

# Happy Halloween: Enjoy celebrating the worst of American values



by Marie O'Connor

October is in full swing, so prepare to welcome back pumpkin spiced everything and a new lineup of culturally appropriative costumes.

While some cultures have autumnal holidays welcoming the harvest, or remembering deceased relatives, here in the US we glorify death and obesity. Where else would kids be encouraged to fill bags with candy while dressed up as a nightmarish creature?

America's obsession with putting on masks and using other cultures for personal benefit is brutally obvious on Halloween. Kids and adults alike get the chance to dress up in whatever they like for the night, trying out another persona.

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Most younger kids steer away from culturally offensive costumes, choosing instead to represent their dream career or favorite super hero.

However, once away from the cute Halloween costumes of childhood, costumes veer toward

overtly sexual or clearly offensive, or both.

Such costumes as "Voodoo Seductress costume" and "Sexy piñata" are just some of the unfortunate outfits being sold at halloweencostumes.com.

Along with these clearly offensive costumes, the site offers a guide to women specifically on how to feel confident in this year's costume.

Posted on the site is the following advice: "Confidence is basically the key to being successful, even when it comes to picking out a sexy Halloween costume. Remember, believing in yourself is the sexiest accessory a girl could possibly possess. Of course, everyone is going to want to talk to the girl wearing a hot costume and exuding a whole lot of confidence."

When I read this patronizing quote I couldn't help but feel gross and ashamed.

Here I am being told that without a "hot costume," and a whole lot of confidence, I won't be able to find someone to talk to.

While the men's costume page gives tips on how to be comfy, on the bottom of the women's page, I was told to, "be sure to fluff your hair one final time, strap up your stilettos, and get out there and show off that gorgeous costume."

One might think that if you don't want to be offended this Halloween, then you can control what you see or experience. But that is the one thing Halloween prohibits you from doing. Halloween

is in your face, jumping out at you, there's nowhere you can hide.

Advertising everywhere is focused on sexualizing women and young girls and providing boys with a huge array of normal, fully-clothed, costume options.

Culturally offensive costumes are equally as obvious. Just because someone doesn't mean to be offensive, doesn't mean that someone doesn't have the right to be offended.

The issue of inappropriate costumes has created a lot of controversy over the past few years, but America's obsession with fats and sugars found in Halloween candy has been widely accepted.

Don't get me wrong, I'm a huge fan of anything sweet, and I would probably live off candy if I could, but maybe in a country with such a high obesity rate, gluttony shouldn't be celebrated.

According to the CIA World Fact Book, the US is the 12th most obese country in the world. This is especially upsetting because we are also one of the wealthiest countries, and we should be able to afford healthy options and a balanced diet.

According to the National Retail Federation, kids consume up to 7,000 calories on Halloween alone, the same as 13 Big Macs, and an average of three cups of sugar.

Halloween seems to be the perfect example to point to when stereotyping Americans as obese, violence-craving, politically incorrect loons.

# Dress to impress yourself this Halloween



by Bella Geroulis

Everyone remembers Halloween when they were a kid. Dressing up and trick-or-treating with friends, rating your neighbor's treats, and eating your body weight in Halloween candy.

Personally, I dressed up as Madeline every year until I was 10 and I couldn't have loved it more.

Halloween's festivities are lesser known than its origin as a celebration of superstition. Costumes were worn to ward off monsters and ghosts.

Unfortunately, it seems like the only thing being scared off by the modern day female costume is other humans.

Now, don't get me wrong, there's nothing wrong with wearing a costume that's a little provocative. But there's a difference between showing some skin and buying a costume that makes you wonder if it's a costume at all.

It might just be me, but I feel like high school is too soon to start treating as Halloween as if we were adults.

Though making that transition from childhood into our adult lives is inevitable, I just didn't think it would be so soon and so extreme.

I'm not going to act like I've never fallen victim to the appeal of wearing a costume that I know will get the attention of other people. But I will say that I have a lot more fun during Halloween, and in general, when I don't care what other people think.

The question needs to be asked why some girls feel like they should wear a costume that compromises the meaning of the costume for provocativeness.

Maybe it is the attention that's drawn from these costumes, or maybe they just really want to wear them. I know a lot of girls that will wear them because (as Halloween is supposed to do) it gives them a chance to be someone they're not.

For a lot of women, being able to give yourself an alternate persona, even just for a night is thrilling, and it gives them a release from reality.

It seems to me like the only answer is that people are just trying to grow up as fast as possible.

With the rapid and uncontrollable rise of social media, the pressure to act older or "cooler" has never been so high. This pressure transfers into a lot of different aspects of social events, whether it be the things we

wear or the activities we take part in.

Whatever the reason may be, I'm not trying to belittle it. If wearing a provocative costume makes you feel good about yourself, then that's exactly the costume you should wear. But if it doesn't make you feel good, then why do it?

If there's one thing I've learned from high school, it's that if it doesn't make you happy, then you shouldn't do it. That rule can apply to pretty much everything, and it's been the primary factor in my growth as a mature individual.

I've worn promiscuous Halloween costumes, I've tried my hardest to look like all the other girls around me, and I've definitely embarrassed myself in doing so. But sometimes, things just don't work out. You won't ever look or be like anybody else other than yourself, so just accept that and be the best version of yourself you can be.

If that version includes dressing up in provocative costumes, then don't let me or anything else stop you. If that doesn't sound like you, like someone who is just doing something to fit in, then maybe you should reevaluate your decision.

This Halloween, in more ways than one, think before you act. Maybe explore the classic bedsheets as a ghost costume instead of just a white tank top and skirt, you know what I mean?

# Staff Editorial A president with Trevian values

Last Tuesday, Oct. 18, the students enrolled in the AP Political Science course went campaigning in Waukesha, Wisconsin. This field trip allowed students to choose the party and the candidate they wanted to campaign for. Deciding which candidate to support forced students to evaluate their views and the policies of the two presidential nominees. From this evaluation they had to determine which candidate supported their values.

This process of evaluating your values and aligning them with a candidate who supports those views is important for every student to undertake. Though not all of us may be able to vote on Nov. 8, it is important to define our own values and the values that give meaning to issues we believe are important.

The process, too, has to be independent. The president elected in November will be the president for four or eight years. In that span, all of us, freshman included, will have graduated high school and moved into the real world. The president elected on November 8 will be the voice of our young adulthood. This individual will pass laws and enforce policies that will effect social justice, health care, education, and gun reforms.

The future effect of this elected president makes this election crucial for our generation. Our generation is on the cusp of adulthood; not yet old enough to vote, but old enough where this election matters for us.

It is up to you to determine the values and issues you deem important. It is up to you to support a specific candidate. But in our effort to reflect the needs of the student body, find it necessary to reflect on the skills and values we believe our future president must exhibit.

The future president must be knowledgeable about global and domestic affairs. In order to be the president of the United States, the candidate must be aware and educated on the issues plaguing the nation and the globe. Avoiding issues such as social justice, gun violence, and the environment shows a candidate who is neither aware nor concerned with issues afflicting millions of Americans.

To put it in different terms, everyone wants a doctor who's been to medical school to evaluate their health, not a doctor who only studied chemistry. We know that a doctor who graduated medical school has more experience and knowledge about the human body than a chemistry major. The presidency is similar. To be president of the United States a candidate must have experience in the political world. Voting for a candidate without experience is putting our county in inadequate hands.

The future president must also have a good temperament. The president must ensure national security and in order to do this the president must remain even tempered. Sure, situations in politics can get heated, but a leader must be calm and collected. Not only does the president reflect themselves, but how they handle global situations reflects how the world perceives all Americans. The future president must not make rash decisions based on actions or words only meant to provoke them.

As our leader the president must reflect our own values. As Americans we all share common values of freedom, equality, and self-expression. Our president must reflect these values and continue to exhibit why the United States is still the leader of the world.

The president's job to reflect our values also means the president cannot be weak. The new president must have a good temperament, yes, but this person must also be stern. As a global leader, the United States must be a voice that is heard, not one that can be ignored.

The New Trier News will not endorse a candidate because we can't speak to the values of all the students who attend this institution. Instead, it is up to you to decide what you need in a president and what issues you want the president to address.

With this highly polarized, historical election it is important to have a voice. Whether you support red or blue this November, make sure you know your own convictions. Not your parents. Not your friends. Not your teachers. You need your own reason for supporting a candidate, for this election will affect you whether you can vote or not.



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