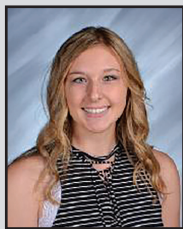


From the Booth

Halloween is the worst holiday

sydneybooth
editor-in-chief



You know those tweets that people quote with their unpopular opinion? Here's mine: Halloween is the worst holiday.

I probably lost a lot of you there because about 179 million people celebrated Halloween in 2017, according to the Halloween Industry Association. Halloween is also the second most commercialized holiday in the United States. According to Statista, Americans spent about \$9.1 billion on Halloween in 2017 with \$3.4 billion of it toward costumes alone. According to the Halloween Industry Association, the average American household spends about \$86.13 per year on Halloween-themed products.

Nowadays, Halloween is a secular holiday, but that wasn't always the case. It actually stems from the Celts, who lived over 2,000 years ago around modern day Ireland. Halloween began as a Celtic New Year celebration that was observed Nov. 1 in a tradition known as Samhain.

Celtic priests were called Druids, and they believed that on Oct. 31, what would have been Samhain-eve, the underworld was opened to the mortal world and evil spirits entered to roam the earth. It was tradition for the Celts to light large bonfires to ward off evil spirits and to dress up in costume around the fire. It was from this tradition that witches, goblins, and other demonic creatures were popularized.

According to Britannica, the earliest records of the Druids were from the 3rd Century BC; most of the knowledge we have today of the Celts and their culture comes from the

writings of Julius Caesar. Caesar once wrote, "unless the life of a man be offered, the mind of immortal gods will not favor them." The Celts were deeply immersed in the culture of human sacrifice. One of the rituals they were famous for was the burning of the "wicker man," where Druids would round up prisoners and trap them inside of a wicker cage shaped like a man and set it ablaze as a sacrifice to the gods.

Contrary to popular belief, Halloween did not begin as a Christian holiday. It was not until the 9th century that the church would make Nov. 1 "All Souls' Day," a day to honor the dead who had passed on to heaven. It's widely believed by historians that the church was attempting to replace the Celtic festival of the dead with a church-related holiday.

I have always been a believer that everything is what you make it. I've taken part in all of the secular Halloween traditions like most people, especially when I was younger: trick-or-treating, corn mazes, all the stuff people say are "Halloween fun." But when you look at the history of Halloween and what a lot of the traditions represent, well, they're pretty evil. Obviously they became more lighthearted as time went on, but in comparison to major holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas, Halloween pales in meaning.

What's a day designed to dress up and go door to door getting candy got on holidays centered around family and the spirit of giving? Regardless of what you believe about religion and the ties it has to Christmas, it's pretty clear that Christmas is a much less self-serving, dark holiday.

HIGH SCHOOL MATTERS

Kavanaugh trial illustrates importance of high school behavior



Staff Opinion

What you do matters, even in High School. Judge Brett Kavanaugh is proof of that. Kavanaugh, who was nominated for the Supreme court by President Donald Trump over three months ago, has been in the midst of controversy since.

In the past month three women came forward accusing him of sexual assault, one of whom has taken main stage: Doctor Christine Blasey Ford.

The alleged attempted rape happened 36 years ago, when Ford and Kavanaugh were in high school in 1982.

After Blasey Ford testified before the committee appointed to confirm Kavanaugh, the committee decided to have the FBI further investigate Judge Kavanaugh, much to the chagrin of the conservative majority senate.

The decision to have the FBI re-investigate shows that nobody's past is out of the question, or out of examination.

We as high schoolers often think that after we leave school, our past stays there. But as social media evolves, people's lives will become less private, with many of the bad eventually coming to the light.

Even though Kavanaugh's allegations from Dr. Ford are from 36 years ago, they are taken as seriously as if they are from last week, seeing that Kavanaugh was nominated for the highest judicial seat in America: the Supreme Court.

Students should be extremely careful of what they do now because it will matter later

down the line.

If you would not be comfortable having a social media post on display at Times Square, or have it shown to your great-grandmother, do not post it.

Respect your future self and be aware of every choice you make in high school and in life.

A joke that may be hilarious now, in a year, five years, or even ten, could then be seen as highly offensive. A threat, allegations of sexual assault, or sexual assault itself could devastate your life and the lives of those around you

Everything you do matters, starting now, not just in college. That screenshot of those messages? It could be brought up during an important job interview.

In fact, up to 70 percent of employers are scrutinizing candidates' social media profiles before seriously considering them for the position. Three out of 10 employers have

someone dedicated solely to investigating potential employees on social media.

Up to 73 percent of companies have used social media to successfully recruit and hire a candidate, and 57 percent of companies said they have ruled out hiring someone because of the content they found.

Regardless of what you believe about the Kavanaugh decision, your reputation is your greatest asset. Don't ruin it by doing something you will regret.

It is your duty to yourself to ensure your future's security by not doing anything stupid.

Protect your potential. Even though you probably won't be nominated for Supreme Court, your actions could have consequences further down the line.

Be sure of everything you do and post, because there is always a chance that it could resurface--at the worst time possible.

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