

Creature Features

Biologists claim humans react to potential danger with a "fight or flight" response developed through evolution to keep us as far away and as safe from danger as possible. Sweaty palms, dilated pupils and a racing pulse are indications that we are somewhere we should not be. So, while situated in a darkened room, when an undead slasher jumps out of a closet, we should run and scream for our lives.

But is this how an avid horror film fan responds in the face of impending decapitations? Not on your short life. For horror fans, nothing is more stimulating than a heart-pounding romp through a bloody world where every breath could be their last. There is no better way to spend a Halloween weekend than watching reel after a reel of movies that show us man is little more than a scream away from a horrendous murder. To aid those uninitiated, I thought it might prove useful to have a list of the top horror movies of all time. Horror is a broad genre, so I have taken the liberty of breaking it down into several subgenres for ease of reference.

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SLASHER

Psycho — The original slasher flick. While this movie is higher on suspense than it is on bloody action, the infamous shower scene was the first to show moviegoers how frightening a shiny metal blade against human flesh can be.
Halloween — This is the movie that set the standards of the modern slasher movies. This film remains one of the most eerie in the genre because of its skill in showing how a killer could be lurking nearby when you least expect it. By today's standards, this film might be a little slow and lacking in gore.
Friday the 13th Parts 1 and 2 — These were the next films to live up to the standards set by Halloween. These films tried to keep the identity of the killer secret, blending the films with a sense of mystery. Whether it is Jason behind the hockey mask or his psycho mother, one cannot help but be awed by the sense of evil emanating from the screen.
A Nightmare on Elm Street — With five little knives instead of one big one, Freddy Krueger has become one of horror's most enduring villains. This film also moves slowly by today's standards, but there is no denying the palpable menace that it contains. In an interesting side note, the long awaited Freddy vs. Jason film has finally rolled into production.

Supernatural

The Exorcist — This is the scariest movie of all time. Linda Blair is possessed by the devil, and only an exorcism can save her. With the spinning head, the spewing vomit and the scene in which Linda does a weird thing with a crucifix, this movie is guaranteed to keep even a Catholic saint up late at night. If a person has the stomach and the will to sit through it, this is the ultimate scary movie.
The Shining — This is the ultimate in haunted houses. Master director Stanley Kubrick's horror epic is one of the most chilling pictures of all time. Based on the Stephen King novel of the same name, this movie features Jack Nicholson in one of his most menacing roles as a father gripped by madness or ghosts while caretaking in an empty hotel in the middle of a snowstorm.
Poltergeist — This one is creepy because of its emphasis on subtlety and setup. The all-American family in a house that is purely evil — how much better could you get?

WEIRD AND UNUSUAL

In The Mouth of Madness — It would be nearly impossible to explain the plot of this movie, but that is part of its brilliance. Rather than just having a dumb plot and excessive gore, this movie tests the viewers' wits in addition to scaring the hell out of them. This is one of the true freaky movies of all time.
Evil Dead — Sam Raimi's first picture is little more than a small horror picture. Featuring a girl getting raped by a tree, this movie definitely fits into the weird category. However, it is at times amazingly scary as Bruce Campbell and friends journey into the woods and unwittingly unleash an ancient evil that turns them into zombies.

Science Fiction

Alien — This is a great example of the reason scary movies are set in space. Featuring a claustrophobic atmosphere and excellent use of lighting, this movie made Sigourney Weaver a star as she battled a predatory alien aboard a spaceship. Since there is no chance for escape, the audience knows there must be an ultimate battle.
Event Horizon — A film heavy on cheese and gore, this movie manages to frighten people in amazing numbers. The premise is basically a ship in the dark recesses of space that has come back from hell and is determined to take the rescue crew, led by Laurence Fishburne, back with it. It has amazing special effects and one particular scene involving cut-out eyes is worth the watch alone.
Invasion of the Body Snatchers (original version) — This classic tale of body-invading space aliens perfectly balances the characteristic cheese of early science fiction tales along with the eerie atmosphere that makes good horror movies successful. The title gives away the basic plot, but the presentation will always be a treasure.

Gorey but Scary

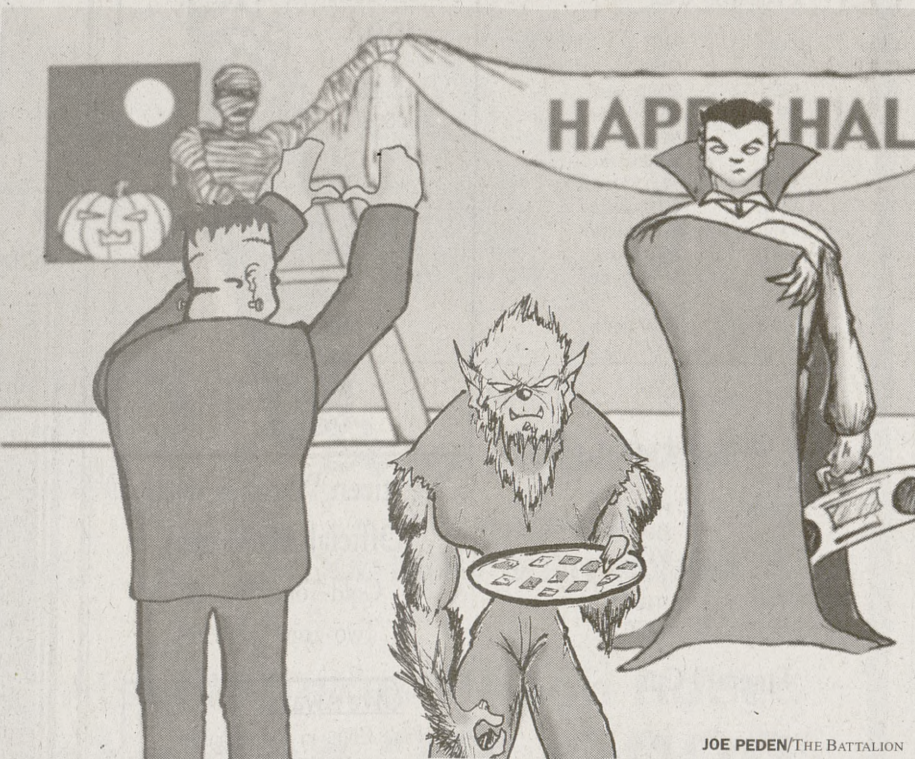
The Texas Chainsaw Massacre — Tobe Hooper's first film is done in the style of realism. The audience is subjected to people getting hooked and hacked with a chainsaw. All in all, it remains notable, if for no other reason than the truck driver and hammer scene.
Night of the Living Dead — Who would have thought slow-moving dead people could be so frightening? They are, though, in part because the audience is shocked to find out what happens when the zombies catch living people. This remains a true classic in every sense of the word and is still a mainstay of Halloween viewing.
There are plenty of horror films out there and several good ones. However, I feel this list best represents the creme de la creme of horror films. For anyone not content watching American horror movies, try catching Mario Bava's *Bay of Blood* or Dario Argento's *Deep Red*. These are two of Italy's best horror film directors and these are two of their best pieces, but make sure you have a strong stomach before you even attempt these films. Good luck and Happy Halloween.



Monster of a Mash

Halloween gatherings allow Aggies to cut loose and become real 'party animals'

BY ANNE HOAR
The Battalion
Every Oct. 31, the situation repeats itself: Orange and black decorations go up, people start cooking bleeding cakes and ads for haunted houses begging to be visited dominate the airwaves. 'Tis the season to be scared — Halloween.
For centuries, people have gathered to celebrate this day of fright. Modern gatherings, small and large, offer the opportunity to dress up, socialize and have fun.
Smaller functions provide an opportunity for friends to gather and celebrate the haunted holiday.
Erin Knight, a senior kinesiology major, said that a pumpkin-carving party provides an opportunity for friends to get into the Halloween spirit. Knight said she attended a pumpkin-carving party with 15 people last year.
"That was a good number of people to have together," Knight said. "It was basically a bunch of friends hanging out on the porch, having fun together and not getting into trouble. It was a fun atmosphere to get to know people."
Knight said the guests carved their own pumpkins with a variety of designs.
"People carved the traditional scary faces and witches," Knight said. "But since this is AggieLand, people also carved bonfires and class years into their pumpkins."
Knight said the group used pumpkin carving kits to make intricate designs.
Larger Halloween parties create an opportunity for parties to meet more people.



Andy Sambitan, a senior industrial distribution major, said his favorite Halloween party was a block party hosted by six duplexes.
"One house painted a whole room black and spray-painted things on the walls and put up glow-in-the-dark stickers and put black lights around the room," Sambitan said. "There were about 600 people there."
Sambitan said the best thing about the party was that, since it was Halloween, everyone was in costume, which made the conversation flow more easily.
"You could talk to everyone about what costume they were wearing and not just make up something up to say to people," Sambitan said.
No matter what size the party, the important thing is to have the right attitude and be ready to participate in the fun. Wearing a costume is essential to getting into the spirit of the season.
Craig Merriman, a senior finance major, said costumes make Halloween parties different from the ones thrown throughout the year.
"Everyone's behind their masks, so there are no inhibitions," Merriman said.
Jacob Foshee, a senior computer science major, said funny costumes add to the Halloween spirit.
"Guys dressed as women always get a laugh," Foshee said. "Dancing also is a necessary part of any Halloween party. ... Regular dancing is always fun, but when you see two monsters dancing together, that is what makes it Halloween."
Foshee said festive music is important to any Halloween party.
"People throwing Halloween parties should make an effort to include traditional Halloween music, such as 'Monster Mash,' because it is something that you can only really play once a year," Foshee said. "It always reminds me of a simpler time, when Halloween was about candy, and not half-naked people and drinking."

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Friday, October 27, 2000
OUTBOUND
Continued from...
similar to Poor Yorick's, located at Sterling C. Evans Library, will continue to serve pizza.
Additionally, Outbound will be available at all of the ground Food Court locations. There will be only one major change: the removal of Taco Bueno, which serves Mexican food. Taco Bueno is replaced by Se Wrappé, which serves large burritos, made-to-order and "grab-and-go" items.
Outbound options have received favorably by students, especially off-campus residents.
"I like it because it entertains everybody, not just on-campus," said Aaron Cox, telecommunications engineering major.
"I just don't get it," said a freshman communications major, who was excited about the new options.
"It's good because I use it everywhere I eat," he said.
But not all students are fans. "I just don't get it," said a freshman recreation, kinesiology and leisure studies major, who said he doesn't like the concept of having to choose certain menu items. "Each restaurant and bar has its own set of items, but paying for the Aggie Bucks can sometimes be expensive. For example, an appetizer, bread and dessert at an international normally costs \$4.50. With a meal plan, that could cost about \$4.
"It's great, especially when you're a student," said Wade Howell, a kinesiology major.
Zawieja said Food Services is excited about the expanded program. "The new Outbound is our biggest marketing plan we've ever had," he said. "You can eat anywhere, any time."

Correction
Thursday's *Battalion* incorrectly reported that the Residence Hall Association (RHA) meeting at Hart Hall residents passed a resolution to Residency Services, asking that the Bonfire be moved to residence hall grounds. The suggestion was rejected. Residency Services generated earlier this year. Resident Josh Kaylor and his group have not been accepted as an official organization at the University. Kaylor gave a deadline for feedback to the RHA. The resolution the students presented Wednesday was for RHA to ask Kaylor for a feedback deadline.

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