

Austin, College Station bar scene growing pastime on Halloween

BY MARIUM MOHIUDDIN
The Battalion

Next to trick-or-treating, going to haunted houses is one of the more traditional ways to celebrate Halloween.

However, clubs in College Station and Austin will be offering a slightly different style of Halloween entertainment — costume contests, music, dancing and socializing with friends.

Boo Gate is the Halloween bash on the Northgate promenade. The evening will begin with a performance by the band Sly Letter at Fitzwilly's at 6:30 p.m. Festivities will continue with Haywood performing at 8 p.m.

At 9:30 p.m., a grand costume contest will be held for cash prizes.

Individual costume contests will be held at Crooked Path Ale House at 10 p.m., Fitzwilly's at 11 p.m. and Shadow Canyon at 12 a.m.

Shelby Willett, manager of Fitzwilly's, said Boo Gate was held two years ago, and the merchants are hoping for a bigger turnout this year.

"We wanted to do it last year, but with the parking lot and the promenade under construction, we decided to wait," he said. "We want people to come out, get together and see what we have to offer. We would love to see people dress up and just go from place to place along Northgate having fun."

Similar to Boo Gate is the Austin Halloween celebration on Sixth Street, where costumed visitors can go from club to club.

Angela Gillen, owner of The Flamingo Cantina, said Halloween on Sixth Street is not organized but has become an annual event.

"The event is not sanctioned. It is very spontaneous," she said. "People just come out really dressed up, and they parade up and down the streets. It is like a giant costume party."

The Austin police block off the streets when the crowd of an estimated 20,000 to 100,000 people descend on Sixth Street.

Many clubs hold their own costume contests, which results in people going from club to club trying to win prizes.

Brian Ziprin, a senior studio arts major at the University of Texas at Austin, said he has been going to the Halloween celebration on Sixth Street since his freshman year and cannot imagine any other place students might go.

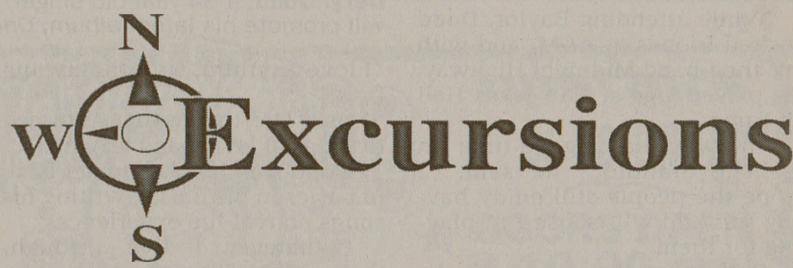
Gillen said one of the most outrageous outfits she has ever seen was one which won the costume contest in her club last year.

"Last year the guy who won at my club was this guy who was a cross between the Terminator and an astronaut. It is hard to describe, but he had lights all over his suit and a laser eye. He really went all out."

Ziprin said the event is wild but he would not define it as out of control.

"It is a madhouse, but it is not as hedonistic as Mardi Gras," he said. "There is no room to walk, but I have not seen people causing trouble."

Ziprin said Halloween on Sixth Street is a spectacle that everyone should witness.



"Sixth Street is just the place you go on Halloween," he said. "It is the sort of the thing for everyone to do. I would be surprised if anybody was anywhere else. There is nothing that compares."

Gillen said she has seen many outrageous costumes during the event.

"There are all kinds of costumes," she said.

"I think that over the years, people have begun to get dressed up a lot more. It is an incredible sight. You see people on stilts and tons of pregnant nuns."

"I have never dressed up," he said. "I go to people-watch. The costumes are outrageous. Everybody goes all out. It is a surreal atmosphere."

Gillen said there are several reasons people come out to Sixth Street.

"Many people come dressed up," she said.

"However, I can imagine that half the people come to people-watch. If you like people-watching, then you should come out to this event and also bring a camera."



5,000-square-foot haunted house brings professionally spooky entertainment to B-CS

BY MEREDITH HIGHT
The Battalion

The Fear Factory is not just any old haunted house — it is the first professional venture of Innovative Attractions, a business recently founded by David Hakimi.

Hakimi has experience running haunted houses — he began and coordinated the Wicked Woods while a member of Kappa Sigma system at Texas A&M.

"Ever since I was a little kid, I loved going to haunted houses. I had never been to a really professional one," he said. "When I got to A&M, I wanted to try and make one."

Hakimi said since the Fear Factory is a professional venture, he is able to get more elaborate than other haunted houses in town.

"We got to be a lot more intricate with the details. It gave me a sense of free reign," he said. "It's definitely a notch above others."

Hakimi had the help of Chi Phi fraternity, whose members helped build the sets and play the roles.

Mike Moore, president of Chi Phi and a senior management major, said the fraternity will donate

30 percent of the profit to Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

Moore said Chi Phi and Hakimi were brought together by chance on the Fear Factory project.

"We were, as Chi Phi, supposed to do a haunted house for the Northgate Merchants Association," he said.

"The building that Northgate gave us to build the house was being rented by David. So we just kind of came together."

Moore said there has been steady growth in attendance over the last few weeks.

"The first couple of weeks were a little slow. We expect this weekend to be two to three times bigger than last weekend," he said.

Hakimi said he expects Halloween weekend to be a big draw. "This last weekend was excellent," he said. "I expect Halloween night to sell out early. I would recommend buying a ticket in advance."

The 5,000-square-foot Fear Factory, on 301 College Main behind Northgate, takes about eight to 10 minutes to tour. Doors open 30 minutes after dark.

Tickets are available at Disc-Go-Round, Rother's and Supercuts.

Tickets bought in advance are \$8. Tickets are \$10 at the door. Admission is \$2 off with a canned food item.

The Fear Factory will remain open through Halloween night.

All canned goods will be donated to the Brazos Food Bank.



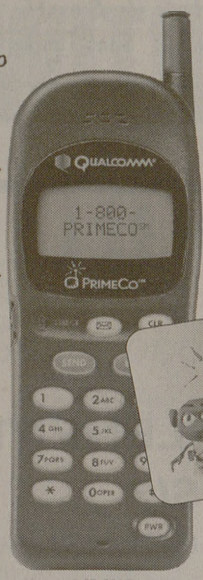
STEPHANIE CORLEY/THE BATTALION
A corpse hangs as one of the scary displays in the Fear Factory.

Better Rate Plans. Better Phone Price. Big Bonus. Better Hurry.

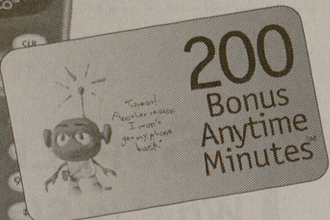
Free Long Distance To Anywhere In Texas.

First Minute Free On Calls You Receive.

Free Voice Mail, Free Caller ID.



QCP-1920



Get A QCP-1920 Phone And 200 Bonus Anytime Minutes, \$99.

100/\$24⁹⁹
ANYTIME MINUTES™ A MONTH

NO LONG-TERM CONTRACTS REQUIRED

300/\$39⁹⁹
ANYTIME MINUTES™ A MONTH

There's never been a better time to get started with PrimeCo. Not only can you take advantage of our everyday low rate plans that feature Anytime Minutes, we'll give you 200 Bonus Anytime Minutes™ with your new PrimeCo phone. So call, or visit one of our stores or a PrimeCo authorized retailer. Hurry. There are 200 bonus minutes to be had.

1-800-PRIMECO™ (1-800-774-6326)

Bringing You Networks By



www.primeco.com™

Participating Retailers

- | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|--|--|--|---------------------|
| CIRCUIT CITY | Beeper Boutique
Post Oak Mall
409-764-9398 | Discount Paging Systems
2418 Texas Ave.
409-764-5900 | Advanced Cellular
Aggie Land
121 Walton
409-696-2214 | Albertsons
2205 Longmire Dr.
409-764-3177 | Albertsons
615 E. University Dr.
409-260-4200 | Office DEPOT |
|---------------------|---|---|--|--|--|---------------------|

Charges for long distance, additional minutes, roaming, taxes and fees apply. Limited-time offer. Bonus minutes must be requested at the time of activation, must be used within 12 months, and are not available with our DigitalChoice™ Zero rate plan. Offer applies to new activations only. Pre-pay customers will receive bonus minutes after pre-paying and using the bonus minutes. All calls are billed in full-minute increments; airtime usage rounded up to the next full minute. Some conditions apply. PrimeCo is a partnership of AirTouch Communications, Inc., and Bell Atlantic Corporation.

TEXAS BEST PRESENTATION



TONIGHT Story Musgrave

ASTRONAUT (RETIRED)
7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
RUDDER THEATER

Open to the public at no charge

Astronaut, Engineer, Surgeon, Mathematician, Chemist, Computer Analyst, Biophysicist, Scholar, and Philosopher

Hear about the calling to Space from the former scientist - astronaut who:

- ★ Became the oldest person to fly in Space
- ★ Tied the record for most spaceflights
- ★ Flew the longest shuttle mission
- ★ Served as payload commander on the 1993 mission to repair the Hubble Space Telescope

ON SATURDAY DON'T MISS...
The Texas BEST State Robotics Championship
G. Rollie White Coliseum
Competition: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Awards: 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Middle and high school teams from Brazos BEST and other sites in Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas will compete with their robots.

Cosponsored by:

Texas Instruments and Texas A&M University
www.tamu.edu/texasbest



Boosting Engineering, Science, and Technology