

Halloween sites haunt Internet

It's that scary time of the year again. And on the Internet, the ghosts and goblins are online...lurking all over cyberspace. This week, we'll offer some suggestions for online trick or treating. I found some 225 sites online devoted to Halloween. Some are pretty sick. Others overly graphic. But a lot are just plain fun.

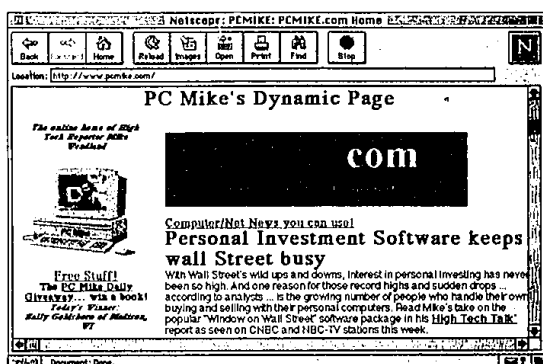
The first place you should go, though, is to the police station. The San Jose, California Police Station, to be specific. Not in person. But through cyberspace. Visit their Web Page (http://www.childquest.org/child_quest/safety/halloween_tips.html) for some Halloween safety tips. Read the things parents should tell trick-or-treaters. Every year there are tragic traffic accidents, instances of tainted food and other bad things happening to innocent kids. These tips can't be stressed enough.

Okay. That done, let's go trick-or-treating. Everyone knows the first thing we need for Halloween is a pumpkin. And to have a really cool pumpkin, you need to visit Jack-O-Lantern.Com (<http://www.jack-o-lantern.com/>). A site maintained year-round by Dearborn's Steve Frey. Frey is a master pumpkin carver and his Webpages are loaded with tips on how to carve a really "spook-tacular" pumpkin.

He has put online all sorts of original patterns and designs to follow, complete with carving instructions, tips and even Jack-O-Lantern history. Check out his cheeky monster face carving for something you can put on the porch next to your red Wings flag. Frey isn't the only person with a fixation on the last day of October. Point your browser to Halloween Eternal (<http://home.mci.net/gatem/index.html>), where "every day is Halloween." This site, all done in black and orange, of course, complete with heavy organ music, has a countdown clock to Halloween and is filled with all sorts of Halloween stories, audio files, and images.

A guy named Michael Gates designed this site and he keeps adding to it because, well, he just likes Halloween. It's his hobby.

And Gates isn't alone. There are all sorts of folks out there who maintain Halloween sites all during the year. On the bottom of the Halloween Eternal page you'll find a link to something called the "Halloween Ring of Terror" (<http://www.cadvision.com/ehi-nookpe/halloweenring.htm>). This so-called "Webbing" links different Halloween pages into a sort of cyberspace circle. All of the pages in the ring



PCMike: You can check out Wendland's Web site at www.pcmike.com.

have a Halloween theme. By navigating the ring, you travel from one web site to another until you eventually wind up back on the page where you started. You can also maneuver randomly around the Webbing, or go to the Webbing's index of sites to search for a specific page.

This Webbing is interesting new navigation tool I suspect we'll see used a lot more on the Internet for other sites devoted to the same subject or theme.

Kid's Domain Halloween (<http://www.gamesdomain.com/tigger/halloween/halloween.html>) is a safe spot to send your very young trick-or-treaters. There are lots of downloadable games and puzzles, here, along with craft projects and costume ideas. Their links page offer a large collection of other sites appropriate for very young kids.

Looking for a screensaver to give your desktop PC at work or home a different look for the scary season? At the Ultimate Halloween Page (<http://members.aol.com/mstigger/home/hilwn1.htm>), you can find flashing pumpkins with changing facial shapes, colorful autumn leaves falling down from the top of your screen and... my favorite... a bunch of eyes that follow the cursor as it randomly moves across the screen. The same site has a large collection of music and sound effects to download and then play back on Halloween night to set the proper "mood" for the trick-or-treaters who'll be ringing your doorbell.

Take a look at Mary Ann and Holly's Halloween Page (<http://www.advancenet.net/~dennis/halloween/ntance.htm>). They've done a nice job of using a graphics map to move you through their online offerings. The opening screen brings sound effects and an

image of a haunted mansion. You then wander around different rooms by using your mouse to point to an area on the screen. Click the mouse and you'll find classic scary stories to read in the library, Halloween recipes in the kitchen... stuff like that.

The folks behind those wildly popular "Goosebumps" books have their own "Goosebumps Ghoulish Gatherings" site (<http://www.foxhome.com/goosebumps/gatmain.html>) geared towards Halloween parties for kids. They have suggestions on how to decorate your house to give it a Halloween atmosphere and they even offer spooky party invitations you can download and then personalize. Run the invites through a color inkjet printer and they look professional. The Goosebumps people also let you send a "Boo-Gram" by e-mail (<http://www.foxhome.com/goosebumps/peopletype.html>). These are Halloween greeting cards. You pick out a scary-looking card, type out a message and have it e-mailed to anyone on the Internet.

And...one last place...over on the massive Geocities site, look over the personal page designed by a woman named Rose Webb's (<http://www.geocities.com/hearland/prairie/4371/ghost.htm>) for a neat little collection of Halloween music and ghost animations, with a final, timely safety reminder for the kids.

Mike Wendland covers the Internet for NBC-TV Neuschannel stations across the country and can be seen locally on WDIV-TV, Detroit. His "PC Talk" radio show airs Saturday afternoons on WXYT-Radio AM1270 and he is the author of a series of Internet books (call 888-222-1866). You can reach him through his website at <http://www.pcmike.com>.

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said. "And with our tight labor growth is good news as it means that the pool of available workers is expanding."

In September, Michigan's civilian labor force rose by three-tenths of a point to 4,861,000 while employment edged up by 1,000 to 4,696,000. Over the year, Michigan's work force has increased by 40,000, while employment has risen by 75,000.

The labor force expansion simply outpaced employment growth last month, resulting in higher unemployment. Stites said.

The number of jobless workers across the state grew by 15,000 to 196,000. In August 181,000 or 3.7 percent of the work force were jobless. A year earlier, September 1996, the jobless rate was 4.8 percent with 231,000 off the job.

MESA's monthly survey of payroll employment revealed that employers added 16,000 jobs last month, boosting wage and salary employment to 4,417,000.

Stites noted, however, that the growth was confined to the service producing industries, which added 23,000 jobs compared to a loss of 7,000 jobs in the goods producing industries.

Among the service producing industries, government had the

largest growth, adding 10,000 jobs largely with state and local schools which were back in session after the summer vacation period.

The transportation, communications and utilities sector grew by 6,000, following the conclusion of a nationwide strike involving a package delivery service. The number of retail trade jobs increased by 4,000, while the wholesale trade, finance, insurance and real estate, and service sectors each added 1,000 jobs.

On the other hand, construction employment, which has had strong growth throughout the year, slipped by 1,000 jobs, while manufacturing jobs declined by 6,000. The manufacturing losses were largely in the auto industry, which fell by 4,000 jobs.

Despite the increase in Michigan's September jobless rate, the state remained below the national level for the 30th straight month. The national unemployment rate was 4.9 percent in September unchanged from August.

Average weekly hours and earnings levels in September fell for production workers in both manufacturing and the auto industry. Manufacturing earnings declined by \$4.83 a week and by \$24.34 in the auto industry.

Milestones from page C1

Southfield. She will be responsible for the production of advertising materials for agency accounts. She was previously a production manager at Cramer Krasselt in Milwaukee.



H.C. (Bert) Serró of Bloomfield Hills has been named vice president of corporate relations at Lear Corporation in Southfield. He will be responsible for the direction and management of Lear's corporate relations, government relations, corporate communications and marketing functions, worldwide. He previously worked for Ford Motor Company for 20 years.



Jerry Stone of Troy has been named COO at the Farmington Hills-based National Human Resource Committee. He will oversee accounting, benefits, customer

service, payroll and general administration. He was previously CFO at Allied Digital Technologies, Inc. in Detroit.



Don Tanner of Commerce Township has been named an account supervisor at Marx Layne & Company in Farmington Hills. He joined Marx Layne in 1994. He previously worked as an anchor for Metro Networks and reporter for radio stations WWJ and WXYT in Detroit.



Karen Taylor has been named an account assistant at Farmington Hills-based Marx Layne. She will serve clients in retail, health, beauty, restaurant, real estate, telecommu-

nications and in corporate event planning. She joined the company in June. She previously worked for Rise Sales in Grand Rapids.

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BUSINESS NEWS
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Elite Staffing Strategies <http://rochester-hills.com/elite>
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Stewart Specialty Tiles <http://www.specialtytiles.com>
CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE
Livonia Chamber of Commerce <http://www.livonia.org>
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PRIVATE INVESTIGATION
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RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES
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