

The Battalion

Halloween isn't Halloween until students get

All Dressed Up

BY JEFF WOLFSHOHL
The Battalion

Halloween is not a time to focus on the gluttonous consumption of chocolate and sugar. A far better high can be achieved with the help of a shiny, new costume.

Tad Fielder, a senior petroleum engineering major, said he found it was the oversized kid in him that led to an eventual problem with his Halloween costume.

"My two suitmates and I went to Kroger and found kid-size Power Ranger outfits, made for ages 6 to 10," Fielder said. "So they ended up being extremely small."

Fielder said the moment he and his suitmates put them on, the costumes revealed more than what the costume-seekers had planned on.

"Since everywhere around [the costume] ripped, we decided we had to wear clothes underneath," he said. Fielder said he was able to remain in character while in costume when a police officer came to dismantle the party he was attending.

"The officer asked us if we were underage, and we approached him without taking off our (Power Ranger) masks," Fielder said. "He kept on talking to us, and we really didn't think anything of it until later."

Fielder said every year, he waits until the last minute to purchase his costume because costumes have been marked down.

"It is more fun to do something silly like this because we are in college, and we really don't have money to spend on costumes," Fielder said.

Some costumes are subtle, but others demonstrate the over-the-top attitude necessary for any Halloween gathering.

Melissa Lloyd, a junior agricultural journalism major, was a diva last Halloween.

"A diva is a superstar known for her attitude — an example of a real diva would be Madonna," Lloyd said. "But I didn't dress as Madonna, I was the diva known as 'Mel.'"

Lloyd said she went all out on her outfit, sporting large heels, blue eye shadow, big hair and a feather boa wrapped around her shoulder.

"It was fun hitting Northgate and Hotard from Hell because I got to be saucy," she said.

Lloyd said it was amazing that a simple change of costume altered others' approach to her.

"A group of guys dressed as white trash hit on me," Lloyd said. "It's because of the well-known fact that all white trash like divas."

The only problem that 'Mel' ran into on Halloween night was a verbal conflict that became physical.

"My roommate was a diva too, and she started getting sassy, throwing me diva attitude, but I had way more than she did," Lloyd said. "I threw her down and took her tiara. She knew from then on that I was the queen diva."

Divas are not the only costume option for those who want a chance to display a little attitude.

Matthew Rooney, a freshman management information systems major, dressed as a ghetto pimp for Halloween last year.

"A ghetto pimp is someone who pimps off low-class whores," Rooney said. "I had patent-leather shoes, plaid pants, 15 rings and several necklaces. The girls I was with were also a part of my costume — they were my prostitutes."

Rooney said he and his crew went around town, making appearances at malls and different stores, remaining in character the entire time.

"We went to McDonald's and walked over to a table of guys," Rooney said. "I asked if they were looking for a good time, then saying that 'I got the goods. They just looked at me and said 'No, that's okay.'"

Rooney said he enjoyed scaring others with his pimp antics.

"I scared this Korean woman who was in her 40s or 50s," Rooney said. "I tried to get her to come into my services, and she gave me a dirty look. She started yelling at me in words that I couldn't understand, then literally ran away."

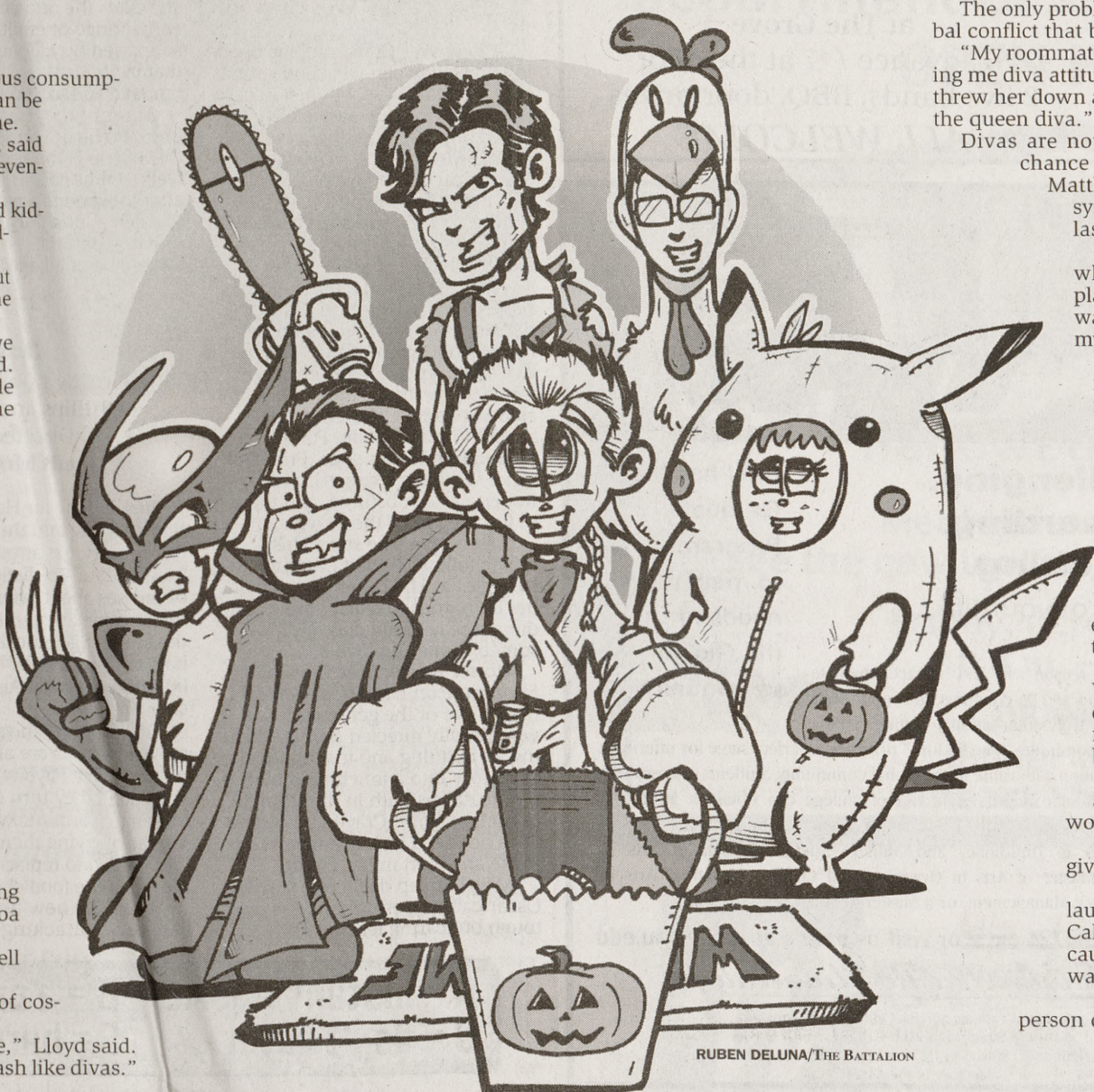
Costumes are worn to evoke specific reactions. What reaction is appropriate when a costume does double-duty as a visual pun? Kasie Callaway, a freshman general studies major, dressed as Venetian blinds.

"I dressed in all black, wore sunglasses and carried a cane like I was blind," Callaway said. "I wrote the word 'Venetian' on my shirt."

Callaway said a one-of-a-kind costume is the key and gives the creator a sense of pride.

"No one had thought of it before, and people would laugh after they found out what I was supposed to be," Callaway said. "I didn't tell anyone until that night because I didn't want anyone to take my idea. I thought it was pretty original."

Callaway said Halloween is more enjoyable when a person devotes time and effort to their costume because the



RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

SEE COSTUMES ON PAGE 5.

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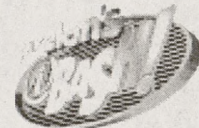
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