1998:Sept.-

Aggielife

Page 5 • Monday, September 28, 1998

Urban Legends: From Aggieland to Movieland

Professor says tales represent social fears.

S IN B

O Cap

m finis

nvitati

ed wor

a final

Inter

ew Mexico

14. two h

ICAA changa

and junior

r 24th plat

ed for 55th

86-82-83-nz

d senior

ird tout

he tean

action

ise, and terrific e Chris ocum

ere a

el goo

e adva on the

to deal stractio

the tea behind

e lost

got to j wn sa

at too od job

, to to ying w ed 11-

cum v

erved

total

JT gan

ne al

Jennife

nna Jon

ennis The Battalion

BY TRAVIS IRBY The Battalion

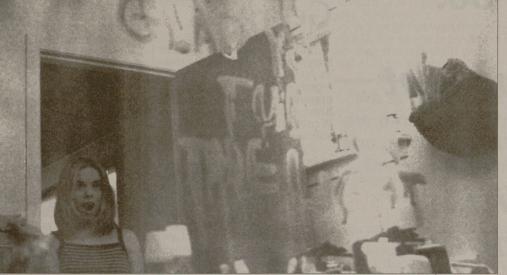
he Roommate's Death," "The Pur-loined Kidney" and "The Angry Student" are among the most popr stories in America. Everybody and their nd knows at least one by heart. But these es aren't listed on any bestseller list, and none are likely to be found in a library.

They are urban legends, modern society's the team of the oral storytelling tradition. ke aheet Urban legends are considered a national gela Stamphenomenon, but A&M has some of its own rown we legends."

Some of the tales unique to A&M include unted buildings and architectural pranks. Dr. Thomas Green, an associate professor of thropology, has written and edited several blications on folklore and urban legends. He said many urban legends sum up conemporary fears and concerns.

College students seem to be ripe with hese oral anecdotes. Some of the most fas tied in mous urban legends involve universities. There is the legend sometimes referred to

"The Roommate's Death. A college student returns from a night of rtying, too tired to do anything but crash in bed, so tired she does not even bother ning on the lights. The next morning, the wakes up to find her roommate slaughed and "Aren't you glad you didn't turn on ne lights" written on the wall in blood.



Another famous college-conceived tale is The Purloined Kidney.

It starts with a guy clubbing around town. He meets a beautiful woman, and they share some drinks.

They go to his place, and the next morning he wakes up in a pool of his own blood. He sees a note with "Call 911 or Die" written on it. Apparently, the woman drugged him and stole one of his kidneys.

Green said such stories have a special place with students.

'Many people are away from home for the first time, with strangers they know nothing about," Green said. "The legends warn about real, potential dangers by exaggerating them."

Not all the tales have to do with death and violence; one tale might inspire a sense of empathy in some students.

"I have had many people come up to me and swear one of these occurrences happened to a friend of a friend," Green said.

ban legends.

the legends.

Such semantics do not keep Aggies from coming up with their very own campus legends.

A&M does have its own legends, but ac-

He said an urban legend is a story that cir-

cording to Green, they are technically not ur-

culates across the country and has no local

history, although many people will localize

The elevators in the Animal Industries building supposedly are haunted by a professor who lost his life in one. He was slaughtering animals late one night when he accidentally cut himself with a saw. No one was around to help, so he tried to use the elevator to get help. He bled to death in the elevator.

As a result of the gruesome death, at night elevators in the building go up and down without any passengers, at least any live ones. There are many legends involving campus

architecture.

The Reed-McDonald building is rumored to have been built by a sneaky University of Texas graduate. He wanted to play a joke on the Aggies by hitting them where it hurt most, their spirit. When he finished the building, he chose a maroon paint for the building. When it first dried it looked maroon, but as time went by the color changed, leaving a burnt orange building on the A&M campus.

Dr. John Hoyle, a professor of educational administration and the author of the Good Bull books, is an expert on Aggie legends and traditions. Each year he visits many groups talking about these legends.

He said legends and traditions are part of who Aggies are.

These stories bind the Aggie community together," Hoyle said.

MOVIE REVIEW

Urban Legend Starring Jason Leto and **Alicia Witt** Directed by Jamie Blanks Rated R Playing at Hollywood 16

If audiences want to be on the edges of their seats, half scared half laughing and enjoying every minute, then Urban Legend is the movie for them.

The stories told around campfires and at slumber parties are brought to life in this fun flick, which ranks up there with the scariest movie of the '90s, Scream.

College students are systematically killed off by a mysterious killer using a vast knowledge of hometown legends.

Add a mix of inside jokes, and audiences get a movie that covers many facets of entertainment.

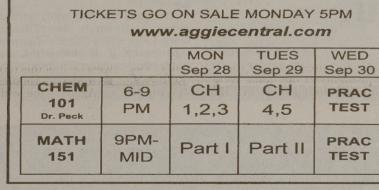
Urban Legend makes audiences jump, scream and laugh. It is a thrill ride that begs for a sequel.

Audiences will check their backseats before getting in their car after seeing this movie.

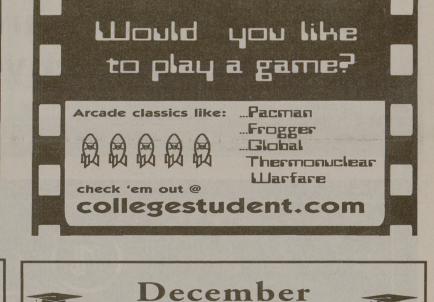
It is a definite must-see for lovers of scary movies everywhere. (Grade: A)

- Katie Mish





utoring-



Graduates

In "The Angry Student," it is final time in a class of 400-plus students. The professor no-

tices one student cheating. The professor decides to wait until the end of class to take action. When the student turns in his test, the professor confronts him. In his defense, the student asks the professor if he knows the student's name.

The professor replies no. The student takes his test and proceeds to shove it in the middle of the pile. He then takes the pile and throws it up in the air, scattering all the tests.

Green said this particular story is one of the most commonly told, by both students and professors alike.

I have heard it told by both faculty and students," Green said. "The perception of right and wrong is different depending on who tells it.'

260-2660



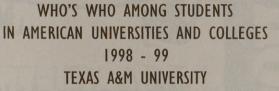
Tuesday, Sept. 29, 1998 Kol Nidre Services at 8:00 p.m.

Weds., Sept. 30, 1998 Yom Kippur Services start at 10:00 a.m. Yizcor about 5:30 p.m. Break-the-Fast after sundown at the conclusion of the Neilah and Havdalah.

All holiday events are free of charge and occur at Hillel, located across from campus at 800 George Bush, CS

Please contact Hillel for more information at telephone #696-7313 or e-mail us at: <Hillel@startel.net>

Names for Yizcor must be received in the office by Sept. 28, 1998

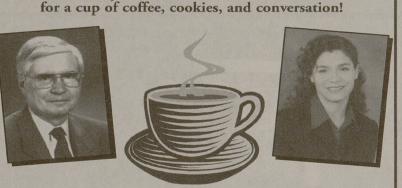




Who's Who applications are now available for both undergraduate and graduate students in the following locations:

Commandant's Office (Military Sciences Building) Student Programs Office (2nd floor MSC) Student Activities Office (125 John J. Koldus Building) Sterling C. Evans Library Office of Graduate Studies (125 Teague) Office of the Dean of each College Office of Graduate Studies (128 Teague) Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs (10th floor Rudder)

Completed applications must be received by the Student Activities Office no later than 5:00 pm on riday, October, 2 1998. They may be hand-carried to the Student Activities Office, sent through Campus Mail, or sent through U.S. Mail. (See application for addresses.) Questions may be addressed to Sandy Briers in Student Activities at 845-1133.



Coffee Talk

Come out and join Dr. Southerland and Laurie Nickel

September 28: 11:30am-1:30pm in the 12th Man October 28: 11:30am-1:30pm in the Underground November 17: 11:30am-1:30pm in the Commons

> Attention **INFO & CPSC majors**



Technology, LLC

Company Presentation

September 29th, 1998

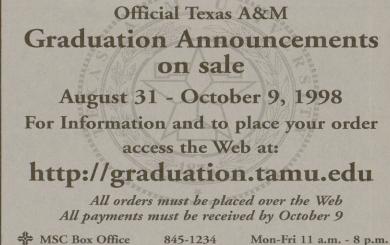
7:00 PM

College Station Hilton Ballroom #1

Come hear about a new and exciting business and systems consulting company!

Attire - Business Casual

www.enformtech.com



Things that Aggies do!

Donate Plasma

Donating Plasma, you sit back in a lounge chair & read, study, talk or dream in a place filled with friends. In 60 minutes you're up & away, cash in hand.

> Westgate Biologicals 700 University Dr. 268-6050

> > Come...it's that easy.

Earn \$45 in the 1st week!