

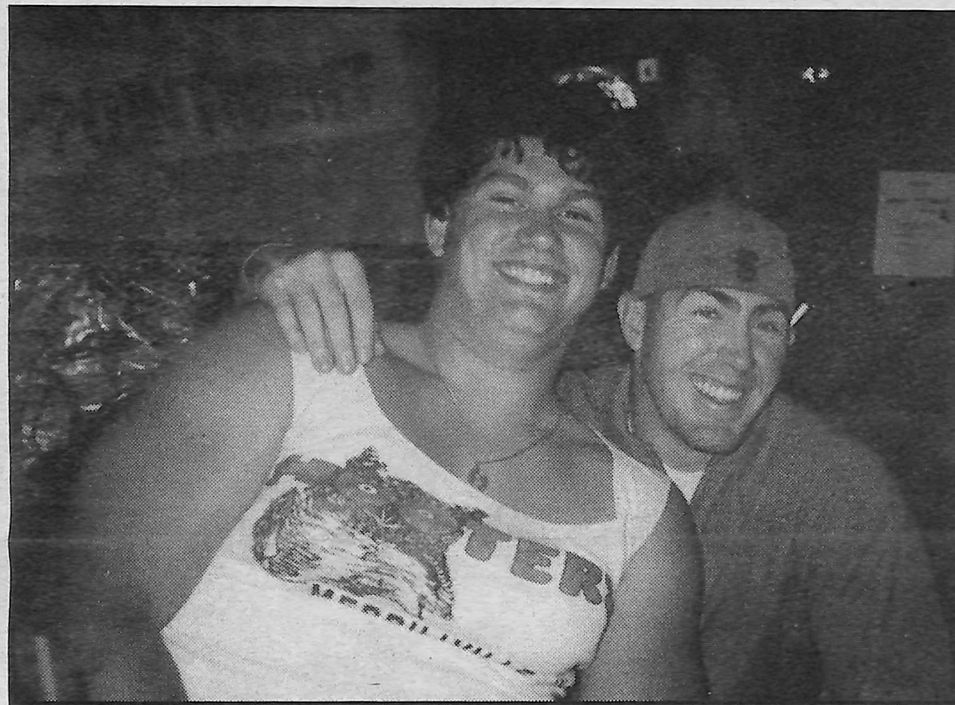
Happy Halloween!

Kathy Wells
Co-Editor

Creatures from beyond, favorite cartoon characters, and anything else out of the ordinary are walking around. It must be Halloween. This holiday is not just a time for the young but it gives the kid in all of us a chance to emerge. When else can a grown man dress up like Sponge Bob? Students at Dana are no different, but how are they unleashing their inner child? There are actually several activities on and off campus for everyone to kick back, enjoy, and have some fun.

Third floor Mickelsen boys are sponsoring a cosmic bowling night at the Blair Bowling Alley from 9:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to attend and wear their costumes for food and prizes.

The communication department is offering a chance in between classes all day to watch a scary movie in the newly created media lab in DC room 216. The movies showing and their times are 9 a.m. Sleepy Hollow, 11 a.m. Identity,



Senior Jon Moench and former student Jared Grune enjoy some Halloween festivities. Photo by Carrie Whitehead

1 p.m. The Ring, and 3 p.m. 28 Days Later. There will be Halloween treats for students to enjoy while watching the movies.

Other students are opting for the more traditional Halloween excursion to haunted houses. There is no haunted house on campus this year but there are several in Omaha and Council Bluffs to be enjoyed, Scary Acres located at 17272 Giles

Rd., Point of No Return at 2713 Ave J in Council Bluffs, and Mystery Manor at 716 N. 18th St. are just a few. There is nothing like a haunted house to really get you into the spirit of Halloween or to even really get yourself scared.

There is also the Frightmares in Omaha at 4110 Grover St. This takes the circus to another level. It is described as "a

circus of scars featuring monsters, mutants, madness, and murder."

If you're not into going out on Halloween then there is always the option of sitting at home and watching scary movies. American Movie Classics cable (channel 30) is doing its annual Monster Fest. They are currently running scary movies 24 hours a day until Halloween night. Spike TV on cable channel 53 is doing a Friday the 13th Marathon all day Halloween also. Then there is always the option of visiting one of the local movie rental stores and picking one out for your self if neither one of these channels are playing what you want to see.

Not everyone celebrates Halloween. So for those who want an alternative, the Fort Street Christian Church is offering a Pumpkin Carnival from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. It is located at 99th and Fort Street.

However students decide to get into the spirit, whether it is at a haunted house in Omaha, bowling, or just sitting at home watching some good old fashioned scary movies, there will be something for them to do. Halloween really is a holiday for all ages to create some great memories and enjoy.

Last minute costume ideas

Suddenly find yourself without a costume for Halloween? Try this fun and easy ideas:

- Cut some holes in some old clothes, carefully burn the edges, style your hair so it sticks straight up and smudge some black make up on any exposed skin to become a victim of electrocution.
- Wrap some gauze around your head with a few fake blood spots, get a hospital gown from somewhere, and put a large clump of cauliflower in a jar filled with water, and you're a living brain donor.
- Find some poster board, color it black, cut out a large circle big enough to cover your body. Wear all black and tape the circle to the body, and try to explain to your friends that you're a period.
- Get a friend you don't mind being really close to and convince them to walk around in one pair of pants and one sweatshirt, becoming a strange version of Siamese Twins.

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Halloween: From Celtic to Commercial

Kathy Wells
Co-Editor

Many people around the country choose to celebrate the holiday of Halloween but many people are not quite sure why we do. This holiday dates back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. The Celts lived about 2000 years ago in modern Ireland, United Kingdom, and northern France. The Celts celebrated their new year on November 1, which marked the end of the summer and harvest. The Celts believed that the winter was a dark time and was associated with human death. They believed that October 31 the worlds of the dead and living blurred together. They believed that the spirits would bother crops and cause trouble. In addition to this they believed that they helped the Druids, Celtic priests, predict the future. To celebrate this event they would build sacred bonfires and sacrifice crops and animals. They would wear costumes during the festival which was usually animal heads or skins. Afterwards they would relight their hearth fires from the bonfire. They believed that this would protect them from the upcoming winter.

By A.D. 43, the Romans had conquered much of the Celtic territory. They then began to incorporate some of their own holidays into this tradition. Feralia, a day in late October, commemorated the passing of the dead. There was also the celebration of Pomona who was the Goddess of fruit and trees. Her symbol was the apple and that is where the tradition of bobbing for apples is believed to have come from. By the 800's the spread of Christianity had reached the lands and in the seventh century Pope Boniface IV declared November 1 to be All Saints Day, a time to celebrate saints and martyrs. This was called All-Hallows or All-Hollowmas. The night before was called All-Hallows



Photo courtesy of www.b40elem.santacruz.k12.ca.us/

Eve which eventually became Halloween.

The arrival of Halloween to the U.S. came as many people began to start their future in the new land. The practice didn't really begin to pick up until the immigration of the 19th century. With the arrival of the Irish immigrants because of the potato famine the holiday began to become more popular with Americans. This is when they began to trick-or-treat. It's believed that the tradition of trick-or-treating comes from the English holiday of All Souls. The poor would go to houses and promise to pray for the dead of a

family and in return be given a "soul cake".

By the late 1800s there was a movement to make the holiday a more community centered activity. Newspapers and community leaders encouraged parents to remove what was considered grotesque from the holiday which removed the more superstitious and religious overtones of the holiday.

By the 1920's the holiday had become secular with parades and civic celebration. Due to an outbreak of vandalism during the 1950's it began to focus on younger children. During this time the celebration began

to move into the classroom because of the baby boomers. The number of children had grown to large for civic celebrations to accommodate all of them. So, there it is why we go around asking for candy and dressing up. It is just something for us all to remember, this holiday wasn't something that was made up but it has a long history.

Halloween Fun Facts

The biggest pumpkin in the world weighed 1385 lbs in October 2003 at a pumpkin festival in Canby, Oregon.

The word "witch" comes from the Saxon word "wic-ca" which means wise one.

The first halloween card was made in the early 1900's. U.S. consumers spend about \$50 million on halloween greetings.

The first jack-o-lantern was made out of a turnip.

Black cats were originally believed to be witches' familiars, a kind of cosmic sidekick who protected the witches' powers from negative forces.

U.S. consumers spend as much as \$1.5 billion on costumes each year, and more than \$2.5 billion on decorations and crafts

Courtesy of www.babycenter.com

Features

Campus crawls with the supernatural

Rene Nicolay
Co-Editor

Every night, when the lights go out and the world goes silent, children huddle in fear beneath their blankets, waiting with terror for the unseen monsters in the shadows to descend on their helpless bodies. For centuries, mankind has been afraid of the unknown realm of ghosts, and even in today's modern world, we're hopelessly susceptible to the idea of specters and hauntings. It doesn't matter how educated or intelligent you tell yourself you are – when you're alone in a room reputed to be haunted, you'll feel that tremor down your spine.

Did you know that Dana College has its share of spine-tingling ghosts?

The most famous rumor of the supernatural on campus is the now neglected former boy's dormitory, Elkhorn. The brother building to Argo, it no longer houses students, though the occasional office is on the first floor. Rather, it is home to a grief stricken ghost of a football player that supposedly hung himself in the 1930's. In a corner room on fourth floor, people have sworn they heard the ghost whisper, "Shut Up!" Shadows move in strange, hand-like movements, unexplained noises fill the silent building, and doors lock and unlock themselves on a whim. Security guards, professors and students alike have confessed to feeling "ghostly presences" in the building – and having spent the night there a couple of times myself, I can certainly attest to that.

Elkhorn is so famous for its ghost that hauntedusa.com has it listed in "Haunted Places in Nebraska."

There are other ghosts on campus, however. In the Madison Fine Arts Center (MFAC) something goes bump in the night. A young girl and boy dressed in reportedly "pioneer clothing" wander the building, usually on the lower floors and on the stage. It seems to the little girl of the duo is rather mischievous: she trips and frightens people by flicking lights, changing stations on radios and turning up unexpected. One student, while developing film in the photography room, was shocked and frightened when a little girl showed up in the picture where no girl was supposed to be.

One former drama student

tells a strange tale. While working on a set for an upcoming play, he fell asleep on the stage, as he had been working well into the night. He awoke sometime later abruptly, and a little boy somewhere around ten was standing by him, watching him. The boy asked polite questions about the play, then excused himself and went up the stairs to leave. The student suddenly realized how strange it was that a boy that young would be lurking around the campus at three in the morning and chased after him...but all traces of the boy had vanished.

Perhaps you have the courage to face these ghosts on your own on a dark, supernatural night. Or maybe you, like many before you, will still hide under the covers.

Things to do for Halloween

Go to Scary Acres
17272 Giles Rd.
Omaha, NE

Go to Mystery Manor
716 N 18th Street
Omaha, NE

Read the Hermes Halloween Edition

Go Cosmic Bowling

Are you sitting in your room bored?
Tune into 91.1 FM and
submit your vote for the Hot DJ Contest on
November 6 from 7-12 P.M.

**the morning-after,
the morning-after-that,
the morning-after-that,
the morning-after-that,
and the morning-after-that pill**

If you have unprotected sex for whatever reason, or you were sexually assaulted, you can still reduce your chance of getting pregnant. Emergency Contraception (EC) can help prevent pregnancy if taken within 120 hours (5 days); but the sooner the better. EC is available on a walk-in basis at:



Planned Parenthood - 1-800-230-PLAN
health centers in Omaha, Lincoln, Council Bluffs

Opinion

Texas Chainsaw Massacre: Is it true?

Brandie Carlson
Staff Writer

Texas Chainsaw Massacre: Based on a True Story? Well, sort of. The Texas Chainsaw Massacre started when the original hit theaters in 1974. There was a sequel in 1986, and now it's back: Halloween 2003.

Personally, I don't think the original was worth my rental fee, but the remake was definitely much a much better use of my time and money. The basic story plot doesn't waver much between the original and the remake, and both movies include the claim that it was based on a true story.

After some investigative work, I found that a man named Edward Gein was the inspiration for these classic cult horror movies, proving that the movies really based on a "true story."

Edward Gein was arrested in 1957 when police in Plainfield, Wisconsin were inspecting his farmhouse for the murder of a woman from the town. The officers searched Gein's house, and found more than they were looking for. The woman's decapitated body was found, hanging upside down from the rafters, her torso split by a



The home of Edward Gein the inspiration behind Leatherface of The Texas Chainsaw Massacre. Photo courtesy of www.houseofhorrors.com

large, vertical gash. They also found numerous other body parts in Gein's home. There were bowls made from human skulls, a wastebasket and some lampshades made from human skin - even a human skin suit, which he later confessed to wearing while he pretended he was his long deceased mother.

Gein was also to be found guilty for the murder of another woman. However, there were more body parts than just originally found. When questioned, Gein eventually admitted to digging up new graves of women he found in the obituaries.

Gein's upbringing is most likely what drove him to these crimes. Gein and his older brother were raised by a strictly religious, domineering mother. They moved to a secluded farm house outside Plainfield, Wisconsin to escape what his mother saw as "sinful" people. Gein, however, idolized his mother and tried to do everything she told him to. He went to school, but was always a shy outcast.

Later Gein's brother died in a fire, and eventually his mother died of a stroke. Gein then boarded up the upstairs rooms and other rooms his mother used the most and left himself one bedroom downstairs, the kitchen and the shed.

Gein spent his time reading anatomy and adventure books.

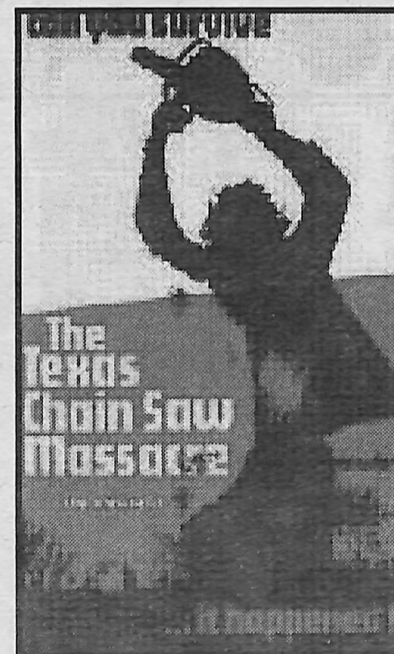
Through his reading he learned a few interesting things to aid his odd hobbies, including the process of shrinking heads. He was particularly interested in experiments done in Nazi concentration camps. He also went on trips to the graveyard to dig up bodies for his "science experiments." When the atrocities of mutilating corpses lost its thrill, Gein later resorted to murder.

The writer/producer of the original Texas Chainsaw Massacre borrowed the ideas of the secluded farmhouse, cannibalism, sadism and a psychotic killer to create his movie. The chainsaw was added when the writer had the idea that a display of chainsaws could help him easily slide through a mall of crowded Christmas shoppers. The two ideas fused, and a movie was made.

Although there was no chainsaw involved, Gein is undoubtedly the inspiration for The Texas Chainsaw Massacre. He is also responsible for Buffalo Bill in Silence of the Lambs, the movie Psycho, and many other horror films.

So, while there was no group of murdered teenagers, the Texas Chainsaw Massacre was technically based on a true story. I

hope knowing that the killer spent his last days in a mental institution helps your walk from the theater to your car a little easier. If you want to check out the movie for your self it is currently playing at the Blair 3, the AMC 24 in Omaha, and the Star Cinema in Council Bluffs.



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Hermes

Dana College

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Hermes welcomes letters to the editor expressing original points of view. Hermes reserves the right to edit all letters according to space availability. All letters must include author's name and address. Under certain circumstances Hermes may respect request to have name omitted at time of publishing.

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