

Halloweens of yesteryears haunt the present

Ghosts and goblins, witches and warlocks, spooks and spiders, bats and brew... Hold it, hold it, wait just a minute! Is this terminology representative of Halloween, a holiday enjoyed by children everywhere?

Reporter's Notebook by Paula Green

Let's go back to the beginning. Halloween traces its roots to the Scotch-Irish and to an ancient New Year's celebration in honor of the Celtic god of the dead. This festival of the dead (excuse me, I'm having a problem dealing with "festival" and "dead" in the same sentence) was incorporated into a Christian ritual where the focus changed to a

feast in honor of all saints. And then, Halloween was commercialized.

Today, we find ourselves subjected to millions of little children, screaming relentlessly, "TRICK OR TREAT!" again and again and again in every doorway, until "festival of the dead" begins to take on new meaning.

Or, there are teenagers who seem to find some form of twisted enjoyment in throwing rotten eggs at people's home and cars; the same teens who can be found hiding in bushes, waiting to scare the life out of small children who amble by.

Perhaps I'm too cynical. Perhaps I'm still upset by the fact that I was forced to end my trick-or-treating days at the age of seven, because by then my brother was nine, and we were deemed "too old" to go. No, no, HE was too old, and I

am now scarred for life.

I suppose I really enjoyed running up and down the street with a giant mask on my face. Oh, the masks. Half of the time, the eyeholes were about nostril level, and the rest of the time I spent stripping the mask from my sweat-soaked face to induce regular breathing.

I remember one particular incident when, while the mask was blocking my vision, I tripped. The candy in my bag scattered everywhere, my knees were scraped and the wind was knocked out of me. My brother gathered up my treats and took me home and all of the sympathy in the world wouldn't pacify me. All I wanted was my bag of candy.

But those days are long gone. And candy and whining aside, I've made another observation about Halloween that I'd like to share: Nobody takes Halloween

seriously. Just the other day, a friend asked me if mail would be delivered on Saturday.

"As long as I can remember, the postal service has delivered mail on Saturdays," I said.

"Yes, but Saturday is Halloween," she said.

"So?" I questioned.

"Or is Halloween one of those holidays that just doesn't matter?" she asked.

Halloween doesn't matter. Maybe it's guilt for the bad reputation that Halloween has, or maybe it's my spirit of adventure, but this year, for the first time in 14 years, I am actually going to celebrate Halloween, costume and all. It's time that Halloween really matter. For adults too.

Webfoot Society halts induction ceremony

By Cindy Ellison
Emerald Contributor

This year's Homecoming celebration will be missing something — a very special half-time presentation at Saturday's football game and an induction ceremony that would otherwise take place that Sunday.

The Webfoot Society, because of budget restraints, will wait until 1988 to honor Webfoot alumni and their accomplishments.

The University Alumni Association's Webfoot Society would have been in its fourth year. Each year since its beginning, the Webfoot Society has chosen alumni from the fields of business, arts and letters, sports, public service, science and education.

The honored alumni are introduced during half-time of each year's homecoming football game. Then on Sunday of that same weekend, an induction ceremony is held at the Webfoot Brunch. At that time, recipients of the honor are given an opportunity to speak of the University and of themselves.

Although the program will not take place this year, it will be reinstated in 1988. According to the Alumni Association Executive Director Philip Super, the Webfoot Society could easily be restored next year, whereas other programs of the Alumni Association might more easily lose momentum.

The general attitude toward the cut in this year's program seems to be unanimous. "We're very sorry because we think it's a very valuable program," according to Assistant Alumni Director Dona Barber. However, she added "If we're going to do it, we want to do it right. It's really not honoring them to do something half-way." Super concurs. The Webfoot Society has "always dealt with alumni first class," he said.

Started in 1983 by the Alumni Association Board of Directors and local members of the chapter, the Webfoot Society adds about 10 members a year out of the 100,000 alumni on record. Before the program started, there was only one award for a distinguished alum.

The Webfoot Society arose out of a desire to recognize alumni and their accomplishments, both personally and professionally. Super claims people "literally from all over the world" have been honored by the society.

Past recipients have included Gov. Neil Goldschmidt; Thomas Autzen, a supporter of the arts, athletics, and academic programs at the University; Ron Fraedrick, owner and founder of Taco Time, International; Carolyn Silva Chambers, president, KEZI Television and Chambers Cable Communication, Inc.; Howard "Hobby" Andrew Hobson, coach of the University's National Championship Basketball Team of 1939 and winner of six different athletic halls of fame awards; and, Rudolf Deutekom, president of Levi Strauss International.

The award also brings honor and recognition to the University. General feelings of the recipients reflect well upon the University. "Their time spent at the University had a lot to do with their accomplishments," Super said. "It's a special place to them." One of the Webfoot Society's purposes is to create institutional relationships with alumni where they did not exist before.

However, members agree they should not depend upon the University to provide money for additional programs because it must deal with academic funding, faculty salaries and office space.

A membership program is in the works for next year to bring in more money to the association. The Alumni Association recently has developed a credit card program, sponsored in conjunction with U.S. National Bank of Oregon. Money raised from this can help reinstate the Webfoot Society and other programs of the Alumni Association.



Donald's predecessor and friends

The University's first mascot, Puddles, is present when Walt Disney (right to left) and the University's first professional Athletic Director, Leo Harris, agree on the use of Donald Duck as the University's new mascot in 1947. Also present are actor Phil Harris and University graduate Ed Crowley.

Courtesy of University Archives

Early homecomings spawned rivalry

By Jennifer Curran
Emerald Contributor

"Home-again, the glad cry which wells up in the heart of every returned son or daughter of Old Oregon, is duplicated in the citizens of the Eugene campus."

This call came out in November of 1923, Oregon's fourth homecoming. It was a day filled with greetings of happy memories, of old revived rivalries brought home again to the University.

During the homecomings of the past, the entire campus came out in force to build that good old spirit. Students would plan days in advance the classic activities, such as the annual dance and bonfire.

The entire community pulled together to prepare for the event. Stores would be closed the day of the game in order for the shop owners to be able to go out and cheer the home team on. One of the local stores places this sign in its window, "For Homecoming our

store will be closed to honor this. Welcome Back to all the grads! (City Cleaners, 1920.)"

The actual events themselves declared excitement all weekend long. The morning began with the registration of the alumni, and with so many of them returning, this continued well into the afternoon.

This was followed by the annual luncheon held for the alumni. The menu typically included such delicious entree's as tongue, pressed chicken and ham, accompanied by various salads, and numerous desserts.

The excitement continued into the evening with the bonfire held in Kincaid Field. Flames reared toward the sky rejoicing the return of all. Firecrackers, roman candles also contributed to the festivities with their sputtering, fizzing, and brightness. Next came the parade of noise. Anxious students and energetic grads marched around the campus gaining enthusiasm with yells and hollering for the green and yellow.

The following day began with yet another parade, and was followed by the Delta-Beta frosh tug-o-war, by then the time had arrived for the "game." The year of 1923 brought Oregon State face-to-face with the Fighting Ducks. The theme of the homecoming was "Try As You May, Beavers, You Can't Get Away With It!" and they didn't.

Then the stars brought out the dancers and continued to do so for many years. The annual homecoming dance always proved to be one of the "best displays of welcome and fellowship." Ladies would bring their beaus, and then they would choose other fellows to dance with by filling up their dance cards. What happened to the beaus? Well, they danced with the other fellows' girls.

Yes, homecoming back in the early years meant a great deal to the entire University community. The days of old were active and frivolous, and the old and young were not forgotten by tradition.

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