

JArchives  
LD  
3111.8  
1231  
1.5  
D.18

# LSU TODAY

October 31, 1988

Vol. 5, No. 18

## A Halloween tradition

### Deceased family visitors received

On Halloween night in ancient Europe, people stayed at home to receive family visitors—family visitors who'd died during the previous year.

For the Celts, an ancient European people who flourished thousands of years before Christ, what we call Halloween was actually a day of religious celebration filled with magic and mystery.

For them, it was the first day of winter, the first day of the new year, and as the sun set, the graves opened and the spirits of the dead came out to visit the living before setting out to spend eternity in the underworld of the dead.

Rosan Jordan, associate professor of English, explains that among the Celts, Halloween night was the beginning of a special day devoted to honoring one's ancestors. For

them, since the days were thought to begin at sunset, the first night of the new year was the time when one waited for visits from the spirits of one's deceased relatives.

Unlike the terror expressed in today's movies of supernatural horror, she says, the living might have been uneasy, but they probably weren't afraid of their spiritual visitors. It was a time to express the continuity of life, the journey of each generation, from birth to death and on to a life after death.

"On Halloween night, the living honored their dead ancestors through rituals and even prepared and put out special food for them to eat when they visited," she says.

Through the centuries, as Christianity spread across Europe, the pagan celebration

continued on page 2



U.S. Rep. Richard Baker attended a luncheon meeting October 24 sponsored by LSU to explain research activity being conducted by faculty here and to ask for help with more federal funding. Sean McGlynn, vice-chancellor for research, and Robert Baumann of the Center for Energy Studies outlined many research projects under way at LSU and the impact that research was having on the state. McGlynn said that LSU had made significant increases in research funding from outside sources, but more was needed. He cited statistics on distribution of federal funds at 23 cents per person in the South, compared to 41 cents per person in non-southern states and a national average of 37 cents. Congressman Baker told the group that he would do everything he could to help LSU. He said the University must provide a list of priorities for federal funding. He said better communication was needed, and that the appointment of Tommy Hudson as a liaison to Louisiana's federal delegation in Washington was a step in the right direction. Pictured left to right, Hudson, Baker, and McGlynn.

## FYITEMS

### AIDS research presented

More than 300 scientists from a three-state area are expected at the School of Veterinary Medicine November 4-5 for the annual meeting of the South Central Branch of the American Society of Microbiology and the Midsouth Biochemists.

One of the highlights of the event will be progress reports on the search for an AIDS vaccine and other types of control for the disease.

"We have researchers in our branch who are working toward overall objectives of development of a vaccine or more effective chemotherapy against AIDS," according to E.J. Shannon, president of the ASM south central branch. "These investigators are working directly with AIDS patients, the Human Immunodeficiency Virus, and animal models."

A total of 133 papers will be presented about new research in a number of areas of microbiology, immunology, biochemistry, parasitology, virology, and molecular biology. This is research on problems that effect the people and animals of this region, co-chairman of the organizing committee and LSU professor of veterinary microbiology Johannes Storz said.

Other subjects to be discussed are aging, gene control, new diagnostic approaches, the seafood industry, flu, herpes, chlamydia, Hansen's disease, and heartworms.

Those attending represent more than 14 universities and research institutes in Louisiana, Arkansas, and Mississippi.

### New board member named

Robert F. Meredith III of Grayson, Louisiana, has been appointed by Governor Buddy Roemer to the LSU Board of Supervisors. Meredith, president and co-owner of Hogan Exploration, Inc., of Columbia, Louisiana, will fill the unexpired term of former governor, John J. McKeithen.

Meredith is a petroleum engineer, who earned a bachelor's degree from LSU in 1973. He graduated summa cum laude.

## French culture studied

Edouard Glissant, LSU Foundation Distinguished Professor of French, is director of the Center for French and Francophone Studies.

According to Glissant, "The center can become one of the most important centers for the study of French culture in the world. That's what we want to do, and I think we can do it."

He has three major goals for the center:

- To focus on the way of life of New World plantations to determine how African and European cultures, particularly languages, affected one another in such regions as South America, the Caribbean, and the United States;

- To develop interdisciplinary approaches on how European languages have developed and changed in areas outside Europe;

- To build intellectual relationships between LSU and universities in French-speaking countries in Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, and Canada.

"One of the most interesting questions I want to study is why French is the only European language to develop a strong and widespread Creole form in the New World.

"When a young boy from Martinique went to school 20 years ago, he spoke Creole but not French. We learned French as a foreign language. Today, everybody speaks French, but the presence of Creole is real and very strong. When I write in French, I write with the structures, rhythms, and the sounds of Creole in my head, so I use French in a different way from a writer born in France," said Glissant.

Such a mingling of languages has brought about emerging literatures in various languages in areas outside the nations where the languages originated. Today, for example, Glissant said that French writers in Africa, the Caribbean, and Canada have attracted considerable critical attention for



Pictured left to right, Edouard Glissant, LSU Foundation Distinguished Professor of French and director of the Center for French and Francophone Studies, talks with Nathaniel Wing, chairman of the Department of French and Italian.

the vitality and strength of the works they are producing. The word Francophone refers to all French writers and literatures in areas outside France such as Louisiana, Morocco, or Martinique.

At LSU he is teaching a seminar in "La poetique de la relation," in which he traces the line from such 19th century French writers as Rimbaud and Baudelaire directly to contemporary writing in French outside France.

Until recently, Glissant was professor of literature at the University of Paris, editor of the *Courier* of UNESCO, and director of periodical publications of UNESCO in Paris.

He was born in Martinique in 1928 and, among other degrees, holds the prestigious state doctorate from the Sorbonne in Paris.

—Clany Soileau

## Clarification

In the listing of new faculty published in the September 5 issue of *LSU Today*, Thomas Harrison, assistant professor; Mira Kamdar, assistant professor, Gerard Lavatori, instructor, and Claude Vandeloise, associate professor, were listed under the title Foreign Languages. Specifically, these new faculty members are with the Department of French and Italian.

## Concert scheduled

A concert by the LSU Wind Ensemble and the Symphonic Band is scheduled for 8 p.m. November 2 in the Union Theater.

Frank Wickes, director of bands, and Linda Moorhouse, associate director, will conduct the program.

The Wind Ensemble will open the concert with "Suite, Le Bal de Beatrice Este" by Reynaldo Hahn, followed by the Symphonic Band's performance of "Dialogues on 'In Dulci Jubilo'" by John Zdechlik.

Both groups will combine to present "Festive Overture, Op. 96," Shostakovich/Hunsberger; "Suite of Old American Dances," Robert Russell Bennett; and the "Lassus Trombone March," Fillmore.

Tickets for the event are on sale at the Union Box Office, at \$2.75 for the general public and \$2 for LSU students, faculty, and staff.

## Discounts given on framing

Christmas orders are now being taken for framing at the LSU Union Frame Shop. Orders will be accepted through Friday, December 2, to ensure in time for Christmas.

A special discount will be given during this time: 24 percent for full-time students and LSU Union members, 20 percent to all faculty and staff, and 15 percent to all alumni.

The frame shop, located in 323 Union, is open 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, call Richard Mellinger, 388-5436.

## United Way Campaign



As of October 25, 1988, here's how we stand:

Goal: \$124,000  
Raised: 80,000  
Still need: 44,000