

TOMB OF DARKNESS EMPLOYEES Shelby Follis (left) and John Miller put on makeup before heading to their spots inside the haunted house. Follis, a senior film and art major at UNL, does makeup for several of the Tomb of Darkness workers.

have a vast collection of costumes to offer each worker.

eight or nine who have their own costumes. Sometimes they like to intermix some of what I have, and then go shop and see what they can find on their own."

Before the hired ghouls ever have the chance to scare one person, Egan said, they are required to go through extensive training classes

makeup, costuming, safety and "scaring tactics

After working in many haunted houses, Egan said he has a feel for "what works and doesn't work." During the classes, the employees all have a chance

Afraid that

you'll miss

the big game?

(That would be the Nebraska vs. Kansas St. game, in case you were wondering.)

costumes and makeup, although he does to try out their scare tactics on the other monsters in a sort of trial run. "We just don't throw them in there,"

'It all depends," Egan said. "I have Egan said. "They go into character. They are a monster Keeping things safe while also keep-

ing them scary is instrumental in a haunted house. Besides fire safety, Egan said the most important rule is no touching.

'The visitors are warned four times before they enter the house not to touch of the safest haunted houses in Nebraska."

Tomb of Darkness is high-tech in more respects than just its special effects. The safety system includes a voice activated fire system, handicapped access,

and a staff of employees who have been thoroughly educated on all safety procedures.

"This is not your average haunted garage," Egan said. "We take the codes strictly. One bad thing could cost a fortune

Jack Bruns, Lincoln fire investigator, said all haunted houses have to be properly inspected and licensed before they are ever allowed to open to the public.

He said the houses are inspected for The meetings include lessons on the monsters either," he said. "We are one adequate emergency exits, emergency

> lights and sprinkler systems. "We just make sure everything is up to snuff," Bruns said.

He said problems with haunted houses have been rare in the past few years. "Once we get them right the first

Egan said he lets the monsters make their own schedules "Some of them work every night," he said. "They get good incentives, like free passes to other houses or free pizza. Plus

Mystery Manor 716 N. 18th St., Omaha

The Edge of Darkness

through Halloween Admission is \$7 at the door,

Admission is \$7. The Fright Zone

Admission is \$6.

and Saturday

and under

Saturday

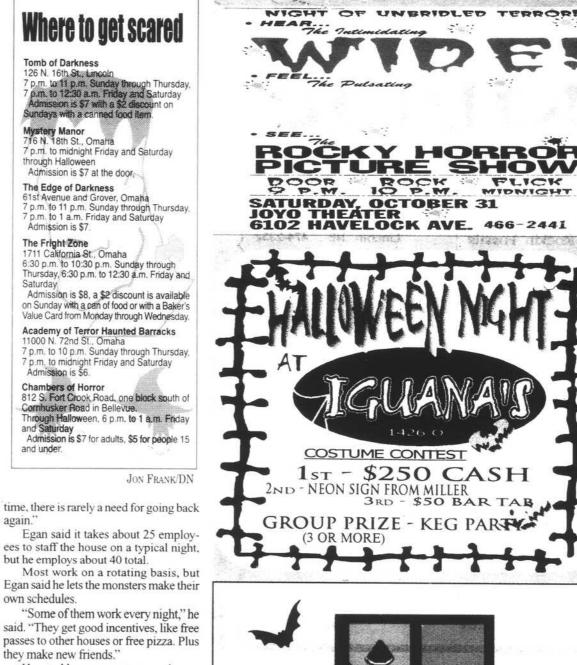
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they make new friends." Haunted house monsters aren't necessarily assigned to only one portion of the haunted house, and sometimes have the chance to get a little variety in where they scare.

Harvey's plan of attack consists of blending into the wall at first, then "popping out" under a black light, where his monochrome costume begins to eerily glow

"People have actually stopped me in the middle of the damn maze and said 'Hey, that's cool! How do you do that?' I tell them to move along," he said, laughing. "But the response is great. I love it."





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