Activities bring Halloween cheer

BY ANNE REBAR
Staff Reporter

The scent of warm apple cider mixes with the ground as jack-o-lanterns begin to take shape at a Halloween party.

Senior Brittany Brands and her friends planned a night of pumpkins carving as a way of getting the fall spirit in. "It's a good time. Everyone brings Halloween-themed snacks, and you make new friends," Brands said.

"We wanted to do some fun fall-themed things together so we planned the little pumpkin carving party," Brands said. "This is the first year I'll be on campus, and we just love it. We did pumpkin carving, and everyone made pumpkin pies, and that was a lot of fun." We then went out and put our decorations up, and they turned out looking really good.

This was the first time Brands had carved pumpkins in a long time, and she said going back and doing some of the things from the numerous movies she had seen when she was a kid was kind of good for her.

"It was just a bunch of my girlfriends sitting around and having a good time. We got into the Halloween spirit and had a great time. Everyone bought Halloween-themed snacks, and we made popcorn apples." Brands said.

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The men of Phi Kappa Psi held similar events, only theirs were in orange color for their fall activities. Senior Merv Treska said he and one of his fraternity brothers, senior Chad Fleiter, started Autumn Week just for something to do, but it has become an entertaining extracurricular for the fraternity.

"Last year our hall had 15 to 20 people, and this year we had about 50, which is a big turnout. We do it during homecoming week so not as many people would notice. Treska said. "We worked really hard to make it look nice. We put up some decorations and lots of pumpkins, and it looks really good."

Treska said Autumn Week also served as a chance for the students to get new friends.

"The theme is Halloween, and we had a hall-decorating contest in the residence halls. Facilities of all had put together the day before Halloween and decorated their halls for the next night's trick-or-treaters.

"Students sign up in houndstooth ready to trick-or-treat, and kids come in from the community and trick-or-treat through our decorated hallways," Treska said.

Senior Sami Tasetano gives each hall $20 for decorations and sometimes people choose to donate items. Tasetano said. Depending on how intricate the decorations are, they take several hours to put up. Tasetano said that one year in her hall, a resident made an anatomical correct human skeleton out of paper and named it Deaf Fred.

The residents pick in decorations together, and even when people walk through and see the decorations, Tasetano said, "It's a fun thing for the hall to do together."

The next year, a trick-or-treating event was advertised throughout the residence halls, and people would come and gather around the haunted house to see the decorations and dress up in costumes.