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Montana Kaimin, 1898-present

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### Montana Kaimin: Special Section, October 31, 1997

Associated Students of the University of Montana

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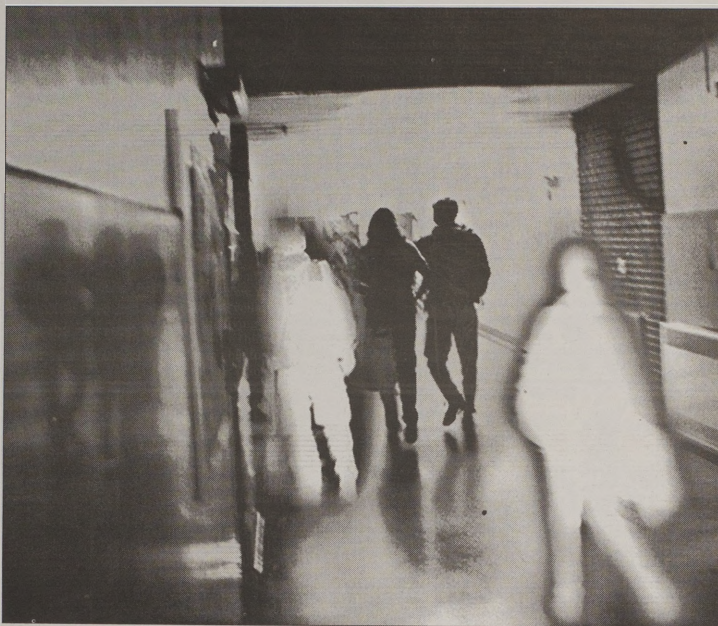
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# They're creepy and they're kooky... Mysterious and spooky...



## UM's spooks, spirits and specters

### Haunting UM's halls

11 p.m.: UM's Main Hall is a shadow of its daytime self.

The administrators who inhabit its offices during the day are nowhere to be seen.

Gone are the students and teachers who use its second-floor classrooms.

The only hint of UM's international program is the posters advertising overseas studies in exotic locales.

By 1 a.m., the last janitor has left the building, and the building stands vacant.

That doesn't mean nobody's there.

Main Hall is one of four UM buildings in which strange phenomena have occurred, usually under the cover of night. Brantly Hall, Rankin Hall and the Fine Arts Building also boast spooky tales of late-night visitors from the beyond.

Administrators, faculty and students are generally spared visits from these ethereal spirits, since they conduct their university business during the day.

But UM's nighttime workers are fair game for these tormented souls who tend to come out and play when the light goes away.

### The Sting

Bob Williams, custodial supervisor for Residence Life, was a long-time custodian in several UM buildings, including Main Hall.

And while Williams said he expected the creaks and groans that accompany pre-1900 buildings, he was not prepared for doors to periodically open and then slam shut — doors he knew had been locked earlier in the evening.

He didn't expect to hear footsteps on the stairs in the middle of the night. Those footsteps came when Williams was the only person in the building.

Story  
by  
Josh Pichler

So Williams embraced the "safety in numbers" maxim and rounded up about 10 of his fellow custodians one evening. They secured the building's doors and windows at 11 p.m. Then they waited.

When the doors starting slamming, and the stairway activity commenced, the pack raced through the building and stalked the noises. They found nothing.

"We knew there was nobody but us in the building when we heard the noises," Williams recalls. "It was an eerie feeling."

Williams' Main Hall encounter was not an isolated incident. George Auckland, who started working as Main Hall's custodian in August, said he heard that a former custodian was cleaning the bathroom when he looked in the mirror and saw a man standing behind him. When the custodian turned around, the man was gone.

Auckland hasn't seen any spirits yet, but he has had experiences with doors opening and slamming shut.

"This is a spooky place," Auckland said. "I've thought about it a lot. If I met a spirit, I'd ask how it was doing. Then I'd probably drop a load in my pants."

### It's close to midnight— something evil is lurking in the dark

Williams was eventually moved to Rankin Hall, where he quickly doubled his fun with the spirit world. Two incidents forced the 19-year UM worker to vacate Rankin's premises, and seek solace with a cigarette outside.

One evening, Williams was cleaning the first floor when a ruckus emanating from the second floor, which he had just cleaned, forced him to investigate.

The chairs and desks that Williams had already straightened were thrown throughout the rooms. As Williams reclaimed the room, his feeling of déjà vu was interrupted when he noticed that various lights

in the building were being turned on and off.

"I looked all around the building for the person. I thought it might be a fellow worker trying to scare me," Williams said. "It turns out he was in the math building the entire time."

On another occasion, Williams distinctly heard a person descending the stairs to the first floor.

Williams waited on the landing to meet his visitor. The footsteps continued into the basement, but Williams saw nothing. He did, however, feel a chill as the footsteps passed by.

"I went outside and smoked a cigarette before I went down there," he said.

### Making believers

Rumors also abound about UM's Brantly Hall and the Fine Arts building. Legend holds that the ironing room on the second floor of Brantly Hall, which used to be a dormitory, was the site of a suicide. Supposedly the girl still roams the hall to this day. However, there are no known sightings.

Peggy O'Connell, a UM drama professor, said she heard rumors as an undergraduate that a ghost roamed the University Theater. O'Connell said that while she never saw anything unusual during the frequent late nights she spent painting scenery, she did hear that other people had seen apparitions.

Alan Goddard, who lectured at UM during the '60s, said he heard empty seats clanking in the balcony. Goddard said the commotion may have been caused by the spirit of a disgruntled drama student.

The disclosure of a ghost sighting invariably brings with it skepticism and a desire for explanations that often can't be found.

But it is the unseasoned janitor Auckland, who has never seen a ghost at UM, who offers a theory.

"I think it's reasonable to believe there are ghosts here," he said. "The campus was developed at the turn of the century, and a lot of people died."

After a pause, Auckland continues.

"Plus, at the turn of the century, Montana was sort of crazy."

### Inside:

● Mullen shares his hip costume ideas

● Halloween calendar

● Where did Halloween come from?



# Tom's tips on Last-minute costume shopping

It's Halloween! Maybe you'll go trick-or-treating for old times' sake. Maybe you'll go to one of the countless bashes you know about. Maybe you'll just hide in some bushes and scare lost children with maniacal fits of laughter (technically not a crime). You may be long on ideas for tonight, but if you're short a costume, you might as well be staying home sniffing pumpkin innards. Well, look no further. Here are some tips on the perfect last-minute Halloween costume.

**Where to buy a costume**  
For a traditional costume, you may want to try one of Missoula's department stores. If the store you've chosen is low on product, however, don't panic. Most stores keep their choicest supply of costumes in the back, and since most people don't ask to see them, they are rarely sold. But to get access, you're going to have to launch a little war. Call over a store attendant, slip her a \$10 bill, and use the appropriate

"password" for the following stores:

- Wal-Mart: "Bigtown Charlie is gettin' his ribs"
- Shopko: "Pimp dust"
- K-Mart: "Honky got a gun"
- Target: "Bloody meniscus"
- Spencers: "San Quentin milkshake"
- JCPenny: "Funching on Willa Cather"

**WARNING!** While there are a number of stores that still have Halloween costumes left, Missoula's kosher selection is clean out, said Herschel Rabinowitz, proprietor of "Bagel and Bauble" on Russell. He said a carload of "schlemiels" went through the store earlier in the week and bought every costume in stock, leaving Missoula's Orthodox Jewish population with slim pickings for tonight's festivities. They also stole most of the store's homemade knishes. Sorry, Orthodox Jews!

- What's hot, what's not**
- Political costumes have

become particularly de rigueur as of late, with masks of Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan selling like penicillin in Bangkok. But when dressing like your favorite politico, it is important to keep a few rules of thumb in

## Column by Thomas Mullen

mind: Republicans are funny, Democrats are not. For this reason, you should never go to a Halloween party as Grover Cleveland when you could go as Rutherford B. "Isaac" Hayes. Whigs are a different batch altogether, and anyone dressed as Millard Fillmore should be violently flogged through their knickers. Anti-Federalists are a bit more casual, but tend to get mercilessly stoned and hang out by the keg all night bitching about the federal government.

• What costume wouldn't be made better with an inflatable sheep? Why, none! Which is why the costumeless should head directly to Fantasy Adult Video to check out their stunning array of gags, props, bitch boots and marital aids. A boon to any Halloween costume. Ay de mi,

mamasita!

• Some costumes, however, can't be helped by any amount of marital aids.

Here is a list of this season's definite costume no-no's.

Warlocks: "No, I really like your hat."

Trix Bunny: Silly rabbit, Trix are for dorks.

Nazi henchman Heinrich Himmler: Bummer, dude.

Spice Girls: Generally avoid, unless heavily lacerated.

Gorilla: What are you, freakin' nuts???

Serial killer Richard Ramirez: Adam's apple too big.

Girlfriend of serial killer Richard Ramirez: Looks too much like mom.

**Make it at home**

If you don't feel like buying your costume, there are plenty of good outfits to be made out of a single material at your own house. They're cheap, don't require a lot of intricate directions and are something you can be proud of for a long time.

• Poop

Cut three holes in a 33-gallon brown trash bag and put bag over body.

Roll around in neighbor's yard. For that "undigested" look,

attach popcorn seeds with double-sided tape. For "sick" poop, use green trash bag and roll around in own feces.

• Homosexual mummy

Wrap self in toilet paper from head to toe. You may or may not look like a mummy, but that can be explained. Because you're a homosexual mummy, and you just don't look the same as the other mummies. Whereas a "normal" mummy simply grunts, a homosexual mummy is more expressive. Practice saying: "URRRRGHHH! I like mummies of my same sex. Come, ensconce yourself in my shit tickets."

• University homeowner  
Shove a broomstick most of the way up your own arse. Snivel.

• Malibu Barbie  
Put on Malibu Barbie costume. You know, the one under your bed. Everybody has one. If you don't, you're a lying bastard.

**Final thought**

Licking the inside of sweaty masks is a repulsive habit, unbecoming of anybody looking for a well-heeled mate. Happy Halloween!



## HALLOWEEN PARTY

8:30-1:30  
Friday, Oct. 31st

COSTUME CONTEST AT MIDNIGHT!  
LIVE MUSIC BY "CLASSICS"  
NO COVER CHARGE  
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SPOOKY Beverages!

Gulp down drinks like the Red Devil and Grave Digger  
-- If you dare!

AND Dine on Mummy Wraps while you are at it!

Spooky Specials good only on Friday, October 31.




Join us in the UC Food Court for Ghoulish Delights on Halloween!

Eye of Newt Salad  
Ghoulish Stew  
Bat Wings (chicken wings/hot -n- spicy)  
Halloween Cookies

Ghoulish Delights good only on Friday, October 31.




## Crazy Mike's Video


Wear Halloween Costume  
and Rent 2 Videos- Get 1 FREE!

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FOOTBRIDGE  
1001 E. BROADWAY  
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HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

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7:30 pm  
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What are you doing before your Halloween Night Festivities?

Come watch the Lady Griz & Griz scrimmages at Dahlberg Arena's decorated

## HAUNTED HOUSE of HOOPS

5:30 - 6:45 : Pre-scrimmage events (KYLT & KGOV will be airing live)  
6:45 - 7:45 : Lady Griz Scrimmage  
7:50 - 8:00 : Costume Contest  
8:00 - 9:00 : Griz Scrimmage

(And still have time to enjoy your other Halloween Festivities!)

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FREE LATTE

When you trade in any competitors punch card  
expires 11-20-97  
Corner of South & Brooks



# Halloween Calendar

**Haunted House** — at the parking garage near Parks and Recreation downtown, 6:30-8:30, Friday and Saturday.

**Halloween costume contest** — University Center, Friday, registration from noon to 12:15 in UC room 224, parade to follow at 12:20.

**Costume Contest** — Southgate Mall JCPenney Court, 6 p.m., Friday.

**Trick-or-treating** — all stores at Southgate Mall, 7-9 p.m., Friday.

**Doing Fright Night Right** — "Mother Noose's Hearsery Rhymes, A different kind of bedtime story," a haunted house on Friday from 6 p.m.-10 p.m. and on Saturday from 2 p.m.-11 p.m., costume contest and face painting Friday from 6 p.m.-10 p.m., Plains Feed & Grain, 602 S. Central.

**Haunted House of Hoops** — 5:30-6:45 p.m. pre-scrimmage events, 6:45-7:45 p.m. Lady Griz scrimmage, 7:50-8 p.m. costume contest, 8-9 p.m. Griz scrimmage, Friday at Dahlberg Arena.

**Rocky Horror Picture Show** — New Crystal Theatre, 515 South Higgins, midnight on Saturday, \$5 general, \$4 costume, for advance tickets call 728-5748.

## Sharp dressed man



Tim Krash/Kalmin

Brian Gregory searches for the perfect Halloween costume at Carlo's One Night Stand.

It's **Halloween** and you've got some time to **KILL...**



Stop by the UC Game Room **IN COSTUME** and scare up half an hour of **FREE** pool, table tennis, foosball or air hockey!



university center

243-2757



## Northwest Noodles 'N Wraps

**All You Can Eat Sundays**

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**All Wraps \$3.50 each**  
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Sun. 11-4



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**Bratwurst \$1.69 lb.**

**Bud, Bud Light 18 pack \$8.99**

**Buttrey FRESH FOODS**

**GAME DAY SPECIALS**

**1 Ft. Sub Sandwich \$3.99**

**Small Veggie Tray w/Dip \$3.99 save \$2.00**

**Hornsby 6 pack \$4.99**

**Bud or Bud Light 16 gal. Keg \$60**

**Franzia 5 liter \$9.99**

**Lays Potato Chips, 14oz. Bag \$1.99**

**Coke 12 packs \$2.29**

**Dozen Donuts \$2.99**

**Specials Good at Eastgate Buttrey Only**

**GOOD FROM 8 A.M.-6 P.M. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST ONLY**



Story by  
Tom Greene

# Halloween roots creep out of Celtic and Christian beliefs



The Celts believed that during the winter months their sun god was taken prisoner by Samhain, lord of the dead and prince of darkness. On Oct. 31, Samhain would call all the dead together. The Celts held parades where they would dress up in costumes represent-

ing dead folk and animals that the spirits would possess. Cats were the choice of the most evil spirits. Food and treats were placed outside of homes to appease wandering spirits.

In 835 A.D. the Roman Catholic Church made Nov. 1 All Saints' Day, or All Hallows'

Day, with Oct. 31 being All Hallows' Eve. All Hallows' Day was in celebration of all the saints without holidays and was celebrated by people dressing up as saints, angels and devils. With the spread of Christianity, the Celtic and the Christian holidays combined

giving us Halloween.

"It's not a coincidence that these days coincide," said Dietrich, referring to the fact that they both fall on autumn equinox. "As a result you get a syncretism, historically, a blending of various religions, Christianity and Celtic."

**A** Homer Simpson mask probably wouldn't do you much good against the horde of dead rising from their graves to mingle with and wreak havoc upon the living.

In Celtic tradition, Nov. 1 was the pagan New Year's Day, a day when the "veils" between the land of the living and the underworld were thinnest and the dead were able to mix in with normal folk. This type of socializing, of course, made for mind-numbing acts of violence committed against the living who were not in spook-friendly costumes.

"There are many legends about all kinds of activities that happened — ghosts and all sorts of supernatural beings creating havoc and pandemonium," said Paul Dietrich, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and a medieval history professor.

Celtic New Year's also marked the end of the "season of the sun" and the beginning of "the season of darkness and cold."

"To a certain extent you have influences of the winter solstice and autumn equinox, which are connected to pagan rituals of medieval Europe," Dietrich said.

**board of mt south**  
721-7774 624 S. Higgins Missoula MT 59801

**\*UPCOMING EVENTS\***

Wednesday, Nov. 5th 7 pm Crystal Theatre, TB6 and Simple Pleasures; free prizes  
Thursday, Nov. 6th Inside: Free photo when you purchase your Snowbowl pass.  
4 - 8 pm Outside: Free used gear swap in the Big Dipper parking lot.  
Wednesday, Nov. 5th thru Sunday, Nov. 9th Full tunes for half price!

**KEEN**  
SNOWBOARDS

Sat., Nov. 8th,  
10 am - Midnight  
**Kind Snowboards**  
3rd Annual  
**Midnight Madness SALE!**  
**20% OFF**

Everything in the shop & up to  
50% off selected items. Shoes,  
shorts, & tons of other stuff.  
216 E. Main st. Downtown  
**#542-0123**

\*don't forget - Free Snowbowl pictures for your season pass Fri., Nov., 7th, 4-8pm.

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