

Charter Ink

Kenyan Mall Attacks by Kayleigh Wright

The United States has had several serious run ins with terrorism, for many years. But it is very easy to forget that the U.S. is not the only country to experience terrorism. On September 21, around 11:30 in the morning, a Kenyan mall fell under the attack of Islamist terrorists, according to the New York Times. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said, “a heartbreaking reminder that there exists unspeakable evil in our world,” reminding us that evil exists in all corners of the planet. More than 50 people were killed, and more than 150 were wounded. Reporters, Jeffrey Gettleman and Nicholas Kulish described the attacks as being, “one of the most chilling terrorist attacks in East Africa since Al Qaeda blew up two American embassies in 1998.”

At the Westgate Mall, as it is named, more than 1,000 people



Smoke rising from the Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya's capital, after the attack.

escaped over the time that the mall was held under siege. But, the terrorists held hostages for the entire course of time that they were in face-off with the police. First person accounts of the events inside the mall paint chilling pictures containing tear gas, grenades, and many other military tactics. The terrorists allegedly came from across the globe, with people from Canada, the UK, the U.S., Somalia, and other countries, reported CNN.

Government officials believe that the reason the mall was targeted was because of it being an extreme

social hub. Thousands of people stream to Westgate on the weekends to enjoy sushi, frozen yogurt and high end shopping. Gettleman and Kulish describe Westgate as being, “a symbol of Kenya’s rising prosperity.” Combined with the high populous in the mall at the time, combined with the symbolic power Westgate holds, explains why it was chosen for this specific attack.

Despite the massive toll this terrorist attack took on the Kenyan people as well as the world, Kenya is still standing strong. They have the support of nations across the globe in standing up against the terrorists. Kenya’s President, Uhuru Kenyatta, who lost two relatives in the attack, said, “they shall not get away with their despicable, beastly acts. Like the cowardly perpetrators now cornered in the building, we will punish the masterminds swiftly and indeed very painfully.” With the support of the world, and the high morale and extreme bravery possessed by the Kenyan people, Kenya will bounce back from this, with even more strength than ever before.

Coming up in this issue:



Check out page seven for this month’s horoscopes!



Turn to page four to learn more about the theater workshop!



Grand Theft Auto is covered on page five!



History of Halloween

by Luke MacCormack

It's that time of year again. The time of the changing seasons and people gathering. This is the season of bonfires, treats, and fun. It is also about to be the holiday of Halloween. But where did the celebration of Halloween come from? Halloween originally started as a Celtic holiday called "Samhain" where it was believed that on this day, the spirit world and human world would mix for one day. It was celebrated with lighting huge bonfires of crops and animals to sacrifice to different Celtic deities. Also, they would dress up in animal skins and

animal masks and try to tell each other's fortunes.

Once the Roman Empire took over

the Celtic territory, two holidays came around. One was "Feralia" which was similar to the Celtic holiday, Samhain. It was a holiday to celebrate the dead. The other holiday was used to honor the goddess "Pomona" whose symbol was the apple, which could be how "bobbing" for apples was developed. After, there were some complications between the Celts and the Christian church which ultimately brought upon the name of "All Saints Day" which can also be "All Hallows Eve" which evolved into Halloween.

It wasn't until the holiday came to America that it started to take shape as the Halloween we know today. There was a time in America in the late 1800s where there was a movement to try and turn the holiday away from demons and ghouls. This lasted until around 1920-1950 when the old fashion traditions came back. This is when pranks and trick-or-treating came about. The Halloween we know today has come a long way from where it started. Now whatever you do this Halloween, whether it be going to a haunted house, watch stupid slasher movies, or just go out with your friends, remember, it took a long road to get here.

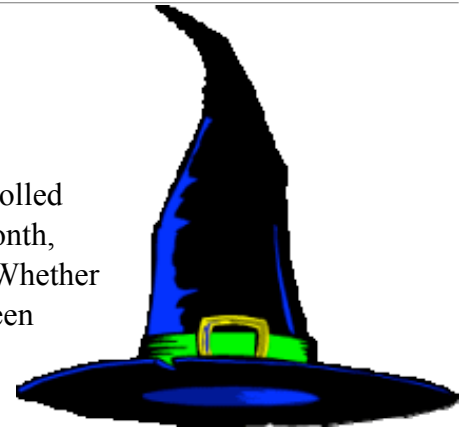




The Top Ten Most Popular Halloween Costumes

by Kayleigh Wright

Yet again, the month of black cats, witches, pumpkins, and scary stories has rolled around: October. The entire month seems to be building up to the last night of the month, Halloween. One of the most important aspects of this eerie holiday is the costumes. Whether you are a toddler going trick or treating for the first time, or heading off to a Halloween party, having the right costume is EXTREMELY important. So here, according to the L.A. Times, are the ten most popular halloween costumes.



10. Superman- This superhero is a classic, relatively easy costume that will have the person wearing it be the center of attention!
9. Cat- Being a cat, specifically a black cat, is a perfect choice for a Halloween costume. Between the superstitions surrounding cats and the adorable twist you can put on a cat costume, it's a great choice.
8. Ghost- Another costume that is a perfect fit for halloween, the ghost is an easy costume that can be elaborate or as simple as a sheet thrown over your head!
7. Nurse- Another simple and relatively traditional costume, the nurse is perfect for halloween, and can be paired with a doctor or patient if you are going out with a friend!
6. Princess- Many girls have been a princess at least once for halloween- the possibilities are endless! Whether the costume is that of a classic disney princess, or a ruler of a land you have created on your own, this is a great halloween choice.
5. Zombie- The creepiness that zombies and the concept of zombies holds makes them a common choice for a costume for the creepiest holiday of the year.
4. Batman- Another superhero, Batman comes with a cape, a mask, and a fun slogan, adding up for a night of fun all around!
3. Pirate- There are so many fun things that can be done with a pirate costume: eyepatch, pet parrot, sword, and any other twist you might want to add.
2. Vampire- With fangs, blood, and long black capes, vampires are very popular for Halloween, being creepy and easy costumes to wear.
1. Witch- Witches are an all time favorite halloween costume. They can be standard, or someone's own interpretation of what a witch is. With this costume, there is lots of room for expression and fun, making it the top choice for the perfect Halloween costume.



Theater Workshop

by Samantha Circelli

Wherefore art thou theatre workshop? They're hard at work in Cynthia's room, pretending to be different people. While visiting this workshop, you can see that it is a fun, energetic, hard-working group of people. Starting off their workshop hours, they do vocal exercises and projection practice.

After getting ready, they play improv games, and read and discuss plays. Many of you know that the Theatre workshop competes in 'Festival' every year. 'Festival' is a competition where schools act out scenes that are under 40 minutes.

While talking to Cynthia, I asked her to describe her workshop students in a few words. She responded with a smile on her face, saying, "Dedicated, crazy, creative, and hard-working." The energy in the room is so supportive and fun. If you like to act in a warm, friendly, and crazy environment, Cynthia's workshop is perfect for you.



Top Three Haunted Houses in new England

by James Duchaney

1. Factory of Terror, Fall River, MA

If you want an edge-of-your seat scare, go here right now! They have all the horror movie icons you can think of. Along with these well known tricks of the horror trade, they have fresh and original creatures that will make cringe at the site with their intense make up jobs. They have their monsters roaming all over, inside the factory and out. Once you step into this mass production of fear, you notice that the halls are not like most places. These halls can fit about six grown men across, so you will never know where they will come from. Take a trip and get ready to be scared.

2. Haunted Ship, USS Salem, Quincy, MA.

Have you ever been on an official Naval Battleship? How about one filled with all of the most terrifying ghouls and monsters you can imagine? That's what you'll see and experience on the USS Salem, CA-139. This ship screams horror from the second you hear it. The ship's named after the town where the Witch Trials took place. Also, when you add 1, 3, and 9 which are the ships numbers, you get 13. Thirteen is a number that is used in superstition to represent bad things or spirits. No one knows if they had planned for the number of the ship to add up to the unlucky number, but it does, which adds to the creepiness of the ship. All of the haunters on the ship are volunteers, and they try their best to make a great effort and scare the living s#!+ out of you!

3. The Asylum of Horror, Fall River, MA

This screamfest is all out mayhem. The makeup here is some of the best around. The overall tour doesn't take too long, but the scare is incredible. They have

secret passageways for the haunters so a repeat siting is bound to happen. These ghouls are no holds barred (up until the usual guidelines). They are relentless in their chasing you down and scaring you breathless. The characters inside are varied and sort of random, but they make it work, just like any good haunted house would.

October and Halloween FYIs

by Kevin McGuinness

- The first Ford Model T car was put on the market on October 1st, 1896
- More American presidents have been born in October than any other month, the presidents with October birthdays are: John Adams, Rutherford B. Hayes, Chester Arthur, Theodore Roosevelt, Dwight Eisenhower, and Jimmy Carter
- According to the National Confectioners Association, chocolate makes up about three quarters of what an average trick-or-treater gets on Halloween
- When trick-or-treating began to become popular in the 1800s, most kids played pranks instead of asking for candy. This changed by the 1950s.
- Candy corn has been made with the same recipe by the Jelly Belly company since about 1900
- More than 35 million pounds of candy corn were created in 2005, which is about 9 million kernels. (NCA)

Upcoming Events:

by Zain Akhtar

Saturday, October 19th- Harvest Run Road Race- This starts at 11AM. Registration is from 9-10:45 AM. It takes place at Wompatuck State Park in Hingham, MA. It's a 5k race, or 3.1 miles. It is 15 dollars per SSCPS student, and 40 dollars a family with 3.50 for each additional runners. All proceeds will be used to develop outdoor spaces for recreation at SSCPS. There will be one water stop during the race. The Harvest Run is mandatory for all cross country team members. You get a free t-shirt!

Thursday, October 31st- The last day of the 1st quarter. That's right. We're almost done with the first quarter. There's only three more to go. Grades will not be accepted after this date. So keep your grades up!

Friday, November 8th- Grades are distributed. These are the grades up to the 31st of October. After that it goes to the 2nd quarter grades. Your report cards will be handed out after workshop. Keep your grades up, so you can get first honors!

Football:

Here are some of the highlights of the last few weeks.

- The Denver Broncos, Kansas City Chiefs, and New Orleans Saints are still undefeated.
- Patriots get handed their 1st loss of the season, losing to the Cincinnati Bengals 6-13.
- Vince Wilfork is out for season

The Good, The Bad, and The Thefty

by Cat Dwyer

The Grand Theft Auto empire expands yet again with their newest installation of *Grand Theft Auto V*. The newest game, by the software giant, *Rockstar Games*, features three new playable characters, each with a unique backstory.

One of the main goals in *Grand Theft Auto V* is to complete missions, which then unlocks more of the storyline for each character. The series is also known for, you guessed it, stealing cars, which can be taken from unsuspecting drivers along with parked cars and motorcycles.

Critics at Charter are giving it both good and bad reviews. The controversy concerning a scene in which your character interrogates someone via human torture has many Human Rights activists putting up arms. "Well, it was really harsh because you knew it was gonna happen," Precious Nwafor told me, "but you didn't really expect it to be as violent as it is." He went on to tell me how great the graphics were, despite the scene. Brenden Bellew told me, "It's a *Grand Theft Auto* game, for one, and its rated M, so if you're not mature enough, you shouldn't get the game in the first place. Parents should research [the game] before buying it for their kids." Brenden also said that he agreed with Precious, in that the graphics were phenomenal, and the creativity of the storyline made it very playable.

Some held nothing back, though. An anonymous critic told me that, "compared to other games, people are overreacting about the scene. The reason why people are so angry about it is because it's so popular and they have nothing else to talk about," and specifically mentioned the sandbox aspect being one of the selling points of the game.

October Sports Observer

by Danny Freitas

Basketball:

The NBA is almost here! Lets look at some of the highlights for the new NBA season.

- Shaquille O'Neal has joined the Sacramento Kings as a part time owner.
- Rapper Drake comes to the Toronto Raptors as the "global ambassador".
- NBA2K14 was released October 1st.
- The New Orleans Pelicans will host the 2014 NBA All-Star Game.
- The Boston Celtics lose their preseason opener at home, they lost to the Toronto Raptors 97-89

Baseball:

- The Season Awards have been released:
 - AL MVP: Miguel Cabrera, Detroit.
 - NL MVP: Andrew McCutchen, Pittsburgh.
 - AL Rookie of the Year: Jose Fernandez, Miami.
 - NL Rookie of the Year: Will Myers, Tampa Bay.

Arts and Craftys: Balancing Bats! *by Emily Tan*

As Halloween approaches, the peaceful fall afternoons easily melt away into eerie evenings filled with the frights of the night. Creepy decorations litter the front lawns of houses and simple shadows take on new forms as light recedes. Sounds also bring new meaning, as if the rustling leaves conceal new frights or a chilled, whistling wind might mean something other than the seasons changing. Upon looking up, bats can be seen flitting about in the dusk, scarcely seen in the twilight. “They fly against the midnight sky, their jagged wings in silhouettes against the glow of Hallow's moon - An image one can not forget!” This poem *The Bats Beckon*, captures the moment of witnessing bats in the night perfectly, while also sending shivers down the spine at the thought. Although bats themselves are harmless, the effect they bring with them can be unnerving. In this craft, these living shadows can balance precariously on the shelves of your home or even on your finger, just to add some more spook to your October evenings.



The materials for this craft are quite simple - all you need is some thick black paper or cardstock, two pennies, a bit of tape, a pencil, and some scissors. To start, draw a bat on the black paper. The bat must be symmetrical and the wings must reach past the bat's head in order for the craft to work. There is no size constraint on this project, but the bats balance better when the wingspan is about the length of your hand (from your thumb to your little finger when you spread your fingers). Cut out the bat carefully. Symmetry and balance are crucial in this project. Once you just have the bat cut-out, the pennies are used next, as weights to keep the bat in balance. Tape them on the wing tips so that the wings will sag a little and even out the balance. Now you have a balancing bat!

The bat should be able to balance on your finger. It should perch on your finger by its head and the wings should swoop downward. If it has trouble balancing, the symmetry might be off, or the pennies could be taped in different places on the wings, throwing off the balance in the weight. But with a little luck, trial and error, and an eye for symmetry, soon you will have a collection of balancing bats to use as Halloween decorations! What better way to decorate this spooky holiday, than with precarious paper bats that seem to defy gravity like the shadows themselves?

Jaguars Sports Update *by James Duchaney*

The Jaguars soccer teams are playing adequately and have records of .500 and over, which means that they have each won at least half of their games. The girls' team has a record of 4-4 while the boys have a record of 5-3.

Players on the girls' team who have scored or assisted a goal include: Christine Nwafor with five goals and one assist, Arianna Hartz with four goals and one assist, Catie Bowman (8th grade) with three goals and two assists, Maddie White with one goal, and Hallie Ferguson with two assists. Ila White is playing very well in the net, despite being a rookie to the goalkeeper position, stopping seventeen plus shots from becoming goals. The girls are in seventh place out of twelve teams in the league, and need to get to sixth place to have a spot in the playoffs, but the rest of the season looks promising for the team.

Players on the boys' team who have scored or assisted a goal include: Michel Joseph with seven goals and one assist, Paul Sullivan with three goals and three assists, Chad Bruce with three goals and two assists, Elvis Tavares with two goals and three assists, Ian Wright with two goals, Ethan Seal with one goal and two assists, Jonathan Boyle with one goal, Darius Anderson with one goal, Matthew Algera with two assists, and Derrick Dera with one assist. Jerome Sullivan has held down the fort for the team with 74 saves and allowing only ten goals, four of which were in a match against the best ranked team in the league. Both Jaguars teams have a high chance of making the playoffs this year.

In volleyball news, the Jaguars team is in seventh place out of nine teams. On Wednesday, October 9th they saw a back to back victory against Boston Collegiate, and look forward to more victories.

ASTROLOGY PSYCHIC

You are sensing something. You are picking up vibrations from around you. Yes, if you didn't realize, your instincts/intuition is trying to tell you a little something. Sort of like when your pet cat is whining hysterically, and is trying to tell you he or she is hungry or needs to go outside to do some business. Anyhow, you do not like to listen to your own intuition, you like to know the facts. It's not that you don't have confidence in your instinct, but you do not trust yourself the way you should. But that is why I am here. I am here to tell you to open your ears and listen for those vibrations. So much good can come from going with your gut feeling. In these next few months when you come to a sticky situation; for example, you know that really cute boy at school that you have been crushing on for years and your mind is telling you to tell him how you feel but then you're like, "oh no," that would lead to bad bad things? Well this month, listen to your intuition and tell him how you feel. Go with your gut feeling. If your gut feeling is telling you to drop out of school, then drop out of school... well actually no, don't do that... but most importantly do not second guess yourself. Sometimes, and I am speaking for 99.9% of the population (me being that .1%), people make mistakes, they make a bad choice or the wrong choice, but that is the point of life. The best thing about making mistakes is you learn from them and that is crucial. SO go out and listen for those vibrations, listen to your intuition and do not second guess yourself.

Trick or Treat for Unicef

by Molly Schauer

United Nations Children's Fund, or UNICEF, is the halloween donation. In school, teachers give out orange boxes with coin slots, to the children so they can bring it home and bring them trick or treating with them. Trick or Treat for UNICEF is when children go around to different houses on halloween with their orange boxes and their pillowcases for candy. When someone answers their door children usually say, "trick or treat, would you like to make a donation to UNICEF?" The donations from UNICEF go to the teachers who send it to the UNICEF donation center. Originally when trick or treat for UNICEF was founded, it was to make money and provide food for undernourished children. However, the fund destination usually depends on the year. In 2005, UNICEF went to the children and families who suffered from Hurricane Katrina. This year, UNICEF is going to undernourished children across the world. So if you would like to participate in this just go to <http://www.trickortreatforunicef.org/order> to order your orange boxes. Remember! you're helping children across the world.



Halloween Superstitions

by Zain Akhtar

All Hallows Eve, otherwise known as Halloween, is coming soon. Halloween isn't just about getting a ton of Snickers, Reeses and Skittles. Halloween has its own fun: the superstitions. One we all may know is the superstitions of black cats. Although black cats are known as a sign of bad luck, they also have to do with Halloween. Back in the dark ages, old widows were accused of witchery, and their cats were said to be demonic animals. Of course, everyone knows about all the superstitions about bats. One superstition was that if a bat was spotted flying around a house three times, someone in that house was going to die soon. Another myth was that if a bat flew into your house on Halloween, your house was haunted because ghosts had let the bat in. Evan Whitemyer, a freshman, said that jack-o-lanterns were used to guide souls. Evan was correct. People believe in a tale about a drunken farmer named Jack, who tricked the devil, and then was sent to purgatory. Jack made a lantern from a turnip and a burning lump of coal, that the devil had tossed him from hell. He used the lantern to guide his lost soul, so the Celts used jack-o-lanterns to guide their souls. There you have it folks, Halloween superstitions. Those things you hang up outside your house, they're not just decorations, they have history behind them.



A Very Charter Halloween

by Maryellen Vanderveen.

It has been the policy of SSCPS to not allow students to wear costumes on Halloween. This policy was instituted the first year that the school moved from Hull to its new location in Norwell, because they were thought to be a distraction. Public schools' policies in other towns on the South Shore are generally equally split between either banning costumes entirely or allowing them as long as they follow the school's dress code.

When asked why the school decided to adopt this policy, Angie cited past examples of inappropriate costumes and how scary costumes could potentially scare young students. Teachers were asked if they supported the policy and some agreed, adding that they were a distraction in the classroom. However, more said that they would not mind costumes in their classrooms as long as they were appropriate under the guidelines set by the school handbook's dress code and did not involve weapons or masks.

Dealing with inappropriate costumes though can become a hassle and a distraction. Claudia brought up another interesting point that some students' religions prohibit them from wearing costumes or celebrating Halloween. "I personally would enjoy it," Claudia said, "but if it disturbed some of the students then I wouldn't like it". And making sure that all students are comfortable is a goal of the school.

However, students do not have to fear about not being able to dress a little creatively on the last day of this month. In past years, spirit days have been conveniently scheduled for October 00031st. In 2011, student board sponsored Superhero Day, where student dressed up as a favorite superhero or one of their own invention. Halloween 2012 doubled as Career Day with many creative future professions. This year will be no exception. What the theme of the day will be is still a surprise, but Student Board is expected to decide on one sometime next week.



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