

Happy Halloween

By: *Jessica Hemphill*

When October rolls around each year, Halloween reminds many of us of scary costumes and trick-or-treating with friends although we do not really know where these traditions came from.

The celebration of Halloween can be dated back to the ancient Celts who occupied the area that is modernly known as Ireland and Northern France about two thousand years ago. Legends say that the Celts celebrated their new year on November 1, marking the beginning of a cold, dark winter, a time of year that was associated with death. On October 31, the Celts believed that the spirits of the dead would arise to haunt the living, an event they entitled Samhain. The Celtic priests believed Samhain to be a spiritually powerful time for magic, divination and communion with spirits and the dead, making predictions about the future easier. To commemorate the event, the priests would build grand bonfires where the Celts would gather around and listen to the prophecies clad in costumes made of animal skin.

By the 800's, the influence of Christianity had been combined with the original Celtic tradition of Samhain due to the Romans conquering the majority of Celtic territory. In the seventh century, Pope Boniface IV designated November 1 "All Saints' Day", a time to honor saints and martyrs. The celebration was also called "All-hallows" or "All-Hallowmas" (from Middle English) and the night before it, the night of Samhain, began to be called "All-hallows Eve" and, eventually, Halloween.

Over two thousand years later we are still celebrating the traditions of the ancient Celts, only with a modern twist.

Happy Halloween!

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THE BULLDOG SPIRIT

Welcome to the BULLDOG SPIRIT...

The column that will help answer any of those deep, bothersome questions that have been rattling inside your overloaded brains!

The purpose of this column is to help students who feel uncomfortable confronting an adult about certain issues, and wish to ask them in a safe environment, 100% anonymously.

Some VAGUE example questions include:

- "Are drugs okay in moderation?"
- "How do you stand up to peer pressure if your friends are pressuring you to smoke?"
- "How do I stop acting like an idiot around someone I like (with details)?"
- "How come my friends all have armpit hair and I do not?"
- "Is marijuana really bad for you? My friends say it's ok."
- "How do I come out to my parents?"
- "How do I let someone know I am not interested in dating without hurting their feelings?"
- "I'm really self-conscious about my body, and this stops me from being social. How can I change this?"
- "My parents and I aren't getting along anymore. What can I do?"

Be creative! We want questions that other teens can say, "Hey I was wondering about that too!" Don't be afraid to dig deep down into your soul for these questions!

Evidently the content will be edited and screened, so go crazy!

It's also important to remember that your answers are formulated by a group of STUDENT researchers, therefore the answers are not professional and shouldn't be taken too seriously. They are opinions...

Good ones!

Send your emails to thebulldogspirit@hotmail.com, and we'd be elated to help you!