

Heartstopping haunted houses are big entertainment

By C.J. RISAK

The narrow corridor is completely dark, with no noise discernable save the beating of your heart in your ears. The walls are cold, but you press your back against one of them and cling to the person in front of you, afraid of going on but terrified of being separated from the rest of the group.

Suddenly, the wall behind you disappears, and a hairy-faced creature

lunges at you with a roar. The corridor is a mass of confusion, but in all the turmoil you have remembered not to let go of your companion in front of you.

Without realizing it, you find yourself racing down a hall, twisting and turning past a coffin, which is now opening. A vampire-like figure is climbing out. Shrieks and howls can still be heard from somewhere behind you—and so can footsteps. Something is following you.

Abruptly, you find yourself in a

dimly lit room; four closed doors are on three of the walls, and you know without thinking that only one will lead to safety. Whatever was behind you is catching up. Fast. One door is flung open. Nothing but a wall.

Two more doors are tried; behind one is another wall, but out of the other lurches a bloodied face, grabbing at one of your party as she screams.

The fourth and final door swings open, and the cold night air hits your body, reassuring you that escape is

near and your ordeal is almost over. At last, you find yourself outside with your friends, gasping for air and trying to calm your pounding heart.

"That was fun. Now let's go to the Farmington Haunted House."

It is one of the paradoxes of being human. Getting the heck scared out of you, frightened to death—and paying to have it done.

And it isn't just a few sadistic, half-crazed degenerates that crave the horrible. Every Halloween, thousands of fairly normal people visit the dozens of haunted houses in the Detroit area and pay for the privilege of being scared.

Every community now has its own haunted house, and in most of them the Jaycees are the sponsors. The success ratio is astounding, with every organization able to make a great amount of money.

"It's a great money-making project for us," Bob Putnam, a Redford Jaycee, said. "The kids love it, and there isn't that much of an investment."

As for the widespread success of the houses, Troy Jaycees president Dick Augustyn put it in its proper perspective.

"We not only see it as a fundraiser, but as a community service. People really enjoy it."

Whoever is the host, kids of all ages flock to the hauntings and pay anywhere from 75 cents to \$1.50 for a 10-minute jaunt through a house woods full of ghoulies. In Troy last year, over 10,000 people visited their house in five days at the Oakland Mall. About 500 persons have already been to the Beverly Hills-sponsored haunted cabin.

"I'm always surprised at how much they enjoy it," Beverly Hills project chairman James Osmer said. "We get a lot of high school kids in here on weekends. They have a whole lot of fun."

HAUNTED HOUSE profits depend largely upon the size of the operation. The Farmington Jaycees have one of the oldest haunted houses in Detroit. The Farmington house, now in its 12th year, made \$12,000 last year. Troy Jaycees made between \$3,500 and \$4,000.

The money collected by the Jaycees goes to various projects, mostly to Christmas programs to help the needy. For example, the Southfield Jaycees used the \$1,500 collected last Halloween for their Help A Kid program, and will do the same this year. The Jaycees will take needy kids to the stores and use the money to buy gifts for their family.

As it is with the Jaycees, all the money they collect goes toward improving the community.

Tonight is the final night the haunted houses will be open, so if you haven't been out to one yet, it's your last chance to go. Following is a list of the houses operating in the Detroit area:

West Bloomfield—The Jaycees Haunted House is open until 10 p.m. and costs 75 cents. It is located in the Orchard Mall Shopping Center, at Orchard Lake and Fifteen Mile.

Troy—The Troy Jaycees Haunted House is in the Oakland Mall, at Fourteen Mile and John R. It costs 50 cents for children and \$1 for adults and will close at 9 tonight.

Plymouth—The Knights of Columbus sponsor the Plymouth Haunted House,

located at 150 Fair, across the railroad tracks from Cashway Lumber on South Mill Street. The cost is 50 cents and it will close at 11 p.m.

Redford—The Redford Jaycees Haunted House is located at 15334 Beech Daley; the cost is 50 cents and it will close at 10 p.m.

Canton—The haunted house sponsored by the Canton Jaycees is on Ford Road west of Haggerty, next to the Roman Forum restaurant. Admission is \$1 and closing time is 11 p.m.

Southfield—A Haunted Woods is being sponsored by the Southfield Jaycees in the back of the Southfield Civic Center, next to the ice arena. The cost is \$1 and it will close at 10 p.m.

Farmington—The Jaycees are sponsoring both a haunted house and a haunted woods, with admission \$1 for each. It is located on Grand River between Farmington Road and Drake, and will close at 10:30 p.m.

Garden City—The Garden City Jaycees Haunted House is located in the Garden City park, on Cherry Hill east of Merriman. The charge is 75 cents and it will close at 10 p.m.

Livonia—Wonderland Shopping Center is the location of the Livonia Haunted House, on Plymouth Road west of Middlebelt. It is \$1 per person and it will close at 10 p.m.

Westland—The Westland Jaycees Haunted House will be open until 11 tonight. It is located on Henry Road, one mile south of Michigan Avenue.

Birmingham—The Beverly Hills Jaycees are sponsoring a haunted house in the cabin at the Village Park, located on Beverly between Evergreen and Southfield Road. It will close at 10 tonight; admission is \$1.

Teenage rights discussed

By SANDI HORNE

Teenagers have rights, too. That was the word from Denise Alexander, a Southfield attorney who recently spoke at the Farmington Library.

Along with the discussion, a film entitled "Youth and the Law," about marijuana, was shown.

Delinquency, dependent and neglect actions and status offenses are three major areas under the headings of juvenile courts. Jurisdiction in most cases in juvenile courts is to the age of 17.

Delinquency deals with the actual committing of a crime, or breaking the law. Cases involving a traffic violation or shoplifting would fall under this category.

Dependent and neglect actions involve children's rights in dealing with their parents.

"Kids have the right to be free of physical and emotional injury," said Ms. Alexander.

"They have a legal right to take their parents to court if the parents are abusing them."

Abused children are not placed back in the home until a case study is conducted. The court will provide temporary care for abused children.

CHILDREN ALSO HAVE the right to expect their dinner on the table and their laundry done.

The responsibility between parents and children works two ways, however. Children have to "obey their parents' reasonable demands." Parents can take their children to court if they're not home on time. If children stay away from home for 24 hours without notifying their parents, they can be taken to court. This falls under the category of status offenses.

In most cases of home truancy, the child is kept in a juvenile home overnight and a case worker is assigned to the problem.

"If the police confiscated evidence, such as marijuana, without having reason to suspect a crime was committed, this evidence would not hold up in court," she said.

The same thing holds true for searching a car.

IF POLICE PULL a car over for running a red light, they can't search the car for anything," said Mrs. Alexander. "They have no reason to suspect they'd find anything."

The smell of marijuana is not enough evidence to search a car. Police don't know when the pot was smoked as the odor lingers for some time.

Open liquor bottles in a car, however, are enough evidence to search the car and take in the driver.

"Courts are really cracking down on driving under the influence," remarked Mrs. Alexander. "Drunk driving is a worse offense than possession of marijuana."

She offers this advice to teens, "If you're going to drink, don't drive."

Ms. Alexander also added that teens have nothing to lose by fighting a ticket. Something could be gained.

"Most people just accept their traffic tickets and pay them. They don't think it's worth their trouble to fight them," she said.

People have the right to a trial. Ms. Alexander suggests that people should get an attorney to represent them, because "attorneys know how to stroke the egos of judges."

If a teen is arrested by the police, Ms. Alexander offers this advice to them.

"State your name and keep your mouth shut. You have the right to remain silent, take advantage of that right."

POLICE CAN ONLY search your pockets if they have a probable cause to believe you have a weapon.

She also added that it's important not to lie about your age.

"If you're 17 or under, you're tried as a juvenile," said Ms. Alexander.

"If you're 18, you're tried as an adult. If you're under 16 authorities can agree to release you to your parents."

If a person commits a crime as a juvenile, the crime won't appear on their record as an adult, as long as they stay out of trouble.

"Everyone gets one break and gets to be put on probation but if you get into trouble more than once, they begin to question your character as a person," she said.

Ms. Alexander summed up her discussion by saying that teenagers do have rights but with these rights come responsibilities.

"Don't close doors on yourself. What might be fun now could hurt you later. Think about what you do now as a stepping stone to what you want in the future."

Teenagers who attended the program and Barbara Walker, Farm-

ington's youth librarian, were pleased about the program.

JOHN DAWSON, 13, a Farmington resident, said he found the program interesting.

"I learned a lot about law terms that I didn't know before," he said.

"I thought the lecture was good and they should have more like it," said Joe DeVecchio, 15, a Farmington High School student. "They should be seeing in people with other points of view on issues like this."

Ms. Walker said that the audience of 50 proved that if you provide teens with exactly what they want or need to hear, they will turn out to listen.

"There were 52 people here because they wanted to be here not because they had to be," she said proudly.



By DENISE MOLL

The month of November is always exciting, promising the beginning of the holiday season, winter weather and recreation and more. This month will be especially interesting at the library with activities available for all ages.

The third and final session of the home-decor program will take place at 7 p.m. Nov. 7 in the Farmington Hills Library on Twelve Mile near Farmington Road.

A speaker from Ray Interiors of Farmington will be available to offer hints and advice on how to make your home look its best for the upcoming holidays and the dreary months to follow.

On the next evening, Nov. 8, the Farmington Branch Library on Liberty will offer a program on wills and estate planning beginning at 7 p.m. An attorney will be available to help you prepare a simple will and discuss estate planning.

For those who are interested in learning just what the library has to offer and how to use it, the Farmington Branch Library will offer a one-hour mini-course in library instruction from 10-11 a.m., Nov. 14. No registration is necessary.

In honor of National Model Railroad month, the Young Adult Department will feature a program on model railroading at 7 p.m., Nov. 25 at the Farmington Hills Library. Featured will be a speaker from Joe's Hobby Shop in Farmington who will answer questions, show a film and have hobby equipment on display.

THE ADULT BOOK discussion group continues to meet at the Farmington Branch Library with a new discussion leader, librarian Barbara Brover. November's selection is Eudora Welty's "The Optimistic Daughter."

which will be discussed at 10 a.m., Nov. 30.

Programs for children around this month, in honor of Children's Book Week, Nov. 13-18. For pre-schoolers, a special evening holiday story hour will be featured on Nov. 15 at the Farmington branch. The half hour program beginning at 7 p.m. will feature a puppet show based on Leo Lionni's "Alexander and the Wind Up Mouse," and a flannelboard story, "The Snake that Sneezed."

Other programs for pre-schoolers will include Dr. Seuss films at 2 p.m., Nov. 6 in the Farmington Hills Library and "Just Imagine" an exploration of immigration at 10:30 p.m., Nov. 10. "Harvest Time" a program with an autumn theme will be shown at 2 p.m., Nov. 21. Both movies will be shown at the Farmington branch.

Elementary age children are invited to the Farmington Hills Library at 2 p.m., Nov. 11 for science fiction films. At 2 p.m., Nov. 25 there will be holiday fun in the form of "The Cricket in Times Square" and "Yes, Virginia There Really is a Santa Claus," two films.

Thumbprint art will be explored at 2 p.m., Nov. 18 in the Farmington branch.

ONE OF THE most important events of the month won't be available at the library but its outcome may greatly affect library operations and offerings. On Nov. 7, voters will be asked to decide on three tax propositions. Library users and readers should be aware that the library's main source of funding is through property taxes. The passage of the Tishman amendment would be disastrous in terms of library service, greatly curtailing our hours, staff and offerings. Other amendments would have a similar affect but to a lesser extent.

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Young actors bake 'A Christmas Pie'

About 50 young actors and actresses are now in rehearsal for "A Christmas Pie," singing, acting and dancing their way toward production date, set for Dec. 9.

Taffy Jones, who is writer, director and producer of the children's drama classes in Farmington Community Center, will produce the original musical written by Marcella Esser. Musical arrangements are prepared by Sheila Devlin. Musical accompaniment will be by Scott Sliem, the young man will fill that same position in "Friends on Farmington Road," in the center last summer.

"A Christmas Pie" tells the story of Benny the baker, who is making a Christmas pie for the Best family. The Bests think very high of themselves and consider Benny's pie not good enough. Benny thinks too lowly of himself and consequently there is no Christmas pie for the holiday. It isn't until visitors at the Best house arrive and are able to change everyone's feelings about themselves before things are set to right.

SOME OF THE cast of the show



Taffy Jones

have already been invited to appear on the Daedalus show, on Dec. 17. The Channel 7 show will feature "A Christmas Pie" soloists Mike Wantuck and Susan Calloway.

Ms. Jones is creator and director of the Whistle-Stop Childrens Theatre which is in-residence in the Bloomfield Hills School District.

SCAT, an original play written, directed and produced by Ms. Jones, has been six weeks at the Conant Elementary School. This week the company whistle-stopped to Will-O-Way and Lone Pine Elementary Schools. The agenda for 1979 calls the company to Booth Elementary and Grove Hills Schools.

SCAT's tour is made possible through a grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts.

"A Christmas Pie" will have two curtains on Dec. 9, at 1:30 and 3 p.m. in the barn of First Presbyterian Church, on Farmington Road and Eleven Mile.

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