

Opinion

Halloween isn't just for kids

Halloween is the only night when everyone suddenly has a license to go insane. At no other time of the year can someone be driving down the street, casually glance over and see a stop sign driving a Corvette.



Camille Brown

Or see the Hunchback of Notre Dame putt by on a motorcycle.

Or pass a giant M&M who was just talking to his friend, the piece of pie.

Only on Halloween do inanimate objects suddenly come to life. Six-foot beer cans hit the streets, pizza boxes are re-born, dice grow arms and legs, larger-than-life mixed drinks are out of their night and fruit, candy and pumpkins take on personalities.

Only on Halloween.

The real reason for Halloween, we are taught, is to get candy.

The college campus is where candy is. Sure, there are some great parties in town, but any hard-core trick-or-treater knows that if you want candy, the highest concentration of candy givers is on campus.

In one modular-style dorm, there are over 250 doors to knock on and at least two people to each room. It would take hours to get to 250 doors if you were trick or treating in a residential neighborhood.

A&M's Halloween Hall Association organizes Halloween on campus: the guys get one hour to trick-or-treat the girls' dorms, and vice versa.

Everyone waits until that magic hour when it's their turn to scavenge for sweets.

On your mark, get set, GO! The clock strikes the hour and hordes of monsters, superheroes, playboys and decipherables take off toward those treasured candy sacks in the other dorms.

"Trick or treat! Trick or treat!" they yell, not missing a stride.

"Kiss for treat!" is yelled back by those hoping for a sugar trade-off.

Creatures run from dorm to dorm, racing against the clock. One precious hour and trick-or-treat time is over.

Soon trick-or-treat bags overflow. Another successful year.

On-campus is fun, but off campus is where Halloween crazies will catch you off guard. Who expects non-students to do things like dress up as a fruit salad and dance?

I met the "The Glad Bag" at a local club. He and his friend, the Hawaiian Chic and the White Line, entered a costume contest and won. (The White Line was supposed to be a line of cocaine. The Hawaiian Chic was a hip swinging' dude dressed as a hula dancer.)

At the same club, I saw nuns smoking and drinking, girls dressed as guys, guys dressed as girls, guys and girls dressed as animals, cats and dogs living together ... sick people everywhere. It was great.

The grocery store also was hopping. I was getting out of my car and saw a pink bunny coming out with a few groceries.

He strutted his fuzzy white tail over to his lean, mean white sports car and hopped in. He had taken off the car's T-top so his rabbit ears wouldn't get squished. I watched as this cocky bunny sported away with his long, floppy ears silhouetted against little Bo Peep.

I left the store after Little Bo Peep had checked out my bag of chips.

I sat in my car comparing this Halloween to last year's. Each was just as weird as the one before. But only as an adult can you get the full meaning of Halloween. Halloween is not just for children.

It's like watching cartoons. As a child they're fun to watch because pretend people do things a kid can't. An adult watching the same cartoons picks up on the subtle humor that children never see. Adults can get more out of cartoons than children do, and dressing up for Halloween can offer the same rewards.

At Halloween, adults can let loose and have some creative fun.

More adults should watch cartoons and more should take advantage of Halloween.

Play does not end with puberty.

It's a shame there's only one night a year when people can really let their hair down.

Camille Brown is a senior journalism major and a columnist for The Battalion.

Mail Call

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include the address and telephone number of the writer.

Poor location for yell practice

EDITOR:

This letter is in reference to the yell practice held on Oct. 25 at Fool's Gold in Houston.

We were disappointed to find that Fool's Gold had been selected as the site for midnight yell practice. We do not believe that Aggies should be subjected to pay to attend a yell practice. Some of the younger members of our families (under 17) wished to attend yell practice, but could not because the club would not let anyone under 17 in without a parent or guardian.

There are quite a number of places to have yell practice in Houston where payment for entrance would not be needed. We hope that the individuals responsible for planning yell practices for future out-of-town games will take these considerations into account and select locations that not only don't affect our pocketbooks, but provide a place for all of us — no matter what age — to yell for the Aggies.

Mark Berman '88
Lori Schmidt '89
Steve Harding '89
Richard Lieder '88
Eric Britt '88

Don't pass the football buck

EDITOR:

I am writing in response to the letter printed in the Oct. 28 issue entitled "Beware the 12th Bear" by Charles Bennett.

It is sad to blame officials for the entire loss. Despite what you would like to think, Bennett, there was a penalty on that play. Even though the Aggie defender was blocked into the kicker, contact was made and that, according to NCAA rules, is a penalty. The only thing not certain was the number of yards to be stepped off, and that is entirely up to the judgment of the referee — your so-called "back-field judge."

Instead of this lame excuse why don't you try looking at some real reasons. Like a 3rd and 25 and "the courageous Aggie defense" gave up 26 yards. Then there was the great Aggie offense that could only complete a third of their passes, and we haven't even mentioned a thing about the turnovers by the Ags.

So why don't you stop trying to pass the buck and face the fact that we lost, like a mature fan would.

Brad Westbrook

The generic Aggie attitude

EDITOR:

It is interesting that a letter in Wednesday's Batt bore the title "A Generic University?" Because it was yet another one which articulated the truly generic Aggie attitude that tradition is almighty and change is wicked.

It always amuses me to read letters penned by students such as Stephanie Hillard who, ignoring the fact that they would never have become an Aggie if not for a breach of tradition, complain about those Aggies who advocate breach of tradition.

I'd like to answer two questions Hillard posed concerning the sale of beer in the MSC.

Question: Is your grandmother's house not homey enough because she does not serve beer or whiskey? Answer: My lovely grandma serves both in her house, and I would be honored to buy her a brew in my university center.

Question: Do you often advocate a party in a war memorial? Answer: Yes. The MSC is a place for students to enjoy. That's why it has pool tables and a bowling alley. Every spring the MSC also houses Casino, the biggest on-campus party of the year.

Of course, no party of this type would be complete without some form of the old "Highway 6 Runs Both Ways" phrase. Hillard simply suggests that all those who don't like A&M they it is to go to University of Texas. Does this include those who don't like the way A&M provides health care (or doesn't) for women? Does it include those who don't like the low number of books in the library or the high number of bicycle thefts?

There is plenty of room for improvement, and just as the University could be improved in these ways, the MSC could be improved with the availability of beer and a generally more laid-back atmosphere.

Remember, Hillard, if your resistance to change and contempt for those with open minds had been the prevailing attitude 20 years ago, this school would still be all-military, all-male, and altogether without you or me.

Joe Knight

Accurate data needed

EDITOR:

Early last week I read that 15 people a day were being treated at the A.P. Beutel Health Center for injuries involving bicycles. Then later in the week I read that the number was 5-15 people, a big difference.

This is the kind of data collection that gets these rejected and graduate students dropped from school. Would someone, please, actually count how many different people (not retreats) are attended for injuries involving bicycles during a time span of several weeks? Accurate data gives much better results than numbers picked at random.

Daniel K. Miller
College of Veterinary Medicine

Excuuuuuse us!

EDITOR:

In reply to Cheryl Rayner's letter, first, I would like to say the men of Moses get up at 5:30 a.m. every cut weekend, and stay out whether it's sunny, rainy or cold. Most of the girls we talked to fully understand the sacrifice we make for bonfire and they were thrilled to contribute for a much needed piece of equipment. If our collection techniques didn't measure up to "Miss Manner's," then excuse us!

Lastly, as far as the party goes, we decided to contribute any extra money we collected toward an all-girls-free party to be held at a later date.

However, we usually do not invite humorless, stick-in-the-muds who whine to The Battalion and try to tarnish our fun-loving image. So by all means, stay home, Cheryl!

Kevin Revere

Gorbachev trying to return to detente before summit

White House officials are sizing up Mikhail Gorbachev as his summit meeting with President Reagan approaches. Within the Reagan administration this consensus is emerging:

Barry Schweid
AP News Analyst

Gorbachev, after seven months at the Kremlin apex, is moving fast and ruthlessly to consolidate his power.

Example: The retirement of Premier Nikolai A. Tikhonov in September. It would have been kinder to keep the 80-year-old veteran in the largely ceremonial job until February for a farewell appearance before the Communist Party Congress. But he was let go.

Gorbachev is making promotions based on expertise and experience, not on whether his lieutenants come from his post-World War II generation.

His policies and his summit strategy do not break new ground. Actually, he appears to be looking backward, to the 1970s and detente.

"It's the old Brezhnev agenda, sort of warmed over and polished up," said a top U.S. government analyst, one of a half-dozen officials assembled recently at the White House to brief reporters under rules of anonymity.

Before age and infirmities caught up with Leonid Brezhnev, the late Soviet leader reached major arms control agreements with Presidents Nixon, Ford and Carter, setting limits on certain offensive nuclear weapons as well as defensive systems.

At the same time, he built up the Soviet military and tried to address economic problems at home.



Until Cuban forces were sent to Angola in 1975 to bolster a newly installed Marxist regime — they are still there — the two superpowers were groping their way to peaceful coexistence. Angola stalled detente, which proceeded to go into reverse following events in Ethiopia, Cambodia and Afghanistan.

The last nuclear arms control agreement was signed by Jimmy Carter and Brezhnev in Vienna in June 1979 — the last summit. The treaty was withdrawn from Senate consideration and certain defeat after Soviet forces poured into Afghanistan.

The view within the administration is that Gorbachev would like to get back on the 1970s detente track.

The 1980s, another U.S. analyst said, were studied with setbacks for the Soviet Union: disagreement with China, leadership problems, a sagging economy, a standoff in Afghanistan. The Soviets also suffered a significant loss when they failed to block the deployment of new U.S. nuclear missiles in Western Europe.

By this reckoning, Gorbachev is looking to Geneva — and beyond — to try to regain the initiative. An arms control agreement would help, but the analysts say the Soviet leader's long-range goal is to undercut support for Reagan's Star Wars anti-missile research program.

The U.S. strategy, by contrast, is to focus attention on other issues: regional disputes, human rights, the Third World. Consequently, Reagan's speech to the U.N. General Assembly last week proposed the United States and the Soviet Union try to stop wars in five countries under Marxist rule: Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Ethiopia and Nicaragua.

He said it could give U.S.-Soviet relations a "fresh start." Reagan clearly sought to put the Soviets on the defensive. By the same token, he said little about arms control.

Gorbachev's updated style is impressive, but Reagan administration officials seem confident as they prepare for the summit. "In our judgment," an official said, "the president goes to Geneva with the strongest hand of any president since Eisenhower in 1955."

Barry Schweid is a diplomacy writer for The Associated Press.

The Battalion
USPS 045 360
Member of
Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Conference

The Battalion Editorial Board

Rhonda Snider, Editor
Michelle Powe, Managing Editor
Loren Steffy, Opinion Page Editor
Karen Bloch, City Editor
John Hallett, Kay Mallett, News Editors
Travis Tingle, Sports Editor

Editorial Policy

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M and Bryan-College Station.

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the Editorial Board or the author and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents.

The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications.

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$39.25 per school year and \$93 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.