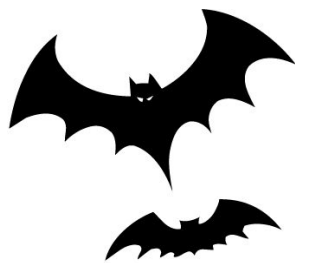




TIGER TIMES



Halloween Edition

Vol. 3 | No. 3 | October 31, 2023

Canned Food Drive:

Illini Bluffs prepares to give back to the community.

By Addy D.
Freshman Reporter

IB's yearly canned food drive kicks off on October 31st, Halloween, and continues through December 1st.

"Giving back to the community is important, but also showing students how to give back to the community is just as important," said Mrs. Coulter, IBHS librarian and Canned Food Drive facilitator. This district-wide effort shows students how to give back as they collect food and money for food baskets distributed before Christmas.

"I think this is our most local example of fundraising that we do. It immediately affects families in the Illini Bluffs community and it is focused on that, so I think that's why it is so important. The fact that it is 100% local and 100% engagement from K-12," said Mrs. Coulter.

This year's canned food drive at IB will look different than it did in the past. Community Hours will form teams that will band together to collect food and cash donations and to create things to sell at Holiday Lane. This allows every teacher, student, and staff member to help this cause.

"Holidays are a time of giving back, so it is kind of a perfect mixture of fundraising and doing good," said Mrs. Coulter.

After the drive ends on December 1st, all the food and money collected goes to the non-profit community-based organization IB Christmas Hope. This organization is entirely Illini Bluffs-led and includes volunteers who help with all aspects of getting food baskets to people in our community during each holiday season.

"It is harder for the majority of families during Christmas and Thanksgiving time to be able to afford all of the things that they need, so we focus on helping during the holiday season," explained Mrs. Coulter.

And, our Illini Bluffs community has been there to help its families for the past 24 years. Over the years, the canned food drive has had to respond and change. For years, IB's Canned Food Drive was synonymous with the "Tower of Cans," an activity where students would collect food and then build things out of it. In recent years, this activity was determined too damaging to the food and is generally considered poor practice to promote play with your food. Today's drive provides a way for the entire student body to work together in service of a great cause and support of our local community. Still, issues such as rising food costs and inflation impact the reach of this program.

Every contribution of time, money, and food helps. Local community members can help by making food and cash donations to any IB school or their students' Community Hour team.



Student Spotlight: Lauren B.

By Katie A.
Sophomore Reporter

Track, Student Council, Theater, Newspaper, Interact Club, Yearbook, madrigals and honor student sounds like a lot, but that is the life of Sophomore Lauren B. She is a passionate member of all of these clubs and activities.

Lauren is an excellent writer and won the American Legion Essay contest her freshman year. Over the summer she attended an American Legion State Essay Award ceremony. There she won 3rd place overall in her division.

Lauren is a thrower on the track team and placed in sectionals during the 2023 season.

As a member of the student council, she helps whenever she can and acts as a team player. "[S]he is a very hard working person both as a student council member and student. She is a very positive and happy person all the time." Annabelle F. President of Student Council said.

Let's not forget theater and the Tiger Times! Lauren started writing for the newspaper her freshman year and never stopped. She writes sports, current events and also edits articles.

This year she made the decision to try something brand new. Lauren is learning to do lights for the fall production "The Drowsy Chaperone". She did an amazing job and put lots of time and effort into her role on that team. All of the lights were eye-catching.

Her freshman year, Interact Club was introduced and she was immediately intrigued. Lauren is still a member into her sophomore year. She has volunteered at the Peoria Park-a-Palooza, float Fridays, and helped with the setup of mental health day.

This year Lauren is aiming to stay highly involved within the school. Even with her busy schedule, Lauren's outgoing personality is seen



A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

For every edition, I do my best to find new and improved ways to make our pages pop. My goal is to make our school newspaper match the tone of the season, and there isn't a better time of the year than Halloween to really decorate our pages and create a cool, spooky vibe.

This year's Halloween edition will feature several stories revolving around our Halloween theme. The Halloween edition has been fun to design, and I hope it will be just as entertaining to read!

Happy Halloween IB!

Sincerely,
Celine



Ancient History of Halloween

By Liam M.
Senior Reporter

October, Halloween, Trick-or-Treating, costumes: these are all things we associate with the cold month of October. These customs were all passed down to us over the generations, and were taught to be common practice. The real question is, how exactly did all these traditions begin?

Costumes - 489 BC

Wearing scary costumes originates from the Celtic festival Samhain, where it was believed on this day spirits would come from the spirit realm, and freely walk the earth. The tradition is pretty simple; they wore costumes to take on the more estranged appearance of the spirits, so that the spirits wouldn't bother them on the day.

Black Cats - 1400

Since medieval times, black cats were always seen as spooky or bad luck. In fact, during that time, black cats were seen as a symbol of the devil himself. To add onto the poor cat's bad connotation, during the witch trials, most were found to have a cat, black ones in particular. Black cats were seen as a witch's familiar, a supernatural entity that assisted their master in the dark arts. Ever since, black cats have been associated with bad luck, Halloween and spookiness.

Pranks - 1718

We all know and love the tradition of pranking people on Halloween. Jumping out and scaring your friends, throwing toilet paper all over your grumpy old neighbor's house, the like.

Good-natured mischief has plenty of origins, such as May Day celebrations, and Samhain. For America though, Scottish and Irish immigrants brought along their mischief with them for Halloween traditions.

Jack-o'-Lanterns - 1851

This classic tradition of carving scary faces into pumpkins actually originated in Ireland, using turnips rather than pumpkins, and is based on a legend about a man named Stingy Jack. He repeatedly trapped the devil, and would release him in exchange that he didn't go to hell.

When he passed, heaven didn't want his soul either, forcing him to wander the earth as a spirit. The devil gave him a lump of coal in a carved-out turnip to help him light his way. People then began to carve out faces into their own turnips to ward off evil spirits.

Library News

By Delaney O.
Senior Reporter

This month in the Library there are some exciting things happening! Mrs. Coulter has curated a scary selection of horror reads, perfect for the spooky season.

This table resides at the front of the library and is surrounded by Mr. Hallstrom's students' Goosebumps drawings. Be sure to swing by and check it out!

Mrs. Coulter's desk area has also experienced some additions. She has added a 'currently reading' and 'recommendation' board by her desk in the middle of the library, as well as a recommendation book that refers you to books based upon other things you've read and liked.

There are many new editions of both middle-grade and young-adult books available now as well, which are definitely worthy of checking out!



Halloween Recent History

By Quentin K.
Senior Reporter

Over the past centuries, Halloween has evolved and changed much over the years to become the fun and spooky holiday it is today.

Halloween originally started as a celebration of the end of the harvest season and the blurring of the physical and spirit world. We know Halloween today with our pumpkin carving, horror movies, haunted houses, dressing up in costumes, and strolling around town for candy.

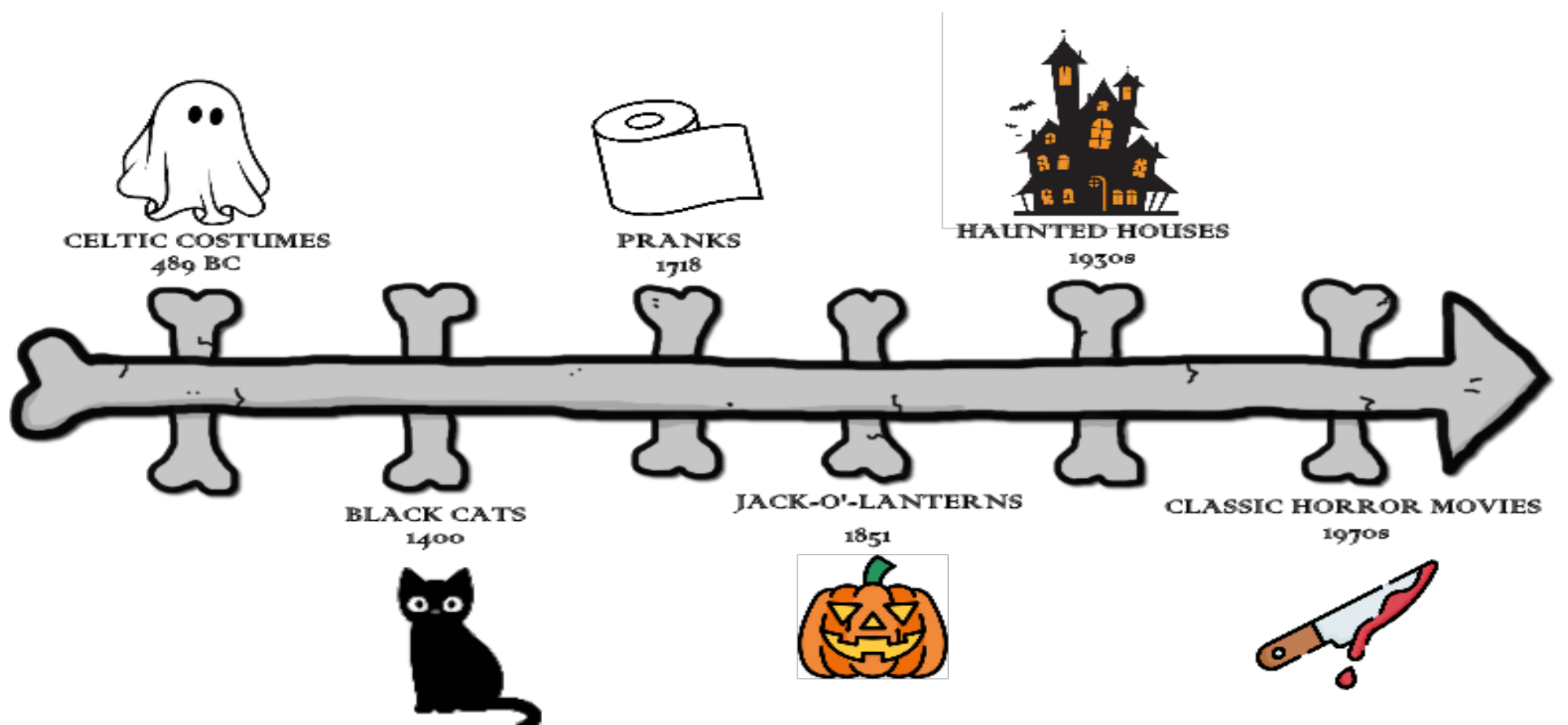
Many of those traditions have been around forever like trick or treating, which has been around since medieval times and carving vegetables in the 1800s.

More recently, in the 1930s, haunted houses were made in the US during the great depression to keep kids off the streets. When Halloween came to America, people would throw parties. Pranks were a huge part of the holiday and the haunted houses were places where people could be grouped and get in less trouble, easier to control the crazy kids.

The 1950s had a new craze as costumes went mainstream and everyone was dressed up. With haunted houses being used to collect people to areas to celebrate, Halloween costumes became a much bigger part of Halloween, and the production of costumes would only get better with time.

Horror movies have existed since the 1890s and started to grow in popularity during the 1930s. Horror movies became huge in the 70s and up with big franchises and classics being born during and right after that time, some series still being added to or remade.

Look at Halloween today, so many different costumes and candies, movies, and haunted houses. Halloween in recent years has grown to become a huge holiday with many influences and pieces to it.



ONE-ON-ONE

HOW EARLY IS TOO EARLY TO DECORATE FOR HALLOWEEN?

SAVOR THE SEASON! VS. WHY WAIT?

Hanging up Halloween decorations and celebrating too early can take away from the excitement and anticipation of the holiday. Seeing Halloween decorations too early might make people tired of them before the actual holiday happens. It's all about timing and savoring the season. It also gives you more time to think of unique decorations and costumes to impress friends and neighbors.

Waiting allows you to fully immerse yourself in the halloween spirit and enjoy the festive occasion. The essence of Halloween is suspense, surprise and a spooky atmosphere.

When decorations appear too soon it can lead to halloween fatigue. This is a term used by people who think by the time the holiday actually arrives the thrill of the decorations have worn off, diminishing the magic and suspense of the holiday.

Additionally, decorating too early can lead to unnecessary wear and tear on your decorations. Exposure to the environment like wind and rain over a long period of time can cause fading, damage and even deterioration of the decorations, making them less appealing when Halloween finally arrives.

So hold off a little longer and embrace the anticipation, it'll all be worth it in the end.

-Kyra P.

If you love something, why hide it? That's my motto at least, and for that reason, Halloween decorating starts in August for me. Truth be told, the only thing that prevents me from decorating earlier is other holidays. I want to be sure that my Halloween decor gets the full attention it deserves.

Many people wholeheartedly start decorating for Christmas the day after spooky season ends and keep their decorations up until the end of February. If no one is bothered by this pattern of behavior at Christmas, why should it be any different for Halloween?

While seeing decorations every day might diminish the excitement for some, to me, it's the best way to mentally and emotionally prepare myself for my favorite time of year. If I had it my way, I'd leave my decorations up all year so that I could eternally live in the land of Halloween.

Besides, there are no rules to life. If decorating early makes you happy, do it!

-Ms. Sewell



Unmasking the Hype:

The most overrated Halloween costumes.

By **Lalaina Z.**
Senior Reporter

Every October, as pumpkins are carved and cobwebs are hung on front doors, the common question arises: what are you going to be for Halloween?

This holiday encourages endless creativity and unique costumes. Yet, among the sea of ghouls, superheroes and fairies, there is a list of costumes that seem to have overstayed their welcome throughout the past Halloween seasons. Here are a list of costumes that need to be put back on shelves this year.

The Ghostface costume, originating from the iconic horror film Scream, has undeniably etched its mark in popular culture. It was immediately recognized and became popular extremely quickly.

This started the trend of people dressing up as the movies' masked killer. At first, this was a fun idea and there were a lot of cool Ghostface costumes for all ages. However, now that it has been almost 27 years since the first movie has been released, let's just leave this costume alone.

Dressing up as a police officer for Halloween is generally unadvised. For obvious reasons, dressing up as law enforcement could be considered controversial to some. However, the biggest reason I don't like this costume is the lack of originality. Every Halloween, I see a large number of people dressing up as officers. It's not an awful costume, but it needs to be locked up this Halloween.

Vampires are a common symbol of the horror genre. If you're at a haunted house or watching a scary movie, chances are you will see some sort of a vampire. A lot of people have been dressing up as vampires for a long time.

National Public Radio says that approximately 2.4 million people plan to dress up as vampires each year. This costume is extremely popular because apparently millions of people find uncomfortable vampire teeth and long robes a good idea to wear for Halloween.

The Purge is a well-known movie throughout the world. A day where you can commit crimes without repercussions. The first movie came out in May of 2013, and since then, many groups of people have decided to wear these costumes. These costumes consist of everyday clothes with a light up mask to top it all off. The purge costumes can be cool if done correctly, but for the most part it's very overrated.

Dressing up with friends is a common theme during the Halloween season. One of the most common duo costumes is the devil and angel. These characters, representing good and evil have been a common costume throughout the years. I think the costumes can be fun to do, but these costumes are seriously overworn and we can be more creative.

Trends of the Year:

A look at the most popular Halloween costumes for 2023.

By **Adrienne G.**
Senior Reporter

Everyone knows that Halloween costumes are the most important thing right next to all the free candy, but this culture of costumes is far more fascinating than what meets the eye. Every year, the most popular costumes are always the ones that are most relevant in pop culture. For that reason, these are four of those costumes that you are likely going to see the most of this upcoming Halloween.

Barbie and Ken:

The Barbie Movie arrived in theaters this past July, raking in millions at the box office. A lot of people resonated with who Barbie is, and many fell in love with her and Ken's styles—something we will undoubtedly see this spooky season. Going to Halloween stores, you are going to see a lot of Barbie's movie looks, including cowboy Barbie, roller skating Barbie and just regular everyday Barbie and Ken. In fact, Barbie was the most popular costume sold at Spirit this year.

Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce

Everyone has been raving about this couple for weeks after Taylor's appearance at Travis Kelce's football game on Oct. 22, but more has come to light recently that it was truly Travis that started the whole romance. This whirlwind relationship began when Kelce went to one of Taylor's concerts and tried to give her a friendship bracelet with his number on it. While he was not successful there, fans helped boost his story and it eventually caught Taylor's attention and her eye. Because these two are both very well known people with very easy styles to accomplish, there will undoubtedly be many Swift-Kelce duos at Halloween parties this year.

Mario

Though this may not be too much of a highschool level look, we will be seeing a lot of little Mario and Luigis running around this halloween. With the Mario movie coming out this last April, it attracted a lot of little kids' attention, so wherever you go, you're definitely going to have a Mario character somewhere nearby.

Scooby Doo

For anyone pursuing a group costume, Scooby Doo is the obvious choice this year. There are 5 easy costumes anyone can create with stuff coming from their closet or some cheap Goodwill finds. You could dress as Velma wearing anything orange you can find, preferably an orange sweater, or you could go as Daphne, wearing a purple dress with a purple headband. These costumes give tons of different choices to match everyone's looks and personalities, plus they are easily recognizable.

Internet Horror: Spooky stories on the web.

By Dylan W.
Senior Reporter

The horror genre has been around for a long time. As far back as the 1800s, writer Edgar Allan Poe was seen as one of the earliest horror writers in history. Since this time the horror genre has exploded in size with early horror movies like "Dracula" in 1931 and "the Shining" book in 1977.

It's clear that horror has been around for quite some time and has evolved from what it once was like. This is most clear with the creation of the internet as the ability for anyone to share anything at any time allowed the horror genre to flourish. The internet has allowed for countless different horror stories, games, and videos to be made and these are some of the many pieces of horror across the web.



Creepypasta

Starting in the early 2000s we have the creepypasta. A creepypasta is an internet-coined term that refers to internet legends that were made by random users throughout multiple different chat forums. There are thousands of different creepypastas such as "Slenderman," "Jeff the Killer," "Ben Drowned" and "Candle Cove." Of this list, one of the most popular has got to be "Slenderman."

Slenderman is depicted as a tall figure dressed in a black tuxedo with a white mask. Sometimes he is seen with long black tendrils coming from out of his back and spreading out in all directions. In the earlier images of him, he can be seen stalking in the trees behind groups of children and it's said that he would lure them off into the forest.

The Slenderman creepypasta was created by Eric Knudsen in 2009 on an online forum Photoshop contest. Over time people took the original idea for Slenderman and expanded on it and turned Slenderman into how he's known today. Since Slenderman's introduction, he has been put in many games, a movie, and many web series.

Another popular creepypasta is called Candle Cove. Candle Cove is about a TV show that only a small group of people can remember watching. As the reader of Candle Cove learns more about the show they learn about a character in the show called "The Skin Taker" who would make clothes out of human skin. Eventually, in the story, it is revealed that this show never actually existed and that the group was supposedly just watching Static the entire time.

Candle Cove was written by the web cartoonist and Author, Kris Starub. This story quickly became popular and was adapted as an episode for the horror television series "Channel Zero." After the success of Candle Cove, Kris went on to make the YouTube Series "Local 58" which is what he says was the television program that Candle Cove aired on.



YouTube series

YouTube has been a major catalyst for the popularity of horror on the internet. The ability to upload any video at any time has let people create short films to large video series that fall under the horror genre. While there are a countless number of videos on YouTube, we will look at two series that have a large following. The two series featured here are called "Petscop" and "Gemini Home Entertainment"

"Petscop" is a completed series that spans over 24 episodes and one bonus soundtrack episode. The series consists of multiple recordings in the form of a YouTube lets play from a character named Paul playing a strange game that he found called "Petscop." The game appeared to just be an unfinished PlayStation game, but as Paul progressed through the game he discovered that there was something inside of the game that was trying to talk to him.

"Petscop" was created single-handedly by Tony Domenico. After the initial release in 2017, Tony continued the series all the way until its completion in 2019. During this time, many popular YouTube channels made videos about "Petscop," which helped it gain the following that it still has today.

The other YouTube series is called "Gemini Home Entertainment." Taking place in the 1980s and 1990s, this ongoing series takes the form of multiple informative VHS tapes. At first, these tapes seem normal, but then they always take a darker turn such as describing horrific animals that don't exist in a local Wildlife tape. There's a home security tape that explains how to break into and remove the people who live there. These tapes all end up like this and there seems to be some alien connection between all of them.

"Gemini Home Entertainment" was created by an anonymous user who goes under the name Remy Abode. Inspired by creepypastas and horror movies, Remy has been releasing new episodes since 2019. The series falls under the analog horror genre and has been compared to other popular series such as "Local 58." Since its release, the series has been very successful and continues to expand in size and popularity.



Large Multimedia Projects

Horror over the internet has expanded to the point where it is because people are constantly taking inspiration from what other people have made. While some works might have taken slight inspiration from other works, there are two pieces of horror that are gigantic in size just because people expand onto the original idea. Both of these series have had countless games, videos, and stories made about them and more

are constantly being made. These two series are SCP and the Backrooms.

The SCP series takes place in a fictional world where there is a company known as the SCP Foundation that contains creatures and items that are deemed out of the norm. These objects range from extremely deadly to beneficial for humans. Either way, the SCP foundation does not let any of these objects get seen by the public eye.

SCP started with a post by Wesley Williams on a 4chan paranormal forum in 2007. The post was formatted as a file of a creature known as SCP 173. This file described that the creature was violent and that it would try to snap the neck of any human who it could reach. The other way to prevent it from doing that was for someone to keep eye contact with the creature so it couldn't move.

After the initial post from Wesley, many people took a liking to it. People began to create their own SCPs and began to expand upon the idea of the SCP foundation. Today there is a wiki for the foundation that consists of more than 7000 different articles of varying style and size.

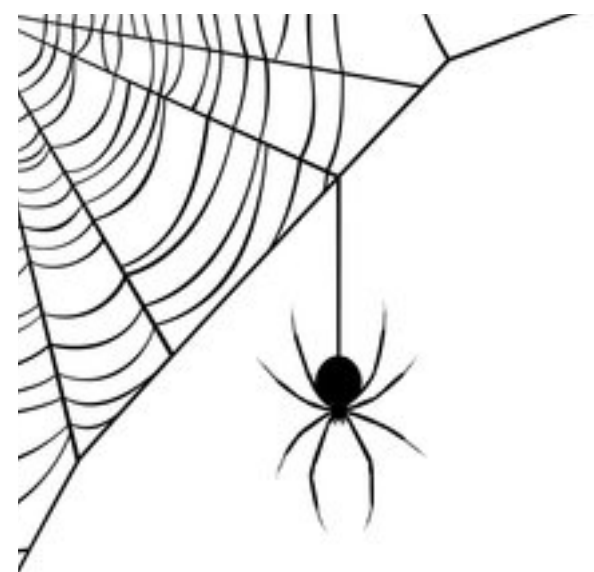
With very similar origins to SCP, there is the Backrooms. The Backrooms consist of a large and expansive space that lies outside of reality. Similar to a video game, in this world anybody can accidentally noclip through reality and end up in what is called the Backrooms. The Backrooms take lots of inspiration from liminal space photos and the people who find themselves in the Backrooms are stuck there unless they get lucky and find an exit.

The original Backrooms post was put on 4chan by an anonymous user. It was a photo of the iconic yellow wallpapered empty office space. The post that went along with the photo described how people can noclip into the Backrooms and the insanity that comes with it. Many people took a liking to the backrooms and just like SCP have expanded upon the idea.

Since the first post in 2019, people have expanded onto the Backrooms by coming up with different locations inside of it based on liminal spaces. In recent years a YouTube series about the Backrooms was created by the channel Kane Pixels. After the first episode of this series, it gained lots of attention and made the idea of the Backrooms more widespread. The Backrooms are now a big player in the Horror genre over the internet.

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see WEB on P7



Haunted Houses:

The best local spots for a good spook.

By Will G.
Junior Reporter

Spooky season brings out the best and worst of us—especially that little girl scream that we’ve kept down in our system. In the Peoria area alone there are about four haunted houses and trails. All four have unique attractions to do while at the haunted house. The haunted houses are ranked by what attractions are there and their scare factor. Visit the most spine-tingling spots this spooky season for a fun and scary time.

Spook Hollow

Spook Hollow has been around for about 40 years and is one of the most popular haunted houses in the area around Peoria, Pekin, Chillicothe and Bartonville. It has been rated highly by Team White City Devils with a scare-rating of 8.35/10. There are three attractions included in Spook Hollow and the best part is, is that you get to do all three! The Spook Hollow Trail, M.C. Manor, and M.C. Nightmare are the three attractions that have plenty of scares all throughout your trip. Spook Hollow ticket prices are \$30.00 for general admission and \$45.00 for the speed pass. 2023 season dates are the 20th, 21st, 27th, and the 28th of October.

Aura Haunted House

The Aura Haunted House is a part of the old Bartonville Hospital, which was open from 1906-1973. It received a higher scare-rating than Spook Hollow of 8.4/10 by Team White City Devils. The main attraction that you will find while there is going through the old hospital as it is said to be really haunted from the death of patients. There is also a blackout night where you get one glow stick for your group. Dates are the 20th, 21st, 27th, 28th of October with blackout dates the 31st, 3rd and 4th of November.

Three Sisters Park/Spider Hill

Spider Hill’s haunted attractions have been around for 24 years and have plenty to offer for a group or family. These attractions include the Paranormal Investigations, Massacre Mansion, and Trail of Terror. Spider Hill doesn’t have a scare rating but has many scares, especially in the Trail of Terror. Tickets are \$23.00 or fast pass for \$35.00 for the Massacre Mansion, \$23.00 or \$35.00 fast pass for the Trail of Terror and \$45.00 for the Paranormal Investigation. Dates are 20th, 21st, 27th, and 28th of October.

Wildlife Scary Park

For a fun time with your family or friends you can go to Wildlife Scary Park. There are train rides through the park, trick-or-treating, haunted schoolhouse, gollywhopper slide and the haunted hay rack. Ticket prices are \$10 per guest for members and \$12 per guest for non-members. Dates are the 20th, 21st, 27th, 28th and the 29th of October.



Student Survey:

Is candy corn a delicious treat or a cruel trick?

By Celine L. & Lauren B.
Editor-in-chief & Copy Editor

With Halloween around the corner, shelves of every store are filled with Halloween candy and festive decorations. Of course, Halloween comes with its own staples of the season. For some that may be jack-o-lanterns, and for others it may be candy apples. For many IB students, it’s candy corn.

A whopping 47.3% of Illini Bluffs students believe that candy corn is a delicious fall favorite. This was a little shocking considering the significant amount of

hate that candy corn seems to receive.

Although most people believe that candy corn is either disgusting or simply mediocre, a few students shared why candy corn is a tasty treat for Halloween.

“Candy Corn is definitely one of the most delicious non-chocolate Halloween candies. People who think otherwise do not know what true happiness is, and have never experienced true happiness before,” said

one student.

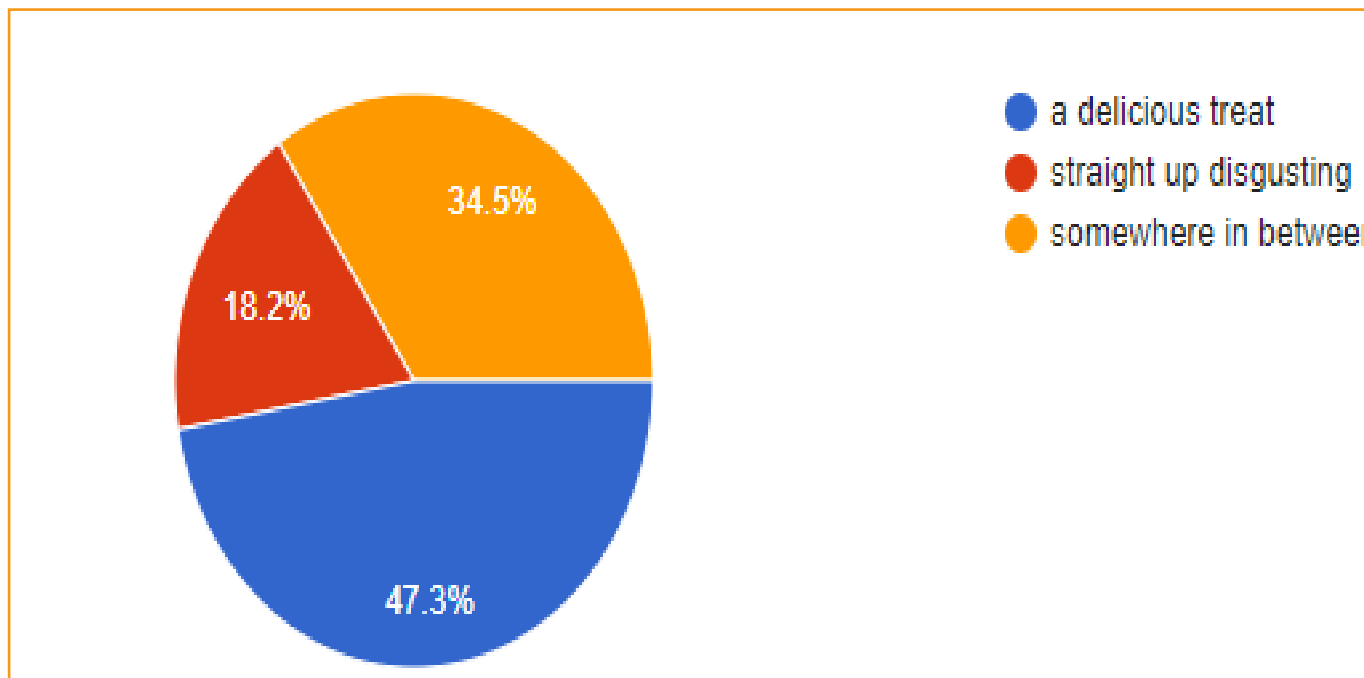
This is a bit of a bold statement, but it describes the love some have for candy corn perfectly. On the other hand, many students believe candy corn is a disgrace to Halloween in general.

“I don’t like it, it is gross, it makes me feel sick. disgusting. awful. absolutely revolting. candy corn? more like candy scorn,” said another responder.

I’m sure many can relate to this. Taking your first bite of candy corn is a huge risk, and you’ll either love it or you’ll throw up. Most people are either drawn to the euphoric taste of candy corn or straight up revolted by the flavor. Some, however, believe in a more neutral approach to solve this debate.

“I think candy corn is a staple Halloween candy, but it is also gross. I don’t think it should be taken off the shelves, but I do think they should fix its flavor.”

With Halloween just around the corner, candy corn is a make or break deal. Candy corn is filling the shelves quick, and emptying out just as fast. Although candy corn fits the fall aesthetic, Illini Bluffs High seems somewhat torn on whether it should be considered a fall treat, or a cruel trick.



STAFF PICKS: WHAT'S THE BEST HALLOWEEN CANDY?

CARMELLOS- DELANEY O.

THE SWEET CARAMEL AND SMOOTH MILK CHOCOLATE ARE A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN.



SOUR PATCH KIDS- KATIE A. AND WILL G.

I LOVE THIS CANDY BECAUSE IT'S SUPER SOUR AT FIRST, BUT THEN IT GETS SWEET. THEY DON'T MESS AROUND WITH ADVERTISING. IT IS OVERALL THE SUPERIOR CANDY, WITH THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS.



KIT KATS- ADDY D.

KIT KAT IS MY FAVORITE CANDY BECAUSE IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN SO ACCESSIBLE. YOU ALWAYS KNOW THERE WILL BE KIT KATS AT THE HALLOWEEN FUNCTION, AND I ALWAYS JUST RELIED ON THE CERTAINTY. I SEEM, IN LIFE, TO SORT OF GET DRAWN TOWARDS CERTAINTY, SO BY KNOWING IT WOULD ALWAYS BE THERE, IT BECAME MY FAVORITE CANDY.



CANDY CORN- ADRIANNE G. AND DAVIN G.

WITH IT BEING LIMITED TO JUST HALLOWEEN TIME, IT MAKES YOU CRAVE IT SO MUCH MORE AND JUST HITS THE SPOT EVERYTIME.



COW TAILS- ZOE C.

COW TAILS WILL ALWAYS BE MY FAVORITE BECAUSE OF THE AMAZING DELIVERY OF THE TEXTURE AND TASTE. THIS THROWBACK IS SOFT, CREAMY AND THE PERFECT BLEND OF CHEWY TART CARAMEL AND FLUFFY SWEET FILLING.



Illini Bluffs Inquiries

By Delaney O. and Lauren C.

Senior Reporters

Delaney:

What's your advice for jumping into creating content for TikTok, especially for older people who harbor a slight fear of technology?

Dear Cautious Creator,

Your fear of technology is completely validated; it can be overwhelmingly daunting to stay up to date with new apps and how to use them! I think you're already off to a good start beginning with a singular platform, such as TikTok, is much more manageable. When it comes to actually creating content, my advice to you is to hit that big plus button and start recording. TikTok has many editing features to explore and have fun with. Filming and editing a few videos and simply keeping them in your drafts may be a good idea until you're more comfortable with your skills. You could also begin with a private account; this makes it so you can control who can see your videos. All that being said, I think the biggest piece of advice Lauren and I can give you is to put yourself out there! Everyone starts somewhere, and hopefully, social media can become a platform for you to express yourself. I think Halloween is the best time to jump into the world of TikTok, as the spooky season opens many opportunities for fun content. We hope to see some of your videos soon!

Lauren:

"Why do people like getting scared?"

Dear Curious Cat,

Because it's exciting! To put it quite simply, getting scared releases a happiness chemical! It allows people to tap into their fight or flight response (or stand paralyzed for an embarrassingly long 20 seconds if you're me). I encourage you to Google this question again for a more detailed scientific explanation that you can rely to your friends to sound smart.

Lauren:

"What is the best Halloween costume you've ever seen?"

Dear Costume Connoisseur,

I would say I have a unique taste in costumes, so the best/coolest costume I've ever seen was a King Drizzle from "Trolls." It was a green one-piece with a built-in cape and crown. Pretty savage if I do say so myself. I also think many classically cooler costumes are pop culture references, like a character from your favorite show or movie. One can't go wrong with a Jack or Sally costume from the "Nightmare Before Christmas" or a Sebastian Hastings fit from "She's the Man." Also, the more detailed the better!



WEB

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Video Games

Horror also has a big place in the gaming industry. As far back as 1972 on the first ever game console, there have been horror games. Horror in gaming takes many forms. The game could be a zombie survival game where you have to defend yourself from the undead but it could also be a slow-paced stealth game trying to hide from what lurks around you. The two games featured here consist of trying to fight and run against different creatures but both go in very different directions.

The first game is called "Silent Hill". The game is about the character Harry Mason who finds himself in the town of Silent Hill looking for his lost daughter. In the game, the players must defend themselves against the creatures in Silent Hill and solve puzzles that lead to finding Harry's daughter.

"Silent Hill" was developed by Team Silent in 1999 for the PlayStation. The game got favorable reviews and in 2000 it was listed as the 14th best PlayStation game at the time. The game has since had multiple sequels and it stands as a classic in the Horror Genre.

While "Silent Hill" was a more story-focused game trying to create an eerie atmosphere, "Spooky's Jumpscare Mansion" takes a seemingly cutesy art style. In "Spooky's Jumpscare Mansion" the player has been trapped inside a mansion by a ghost named Spooky. The goal of the game is to travel through 1000 rooms and escape. Over the course of the game, the player comes across many different creatures that take inspiration from other Horror works. There are references to the creepypasta Ben Drowned, Pyramid Head from "Silent Hill", and even the ghost from "The Ring" movie.

A Legacy to Remember:

IB wrestlers prepare for a successful season.

By **Hunter R.**
Senior Reporter

Our school has a rich legacy in wrestling, and the 2023-2024 team is doing nothing short of carrying that on.

In the past few years, the team has been building state champions, state runner ups and state placers. With great individual success, the team struggles as a whole not having the numbers and a full roster which other teams have.

"Team wise we're lacking some numbers to fill all the weight classes. However, of the people we have on our team, we have a group of talented kids," said senior Ian O.

Every weight class filled helps, and each is worth six points. Those six points can turn around an entire dual. With wrestling being a sport where individuals have to manage and cut weight, the sport isn't for everyone which makes it harder to recruit and leads to a lower turn out. Despite a lack of numbers, though, the team is coming off of their most successful seasons of all time.

Last year, the Tigers had four regional champions: Hunter R. Ian. O, Jackson C. and Paul I. as well as three sectional champions: Hunter R., Paul I. and Jackson C. The team also finished the year with two state finalists for the first time in program history with Hunter R. and Paul I. This year, the Tigers are aspiring to once again return to the state tournament in Champaign and make it on the podium, or even bring home the bracket board.

"I have strong aspirations to be on the podium this year and to have fun in my last year," said Ian O., setting his goals high for the year.

The Tigers wrestling has kept up on their legacy and is preparing themselves for the upcoming year. Expect to be entertained and impressed by the Tigers unique wrestling styles. We wish them a successful season.

High Hopes for High Flyers:

IBHS Boys Basketball aims for redemption.

By **Wyatt H.**
Senior Reporter

A redemption year is when a team feels like they didn't accomplish what they had wanted to achieve in a previous season. This is exactly what most people, including players, think this season is going to be for our boy's basketball team. Many believed that last year's team could have won state, but that ultimately didn't happen after losing the super sectional game, against Gibault Catholic High School, on a buzzer beater.

"Obviously it didn't end how we wanted it to end, but we are past that and can only prepare for the next season now. And I am excited to be out on the court with my bros again" says Junior Toby Cooper

Preparation for the season has been going on since the end of the season last year. Morning workouts, open gyms, and summer league games are all things the players have been doing to get better. Offseason work is coming to an end though, as the basketball season begins on November 6th, which marks the start of the long and challenging week. This week will consist of two-a-day practices. These help prepare the players mentally and physically for the very demanding season. However, this is what it takes to fulfill those lofty expectations most players have for this year.

"I expect a deep postseason run this year, just like last year, except we won't be in the same position. We're better prepared and more confident than last year." Says Lehigh University Commit and Senior Hank Alvey.

The Quest to the top will begin on November 20th at the Spartan Tip-Off Classic in Bushnell, where the team will get to match up against some schools that normally wouldn't be on the schedule. A highly anticipated season is on the horizon, and is going to be exciting to see how it pans out.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN Comic by Mr. Hallstrom



IT'S HALLOWEEN NOW!