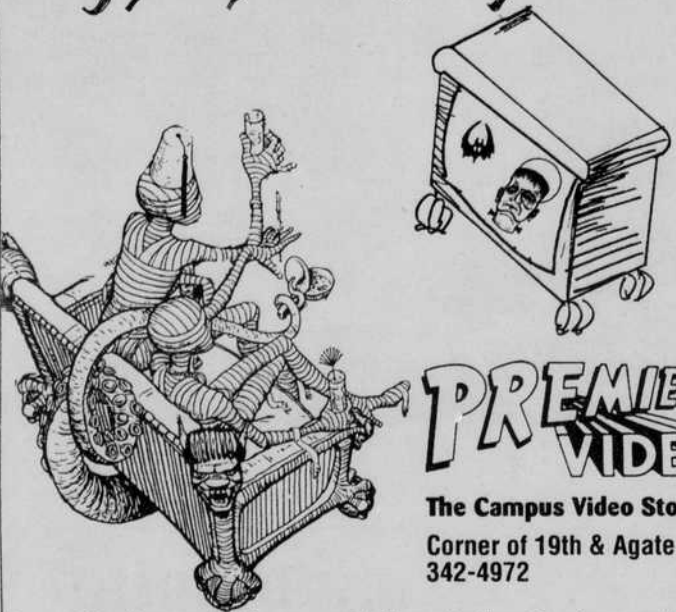


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TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTOGRAPHER

The Lone Pine Farms corn maze is located 4.5 miles north of Beltline on River Road.

A-maize-ing fright

CAUTION: The Lone Pine Farms corn maze is intended to scare and may cause screaming and fun

BY ASHLEY GRIFFIN
 FREELANCE EDITOR

Just outside Eugene, a group of college-age students are doing something a bit different during the Halloween season.

Imagine a life where caramelizing apples involves more than microwaving caramel, where everyone works an 11-hour day and where a sign outside reads "Caution Farm Area."

This fall, the workers at Junction City's Lone Pine Farms live this life. Located 4.5 miles north of Beltline on River Road, the country store, pumpkin farm and corn maze are deeply saturated in a country atmosphere. Old churns and bins of roasted

peanuts fill the store; the tempting scent of homemade pies and hand-dipped apples fills the air. A photo of a cow even hangs above the bathroom sink — no space is safe from the country influence.

The employees inside the store are as unique as their surroundings. The group works at the farm from May to November, but it's the haunted month of October that draws the biggest crowd and takes the most energy from the workers.

Eugene native Melanie Truhn has worked at the farm since June. Truhn said working there has provided a break from college and an opportunity to discover that the country life

and community suit her well.

"There's little kids yelling that they want ice cream and seniors ... I love old people ... all getting their produce," she said as she buttered the tops of hot apple pies.

Another of Truhn's jobs is making the daily batch of caramel apples, a process that takes about an hour and a half. She heats the caramel, and then de-stems the best apples from the produce bins. Then she dips them in the pot of caramel and sets the finished product out for purchase.

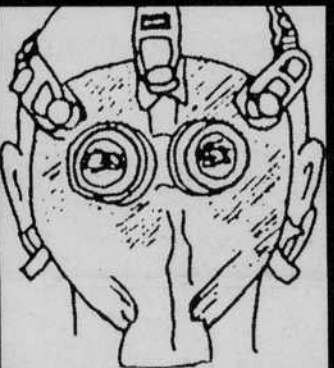
"You learn a lot of really random skills at this job, like dipping caramel apples and cutting squash," Truhn said.

Another odd part of the job includes working Lone Pine Farm's Haunted Nights Corn Maze, which

MAZE, page 8B

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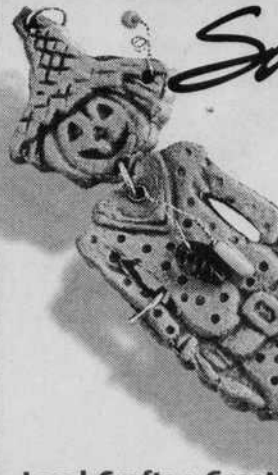
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