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Crazies ruin Halloween fun for small kids

"Children love Halloween, and many grown folks do, too. Come now, Billy Black Cat — call off your strike!"

Spirits on Strike — Heien Ramsey.

In keeping with tradition, there will be Halloween activities in the Eugene area this weekend for almost every possible persuasion — '50s' fans, vegetarians, homosexuals, the exotic, the erotic and the well-to-do.

Nary a strange nocturnal creature will be left out in the cold when it comes to the "fun and frolic of merry, scary Halloween."

Except the children.

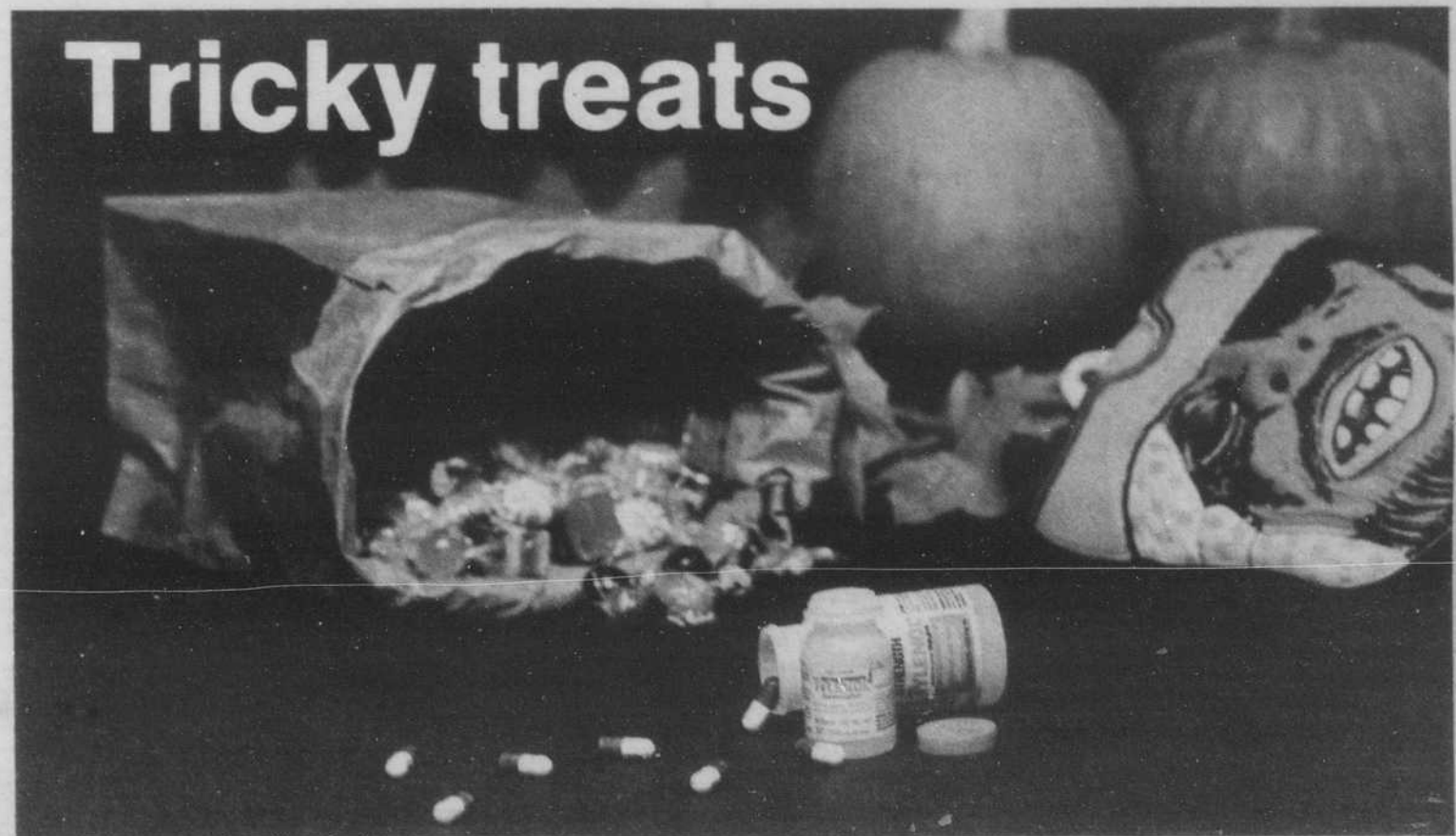
"It's the crazies out there that ruin everything for the children," says Marcia Dahlquist of Timewarp Costumes in Eugene. "There's not much you can do about it."

While Halloween warnings to parents from police and health agencies have become routine in the past decade, the recent epidemic of cyanide-adulterated Extra-Strength Tylenol and acid-laced Visine eye drops will undoubtedly redouble parental anxiety about letting their children trick-or-treat.

It's the "crazies," that infinitesimal sliver of psychotics, who are blamed for ruining what was once a cherished institution for children and grown-ups alike.

Last year a Louisiana man shot and killed a 13-year-old trick-or-treater who showed up on his doorstep wearing an Army outfit and armed with a toy submachine gun. In Muncie, Ind., police found lick-on stickers featuring Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck that had been spiked with LSD.

A Texas man, convicted of poisoning his son with trick-or-treat candy con-



taining cyanide, is scheduled to be executed this Halloween.

Understandably, parents are wondering what kind of society America has become when children aren't safe on the streets.

"All of us have heard those kinds of (comments)," says Lt. Dick Mann of the Eugene Police Department. "Parents are disappointed that their children can't experience what they experienced."

In at least one town (Dudley, Mass.), officials have voted to outlaw trick-or-treating.

Some communities are combating the threat of poisoning or foreign objects in treats by setting up X-ray and visual inspection facilities. Other cities, like

Chicago, are sending out flyers to schools and churches that warn of the possible danger.

Although the Eugene area averages about one incident of poisoning or hidden foreign objects each Halloween, police say there is little they can do to decrease the hazard.

"Usually it's a foreign object in either fruit or home-made goods," says Mann. "There's nothing we can do to lessen (the threat). The best defense is for the parents to educate their children."

Mann says that police patrols would be at about the same strength as any most other Friday or Saturday nights.

"We certainly don't place as much emphasis on Halloween as we did 10

years ago. But it's still a big event."

The owner of ABC Costumes in Springfield agrees that Halloween is still big with area residents.

"Business is fine, no problem," says Dorothy Setera.

But while adult costume rentals are brisk, Setera discontinued her line of children's costumes this year after 10 years in the business.

"It didn't used to be that way. It used to be that the kids would all go out and trick-or-treat," says Setera. "But not anymore, because of those people messing around with the candy. It's a shame for the kids."

By Sean Meyers

Photo by Bob Baker

Police discover eighth tainted Tylenol bottle

CHICAGO (AP) — An eighth bottle of Extra-Strength Tylenol containing cyanide-laced capsules has been found among the scores of containers turned in to police by consumers, the head of the Tylenol murder investigation said Monday.

Illinois Attorney General Tyrone Fahner identified the bottle as having lot No. MC2873, which has not been previously linked to the murders, and he said it was purchased at a Frank's Finer Foods outlet in Wheaton, Ill.

Fahner's task force is investigating the

murders of seven people in the Chicago area who took cyanide-laced Extra-Strength Tylenol.

Fahner's comments were in a statement released by telephone by a task force spokesman to the City News Bureau of Chicago. Telephone calls to Fahner at the task force headquarters were not returned Monday night.

A law enforcement source in Washington said the bottle was turned in to police "some time ago, perhaps weeks ago... (but) it was just processed today (Monday)."

The source, who declined to be identified by name or department, said police mailed the package for testing to a Maple Plain, Minn., lab operated by McNeil Consumer Products Co., the manufacturer of the pain remedy.

The bottle was sent with "a notation that it might be contaminated," and tests confirmed the presence of cyanide, the source said. McNeil turned over the bottle to the FBI.

It was at a Frank's Finer Foods that Mary Reiner, one of the seven cyanide-poisoning victims, purchased her fatal

dose. However, the store where she made her purchase was in Winfield, not Wheaton.

Meanwhile, NBC News reported Monday night that officials are investigating whether a conspiracy to commit the Tylenol murders existed between a relative of one of the seven Tylenol victims and Roger Arnold.

The Chicago Sun-Times had reported earlier Monday that an unidentified relative was under surveillance and considered a "prime suspect" in the case, but investigators denied that report.

RCYB denies involvement in bomb threat

By Debbie Howlett
Of the Emerald

The Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade has denied that they are responsible for two bomb threats that interrupted a midterm exam Monday afternoon in Room 150 Geology.

"Obviously it's not the kind of thing we do," said Clare Chang of the RCYB. "People who know what we do know this doesn't fall into what we'd do."

"When I heard about it, I laughed because it was so ridiculous (to think the RCYB would make the threat)," Chang said.

The bomb threats were received at the EMU main desk and the campus security office at the University about 12:45 p.m. The callers, a man and a woman, probably tape-recorded their message and played it back into the phone. They claimed they were with the RCYB, and they had planted a bomb in Room 150 Geology set to explode at 1 p.m.

"They said something about capitalist pigs," said Debby Martin, an EMU employee who took one of the calls.

Police investigators said Tuesday that the RCYB is not suspected.

"In essence my opinion, based on what we have learned, is that the RCYB is not involved — they're not the focus of the investigation," said Sgt. Rick Allison of the Eugene Police Department.

Allison said he is fairly certain that an "individual in the class is responsible. A pattern has developed over past years. Things have come to light," Allison said.

"We take it very seriously. We're trying to investigate," said RCYB member John Kaiser. "We see it as an attempt to paint us as off-the-wall and

to isolate us."

Kaiser said that using the RCYB's name in the bomb threat incident is a "classic example" of the way the FBI "plants ideas" to picture revolutionaries as terrorists.

"It's more than just a good way to get out of a midterm," Kaiser said. "They believed that they'd be believed if they credited it to us."

"An atmosphere has been created where somebody feels the system is behind them when they do things like this," Kaiser said.