



DTH/Charlotte Cannon

Huggins Hardware employees — and two mannequins — model the latest in Halloween fashion

## Chapel Hill merchants cash in on costume craze

By CHERYL POND  
Staff Writer

Halloween's popularity in Chapel Hill creates a brisk business for local merchants who carry costume supplies.

"Just before Halloween our sales increase tremendously," said Liz Politi, the manager of the PTA Thrift Shops. People come to the thrift shops looking for outfits that depict a certain era or just something bizarre, she said.

The Halloween celebrations in Chapel Hill attracted the owners of Special Occasions in Durham to lease space in Huggins Hardware to sell their costumes.

"We did really well last year, and we're doing even better this year," said Donna Pinkston, the owner of Special Occasions.

The Shrunken Head prepares for Halloween by stocking up early. The store displayed costumes, masks and accessories three weeks prior to Halloween, said owner Shelton Henderson, who has been selling costumes in Chapel Hill for 12 years.

Though sales have been good so far, retailers expect business to be

booming Friday and Saturday.

"Every year, Halloween day is extremely busy," Politi said. "In fact, we usually have trouble getting the door closed." College students are typically last-minute shoppers, she added.

"I usually wait until the last day," said Doug Blizzard, a junior from Smithfield. "It's more fun that way. Instead of planning for weeks, I prefer to be spontaneous."

No trend has emerged this year, but the Jim and Tammy Bakker masks have been very popular, according to Henderson. Masks of political figures are also selling well. Ronald Reagan masks are a favorite.

Ann Davis, owner of Costumes, said she has had several requests for pig and raisin outfits.

Cats, mice, cavewomen, pirates and clowns are the big sellers at Huggins, Pinkston said. More women than men are looking for costumes, she said. Many couples are searching for matching costumes.

The price of costumes varies widely among the stores and according to style and type. A full

costume can cost anywhere from \$20 to \$40.

The cost of renting a costume is comparable. Davis expects to rent all of the 400 costumes in her collection.

Though retailers expect to sell most of their Halloween inventory, many students prefer to create their own costumes.

"I might buy some make-up or a wig, but I would never buy a kit," said Lisy Brown, a senior from Philadelphia. "I don't think they're as interesting."

Bruce Lillie, a senior from Chapel Hill, agreed.

"It's important to make your own (costume)," he said. "Then it's a personal statement. I really want to do something spectacular. You don't want to be just something ordinary."

The high prices deter some students from buying or renting costumes.

"I'll definitely make a costume this year because last year, when I thought about purchasing one, they were too expensive," said Devra Steinreich, a senior from Akron, Ohio.

## Orientation office searches for summer commissioners

By GUINEVERE ROSS  
Staff Writer

The UNC Orientation Office is recruiting full-time students to work as orientation commissioners next summer.

"Orientation commissioners are an integral part of the orientation process," said Shirley Hunter, director of the Orientation Office. "They have the majority of the responsibility."

Each year, the Orientation Office holds orientation programs for freshmen, transfer students and new graduate or professional students.

Hunter said most of the commissioners' work comes during the summer freshman orientation program, called C-TOPS (Carolina Testing and Orientation Program Sessions). But their responsibilities continue for the entire year they serve as commissioners.

Commissioners can earn between \$1,100 and \$1,200 a year, and they receive a housing allowance equal to the price of a double-room occupancy. They are required to live on campus during the summer C-TOPS programs, but they can live off campus during the year if they wish.

Each orientation commissioner is responsible for a group of about 20 freshmen during each of the sessions.

Commissioners take their groups on campus tours, answer questions from freshmen about college life, and attend programs with their groups.

Other responsibilities include planning and carrying out programs for the whole body of freshmen. Senior Randy Masters, who was a commissioner last summer, said they acted out a skit for the freshmen and their parents about life at Carolina.

One skit for the freshmen was about what to expect and what not to expect from roommates. Another, designed mainly for the parents, was about what to expect from college kids.

The recruiting process for commissioners begins with applications and interviews. Hunter said students who get interviews should be outgoing, show leadership ability, and have an enthusiasm for UNC.

Roni Harbert, a senior who was a commissioner last year, said people who want to help others through their first days at Chapel Hill should consider the job. "If your heart's not in it, it will show."

Hunter said juniors and seniors make the best candidates, although freshmen and sophomores are eligible to be commissioners as well. Also, students who have been volunteer orientation counselors have a good

chance because they have had experience in leading and managing people and in planning programs.

New commissioners receive about 40 hours of training in leadership skills, group dynamics and communication skills.

After the training comes the real work. Commissioners must start planning the programs for C-TOPS and the rest of orientation. During this time, they also prepare, edit and publish orientation publications.

Hunter said many of the skills learned from being an orientation commissioner, such as leadership, planning and managing, can transfer to the work field.

And Harbert said the friendships she made during her commission work "were incredible." She added that she also learned to depend on other people and to have patience when things did not go as planned.

She said the most gratifying part of the job for her was when one freshman told her: "Thanks. You've helped me a lot. You must really love Carolina."

Those interested in being orientation commissioners this year should pick up applications Monday. They will be available in Carr Building in Room 311.

## Stock market drop may hurt U.S. agricultural community

From Associated Press reports

CHICAGO — While investors eye world stock markets, U.S. farmers are watching farm commodity prices amid predictions that Wall Street's collapse will make things worse for agriculture.

U.S. farm income could fall \$2 billion in each of the next two years despite such positive factors for agriculture as a weaker dollar and lower interest rates, Terry Francl, an economist with the Chicago-based American Farm Bureau Federation, said Wednesday.

"The impact of lower equity values worldwide will offset whatever positive impact you get from the lower value of the dollar," Francl said.

A weaker dollar would encourage more foreign buying of U.S. farm products, and expected lower interest rates would help reduce the debt load on farmers, he said.

But a slowdown in economic growth worldwide because of a diminished pool of investment capital caused by the stock market's plunge would cut projected farm income in 1988 and 1989 from \$40 billion to

\$38 or \$39 billion, Francl said.

Francl said he based his projections on the Dow Jones industrial average stabilizing near 2,000 points.

Some analysts believe the recent sell-off of stocks is a harbinger of recession, but for many farmers a recession began long ago.

"I kind of feel like now everyone's going to feel what the farmers have been going through for the last four or five years," said Rebecca Beeler, a McLean, Ill. farm wife and mother of three.

Mrs. Beeler and her husband, Bill, grow soybeans and corn on their 3,000-acre farm. She said the value of their land has fallen from \$4,000 to \$1,800 an acre in five years.

"Our net worth has just shrunk so much that it makes things difficult for our cash flow," she said in a telephone interview. "We can't borrow as much money because we don't have as many assets."

Many Wall Street investors might make the same complaint.

Though stock prices have fallen, grain and soybean prices have been fairly stable since they plummeted along with the Dow Jones industrial average Oct. 19.

Soybeans sold on the cash market for \$5.17½ a bushel Tuesday, 1½

cents more than they fetched Oct. 16, the Friday before the Dow took its 508-point dive.

On the Chicago Board of Trade's futures market, a bushel of soybeans for November delivery cost about \$5.39 Tuesday. That's about five cents less than the settlement price Oct. 16, but the decline hasn't been nearly as severe as the drop in stock prices.

The gap between cash and futures prices traditionally widens during the fall harvest, Francl said.

Meat producers — especially beef farmers — may have a tougher time if a recession cuts the demand for meat, he said.

Mel Manternach, a cattle feedlot operator in Monticello, Iowa, said he's worried about the approximately five-cents-a-pound drop in cattle prices since Oct. 16.

"Our main concern is that you can't figure on anything, you can't know what's going to happen," Manternach said.

Francl said the drop in cattle prices was probably due more to abundant supplies than to fears of a recession-related drop in demand.

Farmers are concerned that Congress will decide the stock market's downturn was due to the U.S. trade deficit and enact protectionist trade legislation, said Mike Walsten, executive editor of the Pro Farmer Newsletter in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

In that situation, trade partners might retaliate by buying their grain from countries other than the United States, Walsten said.

# ATTENTION!

## Macintosh™ Harvest Sale Customers

- The dates for the Macintosh™ computer pick-up are Monday, November 2nd, and Tuesday, November 3rd.
- The location will be the Great Hall of the Student Union.
- Watch your mail for your receipt and pick-up schedule.
- If you do not receive your receipt by Friday, October 30th, please call 962-7010.



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