

Halloween costumes needn't be tricky

By CHRISTINE WALDEN

This is it. The weekend when Broom Hilda steps out of the comic strip, when Clark Kent and Lois Lane re-appear, when hair is ratted, chests are padded and men walk around in panty hose and skirts.

Yes, sir, it's Halloween and though traditionally relegated to the under 15 set who do the tricks and get the treats, it's your once-in-a-year opportunity to expose your wonderful world of fantasy.

Or at least be someone you really aren't.

Though what to wear for Halloween certainly won't take up all your spare time, it can be a matter of concern. However, coming up with a costume is easy. All it takes is imagination.

THE FIRST THING a devoted costume party goer crosses off the list is a store-bought costume. They just don't do the trick.

An attic full of old clothes, a junk-saving friend or a trip through newspapers and magazines do.

Furthermore, the basic premise of costuming is to be recognized for what you are. If you are trying to be Jackie O and someone asks who you are, you've failed.

Consequently, you must magnify the characteristics of the person you mimic. Imitators of Jackie O must find the largest, darkest glasses, rat their hair up and back and extend the mouth with lipstick.

Likewise, a man masquerading as Howard Goveil needs putty on the nose and a toupee.

Deciding who or what you will be depends on what inhibitions you have. However, celebrities and comic strip characters are a cinch to recreate and they usually aren't too racy.

Julie Coulter, an employee of the Headline Salon in Birmingham, was perfect as Broom Hilda, her costume complete from the U.S. Marine Corp undershorts to the wart on her green nose.

Or bring to life some of the famous Schultz comic strip characters. Schroeder fans simply need a miniature piano and if you're round headed, you'd be the perfect Charlie Brown.

For coupled masqueraders, the

comic strips, tv and movies again provide a wealth of models. Consider Brenda Starr and her mystery man, Sonny and Cher, or turn back time to Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers.

Breathing to life inanimate objects is also easy.

For example, Pat Whitmore of Walnut Lake, was a flower in full bloom when she slipped into green tights and leotards and framed her face with petals cut out from a sheet of poster board.

Trees and rocks are just as easy. And think what fun you'll have as a beer can, particularly when someone flips your top.

ALSO, THE COSTUMES are before your very eyes, you just have to gain the right perspective. If there's a hockey player in the family, try his uniform on for size. The chin guards make sitting difficult, but the hockey stick is great for pulling the bowl of chips closer to you.

And if your hairstyle is up to date, you're a perfect candidate for a french poodle. Simply tie the fuzzy locks in ribbons, place a rhinestone collar around your neck and darken your face.

That hairstyle also is a good start for several other costumes, including Shirley Temple, Brillo soap pads or as Grace Scalia, owner of the Headline Salon, adapted it, for something out of the roaring twenties.

If your imagination just isn't working well, Van Beau costumes on Woodward Avenue will undoubtedly have something for you. With some 10,000 costumes in stock, you can be anything from a Great White to George Washington, both of which are popular costumes, according to owner-manager Bob Schultz.

"I'D SAY THAT gorillas and sharks are the most popular. Then they lean toward the bicentennial costumes," he said.

Women, said Schultz, "Sort of shy away from the animals. They would rather get dressed up like belly dancers, flappers, things like that. And every once in a while you get a gal who wants to be a pregnant nun."

"Men," he added, "are getting dressed up more this year too.

They're getting fancier."

Van Beau also has the extras you may need to fill in your home-made costumes, such as make-up and hair.

Obviously, what you go as is up to you, but once you decide, ask friends and family for necessary costume parts and remember to check out your own closet and jewelry box. Also, consider the climate of the party—if it's going to be hot, Nanook of the North is a no-no.

If you decide to dress up, do it a day early and head to Grace Scalia's salon in Birmingham. She has promised to give away a free shampoo and set to anyone with enough nerve to arrive at her shop fully costumed and in broad daylight.

And finally, if you're really stuck and have examined all the possibilities, there is one costume that must be worn in the privacy of your own home, but only requires some string and roller skates. Attach the string to your birthday suit, slip on the skates and you'll be the best pull-toy anyone ever saw.



Grace Scalia keeps Fifi in tow when venturing out on her Halloween walk. (Photo by Steve Cantrell)



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Julie Coulter makes a divine Broom Hilda complete with Marine Corps shorts and combat boots.

Scout leaders attend confab

Four area residents spent the week of Oct. 26-29 in Washington, D.C., as delegates from Southern Oakland Girl Scout Council to Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. national convention. Virginia Detloff of Southfield led the

delegation. Mrs. Detloff is in her second year as president of the council.

Other elected delegates included Dorothy Crabb of Birmingham, Grace Gaster of Southfield and Anita Potruski of Troy.

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