

Horror movie classics remain favorites of many

There's nothing like watching a scary movie on fright night, such as 'Elm Street' and 'It'

Caron Alarab
Freelance Reporter

From the golden-eyed image of Satan in "Rosemary's Baby" to the sick and psychological video twists of "The Ring," the horror genre has, in some opinions, changed for the worst. While special effects, stardom and sequels have tainted the already questionable quality of today's films, one can't help but reflect on the times when evil was "Exorcised," "Elm Street" was singular and phobia was king.

"Back in the day, (horror movies) were way better," junior Daejin Joseph said.

Joseph said he has always loved horror and he misses the days when more time was put into costumes and backgrounds as opposed to graphics and special effects.

"All the horror movies now are too hyped up and extreme," he said. Older horror films like "Rosemary's Baby" (1968) and "The Exorcist" (1973) have more attention to costume and set detail. Possessed images of an innocent girl's spinning head and shaking bed still linger in the minds of those too savvy in the genre to forget what Hollywood was like before computers.

One of Joseph's all-time favorites is Stanley Kubrick's "The Shining" (1980) which was written by novelist Stephen King.

"King focuses more on a phobia in you so that people can relate to

the movie on a larger scale," Joseph said, referring to classics like "Cujo" (1983), "Children of the Corn" (1984) and "It" (1983). "And if you don't already have a phobia, he'll give you one."

In scanning the titles and images

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along the horror video section at the 1711 Willamette St. Blockbuster Video, a person might not only note the meager selection, but an interesting progression in cover art as well.

From the 1930s through the '80s,

images of skulls, demons, monsters, knives and blood adorned film boxes to give renters a small taste of the blood-curdling contents within. However in the past decade, horror movies going the pop culture route are displayed on video aisles as attractive cast rosters, boasting the "who's who" of young Hollywood, rather than as indicators of any fear factor. With films like "Scream," "I Know What You Did Last Summer" and "Urban Legend," movie buffs are lucky to get an intense look from the pictured cast, let alone an idea of what the plot entails.

It's no wonder establishments with bigger horror selections, like Premiere Video, don't see too many new releases leave the shelf.

"Mostly comedies, dramas and cult movies are popular among stu-

dents," said Don Johnson, a part-time employee of the 1495 E. 19th Ave. location.

He said the three most recent releases on their shelf are King's "Red Rose," "The Others" starring Nicole Kidman, and "From Hell," none of which have done better than "mediocre" in the renting scheme of things.

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Get lost in labyrinth of corn

Outside Junction City lies a 'dark, disturbing nightmare' that is open this week

Chelsea Duncan
Freelance Reporter

It is a 10-acre labyrinth of corn stalks, and has nearly three miles of trails. It is filled with ghosts, goblins and screaming teenagers.

It is the Haunted Corn Maze at Lone Pine Farms near Junction City. The maze is a unique alternative to costume parties and trick-or-treating.

For the past three years, Lone Pine Farms has featured the maze as one of its attractions during the Halloween season. During the day, its theme is "Scruffy the Loyal Farm Dog: Dog Days of Summer" because the trails are shaped like a dog. At night it becomes a dark, disturbing nightmare lit only by the moon and a few glow sticks.

The maze was originally about two acres, but three years ago Lorie Jensen, president of Lone Pine Farms, expanded it to 10 acres to attract more young adults. The

farm featured pumpkin patch rides for small children and families. Jensen said she saw the need to offer more activities for high school and college students.

"I felt like this filled that gap," she said. "Our motto is 0 to 100 (years old)."

Jensen and her daughter designed the maze. It has posts numbered one to 10. Before people enter it, they choose from a number of clue cards with topics such as sports, millennium, Halloween and Girl Scouting. At each post, a trivia question related to the clue cards must be answered correctly to find the way through the maze. Each answer comes with directions to turn left or right — an incorrect answer leads to dead ends and confusing circles.

"I liked it because I was lost," Lane Community College student Kindra Carroll said. "It's not like a haunted house where you know how to get in and out."

Questions range in difficulty and include, "What are male witches called?" and "How many kernels are in a typical bushel of corn?" If

all else fails, follow the throngs of fellow lost wanderers, but beware of the goblins and monsters lurking in the corn. Some of these costumed employees are armed with fake chainsaws that look and sound real in the dark. They are strategically hidden among the towering cornstalks and jump out at the unsuspecting. Creepy scenes of cemeteries and coffins can also be found along the trails.

"At first it was scary when people jumped out and surprised us, but toward the end I just got used to it," Carroll said.

Because of the many frightening surprises, small children and the faint of heart are discouraged from entering the maze at night.

"Its design is not for small children," said Jensen.

The maze can take anywhere from 45 minutes to two hours to complete, and according to senior Kim Sanchez, it can be a bit tedious.

"I think it would have been more fun if there were less people," Sanchez said. "All you can see is corn and more corn. I just wanted

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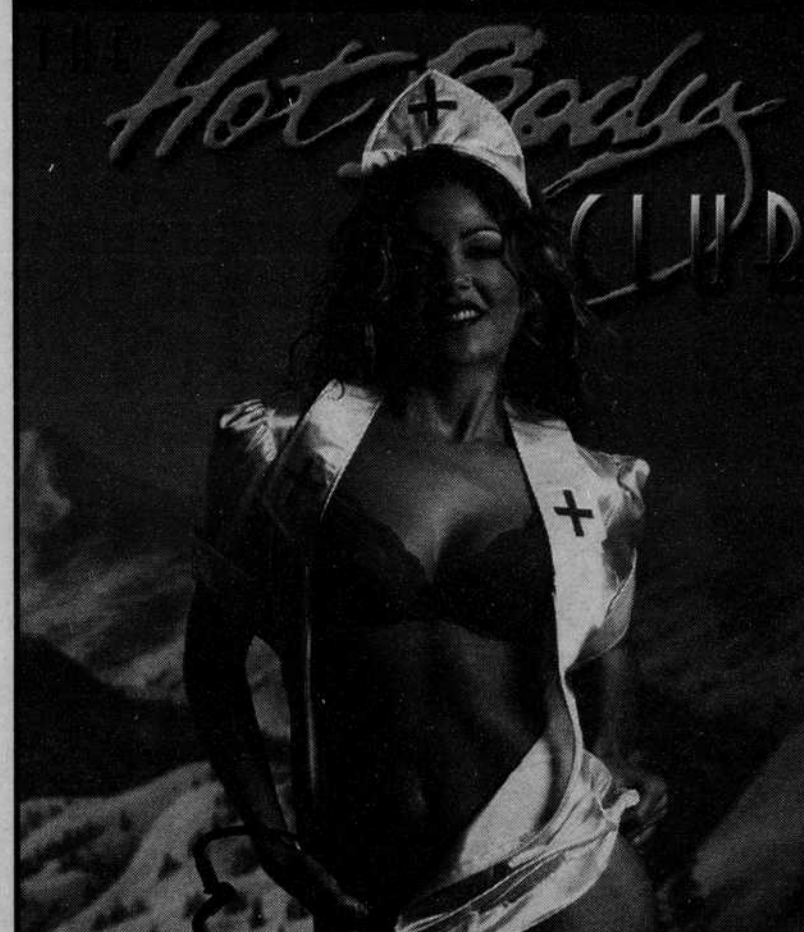
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