

HAUNTED HAPPENINGS



Photo by Kim Nguyen
Freshman Diem Nguyen, left, and sophomore Marcela Lemma take part in a Halloween tradition by carving pumpkins in their dorm room.

Traditions changing over time

With the onset of Halloween settling over Oregon, children as well as diligent college students have begun their annual search for that "perfect pumpkin," the largest candy-holding pillowcase in the house, and the wildest outfit feasible from the remains of grandma's closet.

Yes, the unique traditions of Halloween have arrived once again.

The remains of the ancient remembrance of the dead on Halloween night is of a non-Christian tradition derived thousands of years ago. But all religious connotations have been stripped away. Only the ghost and witch stories remain among our modern traditions.

"Halloween has transcended into a children's party," said John Nicols, Professor of history and classic. "Perhaps the children find the collecting of candy as a way of relieving anxieties about the dead."

This is indeed an interesting notion about this custom when you stop to consider the amount of

fright Halloween is "expected" to generate within us.

Does Halloween have a profound affect on us, or is it mere child's play that has been hyped over the years?

"On a scale of one to 10, we got about a 30! We put three girls on the ground with one spook!" said Scott Macdonald, an employee at St. Vincent DePaul in West Eugene.

Apparently some of the employees make it an annual event to join forces and set up Halloween capers throughout the store to "surprise" unsuspecting customers, such as the University women mentioned above.

Along with their imaginations, they used various miscellaneous items within the store's contents to create moving corpses with rattling chains that were placed strategically throughout the store. When the unsuspecting customers walk by, the employees

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