

# 'The Force' Will Be With Many Trick-Or-Treaters



—World-Herald Photo.

The complete Darth Vader costume... worn by mystery man (or is it the Dark Lord himself?) at Variety Club-WOW haunted house, 2120 California Street.

## New Arts Tour Will Be Pushed

The Nebraska Arts Council plans to encourage state arts groups to get their shows on the road with a new Nebraska Touring Program.

The council plans to send everything from puppet shows to symphony orchestras on state-wide tours in 1978 and '79. Interested organizations must apply for funds by Dec. 5.

The council will sponsor a workshop on touring Oct. 28 and 29 at the Sheraton Inn, Southwest, with tour managers from the Guthrie Theater, the Kansas City Philharmonic and the Mid-American Arts Alliance on hand.

## Engineer to Speak

Omaha City Engineer Jeff Bross will be guest speaker at the October meeting of the Eastern Chapter of Professional Engineers of Nebraska. The group will meet at noon Thursday at Mr. Kelly's, 7200 South Eighty-fourth Street.

By Sibyl Myers

Many miniature models of the villainous Darth Vader from "Star Wars" will be lurking around Omaha come Halloween.

The demoniacal costume of Darth Vader — a black floorlength cape and a mask that resembles the helmet of a knight in armor — has been selling like hotcakes, according to a spotcheck of local stores.

"It's quite phenomenal," said Ron Beard, assistant store manager of Mangelsen's, 3457 South Eighty-fourth Street. "We got in an assortment of 24 dozen 'Star Wars' costumes and they were gone in four days. And Darth Vader sold out first."

### Hero, Heroine

Other stores contacted also have received assortments of children's costumes of the movie characters. Assortments include costumes of the hero, Luke Skywalker; the heroine, Princess Leia; and the golden human-like robot, C-3PO. All have been popular but none has sold as rapidly as that of Darth Vader.

Woolco, 3020 South Eighty-fourth Street, received a regular and a special shipment of Darth Vader costumes that both sold out quickly, said Wanda Feregino, manager of the camera department. The store still has a few costumes left of Luke, she said.

K-Mart, 7100 Ames Avenue, rapidly sold all of its first assortment of 144 "Star Wars" costumes, said Jerry Deboom, assistant store manager. He said the store has sold all of the Darth Vader costumes in the second shipment but there are a few left of the other characters.

At Richman Gordman's, 1801 North Seventy-third Street, the first shipment of 24 assorted costumes sold out in about a week, said Don Paris, area supervisor of toys, sporting goods and pets. He said the store received a second shipment and the Darth Vader costume sold out in a day. The store has now

## When to Celebrate

When do you go trick-or-treating? Every year, The World-Herald receives calls, probably from recent arrivals in town, inquiring about the Halloween tradition here. Apparently, trick-or-treating isn't the same all over the country.

A check of several Omaha area neighborhoods showed Halloween is observed here on Halloween, Oct. 31. Since standard time will be back and darkness will fall earlier, youngsters can make their rounds and be home in time to get to bed early. Next day is a school day.

received a third shipment, he said.

At Mangelsen's, an adult line of masks of the movie characters has been ordered but it hasn't arrived yet, Beard said. Calls have been coming in 5 to 1 for the Darth Vader mask, which sells for \$45. The store has already taken more than 55 orders for the mask, he said.

The adult line also includes masks of C-3PO, the white-helmeted Imperial Stormtroopers, and Chewbacca, a hairy ape-like "wookie" creature. Beard said many people have been disappointed because no costumes were made of R2-D2, a lovable little computerized robot from the movie.

Aside from the "Star Wars" characters, the second most popular Halloween dress-up item at Mangelsen's is theatrical makeup to complement costumes, Beard said. "If you're going to be a werewolf, you need more than just a mask," he said. "No self-respecting werewolf would go out with normal-looking hands."

### Nixon in Demand

Beard said Richard Nixon masks "are still quite in demand" and that Mangelsen's has sold all 15 that it has received. Jimmy Carter masks haven't been as popular, he added.

At the other stores, superhero costumes such as Batman, Spiderman, Superman, the \$6 Million Dollar Man and the Bionic Woman are the second most popular.

### Safety Tips Are Given

The force may be with many trick or treaters who go out this Halloween in "Star Wars" costumes, but certain safety tips still should be observed.

—Small children should be accompanied by parents or a responsible older person. Children should stay in their own neighborhoods and only go to homes with porch or other outside lights on.

—Children should be instructed to stay on the sidewalks at all times and not run.

—Costumes should be light in color, short enough to prevent tripping and non-flammable. For dark costumes, reflective material or tape should be used to make wearers easily visible to drivers.

—Masks that obscure vision should be avoided. Scary faces can be done with makeup instead.

—Flashlights should be used for lighting, instead of candles. Pumpkins also should be lit with flashlights.

—All treats should be examined before they're eaten. Unwrapped candy should be discarded and fruit should be checked for tampering.

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