

F E A R U R E S

Don't be caught wearing a cop-out costume!

Get some last-minute advice on your Halloween outfit

Valerie Tracey
Spectrum Staff '09

Halloween is quickly approaching, and it's imperative that you wear the best costume. Though the "best costume" is a vague term and will be defined differently depending on who you talk to, there are some things you need to know when choosing the perfect costume. First off, there are the cop-out costumes. Examples of these would be witches, mummies, ghosts, and maybe even a cat. Any of these can become excellent costumes if you fully commit, but if you are a ghost, wear something more than a white sheet. Some excellent classic costumes that will never go old are superheroes, villains, Frankenstein, Dracula, hippies, any stereotypes from the last five decades (i.e. a '60's kid), ancient Greek gods, cowboy or cowgirl, royalty, well-known celebrities, politicians, cartoon characters, ninjas, aliens, and of course the classic maid.

Though all the costumes listed above are excellent, there



are a few easy tricks to make your costume the best.

1. There is no doubt that creativity and originality rules. Make your costume on your own. If you want to use a well-known costume, then add a little something special to it and go for it.

2. Get a group together; you don't have to make everyone have the same costume but definitely coordinate in some way. For example, you could get a group of five and dress up as the power rangers or perhaps the Scooby gang.

3. Go all out, dress up for school and act your character out all day. Dressing up for school and fully acting like your character is not only a ton of fun for you, but everyone around you will enjoy it too! After all, Halloween is a time to

not only have fun but also to be someone you never thought you could be!

That is why I am planning on being the best superhero this Halloween, and a friend will be the best villain of the year. For those of you who have not decided on what costume you wish to wear, here are my top picks: Hillary Clinton or Sarah Palin, no matter your political stance you can at least agree that one of these candidates is scary. The great movie called *300* has brought back the Spartan costume, one of the best and easiest costumes to make. Another excellent choice is the pirate, and you can never go wrong with that and it is so easy to make it your own. Ladies, an excellent choice for you is the flapper, and guys, a great costume for you to rock is the zoot suit. Both of these costumes are very original and very excellent.

I hope you all have gained some excellent insight to the perfect Halloween costume but most importantly, be original! Nothing beats originality!

Towns ban "Satan's holiday"

Gavin Cabbage
Spectrum Staff '10

"To us, Halloween is like Satan's holiday," said Tamara Robinson, a mother of three who has banned her children from trick-or-treating for the past decade. Instead, the West Chester resident will bring her children to the Harvest Festival at Liberty Heights Church. "The kids will be getting candy," she said, "but they'll be getting a Christian alternative message about Jesus Christ versus the other negative messages about Halloween."

Nir Gozal, a sixth grader at Edward Hynes Elementary School in New Orleans, faces a similar situation. Although Nir will be trick-or-treating on Halloween night, he will not be wearing his costume to school, and admits that in his community the holiday has "seen better days."

Such anti-Halloween sentiment is becoming more and more common across the nation as people begin to speak out against the holiday.



Whether it is on religious, moral, or practical grounds, people are making their voices heard. Schools however are undecided on how to respond to the cry to ban Halloween from their classrooms.

Some, such as Belle Chasse Primary School, also in New Orleans, have banned it completely. Out of fear of complaints by religious parents, Cynthia Hoyle, the school's principal, says "We just find that we stay away from a lot of the

objections that might be surrounding it. It's kind of a preventative thing." She also cites the fact that it wastes valuable class time.

How could a holiday that has been long celebrated secularly suddenly become the topic of such hot debate? One reason could be frustration by Christians as many schools ban Christmas and Easter from public school classrooms, yet continue to celebrate

Halloween, which they see as a Pagan celebration. Legally speaking, this argument is incorrect because teaching about religious subjects is allowed in school. "It's not that you can't do it under the First Amendment," says Charles Haynes of Freedom Forum's First Amendment Center in Arlington, Virginia. "The question is, should you?"

David Castelline, an elementary school principal in Newton, Massachusetts thinks

the answer is no. Acting in accordance with a letter he wrote to parents and students explaining that the holiday had offended some students, he has banned teachers and students alike from wearing Halloween costumes or participating in Halloween arts and crafts. "When I hear that kids won't come to school because of what we're doing, I have a problem with that." He says.

In recent years the issue has become ever more common, and more and more schools are turning away from traditional Halloween celebrations, whether by banning it completely or at least toning-down their classroom parties. At the moment an array of claims are in courts around the country, with no answer to the issue in sight. In the meantime, churches like Liberty Heights will continue to host "fall festivals," and children like Nir Gozal will have just another regular school day this October 31st. "The number of districts just saying no to Halloween is small," says Haynes, "But it's growing."

The History of All Hallow's Eve

Hannah Cleef
Spectrum Staff '10

Once a year, your doorbell rings and children dressed up in costumes await a few pieces of candy. They receive it for free, as long as they say "Trick or Treat." You decorate your house with tombstones, skeletons, pumpkins, spider webs, and other scary things. Yes, it's Halloween, the one holiday where you don't have to be yourself. Halloween has built up of a number of different customs and traditions dating back to Ancients Celts, which is a really long time. Nowadays, more and more countries every year are beginning to celebrate Halloween, but do we even know exactly why we have Halloween? No, it isn't a day off from school, but it is an opportunity to be anything you want to be, so with that, here is the history of Halloween.

There are many legends of how Halloween came to be what it is today, but the most infamous one is of the Ancient Celts. Halloween originated back with the Ancient Celts who observed the end of summer, "Samhain," on October 31st to give thanks for the good luck of the past year. The name Halloween came from All Hallow's Eve, the night before All Saints' Day, the last day a person could be named or sanc-



tified a saint. All Hallow's Eve became Hallow Evening or Hallow E'en. Another big question is, "Where did Trick-or-Treat come from?" Many believe that it probably evolved from ninth-century European customs of "souling," which is when early Christians begged for "soul cakes" in return for praying for the souls of the relatives of the soul cake givers. So, how did all of this make it over to the United States? Catholics who came from England and went to the new world looked at Halloween as a holiday and for a while, celebration of any kind was looked down upon. By the turn of the century (the late 1800's) Hallow-

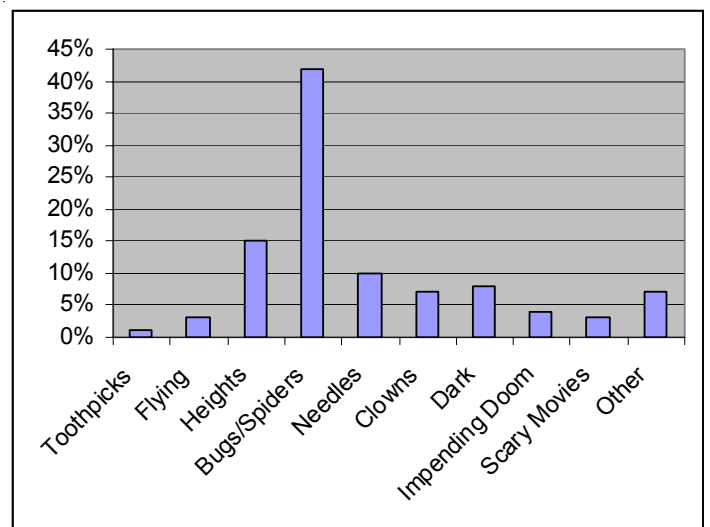
een was changing from a holiday only celebrated by Catholics to a holiday celebrated by everyone, both young and old. Today Halloween is the country's second largest commercial holiday raking in more than \$2 billion on candy alone, every year.

Over the centuries Halloween has changed from a religious holiday to a day of free candy, fun, and fictional characters. So put on your costume, join a couple of friends for a night of freedom as what ever you want to be and get candy galore. But, come Monday, its back to reality for another year. So, Happy Halloween everyone, be safe and have fun!

Canton High's Biggest Fears

TJ Leuken
Spectrum Staff '09

What scares you? With Halloween looming in the distance it seems that everyone is asking themselves this question. Some may be asking so that they may confront their fear for thrills. Others want to avoid their fear. Either way, I went around the school asking people "What Scares You?" See how your fears stack up the results.



Bonfires, barmbrack and bobbing for apples: Ireland's Halloween

Patrick Halloran
Spectrum Staff '11

Well, it's that time of year again: Halloween. The day when everyone dresses up and goes trick-or-treating! Have you ever wondered how other countries celebrate Halloween, or if they even celebrate it at all? I didn't, until a few days ago. After doing some research, I thought that Halloween in Ireland was pretty cool.

Halloween is very popular in Ireland. After all, it originated there, believe it or not. The Irish name is known as *Oíche Shamhna*, pronounced *ee-hah how-nah*, meaning "Samhain Night", which falls on the 31st of October. Adults and children dress up as creatures from the underworld, such as ghosts, ghouls, witches, goblins, or zombies, and go trick-or-treating. The Irish tradition is to light bonfires to ward off evil spirits. Long ago, salt was once sprinkled into the hair of little children to protect them of evil spirits. The city of Derry is home



to the largest Halloween celebration in all of Ireland. They host a huge street carnival and spectacular fireworks displays. Fireworks are usually set off the entire month preceding Halloween, as well as a few days afterwards. Like a lot of families in the United States, Irish families often decorate their homes with turnips carved with scary faces of the holiday. These turnips are then lit by candles or lights in a similar process to making Jack O' Lanterns in the United States.

One of the strongest traditions of Halloween in Ireland is the traditional Halloween fruit cake known as "Barmbrack". "The Brack" is not only used as a delicious dessert, but also as a fortune telling game. When baking the cake, people traditionally bake various items into the cake, each item having a meaning. The items baked into the cake are a pea, a stick, a piece of cloth, a small coin, and a ring. Whatever item you get is your fortune. If you got the piece with the pea, that

meant you would not marry that year. The stick "to beat one's wife with" meant your marriage would not be a good one. The cloth signifies that you will be poor with bad luck. The coin signifies wealth and a good fortune, and the ring means you'll be married within the year.

Other games are also played around Halloween, such as bobbing for apples. Another fun game played involves the eating of an apple hung on a string attached to the ceiling with your hands tied behind your

back. Besides being a night of fun and games, the Irish consider Halloween as an autumn festival or an "End of Summer" celebration, when they say goodbye to the summer months and welcome the winter months to come.

Overall, I guess you could say that Halloween in Ireland is pretty similar to Halloween in the U.S. However if I do say so myself, I found it pretty interesting to learn about their traditions.

Now off to try some of that Barmbrack...



Barmbrack is a major part of Ireland's Halloween.

Tommy and the Horror Movie Marathon

A Halloween Story

Jeffrey Alexander
Spectrum Staff '09

It was the eve of Halloween, and as was the tradition Tommy watched every horror movie that came across the in the free movies section of his Comcast On Demand. He watched everything from "Saw III" to "Goosebumps," from "the Strangers" to "Troll 3." Any other day, Tommy would've shied away from such excessive amounts of blood and violence but tonight was different. Tonight the smell of candy was in the air and a hunger for horror was in Tommy's heart.

And so Tommy watched the movies until the wee hours of the morning, until the only audible noises were the demented screams of the psychotic killers. As the last killer of the last movie took his last victim, Tommy took in his last few images of gore and violence.

Tommy brushed his teeth, took a shower and brushed his hair but all the while his thoughts stayed on the terrified cries of the damsels as their heads were chopped off. Both the lack of sleep and the absurd amount of violence he'd just witnessed made him think that every creek his floor made was the tell-tale

sign of a killer right behind him, and every door contained an insane monster. But Tommy bravely fought on knowing that his bed was just a few steps away. He at least knew nothing could get him while he was in bed; he knew he was completely safe.

Tommy finally reached his room and immediately flipped on the lights. He knew that he wasn't afraid of the dark. He'd gotten rid of that fear at the age of 5. Tonight it was just too hard for Tommy to bring his hand to turn off the switch. And so Tommy fell asleep curled in a ball in the impenetrable fortress that was his sheets; his mind full of psychos and demons, killers and freaks. His dreams were demented and filled with the screams and cries of the helpless, but this did not affect Tommy, for his dreams were often of such a nature. A time came, however, when Tommy's conscious mind took control over his subconscious and he woke up.

Tommy lay in bed for a long while, trying to get his bearings. He wondered what time it was,

what his family was doing, and, after he remembered what day it was, what goodies the day would bring. Tommy sat and thought for a long while but eventually it was time to get up. Tommy went through the mental processes of commanding his body to stand but it would not. A series of cells and synapses fired, demanding his arm, leg, neck anything move but they refused.

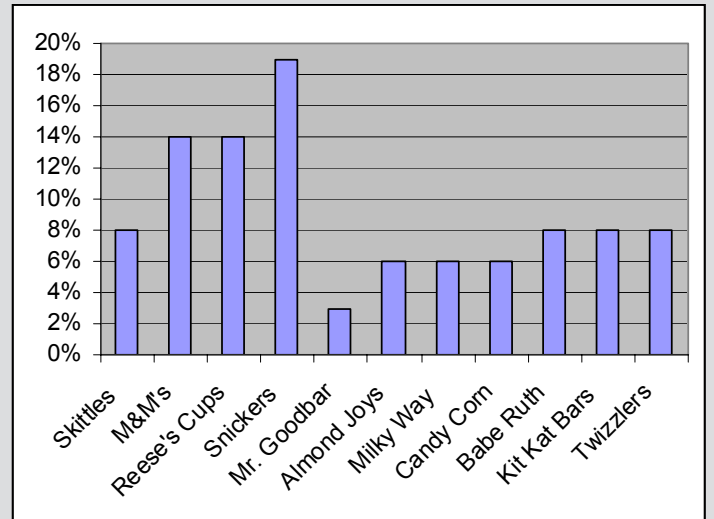
At first Tommy just assumed this was all part of yet another dream but the longer it went on, the more that notion diminished. Tommy could not see, he could not hear, he could not taste, or smell or feel. He was devoid of everything, left with no sense of feeling. He could not tell whether he'd been in this state for minutes, hours, days or lifetimes.

Slowly the line between reality and Tommy's demented dreams was blurred. His dreams became his reality, his reality his dreams. And day in and day out, to this day, Tommy lives in his personal hell, unable to cry for help, unable to run away.

What's Your Favorite Candy?

Ali Zanetas
Spectrum Staff '09

Every fall, kids and adults alike begin to load up on candy in preparation for halloween. Some stockpile the candy to last them through the coming year. Others rid their house of it, by giving the candy to trick-or-treaters. There is always one constant though. Everyone has a favorite type of candy. Check out Canton High's favorites!



PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

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Barack Obama

for retirees over the age of 70 ½ years old; believes Congress should extend unemployment insurance for an additional 13 weeks

Health Care: Supports universal healthcare and the creation of a national health insurance program for individuals who do not have employer-provided health care and who do not qualify for other existing federal programs; does not mandate individual coverage for all people, but requires coverage for all children; allows individuals to choose between the new public insurance program and private insurance plans that meet certain coverage standards; allows states to "experiment" with health care plans as long as they meet the minimum standards of the national plan; proposes investing \$10 billion a year during the next 5 years to implement standardized electronic health information systems

Iraq: Vetoed the use of military force in Iraq in 2002. "I am not opposed to all wars; I am opposed to dumb wars." Called for troop withdrawal to begin by the end of 2006; voted for war spending bill that would have withdrawn most of the U.S. troops by March 2008; proposes to redeploy troops at a pace of one or two brigades a month, so that most of the troops would be removed from Iraq by 2010; promises to maintain residual force to perform specific missions in Iraq; proposes to spend \$2 billion toward an international effort to support over 4 million displaced Iraqis; opposed the "troop surge" in January 2007. "I have acknowledged repeatedly that the fact that we put more troops in there helped to quell the violence." Believes any security accord, such as the Status of Forces Agreement, must be subject to congressional approval

John McCain

dissolving their 401(k)s and IRAs soon after age 70

Health Care: Opposes federally mandated universal coverage because believes competition will improve the quality of health insurance; supports health care tax dividends for low-income families and for businesses that improve various aspects of the health care they offer. "Families should be able to purchase health insurance nationwide, across state lines, and their policy should follow them from job to job." Promises to increase awareness and promote the use of existing children's health insurance programs while expanding community health centers; promises to promote greater competition in the drug markets "through safe re-importation of drugs and faster production of generic drugs"; co-sponsored Combating Autism Act of 2006

Iraq: Vetoed the use of military force in Iraq in 2002; supported George W. Bush's veto of the war spending bill that would have withdrawn most of the U.S. troops by March 2008; supported sending additional troops to Iraq; opposes the setting of a withdrawal timetable. "Anything is a good timetable that is dictated by conditions on the ground. Anything is good, but the timetable is dictated not by an artificial date but by the conditions on the ground." Believes the Iraq war will have been "won" by January 2013; supports the United Nations in being involved in supporting provincial governments' elections by the end of this year and the start of the next; supported the "troop surge" in January 2007; supports U.S. and Iraqi negotiations for a Status of Forces Agreement

New Faces at CHS

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in computer technology, McCarthy is in the unique position to understand teachers' needs and how advances in technology can be used to better their lesson plans and classes. She said her goal for the year was to meet all of the teachers at both the Galvin and CHS, and to talk with them to find out what their technological hopes and needs are. McCarthy has already helped two teachers at the high school set up blogs for their classes.

A mother of three boys, McCarthy says she doesn't have much free time. When she isn't spending time with her sons, McCarthy said she enjoys hiking, walking and baking.

Boucher, the new K-12 wellness coordinator said he knew he wanted to begin a career in the physical education, health and wellness fields beginning in middle school. "I was fascinated by how the human body worked," he said. "I liked how if you pushed yourself and worked hard you could reap the benefits." In the past Boucher has served as the assistant department chair for wellness in King Phillip, a health teacher in Sarasota, Fla. where he was awarded Teacher of the Year for wellness education, and the Director of Athletics and Wellness at Manatee Community College.

Boucher's position didn't exist last year as a result of the failed override, and his goals for this year include expanding the wellness department's course offerings, especially at the middle and high school level. Additionally, Boucher said that he hoped

to start a one day wellness-oriented event at the high school.

In his free time Boucher said he loves spending time with his wife and two children. Additionally, Boucher said he is very passionate about environmental issues.

Gardner, the K-12 performing arts coordinator at CHS, said her love for music began almost immediately when she walked up to her family's piano at age 3 and began to play. Gardner continued her musical pursuits throughout her schooling working primarily with piano, flute and percussion, and picking up guitar after college. A graduate of UMass Amherst, Gardner has taught elementary and middle school students in Franklin and Wellesley and said, "High school students are very different, but a nice change. The music we work on is more sophisticated and the focus is on fine tuning specific skills." Gardner has spent the beginning of the year meeting with students and teacher in her department alike to discuss their visions and goals for the upcoming year.

When asked to pick her favorite musician, she said that many come to mind. The person who tops her list as her "music hero" is Yo-Yo Ma for his mastery level of music and his ability to perform many different genres of music. Other favorite musicians at the present time include Carol King and Coldplay. In her free time Gardner said she enjoys cooking, playing tennis and spending time with her family.