

Halloween History

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Many people believe that Halloween is bad, comes from the devil or that it even worships the devil. They could not be more wrong. Halloween was a time the Celts welcomed the harvest at the end of summer. They had a festival called Samhain where the Celts would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. Many beliefs of the Celts are the dead rising and walking among them. November 1st was the end of summer and the beginning of winter. Winters were long, dark, and cold for the Celts. They believed that the night before their new year's, boundaries between different worlds became blurred. Which would allow access for ghosts to be able to come and go, but only on that night. In the eighth century Pope Gregory iii designated November 1st to honor the saints, it became All Saints Day. Saints Day had some similar

events as Samhain. The night of October 31st they celebrated Samhain, they thought that it was a time where otherworldly spirits were able to cross back and forth between worlds. When the spirits were crossing back and forth Celts believed that it was a better time for their Druids or Priests to make predictions about the future. Like crop production, weather, and animal activity. Druids would build huge, sacred bonfires. People would bring crops and sacrifices to put in the fire and pray to their deities. By A.D. 43 the Roman Empire took and conquered most of Celtic territory. Roman and Celtic Halloween origins started to mix together, and new ideas would begin. Soe Roman holidays were Feralia and Pomona. Feralia was a holiday in late October when they remembered and admired the passing of the dead. The day after

Feralia was to honor the goddess Pomona. She was the goddess of fruit and trees. The symbol for Pomona is an apple, which is why we have bobbing for apples during Halloween parties. During the 9th Century Christianity beliefs started to spread. So, by now you have Celtic beliefs, Roman beliefs and Celtic beliefs mixing and combining to produce new ideas for Halloween. A.D. 1000 the church made November 2nd All Souls Day to honor the dead. It is believed that the church was trying to take over Celtic belief and honor of the dead but, throwing in their beliefs of Christ. All Souls Day and Samhain were remarkably similar with bonfires, parades and costumes like devils, angels, and saints. All Saints Day was also called All-hallows or All-Hallowmas. The night

before, Samhain as the Celts believed, was called All-Hallows Eve, and eventually became Halloween. In colonial New England Halloween was limited because of the strict Protestant belief systems. A distinct American Halloween tradition began, as the result of, different American Indians and European ethnic groups began to merge. Play parties were the first type of celebrations, it included public events to celebrate the harvest, dancing, singing, neighbors telling stories of the dead and fortune telling. In the middle of the 19th century Halloween was still not celebrated by the whole country, but annual fall festivals went on all the time. The second part of the 19th century America was overwhelmed with immigrants, especially Irish immigrants running from the Irish Potato Famine. All these immigrants affected the rise, spread, and popularizing of Halloween. Americans,

borrowing from Europe, started to dress up and go house to house with friends and family asking for food and money. In the late 1800's Americans wanted to mold Halloween to be about get-togethers and the community. They wanted it to be more about community than about witches, pranks, and ghosts. Parties were thrown and focused on food, games, and festive costumes. Newspapers encouraged parents to remove anything "scary" when talking about Halloween. By the 1950's Halloween became all about the kids. Due to the 50's baby boom, parties moved from outside and pavilions to classrooms or at home for easier access. Between 1920-1950 trick or treating made its way back to the Americas. Trick or treating was inexpensive and a way for the communities to come together.

Handing out candy and seeing peoples' costumes. Overall, Halloween has been through a lot. It started with the Celts, had some Roman ideas thrown into it, Christianity influences, and many more. We cannot even begin on the history of the immigrants and will never know who all came to America during that time to have such an impact on Halloween.

WHO is the G.O.A.T of Horror?

With Halloween around the corner, it sparks the eerie question around Gaffney High School... "Who is the G.O.A.T. of horror legends"? We all know the screams, the nightmare's after watching the horror films, but it all comes down to one character that leaves us feeling terrified in suspense.

I have walked up and down these halls looking for the real answers, until I found Mrs. Osment. I asked her, "Who do you think is the real horror G.O.A.T. and why"? She responded with Michal Myers. I asked "Why do you pick Michael Myers"? Mrs. Osment responded, "Because I like his character and the fact that his classic background music gives off so much suspense that you never know when he was coming.

Although many people love Mr. Myers of course, there will be people who disagree. Take Kaylee for an example. She said, "I think Freddy Kruger is the G.O.A.T. because of the fact that he has a funny sense of humor." She likes his character, not just because

he is a horror legend but because his humor draws upon the audience. She also like that fact that his outfit suites his character so well.

Out of 18 interviews, seven student's and one teacher responded that Michael Myers's is the G.O.A.T. of the horror franchise. Their reasoning varied between Michael's stealth on-screen presence, his kill-count, and Michael Myers's childhood background. Fellow Newspaper Staffer; Michael Lawless challenges the majority's opinion by stating that Leather face is the G.O.A.T. of the horror franchise because this character is largely inspired by the real-life murderer Ed Gein, who wore masks made of human skin....(YUCK!). One student voted for the "Chucky" character and Lilly Walker, a fellow staffer recommended Jason Voorhees because "He is immortal and vengeful." Our Editor & Chief of Staff; Shon Ponder points out that the character, "Pennywise" is the G.O.A.T. because he is "celestial being" and "could lose" to the protagonist of the story because he only exists on the emotion of fear. Remain-

ing interviewee's vouched for Michael Myers's and therefore he is the Champion...aka... "The G.O.A.T. of horror characters". After all, he is the only character that has sustained in the film industry totaling 13 films, beginning with the original in 1978. Jason Voorhees consists of 12 films while the Freddy Kruger franchise consists of nine films. Not only is Michael Myers's a fierce competitor but he is the G.O.A.T.

