

Features

Goodwill, Chills!!! *A Trek Through Niles Haunted Scram Park Gives More Than Wet Pants*

by **CHRIS VALENTINE**
Features Reporter



As a cold wind blows through the air, you can hear screams floating in the night sky as though the lost souls of 10,000 people were wandering into an eternal search for peace. What would this sound like to you? Would you assume that you were in some macabre world where the lost souls truly exist, or possibly in a nightmare of your own mind's creation? This is no dream; this is the Niles Haunted House. It has been running for 25 years and still going strong.

For those that have been there, they come back with emotions of terror, sickness, and even the urge to run out shrieking into the night. Some say that you never recover. This is what it's all about. The thrills and the chills are what matter.

As you approach the grounds of the Niles Haunted House, you may notice the bustle as you enter. On nights like these, there can be as many as 10,000 people coming and going through this place. There are five major attractions on the grounds itself: The Haunted House, Scramreapers, Nightmares, Field of Screams, and the dark Terror-Tory Hayride. Each of these attractions has their own unique characteristic. For those that would go for the gag-type of excitement, the **Dark Terror-Tory**

Hayride with its mechanical implements and personality would be perfect. There are airbursts, falling dolls, and human interaction from the tour guide and fellow riders to fully compliment your likings. Or for instance, let's say that you wish for a more shocking and 'wet your pants' type of experience. Then you would want to go for the

Haunted House

With its blend of hidden "spooks," mechanical surprises, superior make-up effects, and the many different routes that slowly split you up

from your group add your mind into the experience. At the **Field of Screams**, the biggest obstacle would be to find your way out of the maze and get through all the fog. It certainly wasn't the hardest of the attractions, but it does just fine. At the **Nightmares**, winding your way through the little cottage was all, but some may not prefer to go alone. The treats were a bit more hidden and the spooks were a bit more secluded. **Scramreapers**, the



place where at the beginning you are separated from the group, a clean cut in half; each path would lead back to the groups at the end. All in all, it turned out to be a nice little romp through the macabre.

In the annals of all the opinions and years, there is a common link that makes this all possible, the patrons. All walks of people come to this place every year to enjoy what the haunted house has to offer. Some little children were quite frightened by the effects that were used. Even the teenagers with their "I'm Invincible" attitudes were occasionally shook-up. Some said, "Oh my God!" Others said, "Agghhhh!" Most may remain unfazed through one or two of these, but sooner or later, everyone cracked.

The house proves that even grown men can scream like little girls.

As you come through the gates, you might notice that there are many people wearing orange hats that seem to be watching over the grounds. They are the volunteers that labor for the park so that any money earned can go to their charities. Last year at this haunted house, over \$80,000 was raised and distributed throughout each of the organizations involved. This year, a few have

been nice enough for some information as each of them spent a little time taking an interview. Kevin Randall has been working here for 24 years. He says jokingly that he works here, "Because I'm crazy." He has been doing this for the community just as is, not for a particular charity, but for the good of it. Roger Harris, a volunteer for Niles Rocket Football, donated \$1,585 last year and is returning this year for the same reason. He said that the reason for coming here is the fact that, "To help the community. I like what this does for the community and that donating all the time and money makes me feel good." Another one of the volunteers is named Chris (last name unverified). He has been doing this job for 22 years and donates to the scholarship fund of a local high school. He said, "I come here to help out, do what I can." This year they hope to match or improve upon their totals from last year.

Each year in and out, people continue to come and come. This isn't just a good treat for Halloween, but it also helps the community. When the winter comes, it will be torn down, but it will rise again later that year. If you should decide to go, the complete package is twenty dollars. That's twenty dollars for charity and you get something out of it. It's worth every penny. It will run the entire week before Halloween. So come this year, next and more...*if you DARE!*

Movies for that Halloween Mood:



~Addams Family (1991) PG-13

~Beetlejuice (1988) PG

~Edward Scissorhands (1990) PG-13

~Gremlins (1984) PG

~Hocus Pocus (1993) PG



~Psycho (1960) NR

~Sixth Sense (1999) PG-13

~Casper (1995) PG

~Jaws (1975) PG

~It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown (1966) G

~North by Northwest (1959) NR

~Poltergeist (1982) PG

~Ring (2002) PG-13



~Scary Movie 3 (2003) PG-13

~Ring 2 (2005) PG-13

~The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993) PG

~The Others (2001) PG-13

~Young Frankenstein (1974) PG

Do you eat breakfast and if so, what do you eat?

by **AUTUMN THOMPSON**
Feature Editor



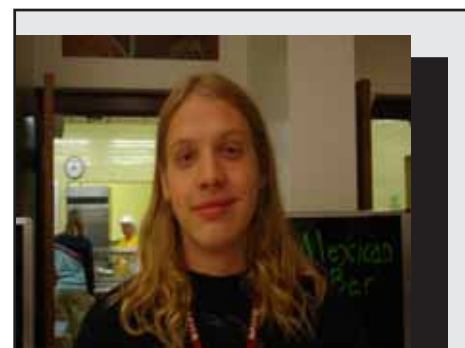
Robert Ness, sophomore
Yes, my mom's delicious pancakes.



Brooke Hein, freshman
Yes, Cheerios are the best!



Justin Perriguet, freshman
Yes, and I love to eat all cereals.



Sean Mathews, junior
No, I don't have time to, but if I did, I would make poached eggs and Canadian bacon, then top it off with a glass of goat's milk.