

Maroon & White

“For a better Tennessee High”

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Tennessee High School, Bristol, Tennessee

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Choose Your Own Adventure: Will you survive the Morbid Motels?

By Lilly Chafin

The following is an escape adventure with several different endings based on the choice that you make at the end of each story. Will you survive the Morbid Motel? Choose your path and turn to the page number listed to find out.

You and a friend drive to Asheville to see your favorite band play a concert. You finally arrive at your hotel to find out that your booking is for the wrong day! You scramble to find a place to stay but the only available option is a motel 30 minutes away.

The motel is on a long road surrounded by forest and only has 15 rooms, though the parking lot is nearly empty. You go into the front office, pay for the room, and grab your key.

You get to your room and realize the room next to yours is boarded up completely. Curious, you examine the door and notice that the wood used to board it up looks old, the nails rusted. Room 103 you note to yourself.

You jiggle the door handle to find out it's unlocked. You notice that there's a gap near the bottom of the door that isn't boarded up—a gap large enough for you to slide under if you open the door.

You:

A: Open the door. Turn to page 6.

B: Go back to your own room. Turn to page 3.



Artwork by Joan Weddington

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Not so Tasteful: Creepypasta

By Callie Eckley

It's 2014 and you're hiding under your covers, the blue light from your parent's tablet illuminates your face as you mindlessly scroll through Tumblr, Youtube, and Reddit. All is well until you come across Smile Dog. "Look at this image and you will die!" You panic and remember you never forwarded that chain email about the girl who is rumored to be at the foot of your bed tonight, or the spider that is said to show up right under the covers you currently reside in. Creepypasta took the internet by storm by being a rapid way to spread scary stories and "cursed" pictures.

Ranging from Slenderman to the

Russian Sleep Experiment, Creepypasta and the internet as a whole has slowly but surely desensitized our whole generation to horror, violence, and death. The term "Creepypasta" is a mix between "creepy" and "Copypasta". A Copypasta is a chunk of text that is copied and pasted all over the internet. No matter what platforms you were on at the time, the likelihood of you encountering a Creepypasta image or story was extremely high. Most kids on the internet at the time bond over remembering stories of Jeff the Killer, the Backrooms, or Siren Head.

There are more Creepypasta stories than you can count on your hands and toes combined, but some stand out in popularity. Slenderman has surfaced the internet for years now, originating

from a comedy web in 2009 for "creating modern myths." Sadly being the inspiration for a spark in violence in 2014, the Slenderman Stabbing was an attempted murder case that stemmed from a trio of friends, two of which believed in Slenderman, and one of which had schizophrenia and claimed to really see him.

A sleepover turned into a nightmare, the victim managed to get away with 19 stab wounds. All of the girls were 12 years old at the time, making them heavily impressionable to what they see and hear, especially online. The other two girls told the police that "Slenderman made [them] do it" being promised eternal life together in Slenderman's wooden mansion located in the woods. This

whole idea was almost a word for word adaptation of one of the Slenderman Creepypasta versions that is as easy as one Google search away to find.

The exposure of violence at such a young age can trigger desensitization when growing up. Watching scary movies just leads to a shoulder shrug of indifference due to the array of tropes and concepts we've already seen. Creepypasta preyed on an audience that couldn't tell if these stories were real or fake, leading to panic and paranoia. Looking back on these stories and images can serve as a wave of nostalgia, although they terrorized our youth as the electronic generation.

Meet the 2022 Maroon & White Fall Staff

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"The Bearded One"



Shift to Winter Sports

By Liz Rouse

As we say goodbye to Friday night lights, we look forward to a new season of winter sports. Boys and Girls Basketball, Swim/Dive, and Wrestling officially begin on October 31. The Swim team however, has their first meet on October 29th. The theme of the meet is Maroon and White. Our swimmers compete against one another in short-distance events as a preseason meet.

The cost for winter sports varsity events is \$6. On November 16th, Boys basketball has their first game of the season at home against Morristown West. JV plays at 5 pm. and Varsity plays at 8p.m. On November 16th, Girls basketball has their first game at home against Morristown West. Varsity plays at 6:30 p.m., while JV plays at 3:30p.m. The first wrestling match is on November 30th at home, beginning at 6p.m. Good luck to all our athletes this season!

The Mystery of Spirit Halloween

By Ada Ritchie

Have you ever wondered how the Spirit Halloween stores seem to appear overnight? In case you don't know, Spirit Halloween is a retail store with costumes, decorations, and other Halloween supplies. The Spirit Halloween stores have several locations in our area, such as Bristol, Kingsport, and Johnson City. A big

reason the stores seem to appear overnight is because they are only open from the months of August to early November. From January to August the company looks for open lots to temporarily lease, which is why their locations never seem to be in the same place. It turns out the mystery behind the Spirit Halloween store is quite simple after all.

G: GO HOME: Morbid Motel

By Lilly Chafin

After examining the door handle, you and your friend decide to quickly leave. Dropping the room key as you run, you frantically hop into the car, pull out of the parking lot, and careen down the dark empty road.

A lifetime seems to elapse before you finally pass another car. Its headlights blind you. You look angrily in the rear-view mirror and jump at the unexpected greeting of a tall dark figure in your back seat. Panicking, you slam on your breaks. "What was that for??" your friend yells.

You don't respond as you quickly turn around and search the back seat, but could only find a small puddle of the

strange liquid. You sigh in relief as you settle back into your seat. You turn to your friend to explain, but they're gone.

You jump out of your car searching, but you can't find them. Panic hits you as you call out in desperation, to no avail. You quickly search the brush until you trip and fall down the short mound and land in a dark puddle.

Agitated, you examine your leg for injuries, when a hand reaches out from the puddle and grips your leg tightly. You struggle and grasp to get away, but the hand's grip doesn't waiver. The hand slowly drags you into the puddle.

GAME OVER, YOU LOSE.

Bristol's Infamous Stickley Farm

By Caitlin Vining

Stickley Farm, Bristol's favorite fall activity, is located just off Highway 394. Its legendary corn maze, costume contests, inflatables, haunted house, hayrides, and more continue to entertain THS students, many of whom have visited Stickley's every year since they were toddlers. Hundreds of people of all ages come to Stickley's, some come for the fun and games, some come for the music, and some come maybe even for just nostalgia.



Bailey Vining, a junior at THS, describes Stickley's as "heart-warming" and "nostalgic". If you have time on your hands, take a trip down to Stickley Farm, you won't be bored, and you might just find yourself running through the corn maze!

Welcome to Winter Guard

By Callie Eckley

Welcome to Tennessee High School's Winter Guard, a sport gaining in popularity that allows participants to dance, throw rifles, catch flags, act, and more. On November 14th through 18th, from 3:00p.m.-5:30p.m, interested students can audition in the THS Band Room. No prior experience is needed, and any 9th-12th grader who is interested is encouraged to try out for this year's team.

Winter guard offers competitions, performances, and new friendships. Those ready to leap into this season on the right foot should remember to bring a water bottle and athletic clothes with them to tryouts.

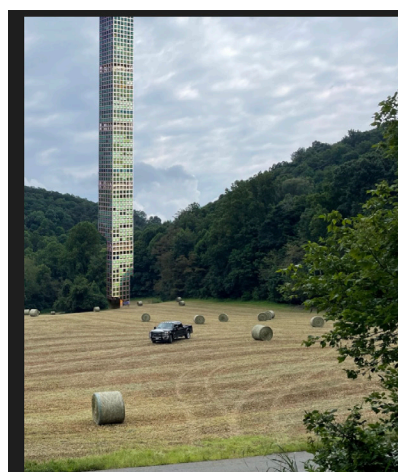
E: EXPLAIN: MM Cont...

By Lilly Chafin

"There was someone knocking on the wall!" you exclaim. "No way" your friend retorts "that's the room that's closed off". You respond "I know what I heard! What if someone is locked in there??" Your friend stands there in thought, "I wouldn't put it past

them, this place is pretty deserted and creepy". "What should we do?" you ask. "That door was unlocked right? Let's go see what's going on" You nod and start heading out, your friend following behind. You get to the door, the ominous feeling coming back.

You continue to page 6. A: GO INTO THE ROOM.



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B: GO BACK TO YOUR OWN ROOM: Morbid Motel Cont...

By Lilly Chafin

You grab your friend, quickly crawling under the boards and out of the room. You close the door and rush to your room. After you settle down you decide to go to your car to grab your things.

The dim parking lot made you uneasy, the only light was shining from the front office window. You and your

friend grab your stuff from your car and take it back to your room.

You notice something dripping down the handle of your room door. It seemed to be the same dark liquid that soaked the floor of room 103. You pause.

You:

G: Go home. Turn to page 2.

H: I'm sure it's nothing. Turn to page 5.

C: LET'S LEAVE: MM Cont.

By Lilly Chafin

You take a step towards the door; an ominous feeling floods your senses. You fumble back, overwhelmed, and decide to just go and get your luggage. You drop your bags in your room and decide to wash away all the stress in the shower.

The water hits your back and you finally relax. You hop out of the shower, put on your PJ's and start brushing your teeth until you hear a knock. You pause and take a step away

from the wall, knowing this was the wall connected to room 103.

You put your ear against the wall, listening to make sure you weren't hearing things, a loud bang pounds against your ear and you fall back onto the floor. Your friend rushes into the room "are you okay??" they question. "Did you hear that?" you ask. "Hear what?"

You:

E: Explain what just happened. Turn to page 2.

F: Shrug it off. Turn to page 5.

What's That Whistling?

By Bree Eaton

Imagine: you're camping in the Appalachian mountains—a trip which you have waited on for what feels like a lifetime. Your tent is pitched in an open area on a comfortable patch of grass, with a clear view of the stars. Everything is perfect, except for that gut feeling that you can't shove away. After every snapping twig, weird wisp of the wind, and misshapen shadow, you can't help but wish you had read up more about the urban legends of the Smoky Mountains. What were the rules that article said?

Never Whistle in the Woods:

It's not that Appalachia has anything against whistling, but it is passed down from generations to withhold from whistling in the woods. Aside from attracting unwanted attention from bears and mountain lions—locals warn against what else you could entice. It is better to not make yourself known in the woods than to be sorry

for accidentally bringing home an unwanted spirit.

Make Sure to Close Your Curtains at Night and Lock Your Doors:

While bears and raccoons are famously known for breaking into cabins and eating trash, their competition may be even worse. Leaving windows and doors open at night may attract creatures with mysterious glowing red eyes, or evil spirits to peep in on your X-Files rerun—which they might not find amusing... It is also advised to remove any 'welcome' mats or signs. Given that spirits have to be invited inside, you might be accidentally inviting the Bell Witch in for tea.

Do Not Walk Up Abandoned Staircases:

Reported throughout the mountains, these abandoned staircases range from stone steps leading to caves to spiral staircases leading to the heavens. Residents have reported feeling unwelcome or even nauseous after ascending such staircases. Legend says that these stairs lead to another

dimension, the underworld, and may be the reason for unsolved missing child cases in the mountains. Whether or not you believe these theories, it is better to stay on your path than to accidentally go missing.

If You Hear Something Call Your Name, No You Didn't:

Famously known for their human-like traits in animal form—Skinwalkers are known as the greatest threat in the woods. It is said that these creatures can call out your name in a familiar voice, cry like a baby, or even scream to lure in bystanders. It is better to travel in a group than to become the next unsolved mystery on Youtube.

Moral of the story? The next time you venture out into the Appalachian mountains, make sure you are up-to-date on your urban legends. You will need to know what to do if you come across a skinwalker, or even worse, a spider.

Bloom is Blooming!

By Bree Eaton

It's a Friday night and your family is trying to figure out a place to go get coffee. You're tired of Starbucks and their lack of oatmilk, the line stretches outside of the Blackbird Bakery doors, and you remember Trailblazer closes at six. With all this worrying, you realize you've worked up an appetite. Luckily for you, the local cafe, Bloom, opened a new location September 21st, 2022 conveniently right downtown.

Upgrading from their small-scale cafe, integrating new stylistic choices in interior design, and including a wider selection of menu items, Bloom has blossomed into the location we have today. Moving across state lines, Bloom now resides in Bristol, Virginia, right across the street from their old home. Walking inside, you are greeted by friendly staff, window-side tables, halfmoon booths accompanied by chairs and a classy bar. Glancing at the menu, it reads, "Culinary creativity, gourmet coffee, and craft cocktails," a selection that is perfect for whatever mood you're feeling. It seems like a wonderful idea to fine-dine a "Not Your Mama's Chicken Sandwich" accompanied by a "Bloom Berry" coffee. Without a doubt, Bloom is the dinner location for your family tonight, tomorrow night, and the night after.



A Brief History of Witches: Why We Love To Hate Them

By Hayden Arnett

Witches have been present in modern media for centuries, often depicted as a hideous woman with a big nose, a pointy hat, and a black cat by her side. From the sister witches in *The Wizard of Oz* to the Sanderson sisters in *Hocus Pocus*, witches are depicted as evil and heinous people who are usually seeking murder or revenge. However, witches have existed for centuries outside of hateful media depictions of them. Oftentimes they each have their own religions and ideologies.

Paganism and Witchcraft are the central religions for witches—also

referred to as Wiccans—and originate from the second and third centuries AD. With these religions contradicting the mass-followed Christianity, there has been heavy push back throughout the centuries, often in societies that believed witches were convening with the devil to disrupt the flow of humanity.

The Salem Witch Trials, which took place during the late 17th and early 18th centuries, fueled the fire of a religious war of mass fear and hatred against witches. False stereotypes surfaced during this time; the "devil reincarnated" and the "child murderer" stereotypes were widely believed. These stereotypes still

impact the perception of witches to this day, and were all born from falsehoods and lies stemming from fear of the unknown. Women were often wrongly accused of Witchcraft if they were literate or if they challenged the bounds of their sexist society. Men used these "abnormal" behaviors as a way to gain power over women and confine them to societal beliefs. These sexist ideologies have wormed their way into media stereotypes found in films, novels, and halloween aesthetics. We as a society have chosen to profit off of a false idea of what witches truly are, rather than working to promote the truth and desensitize these harmless religions.

In recent years, witches have been depicted with a more positive connotation, 1998's *Practical Magic* for example. *Practical Magic* presented a loving sisterly bond, contrasting the infamous sister witches in *The Wizard of Oz*, and it portrayed witches as real people with humanity. Still, society is obsessive over suppressing the restoration of witches' reputations, because witches fall into the wrong side of our moral compass—and to feel morally righteous—we choose the opposing belief. Unfortunately, witches have, and mostly likely always will be, a marginalized group who are wrongfully reduced to a preconceived stereotype.

Breakfast Club

By Nathaniel Morefield

I think we often forget how much is beyond the surface-level assumptions of another person. That's something Alex Prim, Senior at THS, and I touched on in our discussion. There's an endless plethora of imagination and creativity within every single human mind that none could possibly comprehend. That goes so much further beyond what anyone could perceive at a surface level. What we applied this to though, oddly enough, is True Crime. He spoke about how horrified and bewildered he was that a real person with such a complex mind as the rest of us could find it in them to commit vile actions. That's the reason he's considering a job in Forensic Psychology, he told me that he "wants to get inside of their heads."

It's interesting to me that so much time and devotion goes into getting inside of the heads of serial killers, but we don't take that much time to get inside each others'. Alex told me he feels that he is often judged by people. He said he feels as if he comes off to others as rude, jaded, and unempathetic. He certainly isn't that way, but that's what people seem to see nonetheless. From actually talking to Alex, I have come to know what a thoughtful, caring, and intelligent person he is, but the longer that people let themselves settle for the surface level assumptions, they'll never be able to better understand Alex's mind to any extent.

D: SEE WHERE THE LIQUID IS COMING FROM: MM Cont...

By Lilly Chafin

You slowly walk towards the door, the liquid flowing out. You creak open the door to find a pitch-black room. You and your friend step in the room to find the liquid pouring from the sides of the bathtub, the faucet was off. The door slams shut behind you.

You rush to the door and start shaking the handle, it won't budge. You start pushing against the door to open it until you feel a wave of fear crash over

you as a breathy noise starts emanating from behind you.

You slowly look around, but you can't find your friend. The only thing left in the room was you and a tall dark figure slowly rising from the water in the bathtub. The figure towers over you, its arms slowly closing in around you. You want to move, to scream, to cry, but you can't. Paralyzed in fear all you can do is watch as the figure grabs you and drags you into the bath.

GAME OVER. YOU LOSE.



Not All Horror Movies are Horrifying

By Caitlin Vining

Think of your favorite horror movie. Got it? I bet you thought of one of the classics: Halloween, Friday the 13th, maybe even Scream. All these movies are considered classics for one reason: their stereotypes.

When you think of horror movie stereotypes, the first one that comes to mind is the first kill, the cute and ditsy girl who whispers in a room of silence, "is anyone here?" Yes, this girl shows up in many of these classic slasher flicks, but so do several other stereotypes.

In these films it's very common for you to see the wise older gentleman, the pawn, the hunter, the cop, the final protagonist, the skeptic, the hysteric, and the killer. All these characters come together to create a perfect scary slasher film. It typically starts with the wise older gentleman warning the protagonist(s)

about the potential danger that lies ahead, but this character will almost certainly be ignored. This leads into our skeptic and hysteric, they are complete opposites of each other, one non-believer who goes into the kill blind, and one terrified character who jumps and is fearful of every little sound, almost knowing their time is coming to an end. The pawn is who is responsible for releasing the terror in the movie and is usually one of the first kills of the film. The hunter is desperately trying to hunt down the evil and tries their best to get help from an unwilling cop who seems to be oblivious to their surroundings. This leaves our final protagonist and killer; they generally have a final scene together where the protagonist has a victory in a freaky incomplete killing.

Imagine your favorite movie again, how many of these stereotypes does it fall under? Today's viewers and critics don't find these movies

conventionally "horrifying", they find them more predictable. There are jump scares where one might scream, but the story doesn't frighten the audience. Hundreds of these slasher flicks have been filmed since the 20th century, and honestly, we're a bit bored.

If you ask a horror fanatic what their favorite film is they might say something based on a true story like The Conjuring series, or maybe a horror author's movie adaptation like Stephen King's The Shining. These stories don't follow these stereotypes, a true story has real people and real scenarios, whereas a horror author wants to entice readers and not lead on to what's about to come.

Not all horror movies are horrifying, they're predictable. We want to be scared, and to feel that anticipation. Have stereotypes ruined horror flicks?

Is Stickley's Worth the Hype?

By Joseph Burriss

Stickley Farms is a well known family owned farm in Bluff City, TN, and even more well known during the Halloween season is their haunted house, the Funhouse Haunted Attraction. So well known, in fact, that on any given day of operation, hundreds pass through endless lines, waiting for inordinate amounts of time just for a forty-five minute attraction. So with such a build-up, the haunted house would have to be the best that you have ever experienced to compensate for the tribulations experienced. Yet having gone through the haunted house numerous times with various parties, I personally believe that the house is certainly creative but, like most all haunted houses, will easily become bland. The same layout is used every year: it starts as a freak show that leads into a maze, becomes a graveyard that goes into an old house that you finally

exit out of. Furthermore, after some time having screaming actors in your face, you become desensitized and the thrill is reduced, which is true for all attractions.

I have no quarrel with anyone who enjoys the haunted house, as I do too, and I have nothing against the owners or actors who are doing their part. Stickley Farms is a beautiful piece of land, and I appreciate the various other activities available. Upon entering the farm you may find food trucks, pumpkin patches, petting zoos, and scenic areas worthy as the location for memorable photographs. The haunted house is only a part of what Stickley's has to offer. Yet not even a fifteen minute drive from the crowded location are plenty of other attractions with similar levels of eeriness and creativity but wait times equal to almost a fraction of that of Stickley's.

Last year I went to two of these places, the Haunted Forest Elizabethton and

the Beck Mountain Corn Maze. The longest wait time of those two was likely thirty minutes long, one sixth of that I experienced at Stickley's. If upon arriving at the haunted house by its opening time, I finish my tour by the time it closes, with a vast majority of my time spent in enormous lines, had I truly spent my time wisely? Why should I not hop back onto the highway and drive a short distance West to Elizabethton? Most of the satisfaction and enjoyment wrought out of these adventures comes from the company that you spend your time with. At first glance this may seem contradictory to my point, however when you consider the fact that you are almost confined to the initial waiting area, trying to not miss your queue, and spend easily an hour in the second line, you do not have as much freedom as it may initially seem. Take the aforementioned Haunted Forest Elizabethton for example, as detailed in my previous article there are many

separate attractions available and with wait times infinitesimally smaller than that of Stickley's, you truly have the opportunity to enjoy all the other Halloween themed attractions. Every extraneous activity at Stickley's can be enjoyed nearly any time of the year.

While I appreciate the effort and the final outcome put forth by the creators, the end result is not worth the extensive wait. Even so, I do not dislike Stickley Farms by any means. It is often the only local haunted house that people know about when, having reviewed several others, I believe it is easily overshadowed by much smaller but bolder attractions. The two I mentioned previously and reviewed last year, the Haunted Forest Elizabethton and Beck Mountain Corn Maze, provide a similar experience with a much more personal feel. It is much better to support these smaller businesses than to continue sticking to the same haunted house every year, one that never changes.

H: I'M SURE IT'S NOTHING: Morbid Motel Continued...

By Lilly Chafin

You anxiously open your room door, unpack your things, and start looking through the terrible cable movies, eventually finding one you can tolerate. After the movie ends you decide it's time for bed.

As you lay down, you hear a knock at the door. Hesitantly, your friend walks up and looks through the peephole. They shoot you a worried look. You get up and walk to the door. You look through the hole, but you can only see a black void. You hook the door chain on and step back.

You eventually sit back on your bed watching, your friend following suit. Your friend grips onto you in fear as the knocking starts again, quickly growing more violent.

The dark liquid you saw in room 103 starts to seep under your door, growing closer to you.

A hand claws out, pulling its lanky body out of the liquid. The tall ominous figure slowly creeps over to you, but you shut your eyes tightly. After a few minutes of waiting, you open your eyes to find nothing. The liquid is no longer flowing from the bottom of the door, in its place was a slight sunshine glow.

You hop off the bed and swing the door open to see the sun rising over the trees. "How is it already morning?" your friend questions. You look at your phone to see it is already 7:13 in the morning. You quickly pack your things and leave. After a long day out on the town you finally arrive at the concert.

CONGRATULATIONS,
ENJOY YOUR CONCERT!



F: SHRUG IT OFF: MM Cont...

State Street Specter

By Nathaniel Morefield

On State Street, you might have often passed McClellan's Pub and never noticed anything out of the ordinary. When I spoke with the owner, Patrick Manning, however, it was clear that there is much more than meets the eye. Manning explained to me that during the day it is seemingly completely normal, but at night it has a much different energy. Manning, a former cop hardened by years of service, told me that he's never felt more uncomfortable than upstairs at night in that building in all of his life. He feels a weight "like a light backpack" when he's up there.

The first thing he mentioned was that his painter saw a picture come three feet from the wall and slam on the ground. If that's not terrifying enough, an employee there has had

a box fly at them with seemingly no one around to throw it. All of the workers there have had some sort of supernatural experiences within the building.

Two workers, on separate instances recalled seeing the same apparition: a hard-faced middle-aged man with a white shirt, blue jeans, and heavy boots. Many workers have also heard the echoes of the heavy boots upstairs even while it was empty. He recalls an instance in which he and others all heard a loud shriek in the next room over. When they rushed in to investigate, it was completely vacant. After many investigations into the building and searches by police, the case was dropped. We may never know the true happenings of the McClellan's Pub.

By Lilly Chafin

"Nothing, I think I'm just tired" Your friend nods in response and leaves the bathroom. You follow behind, lay down in the bed next to your friend's and close your eyes, briskly dozing off. You wake up a few hours later to persistent knocking. First against the wall, then the front door, then... the bathroom door.

A chill hits your body; the only light is illuminating from the electric clock across the room. 4:13 am. Your friend is still fast asleep, you try to call out to them, but nothing comes out. You

can't move, your body is stuck laying down against the bed. The bathroom door creaks open.

A tall inhuman figure creeps over to your friend's sleeping figure, grabbing them by the leg and dragging them off to the bathroom. A few minutes of silence pass until you feel cold, clammy fingers curl around your ankle. The figure stands over you, staring, until it starts dragging you off just like your friend.

Your back slowly trails against the cold tile of the bathroom floor as you await your fate.

GAME OVER, YOU LOSE.

Traveling Through Halloween

By Kaylie Cunningham

Bristol is a great place to live, especially during Halloween. Kids flood the streets, begging desperately for even a glimpse of candy. Teenagers stay in with friends, watching scary movies they maybe shouldn't watch yet. Parents dread the miles they will have to walk when they could have just bought a variety pack at Walmart.

Bristol, Virginia and Bristol, Tennessee have a combined population of around 40,000 people, less than about 0.000571428% of the world population. So what does the rest of the world do? How do they celebrate Halloween? I couldn't visit every country and ask, so I went to our Spanish and French teachers to

ask for some help.

First, I traveled to the Spanish classrooms to see Ms. Robinson and Mr. Greer. Both told me that, in Mexico, "Halloween" is called the Día De Los Muertos or the Day of the Dead. Día de Muertos, celebrated on November 1-2, is quite different from Halloween in the United States. Robinson shared that Día de Muertos isn't meant to be "scary", as halloween often is, but rather a celebration of the dead. Día de Muertos is the one day a year that passed relatives can cross over to the "Land of the Living", however only if there are altars set up with their pictures. The Hispanic holiday replaces the orange and black of Halloween with a landscape filled with color. Greer explained that

"people dress up as skeletons" not to scare friends but more to "honor their deceased loved ones."

Next on our journey is the French Hallway, where I talked to the magnificent Madame Toby. Admittedly, the only thing I know about France is how to say "thank you very much" in French (Merci Beaucoup), so I had a lot of learning to do. Though some people celebrate Halloween (Olaween in French), most celebrate the holiday that follows, celebrated on November 1, known as La Toussaint. Madame Toby says the holiday is a way to "remember their family members who have died as well as get together with those still alive," similar to Mexico's Day of the Dead. Families celebrate their loved

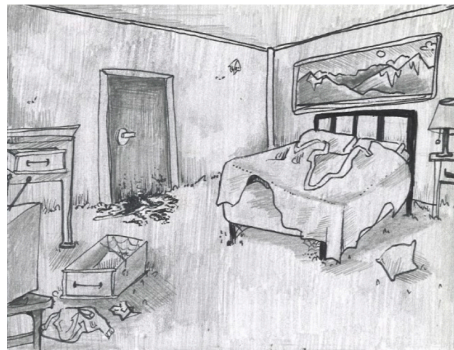
ones by placing chrysanthemums on relatives' newly cleaned graves. Which is why you're never supposed to bring the flower to a host's house, it is bad luck. A very popular food prepared for the holiday is called Niflette, a pastry dessert. When Madame Toby described the egg, milk, and flour dessert, my mouth started watering.

The "trip" through different cultures was incredible, though I barely even touched the tip of the iceberg. These teachers have incredible knowledge and would be happy to tell you about Halloween in their countries of study, but if you don't have time to stop by, then ask a parent or another teacher how they celebrate or celebrate Halloween. Everyone has a story to tell, you just have to ask.

A: OPEN THE DOOR: MM Cont...

By Lilly Chafin

You open the door and slide through the gap, nearly choking on the cold, dusty air that fills the room. A clumsy grasp of your ankle tells you your friend has followed closely behind. Blankets hang off the bed in a messy pile and the dresser drawers are wide open as if someone has left in a hurry. You take a step towards the bathroom and feel a squelch below your shoe. "What's that?" your friend asks, pointing at a shadowy shape on the ground. The carpet at your feet is soaked with an unknown dark liquid originating from the bathroom.



You:
C: Get out of there! Turn to page 3.
D: See where the liquid is coming from. Turn to page 4.

Last Minute Costumes

By Sydney Cunningham

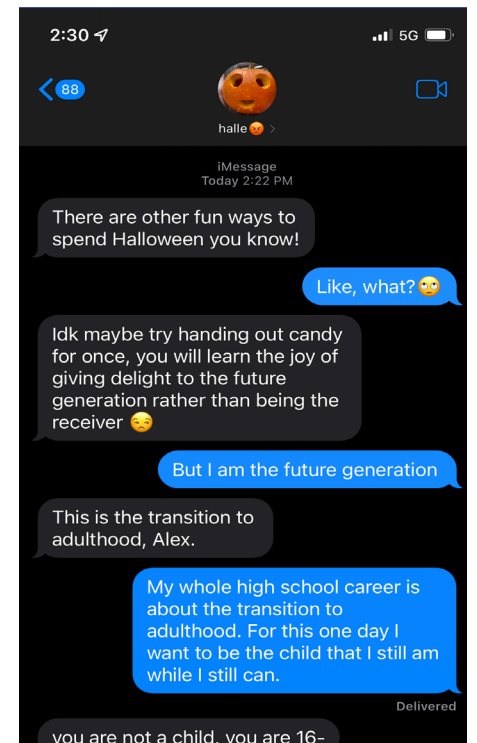
So, you've procrastinated again and now you're stressed about finding an easy costume for that Halloween party lurking around the corner. Well don't you worry. Here's a list of 10 last-minute, but not boring, Halloween costumes you can throw together in no time:

- Sour album cover: All you need for this is a pink tank top, a blue plaid skirt, silver layered necklaces, and stickers to tie it all together
- Maverick from Top Gun: Grab yourself an olive-green jumpsuit

and add on some patches along the chest and sleeves. Don't forget the aviator sunglasses to make the outfit complete!

- Bob Ross: All you need to become everyone's favorite painter is a blue button up shirt, blue jeans, a belt, and a paint palette, real or fake. Add on a wig and fake beard to raise your costume to another level.
- Wednesday Addams: A white collared shirt under a black dress, black leggings, black shoes, and two braids will instantly transform you into Wednesday Addams.
- Eleven from Stranger Things:

Too Old to Trick-or-Treat??



Pair together a pink dress and blue jacket with some tall green and yellow striped socks to nail El's look in Stranger Things season one.

- The Cheetah Girls: Grab your favorite color velour tracksuit and matching cheetah print headband to join the Cheetah Girls for a night.
- Guy Fieri: To don one of Guy Fieri's most famous outfits, pair a flame printed button up shirt with black shorts, shield-style sunglasses, a chain necklace, and a watch. Add a Guy Fieri wig to really capture his look.
- Men in Black: Simple but a classic,

all you need for this look is a black suit and tie and black tinted sunglasses.

• Adam Sandler: To instantly transform into one of the most recognizable actors from this time, pair an oversized shirt and gym shorts with tennis shoes and ankle socks.

• Kim Possible: Green cargo pants, a cropped long sleeve black shirt, black combat boots, black gloves, and a chunky brown belt are all that is needed to recreate the outfit of one of our generation's favorite cartoon characters.

The Perversion of Innocence

By Piper Booher

Remember the 2016 clown sightings? Looking back at these bizarre encounters, it's interesting to observe the sheer amount of people who were completely paranoid about seeing a clown in the dark of night. Clearly, the odds that a red-nosed jester would actually appear or even be harmful were slim. So, the question is, why do we panic about something so innocent?

Social trends and behaviors can spread rapidly because of humanity's

social nature of wanting to relate to others. This is where social media comes in: in our hyper-connected world, absurd headlines—such as stories about creepy clowns—are more likely to circulate.

Another reason for the sheer terror can be attributed to the fact that we can be triggered by societal experiences that mirror our childhood. We are conditioned to find safety in a dangerous and scary world through finding comfort and safety in our caregivers. By nature, we are also conditioned to decrease our stress

by laughing. Clowns should provide safety and decrease stress, causing kids to gravitate towards them. But like so many things that terrify us, an evil clown proves to be even more terrifying because it is a perversion of what should be good.

When news spreads about clowns showing up to terrorize teens in cars at night, our safety barriers break down, leaving us vulnerable to even more horror. Anxious thoughts invade our consciousness and we think, "if clowns are bad, what else could be!?"

Maybe the thing that makes clowns

scary is the fact that they look almost human, almost innocent, and are a little too nice and smile a little too long. This distortion of the familiar makes us oddly uncomfortable in the same way that "Backrooms," the Uncanny Valley, or even a shelf full of baby dolls might. It's normal and probably an evolutionary self-preservation instinct to be suspicious of appearances or behaviors that are slightly "off". For these reasons, we will probably continue to be frightened of those supposedly harmless, not at all hilarious circus creatures, clowns.

Sympathy for the Devil: The True Crime Dilemma

By Caden Cartwright

A horror game you continue to endure, a car accident you find yourself rubbernecking, and a thriller that you just can't help peeking at through your fingers: what do they all have in common? Well, no one involved is likely walking into a bar. Instead, they share an irresistible attraction to the macabre. Countless people have a seemingly involuntary interest in the dark and eerie, which True Crime happens to fulfill perfectly. True Crime is a genre often in the form of podcasts, text, or film. As the name suggests, it covers real crimes—particularly those involving violence

or murder.

Innate curiosity explains the interest in True Crime; people tend to gravitate toward the outlandish, shocking, and sensational. Between kidnapping, murder, and even cannibalism, we often find ourselves asking, "What prompted them to do something so atrocious?"

Far too often, podcasters and listeners find themselves enticed by these serial killers' stories. Because fans are often interested in the crime itself, some popularize—and even romanticize—the criminals. From O.J. Simpson to Ted Bundy to The Zodiac Killer, some True Crime enjoyers develop sympathy for the killers, reportedly

even to the point of attraction. Competitive media has furthered this; some have recently accused Netflix of intentionally casting a conventionally attractive actor to play Jeffrey Dahmer—a serial killer cannibal—in Netflix's DAHMER.

Critics justly condemn the genre for this romanticization of killers, as well as insensitivity toward victims and their families. If True Crime enjoyers should sympathize with anyone, it should be the victims, whom fans often gloss over in favor of details on the crime or the killer. Additionally, the victim's families, if exposed to information about the criminal, can be re-traumatized by the killer's mention.

Another notable interest in the genre, however, is advice. Discriminated people, especially women and those belonging to racial minorities, have taken notes from killers to avoid becoming victims. By understanding the criminal psyche, people have had their lives saved by True Crime, inadvertently.

Although the genre—like any—has glaring flaws, with care, storytellers can still derive lessons and entertainment, with respect to the victims. What is important is honoring the victim and their family, teaching safety measures, and discrediting the killers behind the crimes.

Chocolate Chip Pumpkin Cookie Recipe

By Lilly Chaffin

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup (120ml) vegetable oil
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp milk
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 cup canned pumpkin puree
- 1 cup (255g) semi-sweet chocolate chips

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. In a mixer, put pumpkin puree, sugar, oil, vanilla and egg and mix until combined. In a different bowl stir flour, baking powder, cinnamon, and salt. In a small bowl dissolve baking soda in milk. Add both dry mix and baking soda mix into the pumpkin mixture slowly, then mix until fully combined. Add in the chocolate chips. Scoop mounds onto a greased baking sheet and bake in the oven for 10-12 minutes.



Vikings

Vocalize

What movie is not intended to be scary but you find scary? Why?

Austin Schrenker (10) Secret Life of Pets- "Kinda eerie because pets are talking and pets aren't supposed to talk... and they can think."

Paul Letson (11) The Hobbit- "Gollum and Gollum alone."

Toby Spiva (11) Toy Story- "their faces are scary and you've got a talking potato"

Roque Ochoa (12) The Cat in the Hat- "The cat is scary....I don't like his hat"

Elijah Moore (10) The Wizard of Oz- "Fear of the unknown"

Hunter Fields (9) Bee Movie- "I'm scared of bees"

Rylan Lambert (9) Madagascar- "When zebras smile they scare me"

Pumpkin Carving Contest Winner: Amaya Fallen



How to Properly Trade Candy

By Ricardo Cortez Aleman

Trading candy can break friendships, destroy families, and start many arguments. It's either scam or be scammed. Life isn't fair, and neither is trading candy. Which is why I constructed this guide to trade candy safer and smarter.

Befriend people with stupid tastes. No matter how many people there are in this world, there is ALWAYS someone who wants to trade their Sour Patch for your Milky Ways.

Dots, Candy Corn, Tootsie Rolls, Smarties, Good and Plenty are cannon fodder. They are also the most

common. You have to be tricky to trade these D tier candies, so it's easier to find someone who ACTUALLY likes these candies or are gullible enough to take them.

Younger siblings are the most gullible humans to trade with. Scam them, no matter how much they cry after they traded their king size

KitKat for 3 Smarties.

Have a friend with a Peanut Allergy? Jackpot. They are obligated with their life to give you Reese's and candies with peanuts. Same goes for other allergies, such as Chocolate Allergy, Lactose intolerance, etc.



October Playlist by the Maroon and White Staff + Mrs. Story

By Hayden Arnett

1. Werewolves of London by Warren Zevon and The Great Pumpkin Waltz by Vince Guaraldi - Mrs. Story
2. You're On Your Own, Kid by Taylor Swift and About You by The 1975 - Hayden Arnett
3. Scary Monsters (And Super Creeps) by David Bowie and Zombies by Childish Gambino - Ricardo Cortez
4. Heaven or Las Vegas by Cocteau Twins and Kiss Me by Sixpence None the Richer - Bree Eaton
5. This Night Has Opened My Eyes by The Smiths and Tonight, Tonight by The Smashing Pumpkins - Callie Eckley

6. Calling All the Monsters by China Anne McClain and All Too Well (10 Minute Version) (Taylor's Version) (From The Vault) by Taylor Swift - Halle Mullins
7. Halloween by Phoebe Bridgers and Where You Lead I Will Follow by Carole King - Alex Akard
8. Orbitron by Duster and Answer by Tyler, The Creator - Liz Rouse
9. Fallen Star by The Neighborhood and People Watching by Conan Gray - Ada Ritchie
10. Oh Klahoma by Jack Stauber and Season of the Witch by Lana Del Rey - Kaylie Cunningham

11. Monster Mash by The Crypt-Kickers and Witches by Alice Phoebe Lou - Torey Walk
12. Scarecrow by Siouxsie and the Banshees and Vampire by Buffy Sainte-Marie - Piper Booher
13. Tainted Love by Soft Cell and Frankenstein by Rina Saywayama - Caden Cartwright
14. Tainted Love by Soft Cell and Ghostbusters Theme - Ryan Bunning
15. Superstition by Stevie Wonder and Thriller by Michael Jackson - Joseph Burris
16. Superstition by Stevie Wonder and Somebody's Watching Me by Rockwell - Joan Weddington

17. 1979 by The Smashing Pumpkins - Kaylee Hamrick
18. Piano Man by Billy Joel and Eleanor Rigby by The Beatles - Caitlin Vining
19. We Fell In Love In October by Girl In Red and Sweater Weather by The Neighborhood - Lily Chafin
20. All Too Well (Ten Minute Version) (Taylor's Version) (From The Vault) by Taylor Swift and Doomsday by Lizzy Mcalpine - Sydney Cunningham
21. Who Knows Where the Time Goes? by Fairport Convention and Sweet Adeline by Elliott Smith - Nathaniel Morefield



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