

Do what your inner child desires



Samantha Gillis

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Bushy white chest hair pours out of a thin plaid shirt. Dented pots and pans clang as he limps. Torn overalls, rope and a canteen dangle. His grey tattered beard still holds the remains of his breakfast. With an out-stretched hand, he holds a lantern and hollers, "Oooohh cinnamon and gravy." The impression of Will Ferrell playing Gus Chiggins sums up my favorite costume my brother wore during past Halloweens.

When I think of Halloween, I think of the costumes. Over the years I have regularly dressed up for the creepy crawly holiday. I strongly believe everyone, of every age, should participate in

this tradition. It's a chance to let go of whatever label society has put on you and be whoever or whatever you want to be.

As kids we could dress up and pretend to our little hearts content. But now that we're growing up, it's not appropriate. Until Halloween rolls around, and we can stop pretending to be adults and bring out our inner child again. Maybe my joy for dressing up stems from the fact that Halloween is also my older brother's birthday. Because of sibling rivalry, we would always anticipate Halloween, so we could trump the other in the costume department. At first I only wore costumes I thought my brother would think were cool. This consisted of a teenage mutant ninja turtle, a cowgirl, Jasmine, Brett Farve, a dead witch and a dead cheerleader.

These were all pretty amateur. As the years rolled by, the competition grew from coolness to creativeness. We'd brainstorm the cleverest costumes ever. For me, this included being a Spa-

ghetti-O and a cha-cha-dancing Furbee. My brother was a Keebler elf, Tony Montana, and a Tootsie Roll. Odd I know, but that was the point. We'd laugh and have a good time while everyone would stare and wonder what was wrong with us.

It was just our thing. Along with the tradition came a stronger relationship. Even in our awkward, hormonal, emotion-filled teenage years we still managed to keep our tradition intact.

The last day of October is a day for us all to revert to our child fantasyland. Numerous students did so this past weekend. At the parties there were some traditional and some not-so-traditional outfits. There was a consistent pattern of cowboys and cowgirls, nurses and school girls. There were a few groups who dressed in matching outfits, including an Anchorman entourage who watched the movie before starting the night. Little Red Riding Hood with the Big

Bad Wolf were among others.

The nontraditional outfits included a skunk, Zelda, Phil Schmidt, Dicky B, a midget and even a controversial Klu Klux Klan member.

Zelda kept in character by trotting around and throwing up his shield as a guard. The Phil Schmidt costume consisted of a pillow wedged in a light pink shirt and coke bottle glasses.

Some of the students obviously spent time, effort and money on their fancy outfits, while others probably looked in their closet and got creative.

But as I looked at all the girl's outfits they mostly followed the typical provocative, male fantasy costumes. The stereotype is that Halloween is an excuse for girls to dress provocatively. This is true, but it doesn't mean the girl is actually promiscuous. The common theory is that if she dresses in slutty clothing then that must mean she is slutty, even during Halloween.

Over the years, I have not dressed in a slutty costume during Halloween just because that's what is expected of women. I decided to try it out this year. Although it was fun while it lasted, I forgot who I was. It might be the point of Halloween. But I gave up my laid-back casual attitude, for a provocative, trying to impress the men attitude.

I let myself down. I was too concerned about my short dress revealing more than it should, than I just celebrating the moment. It was a hassle, a stress.

Why I'm so concerned when it's Halloween and no one really cares, so long as you look good? I'm saying that the spirit of Halloween is dress how you want, not how others are expecting you to dress. I dressed how others were expecting.

Other female students agree that there is just an expectation for adult females to dress in skimpy outfits on Halloween. It's either dress in little to no clothing and let the boys ogle at

you. The alternative is to look like you're self conscious and nerdy.

This isn't the point to Halloween. It shouldn't be just a sexy chick-fest. It should be a time to let loose and have fun with your friends.

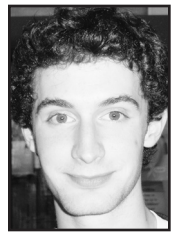
Not everyone who dresses provocatively on Halloween is conforming. I'm saying dress how you want, not how others want you to dress. I understand sometimes you want to look fine and it has nothing to do with impressing. That's done with confidence because you feel good and you want to show it to the world. Everyone has their own idea of what Halloween should be, but mostly the last day of October is a day to enjoy.

In celebration of this kooky, spooky holiday you should complete your ensemble with contentment. Before walking out on the street in a short skirt, tube-top and fish-nets, look in the mirror and ask yourself, is this truly what my inner child desires?

Word on the Hill

What is your favorite scary movie?

By April McCormick



"I don't really watch many scary movies, but the bad ones are funny."

Abram Rankin
undecided
sophomore



"Wolf Creek."

Kelsey Verhaeghe
undecided
freshman



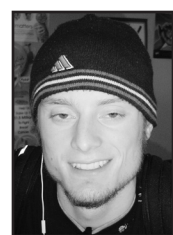
"The Exorcist because it is a real scare."

Mahgan Miles
English
senior



"Event Horizon."

Elizabeth Higbee
performance
theatre
sophomore



"Halloween."

Justin Fruck
undecided
freshman



"The Saw movies."

Tee Gray
computer
science
junior



"Tabatha's third birthday party, it was princess themed."

John Badly
English and
religion and
philosophy
freshman



"The last time I watched one I pissed my pants so I try to stay away from them."

Mahrjon Hafez
technical
theatre
sophomore



"At this point Saw III because I haven't seen Saw IV yet."

Anthony Pool
broadcast
senior

Friendship is important



Katie Allender

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I never seem to find the right guy. Every time I have a boyfriend, things will get good and then we'll break up. I don't get it, what am I doing wrong?

--Anonymous

Dear Anonymous, Every girl feels this way more than once. There are several reasons why you lose the guy. Sometimes you might be too clingy. If your guy wants to hang out with his friends, let him. You don't have to be with him every moment of the day and when you are together you don't have to literally cling to him either. Guys need their space too.

Sometimes you might not do anything at all. Sometimes it's him. I tell all my friends this when they have guy problems: Stop looking for Mr. Right. If you just live your life, Mr. Right will eventually find you. You just have to give it time and not try so hard to make Mr. Right. Now your Prince Charming, when all he really is, is a frog.

Is it bad when my boyfriend is rude to my friends?

--Anonymous

Yes. Your boyfriend may not like your friends, and he doesn't have to like them, but that's no excuse to be rude to them. Granted they should behave themselves around each other as well. If your friends are rude to him first then it's a different story. But he should try to be the better man. The way he treats his friends, could reflect on how he treats you.

What should you do if you have a friend who wants to start dating a guy that's just not good for her?

--Anonymous

You have to talk to her. If you're good friends you should be able to talk to her about things like this. No one wants their friend to date a guy that's wrong for her.

Now I'm wondering what you mean by "not good for her." If he's mean to her you definitely need to talk to her about it fast, before things get out of control. If he's one of those white-trash, no job and no plan for life kind of guys, then maybe you should tell her she could do better. Really, you just need to sit down and have a serious, but polite, talk with her about her dating decisions.

My friend spends more time with her boyfriend than with me. Sometimes, I even get ditched so she can hang out with him. What do I do?

--Anonymous

As I've said in previous answers, you just have to talk to her. You need to let her know that there are ways she can spend time with both of you, and there are times when she should spend time with just you. Being with her boyfriend all the time can get annoying. She needs to learn how to split her time evenly between the two of you.

A lot of girls do this. It's really simple to do. If she makes plans with you first, she should stick to them. It's also really easy for her to hang out with both of you at a party or a movie night. Just explain this to her, tell her how you feel about it.

What do I do if my guy is cheating on me?

--Anonymous

I would dump him. I don't tolerate cheating at all. The way I see it is there's no excuse, I don't care if you're drunk, because you really did know what you were doing. But that's me.

If you're a girl who gives second chances, talk to him about where you stand. Does he want to be with you and only you? Maybe he's one of those rare guys who only cheats once. If he's going to do it all the time, or this has happened more than once, you need to dump him. You can do better and there's no point in hurting yourself more.

Second semester offers new opportunities

By Ashley Holloway
Staff reporter

Finals are such a downer and they're not as far away as you think.

There's nothing happy about all this test taking and these damn deadlines. If we can just hold on a little longer things will start to look up for us.

Next week is course selection. Just when you've got your time managed, its time to change it all up again, which means the weirdos we've endured these last couple months will be traded in for a batch of new ones.

Or for those who are more optimistic it'll be a chance to meet new students who are equally interested in higher ed.

Although the menu in the Java Jinx and cafeteria will remain the same and work study jobs will still pay a mere \$5.85, the weeks to come are worth looking forward to.

No matter how you look at it, second semester has its perks.

Football season will be over. There will be no more shameful Saturdays, or Facebook mes-

sages from rival teams about how we're going to lose to their teams.

Finally, we'll have bragging rights. With both men's and women's basketball picked first in conference we're bound to win a couple games.

The annoying classmates and roommates will be easier to tolerate, or if you're smart you'll get rid of them and start fresh.

Sign up now if you want to room with someone you like more, but beware of the friend-turned-roommate situation. It may be the first step in ruining your relationship.

If your roommate starts asking the RA about swapping rooms, prepare for the "it's not you, it's me" conversation.

In class, there'll be a feeling of relaxation and eagerness as the year's conclusion will be in clear sight.

The girl who sits in front of the class sniffing instead of blowing her nose will be replaced by a non-traditional student who knows all the answers.

The jock who doesn't shower before his evening class will

soon have no excuse for bad hygiene.

What you will have to deal with is the teacher who piles on the homework because she has nothing else to do.

We'll have plenty of StuFu invented "New Traditions" to attend. Digital cameras will document our lives to be published on Facebook, MySpace, and in the Moundbuilder.

Thoughts of spring break trips to Padre to rejuvenate ourselves from the blah that is Winfield, Kan., will be like visions of sugar plum fairies dancing in our heads.

For seniors, senioritis will be diagnosed, without treatment. Because there is no medicine to cure the feeling we all start to get in April when the one down tally goes into our brains.

Monday, when you and your advisor are making your schedule, take at least one class you'll enjoy.

Then make sure you add all the courses you have to have. Check your e-mail for messages from people like Bill DeArmond reminding their class is one of the elite-every-two-years

classes and if you miss it, you may not be able to walk with your class.

The only bad thing about this time of year is the realization some of the people you've grown close to will be gone. The truth is there's one in every crowd.

There's always the kid who came just to party and forgot they were a student. Or there are those who realize this institution just isn't for them. The sad part is some of these faces we will never see again.

Ah well.

There's nothing like the months to come. The new fallen snow and ice of January will entertain students from warmer climates. Coats will be traded in for umbrellas in April and the warmer rays of May will mark the beginning and end for some.

Second semester is a celebration of sorts, like being over the hill before turning 50.

Embrace it.

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