

Naughty or nice: You decide

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movies that are coming out, so we try to order things that are current," Spahn said.

Meier said Thingsville followed a similar protocol, but because the orders are made in advance, late-breaking trends are sometimes hard to come by.

"Clinton and Monica Lewinsky were really popular last year, and we all figured that this year it was going to be over, so we didn't order much," Meier said. "But if something comes up at the last minute... like this whole Pokemon thing... We were barely able to get in on that."

"It's kind of like a hit-and-miss thing. When you order, you don't know what people will be looking for five and six months down the road."

Even if the local costume shops are out of Pokemon getups, kids today have more selection than in the past. Gone are the days of suffocating in brittle plastic jumpsuits with a picture of the character on the front rather than the actual likeness of the character's outfit.

Today, the aisles of Wal-Mart and Super Kmart are packed with costumes that look not only more comfortable but more realistic. Spiderman suits are made from spandex and look like the real Spiderman's suit, and wrestling outfits come with puffy, fake muscles that have tattoos on them.

This surge of quality in the costume industry is relatively recent, Meier said.

"They're definitely getting more elaborate, with the sequins and different materials, like vinyl," she said. "You didn't see that a few years ago."

And of course, a few costumes pop up every Halloween.

"Every year, there is the generic priest and nun, the genie and jester outfits," Meier said. "Those are kind of the last-minute thing that people grab for when there's nothing left."

Meier said most people opt for comedy rather than horror.

"As far as gory stuff, I think people might think that's just too much work," Meier said.

No one ever said holidays were easy.

Boo.

Improvised Halloween costumes catch attention

BY JOSH KRAUTER
Senior staff writer

While most people are parading the streets this weekend as witches, ghosts and devils, or Bills, Hillarys and Monicas, some students will be pushing the Halloween envelope.

For them, Halloween is the proper time of year to express their individuality, sense of style or maybe just their mental instability. The wilder the costume, the better.

For some students, the risqué route is the way to go. Doug Maaske, a senior civil engineering major, said a group of his friends went as a harem last year.

"They were very scantily clad," he said.

Maaske said he's going as a mad scientist this year.

"I'm going to have big hair, a lab coat, thick-looking stupid glasses, a pocket protector - just stuff laying around," he said.

Most students with wild or unusual costumes forgo the expensive costume shops and use the "just-stuff-laying-around" aesthetic, hitting thrift stores or mixing and matching items from home.

Kelly O'Connor, a senior elementary education major, said she and a friend dressed as their cafeteria lunch ladies, finding parts for the costume at a thrift store.

She said her costume was white pants, a brown shirt and a wig.

Matt Kahler, a first-year law school student, improvised his costume at home.

"I dressed as a PLO agent," he said. "I wore a ski mask, fake weapons and a jumpsuit with PLO in big letters across my chest. It was a big hit with the ladies."

Improvisation was key for a

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MATT KAHLER
NU law student

few of Kahler's friends, too. He said a friend didn't have a costume, so he decided to put a bunch of jumper cables around his neck at the last minute. In high school, another friend of Kahler's tore the head off of his sister's large stuffed bear and wore it over his own head. He used the bear's body for a trick-or-treat bag.

Greg Fry, a senior exercise science major, said his most unusual costume was inspired by a fellow Abel Hall resident.

A student who lived on Fry's residence hall floor frequently wore baggy, yellow pants. The student left his baggy, yellow pants in his old room after moving out of Abel.

For a joke, Fry decided to dress as the student. He got the yellow pants from the student's old roommate and wore a shirt with the student's name written in marker on it.

Fry said most people at Halloween parties had no idea what his costume was supposed to be, but his friends thought it was funny.

Whether it takes jumper cables, left-behind baggy, yellow pants or thrift store clothes, an unusual Halloween costume is waiting to be found. All it takes is a little ingenuity.

Gay writer focus of documentary

BY EMILY PYEATT
Staff writer

If Picasso were imprisoned, and his paint and brushes were taken away, he would have probably still drawn with his spit on the walls.

The film documentary/biography of gay writer and activist Paul Monette begins with parallels of Monette's passions for writing to Picasso's art. What follows is a poignant, personal exploration of the childhood and relationships that influenced Monette to write and fight until his death from AIDS in 1995.

"The Brink of Summer's End" successfully explores the pain that fueled Monette's greatest writing.

What makes this documentary interesting is the use of narrations from Monette, his lovers, his brother and his friends.

The narrative conversation style casually reveals Monette's life in a non-pretentious manner, speaking directly and personally to the audience.

The narratives are interwoven with lo-fi home-movie footage, excerpts from writings and snapshots from Monette's childhood and college life.

The film covers a 3½-year time span of the author's later life, while reflecting upon the childhood that haunted and influenced him.

The film begins with Monette's childhood, relationships with his family, intellectual interests and discovery of his sexuality.

Film Review

The Facts

Title: "Paul Monette: The Brink of Summer's End"
Director: Monte Bramer and Leslie Kleinberg
Grade: A-
Five Words: Cinematic biography of gay writer/activist

Monette was constantly pressured to become the perfect child in his family, since his brother suffered from a physical disability. The perfectionist pursuits seemed to trouble Monette, especially when he began to question his sexuality at the early age of 7.

Monette battled with his differences and passions before coming to terms with his true self.

"The Brink of Summer's End" adequately demonstrates not only the author's discovery of his sexuality, but his relationships with his lovers, the development and success of his writing career, his activism for gay rights and the painful trials of living with AIDS.

The film uses powerful excerpts of Monette's writing from throughout his award-winning career.

These excerpts embrace the gay community and gay themes in a voice that desperately needed to be heard.

"The Brink of Summer's End" is showing with James Broughton's bizarre short film, "The Bed." "The Bed" exploits all forms of sexuality that take place in bed.

Predictable ending ruins film

BY ANDREW SHAW
Staff writer

"The Sticky Fingers of Time" is not what you would expect to watch at the End of the Millennium Gay/Lesbian Film Festival. This sci-fi flick focuses little on the sexual orientation of its characters and mostly on the complicated, confusing plot.

Tucker Harding (Terumi Matthews) has just finished writing a story about the H-bomb for the local newspaper, unaware of the effects the radiation might have had on her.

So when Harding, an author struggling with the conception of her novel, steps out for coffee in 1953, she steps into a world that has changed drastically. She has been transported to 1997 through a mutation of her soul, credited to the atomic blast.

Harding catches sight of Isaac (James Urbaniak), a friend who supposedly died in 1953, and follows him. Isaac introduces Harding to Drew (Nicole Zaray), a modern author who also happens to be an uneducated "time freak."

Drew and Harding end fall in love, and when Harding turns up murdered in 1997, her body taken back to 1953, Drew finds the drive to travel back in time to persuade Harding away from the explosion that starts the entire "trippy" escapade.

"The Sticky Fingers of Time" has no outstanding aspect to offer the viewer. The acting could use major tweaking: The hero characters do not

become likable, and the evil characters are not quite menacing enough to suffer their own fate.

On the other hand, the film-making itself is quite intriguing. It is never difficult to understand what time period one is visiting.

The 1953 scenes are filmed in black and white, the modern ones in color. Beyond that, the props, clothing and atmosphere of the different times are right on target, giving the viewer two different worlds to experience.

The main problem with "The Sticky Fingers of Time" is the far-from-simple story, which detracts from the rest of the film. Wasting little time with set-up, the story flashes by like lightning, giving little chance for the viewer to catch up with the complexity.

The explanation of the story, concerning the possibility for time travel after the atomic discharge, isn't offered until well into the movie, and it's then spilled out in seconds, leav-

Film Review

The Facts

Title: "The Sticky Fingers of Time"
Director: Hilary Brougher
Grade: C
Five Words: Dark, complicated time travel flick

ing much of the audience looking to each other for answers.

As the plot wears on, and the love story becomes more predictable, the film begins to drag, creating an unfortunately slow ending to one of the strangest movies this reviewer has seen.

The average person would find this film exceedingly surreal, puzzling to the point of distraction and even a little unsettling in its obscurity. Yet, if you are a fan of science fiction, out-of-this-world stories and visually pleasing film-making, you should consider traveling to see "The Sticky Fingers of Time."

Halloween Weekend

from Denver



Paul G. Alxy



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