

■ Movie review

Frightening flicks

Although new movies have flashy special effects, older horror films evoke fright through imagination

BY MISSY SOMERS
FREELANCE REPORTER

As the crisp leaves of summer begin to fade to orange and yellow and brightly colored pumpkins pepper the doorsteps of houses, many students feel the need to get into the Halloween spirit. A great way to do this is to rent a horror film.

"There are two categories of movies that are the most popular during Halloween," said Inventory Manager Cody Medonca of Eugene video store Flicks & Pics Etc. "The old, classic black-and-white movies or the new blood-and-guts slasher stuff."

He said "Nightmare on Elm Street," "Halloween" and old classics such as "Dracula," "Frankenstein" and "Wolfman" are the most popular movies during the last weeks of October.

When skimming any video store's horror section, it's often hard to decide between the classic worn covers and the new, glossy covers of more recent thrillers. The solution: Get both. Rent a classic and its remake and see if special effects and computer animation can make a remake compare with its original.

The original and remake of "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" are great rental choices. While the movie characters are fictitious, even brave souls shouldn't watch this intensely disturbing 1974 flick alone or in the dark.

The movie, originally directed by Tobe Hooper, was supposedly based

on killings that occurred in a small Texas town. It begins with a van of youths, driving through humid Texas heat in pursuit of an adventure. After they hear a report about grave robberies in a small, deserted Texas town, a brother and sister duo decide to see if their grandfather's grave is safe. They chose to bring friends along for the ride.

TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE (1974)

Actors: Marilyn Burns (Sally Hardesty), Allan Danziger (Jerry), Paul A. Partain (Franklin Hardesty), William Vail (Kirk), Teri McMinn (Pam), Edwin Neal (the hitchhiker), Jim Siedow (Drayton Sawyer), Gunnar Hansen (Leatherface)

Scare tactics: Delayed violence, emphasis on the use of sounds to create suspense, lets the viewer imagine the worst

TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE (2003)

Actors: Jessica Biel (Erin), Jonathan Tucker (Morgan), Erica Leerhsen (Pepper), Mike Vogel (Andy), Eric Balfour (Kemper), Andrew Bryniarski (Leatherface), R. Lee Ermy (Sheriff Hoyt), David Dorfman (Jedidiah)

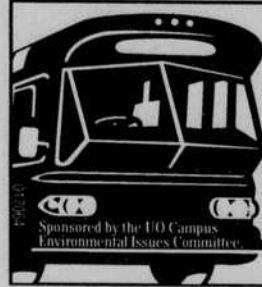
Scare tactics: Intense, disturbing and blunt use of violence begins early in the movie and continues until the end, special effects

abandoned house. As each one enters the house, they become victims to the mad, chainsaw-wielding Leatherface and his cannibalistic family.

While the visual aspect of the movie isn't impressive, the dull colors and gritty material add to the surreal and spooky feeling of the movie. Hopper also uses sound as a scare tactic; he inserts random noises such as a pig squealing or chickens squaking to create a suspenseful mood.

In the 2003 remake of "Texas Chainsaw Massacre," director

MOVIES, page 8B



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