

BEYOND THE GRAVE

Campus holiday parties offer music, dancing

By David Ryan
Freelance Reporter

This Halloween, University students will be able to dance to the beat of two campus parties, both held by student social organizations.

At the EMU Ballroom, the Oregon Ballroom Dance Club will hold "Skellington's Ball," a costume ball featuring live big-band music with free food and soft drinks. The ball is open to everyone and will run from 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$7 at the door for the general public and \$5 for students and faculty.

Though the theme is a masquerade ball, club president Eric Folley did not want to make any solid requirements.

"We're selling eye masks for people if they want them, but they don't have to buy one," he said.

Folley also emphasized that guests are free to choose their own costumes. "If you want to come as a hippie, come as a hippie. We're not requiring anything."

The ball will feature Starlighter, a 12-piece live band that will play big band-style music for the guests. Starlighter has played for events in Eugene and along the Oregon Coast for several years.

During the band's breaks, the club will play recorded music such as the salsa, the meringue and other Latin beats.

Skellington's Ball will benefit from a Coca-Cola program that provides free food and soft drinks for meetings and parties held by community organizations.

The Oregon Ballroom Dance

Club was founded by Will Smith as an alternative to partying with alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Keeping with this idea, the club holds a dance every Friday in Gerlinger Lounge at 8 p.m. For information about Oregon Ballroom Dance Club events, call 346-6025.

The International Student Association will throw a Halloween costume party from 8 p.m. to midnight in the Riley Hall lounge. ISA cards for free admission to the party can be picked up at the ISA office in room 206 of the EMU (near the post office).

The ISA party will feature Scandals' DJ Michelle, and nighttime activities will include a costume contest, a drag queen contest and prizes.

ISA party coordinator Anita Malakar had high hopes for the party.

"We want to bring people together from around the world. We're here to promote culture."

The party will introduce foreign students to American culture. "There is about half-and-half American and international students [at ISA functions]," Malakar said. "Halloween is an American holiday. Many foreign students don't know what [it] is like."

Normally, the ISA functions as the focal point of foreign student activities. The ISA holds events such as International Night, where foreign students cook foods from their home countries.

Both the Oregon Ballroom Dance Club and the ISA are social organizations that work for the interests of the community.

'Friday Night Fever' to infect Eugene Hilton this weekend

The ball will feature everything from a disco-style band to a costume contest and light show

By Scott Pesznecker
Freelance reporter

Traditional ghosts and goblins will be overtaken tonight by ruffles and retro at the "Friday Night Fever" Halloween Ball at the Eugene Hilton. Doors will open for admission at 7 p.m., and dancing will go until 1:30 a.m.

The ball — an annual event in Eugene for more than 20 years — will feature everything from a disco-style band to a costume contest and light show. Door prizes will also be given during the evening. Some of the prizes include cash and free dinners.

The festivities will begin at 8 p.m. with the Portland band Heavy Brothers. Other familiar musical performers will include Tarshene Watkins, the former lead singer of Body and Soul, and Carl Smith, percussionist for The Crazy Eights.

Local Eugene band Satin Love Orchestra, which is currently working on a CD due to be released at the end of the year, will start playing at 10:30 p.m. Many people classify the group as retro, but band leader Chris Stevens said they simply focus on playing "high-energy music and putting on a stage show."

"We're really looking forward to playing," Stevens said. "It's going to be the big event in town."

We're riding on a wave of popularity that we've been enjoying for the last several months.

"Our performance is going to be spectacular. We're pulling out all the stops on this one, and we're going to have a great entrance."

Despite a minimum age requirement of 21 because of the presence of alcohol, coordinator Jim Jensen of Bootleg Productions said attendance is expected to reach 1,000 people.

"Anybody and everybody will come, and that's the beauty of a costume ball," Jensen said. "People can put on costumes and be whoever they want. They can be wild and crazy, but nobody really cares."

Wearing a costume is not mandatory for admission.

"I imagine that a lot of people will dress disco, but you don't have to," Jensen said. "Some don't even bother to dress up at all, but many people get way into it. People are as much of the show as the show itself."

The cover charge at the door has risen since last year, from \$8 to \$15. But Jensen said the price is well worth it.

"It's an expensive production," Jensen said. "We have an eight-piece band from Portland and an eight-piece band from Eugene. It's the price to pay for a special show."

Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$12.50 at the EMU Ticket Office, CD World, Balladeer Music, Record Garden or the House of Records.

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