

Halloween overrated

SungWon Chan
Staff Writer

Oh, Halloween is a grand holiday to be sure...when you're six years old. But sadly, there are many high school students out there who believe they can overstep that precious age boundary and cavort about in the trick or treating festivities without provocation.

Well, they're wrong. Trick or treating when you're in high school is like having a political debate against a group of first graders. It's pointless, makes you look like an idiot, and both scenarios will end up with little kids laughing in your face. In the debate scenario, you're able to retain some of your dignity by continuing to support your political beliefs, but in the other, you're dressed as Robin of Batman fame, begging for Tootsie rolls while accompanied by children. The word "dignity" no longer applies to you, my friend.

I suppose if you absolutely must scrounge for candy alongside children half your size, then at the very least you need an acceptable costume. In my humble opinion, the more extravagant and intricate your costume is, the more I wish that your money spending privileges are taken away from you forever. While that fully detailed, 100% accurate Darth Vader outfit you got off of eBay may provide you with temporary glory on Halloween night, those other 364 days you'll be wishing you had bought

something else. Like a car, for instance, or college materials. Or a life.

Now don't get me wrong; I wholeheartedly support the concept of dressing up, just as long as you're not out trick or treating. Anyways, when it comes to the Halloween costume, simplicity is the best modus operandi. I suggest taking a bedsheet (Preferably one that you're explicitly not supposed to use) and cutting some eyeholes in it. Voila, there you have it. You now have a superb bedsheet-with-eye-holes costume. You'll be the belle of the ball.

Going back to trick or treating, let me just say that I am a strong enthusiast of the "trick" alternative. If the candy received is unsatisfactory, then it clearly does not qualify as a "treat." The logical progression would then be to perform a trick in order to exact your seething revenge. Some acceptable tricks include egging their house, slashing their tires, or tampering with their tax return forms. After all, it's in the good name of Halloween fun, right? It's their fault for not fulfilling their side of the bargain.

Anyways, to all those trick or treating bound high schoolers out there, go ahead and show up on my doorstep with your grocery bags open wide. I'll throw in a Twix bar with glowering resentment and secretly hope that you suffer allergic reactions, choke on it, or get eaten by a pack of rabid alligators. That'll teach you to dress up and enjoy yourself on Halloween.

Hand snapping grows in popularity

Nicole Geller
Staff Writer

"Everywhere I go I hear 'snap snap snap,'" said junior Mary Kelley Anderson.

No one knows exactly what to call it. Except annoying. The sound is unmistakable and it's easy to see when someone is trying to do it.

I'm speaking of the annoying new hand snapping fad that has been especially popular with this year's freshmen class.

According to those who possess this odd talent, it is fairly simple to do.

You hold your thumb and middle finger together, relax your index finger, and snap your wrist so that your index finger hits your pinched fingers.

Its popularity seemed to appear from nowhere to upperclassmen but according to freshman Travis Smith, it all started about two years ago.

A new student came to DeWitt and brought this bothersome activity with them.

It easily spread and soon everyone was doing it. Little do many students know, this hand snapping technique started in correlation to packing a tin of chewing tobacco.

Simply view a couple of Youtube videos and you can clearly see that the method is exactly the same as when you snap your fingers.

Finger snapping may be aggravating, but students do not connect it to chewing tobacco nor does it seem to encourage anything about tobacco.

While Smith said, "It's really annoying," and tells people to stop when he sees them do it, some haven't even taken notice.

Teacher Michael Norman has approximately 50 to 60 freshmen students and said he hadn't previously heard of its popularity.

Norman figures that kids do it just to do something different that makes noise and thinks that it is really no different than tapping on desks.

"It probably does not make you look sexy or intelligent," said Norman.

Although he didn't recognize it this time around, Norman said it has happened before. When he was in college to be exact.

While some have gone on in blissful ignorance, most of the older students have started reacting.

"They get so annoying, they never ever stop!" said junior Alyssa Avery.

"I just want to grab their hands and say 'no,'" said Anderson.

Avery and Anderson agreed with Smith in saying that it is stupid, annoying and a waste of time.

Avery just tries to ignore it. If it occurs during class, she said that she usually just stares at them and tells them to stop.

Even though most freshmen know how it started, no one knows why people continue to do it.

Norman suggested boredom; Anderson suggested to fit in with upperclassmen and pointed out that juniors can do it especially loud.

No matter who does it, for whatever reason, everyone just appears to want it to stop.

Students agree that it is not by any means entertaining, it is incredibly annoying and it makes you look foolish.

Anderson had this final message, "Stop doing that dumb hand thing. It's annoying and you just look dumb."

Jimmy Dunn
Copy Editor

America is like a donut. A donut of democracy. This donut is light and fluffy with freedom and liberty. It's frosted with independence and equality, as well as having been baked in an oven of domestic tranquility.

The donut was made in 1776, beginning with the Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson and the rest of our founding fathers decided that the stale muffin of monarchy was no longer good enough for Americans.

As the years progressed, the donut provided many Americans with great happiness and prosperity. The donut almost got ripped apart during the Civil War, but Abraham Lincoln managed to piece it back together. Eventually a hole formed in the middle during the Great Depression, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt did his best to fill that hole with his New Deal programs - the "Custard of Communism" in our lovely donut of democracy.

Thankfully for America, the Supreme Court was filled with old people who didn't like custard, and most of the New Deal programs were later ruled "unconstitutional" (a fancy term meaning "we don't like your dang custard FDR, now get off our lawn").

This donut has lasted through a revolutionary war, a civil war, two World Wars and various other undeclared wars. It is truly a persevering donut, and a delicious one at that. But unfortunately something very dangerous has happened to our believe donut. President George W. Bush has corrupted it with his sprinkles of fascism known as the "Patriot Act."

The Patriot Act allows the government to wiretap both domestic and foreign telephone conversations of suspected terrorists. This basically means that if they think you might be a terrorist, for whatever minor reason, they could spy on you. There are even provisions for arresting suspected subversives.

Top 10 Songs at DHS

1. "Crank That" Soulja Boy Tell 'Em
2. "Bubbly" Colbie Caillat
3. "Misery Business" Paramore
4. "Cyclone" Baby Bash ft. T-Pain
5. "Hate That I Love You" Rihanna ft. Ne-Yo
6. "Paralyzer" Finger Eleven
7. "Stronger" Kanye West
8. "Lean Like a Cholo" Down
9. "The Way I Are" Timbaland
10. "Our Song" Taylor Swift

Top two song that get stuck in your head

1. "Gimme More" Britney Spears
2. "Crank That" Soulja Boy Tell 'Em

Our nation was not founded on these principles. The USA PATRIOT Act, or "Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001," is very similar to the "Alien and Sedition" acts in the late 1700s - acts that were considered unconstitutional then and should still be considered so now.

One of our Core Democratic Values is privacy. I know this because I am currently looking at a sheet of the Core Democratic Values given to me by Mr. Nolen. The United States government knows this because the NSA (National Security Agency) is probably monitoring my keystrokes.

The United States government has already used the Patriot act to wiretap many civilians' homes, and some individuals have had their private property unlawfully seized due to "reasonable suspicion" under the Patriot act that later turned out to be entirely falsely based. This is a clear breach of Amendment #4 to our Constitution - protection against unreasonable searches and seizures.

One of our other Core Democratic Values (and the 1st Amendment to our Constitution) involves our freedom to petition the government when we think they're doing something wrong. Well, the government IS doing something wrong. It's time to petition for a redress of grievances. We, as High School students, do have power to change our government. We can call our state representatives (Mike Rogers for our district, Debbie Stabenow and Carl Levin for the state of Michigan) and let them know our feelings. Those of us who will be 18 next November will be able to vote for our next President. Hopefully we'll choose a President who's against strengthening the central government into a dictatorship. Hopefully we'll get a President who'll restore the donut to its initial state of deliciousness and remove President Bush's sprinkles of fascism. Hopefully Americans will elect Ron Paul in 2008.

Sami DiFranco
Staff Writer

Alissa Sheedy
Staff Writer

The prowler polled 100 students at DHS to find what you love to listen to.

Senior Alex Olson said that he would buy any of his favorite songs if he didn't already own them because, "these songs are entertaining and brighten your mood."

Junior Cody Roach said that he likes songs because, "The lyrics are sweet and they make me laugh."

Freshman Sam Brown listens to his music most while in a vehicle.

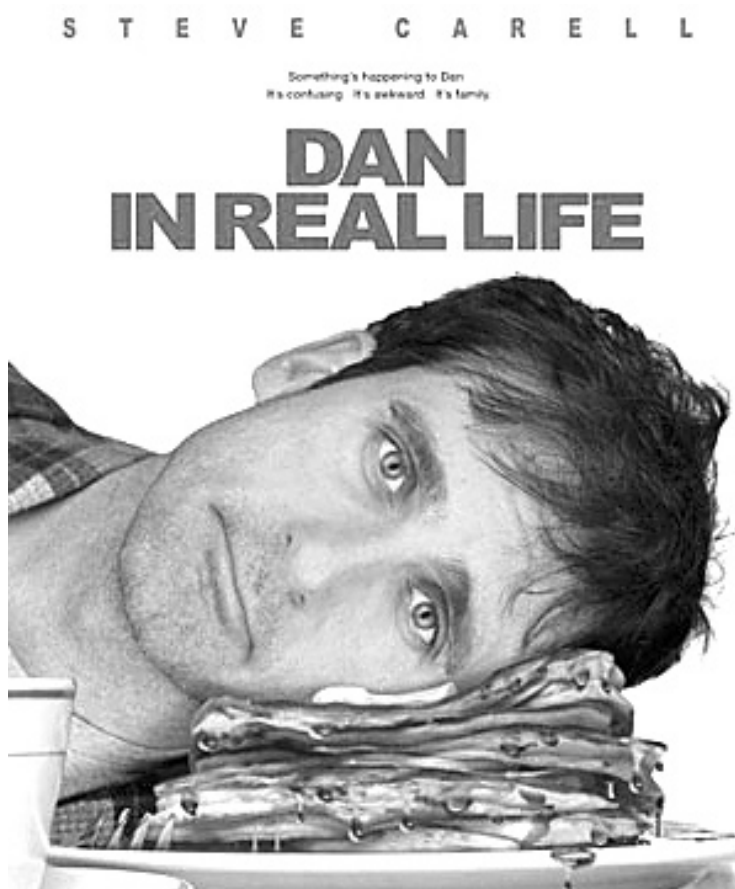
Sophomore Abby Doyle said that she likes Sorry by Push-monkey because, "the lyrics can relate to a situation or how I'm feeling at the time."

Amanda Ostrom
Staff Writer

Halloween is celebrated by many here at DeWitt High School. Between the free candy available at every doorstep, the scary costumes, and the freaky haunted houses, Halloween is quite an amazing holiday. But, do people know how amazing Halloween actually is? Does the average student here at DHS even know where Halloween came from?

Halloween as we know it stems from many different cultures, all with their own unique ways of celebrating this holiday. The oldest known form of Halloween was celebrated by the Celts who lived 2,000 years ago in what is now the United Kingdom and northern France. The Celts actually celebrated their new year on November 1.

On October 31 an ancient festival known as Samhain (pronounced sow-in) was celebrated. This day marked the end of summer and the harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, a time of year that was often associated with human death. Celts believed that on the night before the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the living



Carrell steps out of box, doesn't live up to hype

Matt Evans
Opinion editor

"It doesn't matter what I say. So long as I sing with inflection. That makes you feel I'll convey, some inner truth or vast reflection. But I've said nothing so far." John Popper of the band Blues Traveler sang those words in reference to his song "Hook." By coincidence he also summed up Steve Carell's latest film, "Dan in Real Life."

"Dan in Real Life" tells the story of widower, father of three and in demand columnist Dan Burns (Carell). Dan is a successful advice columnist who offers helpful and witty advice to the masses, but ever since his wife passed away Dan has felt overwhelmed and underloved. During a down home family get-together Dan goes to a local bookstore and meets a woman. They fall for each other and the woman, Marie (Juliette Binoche), gives Dan her number. However, Dan is in for a surprise when he returns to his parent's house. Marie is his brother's new girlfriend. Over the course of the film the two struggle with their feelings for each other and of course like any good romantic comedy Dan acts like a complete buffoon trying to hide his passionate motive.

On the negative side, this film has one glaring problem. The main characters meet in a book store, they find each other charming and decide to take the conversation elsewhere. Through a series of montage shots it is shown that Dan talks to Maria for quite some time, hours, probably the better part of an afternoon. Dan tells her everything about his life, where

he's from, childhood stories, his love for his dead wife, his inability to connect with anyone since his wife's death, everything. Maria tells him nothing, at the end of their first encounter Dan even says that knows nothing about her. How could such a love so profound, one that overtakes that of your wife, be based in such mystery? Not to say their's no such thing as love at first sight, but a love that profound at first sight is unrealistic to say the least.

On the positive side, Steve Carell plays a idiot, but at the same time he plays a great wise man. This dual role of master and student lends a level of depth to his character that most romantic comedies never achieve. Usually its just guy falls in love with girl, acts like a dope, loses her, and gets her back. Not the case for Dan. While he's dealing with his whole crazy love triangle situation, he's also dealing with his love sick teenage daughter, his brother's need for advice, his oldest daughter's want to grow up and not to mention his mixed feelings of love for his wife. Amidst contemplating all of these higher questions he's cracking inappropriate jokes and creating awkward silences wherever he goes.

The movie really banks too much on its solid premise and not enough on a solid plot. As John Popper said it doesn't matter what the movie says, as long as it tells its message in a way that makes feel it will convey some inner truth or revelation. But, it really says nothing. If you're wife dies there are others out there, if this movie dies there are others out there too. Not good, not bad. GPA 2.0

and the dead became blurred. On the night of October 31, they celebrated Samhain, when it was believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth.

The term Halloween (and its older rendering Hallowe'en) is shortened from All-hallow-even, as it is the evening of/before All Hallows Day also known as All Saints Day. It was a day of religious festivities in various northern European Pagan traditions, until Popes Gregory III and Gregory IV moved the old Christian feast of All Saints' Day from May 13 to November 1.

So now everyone knows the history of our beloved Halloween, what is everyone doing? Our very own senior, Ashley Goodenough, told us what she plans on doing.

"I definitely want to hit up any haunted house that I can, and maybe hand out candy to kids," Goodenough said.

Halloween has always been a favorite for Goodenough. In the past she has dressed up, and if she would dress up this year she would probably take the form of Cinderella. Don't forget those glass slippers!

Ok, so what about those teachers out there? Dan O'Rourke

showed us a new side to his take on Halloween.

"I like Halloween, I remember when I was a kid we would set up as fake scarecrows, and after the little kids got candy we would scare them, that was funny," said O'Rourke.

Besides torturing innocent little children, O'Rourke loves scary movies. His favorite scary movie of all time is the first Jason movie, "Friday the 13th".

"One time, I was home alone and after watching a scary movie as a teen, I went to my room which was in the basement and I totally freaked myself out," added O'Rourke.

Unfortunately, O'Rourke won't be decorating his house this year, but he mentioned that when he was younger, he did participate in the decorating aspect of Halloween.

Joel Felpausch, junior, said he will be trick or treating this year with his friends. When asked what he planned on being he was quite undecided. He thought about a half reindeer, possibly even half cheetah. He is pretty excited for Halloween and is looking forward to all the candy.

So what did the general population here at DHS do for this Halloween?



We at the Prowler believe that this paper should be an open forum. As the editors, we encourage readers to write in. We accept signed letters (150 words or less) regarding your opinion of our pieces and delivered to Mr. Van Hof's room (room 208) or emailed to dhsproowler@gmail.com. You may request anonymity, but we reserve the right to decide whether to print letters anonymously, as well as the right to edit all letters for content and length.

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