

Opportunities abound for frightening family fun

Local organizations will offer mazes, haunted houses and a Celtic festival for the family

By Courtney Sweet
for the Emerald

With Halloween just around the corner, many University students are looking for ways to celebrate the holiday. Whether people are searching for the perfect hay ride in a pumpkin patch or just a way to scare themselves silly, Eugene has a wide variety of Halloween options available.

Scream in the Dark is a haunted house hosted by the Eugene Active 20-30 Club, a local nonprofit service organization benefiting children's charities in Lane County. According to Arnie Morosky, the organization's marketing chair, the haunted house features a maze of rooms, including a jungle room and graveyard. Local high school students volunteer for all the acting roles in the house, such as ghouls or prisoners, he said.

Scream in the Dark runs today through Sunday and Oct. 30 and 31 and is located at the Lane County Fairgrounds. Admission is \$5, and

participants can get \$1 off with a coupon from Taco Bell, a Bi-Mart card or the donation of a jacket for the Coats for Kids campaign. All proceeds from the haunted house will go to 20-30 Club charities.

Spiral Star, another local nonprofit organization, is putting on an all-day, family-oriented Celtic festival Sunday at the Knights of Pythias Hall, located at 12th Avenue and Lawrence Street. According to Sue Sierralupé, the program director, the festival will offer costume and jack-o-lantern contests, a mystery maze, games, crafts and workshops.

At 7 p.m., Celtic band Tom's Kitchen will perform, and at 8 p.m., there will be a public ritual honoring "faery folk," Sierralupé said.

Workshops will run from 1 to 6 p.m. and include discussions about herbal magic and the four phases of the goddess, she said. While the workshops are for adults, the festival as a whole is family-oriented.

"Other (events) include children, but I want (this) to be for kids," Sierralupé said.

Turn to **Organizations**, page 8C



Jonathan House Emerald

Anders Christensen crawls through the Lone Pine Farms pumpkin patch, looking for a pumpkin that is just the right size.

Creativity, comfort and craziness add up to a good costume

Go with the old standbys — witches, ghosts and goblins — or get a little costume crazy as a blade of grass or Billy Idol

By Steven Neuman
for the Emerald

It's almost Halloween. Is it time to dust off the ubiquitous Dracula costume, gory-looking mask and robe, witch hat or fairy wings? Maybe not. With some creative tinkering, this year's costume doesn't have to be the same one worn in sixth grade to gather candy.

Brett Shanley, a freshman anthropology major, suggests that people try to think outside the box.

"It's not really that exciting to go as the same thing that everyone else has done for 50 years," Shanley said. "Some costumes are just tired.

I would say that people should try to get a costume that reflects their interests, and people should realize that it doesn't have to be expensive. This year I'm going as a Russian soldier from the Cold War. I found this incredible woolen coat and soldier hat at a sidewalk sale, and the entire (costume) cost me \$4.50."

Paul Andersen, who is studying theater arts at the University, also hammered home the concept of creativity.

"I've never really done a lot of work in theater that's involved really heavy costuming, but Halloween is everybody's chance to be a costuming expert," he said. "You get to design whatever you see fit. Besides, you want to stand out, be different.

"I don't think there's anything worse than going to a party and seeing someone else with your costume," Andersen said. "If you go as

a Moulin Rouge girl, you're just asking for disappointment."

"We get wierd requests, but usually the wierdest (costume requests) tend to roll in last-minute."

Amy Clancy
saleswoman, Nobody's Baby

While some might consider Halloween costumes childish, costume parties have become increasingly popular with adults, according to local professional costume rental shops, such as Antrican and Imaginaries.

Andersen suggests letting a childish nature be the guide for interesting costume ideas.

"I would try something like your

favorite cartoon character as a kid or something else from your childhood. Nothing could be funnier than the '80s right now. Maybe go as Rainbow Brite or as Billy Idol," he said.

If creating this year's costume is out of the question, there are several costume shops that will rent out cutting-edge costumes that might be a perfect fit. Nobody's Baby, at 365 E. 13th Ave., has been renting costumes for more than 15 years and specializes in costumes with a creative flair.

Amy Clancy, who has been a saleswoman and customer at Nobody's Baby, has seen just about everything.

"We get weird requests, but usually the weirdest (costume requests) tend to roll in last-minute, just before Halloween," she said. "I once had a guy request a costume for a blade of grass."

The shop not only takes weird requests, but also provides unusual offerings to choose from.

"I think that our 'Blarney' costume is the most screwed-up. It's a bootlegged 'Barney' (the dinosaur) costume that is all ill-fitted, and the head is all messed up," Clancy said.

According to Clancy, it is important to wear costumes appropriate to the environment so the wearer is comfortable.

"When someone comes in and says they want a costume, we drill them on what they are interested in, but also what the party is like," she said. "You don't want to be going to someplace inside that's going to be really hot wearing a Chewbacca costume or something skimpy to a party outside. You'll freeze."

Steven Neuman is a freelance reporter for the Oregon Daily Emerald.

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