

Kids of all ages eage

By WENDY JOHNSON
Staff Writer

are faddish from year to year, she adds. Last year the kids all wanted to be Smurfs and Care Bears, she says, this year He-man, She-ra, My Little Pony and transformer robots are big. The children either create their own costumes or buy ready-made ones.

The "seasonal" aisles at the variety stores display pre-fab outfits ranging from brides to barmaids, complete with plastic masks and flame-retarded jumpsuits and gowns. Veils, crowns or fishnet hose are also included where applicable. Many costumes copy Saturday morning cartoon characters or toy advertisements. And, of course, there are the ever-popular witches, clowns, hobos and princesses.

But most of the children (parents, actually) make their costumes, Butler says.

For the do-it-yourself-ers, there is quite an array of accessories. Elvira, late-night vamp and horror show hostess, has lent her name to a whole line of beauty boosters — haircolor,

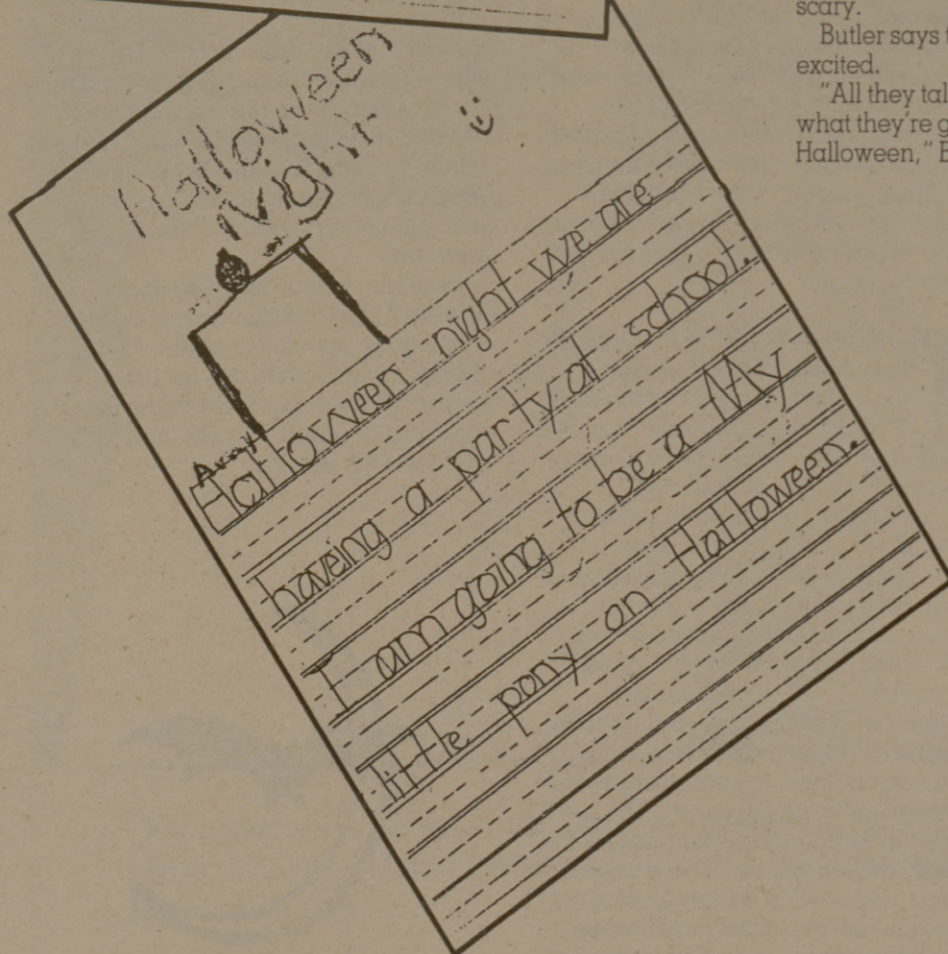
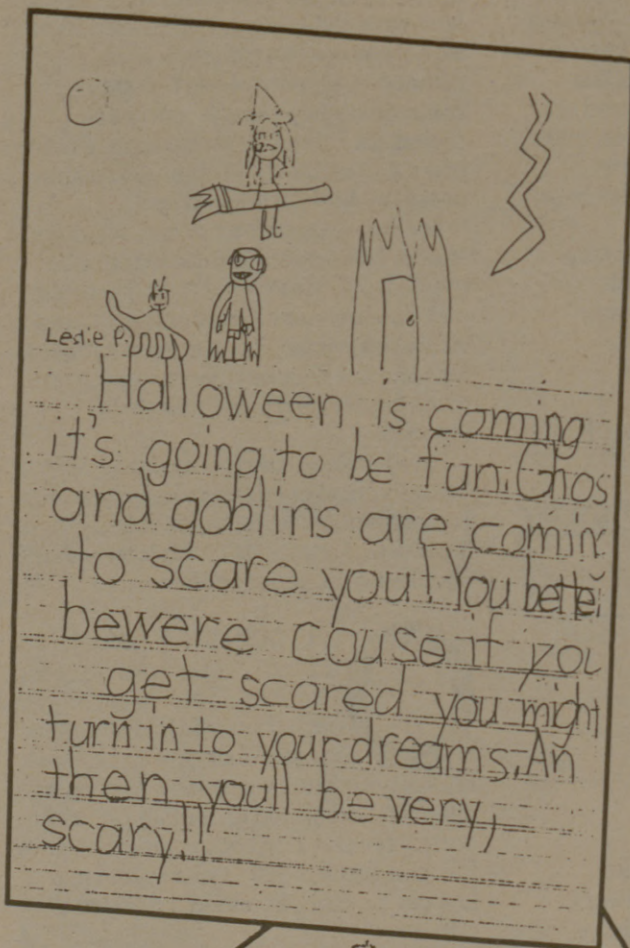
IF YOU'VE BEEN TO ANY grocery store lately, you've seen orange and black in profusion. Pumpkins and bags of candy are piled on tables and in bins. Kids are begging mommies to open bags of Halloween candy that were just tossed into the cart. In elementary schools, bulletin boards sport jack-o'-lanterns and witches, and students eagerly await class parties, school carnivals and the booty they will collect from trick-or-treating. Halloween, as are most holidays, is for children.

In Mrs. Devrow's second grade class at Henderson Elementary School in Bryan, Texas A&M elementary education major Anne Butler gave her reading group an assignment to write about Halloween.

"We celebrate Halloween because we want to dress up in close and get candy and have fun," writes Leslie. Her classmate Adam writes "We wear scary cloths on Halloween." Kenneth looks forward to his mother dressing him up "four" Halloween. Kathleen writes "Halloween is scary and time for ghosts and candy." Robby writes "It is fun until it gets scary."

Butler says the children are really excited.

"All they talk about these days is what they're gonna be for Halloween," Butler says. Costumes



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