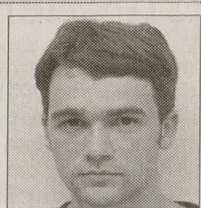


Things that go BUMP in the Night

True spirit of Halloween a thing of the past

I'm sick and tired of the exploitation of the joyous Halloween season by the Prince of Darkness. Folks, you know I'm talking about the root of all evil — it's the almighty dollar, and it's destroying another wholesome American tradition.



CHRIS MARTIN columnist

Long ago, way before the International Sugar, Plastic and Glow-in-the-Dark Solidarity Union conspiracy, Halloween was a time families everywhere could come together and worship Dark Lord Satan. But no, these days it's all about the candy and the costumes and the trick-or-treating and the snack food sweepstakes. It makes me want to puke on my Marilyn Manson T-shirt.

Luckily, in this age of Taco Bell monster-eyeball straws and pimple cream-smelling teenage vampire slayers, there are a few real monsters still under the bed. So gather up your loved ones, light a black candle and join me in the traditional reading of...

The Top Five Scariest and/or Most Evil Things in the Whole World

5. **Ronald McDonald:** I'm not one to tear down great American heroes, but if you knew this guy who worked down at the local fast-food place had a big red afro, clown makeup and could magically pop up in little kids' bedrooms when their parents shut the door, you would be very afraid. That's all I'm saying.

4. **Mr. Rogers:** I had a dream once where Mr. Rogers would drive around the land of make-believe at night picking up hitchhikers. When they got back to his place, he would unlace his little canvas shoes, open the closet and put on a pair of fishnet hose and black thigh boots. "It's you I like," he would sing.

PLEASE SEE MARTIN ON PAGE 6.

Oldest house in Bryan rumored to be haunted

By RHONDA REINHART Staff writer

A tombstone in the garden may sound like a prop from "The Addams Family," but for Dorothy and Paul Van Riper, it is just another fixture in the backyard.

The Ripers live at 713 E. 30th St., in what has been called by residents of Bryan the most notorious haunted house in the area.

Although no supernatural sightings have ever been reported, the house's reputation as a ghostly haven has lived on for decades.

The tales of haunting may be traced to a tombstone that sits behind the house, a tombstone dating back to the house's original owners.

The two-story, 13-room house was built around 1880 by W.R. Cavitt, a lawyer, banker and long-time member of the Texas A&M board of directors.

Paul Van Riper, a professor of political science at Texas A&M, said Howard Cavitt, the third of six Cavitt children, was the first of the Cavitt family to die. Howard was killed in the great flood of

1913 and was buried in the Bryan cemetery with a small granite headstone marking his grave.

Van Riper said when the Cavitt mother died the next year, the family obtained a large plot in the cemetery, redesigned the headstones and set them in a quadrangle around a large center marker stone.

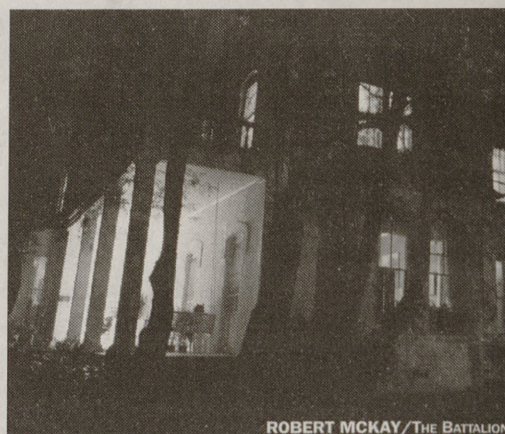
"Howard's original stone, which no longer matched the new family design, was replaced with a new stone and taken to the Cavitt garden...and placed there as a memorial," he said. "Of course, there wasn't then and never has been any body under the stone in the garden."

The old Cavitt house is located across the street from Stephen F. Austin Junior High.

Paul Van Riper said students cutting through the Cavitt property on their way to school might be the creators of the haunted house stories.

The Cavitts lived in the house for almost 100 years. The last of the Cavitt children moved out of the house in the early 1970s, and in 1981, the Citizens for Historical Preservation bought the house from the estate and sold it to Becky and Peter McIntyre.

While vacant, the house was neglected and



ROBERT MCKAY/THE BATTALION

The old Cavitt house located in Bryan has a tombstone in the garden and may be haunted. The garden became overgrown.

Vandals broke into the house many times, and over the years, the tombstone was alternately stolen and returned.

PLEASE SEE HOUSE ON PAGE 6.

Local woman gives pumpkins Aggie spirit

By TRAVIS IRBY Staff writer

A local woman is bringing some 'gourd-geous' creations to A&M faithfuls.

Cindy Ingram, a College Station hairstylist, recently has been licensed by Texas A&M University to carve Univer-

sity-related logos into pumpkins.

"I had been doing this unofficially for about four years," Ingram said.

Ingram said the sojourn into squash art came about as a decorating assignment for the Aggie Diehards club.

"My father is a member of Aggie Diehards," Ingram said, "so at the SMU game in San Antonio a few years back, we needed decorations for a banquet. I carved some A&M-related de-

signs into some pumpkins."

Mary Jane Mielender, an Aggie Diehards member, said she was impressed with Ingram's pumpkins.

Ingram said the pumpkin carving then became a hobby.

"Everyone thought they were just great," Mielender said. "The pumpkins and Aggie images really go hand and hand."

Still for a while after that, Ingram's pumpkin carving remained a hobby.

"I would give the pumpkins to friends and use them for Aggie Diehards' functions," Ingram said. "I hadn't ever really thought about profiting from them."

After encouragement from family and friends, Ingram decided to apply for a University-approved license to make her hobby a business.

"People in the Aggie Diehards were saying what a great idea the

pumpkins were, and I should start selling them," Ingram said.

Ingram received permission to use the A&M logo and other University symbols this fall and has already started coming up with new designs for next year.

Designs appearing on the pumpkins include the standard block "T" and "A&M" logo, "Ol' Sarge," "Gig'em" sign and many more.

Ingram said the designs originally were not intended for pumpkins.

"Well the four designs I originally used, I adapted from patterns I used in haircuts," she said.

Ingram plans to extend her carvings into other mediums.

"I am also going to carve melons in addition to pumpkins," Ingram said. "I've already done some watermelons."

PLEASE SEE PUMPKINS ON PAGE 6.



Cindy Ingram of College Station turned her pumpkin-carving hobby into a business. She is licensed to carve A&M logos.

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WISHMASTER (R) 1:40
MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING (PG-13) 1:30
CONSPIRACY THEORY (R) 1:15
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NOTHING TO LOSE (R) 1:00
HERCULES (G) 1:00
EVENT HORIZON (R) 1:00

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Helen Clancy, Editor in Chief

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