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SAINTS, SOULS, AND SPOOKS

Halloween traditions from around the world share common theme

BY JESSENIA LUA
Pride Staff Writer

Other than the traditional American way to celebrate Halloween, with terrifying to comedic costumes while trick-or-treating, other countries celebrate All Hallows Eve as well. Just like each country has its own culture and traditions, they all celebrate Halloween in unique ways possibly unknown to the modern American.

Beginning with the most popular and closest to the U.S. is Mexico's "El Dia de los Muertos" (Day of the Dead). "El Dia de los Muertos" is a joyous holiday to remember friends and family who have died. The belief is that the dead return to the homes of their loved ones. Family members construct altars and decorate them with candy, flowers, photographs, fresh water and samples of the deceased's favorite foods and drinks. Often, this celebration includes a parade where a coffin containing a live person marches down the street while vendors toss fruit, flowers, and candies into the casket.

In Ireland, which is believed to be the birthplace of Halloween, the celebration is similar, if not the same, to the U.S. Bonfires are lit and children dress up in costumes to spend the night trick-or-treating in their neighborhoods. After trick-or-treating, most people attend parties that include games like bobbing for apples.

Romania celebrates Dracula on October 31 with costume parties similar to the American tradition. The country even offers a tour based on the mythical vampire called "Dracula's Footsteps" which ends at the "Bran Castle," made famous after Bram Stoker's "Dracula."

A



Image courtesy of Tim Bouwer

traditional food, "barnbrack," commonly appears on Irish tables. A muslin-wrapped treat is baked inside the cake that, so

from of departed relatives while lighting bonfires and lanterns to help guide spirits as they travel the earth that night.

from the spirit world. Austrians believe this offers hospitality to the dead souls coming back to Earth at a time these people consider vital with powerful cosmic energies.

In Sweden, Halloween is "Alla Helgons Dag" (All Saints Day). Its celebration runs from Oct 31 to Nov 6. The Friday before "Alla Helgons Dag" is a shortened day for universities and younger school-aged children. Families lay wreaths and flowers on the graves of their loved ones. As night falls, graveyards are aglow with twinkling candles and lanterns.

Back in the U.S., various locations such as Salem, Massachusetts have its own traditions. The city of Salem annually celebrates Halloween with mock witch trials based on the Salem Witch Trials of 1692.

All variants of Halloween seem to have one thing in common regardless its celebration; it is the night where people respect and remember their loved ones. From one tradition to another, the dead roam the earth on this spooky holiday.



Photo courtesy of Caleyel Guero

it's said, can foretell the future of the one who finds it.

The Chinese call Halloween "Teng Chieh." Similar to "El Dia de los Muertos," living family members place food and water in

Buddhists in temples style "boats of the law" from paper and are burned in the evening hours.

In Austria, before going to bed for the night, Austrians will leave bread, water, and a lighted lamp out for visitors



Photo courtesy John Thaxter/Wikipedia

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Bill of Rights

Hollywood monsters show us what we really fear

BY BILL RHEIN
Senior Staff Writer

Zombies, vampires, and monsters are scary on their own accord, but there's more to it than that. Each is symbolic of real issues that we often avoid. The scare is the reality of what these creatures represent.

Zombies, originally popular in the 1960s and 70s, have come "back from the dead" since "Shaun of the Dead." Zombies are rampant in cinemas and video games. But these brain hungry beasts carry serious social symbolism.

George A. Romero, the director behind many zombie classics, including "Dawn of the Dead," has hinted that the general population of American consumers are already zombies. The film's setting is primarily in a shopping mall, where the mindless creatures feel drawn. This is obvious satire of the masses descending stores daily, responding to advertising.

"Shaun of the Dead" also pokes fun at consumerist society.

It subtly shows people working jobs they don't like in order to afford things to make them happy, but fail to do so.

Then, there are vampires. These creatures of the night popularly top Zombies thanks to new books such as "Twilight," "The Southern Vampire Mysteries," "The Vampire Diaries," and their subsequent films and TV shows.

Yet these brooding, fanged monsters stand for something more. The most obvious theme behind vampires is losing oneself to bloodlust. Thus, it isn't hard to believe that vampire stories are allegories for sexuality and losing virginity.

Both classic and modern vampire tales feature romance and brooding, attractive characters. Elements of purity, innocence, and giving oneself over to a darker side are too often prevalent to deny the symbolic likeness. Any fan of vampire tales should definitely see the parallels regarding sexuality, STDs, and virginity.

Lastly, there are a whole slew of monsters backed by our fear of technology. This includes Frankenstein, Godzilla, and robots. These are all cautionary tales of what happens when humans meddle in things we shouldn't.

For example, Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" warns of tampering with nature and the body. This still holds true today with cloning and stem cells. And Godzilla, a creature spawned from nuclear waste contains a message about

nuclear proliferation.

Any robot from a Terminator or HAL9000 teaches us that we should not let technology take over our lives, because it literally could. Yet they also reward the fact that humans are strong and have a heart, unlike a computer.

I would be afraid of any of these monsters if they were real. But it is important to pay attention the lessons of the films, because they warn about issues we deal with every day.



Images courtesy of sciencepublic.com & Universal Pictures

My shrink's column

Every year, at least once or twice, I get a phone call from a student who is extremely upset. I'm thinking of one, a few years ago, who was sobbing and I could hear the quivering in her voice. She said she'd been at a party the night before and drank too much. She didn't remember all that had happened, but knows she was sick, and that some guy that she was only slightly acquainted with took her to a bedroom and had sex with her. She couldn't even recall if she'd encouraged him or resisted. Now, next day, she was hung over, nauseous, exhausted, and very frightened. Had he used a condom? Did she get an STD? What were people saying about her? What if her mother found out?

Our memories are peculiar. We certainly remember bad things that have happened to us, but we rarely remember them

vividly, as if we were reliving them in all their detail. We remember, perhaps, that we had a "bad night" but don't usually remember how the tiles on the bathroom floor felt on our skin, or how the porcelain of the toilet felt as we clutched onto it for dear life, or how the vomit felt coming up, how it smelled so sour and gross, or the feeling of utter helplessness as our eyes watered.

The young woman who called me that day did remember the previous night that way, vividly. I could tell by how upset she was that the night and its questions were very much alive in her. I knew, however, that she'd likely not remember it for very long. So much in us wants to forget, and if her STD tests came back negative and a little time went by, she'd maybe recall that she'd had a "bad night" and not think of it very much.

Too bad. I often wish students could remember better what it was actually like in their worst moments. Those moments and memories have so much to teach us. I tell students like her, "Please try not to forget how really terrible you feel right now!" It sounds mean. Their friends tell them to "just forget it". But think, if she really remembered the terrible night, the vomiting, the sex, the terror and nausea the next morning, wouldn't she be less likely to repeat this in the future? Wouldn't she be more likely to make different choices at the next party?

So that's my advice for today. If you make some choices that lead you to be hurt, scared, and shaken, I understand that, I understand that we all test our limits sometimes, or do things impulsively sometimes, and that sometimes these turn out pretty

awful. If this has happened to you, or if it happens to you in the future, "Please try not to forget how really terrible you feel!" Think about the events carefully, with an open mind and heart. Don't turn away from them! Be brave! And then see what you can learn from them that might be really valuable to you.

If you, or a friend, could use some support, a caring and honest person to share the things in your life that frighten or upset you, so that you can make more sense of them and take their power away, remember that Student Health & Counseling Services offers free, confidential counseling for Cal State students. For more information or an appointment, call us at 750-4910, or drop by at the SMACC building, suite 100.

Fritz Kreisler, PhD
Student Health & Counseling Services

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Careers with the FBI Tuesday, November 10, 2009
Yolanda Loya will be here for an info session regarding careers with the FBI. @ 12 - 1 in Craven Hall 1400

Graduate School at USD Thursday, November 12, 2009
Monica Mahon and Pelema Morrice will be here for an info session regarding graduate school programs at USD. @ Noon in Craven Hall 1400



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Furloughs are a low blow

Time off is affecting students, teachers all over California

BY MATT LEWIS
Faces & Places Editor

Due to the budget constraints, having professors take furlough days off has become a necessity. Some students see them as a long weekend; others see them as a waste of money. Regardless of the different opinions on the subject, the furloughs are hitting hard this year – and the entire academic body is feeling the effects. Many students have already seen the effects with their classes in syllabus changes, shuffling of test and exam times, and professors protesting both inside and outside the classrooms. Those that are taking online classes may get confused when their e-mails are not responded to for a few days – until they realize, looking at the syllabus, that their professor happens to be on furlough that day.

While the furlough days here seem inconvenient and unfair at our school, some schools have it much worse. Brian Lewis, a student at CSU Fullerton, said that in addition to furlough days throughout the semester the school recently had a furlough week, for all classes. “It was kind of nice, like an early winter break when it happened,” he said. “But when we got back I realized that we had lost time to study in class for midterms. That was pretty stressful, and the professors seemed pretty stressed too.” At our own school, there are even professors (who chose not to be named) who have announced in class that they will not grade tests or answer questions over the weekends. “I never realized how much time I spent working on [schoolwork] during the weekend and not getting paid for it,” one professor mentioned.

“With these furloughs in place, I don’t feel the incentive to work on my own time anymore.”

Perhaps the worst thing that the furloughs have inspired for the academic body is fear – fear that it’s only going to get worse. Every new e-mail the school mail account sends out about a delay or an elimination of a class, event, or organization on campus seems to wear on student (and faculty) morale. While there has been plenty of resistance and support against the academic furloughs, many people seem to react to them with a fatalistic bleakness. Like a coming storm, they see the effects of the budget cuts as to be weathered and survived rather than prevented. Unfortunately, if those affected adopt this mentality, the reality is that the school will continue to remove everything they can in

order to save money. But maybe instead of looking fearfully to the future, the student and faculty can use the time they missed that assignment, did bad on that test, or lost time to impart necessary

material because of the furloughs this semester as encouragement. Then, rather than passively ignore changes in the school, they can take action and make their voices heard.

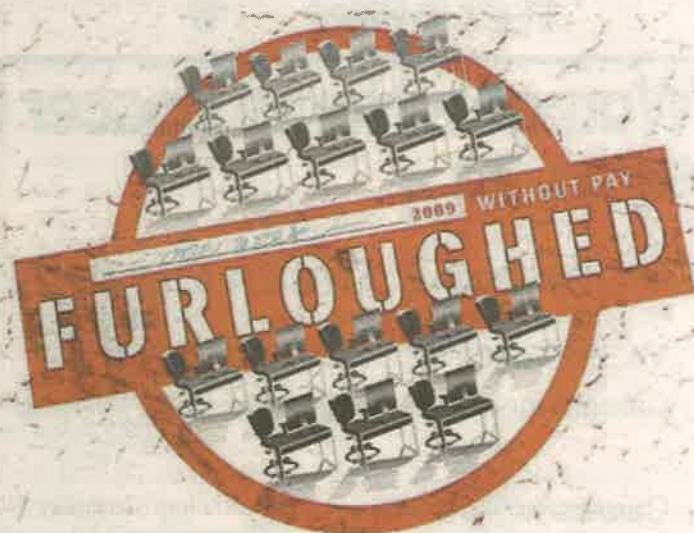


Image courtesy of dscottmiller.com

Studying abroad in the UK

BY IVAN GARCIA
Pride Staff Writer

So what are your plans for the weekend? Maybe a nice dinner at home, watch some *Desperate Housewives*, and then just cuddle up to a nice book in a bubble bath? But enough about my plans (har, har), how about saying something along the lines of, “I’m taking a day trip to Liverpool, England. You know? The place where the Beatles got their start?” Or how about taking a four day trip to Scotland, Ireland, Germany, Italy, or almost anywhere in Europe for fairly cheap in between days you have classes?

Well, that’s one of the amazing thing you can do while studying abroad. Obviously depending on where you are, the access and price to many places can be staggering but potentially all the worth it. Since I’ve been here, a trip to Liverpool, London, and Blackpool (think of Reno, Nevada meets Seattle, Washington, a sort of fun depression). But

somewhere in the future is a trip to Dublin, Munich, Venice, Barcelona, and potentially Paris. The great thing about being away is the fact that you can get away even further if you’re so inclined.

While studying abroad can be rather expensive with fees like a plane ticket and your travel visa, taking advantage of trips like these can actually save you more. For example, how much would it cost to take a trip from LAX to Dublin, Ireland? Depending on your airline, it’d be no less than about \$600. But while studying abroad in England, since I’m closer, all the money that I would be spending on fast food or glitter stickers at Wal-Mart (is he joking? Who knows?) goes toward various trips. Like the trip to Dublin I have planned out in November, and the ticket is only costing me \$15. That’s right, a trip to beautiful Ireland where hills are green, your pint is always full, and (if I may steal a line from *Family Guy*) the sweaters so thick, not even the boniest nun can poke through. And if you

book a hostel instead of a hotel, you save even more money. And I know we’ve all seen the movie *Hostel* and how scary it is but most hostels are really nice.

You get to meet other travelers and you get to save money. Just make sure you look up reviews before you book just to see what you’re getting yourself into.

But don’t forget to get your fill of the surrounding area you’ll be living in before your world-travelling, treasure-seeking self begins to explore.



Bridge at Dublin, Ireland

Image courtesy of toddadams.net

UniversityVoice

Photos by Matt Lewis / Pride Staff Writer

“What are you going to be for Halloween?”



“I don’t know about this year, but last year I was John Lennon and my guy friend was Yoko Ono.”

Ashley Volbeda
Sophomore



“I’m going to be a cop... the old standby.”

Perla Garcia
Freshman



“Robin Scherabatski from TV’s *How I Met Your Mother*, and my husband’s going to be Barney.”

Colette Murphy
Grad Student



“I’m going to be Captain N, unless I have to go to a wedding that day.”

Jonathan Ramos
Senior

COUGARS

VISITORS

Across the board in Sports

Wherry, Bush lead Women's Soccer to 2-0 win over Embry-Riddle

October 24, 2009

A sweet goal by Kelly Wherry proved to be the game winner on Saturday, as Cal State San Marcos Women's Soccer earned a big 2-0 conference win over Embry-Riddle.

CSUSM improves to 6-4-4 on the year with its second straight conference victory. Embry-Riddle falls to 5-6-4.

For Wherry, a senior captain and pillar on this team since its very beginning, it's shaping up to be quite a finish to her decorated

Cougar career. The four-year starter and Honorable Mention All-American tallied her second goal in as many nights, and this one was arguably the best of the season for CSUSM.

Until Wherry's goal, the game had played out the way many have this season for CSUSM. The Cougars were controlling possession and completely eliminating any truly dangerous opportunities for their opponent, but the game was largely played in the midfield and CSUSM was failing to connect in

the offensive zone or find the finishing touch when opportunities presented themselves.

That all changed in the 62nd minute. A scramble in front of the net resulted in a ball deflected out to about 30 yards away. As the ball bounced out, Wherry moved in, absolutely crushing a half-volley from 30 yards out to the upper view.

The sudden goal changed the complexion of the game, and the Cougars were quick to capitalize. Just three minutes later, a corner

kick led to a loose ball in front of the net, and freshman Shelby Bush was there to knock it home to give CSUSM a 2-0 lead and eventual win.

CSUSM out-shot Embry-Riddle 18-1, and keeper Kaycee Gunion made one save to earn the shutout.

The Cougars will be in action this Wednesday at Chapman, then in their final regular season game next Saturday, October 31st, at home against Southwest-ern (AZ).



Photos courtesy of csusm.edu

Men's Cross-Country win, Women finish 2nd at Biola Invitational

October 24, 2009

Saturday proved to be a phenomenal end to the regular season for Coach Steve Scott's cross-country teams, as the Cougar men won the Biola Invitational and the women finished second in a field that featured the top four teams in the nation.

In the men's race, the Cougars were able to hold off Simon-Fraser to secure the big victory. CSUSM posted a team total of 72, edging past Simon-Fraser's 77. Cal Baptist finished third with a 100.

Individually, the Cougars got plenty of strong performances that contributed to the victory. The team's top two runners, Muluken Beressa and Dave Edwards, delivered as they usually do. Beressa, who has been the team's top runner throughout the season, finished 3rd in the field with a time of 25:16. Edwards, who appears to be getting stronger as the season progress, was close behind, taking 4th with a 25:21.

Next on the team was Chris Capeau, who posted

a 25:50 to finish 13th. Patrick Fitzgerald made it an impressive four Cougar runners to break 26 minutes, running 25:59 to place 19th. Bernardo Bahena rounded out the team's top-5 by placing 33rd with a 26:37.

For the women in the 5k, Saturday's meet was a chance to see how they stack up against the best in the NAIA, and the #2-ranked Cougars lived up to their ranking. #1 Azusa Pacific won the meet with a total score of 43, while CSUSM posted a 55 to take

second. #3 Simon-Fraser finished 3rd with 60 points, and #4 Biola rounded out the top-4 with a 72.

For the first time this season, the Cougars had a top finisher other than Dallan Williams. Sophomore Cady Villarreal took 3rd in the meet, running a very solid 17:40. Williams of course was not far behind, finishing 4th with a 17:47, and neither was junior Jessica Sandoval, who took 6th with an 18:02.

The Cougars then got a huge boost from an unlikely source.

In a field that included many of the NAIA's top runners, Jen Allbright broke into the top-20, finishing 20th with a time of 18:38. Lindsey McKown was right behind her at 18:39, good for 22nd, and Kelly Thompson took 23rd with an 18:40.

It's an outstanding performance for both the Cougar men's and women's teams, and should certainly spell good things for the A.I.I. Conference Championship in two weeks, which CSUSM is hosting.



Photos courtesy of Jordan Verdin



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Hits of Sunshine

The Swell Season

BY AMY SALISBURY
Copy Editor

The curse of the sophomore album looms over the head of every artist committed to satisfying the masses, and more importantly, his record label. Put out a less-than-spectacular second record after a multi-platinum debut and major labels will drop musicians before fans will turn unfaithful.

Take, for example, an unlikely Irishman and Czech Republican. Glen Hansard and Markéta Irglová happened upon fame in 2006 when Jan Hřebejk approached them while they were touring in Czech Republic. Hřebejk asked the pair to record some songs for his upcoming film, *Beauty in Trouble*. Those compositions led to the release of their first album called *The Swell Season*, Hansard's first release independent from his band, The Frames, and Irglová's first recording ever. Hansard and Irglová had yet to refer to themselves as *The Swell Season* (or as a couple), but after starring in John Carney's hit indie film "*Once*" about a budding romance between two musi-



Image courtesy of National Public Radio

cians, the duo stuck with the moniker and with each other. I don't think I need to tell you about "*Once*." I do think we should just settle on the claim that it was and is one of the best sleeper hits of all time. We also can't forget that they won an Oscar in 2008 for Best Original Song.

So, I just inadvertently put a huge amount of pressure on *The Swell Season* to produce an album that will rival what they released three years ago.

There is, however, an aspect of the band that might give them an edge (or an Achilles' heel): they ended their romance with each other during songwriting for their new album, *Strict Joy*, but remained professional partners after the split.

The first of three singles already released from *Strict Joy*, "*In These Arms*," is an assumed reflection of unresolved tension between Hansard and Irglová. It begins with a gentle acoustic guitar and Hansard's unusually

subdued vocal making accusations and claims about an unnamed character. Irglová offers delicate harmonies as they chant the chorus, "Maybe I was born to hold you in these arms."

I'm not sure what "they" say about life imitating art or art imitating life. Whatever the theory is, it's impossible to ignore the idea that relationships contribute to the best and worst in people, and naturally, artists. Is this a solution to the sophomore slump? Unlikely. Does sadness produce more effective art than happiness? No, not necessarily. Is it even a sound claim to say Hansard and Irglová were miserable at the time of their break up? Definitely not. But there is absolutely something to assume with new track names like "*I Have Loved You Wrong*" and "*Love That Conquers*."

Strict Joy drops Oct. 27 in the US through Anti-Records.



Image courtesy of Anti-Records

Cougar kitchen Halloween and pumpkin treats

BY TRISH CORRIGAN
Pride Staff Writer

When I think Halloween, the first thing that comes to mind is pumpkin. Now other people might think of ghosts or vampires. I think of those too, but you can't eat them. So there they go into the trash and we have the pumpkin. Mostly we carve these pumpkins in to Jack-O-Lanterns and buy large cans of Libby's pumpkin puree for pumpkin pie. I remember a few years back introducing an English friend of mine to pumpkin pie. The amazement any the sweet and savory elements of the pumpkin pie are uniquely satisfying. What is that, pumpkin pie you say? Been there, done that. I decided to broaden my pumpkin horizons and introduce my fellow students to the savory side of pumpkin. I am not so bold as to buy a fresh pumpkin for these recipes but revert to my old friend Libby to get the meal done.

Pumpkin Soup

1/2 28 oz can pumpkin
1/2 cup milk or cream
1/2 cup chicken broth (or vegetable broth to keep it vegetarian)

2 tablespoons butter
1 small brown onion small dice
1/4 tsp nutmeg
Salt and pepper to taste

Heat pan on medium and add butter and let melt. Add diced onion to pan. Do not add salt before onions finish cooking. This will make them sweat and prevent them from browning. Allow onions to brown and then stir. Cook for approximately 2-3 minutes each time you stir until well browned. Add pumpkin, nutmeg, salt and pepper to pan. Cook pumpkin mixture

on medium heat for 3-5 minutes. Transfer pumpkin mixture to pot and set on medium-low heat. Stir in chicken broth and milk. Allow to cook until steaming.

For finishing the soup, there are a few options. If you have a blender, transfer the soup to a blender and puree until smooth. If you don't have a blender use a fine mesh sieve over a bowl and pour the soup through and press out as much pulp as you can. This should be a smooth soup. If this sounds like too much work and you don't mind onion in your soup, by all means just eat it without smoothing.

Pumpkin Risotto

1 cups risotto rice
3-5 cups chicken or vegetable broth

1/2 28oz can pumpkin
1 small onion diced
2 tbsp olive oil
2 tbsp butter
1/2 cup Parmesan cheese grated.

1/4 cup of milk or cream
Risotto sounds fancy and hard to make but is it really very simple and delicious. It doesn't take any longer than regular rice to cook it just involved a little more attention. Believe me the creamy essence of this rice is well worth it.

On medium heat, Sauté the onions in 1 tbsp olive oil until translucent. Add risotto and rest of olive oil. While stirring, allow rice to cook until translucent. Add 1 cup of broth to rice. Allow rice to sit and absorb broth, stirring occasionally. Continue adding broth to rice one cup at a time until rice become soft but still firm. This should be about 15 minutes. Stir pumpkin into rice until fully incorporated. Add butter, cream, and parmesan. Stir and remove from heat. Serve immediately.

Coming to theaters

BY BILL RHEIN
Senior Staff Writer

WIDE RELEASE

This Is It

Starring Michael Jackson
Directed by Kenny Ortega
A documentary featuring interviews and never-before-seen footage highlighting the planning of the King of Pop's final concert series.

Gentlemen Broncos

Starring Michael Angarano and Jemaine Clement

Directed by Jared Hess

This piece, by the team behind "*Napoleon Dynamite*" and featuring one of stars from HBO's "*The Flight of the Conchords*," is a dead-pan comedy about a teacher who plagiarizes a student's sci-fi writing.

The Boondock Saints II: All Saint's Day

Starring Sean Patrick Flanery, Norman Reedus, and Billy Connolly
Directed by Troy Duffy
This sequel of the cult clas-

sic features much of the same cast, minus Willem Dafoe, but will more gratuitous violence in the continuing tale of two vigilante Catholic brothers cleaning the world of evil with silenced handguns.

The House of the Devil

Starring Jocelin Donahue and Tom Noonan
Directed by Ti West
This horror is a throwback to classic slasher films featuring a babysitter who might be getting more than she asked for in her latest job.

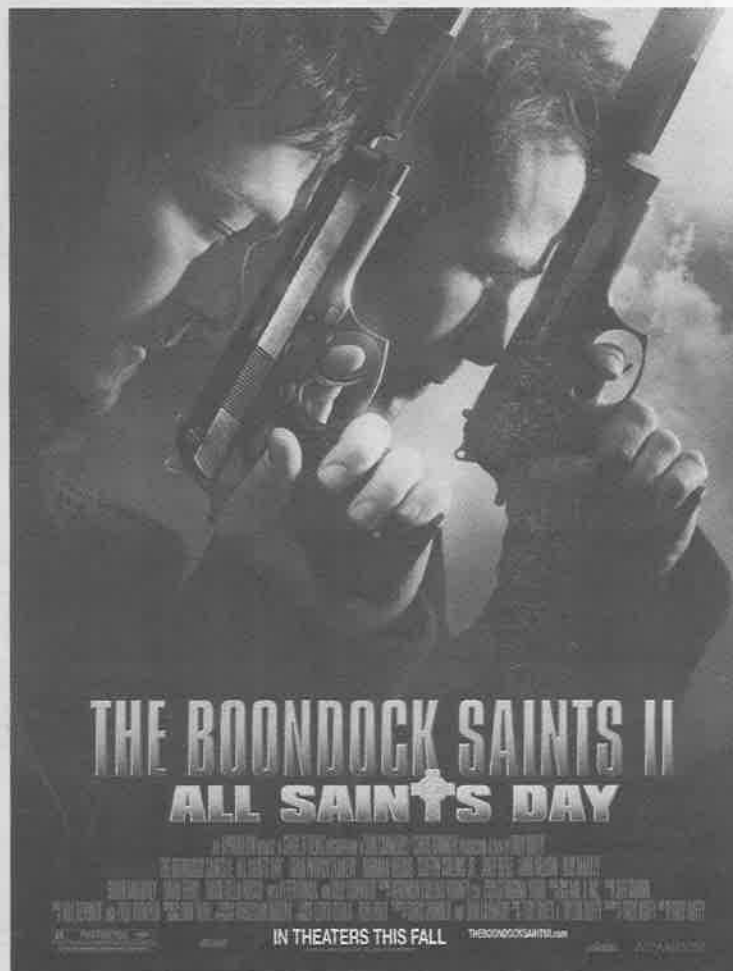


Image courtesy of Sony Pictures

Halloween costume do's and don'ts

BY SANDRA CHALMERS
Arts & Entertainment Editor

We've seen the sailor outfits, the sexy Harry Potter costume and the classic honeybee, but those costumes are so 2008. For this Halloween,



surprise your friends and get creative with these hot new costume ideas.

Ladies:
DO it Disney style

Princess costumes are always in fashion, but instead of the classic Cinderella or

Jasmine, try this update on a Mini Mouse costume. An off the shoulder's red polka dot short dress gives Mini an adorable fashion style that's both fun and sexy.

On sale at Party City for \$39.99, the costume comes with extra accessories such as mouse ears, a red bow and the sheer overlay for the dress.

DO be Lady Luck

Sultry costumes don't have to bare all. The Miss Luck costume sexy with a hal-



Lady
i s
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top, a puffy roulette wheel skirt and arm warmers. It's a new one of a kind costume that will have you remembered.

Available online through Party City for \$59.99, and express next day delivery is available for \$10 on any purchase over \$60.

DON'T do animal ears

We've all seen it: an old party dress, fishnet tights, whiskers drawn on with eyeliner, and a headband with pink and black animal-ish triangle ears. "I'm a cat!" No, you're not.

Class it up with a Cat Woman costume from partycity.com for \$49.99. The outfit lends itself to being sexy without being over the top.

Gentlemen:

DO Be Bruno

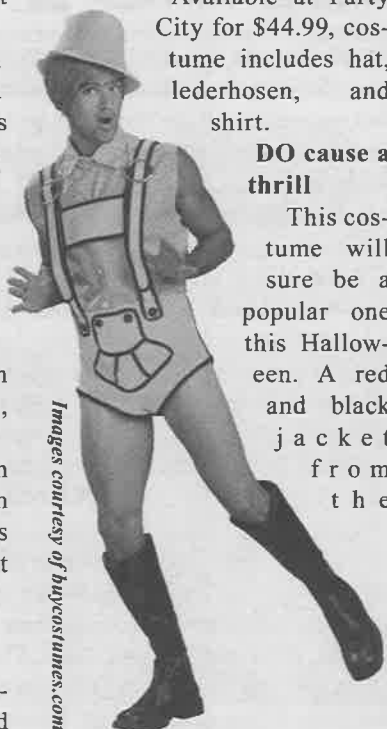
This hilarious Bruno costume is a sure head turner and

will give your friends a great laugh. If you dare, be Bruno.

Available at Party City for \$44.99, costume includes hat, lederhosen, and shirt.

DO cause a thrill

This costume will sure be a popular one this Halloween. A red and black jacket from the



Images courtesy of buycostumes.com

thriller video will be an easy way to dress up like the pop legend. Available for \$39.99 at Party-City.com.

DON'T stick with the standby

Pirates and cops might be classics, but pop culture is varied enough to be interesting. Take a spin on Twilight, pale out your face with some White Grease Makeup from Party City for \$1.99, and put some Edward Cullen Glitter (\$1.98 at Hot Topic stores, seriously) on that dead face of yours. A daring move, yes, but you might get a few love bites.



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NOT-TOO-SCARY MOVIES MAKE FOR THE PERFECT HALLOWEEN TREAT

BY JACKIE CARBAJAL
Editor In Chief

If you're like me, watching a horror/slasher flick and being unable to sleep for the next few nights isn't the definition of fun. Halloween, for some, is the perfect time to revisit classic horror collections such as *Nightmare on Elm Street* and *Friday the 13th*. For the rest of us, October 31 gives the perfect excuse to pull out those not-so-scary themed movie treats. Below are just some of many out there sure to put you in the Halloween spirit without making you jump at anything that goes bump in the night.

10. Beetlejuice (1988)—Before Tim Burton was putting his own twist on timeless tales such as *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *Alice in Wonderland*, there was *Beetlejuice*. This film mixes horror with comedy as a young married couple, the Maitlands, find themselves dead after an unfortunate car accident. After a new family moves into their home, it is up to the Maitlands to scare them away. Their attempts are in vain, forcing them to call upon Betelgeuse, a bio-exorcist, played by Michael Keaton.

9. Shaun of the Dead (2004)—Zombies are not my thing, but this British horror comedy does help leer the weary into the zombie scene. The film follows Shaun, an appliance salesman, who is wildly unhappy with his life. After his girlfriend leaves him, he goes to the local pub to drink away his sorrows. This pity party leads to a self-discovery for Shaun as to how to get his life back on track. Unfortunately, that self-discovery comes on the eve of an uprising of the undead. *Shaun of the Dead* is both a commercially and critically acclaimed film and is the perfect treat for zombie buffs.



Image courtesy of Paramount Pictures

8. Casper (1995)—Who doesn't love a friendly ghost? Since most college students were less than ten years old when this movie hit the big screens, watching it today will surely bring back memories of Halloween's past. The 1995 live-action version of the classic cartoon features a young Christina Ricci as Casper's new friend, Kat. Casper is the perfect flick to watch with kids of all ages.

7. The Legend of Sleepy Hollow (1958)—No, I do not mean another Tim Burton film starring Johnny Depp and Christina Ricci (though you could if you wanted to). This cartoon classic retells the story of Ichabod Crane in good ol' Disney fashion. Don't let the famous mouse fool you, there's no way to completely avoid getting spooked when there's a headless horse-man involved. Bing Crosby as the narrator is reason enough to check it out for the first time or bring back childhood memories.

6. The Simpsons: Treehouse of Horror (1989)—With 20 Treehouse of Horror episodes under its belt, *The Simpsons* clearly know a little something about tradition. Make tuning in to the first Treehouse of Horror an annual Halloween tradition of your own. This animated TV show episode opens with Simpson children, Bart, Lisa, and baby Maggie gathering in the tree house to, what else, tell scary stories. Homer Simpson eventually joins in and three stories unfold, "Bad Dream House," "Hungry are the Damned," and "The Raven." A collection of some of the best Treehouse of Horror stories is available in DVD format for under \$10!



Image courtesy of FOX

5. Scary Movie (2000)—Even scary movie buffs have to admit, most are down-right cheesy and leave the audience screaming "Don't go in there!" when it is obvious that no sane person would follow the shrilled screams of someone getting axed in the distance. The Wayans brother's first, and only first, *Scary Movie* of the franchise is a must see for both fans of the past and present. This is surely a laugh-until-you-cry parody of the *Scream* trilogy, *Blair Witch Project*, *The Sixth Sense* and *I Know What You Did Last Summer*, to name a few. Its "R" rating doesn't necessarily make it a family feature but see for the older crowd.

4. Ghostbusters (1984)—Who you gonna call when you pop in this ghost-fighting adventure? This 80's classic, starring Bill Murray, Dan Akroyd, Harold Ramis, and Rick Moranis as *The Ghostbusters*, is full of good-natured fun as the four are hired to investigate a haunted hotel in New York City. Noted by the American Film Institute as the 28th best comedy of all-time, *Ghostbusters* is a no-brainer for anyone who ain't afraid of no ghosts.



Image courtesy of Black Rhino Productions

3. It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown (1966)—Based on the *Peanuts* comic strip, this cartoon featuring the beloved Charlie Brown, Snoopy, and friends is the perfect addition to any Halloween movie viewing party. Available on DVD and aired on ABC annually, there's no excuse to not catch up with the *Peanuts* gang as they try search for The Great Pumpkin and prepare for Halloween.

2. Hocus Pocus (1993)—Kenny Ortega's *Hocus Pocus* stars Bette Midler, Kathy Najimy and Sarah Jessica Parker as the legendary Sanderson sisters of Salem in this Disney feature. Often featured on the Disney Channel and ABC's *Thirteen Nights of Halloween*, this fun for the whole family film follows a family that moves to Salem, Massachusetts from California. As teenager Max and his little sister Dani try to adjust, they befriend a local, Allison and visit the old home of the Sanderson sisters on Halloween night. After Dani inadvertently summons the sisters from the dead, the three must rely on the help of Binx the cat and Billy Butcherson to stop the witches from stealing the souls of Salem's children before dawn.

1. Nightmare Before Christmas (1993)—Ah, the best for last. Tim Burton's *Nightmare Before Christmas* is the perfect film to have on loop this entire upcoming holiday season. This stop-motion classic opens in Halloween Town as all the ghouls, ghosts, vampires, goblins, and monsters celebrate another job well done after Halloween is over. Their leader, Jack Skellington, The Pumpkin King, is surprisingly not in high spirits, growing tired of doing the same thing each year. In search of something more, he stumbles upon Christmas Town and his obsession with the new holiday leads him to almost ruin Christmas. With memorable characters such as Sally, Zero, and Oogie Boogie, and an amazing score from the genius that is Danny Elfman, *Nightmare Before Christmas* will have you singing "This is Halloween" all year through.

Images courtesy of Disney

