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THE CHARGER BULLETIN

The spooky news source of the University of New Haven



HALLOWEEN EDITION

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Haunted Tales from Maxcy Hall

BY SOMMERS SMITH
STAFF WRITER

As Halloween approaches, the spirit of ghouls and ghosts is very much alive.

But the haunted houses, scary costumes, and hayrides, don't compare to the real-life chills students get walking through Maxcy Halls.

Maxcy Hall is one of the oldest buildings on campus, and it's more traditional look stems from a time when it was an orphanage. For 46 years, Maxcy was the New Haven Temporary Home for Children. In the past, students and staff claim to have heard the sounds of activity relating to children echoing down the halls.

Skeptics may argue that those old tales are just stories, but others feel the eeriness of the building stems from more than just old age. During his time as a student patrol member for Campus Police, Senior Zachary Esposito, conducted night walkthroughs to lock up academic buildings and make sure lights were turned out.

He recounted his experience for The Charger Bulletin:

"I became well accustomed to Maxcy, and got a little freaked out going through the building alone," said Esposito. "One night, I had two of my friends accompany me, and we walked through the building. We stopped in one room on the second floor, and shut off the lights. Out of curiosity, we planned on just sitting there for a bit to see if anything happened, as I had already had some interesting experiences in the building -- doors slamming shut or flying open when no windows were open, lights flickering or turning off and on by themselves. So, we sat in the room in the pitch dark, waiting for something, anything to happen.

"We had been sitting for about 15 minutes, and I was getting a little impatient. Just as I was about to try and 'provoke' something, which you aren't supposed to do with anything paranormal, a voice whispered out of nowhere. It sounded like a boy, or a man, and was inaudible. Immediately following, there was a giggle, a little girls giggle. Before I could say anything, my friends shot up and were making it for the door.

"As we got to the hallway, I called out and asked what

they heard. One said 'a whisper and a giggle' and the other said that she only heard the laugh. Once we came to the conclusion that we all heard the same thing, we quickly chose to leave the building. The only thing is, we questioned why only the two of us sitting next to each other heard the whisper. We came to the sort of haunting realization that what or whoever whispered may have been sitting or standing right between the two of us, and that's why our friend had not heard it."

Despite its supernatural anecdotes and campus history, Maxcy Hall isn't the only building on campus to give students goosebumps.

According to the president

of the Paranormal Investigative Research Organization (PIRO), Lauren Risley, "There's a lot of history surrounding almost all the buildings on our campus.

I believe the stories I hear about spirits wandering the halls of Sheffield and Ruden Street Apartments. Too many things have happened on this campus for it to not be true! Now whether these hauntings are residual or intelligent is the real question we should be asking."

Although there is no secret about how to detect spiritual activity, students are encouraged to behave accordingly if they do feel a presence. There was time when this campus may have been someone else's playground.



HALLOWEEN EDITION

Contest Winner: Falling Apart

BY SKYLER HUSON
CONTEST WINNER

The loose fitting denim overalls hardly looked blue under all the grime built up from the storm. Every row of pumpkins had been decimated by the harsh blows of wind and cutting rain. The crows knew better than to stick around, the scarecrow could do nothing but. His tattered burlap skin seeped straw, and his hat blew away long ago. When the sun finally slipped in front of the clouds, it shined to reveal the scattered remains of vines and hay. His head tilted down, the scarecrow only looked forlorn onto his garden. Across the soil the evidence of destruction was

clear, but the melancholy within the scarecrow was overbearing. A single crow landed on the bent stick that was his shoulder. Its sharp claws dug into the branch through the thin layer of straw threatening to slide off.

Sighing, the scarecrow took care not to sigh too deeply and rattle his weak spine. His voice could not be mustered in his dilapidated state, but the crow chirped despite his silence. Talons trampled on the scarecrow's still damp edges until he was inches from the beak of that which he was supposed to ward off. It was then when he felt the beak slip through a sliced portion of his burlap. It has come to take my straw for its nest, he thought solemnly, I suppose this is a fitting end. The crow flew away in that

instance, though to where the scarecrow could not know. Moments later, he could hear the ferocious flapping of more wings, and insisted to himself all was as it was supposed to be. Things fall apart, and I am just a thing.

Each bird landed, the weight straining his artificial limbs. They creaked and stretched, bowing but not breaking. As soon as they came, the crows fluttered away. Resigned to his fate, the scarecrow found no relief in their absence. He knew they would be back to take more of him, piece by piece, clump by clump. So it was a routine for some time, and as the crows came and went, the scarecrow saw his garden regrow. His slumped neck reached a section of rows that saw the vine creeping across

and pumpkins plumping larger and larger by the day. It was some time before the scarecrow, that daft jumble of hay and potato sacks, realized his arms and body were not losing straw at all, but rather plumping just as the pumpkins were.

Still unable to see above the few rows of crop, he only felt as if he was growing stronger. The wind no longer gave him a shiver. The warmth of the sun stayed longer on his hay padded stick skeleton. The crows darted to and from, and in a moment of clarity the scarecrow knew it was their doing. He strained his button eyes to glance at the crows resting on his outstretched arm. Some just landing held small bundles of straw in their beaks, while some were working their de-

liveries between the gaps of burlap. The crows had been stuffing the scarecrow, piece by piece, clump by clump, the whole time. Overjoyed, the scarecrow let his gaze drop to the pumpkins below him. He saw their vines sprawling towards his spine stick planted firmly into the soil, and hoped that maybe they too were trying to restore him. Perhaps in a few more weeks, the vines would let him see his full garden again.



Graphic Illustration by Tyler C. Butler

CHARGER COMICS

BY TYLER C. BUTLER
GRAPHICS EDITOR



HALLOWEEN EDITION

Encourage Candy, Not Alcohol

BY KARINA KRUL
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

What do you do with Halloween and you're not an adult and you're not a child?

While children take their candy and costumes, adults enjoy the same luxuries, often swapping candy for cleverly-named drinks. However, there is one group, too old to be children and too young to be adults, whose members have begun to use the holiday for binge drinking and slutty costumes.

High-school students are beginning to drink alcohol at younger and younger ages, consuming the alcohol at parties. And Halloween parties are no

exception. High school parties happen year-round. We do not need to make Halloween another reason for high schoolers to get blackout drunk with their closest friends.

Yet our culture is vehemently against high schoolers trick-or-treating. The U.S. Census Bureau defines "potential trick-or-treaters" as children aged 5-14. Why? Are we afraid they might actually enjoy going door-to-door collecting candy? Do you think that they will hockey-check your 2-year old into a tree to steal candy from your elderly neighbor?

Apparently, the answer is yes.

According to Time magazine, one Canadian town has banned anyone over the age of 16 from

trick-or-treating, and they've attached a hefty \$200 fine. Multiple cities in the U.S. also have laws that cut off trick-or-treating for children as young as 12. Aside from laws, many high school students are peer pressured to stop trick-or-treating. They are made fun of for being "childlike" and, in some houses, people outright refuse to give them candy.

We are sending a bright flashing signal to high school students that their time on Oct. 31 would be better spent at a party where they'll drink so much they won't remember that we're forcing them out of childhood. They don't have a choice but to grow up quickly and to replace what they loved as a child with...well,

intoxication, in some cases.

This helps fosters an environment of heavy-drinking, with Halloween as the prime holiday for blackouts. We already know college students love their Halloween parties, but only if they include a healthy supply of hard liquor. They will find the alcohol without any help, so let's

stop encouraging them to get to it early.

The next time you see high school students trick-or-treating, resist the urge to laugh or yell and remind yourself that they could be ringing in the holiday doing shots out of a 15-year-old's belly-button next to their best friend doing a keg stand.



Keep Your Ignorance at Home This Season

BY KIANA QUINONEZ
MANAGING EDITOR

It's spooky season, and every year costumes get more creative. Whether it's putting on a sweatband to be an athlete, or painting whiskers on your face to look like a cat, costumes have gotten easier to pull off.

So, why would you choose to offend an entire ethnic group by mocking their culture and traditions?

Let's turn to, the latest expert in the field, and host of "Megyn Kelly Today," Megyn Kelly, for a textbook example of what happens when you ignore this rule. Kelly tried to give ignorance a hall pass during a discussion on an episode of her show where she said that when she was a kid, blackface was acceptable.

Surprise! In 2018 ignorance can get you fired.

And surprise! This is your not-so friendly reminder to not be racially offensive on Halloween.

The problem is: it's not hard

to be inoffensive and creative.

Yet people still choose to wear ignorant outfits and makeup.

"What is racist?" said Kelly on the episode. "You do get in trouble if you are a white person who puts on blackface for Halloween, or a black person who puts on whiteface for Halloween. Back when I was a kid, that was OK just as long as you were dressing as a character."

Blackface was a tool used by white Americans to portray black characters in their productions. A white actor would paint

themselves black, line their mouths into big red smiles and make their hair stick out.

More often than not, these characters were used in minstrel shows featuring white individuals parading around in blackface, acting foolish and uneducated for a white audience.

This isn't secret. It is a part of American history, and even though it was a major part of 19th century entertainment - farther back than most people can trace their lineage - people have routinely gotten into trouble for

doing it in the 21st century. Take Julianne Hough's costume as Crazy Eyes from "Orange is the New Black." Or Kim Kardashian for her makeup campaign.

"There are strict rules on what you may and may not wear by someone who thinks they're the boss of you," said Kelly on the episode.

No, Kelly, I don't think I'm the boss of you, it's that you think you're the boss of me. By choosing to wear a costume that is ra-

Read more on pg. 6.

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Leave the Ignorant Costumes Home

Continued from pg. 5

cially and culturally insensitive, it tells me that you don't value an undeniable part of my humanity and identity. Of course, this goes beyond blackface.

"You cannot dress as a Native American, apparently, that has been a rule for a long time," said Kelly.

You're right, Megyn, it has been, since before even you're

ancestors stole this land.

In 2014, rapper and producer Pharrell Williams was criticized for wearing a Native American headdress on the cover of *Elle* Magazine.

Headdresses are worn by elders in some Native American tribes, as representations of their accomplishments. By wearing one as a costume, you are undermining the significance of

those people's accomplishments and leadership in their tribe.

The eagle feathers used in the headdresses are earned. The more feathers, the more the wearer has achieved. Even early explorers knew this.

"You can't wear anything Mexican-based, no sombrero, no maracas: that's cultural and race-based," said Kelly during the episode.

The issue with costumes like this are the intentions behind them. You cannot categorize Mexicans by hats, mustaches and ponchos.

You're tying together random, unrelated things from another country and claiming it represents an entire rich and meaningful culture.

"I can't keep up with the number of people we're offend-

ing just by being, like, normal people," said Kelly.

That's because you're offending everybody. This is only a small sample of offensive costumes you can choose. From terrorists to religious figures, if you're wearing it, it's probably because you aren't a part of that culture. Instead, be creative, be basic, who cares? Just don't be racist. It really isn't that hard.

Best of Halloween Playlist

BY NICOLE MANALL
STAFF WRITER

*Follow the Charger
Bulletin on Spotify!*

A spooky ooky kooky special playlist just in time for Halloween.

Thriller - Michael Jackson

Jackson's hit could make any monster bust out into the "Thriller" dance.

Ghostbusters - Fall Out Boy

FOB put their spin on the classic, making audiences say "I ain't afraid of no ghost."

Somebody's Watching Me - Rockwell

Rockwell offers a perfect song about the horror of having someone's eyes on you.

Time Warp - Rocky Horror Picture Show

With a jump to the left plus a step to the right, anyone can dance to the spooky essential.

Maneater - Daryl Hall & John Oates

Hall & Oates urge you to watch out for a woman who will "chew you up."

Superstition - Stevie Wonder

Wonder begs you to ignore broken mirrors, walking under ladders and black cats.

Monster Mash - Bobby "Boris" Pickett

This song is deemed the "most seasonal song," according to Spotify.

This is Halloween - Marilyn Manson

Manson's cover is a Halloween classic sure to send shivers down your spine.

Monster - Lady Gaga

Gaga sets a beat that's easy to dance to with your own monster.

I Want Candy - Aaron Carter

Carter puts his spin on the classic, making you eat candy until your stomach hurts.



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P.I.R.O. Brings Paranormal Investigation to Campus

BY NICOLE MANALL
STAFF WRITER

The Paranormal Investigation and Research Organization (P.I.R.O.) is a student-run organization that discusses and studies paranormal and supernatural beings. They also run paranormal investigations at various New England locations.

Started in 2002 by a group of students who shared an interest in the paranormal, P.I.R.O. now has over 100

members and over 25 paranormal investigators, according to their profile in Charger Connection

Each week, members can “expect the unexpected,” according to president and head investigator Lauren Risley. The organization chooses a different topic to explore during each meeting.

In addition to weekly meetings, members can go on investigations with team members for a hands-on experience. Anyone who is part of P.I.R.O. can become an investigator after taking

classes that teach the proper way to conduct paranormal investigations.

One important message that P.I.R.O. would like the campus community to know is that it is open to anyone, whether they believe in supernatural beings.

“We don’t judge people’s opinions or beliefs,” said executive assistant Zariah Morman. “There’s room for healthy debates on certain topics.”

According to their constitution, P.I.R.O.’s mission is to “educate peers about the

paranormal and supernatural, have our members to study and learn about the paranormal and supernatural, and conduct legal and scientific investigations to determine whether or not a location has any paranormal activity.”

Members not only look at P.I.R.O. as an organization that shares their passion for the paranormal and the supernatural, but also as a way for students to get out of their comfort zone.

“It’s a space to discuss anything your mind can think of; it’s also a chance to learn about vast topics, a lot of our members come to learn and listen to what individuals have to share,” said Risley. “I have learned so much since my first meeting my freshman year. I tell people all the time, the paranormal is an always changing, always growing field. You can never know it all!”

In addition to holding gen-

eral meetings Wednesdays at 10 P.M. in Henry C Lee 301, P.I.R.O. has multiple events to celebrate Halloween.

From Thursday, Oct. 25 to Wednesday, Oct. 31, they will hold Paranormal Awareness Week (P.A.W.) to inform the campus about the supernatural.

On Tuesday, Oct. 30, they will host paranormal jeopardy in the student dining hall from 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. On Halloween night, P.I.R.O. will host their annual costume ball from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the alumni lounge. There is an entry fee for the costume ball: \$1 for students in costume, \$2 for students without a costume, \$5 for non-university students in costume, and \$6 for non-university students without a costume. Every year P.I.R.O. donates the proceeds to a different cause each year. This year’s proceeds will be donated to WHEAT food pantry.



Graphic Illustration by Tyler C. Butler/The Charger Bulletin



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Halloween Hall of Fame



Senior mechanical engineering major Joanne Yeung, senior criminal justice major Chelsea White, and senior forensic psychology major Alex Stroffolino dressed as 80s workout instructors.



Senior forensic science and biology pre-med major Rachel Buck dressed as Ronda Rousey.



Senior mechanical engineering major Nash Khairi and senior criminal justice and national security major Tiffany Barnes dressed Southside Serpents from "Riverdale."