

# Movie Costumes Create Challenge for Shoppers

Though certain Halloween costumes have disappeared from shelves, some stores still have costume options.

By EVE MODZELEWSKI  
Staff Writer

In the final days of Halloween-costume scavenging, Austin Powers and Star Wars getups are rare commodities in local costume shops.

Customers are snatching up Austin-inspired false buck teeth, disheveled wigs and Dr. Evil face paint, said Clayton Hudson, an employee at Surplus Sid at 309 E. Main St. in Carrboro.

He has also had some more inventive requests. "I had a guy come in

here and ask for a Hare Krishna outfit," Hudson said.

Batman is a mainstay costume each year, Hudson said, who has worked at the costume and military surplus shop for the past two Halloweens.

"And sombreros always go really fast, too," he added.

Courtney Zalinski, a junior economics major from Greer, S.C., found her Karate Kid costume at the shop on Tuesday.

She opted for the martial arts look because she thought it was warmer and more comfortable than a flapper costume, which was originally her Halloween plan.

"The last two years I decided at the last minute, so this year I made sure I wasn't going to leave this place until I found something," she said.

But for the perpetual last-minute

masquerader, a supply of mainstay '70s disco gear is peddled in local thrift shops.

"We have really good afros," said Ann Jackson, owner of Time After Time Vintage Thrift Shop at 414 W. Franklin St.

"Disco is always huge," he said. Students packed into her store each afternoon this week, rummaging through the clothing racks for polyester shirts and dashikis.

"For some reason, men are buying a lot of feather boas this year," Jackson said, although she could not explain the trend.

Jackson said people seemed to begin their costume quest earlier this season. The store was packed with students all week long.

Fake eyelashes and anything Austin Powers or Felicity Shagwell-esque were

big sellers at Time After Time, she said.

Party City at New Hope Commons was down to the bare essentials by last Friday afternoon, said Chris Mervin, director of operations.

"The late shoppers are pretty much going to have to do capes, robes, priests and nuns," he said.

Those who venture away from Franklin Street this Sunday night and into the family neighborhoods of Chapel Hill can expect plenty of Pokemon characters lining the sidewalks.

Barry "Sid" Keith, owner of Surplus Sid, said people were going as "anything and everything" this Halloween.

Biker chicks, giraffes, mafia men, firefighters, Little Bo Peep, eighties girls, Hawaiian hula skirts, Angela Davis and an inflatable pumpkin are



DTH/KATY FORTNER

Graduate student Natalie Sierra tries on a feather headdress to get costume ideas for Halloween at Surplus Sid's in Carrboro.

all in the forecast.

Amidst the frenzied shoppers desperately searching for a costume in his store, Keith maintained a requisite degree of holiday humor.

"I'm encouraging everyone to paint themselves blue and go naked."

The Features Editor can be reached at features@unc.edu.

# Sidewalk Renovations Approach Finish Line

Town officials say Franklin Street construction has been delayed by power lines and bad weather.

By ERICA SANDIN  
Staff Writer

Sidewalk renovations along Franklin Street are scheduled to end just in time for the flood of more than 30,000 costume-clad college students celebrating Halloween.

Delays caused by underground piping and bad weather contributed to crews missing the original completion deadline of Oct. 15, said Richard Terrell, field operations superintendent at Chapel Hill's Public Works Department.

"We hope to complete Friday," Terrell said.

"If we don't finish, we'll get our stuff out of the way for Sunday. The sidewalk should be safe."

Financial projections for the project originally totaled \$64,000, but as of Aug. 18 the construction had already cost

\$65,000.

The \$65,000 estimate did not include the cost of labor, which could not be figured until the work was completed, said Emily Cameron, a landscape architect for the Public Works Department.

The sidewalk reconstruction, approved by the Chapel Hill Town Council in November 1993, is part of an ongoing plan called "Streetscape" to renovate streets around town.

Completion of the Streetscape plan was delayed after the discovery of Duke Power's underground pipes.

The pipes were located where the pavement base for the mailboxes was supposed to go.

The old piping carried light wires that had to be removed by Duke Power before the base could be laid. A crew from Duke Power removed the old piping Thursday.

Scott Gardner, Duke Power district manager, said the removal of the piping took only two hours. He said it took a longer amount of time to find a crew and engineer able to complete the job because of a large volume of service calls.

"We are scheduled two to three weeks ahead so it generally takes us about that long to start working on a request," Gardner said.

Bad weather and other street construction have previously delayed the completion of the project.

In mid-June and July, Orange Water and Sewer Authority had to replace some waterlines at the crosswalk on the corner of Franklin and Henderson streets.

Cameron said the frequent delays were expected when doing construction projects in older communities like Chapel Hill.

"Considering some of the constraints we've had with weather and construction, I think we've done a good job with the project," Cameron said.

Cameron said Thursday that the work crew finished pouring concrete pavers, which are the 5-foot spaces between the street and the sidewalk.

The laying of some brick pavers and the placement of trash cans, bike racks and benches are all that remains for completion.

For all the inconvenience that the prolonged construction has caused for

merchants and pedestrians, many are looking forward to benefits of the project.

"I think it will make for a safer and more attractive downtown, replacing the old infrastructure," Terrell said.

Joe Hatch, owner of Woody's Tar Heel Tavern and Grill at 175 E. Franklin St., said the project was a good idea and he looked forward to its completion.

"I'll be really glad when it's done," Hatch said. "The sidewalk will look better and I won't have to wipe dust off my windows."

Cameron said next year's Streetscape plans to move westward along Franklin Street toward Columbia Street could go in front of the Town Council as soon as next week.

Town Council member Julie McClintock said the project improved the stained, uneven sidewalks that were unattractive to area visitors and residents.

"It will improve the town and make for a more vibrant place."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

# Children Gear Up For Halloween Fun

Area children say they are eagerly anticipating this weekend's festivities, but some adults are hesitant.

By ERICA SANDIN  
Staff Writer

Ten-year-old Rachel Flezak of Chapel Hill says she can't wait for the sight of dusk on Sunday, All Hallow's Eve.

"Halloween is my second favorite holiday, next to Christmas," Flezak said.

Flezak plans to trick-or-treat Sunday night dressed as Rariata, a high princess of a country that she invented.

"Princess Rariata has dark skin and long blond hair," she said. "She scares away her enemies, the Ekerians, with spiders."

Kathryn Flezak, Rachel's mother and PTA president at McDougle Elementary School, said even if Chapel Hill got the expected rainfall on Sunday, most kids were still going to want to go out.

"All of the kids are primed for Sunday," said Flezak. "They know how to look at a calendar."

Most parents, including Flezak, said Halloween should be celebrated on Sunday, since it falls on a Sunday this year.

But there are others, such as officer Jeff Clark of the Chapel Hill Police Department, who said Saturday would be a better day for the festivities.

"Personally, I would probably go out Saturday," Clark said. "But if people do go out on Sunday I would say go out and get in as early as possible, because it is a school night."

Clark recommended that families go to University Mall on Estes Drive at the U.S. 15-501 exit from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. for the "Fabulous Halloween Fest."

"It is one of the safest places to go, because everything is controlled," he said.

Carolyn Martin, property manager of the mall, said the festival would include a disc jockey, a costume contest, face painting and pumpkin decorating.

"I think it's great for parents that are looking to celebrate Halloween, but in a safe and family environment," she said.

Others such as Neil Awbrey, pastor of Antioch Baptist Church, located at 1707 White Cross Road, said the celebration of Halloween was questionable for religious reasons.

"Halloween, with its witches and ghosts, is a very controversial holiday," Awbrey said. "We have to

ask, 'What are we celebrating?' It's not like Christmas or Easter where we know what we're doing."

Awbrey said his church was offering a "Fall Fun Night" as an alternative to Halloween, but those in Halloween costumes would not be turned away from the celebration. "Fall Fun Night," featuring refreshments and games, will last from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Sunday.

The St. Thomas More Catholic School, at 920 Carmichael St., will also hold a carnival on Friday from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. There will be food and various booths.

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