

A little piece of Hell

Bryan-College Station haunted houses provide a variety of horror-inducing experiences

By JUSTIN GARRETT
The Battalion

The time of year has come to celebrate the element of darkness that resides within everyone. Fears and fascinations with the unknown and occult rise to the surface and are eagerly explored as people seek out the thrills of Halloween. It is this climate that has given rise to one of the most popular Halloween activities — the haunted house.

Although haunted houses are merely replicas of real horrors, their artful mimicry often harbors enough power to invoke genuine fear. They are dark, hazy chambers where screams and the eerie laughing of murderous men drown out the drum of nervous hearts beating.

One local haunted house is the School of Veterinary Medicine's Night of Terror. Freshman veterinary student Jay Griffin said a night at this haunted house would prove itself to be terrifying.

"It's extremely scary," Griffin said. "The goal is to make it as scary as we can without breaking the law."

The Night of Terror will be open from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday and 6 p.m. to midnight on Sunday. The hour between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. is reserved for children.

"The reason we're having the children's hour is because we don't want to scar these children for life," Griffin said. "After 7 o'clock, it's going to get really scary."

Perhaps one of the most intriguing elements of this haunted house is its setting. Constructed within the old veterinary hospital, it immediately invokes thoughts of death and suffering.

"For one, the building was built back in the '50s," Griffin said. "It's got a bunch of old brick walls and rusty metal. That kind of sets the table for all the people we've got working on it."

Griffin said an estimated 75 people will be dressed in costumes and prepared to strike terror into the hearts of all they encounter.

Another haunted house will be created within the walls of Hotard Hall. Although resident adviser and sophomore aerospace engineering major Cliff Smith refused to comment on the specific features of the project, he said a visit to the hall would be worthwhile.

"It's going to send little kids running home crying to their parents," Smith said.

Hotard from Hell will open Saturday night at 9 p.m. and will

close at 2 a.m. Admission is \$3 or three canned food items.

The strikingly different and sobering "Your Life's on the Line" program will be presented by the Brazos Valley Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse on Sunday. The presentation lacks common Halloween themes, but the tragic reality it mimics might easily be considered more frightening. Though linked to the typical haunted house by its room-to-room format, it differs by the graphic message it sends.

"It's a dramatic representation of what can happen in the life of a Bra-

zos Valley young person involved in drugs," said Project Director Eric Johnson. "It basically tells the story of 'Liz' as she gets involved with drugs and the law." The program will be staged in the old Woolworth department store building.

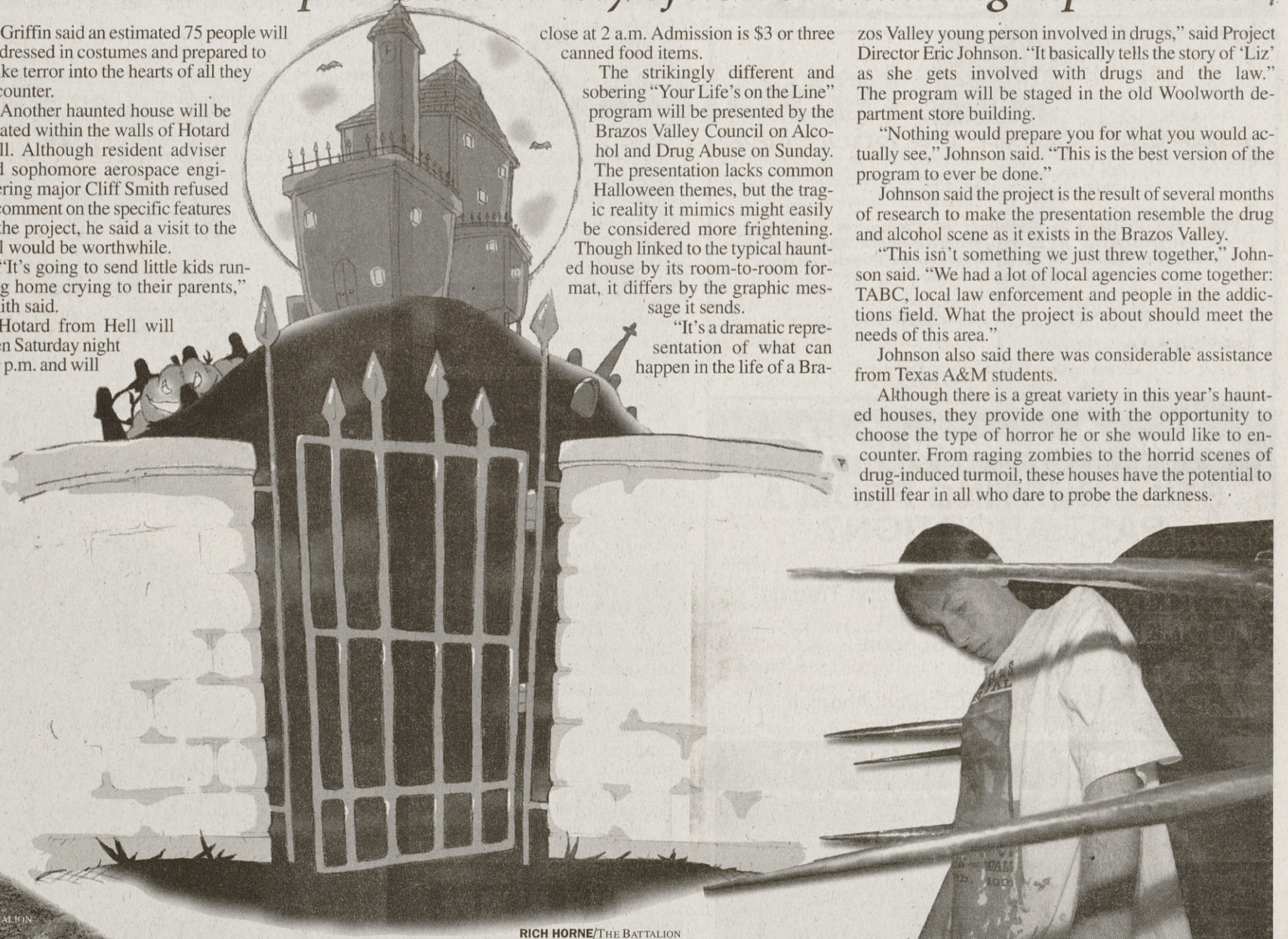
"Nothing would prepare you for what you would actually see," Johnson said. "This is the best version of the program to ever be done."

Johnson said the project is the result of several months of research to make the presentation resemble the drug and alcohol scene as it exists in the Brazos Valley.

"This isn't something we just threw together," Johnson said. "We had a lot of local agencies come together: TABC, local law enforcement and people in the addiction field. What the project is about should meet the needs of this area."

Johnson also said there was considerable assistance from Texas A&M students.

Although there is a great variety in this year's haunted houses, they provide one with the opportunity to choose the type of horror he or she would like to encounter. From raging zombies to the horrid scenes of drug-induced turmoil, these houses have the potential to instill fear in all who dare to probe the darkness.



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RICH HORNE/THE BATTALION

PHLETES

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— Wally Groff, director of Athletic Department

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Wednesday

Society of Hispanic Pro... engineers (SHPE) will... general meeting in B... at 7 p.m. There will be... eaker from General... free food.

Sunshine will hold ag... at 8:30 p.m. in... For more informa... contact Elizabeth Fle... 2683.

Dental Society will... h Berrung, with the... antonio Dental Brand... 7 p.m. in MSC 292B... formation, contact G... 596-2041.

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|------------|-------------|-------------|
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| Thursday | 5:00 PM | 6:45 PM |
| Friday | 5:00 PM | 6:45 PM |
| Saturday | 5:00 PM | 6:45 PM |
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BATTALION

Beth Miller
Editor in Chief

SN #1055-4726 is published daily... during the fall and spring semesters... Thursday during the summer session... and exam periods) at Texas A&M... Paid at College Station, TX 77843-1111... address changes to The Battalion, Texas... AMU, College Station, TX 77843-1111

tion news department is managed by... &M University in the Division of... the Department of Journalism. News... McDonald Building, Newsroom phone... 2647; E-mail: Thebattalion@tamu.edu

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