for some strange nights for Angela Bassett.

An early-to-bed type, she said she found the nighttime film schedule on the Los Angeles streets grueling.

"There were all these people in these outrageous outfits," she said of an army of extras.

"And half of them, that's the life they live. Those are the hours they're up anyway. I mean, you would think these extras would



Bassett

### Miss America goes home for celebration

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — America's Shawntel Smith returned home to Oklahoma for the first time since winning the crown last month.

"I have been counting the days until I came back to Oklahoma," the 24-year-old Smith told a crowd of thousands Wednesday that included her aunts, uncles and friends.

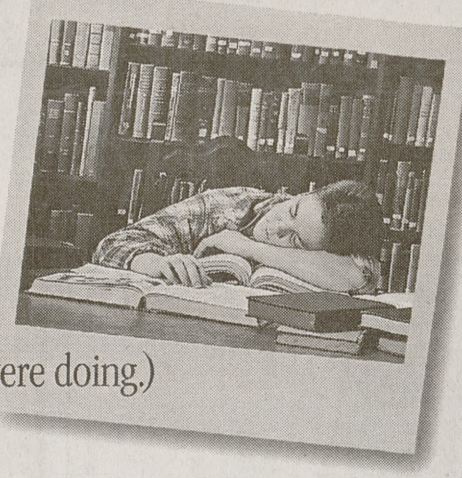
Her tiny hometown, Muldrow on the Oklahoma-Arkansas border is throwing her a parade Saturday.

The number of floats has increased from 25 to 85 in the past two weeks.

"My mom told me they were going to have to double up the entries. It won't take two to three hours," she said at a news conference Thursday.

# ATTENTION STUDENTS:

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