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The Grizzly, October 28, 2004

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the ghostly

thursday, october 28, 2004

the student newspaper of ursinus college



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collegeville, pa

volume 29 issue 8

Inside Scoop: Senior Halloween party coming to a barn near you

EDEN SWICK

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The Halloween spirit will creep into November with the annual Senior Halloween Party. Due to time constraints because of fall break and homecoming weekend, the class of 2005's officers have decided that this ghoulish occasion will take place from 8 p.m. – 12 p.m. on Nov. 4, at the Barn at Birchwood. Bus transportation will be provided for the seniors to and from the party.

The senior class will enjoy a variety of snacks, as well as an open bar – which includes top-shelf liquor and beer. The Halloween Party will also feature Ursinus' own WVOU DJ for the seniors' dancing pleasure. Senior class president, Samit Patel, says that the class officers are anticipating the Halloween Party to cost seniors between \$20-\$25. The announcement and the final price will be sent out via email sometime next week, when they receive confirmation from the Barn at Birchwood.

The Halloween Party is designated specifically for seniors to attend. The event has always been coordinated by the senior class officers. It has been met with the class' enthusiasm for at least 10 years. It was created by the seniors' desire to organize an event specifically for their own class. Dean Nolan states, "It's much easier for seniors to sponsor a class party that has alcohol since the underage issue is nonexistent. The senior class officers are the responsible leaders of the event, and as well-intended adults, they hold the legal and moral responsibility for the event's success."

It has been tradition for the students to compete for the coveted prizes for best group and best individual costumes. To increase competition and creativity of costumes, standards have been raised, and men and women will be judged together this year. The lucky winners will receive cash prizes. Past costumes have ranged from the Kool Aid Guy, to Poison Ivy, to the Smurfs, to a Natural Light six-pack. Amy Midgley, alumni of Ursinus College, comments on the Halloween Party: "The Halloween Party

is one of the perks the senior class should look forward to having. The best part about it is that the costumes are such a big deal and, since everyone wants to win, we always keep ours a secret to surprise everyone that night."

Samit Patel assures the seniors there are no real stipulations on the costumes. "Every type of costume is allowed, except for being naked of course. That's not our rule, that just the rule of the location. But if you want to cover up with little articles of clothing so you are somewhat naked, then so be it." Basically, the class officers expect, just like every year, a wide range of costumes. Jen Bolton, class of 2005 treasurer says, "We are hoping the creativity of the class really comes out during this time period. We are basically expecting the unexpected."

However, though there are leniencies involving costumes, the officers do want the students to be aware that there are consequences for unruly behavior. "Everyone is expected to be on decent behavior, which means not breaking anything, etc. The Barn has rules that if individuals have to puke, go into the bathroom. If you puke on the floor the individual will be fined \$500, and whoever jumps in the pool will be fined \$1000."

Erica Mauer, alumna of Ursinus, recalls the Halloween Party as being, "an amazing drunken time. I definitely recommend a camera. The absurdity of the night continues until you stumble home, satisfied and with plenty of good memories. Just have fun with it."

Seniors, let your immaturity (within reason) and creativity hang out this Halloween, and take some friendly advice from Dean Nolan: "The usual safety precautions should always be in place. Drink responsibly, don't drink and drive (which is where the buses come into play), don't wear flammable costumes, be careful not to obstruct vision or breathing with costumes and masks, and don't mess with Ghostbusters."

Don't let Wismer food scare you; DSAC is here to help!

MATT SUNDHEIM

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(Special to the Grizzly from the Dining Services Advisory Council)

For those of you unaware, the Dining Services Advisory Council (DSAC) has been working for the past two years on making dining in Wismer and Zack's better. We are a committee of students, acting as liaisons between Ursinus students and the Sodexo (dining services) staff. We meet twice a month to discuss suggestions and concerns, and we will be reporting items of interest to the community.

Last semester, a new station opened up: Red Hot Chef. It was originally geared towards vegetarians and contained no meat products. Now, the Red Hot Chef will offer a diversity of different meal options throughout the year. The vegetarian station has not disappeared, but has simply moved to the Smart Market in the middle of Wismer.

Long lines in Zack's always seem to be a problem around lunch time. To help alleviate this, more grab-and-go options will be available, so someone in a rush can get in and out of Zack's quickly.

All food ID cards were redone for this semester, and errors are being fixed. They still follow the same color scheme: yellow cards for dishes with meat, green cards for meatless dishes.

Finally, everything is being done to get the freshest fruits and vegetables for Wismer and Zack's. However, weather is a factor in this, and recent weather has not been ideal. So, keep in mind that we are not the only ones affected by this.

If you ever have any comments or suggestions of your own, feel free to e-mail us at DSAC@ursinus.edu, or come to one of our meetings. We hope you enjoy your meals, and please remember to bus your tables.

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The Grizzly will return on November 4, 2004.

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RHA Halloween decorating contest returns



Main Street houses and Residence halls gear up for another round of Halloween decorating competitions.

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It's that time of year again. Ursinus College's longstanding tradition of the Halloween Hall Decorating Contest is back.

Every year the Residence Hall Association sponsors a Halloween Decorating contest for the campus and local community. This year the contest will be held on Thursday, October 28. The Quad, BWC, and Main Street houses will participate in the activities. "There will be three monetary prizes given, one for best freshman hall and two for Main Street houses, one for the best upper house and a second for the best lower house," according to RHA president Maureen Smeltz class of 2005. Although RHA sponsors this event, it is up to each RA and their residents to decorate their hall or house. A select group of faculty members will be the judges of this competition.

This year a special effort has been made to involve

the local community. "Instead of posting flyers in shopping centers, we actually sent letters inviting kids from the local public schools to the event," said Smeltz. The event was originally scheduled for Wednesday, October 27, however that is the same day of the Community Halloween Parade. "We wanted the local community's participation, so pushing back this event one night is worth it," assured Smeltz. RHA is also preparing special campus maps to hand out to guests that mark off which halls and houses are open for visits.

The entire Residence Life community has been preparing for this event. Especially Smeltz, who recalls seeing Halloween decorations when she a prospective student. This is an event that she always looks forward to. "What I am most looking forward to about this event is that we will be able to bring a community activity to Ursinus College residents," she stated. Smeltz also mentioned how some students are already preparing their decorations. "Students are already getting ready for this; everyone is really trying to go all out this year."

Halloween not for everyone

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There are some people that simply do not celebrate Halloween, including children.

In America, Halloween is regarded as a day to dress up like little monsters, ghosts, and trademark Disney characters to collect candy from friendly neighbors. But in some Christian faiths, the day is deemed unholy, therefore some families do not celebrate it.

Some churches offer alternatives to Halloween for youth to participate in. On the day after Halloween, known as All Saints Day, the church I attend, the Lighthouse of Deliverance Gospel Church in Lindenwold, NJ, has a service where children dress as Bible characters and give presentations as that person. There are treats and gifts given so the children do not feel as if they are missing out by not celebrating Halloween.

Another church in Lindenwold, Solid Rock Gospel Church, has their version of a haunted house. One part of the church is constructed and decorated to represent Hell. Those that walk through see the results of an evil lifestyle of Earth.

The word "Halloween" has its roots in the Catholic Church, it is known as All Hallows Eve. But, the actual celebration of Halloween is a pagan tradition that goes back to Celtic Ireland, where Oct. 31 was known as the New Year.

There have been many stories and myths

explaining how and why the day is viewed as evil. One story from Celtic history tells of how the disembodied spirits of those who died in the previous year would come back to possess a living body for the next year. The Celts would extinguish all of their candles and dress in undesirable clothes to be unattractive to the spirits. This is believed to be the root of dressing up in costumes on the day. There have also been stories that the Celts burned someone, who was believed to be possessed, at the stake. These stories may have some roots in fact, but most people deem them only to be myths.

When the Roman Catholic Church adopted the Oct. 31 celebration of the Celts in the 1st century A.D., the day was more celebrated, as belief in spirit possession diminished. It was more commonplace for people to dress as witches, ghost and goblins.

Characters such as witches and ghosts are not welcome in some Christian homes. Despite its Christian heritage, the holiday is still viewed as the "devil's holiday," by some. In these households, families to do not put on costumes, decorate their homes, trick or treat, or give out candy. Participating in such activities would be viewed as participating in satanic activities, which goes against their Christian principles.

So this Halloween, if you are denied a trick or treat from the house with no decorations, do not throw eggs at it, they probably just celebrate in a different way. Now who should I be this year? Moses? Adam? John?.....

Omwake, a haunted house for the community

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On Thursday October 28th, the Victorian-style Omwake residence will be transformed into a Halloween funhouse, completely decorated both inside and out. The guys who live at Omwake and the members of Sigma Pi colony have been burning the midnight oil every Friday for the past month, planning and creating decorations. Omwake's RA Eric Sulock, who is admittedly crazy about Halloween, heads up the project. While he enthusiastically described their plans for the house, Sulock was reluctant to tell too much so as not to spoil the surprise!

Omwake will not just be a ghouls-and-ghosts typical haunted house - the guys have carefully planned a pirate theme and a creative story for patrons to enjoy. Walking in, community members and Ursinus students will hear about the lost treasure in a tavern-style room - if found, they promise a reward for the treasure. Sulock warns that ghosts and other spooky characters supposedly protect the treasure; patrons are encouraged to explore the house keeping in mind that warning.

Sigma Pi members and Omwake residents hope to add to the Halloween spirit and show the Collegeville area "a different side of Ursinus students, [specifically that students participate actively in community life]," says Sulock. Likewise, Sigma Pi believes that hosting a haunted house will be a great tradition to begin on campus. Aside from the freshman centers, no residences get decorated inside and out for Halloween - needless to say, Omwake's originality should attract some attention.

Local organizations have shown their enthusiasm for the events at Omwake by donating supplies - and together the guys hope to spend under \$300 for decorations. Their creativity will be what makes the house unique. They encourage community members, especially families with elementary-aged kids, to stop by from 6-8pm for a *free* Halloween treat. From 8-10pm, the house will be open to Ursinus students; and after that, Omwake sponsors a party. Sigma Pi members and Omwake residents have been working hard. Now all the guys are hoping for a great turnout. They encourage, "The more, the merrier! Come out and enjoy yourselves."

Upcoming Events:

COMMUNITY

October 27

*Rotary Club Halloween Parade on Main Street (downtown), 6:30pm

October 31 - Halloween

CAMPUS

October 28

*RHA Decorating Contest Judging 6-8pm

October 29

*Ursinus College Hall of Fame for Athletes Induction Ceremony and Banquet, 6pm

*Battle of the Bands in Reimert Courtyard, 6:30pm

October 30 - Homecoming

Reunions for: Alpha Sigma Nu, Delta Pi Sigma, Kappa Delta Kappa, Sigma Ro Lambda, Omega Chi, Meistersingers

*Homecoming Ceremony at the football game, 1pm

*Meistersingers Concert, 7:30pm Bomberger Aud.

Cheap, last-minute costumes down the road

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Ghouls and goblins, mountains of candy corn, vampires and scarecrows—Halloween is lurking in every corner, whether people are ready or not. It is the only holiday where someone can become something he or she is not.

As Halloween approaches ever faster, the rush to find the perfect outfit for the occasion only puts more stress on already-overcommitted students. But being away at college leaves many students asking, "Where can a good costume be found?"

The answer, surprisingly, is only a few blocks away

students who are looking to get into the spirit of Halloween; it features an assortment of costumes, masks, makeup, and yes, even whole pints of fake blood. The Halloween Outlet has been open since 1995 and usually runs from the last week of September until Halloween.

The store features two floors full of Halloween goodies. The first floor is mainly comprised of childrens' costumes, accessories, and detailed masks. The masks are by far the most intricate and amazing pieces the shop has to offer—they range from the head of a raven with a large top hat and monocle to a joker with a jeweled hat and elaborate face detail. Owner Doug Cornish points out that although these masks may be more expensive than the usual costume or mask, they are unique treasures to the outlet and not easy to find at a retail store, such as Party City.

He claims, "We have a lot of costumes that most major retailers don't carry. They tend to carry many lower-priced points, and we carry those as well as middle-to-upper points. We also carry stuff for people who are really into Halloween, such as latex."

On the second floor, one can find most of the adult costumes, wigs, fake teeth, and other necessities to accessorize the perfect costume. However, in addition to costumes, the Halloween Outlet also carries festive flags

for the home or dorm room. All in all, the store has a little something for everyone.

Can't find the costume you're craving? Cornish also mentions that if he does not carry an item, he would be more than happy to help someone find what they are looking for. "We try to work with people," he explains. The most

popular items sold are typical costumes, such as witches, werewolves, and renaissance characters, but there are also many popular obscure and unique items throughout the store. Chicken feet, fake appendages, and even Wonder Woman masks are all featured at the Halloween Outlet.

If the wide assortment of costumes and accessories is not enough to make one want to stop by, perhaps the prices are. Although some of the larger, more detailed masks are expensive, most other items in the Halloween Outlet are more than reasonable.

Cornish emphasizes, "We're one of the lowest [priced], if not the lowest [priced]." The Outlet will be open until Halloween on weekdays 12pm-8pm, Saturdays 10am-5pm, and Sundays 11am-5pm. The Halloween Outlet is the perfect place to get some last minute costume fixers or, for those last minutereaders out there, the place to start!



HALLOWEEN COSTUME OUTLET

↑

HOURS

MON. thru FRI.
12:00PM to 8:00PM

SATURDAY
10:00AM to 5:00PM

SUNDAY
11:00AM to 5:00PM

from Ursinus, at the Halloween Outlet, located on 46 East Third Avenue. The Halloween Outlet is a perfect resort for

It's a witch!

MATT KROLIKOWSKI
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"We found a witch—may we burn her?" goes the comedy classic, *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. Witches have certainly become an integrated part of modern, cultural myth-history, but few people actually understand the history and psychology of the witch hunts and those accused of witchcraft.

This is where Dr. Ross Doughty's "Devil in Europe" course enters. The course catalogue lists it as "a study of the origins and dynamics of the witch-hunt in Europe as a vehicle for examining early modern society and culture." The course is nearly brand-new to the college, as this semester marks the second time it has been taught. The plan is to offer the course every two years, and thus far, its popularity seems to ensure this schedule.

Dr. Doughty explains that the course was "an outgrowth of another course, 'State and Society in Modern Europe.' Originally, we had two or three students per class with 'State and Society.' Changes and adaptations were made and that course has since been reworked to form two separate courses, 'Warfare and Society' and 'Devil in Europe.'"

Students jumped on the change immediately. "The first time we offered 'Devil in Europe,' the class had 30 students," Doughty further explains. "We've since gotten

it to about 15 students, which is the ideal number for discussion-oriented learning."

The course has such appeal not only from the title, but also because instead of focusing on just philosophical and intangible concepts, it also brings very real situations and occurrences into study. The class appeals even to non-history majors.

Doughty states, "Obviously, just learning about history is a good idea, but this course covers issues present in our society today. The idea of an 'other' in a group, tolerance, gender issues, and misogyny are all covered in this class." Over half of the 15 students enrolled are not history majors, so clearly the class has varied appeal.

Students reiterate Doughty's enthusiasm about the class. Freshman Sean Redline declares, "'Devil in Europe' is a very enjoyable class. Non-history majors should be cautious though, as it can be challenging. However, Dr. Doughty does a great job of teaching this very interesting

course, which is a great way to fulfill a history credit, assuming you're willing to work."

One anonymous student maintains, "It's a great class. The reading sometimes can be a bit cumbersome, but you have to remember [that] you're covering 300 years of history in 15 weeks, so the reading isn't that bad..."

Though most scholars can agree that witches never were real, the myth and mystery behind the idea of the witch still pervades the pages today. "Devil in Europe" is an engaging, intellectually charged, and interesting course for any major and certainly one worth investigating if there is an interest in the topics discussed.

Sadly, the downside of course is that interested students will have to wait until the year after next to take it.



Picture courtesy of the Library of Congress

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Hobson ghosts: past and present

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Stories of ghostly occurrences on campus come to the minds of many students as Halloween approaches. One of the campus houses rumored to be haunted is Hobson Hall. Known for its infamous "tower room" and intricate woodwork, the home was bought from Ed and Mabel Fretz in 1944. Ed was Ursinus' treasurer for 16 years. The house gets its name from Mrs. Fretz's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Freeland Hobson.

Eerily, two ghosts are said to be haunting the halls of Hobson. One of the ghosts' names is "Terri". "Terri" is said to be the ghost of the late Teresa Urban, who passed away during her senior year at Ursinus. On March 19, 1993, she passed away due to medical causes in her room in Hobson. The untimely death of this well-respected and liked student grieved many on campus, including some faculty who still remember her fondly.

Sightings of "Terri" began in the fall of 1999, according to "Montgomery County Ghost Stories,"

by Charles Adams. A student passing by Hobson late at night happened to glance up at the roof of the house's tower, where he observed a girl sitting atop of the roof, hugging her knees to her chest. Realizing that this was an impossible feat, the student looked back up at the roof, but the girl was gone.

Former Hobson residents have reported that, in the third floor bathroom, something would turn on a faucet or flush the toilet while they were in there alone. In addition, a past resident of Ms. Urban's room has reported that she occasionally woke up in the middle of the night to see a pale, blonde girl sitting at her desk, looking around the room.

Another former resident of Hobson was staying alone in the house one year, just before Fall Break. As he was getting ready for bed, he heard footsteps on the third floor. He went upstairs to see who had returned, but no one was upstairs when he got there.

Back in his room, while playing video games, he began to hear footsteps on his own floor. Looking out the peephole, he saw nothing. Later, the door began to shake as though someone was trying to

open it, but, again, there was no one there when he looked out. After going to bed, the door started to shake again. This happened four more times and then stopped for the rest of the night.

This event, however, could be attributed to the second reported ghost of Hobson, "Kenny". Residents became aware of his existence when, after the incidents in 1999, they and some believers convened with a Ouija board to contact

"Terri" and see why she was in the house. "Terri", through the board, told the group that she and "Kenny" were in the house. She told them that she was there only because she had unfinished business on campus. Having never completed her biology major, she may be trying to graduate from beyond the grave.

The group also contacted "Kenny", who told them that he is a seven-year-old boy who had died in a car accident in the street in front of the house. Both spirits said that "Terri" cares for "Kenny", who has admitted to playing in the house when all or most of the residents are gone. He claimed to have jiggled and kicked doors.

More recently, fortunately, Hobson has been a much calmer place. Current residents have not reported any sightings of "Terri", though some have reported extraordinary occurrences.

For instance, the current resident of Terri's room says that radios will sometimes turn off sporadically and that the doors on the third floor will sometimes close on their own as well. She also states that weird scratching noises are sometimes audible in the walls. However, she has not seen any apparitions in her room.

Another resident claims that her closet doors will close by themselves, especially when she is inside trying to find something. One time, she got locked in and had to be let out by her friends in the room.

Conversely, other residents have reported nothing out of the ordinary. Dennis Vondran, who lives on the third floor, maintains, "I've experienced nothing. It's all an urban legend." Michael Wells, a second floor resident, also said that nothing weird has happened.

Whether these events are indeed the product of ghostly presences, or have a reasonable explanation, we will never know. However, as Wells put it, "There's nothing, but it's a fun story to tell."

Eastern State Penitentiary: does it frighten you?

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Up for a scare? With Halloween gradually approaching, what better way is there to spend your night than in an old prison that's been transformed into a haunted house? According to Britiany Gilbert, a freshman who took a trip through Eastern State Penitentiary, or ESP, "It was horribly terrifying, but also very creative and fun."

Eastern State Penitentiary, located in Philadelphia, is a historical landmark whose haunted house has been rated ninth best in the nation! ESP adheres to the prison theme by including a medical lab setting, as well as prison inmates and ghost guards.

The setting of an old prison establishes an eerie ambiance that really contributes to the scare factor of this haunted house. While the haunted house is the most popular feature of ESP, it also houses a daytime prison tour and a movie to watch while in line, which is essentially a historical background of the prison.

Since the prison's haunted house is run by a non-profit organization, all of the money made goes into the prison itself. Evan Thornburg, an Ursinus student who works there, says, "The makeup and costuming are amazing because they hire a makeup team for the actors. It is a really good haunt. If you like to be scared, you will really enjoy it."

Want to share this ghastly experience with your whole family but fear the content of the house? No need to worry! ESP is very family oriented. While maintaining a very frightening milieu, this haunted house excludes images of prison violence or execution, sexual molestation, etc. There are also no racial slurs or other offensive language used, so that everyone can enjoy a good scare.

Like to be scared? If the idea of prison inmates following you when you're not watching, jumping out at you from dark corners, or scaring the living daylight out of you, then ESP is the place for you to be. Eastern State Penitentiary thrives on its ability to make people jump, squirm, or just feel extremely paranoid. What a great way to celebrate Halloween!

So, if you want to take a 40-minute walk through this old prison, you can do so

career corner

Supernatural Careers

You've heard of poltergeists—you've seen the movies, you've read the books. You ask yourself, "Is any of it real?" Interestingly enough, parapsychologists and paranormal investigators work to understand these types of supernatural phenomena and explore the environmental and human factors causing the events. Kathy Rehm, paranormal investigator and photographer for the Office of Paranormal Investigation states, "For the majority of folks going to haunted places, it is the expectation that 'something really creepy' might happen to them... [For professionals,] it is field research being done to validate that under certain conditions, a paranormal event occurred."

What do parapsychologists study? According to the Parapsychological Association (PA), the basic parapsychological phenomena include telepathy, precognition, clairvoyance, extra-sensory perception (ESP), psychokinesis, bio-psychokinesis, near-death experience, out-of-body

experience, reincarnation, haunting, and poltergeists. Dr. Charles Tart, PA, suggests that because parapsychology is a mainstream line of beliefs, a career in the field requires entrepreneurial skills, persistence, creativity, resourcefulness, solid training in the conventional sciences or in a scholarly discipline, and the ability to withstand the tides of conventional wisdom. He states, "If you enjoy exploring the full range of human potential and challenging the status quo, then there is no better discipline than parapsychology."

For more information on careers in parapsychological phenomena, check out these Web sites:

Parapsychological Association

<http://www.parapsych.org/>

American Institute of Parapsychology

<http://www.afterlife-psychical.org>

American Society for Psychical Research

<http://www.aspr.com>

The International Association for Near-Death Studies

<http://www.iands.org>

The Office of Paranormal Investigations

<http://www.mindreader.com>

any day during the week before Halloween. Prices range from 13 to 25 dollars, depending on the day and time. They sell out fast because this truly is a renowned

haunted house! Need more encouragement to make the trek? Trevor Strunk, Ursinus sophomore, asserts, "It is worth your money." Will it frighten you? Go and find out!

Two Sides to Every Story:

Are Halloween costumes just for fun, or can they be offensive?

TAKING OUT THE TRASH

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Women, long-standing second class citizens of America, have endured countless struggles to obtain and maintain equal rights. They have endlessly tried to raise the bar on how men view women, always trying to be seen as equal partners.



Some may say that women have not yet truly reached that peak. How and why is it then that many young girls, when faced with

Halloween costume choices, reach for the most revealing ones?

Contrary to popular belief, there is such a thing as a tasteless costume. When girls don lingerie, stiletto heels, and animal ear headbands in the name of Halloween fun, we must stop and think. What is this doing to the women's rights movement? Where did the message of feminism go? Did it magically disappear to the Land of Oz, with the missing pieces of their costumes? No.

Little by little, the daughters of the feminists of the 70's have ripped apart their mother's gift, replacing it with see-through clothing and skirts so short that underwear is now part of an outfit. And why shouldn't they? Boys respond to this type of dress.

The recent favorite movie among girls and boys alike, *Mean Girls*, shows young

girls at a Halloween party. They are dressed in skin tight leotards, short skirts, and cleavage-bearing tops. One girl shows up at the party wearing a more traditional scary costume. Needless to say, after enduring stares and jeers, she does not get the guy. Movies such as this showcase the young feminine population's obsession with sexuality and what happens to those who do not conform.

The verdict is debatable on what people think is and is not acceptable to wear for Halloween. Some girls think that, because of the wonders feminism has worked on the way the world views sexuality, they should be able to wear whatever they want, regardless of what others think.

Some boys think that girls, dressed up in skimpy outfits, are hot, and at that point, who cares about the suffrage of women? But there is still hope for the future.

When asked his opinion, junior Vishal Thaker said, "On a humanities level, I'd say 'yes', girls dressing slutty for Halloween is not acceptable. It's like breaking down the world's morality a piece at a time."

Women have only recently gained such civil rights as voting in 1920 and the right to abortion in 1973. So how is it that, after such an ordeal, after so much toil, girls feel the need to showcase their bodies in a degrading way? What happened to pride in being a woman?

Instead, it has become pride in being seen as a sexual object for male viewing pleasure, back to the old days of women existing for men.

Professor Rebecca Jaroff says, "What did I burn my bra for?" And she's right.

How old is too old to trick or treat?

KYLE KAUFFMAN
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When asked the question "How old is too old to trick or treat" my immediate reaction was to say never. I truly believe that a person is never too old to go trick or treating.

However, after I put some more thought into it I realized that I stopped going door to door after high school. Why is this? Why after high school did I suddenly stop dressing up and parading around the neighborhood? The answer to this is simple. I went away to college and moved into a new neighborhood where I was unfamiliar with the residents of Collegeville.

Do I still believe that there is no age limit to go trick or treating? Yes, I still do believe this. I was supported by some fellow Ursinus students. A sophomore gentleman proclaimed, "THERE IS NO AGE LIMIT!"

Senior Ryan Regensburg states, "There is no age limit because when you have kids you will take them out and enjoy the holiday with them. It is like any other holiday and you want to celebrate it with your children."

Regensburg went on to say, "I think during the time period before you have children, it is a decision of your own and it goes back to whether it is too childish for you. I still know 30-year-olds who go trick or treating. But I know that when I have kids, I am going to get all dressed up and go out with them. You are never too old."

I continued to poll members of our Ursinus community; I asked my statistics professor Jeff Neslen what he thinks about this question he said, "53". When I asked why, he responded by saying, "because I am 52 and I am not ready to stop trick or treating, but next year when I turn 53 the age to stop will move up to 54."

Neslen did make a point to tell me that his son is 12, and he is not sure whether or not he will want to continue trick or treating. Neslen felt that there is a point when children for a brief period of time begin to feel too cool for the holiday, and they do not want to have to put up with the hassle of finding a costume, getting all decked out, and traveling around the neighborhood.

Sophomore Lindsay Givens feels 89 is the age one should stop going door to door. When asked why she

HAVING A LAUGH

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As we approach the Halloween season, we find that everyone is busy decorating, buying candy, and most importantly, finding a costume. Halloween is the one night of the year you can dress up as whatever you want.

Every year there are the people with the questionable costumes; the girl wearing next to nothing, the guy dressed up as Osama Bin Laden and the lame costume that just doesn't make sense. But is this crossing the line?

When does a costume become offensive? Whether your costume will be funny, sexy, cute, scary or just clever, anything goes as long as it's meant in jest.

Girls in skimpy costumes are very popular during Halloween, especially on a college campus. While these costumes will most likely lead to name-calling and assumptions about the girl, the consequences are on her. As long as the girl is prepared to deal with these consequences, she should be allowed to wear whatever she wants.

Junior Kate Rickerl says, "Honestly, I am one of those girls that wear tiny little costumes. I know there are probably people who talk about me, but it's Halloween and I'm wearing what I want."

If someone were to dress up like Osama Bin Laden, it would be offensive. However,

if someone dressed up like Osama Bin Laden with a big target on their chest, it is obviously meant to be a joke and makes the costume acceptable. Adding the target to the costume makes it funny and in reality, is expressing what many people in this country would like to see.



The same rule would apply to other similar costumes such as a KKK member or Hitler. As long as the person wearing the costume makes it clear that they are not trying to glorify these people and turns it into a joke, it is acceptable to sport a controversial costume.

According to sophomore Melissa Buckley, "There is definitely a difference between being funny and being mean. It's just not cool to wear something when you know it will offend people."

But how is one supposed to know the difference between something offensive and something acceptable? It's all in the intent of the costume. If you're planning on wearing a costume because you find it generally funny, cute or clever, by all means, wear it! But if you're planning a costume deliberately meant to hurt or offend someone, stay home.

Halloween is a special night of the year meant for fun and there is just no reason to wear a deliberately offensive costume. As Halloween quickly approaches, have fun with your costumes, but think twice about whether or not you will upset someone.

stated, "Because you might break a hip at 90." She did go on to say, "I went [trick or treating] all through high school. I love it! But some people get mad when older people go door to door."

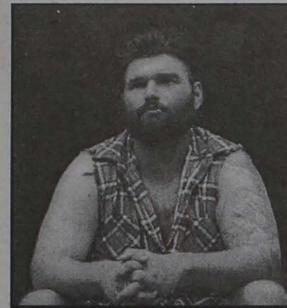
Senior Aubrey Andre told me that Halloween is her favorite holiday. "You are never too old. Because you are taking part in the festivities of the holiday, and I think that even handing out candy is taking part in trick or treating. If people did not do either of these things they would ruin my favorite day!"

Andre also stated that, "Trick or treating is the same thing as people of all ages going to Disney World; you are never too old to feel like a kid. Disneyworld seems to be made for children but it is appreciated by everyone."

Of all the people I asked "How old is too old to trick or treat," I did not receive one negative comment. Most people felt that it is a personal decision; however, it seemed to me that everyone was more than willing to embrace the holiday.

Halloween hijinks

Halloween has changed since I was a kid... mainly because I don't have neighbors trying to poison me these days. But let's be honest, isn't Halloween too commercial these days? We've forgotten what Halloween is truly about: Satan, pagans, and witches. It's the most evil day of the year short of Walpurgisnacht (and Christmas; I *hate* Christmas: people are sooo hard to shop for). But before you put on a loincloth to dance around a fire worshipping the Dark Prince, let's not forget what else Halloween is about: pranks. At college, since we don't trick or treat anymore, we've forgotten all about the tricks (they're *not* just for kids, dammit!).



GOODY
The Skipped Diploma:
Musings of a Social
Senior

Everyone is too concerned with wearing some stupid costume to play any Halloween pranks these days. And while we're on the subject of stupid costumes, please girls, *please* don't dress up as a school

girl or Britney Spears or whatever again. (Really though, if I wanted to see Britney Spears, I'd stay home, turn on the TV, and lock the door.) Yes, I do like your plaid skirt and the way your cute little butt twitches in it when you walk, but enough is enough. But I digress...

Since many of you ladies should now be rethinking your costumes, here are some pre-planned pranks. Have you ever considered urinating in an upside down Frisbee, freezing it, then flipping it over and sliding it under someone's door? Well I have. There's no room under the door for a Frisbee? Simple solution, my friend. Merely place a liquid in a Ziploc bag and put the opening under the door, then apply a sudden downward force on the bag with the palm of your hand. (A team of scientists is working around the clock to apply this principle to concealing the bag under somebody's sheets.)

Here's another classic: get your oldest sounding friend to call your parents around 12:30 AM and say, "Hello, Mr. *last name here*, this is Officer John Kimble of the Collegeville Police Department. We've had an incident with your son/daughter, *your name here*. He/She was arrested for Public Drunkenness/Indecent Exposure/Underage/Conspiracy/Public Urination/Etc. Bail has been set at \$5,000 and he/she is required to be detained overnight. This is his/her one phone call, here he/she is:" Then you pick up the phone and apologize profusely for laughing so hard at their gullibility.

Or you could just call one of your friends, claim to be the county coroner and tell them their parents are dead. It works wonders unless they recognize your voice and reply "Goody, why the hell are you awake at 5:15? Please say you didn't set your alarm for this." Believe you me, it sucks. Especially when you put forth the effort of setting your alarm clock for 5:15 AM.

So this Halloween when you're getting all gussied up, take some time to be a pain in somebody's ass. Because hey, the true meaning of Halloween is the tricks. Oh, and the infernal tributes, don't forget the infernal tributes.

Goody has problems. If you have a problem you would like him to muse on, you can reach him at jagood@ursinus.edu.

Boo... or something like that

They're telling me it's Halloween, and I should write a Halloween-based column. I was going to write about the three Presidential debates, but I guess they were looking for something a little less frightening.

But I'm not going to write a Halloween column, because I have nothing to write about it, for various reasons. First and foremost, the event has always confused me. Why one day a year parents condone actions of their children that the other 364 days they would condemn the children for is beyond me.



CAM FURMAN
It's the Mind

Apparently as long as it is October 31, not only should kids talk to strangers, they should seek them out. Don't force the strangers to do the legwork for you, go out and find them in their homes. And preferably this should be done at night, when it's dark.

At the end of the evening, the parents are also free to lift that ban on sugar. Instead of lectures on how it will rot the teeth and make you sick, children can sit on the floor, surrounded by a sea of sweets, and consume enough to kill a herd of elephants (my own knowledge on the 'elephants + candy = death' equation is a bit sketchy I admit).

I think the part that I most dislike about Halloween is the costumes. A holiday that involves prep work and planning on the level of costuming has already got several strikes against it in my book.

I've been trying to think about what costumes I wore as a child. I remember Robin Hood, and an unfortunate year when I had to go as something I've always had a lifetime fear of: a clown.

My favorite costume, and one I remember the most fondly, was the year I went as Winston Churchill. Some of you might question the sanity of going as a former British prime minister, but rest assured, I did very well that evening on the candy front.

And if one thinks about it, there is a definite link between Halloween and politics. The holiday is all but a training exercise for the future leaders of our country.

Politicians are known for wearing masks, sometimes several at once.

Both groups go out at a certain time of year and beg. Children are looking for candy, politicians for votes.

And most importantly, there is a built in system of revenge with both traditions. But whereas Halloween goes resort to sophomoric punishments involving eggs and toilet paper, the politicians are somewhat more advanced in their tactics.

So I suppose in the end I am forced to look back at Halloween with a certain amount of thankfulness and respect, for teaching me some of the important aspects of politicking that someday will come in handy.

Anyway, where was I? Ah yes, I am not going to write about Halloween.

Cam Furman is a senior. You can reach him at cafurman@ursinus.edu.

Halloween... for dummies

Halloween is fast approaching, and the coming of this time of year always brings with it fond memories of Halloween's past: the cool October night; the anxious excitement as you hurriedly put on your Halloween costume you spent weeks thinking about and planning; the rising wave of exhilaration as you approach a the next door on your trick-or-treating route; the thrill as you imagine what treasure trove of candies await you on this stop...

Yes, these memories should be extra poignant to all of you this year, especially since, as college students, YOU'RE TOO OLD TO TRICK-OR-TREAT ANYMORE HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA! That's right, just like Legos, Barbie dolls and Pokémon, you have outgrown trick-or-treating, and you will never be that young ever again. Man, you must really feel old now! Next thing you know you'll be wearing Depends, thinking about your retirement and start noticing that you are growing gray hairs in places on your body that you had only heard about in medical texts.

But before you drown your misery in a hearty can of Geritol®, take heart, fellow Ursinusians... Ursinusites? Let's go with Ursinus people... anyway, Ursinus people, there is a way you can get your much-needed sugar fix this Halloween via trick-or-treating and, while you're at it, you can make a wry, bitter-social commentary while you're doing it! Here now is *Communism for Dummies'* List of Halloween

Costumes for the Modern American College Student:



MATT FLYNTZ
DAN SERGEANT
Communism for Dummies

1. A Compassionate Conservative – The only problem with this costume is that everyone will realize it's a just a costume, since we all know there's no such thing.

2. A Sober Ursinus Student – See Compassionate Conservative.

3. A Philadelphia Eagles fan – Put on your favorite jersey, paint your face for good measure, and act really energetic and enthusiastic for the first portion of your Halloween party. Then, inexplicably, do something stupid, like trip or spill something all over yourself, and then spend the rest of the night crying in a corner, surrounded by your disillusioned and disappointed fans. I mean friends.

4. Michael Moore – Gain 100 pounds, adorn yourself in American flag pins, and then become visibly excited to the point of gyrating whenever anyone asks about how things are going in Canada.

5. Swift Boat Veteran for Truth – Bludgeon yourself silly, get amnesia. Accept payoffs from the GOP to stand up in the middle of the party and whine loudly.

6. New York Driver – People from New Jersey will nod in agreement when I tell you that there is not a scarier sight in all the world.

We hope this list was helpful to you, the candy-deprived Ursinus person. Have fun this Halloween! And remember to change your Depends hourly.

Matt Flyntz and Dan Sergeant are freshmen. You can reach them at maflyntz@ursinus.edu and dasergeant@ursinus.edu.

The Thompson-Gay era and the gym named in their honor

JOE DAVIDO

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At Ursinus College, there are those students who make a difference either by their good nature, kind hearts, pleasant smiles, or desire to help out fellow students and faculty. They may inspire us to achieve high levels of success or help show us what we can truly accomplish in life. However, it takes a look back into the Ursinus history books (otherwise known as the Ursinusiana Archives of Myrin Library) to find a perfect example of two individuals, Robert Thompson and George Gay, who single-handedly empowered the student body at Ursinus to strive for higher endeavors.

Robert Thompson and George Gay were students at Ursinus back in the early 1900's. They were not just typical students, but rather incredible athletes who had the splendid character and high spirits that inspired many. Their successes became known on and off the field. Both were admired by their entire student bodies not only for their great morale, but for the honor and maturity that they displayed as members of the Ursinus community. Their attributes were regarded so highly by the campus community that a gym was named in their honor. The Thompson-Gay Gym stood where Ritter Hall is, and paid tribute to these two student-athletes following their tragic deaths.

Robert Thompson, also known as "Bob", was one of the most well liked students at Ursinus. Thompson was a math major and played right tackle for the Ursinus football team. He was kind-hearted, generous, and always made friends, not enemies. As a student and intellectual, his opinions were highly respected by his peers. He not only participated in football, but in the Latin-Mathematical group. His goal was to pursue a career in Civil Engineering.

The life of this young man was struck by tragedy on March 7th, 1912. At the East Dining Hall located within Freeland Hall, where Myrin Library currently stands, it was a typical trip for Thompson as he went to eat a hearty meal at the college dining facility. He was seated at the football training table with twelve of his friends, including his younger brother, Kerr, when he choked while



ROBERT THOMPSON



GEORGE HENRY GAY

eating his food. When those around him noticed that he required medical attention, students tried several measures to help him, but without success. The cause of death was choking stimulated by food particles in the larynx and which came following the aftermath of the diphtheria that he suffered that winter. There was so much respect for him campus-wide that the grief forced by his death caused students to hold a collection in the chapel to buy a floral tribute. Students gave every last cent that they had in their possession to the fund.

George Gay was another remarkable student-athlete. He excelled in track and field, basketball, baseball, and football. He was also appointed soccer coach. Gay was perhaps the most talented as a football player. He had the perfect physique and had an amazing amount of knowledge about the game. This man appeared to be more of a machine than a human being on the football field because he played nearly every position possible: offensive lineman, running back, quarterback, wide receiver, punter and kicker. He excelled in every position and played in a total of 42 games, winning 28 and gaining

two ties. Through this period, he scored over two hundred and thirty points, more than one-third of the total points scored. He struck immense fear in the guts of opposing players, and showed new football recruits how to play the game successfully.

Gay was a very self-sufficient student off the field when it came to paying for his college expenses. He did so by ringing the school bell during the school term to signal meals and classes, and by working at factories during vacations. He held his responsibility well and it was said that the ringing of the college bell was never done with as much punctuality or loyalty to duty.

Tragedy struck this young man's life when he was playing for the Phoenixville Union football team in a match-up against a Pottstown team on Saturday, November 1st, 1913. He took a huge hit from a tackler and was thrown out of bounds, only to land awkwardly, suffering a broken neck. After a trip to Phoenixville Hospital, X-rays found that his injury included a lesion of his spinal cord at the Cervical vertebrae, serious damage that led to his death the following Monday.

Thompson and Gay were undeniably noteworthy men whose names became synonymous with school spirit, honor, leadership, and athletic prowess. They both inspired those who played with them to give their best effort in upholding the reputation of the college. Not only did they impact the lives of the students and faculty who knew them, but set a good example for the future generations of Ursinus students. While the Thompson-Gay Gym has since faded over time, the memory of these two young men will live on. Ursinus College has continued to instill great values in its students, and with the right mindset and attitude, other student-athletes can be just as successful in their tenure here at the college.

Nightmares on Broad Street

EDDIE MURRAY

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From October 7th until October 31st, *Nightmares on Broad Street* will be taking over the 18,000 seat Wachovia Spectrum. The event building will present 350,000 square feet of chills and thrills in this Halloween adventure park.

"Nightmares on Broad Street will be the largest, most-interactive haunted Halloween experience unlike anyone has ever seen before in Philadelphia," said Comcast-Spectacor Senior Vice President John Page.

This hair-raising experience will provide gruesome sets, haunting, baffling mazes, and horrifying movies in making this the most terrifying event of the season.

This will not be the everyday Halloween hay ride presented in your local towns. The adventure park creators are only hiring the best actors to create the most scares possible. The hired actors, 100 in total, will be put through scare school after they pass auditions.

"Nightmares on Broad Street features the latest techniques in special effects and technology to provide guests with a physical, psychological and visual scary experience, but an overall ghoul time," says John Page. This will be one of the most talked about events ever to come out of the history of the Spectrum.

The 70 minute, self-guided tour is available for kids ages 7 through adults age dead. "and if you're dead, you're probably in our show," says Lynton V. Harris, creator of the park.

All tickets cost \$20. Log on to www.nightmaresonbroadstreet.com for daily show times.



UC Sports Schedule 10.30.2004

Men's soccer

Date	Opponent	Time
Sat. 10/30	Muhlenberg	11 a.m.

Football

Date	Opponent	Time
Sat. 10/30	Johns Hopkins	1 p.m.

Women's soccer

Date	Opponent	Time
Sat. 10/30	Muhlenberg	2 p.m.

Field hockey

Date	Opponent	Time
Sat. 10/30	Johns Hopkins	12 p.m.

Cross Country

Date	Opponent	Time
Sat. 10/30	at CC Championships at McDaniel	12 p.m.

