

Halloween

What is Halloween?

by Victor Coffey

Halloween is a day on which children play pranks. It was originally called All Hallow's Eve, because it fell on October 31, the eve of All Saints' Day.

The name was later shortened to Halloween. As with many holidays, Halloween is an example of the combination of a pagan festival and of Christian worship. Both the Romans and the ancient Britons celebrated an autumn holiday at this date. Many of the customs of Halloween are based on beliefs of the past. Some of them date to the ancient druids.

One of the beliefs of pagan Ireland was that on this night the dead could return to Earth as witches, goblins, ghosts, black cats, or in other weird forms. The date marked the end of summer, or the time when the sun retreated before the powers of darkness. All the dark underworld characters then had their wicked carnival of triumph, when they were supposed to engage in all sorts of malicious mischief. Any kind of light was considered a protection. Hence there arose the custom of

building great bonfires on hilltops and carrying blazing torches all around the fields. As this custom fell into disuse, candles replaced the fires.

An old Scotch superstition which is still carried out today in the celebration of Halloween says that the witches who had sold their souls to the devil left a magic stick in their beds which looked just like themselves. Then they would fly up the chimney and off through the sky they would ride, attended by black cats.

Such fears and superstition no longer exist and Halloween has become all fun. The pranks and practical jokes appropriate to the night are enjoyed particularly by the young, because they love to make believe they are witches or ghosts or goblins and see the grownups pretend to be frightened.

The use of apples and nuts is associated with the idea of harvest. The countless ways of telling Halloween fortunes are based on the superstition that magic powers were abroad and could be used for that one night.

A Halloween Tale

by Pamela Murrell

'Twas the night before Halloween and all through the house, every creature was stirring and even a mouse. The cob webs were hung from the ceiling with care, and the spiders worked hard and weren't aware that the witch from the valley would soon be there.

The house gave a creak and the ghost gave a moan. The moon was very full, with the owl on his throne.

Then!! Up on the lawn there rose such a clatter, I sprang from my coffin to see what was the matter. As I looked out the window upon the dead leaves, I saw the old witch as she stirred up a breeze.

As she hopped aboard her wicked old broom, she laughed and ZOOM!! - that withered old crone she was gone for the night without a doubt of fear. But she won't be back -- until next year.

As a guster of wind, she went into flight, the moon rose higher as it neared to midnight.

While I looked out the window I saw down below, a group of ghost and goblins all in a row.

They made me shiver as they screamed words, ones I've never heard. The words were mean and they were so concrete those nasty old words were the words.

TRICK OR TREAT



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GOOD LUCK

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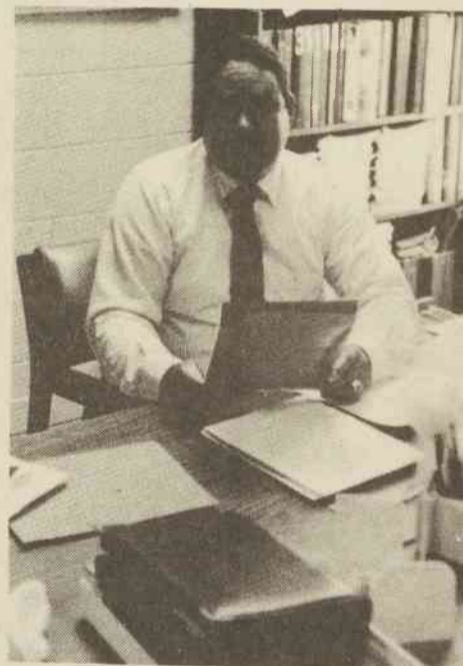
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Dr. Paul Woods, Associate Professor of Education

Photo by Peele

Woods Joins WSSU Faculty As Coordinator of Student Teaching

by Rebecca W. Jones
Reporting II Student

A new face can be found on campus this semester, Dr. Paul Woods, associate professor and coordinator of Student Teaching. Dr. Woods came to Winston-Salem State University on August 1 to help place student teachers and to supervise their activities.

Dr. Woods' formal education certainly provides him with a wide scope of knowledge and experience. While attending Washington, D.C. Teachers College in 1964, he earned a BS degree in History and Geography. Dr. Woods then chose to further his education by attending Temple University where he received his M.Ed. in 1969. He later received a MA degree in Elementary Education from Atlanta University. And lastly his most prestigious accomplishment of a Ph.D. in Early Childhood/Special Education was obtained at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Dr. Woods has taught at every university he has attended and was Director of Special Education in William County, S.C.. He has been involved in local politics in Orange County and has served on several child related boards such as: YMCA, United Fund Day Care, and Child Guidance Clinic.

One of his greatest accomplishments was having taken an active role as one of the first black male teachers in a preschool education program in Washington, D.C. in 1963. This was the era of President Johnson's War on Poverty, and his dedication and hard work aided in the development of this program as a predecessor to the Head Start Program for children.

Dr. Woods has a wife, Paula and a 16 year-old son, Phillip who live in Chapel Hill. Although Dr. Woods works here, he commutes home every weekend to visit his family. He is waiting until after his son graduates from high school to relocate his family. He enjoys reading, playing cards and traveling.

When asked how he was enjoying his position here, he replied, "I like Winston-Salem State University so far, and my work is very challenging."

As for his outlook on education he then commented, "I would like to see the field of education grow back to the status that it once held and I can see Winston-Salem as a place for it to start."