

## SPECIAL HALLOWEEN EDITION

### Security Finds Unconscious Female in Champlain

BY SHANNON CARDINAL  
Nor'easter Staff

Security and the Biddeford Police are urging all students, especially young women, to take extra safety precautions after a gruesome discovery made late Friday night. Maria Makame, a 19-year-old sophomore and Medical Biology major living in Champlain, was found unconscious in her dorm with heavy blood loss and multiple puncture wounds shortly after midnight.

Her roommates returned just before 1AM after visiting some friends on Hills Beach Road, to find Makame passed out on the floor. "She was pale and barely breathing. I knelt down to check her pulse, which was very faint, and saw two small puncture wounds on her neck. There were others on her wrists and chest, but those [on the neck] seemed to be the deepest," Jennifer Doyle, her roommate, reported. Doyle is also a sophomore currently majoring in Medical Biology. They share the dorm with two other girls who requested their names withheld. "She had stayed behind to catch up on an English paper when we invited



Crime scene

COURTESY OF SOLARFEEDS.COM

her to -----'s beach house. We could tell she didn't want to go, she isn't really into that sort of thing. But she was texting some guy earlier in the day who kept trying to make plans with her. He was way too into her and she was trying to act chill about it. I could tell he was annoying her. When we left she turned her phone off just so she could concentrate." One of the girls confided before they headed home for the week, too shaken by the assault to attend classes.

The Biddeford Police refused to comment, but off the record campus security shared a chilling fact: young women have been discovered with similar injuries for years on this campus, even before it was a co-ed school. The attacks often occur in Mid-fall, and there are usually only one or two victims, always matching similar descriptions to Makame: dark eyes, brown hair, and tan skin. The girls are always found with a layer of red lipstick, freshly applied. Though the lipstick was previously thought to

be a coincidence, in a search of her dorm Security officials found no makeup in Makame's space, and no shades of lipstick matching the one which she wore at the time of the incident amidst the other girls' belongings.

As for the insistent young man texting her, it seems he was using a prepaid cell phone and is not listed under Makame's contacts. However, a young woman from down the hall saw a strange man in the elevator shortly before the attacks occurred. She described him as tall, pale and "sort

of slenderman-ish." He is wanted by the police for questioning, and anyone with any information on him or the assault is encouraged to come forward.

Makame is currently resting at the Southern Maine Medical Center. She has received two blood transfusions, and is feeling very weak. She refused visitors other than her immediate family. Her father commented, saying only "Maria doesn't know what happened and wants to be left alone," before rushing to her private room. Students are urged to use the buddy system, make their roommates aware of their plans, be wary of strange activity or people on campus, and be cautious when answering their doors.

\*Disclaimer: This story is completely fictional and is meant for the pure enjoyment of our readers during this Halloween season. Yet this is the only fictional story in this special edition of the Nor'easter News.

### UNE Students Remember Halloween: Favorite Memories as told by Students

BY CARLOS AUGERO  
Nor'easter Staff

Halloween is upon us, and there is nothing quite like sitting around a campfire and sharing stories (secretly hoping none of the stories come to life that night). So to start you off, we at the Nor'Easter News have compiled five stories from local students about their favorite Halloween memories over the years. Sara Nelson: "Have you ever heard of Ghosting? Someone gets a bag and puts candy in it, and leaves it on someone else's door; it's kind of like ding-dong-ditch. You knock on the door and run away. The person whose house you've left it at takes the bag and finds a picture of a ghost in there, which the person has to hang on their front door so people know that they've already been ghosted. Then you take it

and refill the bag with candy, and leave it on someone else's door, and it keeps going on in the whole neighborhood. It's really fun, since you've got to be sneaky!"

Tyler Boucher: "We were all asleep when at three o'clock in the morning, we heard the door bell ring. We were freaking out, running to the windows. We looked outside to see three kids run to a car and peel off; the same car went by a couple of times that night—we know because we were just watching them. But we didn't realize that they had set a bag of poop on fire on my front steps until my mom stepped on it the following morning!"

Kelsey Heck: "In sixth grade, I was living in Connecticut at the time and I had a barn in the backyard. So me and my neighbor collaborated and invited about 200-300 people to this

party. We set up a path through my barn so it had a sort of haunted-house feel. But that night, we told stories around the fire. And my friend, who I ended up collaborating with, her dad was a cop. So at the beginning of the Halloween party, he spread around a rumor that there was a refugee on the loose, and that he was in the neighboring town and that we should be aware of it. So during the campfire, we told the story and talked about the refugee—about what was going on. As we were doing that, my friend's dad, maybe half a mile away, started running at us and shooting his gun, wearing a jail outfit. He was just dressing up and playing the part because he spread the rumor himself. He was trying to scare everyone, and it worked too well!"

Justin Fontaine: "This myth has a couple of different

versions, but I'll tell you the main one. These two young people were seeing each other, and the guy's family hated the girl; they didn't want to see her ever again. So, the couple planned on running away. The two were supposed to meet at a bridge. The night came when they were supposed to meet there, but the guy never showed up. The girl was "loony tunes," supposedly, and she was crazy, so when her lover didn't show up, she freaked out and hung herself on the bridge. So we went there on Halloween, it was about two years ago, at about one in the morning. To get the full "haunting" effect, you're supposed to park on the bridge. So we were parked on the bridge, and we could hear the young girl talking in the distance! My friend had a night-vision camera, and when we went back home, we could hear the girl's voice playing back. And there was scratching too! On the bridge, we could hear someone scratching on the body of the car, and it was right by my head. I was looking forward, and I was like 'Nope, I'm not even going to look!' When we pulled off the bridge, we saw actual scratch marks on the car. So we went back a week later, and if you walk underneath the bridge, you can see a rope hanging beneath the bridge, belonging to the girl; it's the sketchiest thing ever, such a scary place! And I've never believed in ghosts until I went there. It's in Stowe, Vermont. You can look it up on the Internet, it's called

Emily's Bridge. You can read the whole story there. It's one of the top five haunted places in New England. It's so sketchy! YEEEEEEEEEEEEEEAP!"

Caroline Case (CC): "In eighth grade I went to my best friend's Halloween party with her older sister and her older friends. All the adults were upstairs, in the kitchen, watching the movie It. I went upstairs to check out the movie, but all the adults had gone outside by the fire. So I was watching it all by myself, while the others were dancing and partying downstairs. The movie was playing the scene where "It" the clown is dropping balloons on people in the library, and blood is exploding everywhere. So I'm freaking out, frozen in place! And the movie zooms in on "It's" face, and he laughs, and the power instantly goes out at that moment! His face was plastered on the TV after that, and I was completely frozen in place, I couldn't move! Everybody was yelling because the power had gone out. I couldn't move, so my friends had to go upstairs to get me to move. Ever since, I've been petrified of clowns and circuses."

Nor'easter News: "And you thought it was "It" the clown that turned the power off?"

Caroline: "Yes, no it definitely was [laughter]."



Little kids celebrate Halloween

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## Biddeford Weather Forecast

### TODAY



Chance of showers. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 40s.

### TOMORROW

Few showers. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 40s.



### WEEKEND FORECAST

#### Friday



Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 40s.

#### Saturday

Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the upper 30s.



#### Sunday



Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the upper 30s.

Courtesy of weather.com

## On This Day in History in...

1926: Harry Houdini, famous magician, dies on Halloween day.

1966: Indira Gandhi is assassinated on Halloween.

Courtesy of brainyhistory.com



## Halloween around the World

BY DANNY HUY  
Nor'easter Staff

Tonight is the night where many of us will dress up and watch horror movies. Kids will come to our [parent's] doors asking for candy. It is an American tradition that has been like this for generations. But what is it like in other countries?

Ireland, for example, follows the same tradition but includes a Halloween fruitcake that is said to foretell the future of the consumer. In other countries, the dead is sacred, thus their own traditions arise.

In Austria, people leave bread and water at their door, welcoming back the dead on their visit. People in Belgium light candles for each dead soul that they welcome. England celebrates Guy Fawkes night, which is based on a historical event involving a traitor and began on Halloween night when citizens, to ward off pranksters and spirits, would have bonfires and throw stones in them.

However, because of the Protestant reform, Halloween is looked down upon in England because it is technically known as the Eve of All Saints' Day, and Protestants don't have Saints. But the English loves the American customs and trick-or-treat.

China's Halloween is similar to the western world. Instead of food and water being placed outside their homes, it is placed near pictures of passed loved ones. The day known as Teng Chieh is when the Chinese go to Buddhist temples, listen to monks, and pray for the dead ones. They pray for the spirits that are stuck roaming Earth, hoping they will make it to the afterlife. Candles are lit in a path formation to guide the spirits, and lighting lanterns is an old time ritual. Hong Kong is a little bit different than this. Spirits roam the earth for 24 hours, and go back to the afterlife afterwards. During the 24 hours, citizens burn fruit and money to keep the spirits comfortable.

France is unlike the other

countries when it comes to Halloween. Halloween did not exist in France until 1996. There are no rituals about spirits or the dead, just parties. French citizens were influenced by British and American tourists about Halloween. They learned the ways of trick-or-treat and dressing up. Since then, the French had Halloween parties dressing up as monsters (rarely super heroes, princesses, or non-scary costumes). Trick-or-treat was uncommon in France, but if it were to take place, it was store to store and not house to house. Many French citizens detest Halloween because it is not French. They in a way want to boycott the American tradition.

Japan has a very different Halloween. It takes place in the summer and is known as the Obon Festival. They believe that spirits return back to their birthplace. The Japanese make a path of red lanterns from the graveyard to their homes. They clean their homes as if they are welcoming a guest. The community

gets together and have dances and booths of food.

Mexico has a three day event known as El Dia de los Muertos, or the days of the dead. It is a three-day holiday that commemorates the dead. Families prepare food, water, and a towel for the spirit to wash up. On the second day, families would have a picnic in the graveyard and then decorate their loved one's grave with flowers, wreaths, and streamers. The third day consist of a large festival filled with food, music, and games. Villages would have parades and people would dress up as dancing skeletons.

Halloween is celebrated all over the world. It may not all be trick or treat, but it is a time to celebrate life and commemorate the dead in just about every single country.

## The Myth of the Avila Ghost

BY KATIE LABBE  
Nor'easter Staff

There is a ghost story that haunts the University of New England. Unfortunately, or fortunately for those easily scared individuals, the story haunts more than the ghost. As many may know, UNE has gone through several changes. In November of 1939, the College Séraphique, an all male Franciscan high school, opened on what is now considered the UNE Biddeford campus. During 1953, the high school received a state charter to grant college degrees, and thus transitioned into St. Francis College. Fourteen years later, in 1967, women were fully admitted to the college for the first time. With this decision came a significant increase in enrollment, and the expansion of the Biddeford campus.

In 1971, as the college was rapidly changing, Avila dorm was built as an all female dorm, and thus the setting for our infamous ghost story. According to the rumors that circulate around campus, Avila dorm, specifically room 406, is haunted by a former student named Meredith. During one weekend, Meredith invited her boyfriend to campus. The story goes that within that weekend Meredith was raped and

murdered by her boyfriend. Now, her alleged spirit roams Avila, reportedly protecting women in the dorm. While students may swear they see the shadowy figure of a woman lurking in the dorm, as well as other supernatural occurrences, there are no published accounts that confirm the story of Meredith. Therefore, these unexplained anomalies can only be attributed to an overactive imagination, or a lonely and confused freshman lost in Avila dorm.

As a lifelong Biddeford resident, I always doubted the alleged story of Meredith. If such a heinous crime was committed at UNE, especially in the past 40 years, it would have been discussed, and used as an example for the dangers of an abusive relationship. Due to this, I saw it as my responsibility to confirm or deny the Meredith story. I first did an overall search looking for any police blotter news that mentioned a murder at UNE. Obviously, this search came up empty. I then decided to ask several novice Biddeford historians who would have known for certain if Meredith's murder was true. All denied the widely discussed campus story. While some may be pleased to know that there is no ghost haunting the dorm they spent \$40,000 to live in, others may find the

truth about Meredith disheartening. With the dismissal of such a scandalous story, UNE is back to being a rather ordinary New England college campus. Though littered with old buildings, the campus really has no freighting stories that could be used as season three for American Horror Story. However, this is not to say that Biddeford itself is not haunted. Biddeford has an extensive history, one that is filled with the strange, the gruesome, and the horrifying.

I find the paranormal extremely fascinating, and actively search for stories about reported hauntings, or extra-terrestrial activity. Essentially, I am Fox Mulder without a Dana Scully. I may not scare easily, but I have strict personal rules when dealing with the paranormal. Never will I use an Ouija board. I do not look to provoke ghosts, but rather examine their surroundings. From spending 20 years in Biddeford, I have discovered some of the most haunted places in the city. The location that easily tops the list is the Pepperell Mill Campus. Along with friends, I have thoroughly explored most of the buildings on mill campus. If you have ever doubted the idea of ghosts, or even residual energy from those who are now deceased, I would dare you to spend a night in one of

the unrenovated buildings on the campus. When walking through the mill, even during the day, I always get the feeling that someone is watching me.

The second most haunted location in Biddeford is the J. Richard Martin Community Center. Construction on the site started in 1888, and was finished in 1890. Originally used as the public high school, the site now houses community events, including the Halloween haunted house event. After doing a few hours of volunteer work at the center during my junior year of high school, my friends and I began talking with the building manager. He explained the plethora of paranormal activity he has seen and heard in the building. When checking the doors at night, after the building has been vacated, he often hears the sound of children talking and laughing, as well as teachers instructing. Once, he stated, he had seen a woman walking down the hallway after hours, and then evaporate. The Community Center and the mill campus are just two places on a long list of haunted locations in Biddeford. Though UNE may not have any notorious ghost stories, there are plenty throughout the city that should suffice any amateur paranormal investigator.

## A History of Halloween

BY CONSTANCE GLYNN  
Nor'easter Staff

Halloween has roots in many different ancient religions and folklore, but it is most typically tied to the Celtic festival of Samhain and ancient Roman religions. The Celtic festival of Samhain, historically held by the Gaels and Celts in the British Isles, is derived from Old Irish and means roughly "summer's end." Around two thousand years ago, the Celts, who lived in what is now the United Kingdom, Ireland, and northern France, celebrated this festival commemorating the end of the year. Their New Year was November 1, and the end of their year signaled not only the end of summer, but also the end of the harvest season, and the beginning of a long, hard winter that often caused the deaths of many animals and peo-

ple. Weaker livestock were often killed and eaten during this holiday, since they would most likely not survive the winter. Because of this and the cruel winter to come, this time of year signified death to the Pagan Celts. They believed that on the night before the New Year, October 31, the wall between the living and the dead was open, allowing spirits of the dead to linger among the living. Some of these spirits were thought to possess living people, cause trouble by ruining crops, or spend their time searching for a passage to the afterlife.

Samhain was considered a holiday earmarked by magic, and there are many stories about what the Celts practiced and believed during this festival. Some say that the spirits that were unleashed were those that had died in the past year, and offerings of food and drink were left to aid the

spirits or shoo them away. Other versions of stories say the Celts dressed up in crazy costumes and went around the neighborhoods making noise, in hopes that they would scare the spirits away. Celts even wore costumes of animal skulls and skins during Samhain. Some think that the heavily structured life of the Pagan Celts was abandoned during Samhain, when people did unusual things--such as moving horses to different fields, moving gates and fences, cross-dressing, and other trickeries now associated with modern-day celebrations of Halloween. Many also thought that they could predict the future and communicate with spirits during this time, as well. This notion led to a common reliance on psychics. Tradition also called for a sacred bonfire, which was lit to honor the Pagan gods, and some accounts say that in-

dividual house fires were extinguished during Samhain--probably to make their homes unattractive to roving spirits who were seeking fire. During these fires, fortunes were told and marked stones were thrown into the flames. The superstitious believed that if a person's stone was not found after the bonfire went out, then the said person would die during the next year. Fairies were believed to roam the land during Samhain, dressed as beggars asking for food door to door. Those that gave food to the fairies were rewarded and those who didn't were punished. This is thought to be the first origin of the modern "trick-or-treat" practice.

Halloween was not a popular observance in early United States history, as most of the early settlers were Protestant. At the time, Halloween was considered

mostly a Catholic, Episcopalian, and Pagan holiday, and therefore largely ignored by the colonists. In the southern colonies, such as Virginia and Maryland, there were some Halloween customs observed. The first common events in the colonies were called "play parties." These parties got neighborhoods together to celebrate the harvest, dance, sing, tell stories of the dead, tell fortunes and have pageants for children in costume. By the mid 1800s, immigration increased, and many Irish immigrants (mostly Catholics) brought many Halloween traditions with them.

In the time since then, Halloween has become a popular commercial observance in the United States and is more of a family holiday, rather than one of great religious and supernatural importance.

## Dance of the Damned

BY CARLOS AUGERO and DANIEL CHIEM  
Nor'easter Staff

Thoughts on the first dance (the Clash Bash) were up in the air; the second dance, however, set the precedent for all future dances. The Dance of the Damned, an annual Halloween-themed dance hosted by UNE's APB, took place at the Biddeford campus' MPRs. As usual, it took place the Friday before Halloween.

Now for the part you actually care about. Through extensive surveying, meaning we asked a couple of people that were around, we found a consensus on the Dance of the Damned. The event received an overall satisfactory 3.29 out of 5. This may be correlated with the amount of staying power that was present, being that the average amount of time that people attended the Dance of the Damned was

two hours with a common leaving time of late 11 o'clock. Of course all of these averages do not account for the extremes of the time spent. Some individuals attested to "dancing their asses off" and one guy admits to having "uppercut a random dancing girl." "I thought I had killed her, I was seriously afraid. But, I did not stop dancing," noted the anonymous fellow.

Being a dance, the music was a talking point. Unfortunately, the selections were unaccommodating to the Halloween theme: "It would've been fun if they would have mixed in some Monster Mash," mentioned Halie Pruitt. The DJ featured Hip-Hop and Rap songs, while shirking more classic hits like Journey's "Don't Stop Believing" and Michael Jackson's "Thriller." These song selections incited the crowd. But as Matthew Coelho puts it, they "should have done a mixture of festive and dance

music." They being the conjunction of the DJ and APB. Some students enjoyed the song mixes: "The mixture of Gangnam Style and Sexy and I Know It were my favorite," said Shawn Nguyen.

Some successes of the Dance of the Damned was the implementation of the photo booth. It gave a classic feel of memories and togetherness. This would counteract the lack of proper publicity given to the costume contest. Aaron Blake mentioned that he "didn't realize that there was a costume contest." The poorly publicized contest reflects the rest of the Halloween theme for the dance: Not enough. "They could have used more Halloweenie stuff at the dance," said Halie Pruitt. The Decary Mess Hall, with its pumpkins around the salad bar, had more of a festive feel than the dance.

The space allotted for the dance was optimal in that it provided for both a dance floor and

a space to talk. In addition there was the campus center. "I liked the way the campus center was set up so that you didn't have to be awkwardly standing around the dance floor to talk, you could sit down on couches," noted Kori Krasin-Hermsdorf. Sure, there were plenty of people who missed out on the dance due to tickets running out very quickly, but this only added breathing room to the few who managed to snag a ticket early on. The moral of this story, grab your tickets early on, my friends.

The highlight of the night was the abundance in school spirit embodied through costumes. Creativity and inner fandom exuded through the quality of the costumes. For example, CatDog, Mitt Romney and Big Bird, Thor, Jabba the Hutt and Princess Leia, the Jabbawockeez, Tarzan and Jane just to name a few. The spirit of Halloween exploded with the assistance of

the students. The mimes were miming. The horses were horsing. And of course, the buffalo was buffalooing.

In the end, the Dance of the Damned was an uppercut to the face of excitement. The dance established more good than bad, but improvements are to be desired among the attending student body. Regardless of the flaws shown in this last dance, students will continue to attend the following dances because to APB's credit, they do keep it interesting. APB promoted the usage of costumes, they got the photo booth, and they made sure the dance was organized to the point that no one had to worry about security problems and could safely enjoy the event. But for future events, APB must step up the decorations if they wish to see an increase in attendance.

## Creepypasta: Horror Stories of the Internet

BY DANNY HUY  
Nor'easter Staff

Have you ever heard of Slenderman? You know, the skinny figure with no face that stands behind you at night. Well, his origins as well as many other internet stories are known as Creepypastas. The term Creepypasta originated from "copypasta," which is internet-slang for something that has been copied and pasted during its viral life. What's great about Creepypastas is that they are interestingly addictive. Most originated from 4chan, a popular blogging website, and others can sprout from anywhere. Of course, all of these stories are fake, but are made to parody myths. Many stories are related

to pop culture; they are not exactly supposed to scare you, but rather put you in an unsettling atmosphere. More information about Creepypasta can be found on [knowyourmeme.com/memes/creepypasta](http://knowyourmeme.com/memes/creepypasta).

If you search Creepypasta on Youtube, you will find dozens of videos and images of these underground horror stories. Many people give their top ten favorites, or they give their top ten scariest (to them). One of the most notable of all is the Lavender Town Suicides. If you are a Pokémon fan, you would be familiar with the town of Lavender, Marowak's ghost, and (if you are really dedicated to Pokémon Red/Blue) the Gamefreak's implemented glitches.

One creative soul decided to turn all of Pokémon's creepiness into a Creepypasta. For those of you who don't know, when Pokémon first came out back in 1996, many kids were sent to the hospital because the frequency sound of their gameboy was too high. When a player enters Lavender Town, the city of the Pokemon graveyard, the soundtrack was too screechy for the sensitive ears of young ones. There was a recall on the games as developers had to lower the frequency on the soundtrack. A fictional story was developed based on this event, called the Lavender Town Suicide. Check out the story online and enjoy the reading!

Another notable Creepypasta is known as "Ben."

For those of you that are Zelda fans, you should know what I am talking about. The story is about a haunted Zelda game that led to a college kid's insanity. What makes this story great is that it was a blog that lasted for a month. About once a week, the guy posted a blog on the updates of what was happening to him and his game cartage. The story was believable. He had videos as proof, and his words were very persuasive. The fact that it wasn't just one story, but entries, made it entertaining and suspenseful. The game that was haunted was Majoras' Mask. It is one of the most eerie games in the Zelda franchises, for it has to do with rituals of resurrection and death. It was a perfect story

for a perfect game. After one whole year, the author admitted that it was fake, along with the videos. This caught the media's attention, and the story will go down in Creepypasta history. I highly recommend watching and reading about this one.

Creepypastas are entertaining stories perfect for Halloween. On top of playing Amnesia: The Dark Decent, and checking in Hotel 626, Creepypasta will keep you interested, without scarring you for life. Some examples besides the two above include: Suicide Squidward (From Spongebob), The Russian Sheep Experiment, The Rake, Slenderman, The Old Lady, Candle Cove, Tail's Doll (from Sonic The Hedgehog),

## Halloween Traditions and Superstitions that You've Never Heard Of

BY JOCELYN KOLLER  
Nor'easter Staff

Celtic tradition focuses on the belief that on Halloween night, the boundaries between the living and the dead became more open. This allowed Celtic priests, called Druids, to predict the future.

Ever wonder what's up with the idea of bobbing for apples? Supposedly, the Romans are to blame for this semi-strange tradition. Romans honored Pomona, the goddess of fruit and trees, whose symbol is the apple--which likely led to the prevalence of apples on Halloween.

If you were a young woman in the 19th century, you might spend your Halloween night gazing into a mirror in search of the image of your future husband. According to this myth, if you sat in a dark room holding a candle in front of a mirror--only while eating an apple or brushing your hair, apparently--a vision of your future husband would appear over your shoulder.

In eighteenth century Ireland, a match making cook might bury a ring in her mashed potatoes on Halloween night, hoping to bring true love to the diner who found it.

In Scotland, fortune-tell-

ers recommended that an eligible young woman name a hazelnut for each of her suitors and then toss the nuts into the fireplace. The nut that burned to ashes rather than popping or exploding, the story went, represented the girl's future husband. (In some versions of this legend, confusingly, the opposite was true: The nut that burned away symbolized a love that would not last.)

Another tale had it that if a young woman ate a sugary concoction made out of walnuts, hazelnuts and nutmeg before bed on Halloween night she would dream about her future husband. Young women tossed apple-peels over their shoulders, hoping that the peels would fall on the floor in the shape of their future husbands' initials; tried to learn about their futures by peering at egg yolks floating in a bowl of water; and stood in front of mirrors in darkened rooms, holding candles and looking over their shoulders for their husbands' faces.

At some Halloween parties, the first guest to find a burr on a chestnut-hunt would be the first to marry; at others, the first successful apple-bobber would be the first down the aisle.

Trick-or-treating sounds fun; but going a-souling just sounds creepy, right? This old

term for trick-or-treating occurred on All Souls' Day in England. During this time, beggars would travel from house to house, asking for food. Families would give the beggars food, particularly soul cakes, if the beggars promised to pray for the family's deceased. These soul cakes were typically flavored with allspice, nutmeg, cinnamon, or ginger and displayed a cross drawn onto the front.

Similarly, in Ireland's version of Halloween, cakes called barnbracks were traditionally eaten on this spooky night. These cakes were meant to predict the future of whoever was eating them. They were made of dried fruit, but different trinkets were baked into them: a ring represented romance, a coin predicted future prosperity, and a thimble meant that the consumer would never get married.

Italians have special Halloween cakes, too (are you sensing a theme?). Italian tradition calls for, Fave dei Morti, a bean-shaped cake. The name means "beans of the dead." Halloween was also a popular day on which to propose to your lady--men typically placed their engagement rings in a small box, which sat inside a larger box filled with Fave dei Morti.

You probably know that

one of America's traditions is trick-or-treating. But did you know that only 25% of the candy sold is the U.S. each year for Halloween is actually purchased? Still, U.S. households spend about six million dollars every year on supplies for trick-or-treating, and Americans buy over 20 million pounds of candy corn alone each year.

Do you carve a pumpkin each year for Halloween? Did you know that this tradition originated in Ireland? And it wasn't pumpkins that were being carved, either--it was turnips. The Irish carved and hollowed out turnips, which they then filled with burning coal. When the Irish immigrated to the U.S., they switched to pumpkins, which were more accessible.

If you were in Czechoslo-



Apples for bobbing

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## The Ugly Truth about Halloween Candy: Warning: Do Not Read This Article if Easily Disturbed

**BY DEIDRE DICKER**  
Nor'easter Staff

This Halloween, I decided to do a little research on something scarier than haunted cemeteries or local ghosts or receiving our graded midterms back. I must warn you: this topic is extremely disturbing and if you don't want your life to be ruined like mine was, there is still time to flip the page and read about something more spook-tacular. For all you brave souls out there, however, I present to you a comprehensive list of all of your favorite candies, labeled with calorie, fat, and sugar count from least to most guilty. And you won't believe the sneaky devils with hidden trans fat, or the sins of the seemingly innocent bite-sizers. Forget Freddy, it's the sugar babies that will be haunting your dreams tonight.

**Rolo Caramels in Milk Chocolate**  
1 Rolo (6g): 27 calories, 0.9 g sat fat, 3.7 grams sugar

**Hershey's Nuggets Dark Chocolate with Almond**  
1 nugget (9.5g): 45 calories, 1.5g sat fat, 4g sugar

**Wonka Mini Laffy Taffy**

1 mini taffy (8.6g): 30 calories, 0.3g sat fat, 4.2g sugar

**Hershey's Assorted Miniatures**  
1 miniature (8.6g): 42 calories, 1.4 g sat fat, 4.4g sugar

**Starburst Fun Size**  
2 Starburst candies: 40 calories, 0.8g sat fat, 6g sugar

**Smarties**  
1 roll (7g): 25 calories, 0g fat, 6g sugar

**Mounds Snack Size Bar**  
1 bar (17g): 80 calories, 3.5g sat fat, 7g sugar

**Kit Kat Wafer Bar Snack Size**  
1 bar (0.49 oz/14g): 70 calories, 2.3g sat fat, 7g sugar

**Tootsie Roll Snack Bar**  
1 bar (14g): 50 calories, 0.2g sat fat, 7g sugar—source for trans fat

**Reese's Pieces Snack Size**  
1 bag (13g): 67 calories, 2.7g sat fat, 7.3g sugar

**Haribo Gummi Candy: Mini Gold-Bears**  
1 bag (<0.5 oz): 50 calories, 0g sat fat, 7.3g sugar

**Twix Fun Size**  
1 bar (16g): 80 calories, 3g sat

fat, 8g sugar

**Almond Joy Snack Size**  
1 bar (17g): 80 calories, 3g sat fat, 8g sugar

**Payday Peanut Caramel Snack Size Bars**  
1 bar (19g): 80 calories, 1g sat fat, 8g sugar

**Sugar Daddy**  
1 Junior Pop (13g): 53 calories, 0.2 g sat fat, 8 g sugar (contains trans fat)

**Airhead**  
1 bar (15.5g): 60 calories, 0.5g sat fat, 8.5g sugar

**Butterfinger Fun Size**  
1 bar (0.65 oz/18.5g): 85 calories, 1.8g sat fat, 8.5g sugar

**Snickers Fun Size**  
1 bar (17g): 80 calories, 1.5g sat fat, 8.5g sugar

**Heath Bar Snack Size**  
1 bar (14g): 77 calories, 2.3g sat fat, 8.7g sugar

**Milk Duds Snack Size**  
1 box (12g): 53 calories, 1.2g sat fat, 9g sugar

**M&M's Peanut Fun Size**  
1 bag (18g): 90 calories, 1.8g sat

fat, 9g sugar

**York Peppermint Pattie, Snack Size**  
1 piece (13.6g): 50 cal, 0.7g sat fat, 9g sugar

**M&M's Milk Chocolate Fun Size**  
1 bag (15g): 73 calories, 2g sat fat, 9.3g sugar

**Sour Patch Kids Mini Bag**  
1 bag (15g): 50 calories, 0g fat, 10g sugar

**Baby Ruth Fun Size**  
1 bar (0.65 oz/18.5g): 85 calories, 2.3g sat fat, 10g sugar

**Milky Way Bar Fun Size**  
1 bar (0.58 oz/17g): 80 calories, 2.3 g sat fat, 10 g sugar

**3 Musketeers Fun Size**  
1 bar (15g): 63 calories, 1.3g sat fat, 10g sugar

**Tootsie Pop**  
1 pop: 60 calories, 0g sat fat, 10g sugar (contains trans fat)

**Reese's Peanut Butter Cup Snack Size**  
1 cup: 110 calories, 2.5 g sat fat, 11 g sugar

**Swedish Fish Mini Pack**

1 pack (15g): 50 calories, 0g sat fat, 11g sugar

**Dots Mini Box**  
1 box (21g): 70 calories, 0g sat fat, 11g sugar

**Nestle 100 Grand Fun Size**  
1 bar (21.5g): 95 calories, 2.5g sat fat, 11g sugar

**Skittles Fun Size**  
1 bag (15g): 60 calories, 0.7g sat fat, 11.3g sugar

**Brach's Candy Corn**  
1 bag (15g): 53 calories, 0g sat fat, 11.7g sugar

**Nerds Mini Box**  
1 box (13g): 50 calories, 0g sat fat, 12g sugar

**Charm's Blow Pop**  
1 pop: 60 calories, 0g sat fat, 13g sugar

**Sugar Babies Snack Size**  
1 pack (21g): 80 calories, 0g sat fat, 15g sugar (contains trans fat)

**BY GABRIELLE PHANEUF**  
Nor'easter Staff

Want some fun ideas for Halloween? Feeling creative or spending some time with young people you care about? Here are a few arts and crafts activities that children of all ages can enjoy.

The first could be a great idea for somebody feeling ambitious about those candy handouts on Halloween night. This craft combines candy with creepy. Spider pops are easy to make, and don't require many materials. Here's what you will need: black pipe cleaners, lollipops (whatever kind you like the most), googly eyes, and glue.

There are three easy steps to this first craft. Holding all four pipe cleaners, center them at the base of the pop and wrap them around the stick once so there are four legs on each side. Bend the pipe cleaner ends to form eight feet. Glue on googly eyes. That's it!

The second craft I'm going to talk about is a batty decoration. The materials you will need for this project are: black card stock, double-sided tape, a black feather boa, white paper, a black marker, and fishing line. For each bat, start with the black card stock. Cut a batwing shape from the card stock. Next, use a piece of double-sided tape to stick one end of an 8-inch length of the boa to the center of the card

stock. Wrap the boa twice around the wing shape, then stick the free end to the double-sided tape. Finally, use more double-sided tape to attach a pair of white paper eyes with black marker details, then hang the bats around your house with fishing line.

Here's an outdoor craft for the evening that will "liven up" your front stoop... ghost wind socks! What you're going to need is white construction paper, black permanent marker, a stapler, white crepe paper, tape, and string. There are four steps for this one. For each wind sock, decorate a 6-by-18-inch piece of white construction paper with ghostly eyes and a horrific mouth. Roll the paper to form a

tube shape and staple the ends together. Cut eight 8-foot-long strips of crepe paper and drape them over the top edge with both ends hanging down to create "tails." Secure with tape. For a handle, cut a 30-inch piece of string and staple the ends to opposite sides of the top of the decoration. Hang those babies up and watch them blow in the wind!

The final craft is a fun party favor for any Halloween party, young or old. These are vampire mouths that you attach to straws. This is also pretty simple and promises to be pretty funny, too. All you're going to need for this one is: red foam sheets, white foam sheets, craft glue,

hole punch, and drinking straws (preferably bendy straws). For this one, cut lip shapes out of the red foam sheets. Then cut fangs out of the white foam sheets. The fangs can be as simple as two triangles, or include a sliver of white connecting the fangs, as in the picture shown. Instead of foam sheets, construction paper can also be used, but paper doesn't hold up to moisture as well as the foam. Next, punch a hole in the middle of the lips and the fangs and line up the holes. Glue the two layers together. Lastly, just slide each straw through the holes you punched in the lips.



COURTESY OF GOOGLE  
Arts and Crafts ideas for Halloween

## Halloween Foods

**BY DEANNA BAUMERT**  
Nor'easter Staff

Are you looking for some dorm-friendly foods to make this Halloween? Then look no further! Here are a few delicious Halloween recipes for you to try out!

### Spooky Oreo Bon-Bons:

1 8-oz package Cream Cheese  
1 16-oz package Halloween Oreos  
1 12-oz package Chocolate Chips  
Crush Oreos and combine with

cream cheese. Roll into balls of any size and place on cookie sheet covered with wax paper. Put them in the freezer about 10 minutes. Melt chocolate chips in microwave then dip Oreo balls in the chocolate, covering them completely.

Optional: Add food coloring or sprinkles  
Put in freezer and leave until ready to serve.  
Makes about 20 bon-bons.

### Pizza Mummies:

English Muffins  
Pizza Sauce

Black Olives  
String Cheese

Heat oven to 350°F. Toast English muffin (optional). Spread a tablespoon of pizza sauce onto half of the english muffin. Put 2 olive slices on English muffin for the eyes and lay strips of cheese across the muffin to make the wrappings. Bake for about 10 minutes or until cheese is melted and muffin is toasted.

### Caramel Apple Dip:

1 14-oz package chewy caramels  
20 large marshmallows

1/2 cup butter, melted  
1/3 cup heavy whipped cream  
Apple slices

Microwave caramels on high for 1 minute in a microwave-safe bowl. Add marshmallows and microwave for another minute or until marshmallows are melted, stirring occasionally. Whisk in butter and cream until combined. Serve it up with the apple slices and refrigerate the leftovers! Optional: Use either red, green or yellow apples.  
This makes 2 1/2 cups (about 20 servings).

### Halloween Teeth Recipe:

2 red apples, quartered with core removed  
4 tbsp peanut butter  
1 100g package mini marshmallows

Cut apple quarters in half lengthwise and then in half again. Spread peanut butter on one side of each slice. Line up about 8 mini marshmallows on half of the apple slices (on the peanut butter side). Place another apple slice on top of the marshmallows with the peanut butter side facing down.

## Top Ten Scariest Movies of all Time

BY COURTNEY GOULET  
Nor'easter Staff

I am a sucker for scary movies. Something about the stomach-dropping, spine-tin-gling, heart-stopping scare is appealing to me (only when it's voluntary, of course). It probably helps that I am easily scared and very jumpy. Just ask my old roommates—they had a knack for slipping fire crackers into my desk drawer and listening for the sharp scream that came shortly after discovering them. However, with scary movies, I know what I am getting myself into...for the most part. So here it is ladies and gents, my top 10 all-time favorite scary movies.

I will start with my favorite, of course: *The Silence of the Lambs* starring Anthony Hopkins and Jodie Foster. This American thriller keeps you on your toes as an FBI trainee must seek out the help of renowned killer and cannibal, Dr. Hannibal Lecter, to find the identity and whereabouts of serial killer Buffalo Bill. One of my personal favorite films of all time, *The Silence of the Lambs* is very creepy and has a bit of comic relief when it comes to some of the memorable lines of Anthony Hopkins. Like "I ate his liver and his face with a side of fava beans and a nice Chianti" (insert creepy slurping noise here). If that doesn't get your skin crawling, I don't know what will.

Next on the list is *Halloween*. Yes, I know, there are about a billion of remakes and side-projects, but I'm talking

about the 2007 film produced by Rob Zombie. Personally, I enjoy this version better because the film starts with Michael Myers' childhood. I found the scariest portion of the film to be the beginning, when he began killing; as a 10-year-old, his human body count included his step father, older sister, and a school bully. Don't get me wrong, I usually prefer original films over remakes, but this remake was phenomenal! It was terrifying and very well put together. And, just like all horror movies, it included a great deal of sex scenes and nudity. Personally, I am not a fan of those parts but they are expected within any horror film.

Another film I find absolutely terrifying is *The Woman in Black*, which my boyfriend so lovingly took me to see on Valentine's Day. This movie had it all—creepy music, creepy little kids, tons of death, and a creaky old house that did things houses should not do. The story followed a young lawyer who had to travel to and stay in a house whose owner had passed away a few years earlier. The woman who owned the house had a child that passed away before her, and thus wore black in grieving. After her death, however, children began dying around town. The cause was this woman in black possessing the children to jump out of second story widows or drink lye. I highly recommend this movie to anyone who wants to be completely and utterly terrified.

The 2002 sci-fi thriller *Signs* follows closely behind *The*

*Woman in Black*. Now, I'm not one to watch many science fiction films, but this one has me hooked. Starring Mel Gibson, *Signs* is about a series of crop circles that arise in a priest's cornfield, which he soon begins to believe are the cause of extraterrestrials. Sounds kind of stupid, I know, but I have to say one of the scariest parts of the film is an unexpected one—using a simple video camera at a birthday party, a group of kids films outside of the house because they believe something is out there. Then, walking right by the window, we see our slender, creepy alien friend. *Signs* is by far one of the scariest sci-fi thrillers out there and a must-see. *Orphan* is another scary movie that simply had to be on this list. What is worse than a bunch of people getting killed, especially when a creepy little Russian orphan who is actually an escaped psychopath is doing the murdering? I found this film to be very scary, mostly because of the ending and the secrets the orphan had; it wouldn't have made it on this list otherwise.

I could not write a list of scary movies without including at least one of the Paranormal Activity movies. So, I decided the scariest of the three I have seen is definitely PA3. Shot in first person, single-camera perspective, this film allows you to view the activities occurring as if you were watching a home movie gone completely awry. I found this film to be the scariest of all the PA movies, because it is the start of why the family is

haunted or cursed. The film follows Katie and Christie as children, while the ghost or spirit "Toby" controls and bullies them into doing what he wants. What a jerk. While staying on the same format of single person camerawork, *The Devil Inside* was another great film using this tactic to scare viewers. The plot line follows a young woman in search of someone who is willing to perform an exorcism on her mother. Her mother, as we find out, is a deranged psychotic woman believed to be possessed by a devil, who has killed three people in her home during an exorcism. Since the killings, the mother was transported to Italy and put in a religious mental hospital which allows no real contact with her daughter. Although the daughter has good intentions of helping her mother, all Hell breaks loose. There is a great amount of blood and body contortion in this film that makes it hard to watch, but overall it's a great thriller.

We're getting to the end boys and girls! *Nosferatu* is an oldie, but still a classic scary vampire movie. This 1922 silent film is an unauthorized adaption of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. The plot line is practically the same in every way, except for the names of the characters. Watching this film now might make some of you laugh, but for the early 20's this was like our version of *Paranormal Activity* or *The Hills Have Eyes*, so just give it a chance!

*The Haunting in Connecticut* is definitely a good

movie to watch for the up-and-coming holiday. It takes place in yet another haunted, creepy house where a sick teenager sees ghosts, or the spirits of those who have died. As a very jumpy individual, I found this film full of suspense and surprises. And the séance scene was very well put together; it was one of my favorites of the film. You have got to watch this. And finally, last but not least on our list of terror is a classic—Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds*. A 1963 film, Hitchcock's thriller is about a small town in California that begins to experience strange, unexplainable aggression of native birds. The birds in and around town begin to flock and attack townsfolk to the point that it leaves many dead or seriously injured. Again, it sounds like a stupid movie, but Alfred Hitchcock does not do stupid movies. If you don't believe me, see for yourself. All of these films are must-sees for Halloween, and most will make you want to leave a light on before bed.

### THE LIST:

*The Silence of the Lambs*  
*Halloween*  
*Woman in Black*  
*Signs*  
*Orphan*  
*Paranormal Activity 3*  
*Devil Inside*  
*Nosferatu*  
*The Haunting in Connecticut*  
*Hitchcock's The Birds*

## American Horror Story: Asylum

BY COURTNEY GOULET  
Nor'easter Staff

Last year, my roommate and I got hooked on FX's *American Horror Story* (AHS). Every Wednesday at 10 pm, we'd be in our jammies in front of the TV completely absorbed into this weird, wild, creepy, and utterly terrifying television show. Last season, AHS followed a family that had recently moved into what was known as the "murder house." The episodes didn't make sense until the very end, and everything came together

in the season finale when the key characters showed their true colors. For almost a year, I have been waiting for the second season—patiently waiting to see what became of the family and other characters that moved into the house during the first season. However, a few months before the premiere last week, I discovered that AHS was to be an anthology series, meaning each season would be a different story with no relation to the last. So ladies and gents, you can start watching AHS right now and not be missing anything!

Last season took place in the present day, in a house haunted by former inhabitants, and focused on the interaction between the Harmon family and these ghosts. However, *American Horror Story: Asylum* is different. Although they kept key actors from last season, like Jessica Lange and (my personal favorite) Evan Peters, they changed up the roles. Last season Jessica Lange portrayed Constance—the crazy, psycho neighbor who actually fed Mrs. Harmon a brain (who does that?). This season, Lange plays Sister Jude of a mental

hospital in 1964. So far, I cannot tell if Sister Jude is going to be like Constance (who I absolutely hated), or if she'll surprise me and turn out to be the good guy... for once. Lucky for me, though, Evan Peters was brought back, as well. This time playing Kit, a young mechanic who is admitted to the asylum, he is believed to be the infamous serial killer "Bloody Face."

*American Horror Story* has a tendency to leave viewers on their toes, begging for more information after each episode; this season is no different. The

perfect television show for Halloween, I highly encourage you all to turn on FX at 10PM every Wednesday. I know I will be! This new season will be a real treat, with guest stars like Adam Levine from Maroon 5 and Jenna Dewan-Tatum, better known as the lucky girl who married Channing Tatum. With tons of suspense and plot twists, AHS will surely keep you on your toes.

## Celebrities who could pass for Halloween Costumes

BY GABRIELLE PHANEUF  
Nor'easter Staff

### Marilyn Manson

Leading the costume parade at number one is the king of strange himself, Marilyn Manson. This guy just seems to be a given to me. I feel like his entire life is Halloween. Everything he does is weird and crazy, with his boob suit, his different colored contacts, his bizarre makeup, and everything about his persona. He even did a cover of a *Nightmare Before Christmas* song, and nothing is more pure Halloween than that.



Manson

### Lady Gaga

She lives for theatrics, so she makes sense for this list. She makes every public appearance dressed up in some new and shocking outfit, trying to surprise us and make us stare at her, but she has slowly made this the norm in the celebrity world. Lady Gaga takes second because she is the original of the weird women that are celebrated as musicians in today's age. She started this odd trend of making your life an ABC party. (For those of you unaware of what ABC means: Anything But Clothes. This is a popular theme now thanks to her.



Lady Gaga

### Alice Cooper

Coming in at number three, it's Alice Cooper. With such an innocent, un-daunting type of name, you'd never guess this man was one of the conquering rockers of the 70s and 80s. His stage face is scary and dark—a true hard-rocker look, ready to welcome you to his nightmare. Getting older isn't helping him look any less scary, either. If anything, he looks more intimidating than he used to with his newly acquired wrinkles—even without his stage makeup. Let's be real here, Alice, you're not eighteen anymore.



Cooper

### Nicki Minaj

It's a poodle! It's a clown! Oh wait. It's Nicki Minaj coming in as my number four pick. This woman scares me. It's as if somebody took the 80s, a bag of cotton candy, and some brightly colored makeup, threw them into a blender, and covered the results in various arts and crafts materials. I don't understand the ways in which Minaj dresses and carries herself and don't understand her popularity. She seems to have taken some influence from our next list member as well, so maybe she's not as creative as she thinks she is.



Minaj

### Flava Flav

He's a Viking that is very concerned about the time, as well as finding his one true love. Flava Flav takes fifth place because though he is one of the most bizarre people I have ever laid eyes on. He just isn't organized enough to do better than first. He's that guy at the party that grabbed anything he saw laying around, threw it together, used an excess of hot glue, and called it a costume. However, strangely enough, he pulls it all off in light of the other four celebrities on this list. Every day is a costume day for these guys.



Flava Flav

## Click or Cheap: Halloween, Children and the Creativity Crisis



COURTESY OF NEATORAMA.COM

A creative child's costume

BY TYLER R. VUNK  
Nor'easter Staff

Last fall, right around this time, I spent the afternoon with my eight-year-old nephew. After five shoulder rides and a bar of sugary contraband, I decided to ask him that question that little kids his age can't wait to be asked: "So, what do you want to be for Halloween?" Like freshly lit sparklers, his eyes instantly flickered, and a wide grin poked through the splotches of his chocolate-covered cheeks: "A train," he blurted, "a K4s 4-6-2 Pacific with elephant ears and a smokestack!" Three days later—after weaving together a duct taped masterpiece, comprised of a pair of suspenders, two spray-painted pizza boxes, and a procured traffic light—he had the snazziest locomotive costume our neighborhood had ever seen. Yet, when the big night came, I couldn't help but notice the attention his homemade attire generated. Although there were plenty

of the usual "Wow's" and "Look-at-that's," more than a dozen candy-givers said the same thing to my little engineer: "I can't believe you made that! Your family must be artistic, huh?" And each time we made our way back out onto the bustling street, more store-bought Harry Potters, plastic-mugged Doras, and perfectly sequined princesses caught my eye. Where were the bed-sheet ghosts and the pipe-cleaner lions? What happened to the toilet-papered mummies and papier-mâché Franksteins? Exactly who, or what, had taken all of the endearing imperfections away?

According to the National Retail Federation, American consumers spent over seven billion dollars on Halloween-related products in 2007. Far from terrifying for purveyors of festive gear, the days leading up to the haunted holiday bring in an average of twenty-seven dollars per costume purchase. And with their getup found just a click

away, internet-based stores have made just about every genre of disguise easily accessible. Given the allure of digital marketing, would it be unrealistic to think that a little one, when presented with an opportunity to assume the spitting image of their favorite cartoon character or other fantastical icon, might consider a handmade version of their alter ego to be a cheap imitation? Should it come as no surprise that Americans forked over one billion dollars last year for kids' costumes alone? While some might argue that our modern conveniences have made celebrating Halloween a more enjoyable experience for both parents and children, recent studies seem to point out that the commercialization of our playful holiday is stripping our nation's youth of more than just its baby teeth.

A 2010 Newsweek article featured the findings of Kyung Hee Kim, a professor of educational psychology at the College of William & Mary; after re-

searching nearly 300,000 profiles from a mixed pool of both adults and children, Kim suggests that our nation is, indeed, amidst a creative decline—one that began in 1990, and can currently be seen within the students of American primary schools: those stationed between kindergarten and sixth grade. The test paradigm that Kim studied, the Torrance Tests Of Creative Thinking (TTCT), accesses creativity across a wide range of subcategories, and has been used internationally since the early 1970s. Although the TTCT has been modified several times since its creation, most U.S. standardized tests neither include TTCT sections nor attempt to uncover a student's level of ingenuity via another method.

Despite the American educational system's seemingly disinterested attitude toward both identifying and validating its young imaginative thinkers, several countries from around the world have already picked up on the importance of creative intelligence. England, sensing the intrinsic value of ingenuity, created its Advisory Committee On Creative And Cultural Education in 1998. Led by Sir Ken Robinson, the government group is thought to have successfully impacted its country's pool of innovative talent. When interviewed by journalist Amy M. Azzam, Robinson spoke of his involvement with American Fortune 500 companies, as they continue to struggle with their global economic prowess: "All these things demand high levels of innovation, creativity, and ingenuity. At the moment, instead

of promoting creativity, I think we're systematically educating it out of our kids." Robinson insists that creativity can be expressed through many different mediums—not only artistic endeavors—and that every child, whether a budding mathematician or gymnast, can be nurtured in such a way that enables them to tap into this otherwise overlooked potential.

While the classic definition of creativity may evoke images of Bohemian poets puffing on clove cigarettes and red-eyed street musicians strumming their days away, the stereotype of the imaginative thinker may soon become a thing of the past. From environmental solutions to governmental planning, fresh ideas might very well be in greater demand than ever before. Yet, are we, as a country, still capable of producing inspiration? Does the standardized testing strategy of the modern American learning institution offer a cure for the nation's ingenuity crisis? Until the new curriculum arrives, we might all benefit from observing a different approach—perhaps, trying things that seem unfamiliar, odd, or even downright strange might be in order. Take my nephew for instance. This year, he's got his heart set on being a "Rock N' Roll Dandelion." Although I've absolutely no idea what he's talking about, you can be sure that we've already started collecting paper towel rolls for him. It's all so amazing to watch. I suppose when you come across someone who is already on their way, you can't help but smile.

## All Grown Up: Embrace the Adult Halloween Costumes

BY SHANNON CARDINAL  
Nor'easter Staff

There is a marked difference in the way we have come to celebrate Hallows Eve. In pagan days, we gathered for the feast of Samhain. In early Christianity, it was the night before All Saint's Day. And in our childhood, we got in sweet little costumes and went door to door begging for candy from strangers. Now, we face an insidious change of plans. It is much more noticeable in the fairer sex, but young men have altered their celebrations as well.

First, the ladies. I think it will amuse you to peruse through your parent's belongings for photos from Halloweens past and watch the evolution. Did you start as a little pea pod? A pumpkin? Toddle along as a witch or a vampire? During those tender preteen years, you no doubt tried to emulate Barbie at one point or another. And, of course, there is always the embarrassing result of a creative phase one year. Mine occurred in 7th grade, when I dressed up as a Jelly Bean bag. I stuck candy colored balloons into a clear plastic trash bag, pinned it to my shirt, tied rainbow ribbons about my person and headed off for a night of amused comments from the elderly and judgment from my peers.

Nowadays, we do things much differently. Those of you who attended the Dance of the Damned might have noticed the scene was much more "bump and grind" than trick-or-treat.

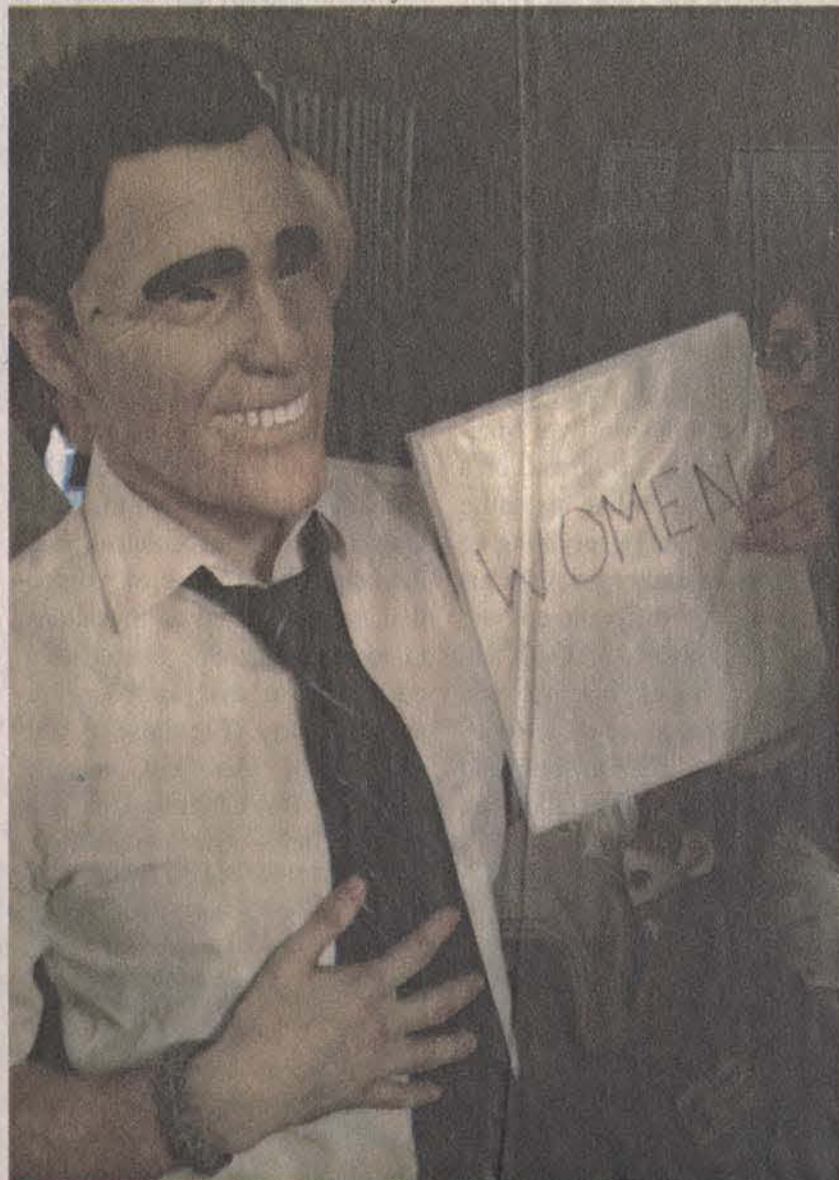
However, there are disturbing similarities in our behavior from childhood to present. Our costumes don't seem to have gained much more fabric than the ones that fit us at age five. We tend to arrive at multiple houses—those of strangers and friends alike. We run down the street, screaming like our younger incarnations, and in the heels we wear now we toddle and fall as much as we did back then. And, there is of course that important initiation into late adolescence: the sexy costume. A young woman can be a sexy anything. One of my best friends, an inventive and hysterical lady, is going as a sexy hot dog. I love how conservative girls and parents see this as disrespect of ourselves and claim Susan B. Anthony is rolling in her grave. In fact, one time in the not-so-distant past, I might have sided with them. But perhaps it's not disrespectful to women. After all, we are choosing to show off those components of ourselves, flaunting our ability to decide what we will wear—a luxury that not all women have. In fact, if we are disrespecting anyone, perhaps it's the firefighters, police and nuns who devote their lives to saving or improving others and in return have all these phony blondes in skyscraper heels mocking them with semi-slutty behaviors once every year. I guess what I'm saying is: ladies, if you head out tonight in a sexy costume, make it something unquestionably sexy. Stop trying to dress up what you are with a veil of legitimacy in oc-

cupation. You are dressed like a stripper, so be a stripper. Don't hide behind the respect nurses/police/firefighters are supposed to get. Own your "Zumba" instructor costume. Stand proud and say "Yes, I am imitating a woman of ill repute. God Bless America."

And as for you gentlemen: you tend to become much lazier in your costume choice. When once you were Power Rangers, Pirates, Optimus Prime or Peter Pan, now you put on a mix matching jersey and ball cap and assign yourselves some vague position on a sports team when asked what your costume is. During election years, you'll drop the ten dollars on a mask of Romney or Obama and wear it for all of 20 minutes before it gets in the way of your consumption of candy and other treats. If you've consumed enough of the aforementioned goods, you will steal the butterfly, ladybug or bumble bee wings from the closest winged female and run around shirtless with the accessory on, revealing bare chests that are sometimes less than ready for public display. With all the effort these girls put into making themselves cats, devils, and fairies, you should be ashamed for your sloth. Can't you see how easy it is to pick up a lady if you dress as her rational accomplice? A tomcat, demon or sexy elf has a lot more to go on conversation-wise (and more pick-up line material as well) with their scantily clad counterpart than another Pedroia. Look-

ing for a more intellectually inclined lady? Go as the Gatsby to her flapper. The possibilities are endless. But remember, just because you went matching doesn't mean it's meant to be. The lady nurse to your 'gynecologist' does not have to trust you simply because you're a doctor. They did not dress up just to impress you, they are trying to prove their superiority as the most attractive female in their circle. They

will stop at nothing to accomplish this. The stuffing in their bra doesn't mean they want you; they simply want you not to want their best frenemies. Be respectful of this. You know you do the same thing in your own boyish ways.



Mitt Romney costume

COURTESY OF TUMBLR.COM

# Another Rant on Costumes

**BY ROYALE HARDENSTINE**  
Nor'easter Staff

Happy Halloween! The semester seems to just be flying by, and as we arrive at Halloween we are finally able to enjoy a time of the year filled with candy corn, carved pumpkins, haunted houses, and apple cider. With the recent return of everybody's favorite zombie-ridden television show, *The Walking Dead*, I have become more and more excited for this time of year (Daryl is the best character, by the way). And as we arrive at this season, the question arises: What you will be this year for Halloween? Will you take the risk, and make your own costume, or just bite the bullet and spend the money to buy yourself some ridiculously expensive outfit? So here's the breakdown of my opinions on Halloween costumes (keeping in mind that coming up with something or someone to be for Halloween is one of my least favorite things). Still, I am proud to say that I pretty successfully dressed up as Garcia from *Criminal Minds* last weekend.

First of all, I predict this year will be filled with superheroes. With the various superhero movies that have come out in the last year, there has been some old-school comic book superhero fever. There will be various versions of this idea, of course, with the scantily-clad girls (which will be touched on later) being some female version of all of our favorite heroes and heroines. The holiday will also be visited by the classic horror movie characters, as usual. But there has been, at least in my opinion, a recent explosion of interest in "geeky" things this year, meaning there will be more costumes referencing those types of characters. As always, the classics will be out and about. Finally, there will be those people that are trying to be clever (that

really aren't), and those that are actually quite original and funny.

Now, this may be because I'm a girl, but I think that boys have a significantly easier time deciding what to be and dressing up for Halloween than girls do. For one, if they decide to (for some reason or another) dress up like a girl, all they need is a wig, a female friend that can do makeup, and a little creativity. However, if a girl tries to dress up as a guy, there are many more challenges to that. Unless they have shorter hair, any form of a wig is going to be difficult (although not impossible). Also I feel like girls put more pressure on themselves to dress in a certain fashion. Most guys throw on a different shirt, maybe put on a tie, and call themselves a gangster. Or they grab some kind of disgusting mask and are pretty much done with what they are going to wear for the night. As an example, this year my brother and his friend had no clue what to be, so they both simply wore a solid-colored outfit, put a sweater vest over that, and cut masks out of white t-shirt sleeves. They were absolutely nothing; however, all night they just kept saying to people, "What? You don't know what we are? Look it up." This is super simple, but effective. Therefore, I give props to the guys that actually put time and effort into their costumes. Girls, on the other hand, always have some kind of complicated, multi-piece costume that involves intense makeup and hair styling, usually paired with the most uncomfortable heels in their closet (which they will claim are perfectly fine and don't hurt as they attempt to walk in a semi-normal fashion all night).

Which brings me to another point: not-so-modestly dressed girls on Halloween. This scant amount of clothing is normally accompanied by the aforementioned heels. Now, I've been trying to dance around this

subject and talk about it the nicest, least insulting way possible. However, as we all know from *Mean Girls*: "In the regular world Halloween is when children dress up in costumes and beg for candy. In girl world, Halloween is the one night a year where a girl can dress like a total slut and no other girls can say anything about it. The hard-core girls just wear lingerie and some kind of animal ears." As we who have seen the movie know, *The Plastics* parade about in their scandalous garb, while poor Katy is in her not-so-pleasant costume. I am generally not a fan of the "nonexistent clothing" costumes. But in the case of the dance here on campus, and in the right situation, I will accept them. I say, "Good for you girl--if you've got it flaunt it." This was not always my opinion; however, the ever-so-lovely internet sensation, Jenna Marbles, makes some great points in her "Sluts on Halloween" video. Jenna says that all girls are haters, and will always hate on other girls and say things like "Oh my god, that girl looks like such a \_\_\_\_\_," (insert nasty comment). Check out the Youtube video if you wish to hear the full glory that is Jenna Marbles.

Still, there is something that should be said about the various sexy costume options, and that is that time and place are key. There is a time and there is a place in which to be a "sexy" fireman, police officer, nurse, or whatever floats your lovely little boat. Similarly, there is also a time and place where having your booty hanging out of your skirt or shorts is inappropriate (a safe bet is to NOT wear such an outfit to any event involving children or the elderly).

So go out there and have a good Halloween. Enjoy being dressed however you choose, and remember we all know that you lying about the comfort of your super-high heels, girls.

## NOR'EASTER NEWS

Established 2007

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The *Nor'easter News* is a student-run bi-weekly publication dedicated to providing news and information relevant to the UNE community. Editorially independent of the university and its administrators, the *Nor'easter News* pursues such content freely and thoroughly, following professional journalistic standards in writing and reporting. The *Nor'easter News* is committed to serving as an open forum for thoughtful and diverse discussion and debate on issues of interest to the UNE community.

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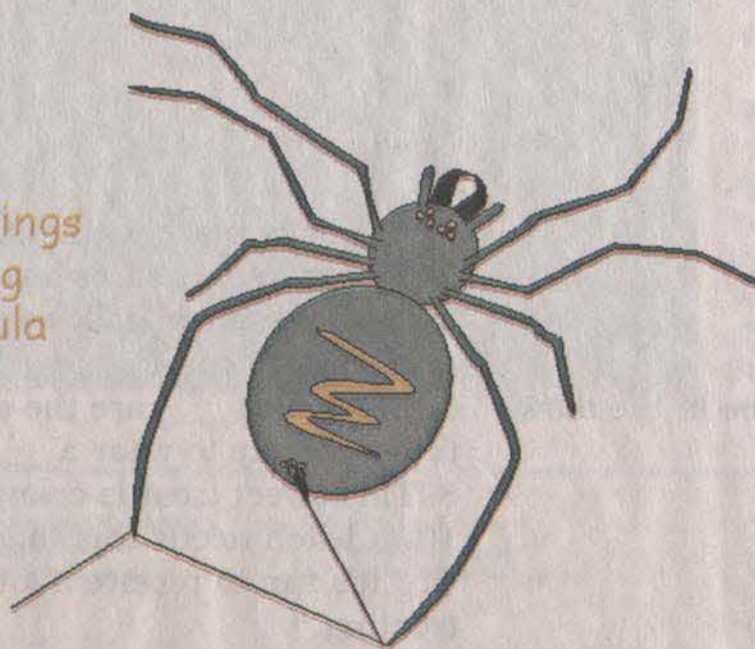
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# Spider Word Search

G V Y F S R Z J T O X S T H E  
P O I S O N O U S V T D A F G  
T R E S E D K Y I R S I R B G  
F A N G S B E L E P U N A T S  
S G N I L R E D I P S H N C O  
W A N J Y Y I N P S U C T E B  
G I J H E P N S G E L A U S E  
A X D S S I T M Q T I R L N W  
W N A O N W G N A E S A A I H  
O H L G W J V F N N I C D I E

- Arachnids
- Desert
- Eggs
- Eyes
- Fangs
- Insect
- Legs
- Poisonous
- Silk
- Spider
- Spiderlings
- Spinning
- Tarantula
- Web
- Widow



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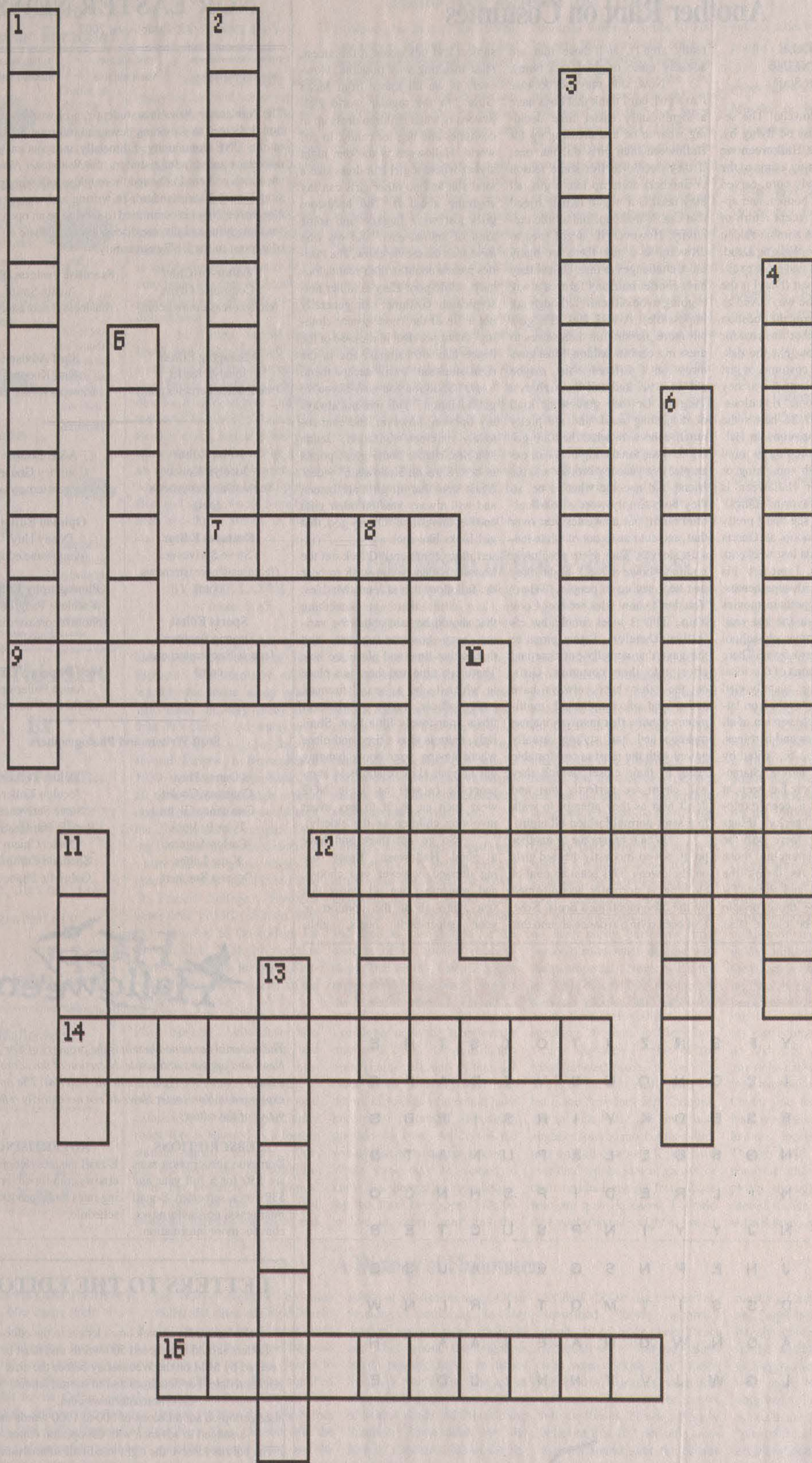
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Across

- 7. This spooky lady rides on a broom.
- 9. Just a bag of bones.
- 12. Celebrate Halloween in this month
- 14. The day before Halloween.
- 15. Take this trick-or-treating to help you see in the dark.

Down

- 1. A spooky place with ghosts and goblins.
- 2. This 'person' scares away birds.
- 3. this to make a Halloween jack-o-lantern.
- 4. It's fun to carve a \_\_\_\_ to have a spooky face.
- 5. Black and \_\_\_\_ are the colors of Halloween.
- 6. people like to wear a \_\_\_\_ on Halloween.
- 8. This sweet treat is orange, brown, and white.
- 10. A witch needs this to get around.
- 11. It's fun to receive a lot of \_\_\_\_ when you go trick or treating.