VSC primes for Project Pumpkin

By Travis Langdon
Contributing Reporter

It is not the Great Pumpkin that is bringing local children to campus on Oct. 30, rather it is the Volunteer Service Corps' annual Project Pumpkin.

The program, which has been held for the past several years, is aimed at offering underprivileged children from the Winston-Salem community the opportunity to actively participate in traditional Halloween festivities.

At present, the VSC expects 1,200 kids between the ages of three and 12 from 35 different local agencies, including children's homes, day care centers and the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program to participate. The afternoon will include one shift of children from 3 to 4:30 p.m. and another from 4:30 to 6 p.m. to Trick or Treat at the Quad residence halls.

Over 100 students are currently signed up to aid the VSC as escorts, but senior Kelly Corcoran, the chairwoman of Project Pumpkin, said that because of the large number of children that will be in attendance, the organizors cannot have too many volunteers.

"Our goal is to have one student escort per two or three kids, or even less if we can because obviously the kids would love one-on-one attention. We understand that this is really not feasible, but in the past, especially at the end of the second shift, people seem to get tired and take off. The second-shift children get stuck in groups of five or more," Corcoran said.

To prepare the student escorts adequately for their afternoon with the children, the VSC is holding several escort training sessions throughout the week. The meetings outline which events are appropriate for the various age groups and suggest the importance of volunteers staying through the second session. They also address the issue of safety by informing students about health-related incidents that could potentially arise throughout the day.

"The sessions prepare students for basic things, like what to do if a child gets hurt. They're going to have an EMT van, and there is going to be a nurse's room in Student Health Services on hand," Corcoran said.

In addition to Trick or Treating, the children who take part will be able to enjoy many other holiday activities and entertainment, which are presented by the VSC with the help of Greek and other campus organizations. These events include carnivals on the Quad and in the lounges of Taylor and Davis houses, face painting, and performances by choral groups.

Because the event will be so large, the VSC has initiated extensive fund raising and solicited the aid of private organizations such as Food Lion, which will donate 71,000 pieces of Halloween candy to the program. Additionally, the university and Winston-Salem/Forsyth County have donated vans and buses to transport the children to and from campus.

"Our fund-raising committee has been working since mid-September by writing letters to Winston-Salem organizations requesting private donations. We have also been selling T-shirts in (the Benson University Center) and around campus and have placed boxes for students to donate money in the Sundry Shop and a few other places," junior Kate Millet said.

VSC urges any students interested in being an escort to call Ext. 5290 or attend a training session at 5 p.m. Oct. 26 at 11 a.m. Oct. 28 in Pugh Auditorium, or at 8 p.m. Oct. 28 in Benson 401.

Police Beat

Subject cited for possesion of a drug paraphernalia

A University Police officer smelled marijuana and saw a marijuana pipe lying on the console of a car left unattended in Reynolda Gardens. Two subjects returned to the car and one of them admitted smoking marijuana and owning the pipe. The subject was issued a citation for possession of drug paraphernalia and the pipe was seized.

Theft

A student's bicycle was taken from a bicycle rack at North Residence Hall between 9 a.m. Oct. 10 and 7:30 a.m. Oct. 13. The bicycle was worth $400.

A student's purse was taken from the Z. Smith Reynolds Library where, it was left unattended between 8 p.m. Oct. 13 and 12 p.m. Oct. 14. The purse was worth $60 and it contained $20 in cash.

Six university-owned computers were taken from a Calloway Hall computer lab between 8:15 p.m. Oct. 16 and 9 a.m. Oct. 17. The total value of the items was $6,000.

A student's $1,200 bicycle was taken from a rack in Lot B, between Davis and Taylor houses. The incident occurred between 12 p.m. Oct. 5 and 4:30 p.m. Oct. 19.

Miscellaneous

A University Police officer discovered a stolen license plate while investigating an illegally parked vehicle at 12:58 p.m. Oct. 16. The car's owner, a university employee, was issued a citation for possession of stolen property. The vehicle was towed to the impoundment lot.

A student reported a suspicious man in Lot R, near Student Apartments, at 12:44 a.m. Oct. 13. The student saw the man crouched between vehicles.

University Police were called to escort a student from North to Student Health Service at 2:36 a.m. Oct. 14. The student, who was underage, had consumed alcohol and was sick. The incident was forwarded to Harold Holmes, an associate vice president and the dean of student services.

An underage student living in Collins Residence Hall was taken to the hospital for observation after consuming alcoholic beverages and becoming sick. The incident was forwarded to the dean's office.

University Police handled 48 calls from Oct. 6 to 12, including 10 incidents and investigations and 38 calls for service.

World Wide

Police find bones in home of Belgian minister

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Police who searched the houses of a Belgian minister in an effort to find his two former wives and four of his eight children made a surprising discovery when they uncovered the bones of a human skull, jaw, thigh and hip. They also discovered a refrigerator filled with an unknown meat, an urn full of blood and ashes on the steps. The minister, Andreas Pandy, was subsequently arrested by Belgian police. Police say that Pandy's two former wives, and four of his children disappeared between 1986 and 1989. Pandy, a Hungarian émigré, returned to Hungary. He tried to prove that they were still alive using fake papers, but police said that there was almost no doubt that they had disappeared.

Officer, celebrities protest execution of hit man

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Despite the pleas of the arresting officer and Hollywood celebrities, state officials went through with the execution of a convicted hit man. Alan Banister was convicted of killing Darrell Ruestman in exchange for $5,500 by a man whose wife had been having an affair with Ruestman. Supporters of Banister had said that a bungled defense led to his conviction. Banister admitted to shooting Ruestman, but claimed that the killing was accidental and that he should have been charged with second-degree murder, not first degree-murder. Last-minute appeals were unsuccessful, and Banister was executed shortly after midnight. Among those appealing on his behalf were the police officer who originally arrested him and Hollywood stars such as Sean Penn, Harry Belafonte, Gregory Peck and Ed Asner. Banister condemned the state in his final words saying that it committed "as premeditated a murder as possible, far more heinous and deliberate than my crime."

Presidential report targets computer terrorism

WASHINGTON — A report by a presidential commission on cyberterrorism was released this week. The Commission on Critical Infrastructure said that some important aspects of government infrastructure are vulnerable to cyberterrorism and urged the government to improve security. Though airports, power plants and communication centers have always been military targets during a war, the commission said that the country's growing dependence on computers has left it vulnerable to attacks by computer hackers. The report made recommendations about how to improve security in thes and other areas.

Come and Enjoy Traditional Mag Week in the Magnolia Room October 27th-30th
All of your favorites are back!

Monday
Vegetable Soup
Meatless Chili
BLT
Dirty Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Carrots
Black Eye Peas
Manicotti
Baked Chicken

Tuesday
Cream of Potato Soup
Cream of Broccoli Soup
Greek Salad
Mac & Cheese
Cauliflower & Cheese
Peas with Mushrooms
Broccoli
Stuffed Shells with Sundried Tomato
Smoked Pork Chops

Wednesday
French Onion Soup
Chicken with Rice Soup
Turkey & Havarti Soup
Rice Pilaf
Snap Peas
Steamed Cabbage
Pintos
Baked Spaghetti
Chicken Parmesan

Thursday
Clam Chowder
Eggdrop
Grilled Chicken & Spinach Salad
Red Bliss Potatoes
Lima Beans
Corn
Italian Blend Veggie
Ravioli with Marinara
Meat Loaf

Magic Monday
1st 15 customers on every hour receive a free dessert.
Terrific Tuesday
Raffle Gift Basket.
Wonderful Wednesday
1st 15 customers on every hour receive a free dessert.
Thrillful Thursday
All you Can Eat Buffet for $6.50 with one extra trip through the