



The Griffin Gazette

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OCTOBER

The History of Halloween

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By: Clark Humphrey

It takes some historical digging to come up with why we celebrate Halloween.

Most of America's big holidays have more-or-less self-explanatory purposes--to celebrate aspects of the Christian tradition, to honor the coming of the new year or the change of seasons, to remember the legacy of family members or noted historical figures.

But Halloween doesn't seem to fit in any of those above categories.

It takes some historical digging to come up with why we celebrate the eerie and the spooky on Oct. 31.

One person who's done such a dig is Rosemary Ellen Guiley. According to Guiley, the origins of Halloween are a lot like the origins of Christmas and Easter as we practice them today--Ancient Roman, Catholic, and European Pagan

lore, all blended together.

The name Halloween is Scottish in origin and is short for "All Hallow's Eve," the night before "All Hallow's Day," or All Saint's Day. That day was set by Pope Boniface IV to honor the Catholic saints, and also to replace a Roman pagan festival of the dead (which had been held in late February, the end of the old Roman year). Later, Pope Gregory III changed All Saint's Day to November 1st.

By the time Christianity came to the British Isles, local folk had already been celebrating

their own festival of the dead on Samhain (November 1, the Celtic new year). According to author Jack Santino in "Halloween and other Festivals of Death and Life" (University of Tennessee Press), "Many traditional beliefs and customs associated with Samhain, most notable that night was the time of the wandering dead, the practice of leaving offerings of food and drink to masked and costumed revelers, and the lighting of bonfires, continued to be practiced on 31 October."

In other words, the Christian church incorporated local Irish, Scottish, and Welsh pagan traditions into one of its own holy days. Just as the old fertility symbols of the rabbit and the evergreen tree became parts of Easter and Christmas, so have the symbols of the end of the fall harvest season and the coming of darkness become parts of a modern western-world celebration.



School Survival... Beyond the First Quarter

By: Matthew Keller

Many people think the beginning of the school year is unimportant for the success of the school year and in years to come. These people, unfortunately, do not consider the "consequences" that take place in the future due to their actions.

For example, a study showed that when 93% of colleges in America consider students for acceptance, they look

at student academic performance at the start of the school year. Athletics also consider student grades at the beginning and the end of each school year when considering athletes.

Also, the first quarter of school often gives the teacher an impression of how well you are learning and whether or not you care about school. If you show that you are a willing student, then you will develop a

relationship with your teachers that can help you in the future.

Here's a tip... If you want to succeed in school, participate in class and listen to your teachers. If you are planning on going to college, you have to keep good grades and work hard in school. If you can do both, you are sure to have an extraordinary and abundant life.

Haunted Hamilton



The city of Hamilton is a very historic city with several historic hauntings. Check out these spooky spots!

Butler County Treasurer's Office:

The ghost of a former night watchman has made appearances at the Butler County Treasurer's Office, where he was killed in a robbery in the 1860's. The robbers hung his body from a rafter to make it look like suicide but had actually killed him with ether. In 1893 he appeared to a county employee by making the clock chime 21 times and materializing on the face. Maybe he still hangs around.

Miami University—Hamilton:

The Hamilton branch of Miami University is said to be haunted, particularly the fourth floor of Mosler Hall.

Princeton Road:

Princeton Road near Hamilton is a very haunted stretch of road. A woman stands on the side of the road on certain nights, warning motorists of danger at the site where she wrecked and died. If you stop for her, she will hitch a ride.

Maud-Hughes Road:

Maud-Hughes Road is home to the Screaming Bridge,

named for the ghostly screams of the people who have died there. Balls of light have been seen on the Screaming Bridge, along with a phantom caboose.

The Ruppert House:

Hamilton, Ohio, holds the distinction of being the site of America's largest family mass murder, an event which has haunted the city--literally and figuratively--for more than twenty years. It happened on Easter Sunday, 1975, inside the modest row house at 635 Minor Avenue. The house, they say, is haunted.

The Salem Witch Trials of 1692

"People called them witches and believed the devil had given them special powers."

A small girl becomes strangely ill...

The Salem Witch Trials took place in the summer of 1692. Ignorance and fear ruled over Puritan Salem, Massachusetts. Several men and women stood trial for witchcraft. People called them witches and believed the devil had given them special powers. Nineteen of the accused were judged guilty and put to death by hanging.

Another was crushed to death for not pleading guilty. Many others suffered and some died as a result of the turmoil and mistreatment.

So what were the underlying circumstances? The story begins the previ-

ous winter when sometime during February 1692, a small girl became strangely ill. She complained of pain and fever, burst out in incomprehensible gibberish, experienced convulsions and contortions; her symptoms baffled everyone.

Cotton Mather had just written a popular book describing suspected witchcraft in nearby Boston. Then three other girls, playmates of the afflicted Betty Parris, began to exhibit similar unusual behaviors.

Doctor Griggs examined the girls and after his first administrations failed, he declared that the girls' afflictions might be the result of witchcraft. That grim diagnosis triggered a Puritan inquisition throughout the community. Finger point-

ing began.

The first to be arrested were a Caribbean-born slave along with Sarah Good and Sarah Osburn, two elderly women of poor reputation. The hysteria raged into the summer months and filled the prisons with innocent people. Eventually, 150 "witches" were taken into custody.

By late September, 19 men and women had been hanged on Gallows Hill, an eighty year old man pressed to death under stones for refusing a trial, five more accused had died in jail, but none of the executed had confessed to witchcraft.

Then almost as fast as it had started, the witch hunt ended.



Halloween Jokes That Everyone Can Enjoy!

Q. What do goblins and ghosts drink when they're hot and thirsty on Halloween?
A. *Ghoul-aid!!!*

Q. What is a Mummy's favorite type of music?
A. *Wrap!!!!*

Q. Why do demons and ghouls hang out together?
A. *Because demons are a ghouls best friend!*

Q. What's a monster's favorite bean? A. *A human bean.*

Q. What do you call a witch who lives at the beach?
A. *A sand-witch.*

Q. Where does a ghost go on Saturday night? A. *Anywhere where he can boo-gie.*

Q. What did the skeleton say to the vampire? A. *You suck.*

Q. What do ghosts say when something is really neat?
A. *Ghoul*

Q. Why did the ghost go into the bar? A. *For the Boos.*

Q. Why was the girl afraid of the vampire? A. *He was all bite and no bark.*

Q. Why did the skeleton cross the road? A. *To go to the body shop.*

Q: Why didn't the skeleton cross the road? A: *He had no guts.*

Q. What do witches use in their hair? A. *scare-spray*

Costumes by Halloween Express...

By: Brittany Stewart

Looking for the perfect Halloween costume but can't find it anywhere?

Well, Halloween Express is the place for you! They have everything from scary to cute. They also have great comical costumes.

Whatever you're looking for, they most likely have it! They even have accessories to go with your costume too. They have a ton of masks and scary things to decorate your house with for Halloween night.

So, if you're looking for the scariest, funniest, or cutest costumes and accessories around, check out HALLOWEEN EXPRESS or visit: www.Halloweenexpress.com to check out what they have!

Locations near you:

Tri-County
11711 Princeton Pike
Cincinnati, OH 45246
513-671-0505

Kenwood
8133 Montgomery Road
Cincinnati, OH 45236
513-936-8300

Deerfield Town Center
5395 Deerfield Blvd
Mason, OH 45040
513-229-7407

"Halloween Express is your one stop shop for all of your costume needs."



- Eat a good meal prior to trick-or-treating.
- Consider fire safety when decorating for Halloween.
- Plan and review the route you plan to take when trick-or-treating.
- Be visible and use a flash light during night hours.
- When designing a Jack O' Lantern, use a safe carving knife or just leave the carving to adults!



Highlights from the HALLOWEEN Dance!

On October 26th, the white team hosted Garfield's annual Halloween dance. Everyone got into the spirit and all sorts of people were in attendance. From Elvis to Paris, from clowns to Power Rangers, everyone had a spooktacular time!



Elvis showed up for the big dance.



Halloween Movies

By: Erica Courter

1. **The Haunted Mansion** is a thrilling story about Jim Evers and his family. Jim and his wife Sarah are busy real estate agents. Jim is very busy, and to repay the time he missed with his family, he plans a weekend trip to the lake. But, when he receives a call from a wealthy homeowner who wants to sell his home, Jim cannot deny the offer. The Evers family instead gets stuck in a terrifying mansion overnight and things start to go topsy-turvy. Will the Evers family ever be the same?

Rate (1-10): 8 *Enjoyable for all!*

2. **Ernest Scared Stupid** is a story of friendship, belonging, and bravery. Ernest P. Worrell never seems to fit in and is always messing things up. When he and his three kid friends explore the woods to find a fort site, they accidentally unleash a vicious troll that seeks to turn children into wooden dolls, and thus make

himself stronger. Nobody believes Ernest, but in the end it is up to him alone to save the entire town. Can he do it?

Rate (1-10): 8 *Very fun!*

3. **The Mummy** is an exciting tale of legend and myth. When Evelyn, a librarian in Egypt stumbles upon a small box and map that might lead her to her dream of a golden book at the Egyptian city of Humanaptra, she sets out on a quest to find it. First, she must persuade the man who had the box to help her. His name is Rick O'Conner and he's been to Humanaptra before and believes the city is haunted by an ancient curse. When they meet a group of Americans who are also seeking the treasure, a large controversy begins. The Americans unlock the book of the dead and release a 3,000 year old mummy. The mummy seeks to kill the Americans, rebuild himself, and eventually raise his girlfriend from the dead. Can Evelyn and Rick save the world, or are they doomed?

Rate (1-10): 9 *Excellent!*



1999 Release
"The Mummy"

Halloween!

By: Kayla Baker

Halloween is full of sight,
Running, screaming, fun tonight.
Everyone joins in the crowd,
2, 4, 6, 8, Scream out loud!
Can you hear the joyous sound?
See the pumpkins, they're so round!

Halloween is not of fearing,
Lot's of people always cheering.
All the girls scream, we can cheer it!
Everybody's in the spirit.

No one's lost, we're all found.
There's no silence, just all sound!
We're all excited about tonight
No one sits still, no one sits right.

Tonight's the night of scream and fright
All pretend, but scary at sight.
Ghouls and goblins running around
The sound of werewolves chilling hound.

It's up to you... are you in for a fright?
If your are, show up tonight!
If you don't, we know where you live...
Is there a treat you want to give?

Give your spirit! Show up tonight!
I promise a good time and a good fright!
So, tell all your friends to and have fun!
There's the end of the story...
Now it is done!

Urban Legends & Halloween Myths

Urban legends thrive on people's deepest fears -- that our safe world can crack at any moment and a madman will change our lives forever. That alone is enough to give anyone some second thoughts about our everyday routine.

Legends and folklore tales range from the maniacal serial killer to the completely unexplained. Everyone loves scary ghost stories in the Fall, when the days get shorter, the nights get longer -- and imaginations run wild.

Chances are you'll find many versions of these stories as they get passed on from person to person. Children have a tendency to twist the plots and make them fit their particular circumstances. The Halloween season seems to bring out the best of local urban legends, both old and new.

Many of these spooky stories are old classics from years past. They may not be the version you've heard, but that's what makes it fun. With the help of our readers, we've got many variations, some relating to ghosts, the supernatural, and hoaxes. These legends are not suitable for young children or the faint of heart. If you've got nerves of steel, proceed with caution...

Get comfortable, dim the lights and read through some classic as well as modern urban legends, myths and folklore. Did it really happen, or was it just a figment of someone's imagination?

The Hitchhiker

One summer day, a woman pulled into a gas station. As the attendant pumped the gas, the woman told the attendant that she was in a hurry to pick up her daughter who would soon be finishing her art class.

While she was waiting, a man walked over to her car. He explained to her that his rental car had died and he needed a ride to an appointment. The location was just down the road from her daughter's art class, so she told him she would be happy to give him a ride.

He put his briefcase in the backseat, and said that he was going to the men's room quickly. A few

minutes passed, and the woman looked at her watch. Realizing that she would be late, she drove off quickly, forgetting that the man would be coming back.

She thought nothing of it until she and her daughter pulled into their driveway. She saw his briefcase and realized she had forgotten him! She opened the briefcase, looking for some sort of identification. All she found inside was a knife and a roll of duct tape.

Buried Alive

My great-great grandmother, who had been ill for some time now, finally passed away. My great-great grandfather was devastated beyond belief. She was his one true love and they had been married for over 50 years.

They had been married so long it was if they knew each others thoughts. Even after the doctor announced her dead, my great-great grandfather still insisted that she was not. He had to literally be pried away from his wife's body so they could prepare her for a burial.

Back in those days they had simple backyard burial plots, without the body doing through any preservation. The body was simply committed to the coffin and buried. Throughout this process, my great-great grandfather protested so much that he had to be sedated and put to bed. His wife was buried, and that was that.

That night, he woke to a horrific vision of his wife hysterically trying to scratch her way out of the coffin. He phoned the doctor immediately and begged to have his wife's body taken out. The doctor refused. He continued to have this nightmare every night that week, and each day after begged the doctor to remove his wife from the grave.

Finally, the doctor gave in, and with the local authorities had the coffin removed from the ground and pried open. To everyone's horror and amazement, my great great grandmothers nails were bent back, and there were obvious scratches on the inside of the coffin.

The Furry Collar

Once, there were two girls named Mary and Karen having a sleepover. It was being held at Karen's house because her parents were out of town. In fact, every time Karen's parents went out of town, they had a sleepover because Karen was afraid to stay by herself. It was Halloween and once again, Karen's parents were out of town. When Mary rang the doorbell, Karen answered wearing a beautiful silk nightgown. It was blood-red and had a furry collar. Mary envied Karen for having that nightgown.

They began to watch some scary movies. All of the sudden, Mary heard a soft "thump, thump, thump, thump." She was frightened and looked at Karen, who didn't seem to notice. As the night progressed, Mary heard the thumping noise intermittently and it seemed to be growing nearer. When the noise sounded from right behind them, the electricity and lights went out. Mary and Karen ran screaming, up to the second floor, into Karen's room. It was now midnight and the two girls were scared to death.

Suddenly, Karen got up and ran out of the room, slamming the door behind her. Mary sat there for what seemed like an eternity. After a long silence, she heard the thumping noise again. It seemed to be coming up the stairs, getting louder and louder. Thump, Thump THUMP, THUMP, THUMP! Then, it stopped. Mary thought she heard someone standing on the other side of the door and bravely got up and opened it.

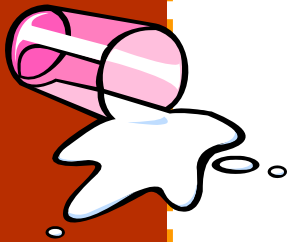
Mary couldn't see a thing, so she reached out her arm and felt Karen's soft silk nightgown. Then, she reached up to feel her favorite part of the nightgown, the furry collar. When she reached higher, there was nothing but a bloody stump!! When the lights came on, she discovered that her poor friend had been decapitated! The neighbors heard her screaming at the top of her lungs and called the police. When the police arrived, they found Karen's dead body, and Mary, with snow-white hair, completely insane!!!

"All she found inside was a knife and a roll of duct tape."



This is the story of Lou McDonald, Janitor tragically killed by a milk carton.

“To him, the students at Garfield were pests...He wanted to exterminate them all!”



He died in a puddle of milk.

Haunted Garfield

By: Leah Wilson

Just so you know, this is Lou’s story... I am just telling it for him... you know, helping a out a friend!

Lou McDonald HATED his life. He was the school janitor at Garfield Middle School. To him, the students of Garfield were pests...and he wanted to be their exterminator! So I guess you could say that he was sort of like Mr. Scrooge—if you know who that is!

One day, he was called down to the cafeteria...

“Mr. McDonald to the Café please. Oh, yeah, bring a mop,” said the secretary in the Main Office. Her voice rang in Lou’s head.

But then, there was Kyle Wells... a popular jock who had always picked on the janitor. He had purposefully spilled his milk on the floor in the Café just so Lou would have to clean it up. Kyle had dark black hair, pointy elf ears, and a face full of freckles. Like most teenage boys, Kyle enjoyed playing sports at ALL times, even during lunch. He opened his milk carton and then forcefully thrust it across the room.

“Well, well, well... If it isn’t the LOU-SER!” said Kyle when Mr. McDonald arrived. He and all of his friends laughed in mockery.

Mr. McDonald stayed silent. He

continued to mop up the milk mess when he suddenly felt something push on the back of his knee. It was Kyle. Kyle had been continuously kicking the back of his knee, waiting for Lou to take a fall.

Lou McDonald fell, landed on his head, and sadly he died in a puddle of milk.

15 years later...

The month was October. The students at Garfield Middle School were pumped up about the school’s Halloween Dance that would be taking place the next day. Students were very adamant about keeping their grades up so they could attend the dance while others were telling spooky stories that their parents had told them about Lou the janitor.

One student, however, did not believe in the spirit of Halloween...

His name was Ashton Farlen. He was the most organized student at Garfield. He had straight A’s, always completed his work on time, and was NEVER late for ANYTHING. However, Ashton looked much like one of Garfield’s previous students...Kyle Wells. Like Kyle, Ashton had dark black hair, pointy elf ears, and a face full of freckles... If I didn’t know any better, I would say that he was almost a long lost identical twin to Kyle.

When Advisory period ended that day, Ashton went to his locker to get his books. He heard...or thought he heard...someone saying something. It kind of sounded like some-

Haunted Garfield...Continued

someone's name. Despite all logic, he found himself becoming scared. He left his locker open and took a few big steps away from it.

"Hello...Is anyone there?" asked Ashton. He received no response. He walked back to his locker and got an eerie feeling, almost like he was being watched. Suddenly, a fierce breeze blew through the halls. Ashton's heart was racing as he watched his locker door slam shut and the lock turn.

"KYY...LL...E!" whispered a familiar voice.

"Who are you...and what do you want?" asked Ashton, trembling.

"Oh, I just want to return a favor, KYLE!" said the voice.

"I'm not Kyle...I'm Ashton...who are you?" asked Ashton, still in astonishment.

"Sure you aren't! You don't remember me, Kyle? I'm Lou... your old janitor... you know, the one that you KILLED!" said Lou.

At that, Ashton started screaming and ran into the cafeteria while the Halloween Dance was well underway.

"What's the matter young man?" Mr. Bryson boomed.

"AHHH!" screamed Ashton, as he ran even faster.

"What?! You don't want to get your GROOVE on?" asked Mr. Bryson as he shimmied to the music.

"What has gotten into that boy?" asked Mrs. Blake.

"He probably saw Mr. Bryson's dancing!" chuckled Mr. Leist.

All of a sudden, everyone's fun was interrupted by a loud screaming noise nearby.

"What was that?" wondered Mr. Leist.

"Let's go check it out," said Mrs. Blake.

The three principals walked into the hallway to see a big swarm of kids surrounding the pop machine. They made their way through the crowd to see much older Kyle Wells being held by the throat and pushed against the pop machine. The weird thing was that Kyle...the REAL Kyle, was floating in mid-air. Lou's spirit was the one holding him up high.

"HELP!" shouted Kyle as he gasped for air.

"I'll save you!" shouted Ashton. "Lou, can you please put him down?" he asked Lou politely. Lou put Kyle down.

"This better be good," said Lou.

"It is. My mother always taught me to be a good person...no matter what. I know what happened between you two was bad, but I think you should both just set aside your differences and apologize," said Ashton.

"I'm sorry..." said Kyle and Lou in unison.

"Great. Fantastic. Wonderful! That is conflict resolution at its finest. Let's celebrate by groovin' to the music!" exclaimed Mr. Bryson.

"Yes. But first, I crown Ashton Farlen as the Student of the Month! Here is your good griffin award," said Mrs. Blake.

They say that Lou still haunts these very halls... Only this time, to say hello to good students! So if you see him, please tell him I said hi!

"His heart was racing as he watched his locker door slam shut and the lock turn."



The Griffin Gazette

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The End of the Season...

By: Matthew Keller

The boys' 7th & 8th grade soccer team ended their season with a loss on October 9th against undefeated Sycamore. This 2-0 loss does not reflect their season with a record of 10 wins and only 4 losses. From their first game to their last, the entire team has fought their way to a victorious season.

Hamilton "Brought home the gold" at the tournaments hosted by Talawanda in Oxford, OH. They won both rounds to end their final game as an elite team.

This season, the team was led by Gerardo Guterize and Eduardo Muniz as captains. Saul Salazar had six shut out games as goal keeper. The defense and mid-field were

played well by Kelvin Jimenez, Jonnie Weislogel, Diego Miranda, Tony Co, Cabral Christian, Jorge Lopez, Gerardo Guterize, Juan Jarez, Matthew Keller, and Colin Thrasher. Forwards on offense for the team were played by Russell Coombe and Eduardo Muniz.

Great season guys!



NFL Report: Week 9

By: Jacob A. Allen

Week 9 in the NFL features some intense rivalries such as the always exciting Colts—Patriots game.

In Indianapolis, the Colts and the Patriots are set to square off in one of the newest and intense rivalries in the NFL. The Patriots have lost their last four games against the Colts. But, with the addition of WR Randy Moss, LB Adalius Thomas, and SR Wes Welker, the Patriots are looking to end their losing streak. Colts head coach Tony Dungy says in a Fox Sports interview that, "The Patriots are good. There's no denying that, but we've got a good team too. It should be a classic."

In a way, this rivalry has been taken to the next level. This year, both teams enter the game undefeated, they are both heavy favorites to win the AFC, and they are likely to face off again in the playoffs. So, sit tight and enjoy the ride. This is going to be a good one!

****Game of the Week—
Patriots at Colts**

***Player Spotlight—
Cowboys QB Tony Romo**

My Week 9 Picks:

- 49ers at Falcons—49ers
- Bengals at Bills—Bills
- Broncos at Lions—Lions
- Panthers at Titans—Titans
- Packers at Chiefs—Packers
- Chargers at Vikings—Chargers
- Jaguars at Saints—Saints
- Redskins at Jets—Redskins
- Cardinals at Bucs—Bucs
- Seahawks at Browns—Seahawks
- Texans at Raiders—Texans
- Patriots at Colts—Colts**
- Eagles at Cowboys—Cowboys*
- Ravens at Steelers—Steelers