

# THE CHARGER BULLETIN

*The student news source of the University of New Haven.*



## REPORTING FROM THE UPSIDE DOWN

Photo by Anna Downs/The Charger Bulletin



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## THE CHARGER BULLETIN

300 Boston Post Road | West Haven, CT 06516

ChargerBulletin@newhaven.edu | www.ChargerBulletin.com

office: 203.932.7182 | text: 203.909.0646

Our office is located on the second floor of 46 Ruden Street, Room 202.

**Editor-in-Chief** Anna Downs  
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## PIRO Sponsors Psychic Event on Campus

**BY THOMAS ALMEIDA**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

**E**arlier this month, psychic medium Angelina Diana performed psychic readings at the university's German Club. The event was co-sponsored by SCOPE and the Paranormal Investigation and Research Organization (PIRO), and more than 160 students attended.

Diana explained how popular culture often blurs the line of paranormal work. As a psychic, Diana taps into a person's inner-

most self to make future readings based on their personality and other metaphysical aspects. Diana is also a medium, which is a different profession that she defines as "someone who talks to, represents, channels, and gives evidence of those who have crossed over."

While some psychics do work as mediums, the two are not the same, according to Diana. During her presentation, Diana mentioned that many people are more attuned to spirits as children, and some of the attendees agreed. Kevin Bernardon, a sophomore, said, when he was younger, he was more spiritual.

PIRO's Logo. Graphic Courtesy of University of New Haven PIRO Club



Bernardon said that he could "sense... spirits around me,

though not so much anymore." This was Diana's second visit

to the school.

**MY CULTURE IS NOT YOUR COSTUME**

**What is Cultural Appropriation?**  
The act of taking or using things from a culture that is not your own, especially without showing that you understand or respect this culture.

**#DressWithRespect**

# *HALLOWEEN EDITION*

## Halloween Story Contest Winner “Today Is Halloween”

**BY LEAH SANDERSON  
CONTEST WINNER**

**J**im Peterson woke up to the incessant buzzing of his doorbell. Today was Halloween, the one night of the year that he dreaded the most. He tried to avoid it by leaving the lights off outside of his house so it looked like he wasn't home.

That didn't stop this year's trick-or-treaters. After attempting to ignore the doorbell, he gave in and answered. A young boy stood there dressed in a bloody-faced Ghostface costume and shouted out, “Trick or treat!” “Listen, I don't have any candy ok?” Jim told him curtly and started closing the door.

“But it's Halloween,” the kid said, disappointed.

“No. It's not,” Jim responded, “It's October 31.”

After he closed the door, he wanted to make sure that Ghostface actually left and had walked back to his mother, who was dressed as a witch. He gestured towards Jim's house until she ushered him away.

“Good riddance,” Jim thought to himself and went to bed so he could avoid more trick-or-treaters.

The buzzing doorbell woke him up, but hadn't he gone to sleep in his bed, not here, on the couch? He stood up, feeling groggy. How did he get here? Jim went to answer his door, confused.

“Trick or treat!”

Five kids, including Ghost-

face, said, smiling. Jim stared at them blankly, trying to process what he was seeing. He could have sworn he had gone to sleep, and he didn't sleepwalk, so what happened?

“I don't have candy,” Jim said, and they all groaned and walked away. He started to panic, so he told himself he hadn't actually fallen asleep at all; this was just déjà vu. He was just going to go to bed and fall asleep for real this time.

And then came the doorbell. His heart started to race; this wasn't possible. He definitely went to bed last night but here he was for the third time. When this group of trick-or-treaters left, he rushed upstairs and locked himself in his bedroom. This

time, he was going to stay up all night and make sure that it became November 1st.

But again, the doorbell. He must've fallen asleep. Jim started trying everything he could to change his fate as the nights went on. He tried scaring the kids off, leaving the house entirely, and even going to the police. But he always fell asleep, whether he meant to, and he always woke up on the same Halloween night.

And every night he would see Ghostface in the crowd. But he realized that he never had candy. If he gave them what they wanted, maybe he would get released.

So, Jim sped to the nearest CVS and bought the cheapest bag of candy. When he arrived home, the kids who

were at his door when he left had all stayed, waiting for him to return.

He gave them all of the candy and once they were gone, Jim sprinted to bed and threw himself into bed, hoping that this was the last time.

Jim woke up in bed and a sense of relief washed over him. Halloween was finally over.

Later that morning, as Jim made small talk with his barista at a local coffee shop, he told her, “I can't believe Halloween is over. Time for Christmas shopping, huh?” The barista furrowed her brow and chuckled lightly, “What do you mean? Today is Halloween.”



# HALLOWEEN EDITION

## Halloween Safety Tips Spooky Playlist

**University of New Haven Campus Police Squad Car.** Photo Courtesy of University of New Haven Website



**BY JENNIFER KORN**  
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

**H**alloween-themed parties are meant to celebrate the holiday, but there are precautions that students should look out for. The University of New Haven's public safety department offers resources to ensure students' safety.

The university police department can connect with students through the LiveSafe app. Students can report emergencies with GPS tracking, as well as incidents, suspicious activity, and more, according to the university website.

Stephanie Pasqualini, a senior majoring in history, said she heard about the LiveSafe app in a class.

"I don't have the app, but I do see how it could be useful," she said. "It can be a direct line with university police should someone need it."

Pasqualini, a commuter who takes the bus, said, "I still think calling 911 is a valid option too," she said.

"We are inspired to provide consistent and contemporary law enforcement and public safety services," said Ronald Quagliani, associate vice president of public safety and administration services, in a statement on the university's website.

According to an article by College Express, "It's important to be cautious all year round of course, but it's especially important during Halloween and the days leading up to the holiday."

The Department of Public Safety advises students to carry an ID in case of an emergency, set limits, travel in groups, and keep a charged cell phone on hand.

Pasqualini said "don't go out drunk" on Halloween, especially in unfamiliar neighborhoods. "Make sure that you have a line of communication where someone knows where you are," said Pasqualini.

**BY KEN FABIAN**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

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**T**his time of year take the chance to listen to some of these Halloween favorites, old and new.

**"Monster" (feat. Jay Z, Rick Ross, Nicki Minaj, Bon Iver) – Kanye West**  
A monumental moment in hip-hop history, "Monster" holds a special place. Every verse has iconic lyricism that is perfect for getting into spooky season.

**"This is Halloween" (From *The Nightmare Before Christmas*) - Danny Elfman**

From the iconic Halloween (and kind of Christmas) movie, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, this song is the perfect addition to any Halloween playlist.

**"Bennington (2007)" – John Maus**

Originally released in a compilation of unreleased work, "Bennington (2007)" has one of those basslines that will never leave your head. While it's not exactly a Halloween song, it still keeps the spooky spirit.

**"bury a friend" - Billie Eilish**

This may not be a traditional Halloween song, but Billie Eilish's lyrics and musical undertones make for a spooky hit.

**"Turn Off The Light" (feat. Elvira, Mistress of the Dark) – Kim Petras**  
From Kim Petras' Halloween album is pop perfection. With a feature from Elvira, Mistress of the Dark, it's an instant Halloween classic.

**"Disturbia" – Rihanna**

From her 2008 record "Good Girl Gone Bad: Reloaded," this club banger will make everybody within a hearing range dance. This melody will be cemented in pop history as one of the catchiest of all time.

**"Thriller" – Michael Jackson**

Speaking of songs that will get you moving, "Thriller" features some of the most memorable choreo of all time. It'll have you howling "Thrillerrrrr" all night long!

**"Monster Mash" – Bobby "Boris" Pickett & The Crypt-Kickers**

Everyone's favorite line dance, "Monster Mash" captures the fun spirit of Halloween and promotes nothing but lighthearted fun. It's a graveyard smash!

**"Bloody Mary" - Lady Gaga**

Though this song isn't about the holiday, the background music and lyrics make it seem like any other Halloween hit.

# HALLOWEEN EDITION

## Stumped for Halloween? Get Some Ideas from the Stars!

BY EMMA JANOFSKY  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you're looking for a last-minute costume, look no further than celebrity Halloween costumes.

Halloween has been celebrated in America for hundreds of years, but the idea of dressing up has been popularized in media through movies, TV shows, and celebrities. Costumes range from pop culture icons to sexy versions of modern-day careers and are available for all ages and all sizes.

The Kardashians have gone all-out for Halloween in past years, especially Kourtney Kardashian. She's decided to dress as pop-star, Ariana Grande. She posted a photo to her Instagram

page on Oct. 16 dressed as the singer. According to Billboard, the post racked up a total of 2.5 million likes as of Oct. 24. So if you're stumped for Halloween, why not dress as the pop diva with the iconic ponytail?

Next, former "Saved By The Bell" star, Mario Lopez, dressed up as the famous breakfast cereal mascot Cap'n Crunch in order to take his children to a Halloween party. This costume mixes both comedy and pop culture to create a masterpiece of Halloween artistry.

Halloween isn't just about being scary or suggestive, so feel free to let your freak flag fly high and dress up like a mascot.

Following the success of Lil Nas X's country/hip-hop fusion hit, "Old Town Road," as well as its multiple remixes, TV personalities Ryan Seacrest and

Kourtney Kardashian as Ariana Grande. Screenshot from Kourtney's Instagram.



Kelly Ripa rocked full cowboy and cowgirl gear as they galloped through the streets of New York City on horseback. These two laughed it up while filming

a sketch titled "Welcome to the Wild, Wild Upper West." Though most people can't just bring a horse with them to a party, a cowboy costume is cheap

and easy to execute. Plus, when "Old Town Road" plays during the annual Halloween party, it will be your time to shine.

With the release of "It: Chapter 2" and "Joker" this year, many people are going to be donning white face paint to either channel Pennywise or the Joker, just like Joel Madden. The former "The Voice" coach posed with a chilling Pennywise mask for Instagram and gave us all quite a fright. It's time to bring back the spooky atmosphere of Halloween.

Halloween is the time to be whatever you want to be. It's the time to be creative and enjoy yourself, whether it be trick or treating, going to a party, or simply just giving out candy to friends and neighbors. No one is too old to dress up. Happy Halloween!

## Opinion: Halloween Costume Bans In Schools

BY SERENA PIERVINCENZI  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

My school had kids as young as two and as old as seniors in high school. I attended that school from age 14 until I graduated in 2018.

The school was pretty standard, rule-wise. In fact, it was progressive compared to other schools in the surrounding area. For example, we did not have a dress code, other than "all students must wear clothing," and "no students may wear clothing with offensive words, and/or slurs."

The rules, although sometimes irritating, made sense. So I was surprised when in October of

my senior year it was announced at a weekly assembly that Halloween would not be celebrated.

This meant no costumes, decorations, and or Halloween parade. I was 18. I had not worn costumes to school in years and I quickly moved on.

But a couple months ago, I came across an article that said other schools are doing the same thing. Simply put, the argument is that not all children celebrate Halloween, so it is not inclusive, and since some costumes could be offensive to other students, some school administrators feel that it is just too difficult to regulate costumes. Instead, it would be easier to eliminate the celebration altogether.

I am not a fan of censorship,



it is arguably one of the things that holds us back the most. Not talking about certain things or hiding things simply causes more problems.

I also don't think this is censorship. I think this is a lazy coverup. If a school wants to ban Halloween out of fear of exclusion, then there should be no Christmas trees, no menorahs,

no winter concerts with songs about holiday traditions. Valentine's Day would have to go too since it's about St. Valentine, a Christian saint. You see what I'm getting at.

Caring about inclusivity in schools would be making a legitimate effort to diversify your curriculum, staff, and educate your students on other cultures.

This is not about the kids and as adults in the education field, administrators should be honest. Be honest that they don't want to deal with creating new and extensive policies that are inclusive of all students, and be honest about what their intentions are. I mean is that not what you want to teach children?

Photos Courtesy of Creative Commons

# HALLOWEEN EDITION

## Opinion: Halloween Costumes to Avoid

**BY LAUREN FLIGG**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

**H**alloween is one of the best times of the year, and people are excited to find the perfect costume. Along with the fun and excitement, it's important to remember that cultural appropriation runs rampant during Halloween. We must take it upon ourselves to avoid controversial costumes and remember that culture is not a costume.

In addition to monitoring our own choices, we need to teach values to the children who rely on us to help pick their

costumes for them. Halloween costume suppliers such as Party City have come under fire in the past for advertising outfits that promoted cultural appropriation. The hot topic of last Halloween was Moana, and whether children should be allowed to wear outfits from the film if they were not of the same racial background as characters such as Moana and Maui.

"Moana, Elsa, and Halloween: Raising Race Conscious Children," a People's Magazine article by Sachi Feris, discussed the ethical dilemma she faced when her 5-year old daughter, who is white, wished to dress as Moana for Halloween that year. Feris tried to explain to her daughter that "Moana is based

on real history and a real group of people... If we are going to dress up as a real person, we have to make sure we are doing it in a way that is respectful. Otherwise, it is like we are making fun of someone else's culture." Feris' explanation to her daughter encapsulates the thoughts we should all have when choosing costumes for ourselves and children.

Feris suggested to her daughter different methods of dressing up to embrace and celebrate their own culture (Argentinian) for the holiday, while trying to steer her away from a costume in which she did not belong. Halloween, as Feris acknowledged, can be fun without offending people of other races

and cultures.

Unfortunately, not everyone follows these ideals.

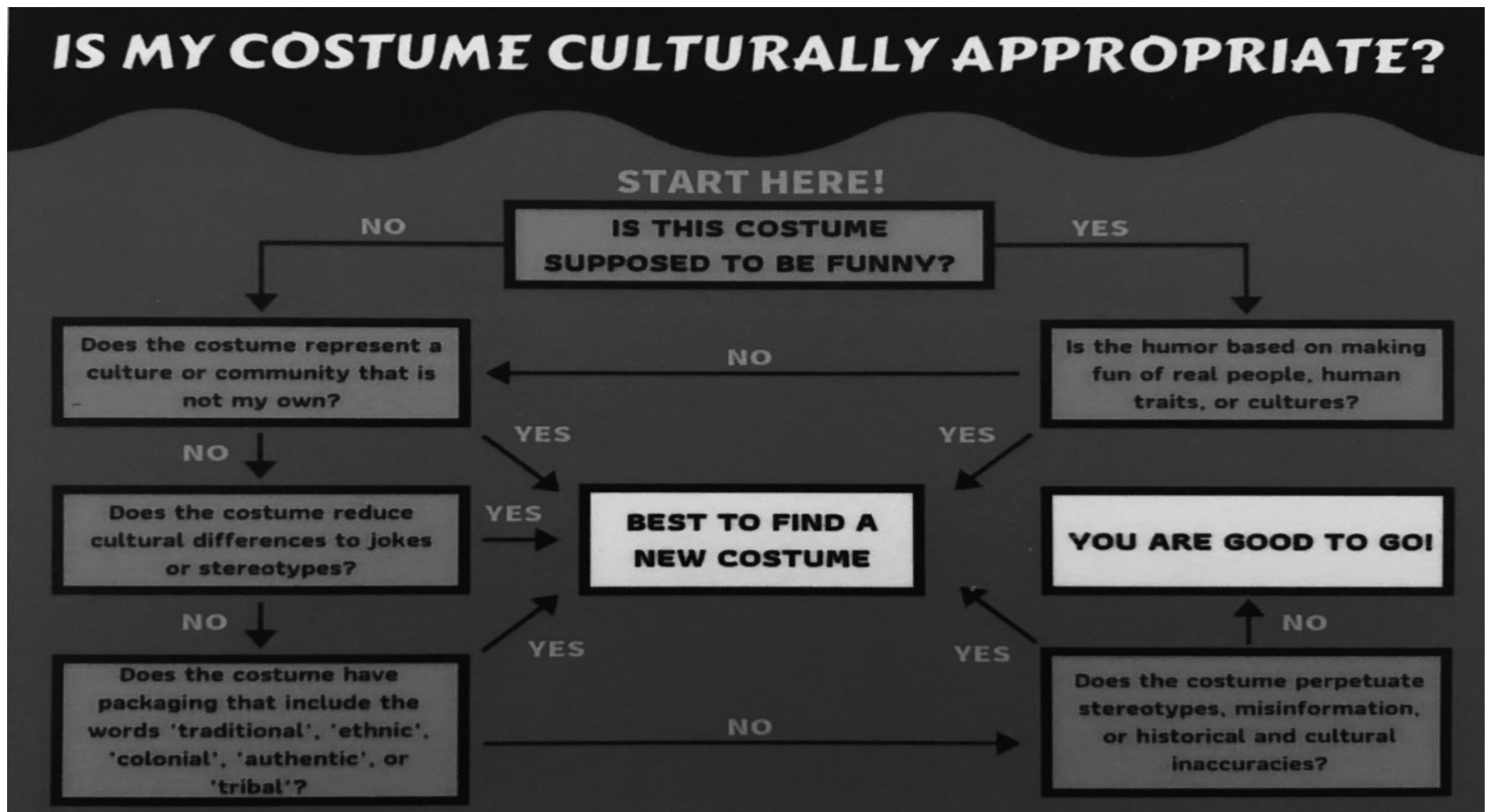
Celebrities are held to a higher standard because of their life in the public eye, yet each year some make the mistake of wearing a controversial costume. In 2008, Heidi Klum caused significant uproar among Hindu and Indian-American leaders for dressing up as the goddess Kali. Klum wore large golden jewelry, a curly black wig, a blue bodysuit and blue body paint, and several fake blue arms.

Klum herself claims that her assistant was the one who came up with the idea after a trip to India, and called the costume a "scary Indian goddess." Hindu cleric Rajan Zed was outraged

by the costume, and said, "Goddess Kali is highly revered in Hinduism and she is meant to be worshipped in temples and not to be used in clubs for publicity stunts or thrown around loosely for dramatic effect."

Other celebrities who've angered fans with their costumes include Prince Harry in a Nazi uniform, Chrissy Tiegen as a stereotypical Native American woman, and Julianne Hough donning blackface for her costume as "Crazy Eyes" from "Orange is the New Black".

This Halloween, remember to have fun, but also be sure to think twice before picking this year's costume so you don't hurt anyone else's holiday.



# FACTS OF MAXCY HALL



**O**pened in 1909 as the third location of the New Haven County Temporary Home for Dependent and Neglected Children. It housed up to 300 children and also provided them with classrooms, recreation, an infirmary, and a chapel. (North-east Paranormal Investigations Society)

**T**he home closed in 1955 and was bought in 1960 by Marvin K. Peterson for New Haven College.

**A**ccording to the Middletown Press, the legend of Maxcy Hall says that the building burned down with all the children inside.

**T**ed Wolfe, who lived in Maxcy for eight years and whose parents worked in the orphanage, said Maxcy was never an insane asylum, no one was ever beaten to death and he did not witness any fires. (What Lies Beyond)

PHOTO BY HUNTER LANG/THE CHARGER BULLETIN