



Violinist Pinchas Zukerman performs with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Call (313) 833-3700.



Ohio sculptor Kevin Ritter, along with 300 other top artists, is participating in Sugarloaf's Second Annual Fall Art Fair, Novi Expo Center, (I-96 to Exit 162).



Lyric Chamber Ensemble presents "The Sorcerer's Apprentice," 3:30 p.m., Millennium Theatre, Southfield. Program combines music of Phillip Glass with modern dance set against a backdrop of slide images, (810) 357-1111.



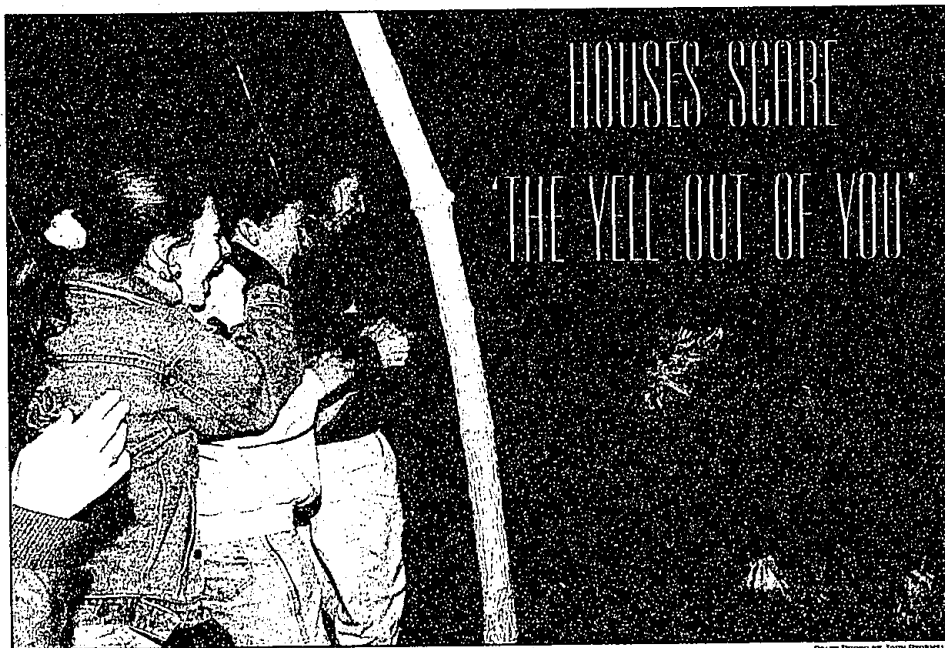
Hot tip: "The French Garden" by Carol Chisholm is one of the works at Our Town, Oct. 24-27 at The Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham. The event presents works by artists from around the state, call (810) 644-5832.

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

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STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN STURGEON

That's scary: Frightening folks greet visitors at Silo X, on the campus of Oakland University, one of the area's newest and largest haunted attractions.

BY DIANE HANSON
SPECIAL WRITER

The thick green fog envelops the unsuspecting intruder so quickly that finding the exit to beat a hasty retreat is an impossibility. Once inside the abandoned missile site at the top-secret military base, irradiated mutated beings pop out of nowhere, growling and sneering menacingly close. Some are armed and dangerous with weapons like chain saws, drawing screams from even the most elite.

Not to worry, it's all part of the elaborate hoax of the haunted Halloween habitats that materialize in October.

Silo X is one of the area's newest and largest. Located on the Oakland University campus in Rochester, the haunted attraction spans the length of 10 football fields, and even goes outdoors through the woods and a crashed military helicopter. Being sufficiently scared, the Silo X tour could take as little as 20 to 30 minutes, or up to 45 minutes for those who relish that fright feeling. Lines to get in could take equally as long.

So why do otherwise normal folks go to such lengths to be scared out of their wits when the air chills and the frost collects on the pumpkins? "I think they like to come through with their friends and get a reaction, being in a scary situation with a group of people," said Al Canavan,

Farmington Jaycee haunted house veteran. He has been with the Jaycees for seven years and said "definitely, high school girls are the best screamers."

It's a safe way to get some excitement, said Canavan. "It's getting a rush with their friends." That adrenaline rush is easy to achieve at Dr. Jekyll's Haunted House and Children of the Corn, both in Sterling Heights, or Dr. Jekyll's Haunted Hayride at the Brighton Recreational Riding Stables in Brighton.

A Hollywood set designer has utilized Disneyworld-type technology to create some very special effects that don't just stay inside. Dr. Jekyll's Haunted House includes a trip into the dark night as part of the deal with equally scary creatures lurking in the shadows or rising from the dead.

Children of the Corn is perhaps even a bit more frightening. Both take 10 to 15 minutes to tour, and are very likely to "scare the yell out of you" as promoters predict.

Perhaps an ironic twist, many of these frightfully fun domains offer an avenue for some very philanthropic deeds.

That's not exactly the first thing that comes to mind when confronted by a menacing space creature or blood-dripping, knife-wielding zombie.

Jeff Crank, owner of Crank's Catering of Warren, and creator of the Dr. Jekyll attractions, started the spooky spectacles last year on a whim to raise money for a friend who needed a bone marrow transplant. This year he added Children of the Corn, and the hayride, where one never knows what may pop out of the hay, to help raise money for another bone marrow patient, Annette Ferrara, a Macomb County resident.

Crank said they scared over 10,000 people last year while raising thousands of dollars for his friend's operation. With this year's added attraction, he hopes to collect even more money for his Second Chance Foundation.

A portion of the September revenue from Silo X benefited the Rochester and Clarkston school districts. Not to worry if you don't have the opportunity to make it out to Silo X this year, the Rochester Community Schools Foundation has a contract with Silo X and Oakland University to reconstruct the green-fog-filled attraction for the next six autumns.

The Jaycees are well-known for their goodwill and community support as well as a multitude of dire domains in October. Many local Jaycees groups sponsor the haunted houses while contributing to their

communities.

The Farmington Jaycees offer a discount for bringing two or more cans of food to be donated to "Neighborhood House," a community organization for needy families. They are also encouraging blood donations by offering a free trip through their daunting domicile with a Red Cross receipt verifying an October donation. Keep in mind, many of these fright factories are pretty scary even for the brave hearts (or those who claim to be) and may not be suitable for young children.

Some of the nightmare-provoking abodes do have special children's times or "Friendly Monster" showings. There are also many children's and family events to celebrate the fall holiday. Mechele McClain, president of the Livonia Jaycees said the children really love Friendly Monster days. Lights are kept on and masks off. "It was unbelievable the number of people that brought their children," said McClain. "We don't jump out at them. We just explain to them what they're going to see and what we would do."

She said that if parents bring reluctant children to the full-blown scare scene, they will offer to watch them in the office while the adult tours the house. It appears that the area's haunted attractions offer something for every terror threshold from amiable to adrenaline rush plus.



African flags display pride, power

BY MARY ELLEN
STAFF WRITER

The Fante asaso flags on display at The Wetman Collection in Birmingham are much more than pieces of cloth or identity symbols. The textiles have a special strength and the threads vibrate with power.

Flags from 70 to 100 years of age are shown in "Asaso! African Flags of the Fante," which runs to Nov. 9 at 192 N. Woodward (call (810) 645-2112).

The flags are by the Fante people of Ghana. Asaso is a military group. The Fante have been mediators with European trade from the 1500s and players in the changeover to self-rule from colonialism in the 1950s.

These flags are vibrant and whimsical, with bold, solid colors, applique patchwork and embroidery forming a variety of images.

The designs on some of them form a

haunting shadow display on the wall behind them.

Borders may have patterns similar to those found in quilts, or be cut like blunt, broad fringes.

Versions of the British flag from colonial days could adorn one corner. Threads form fingers of people, claws of animals or legs of birds.

Different materials for the fur of animals or the clothing of people give characters different personalities. Trees bear lively foliage of various patterns and colors.

Signs of community life can be seen within the borders. Female officers are depicted, as are gongs that were struck for important proclamations.

The images could be ways for one group to taunt another, describe events or proclaim its responsibility—social and civic as well as defense. Illustrating proverbs is one way the point is made.

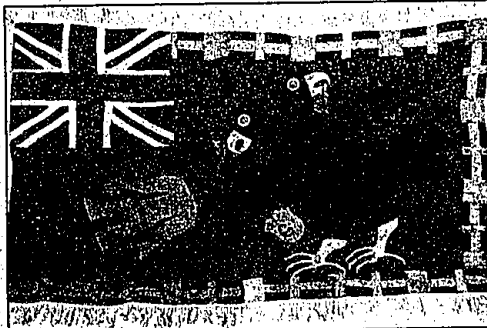
A scene of a mother animal protecting

its offspring describes how the entire community is protected. An eagle, representing one company, soars over a hapless lion, representing another. Another rival group is scorned as being like a mouse.

"It is a foolish mouse that dares to steal from the bag of the cat," is the message of the flag.

Yet big intelligence isn't a virtue. A bird with mighty wings glides out of reach of a dog. "What can a dog do if a bird steals its bone?" is the message, in other words, that there is always someone you can't defeat.

Also of interest: "African Form and Imagery: Detroit Collects" continues at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward, through Jan. 5. This exhibit features more than 70 African objects from local, private collections, and masterpieces from the DIA's permanent collection. Call (313) 833-7400.



Vibrant works: African flags on display at The Wetman Collection in Birmingham feature allegoric imagery and proverbs.