

Halloween Madness

Haunted houses provide howling fun, good times

By **JEN HAYDUSKA**
Staff Reporter

With ghouls, goblins and weirdos sure to make any 5-year-old wet his pants, Lincoln's Halloween is sure to keep some looking over their shoulders.

Various haunted activities take place throughout the Halloween season. Here is a run-through of the ones that'll make the skin crawl and put you in the mood.

Howlooseanation, a local performance troupe freak show, is having an 8:30 p.m. party Oct. 31. Not your regular folk, the show will feature interactive singing, acting, body painting and a seance for Bubbles, a dead dog. The howling good time will be at the Wagon Train Project, 504 S. Seventh St.

Club 1427, 1427 O St., is bringing back its Halloqueen Ball for a third year. Cross dressers of all persuasions are invited to the Halloween night gender-bender bonanza. Admission is \$4, and the costumeless need not apply.

"The New Face of Fear," sponsored by the Lincoln Jaycees, is one of Lincoln's few haunted houses. In its 23rd year, the hysteria haven has been renovated to assure maximum thrill and chill for the buck. The haunted house opens at 7:30 p.m. today through Saturday and Tuesday through Oct. 31. Five dollars will get you a really dark maze and other spooky haunted house treats.

Mueller Planetarium is featuring a family-oriented Halloween laser show Sunday at 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. Marilyn Manson laser shows will also run on Halloween and Nov. 1 at 8 p.m., 9:30 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Duggan's Pub, 440 S. 11th St., is featuring a benefit for KZUM, 89.3 FM. Some of Lincoln's best blues musicians will attend this first-ever Blues Bash Oct. 30. With artists Chris Sayer, Blue Tango, Alias Jane, Leroy and the Gypsies and the Heartmurmurs, it's sure to be a thriller. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door.

Draquila's Lair, featured at Laser Quest, 6802 P St., has declared itself the only true haunted house in town. Visitors must complete a quest in the 8,000-square-foot arena, complete with blacklights, fog and towers. The arena has been spruced up for a boodacious Halloween effect. Draquila's Lair is open through Oct. 30 and costs \$3.

Neihardt Residence Center, 540 N. 16 St., is doing its part to strike fear on campus. A Monday walk through the halls and folklore of City Campus' most infamous haunted house is free and begins at 9 p.m. Meet in the blue TV lounge, if you dare.

Those with weak hearts and even weaker bladders may want to opt out of the above and celebrate the holiday by attending the following Halloween attractions instead.

Places to buy pumpkins:
■ Grandpa John's Pumpkin Patch, 4801 N.W. Highway 34, has pumpkins, a giant corn maze, putt putt golf, a haunted schoolhouse and a scarecrow contest. The patch is open from 9 a.m. to sunset. Call (402) 470-2450 for more information.

■ Roca Berry Farm has the pumpkins,

as well as farm animals, a 5-acre jungle maze, a haunted forest ride and a candy-cane bouncer. General admission is \$2.50, a super pass is \$5. It is open daily from 9 a.m. to sunset. Call (402) 421-2255 or (402) 421-2933 for directions.

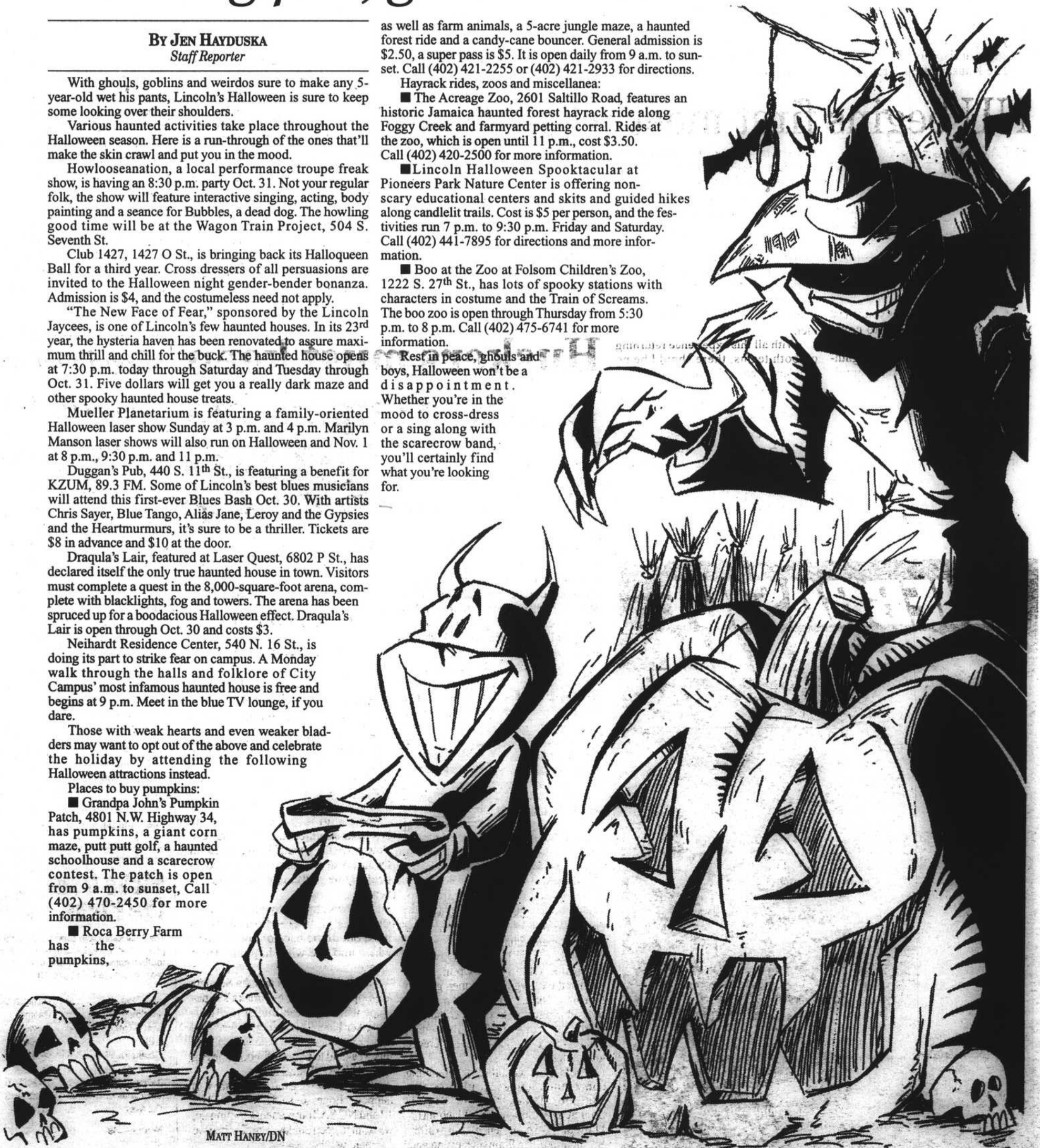
Hayrack rides, zoos and miscellanea:

■ The Acreage Zoo, 2601 Saltillo Road, features an historic Jamaica haunted forest hayrack ride along Foggy Creek and farmyard petting corral. Rides at the zoo, which is open until 11 p.m., cost \$3.50. Call (402) 420-2500 for more information.

■ Lincoln Halloween Spooktacular at Pioneers Park Nature Center is offering non-scary educational centers and skits and guided hikes along candlelit trails. Cost is \$5 per person, and the festivities run 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Call (402) 441-7895 for directions and more information.

■ Boo at the Zoo at Folsom Children's Zoo, 1222 S. 27th St., has lots of spooky stations with characters in costume and the Train of Screams. The boo zoo is open through Thursday from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Call (402) 475-6741 for more information.

Rest in peace, ghouls and boys, Halloween won't be a disappointment. Whether you're in the mood to cross-dress or a sing along with the scarecrow band, you'll certainly find what you're looking for.



MATT HANEY/DN