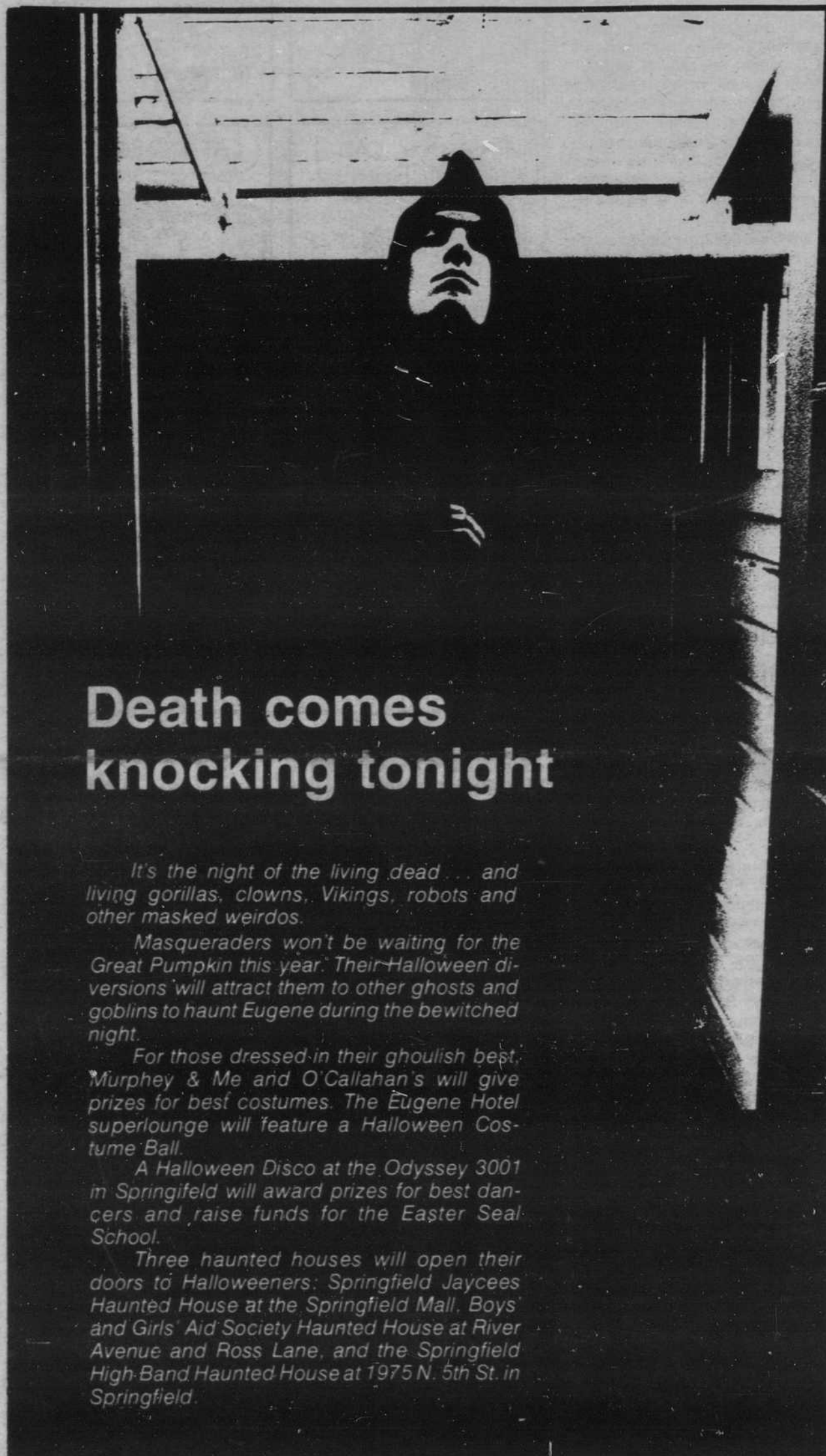




Death comes knocking tonight

It's the night of the living dead... and living gorillas, clowns, Vikings, robots and other masked weirdos.

Masqueraders won't be waiting for the Great Pumpkin this year. Their Halloween diversions will attract them to other ghosts and goblins to haunt Eugene during the bewitched night.

For those dressed in their ghoulish best, Murphey & Me and O'Callahan's will give prizes for best costumes. The Eugene Hotel superlounge will feature a Halloween Costume Ball.

A Halloween Disco at the Odyssey 3001 in Springfield will award prizes for best dancers and raise funds for the Easter Seal School.

Three haunted houses will open their doors to Halloweeners: Springfield Jaycees Haunted House at the Springfield Mall, Boys and Girls Aid Society Haunted House at River Avenue and Ross Lane, and the Springfield High-Band Haunted House at 1975 N. 5th St. in Springfield.

Duding up Costume seekers rifle store's racks for novel identities

By KRISTINE SNIPES
For the Emerald

It's hard for a 6-foot man to blend into a rack of rabbit suits when his wife is asking "Do you have a Wonder Woman costume that would fit my husband?"

But then, it isn't that unusual at the ABC Costume Shop's Halloween rush.

"Do you have any wigs with both green and red hair?"

"How do I get these teeth to stick out of my cheek?"

"Do eyepatches come with the pirate suits?"

The craziness goes on until Halloween night at the area's oldest costume shop.

"Gorilla suits, fangs and flapper costumes are this year's most popular items," says Dorothy Setera, owner of the shop in Springfield at 424 Main St.

Add to that voodoo masks, shrunken heads and rubber chickens and you have a fair sampling of the shop's wares.

The one-room store is filled with more than a thousand costumes ranging from harem girl dresses to witch doctor outfits (complete with grass skirt and the essential bone necklace) and the locally popular Bigfoot costume.

The hat collection, which includes Keystone Cop helmets and Sherlock Holmes caps, lines the wall with gruesome monster masks and plastic devil's pitchforks. They compete for space with the Snoopy telephone, rubber snakes and velvet-and-gilt crowns.

Some customers are as bizarre as the surroundings. A man in the back nonchalantly tries an English racing cap over his wolf mask while two old men debate the respective merits of clown suits and cowboy outfits.

"I don't know, Charlie," one man argues, "with the cowboy suit she throws in a pair of guns and a lasso."

Overseeing the show is Setera, a fortyish woman who sports

butterfly-shaped blue-tinted glasses with rhinestones and 2-inch fingernails decorated with flower decals.

She makes many of the store's costumes and props, including the lifesized "human" skeleton she fashioned out of deer bones her friends gave her. In past years she displayed the skeleton in the custom-built coffin her husband built for her birthday.

"It's a perfect coffin, just what I wanted," she says. "It's built to my exact specifications and I've lined it with red velvet."

Halloween and New Year's are the busiest times of the year for the store, but business is good all year, Setera says, adding many of her customers are from the University.

Costumes rent from \$5.50 to \$12.50 with a \$10 deposit. Gorilla suits are the most popular item all year long, Setera says.

"You get all sorts of weirdos in here and for some reason, the people who want to be gorillas are always the weirdest."

There are a few specially made costumes, such as the bunny suit for the local radio station, which hires someone to parachute in it every Easter.

Accessories, which range from Viking caps with tusks and long blond braids to ball and chains for the prison costumes, can be rented separately.

Setera got rid of her Star Wars costumes and masks because "they were just a fad. Darth Vader wasn't so popular and the Wookiee was worthless."

Her weirdest request, she says, was from a woman who wanted to be a frog.

"We didn't have a frog costume and I couldn't think of how to make one, so we just couldn't help her."

Few things daunt Setera's ingenuity, however.

"We got a camel mask in and we're making a costume to go with it. We haven't figured out the humps, yet, but we're working on it."

today

State Sen. Victor Atiyeh made a campaign appearance at the EMU Monday. Atiyeh, who faces democrat incumbent Bob Straub for the governorship, told students he favors a plan to solicit student input into state government. See Page 3.

ALERT is heading on a fresh course under the new eye of director Bruce McPhun. He intends to open the resource and referral center to all students, not just the handicapped as in the past. Find out more about his plan on Page 6.

Today is the final day to register to vote without going down to Lane County Elections in person. The county office urges would-be voters to register early to avoid long lines. See Page 8.

A gestalt therapist who studies witchcraft and folklore is skeptical of black magic but she admits to a heightened awareness to the non-physical on Halloween. She usually performs rituals on Oct. 31, but tonight she'll be trick-or-treating. Turn to Page 9.