

Boo! Halloween celebrates superstitions

By Polly Sanford
The Battalion

Holiday costumes reflect current Hollywood crazes

By Terri Welch
The Battalion

Halloween and Hollywood

The movie industry has a lot of influence on our everyday lives and now it seems its making the moves on our holiday dress.

"Robin Hood, flappers and gangsters," said Michelle Rutland, a costume consultant at Cologero's Costumes and Masquerades, "are the most popular rented costumes this year."

Their authenticity, the look of the time period and the fact they're fun seem to be the reason these particular costumes are stealing the show, she said.

"People can really play up the part in the Robin Hood and gangster costumes," Rutland said. "There are lots of props like bow and arrows and guns; people love that stuff."

All of these "extras" are selling quickly if they have not sold out already, said other local merchants.

Sylvia Bouchard, a consultant for Hancock's, a fabric store, said "We've sold lots of wigs, boas, and sparkle stuff. People just love things that glitter."

She said the clown patterns and fabrics are the most popular costumes at their store.

Genies and Cleopatras have been the draw at Pruitt's, a specialty fabric store in town. Many people have come in to buy chiffons and bright fabrics, a sales clerk said.

Assistant Manager Tammy Isbell said the little things have sold like crazy at Amber's, a local craft store.

"Our make-up went real well and so did the wigs," she said. "We had long hair wigs in three or four colors and they sold out quick."

As for costumes, there will be lots of kid Ninja Turtles around this Halloween, Isbell said.

"We sold out of everything for adults," she said.

See Costumes/Page 5

Halloween - a night when witches conjure up spells and ghosts, and goblins and spirits of the dead are known to roam the earth.

Witchery and superstitions prevail on Halloween.

"It's a non-Christian holiday. It's not surprising that interest in the supernatural peaks at this time of year," Dr. Sylvia Grider, folklorist and associate professor of anthropology and history said.

Grider said the celebration of Halloween originated with the ancient Celts, who called it "Samhain."

"They would celebrate the end of the harvest and the beginning of the New Year, Nov. 1," she said.

The Christians created All Saints Day in sixth century A.D. as a direct response to the non-Christian celebration.

"On this day, they would hold a celebration to allow all the souls that died during the past year to pass onto the underworld," Grider said.

They would light candles during prayer and eat nuts and apples to celebrate.

"The Irish are the direct descendants of the Celts," Grider said, "so they probably brought Halloween with them to the United States in the mid-to-late 19th century."

She said All Saints Day later became known as All Souls Day. Thus the eve and day of this celebration is associated with Halloween in America, along with the pranks and ritualistic games.

"The ritual of begging for food is an old tradition of the early English people," Grider said.

"Trick or Treat," the Halloween threat of children is an American tradition that seems to be related to an English Plough Day custom. On this day, ploughmen of early England would go to homes and beg for gifts. If they didn't receive any, they would threaten damage to the grounds with their ploughs.

According to old beliefs, the veil between the living and the dead is partially lifted. People are believed to be vulnerable to evil spirits on this night. The practice of dressing in costume to deceive them became common among the early people.

People would also carry jack-o'-lanterns. They would cut out faces on pumpkins because pumpkins were a charm thought

to avert evil. The faces would scare the spirits.

On Halloween, the spirits of living people are thought to have the temporary power to leave their bodies and roam the night.

Children born on this day are said to have a second sight - they can contact spirits and communicate with them.

If a young person wishes to catch a glimpse of a future spouse, chances are good if certain rites are performed.

Bobbing for apples seems to come from this belief.

Ancient folklore said that apples named with labels would be put in a tub filled with water. The person would then be instructed to kneel over the tub with eyes shut and hands behind back. The person would then try to catch the apple between the teeth. The apple that was caught was the one designating the future spouse.

Another spouse-discovering ritual was to walk into a room backward at midnight and look over the left shoulder. The face of the future spouse would appear.

People may not believe in the consequences, but there is always hope that there may be something in it.

Freaky films for fun, fright-filled evening

By Timm Doolen
The Battalion

If trick-or-treating doesn't excite you, or if you just need a little something to get you in the Halloween spirit, try some of these movies for a few chills.

Silence of the Lambs (1991) - Jonathan Demme proves in this recently released thriller that scary movies can also be very popular.

Jodie Foster is an FBI agent tracking down a serial killer who skins his victims. In a desperate attempt to find out where he's going to strike next, she interviews Hannibal Lecter (Anthony Hopkins), who is a pleasant fellow that likes to eat his friends.

Lecter, in jail, starts asking questions back, but does eventually help Foster track down the killer.

This movie is chilling because we believe something

See Films/Page 5

Thursday Only Noon - 10 p.m.

HALLOWEEN MADNESS

THESE PRICES ARE SO LOW THEY'LL SCARE YOU!

BLOUSES • values to \$135 • Now \$14.90 to \$22.90

SWEATERS • values to \$135 • Now \$17.90 to \$59.90

DENIM SKIRTS • reg. \$65 • Now as low as \$29.90

LADIES SUITS • reg. \$355 • Now as low as \$149.90

LEATHER SKIRTS • reg. \$200 • Now \$79.90

Select group of KNITS, BLOUSES, & SKIRTS

Now as low as \$9.90

Select group of RALPH LAUREN and ANNE KLEIN II

Values to \$230 • Now as low as \$29.90

DENIM SLACKS • as low as \$23.90

ALL DRESSES • now \$29.90 to \$74.90

MEN'S TRENCH COATS • Now \$89.90

NAVY BLAZERS • Now \$89.90

MEN'S SWEATERS from \$9.90

RUGBY SHIRTS as low as \$17.90

MEN'S KNIT SHIRTS \$14.90 & up

SPORTS SHIRTS \$14.90 & up

DRESS SHIRTS as low as \$9.90

TIES \$12.90 and up

LEATHER AND SUEDE JACKETS as low as \$99.90

Hundreds of MEN'S SUITS

values to \$575.00 • Now as low as \$119.90

SHELLENBERGER'S

520 University Drive East

2nd ANNUAL

HOUSTON MONTE CARLO NIGHT & YELL PRACTICE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1991
NIGHT BEFORE AGS BEAT THE HELL OUTTA RICE



@ JOHNNY B. DALTON'S

13101 KUYKENDAHL

(713) 873-2120

OPEN TIL 2 AM

PLAY BLACKJACK, HORSERACING, CRAPS, AND WHEEL OF FORTUNE FROM 6 PM TO 11 PM - COST ONLY \$5.00 - PRIZES @ 11:15 PM

FREE FOOD BUFFET FROM 4:30 PM TO 8 PM

YELL PRACTICE TO FOLLOW AT MIDNIGHT

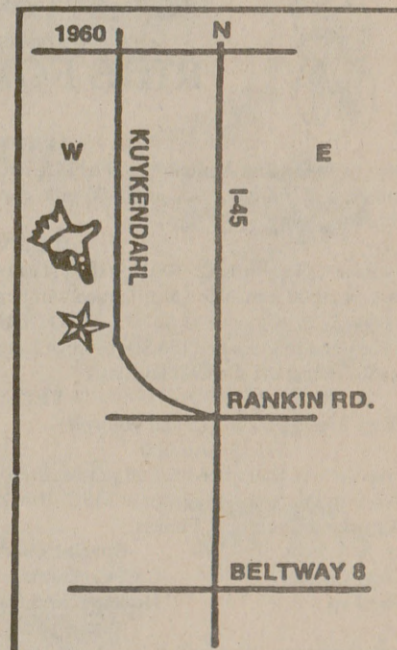
SPONSORED BY:



RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION

APF AGGIE PROFESSIONAL FORUM- HOUSTON

TEXAS AGGIE YELL LEADERS



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE RHA OFFICE @ 845-0689 OR STOP BY 215 PAVILION