

Word on the Hill

What is your biggest fear?

By Korie Hawkins



"Winged insects."
Gretchen Blattner
elementary education
junior



"Spiders."
Megan Kerns
athletic training
junior



"Coffins, hearses, and anything associated with death."
Holly Rutter
assistant volleyball
coach



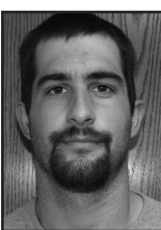
"Something happening to my children."
T.J. Harris
assistant track
coach



"Drowning."
Kindell Copeland
athletic training
junior



"My biggest fear is spiders."
Tory Dreger
athletic training
senior



"I don't have a fear."
Nick Koch
history
senior



"I think drowning is my biggest fear."
Jordan Barrett
elementary education
junior

Movie appeals to morons

ALEJANDRA ROJAS

Raw and dangerously funny, Johnny Knoxville and company return for the third installment of the hit TV show spin-off, *Jackass*, where Knoxville and friends perform dangerous stunts.

Ruthless as can be, the stunts attempted during the documentary are meant to catch laughter for the audience as the cast dodges buffalos, bulls, paintballs, punches in the face and hits on their private areas. Not only do they attempt to perform stunts, but the cast allows room to prank people in the streets.

The rest of the cast include: Bam Margera, Ryan Dunn, Steve-O, Jason Acuna, Preston Lacy, Chris Pontius, Ehren McGhehey, Dave England and Loomis Fall.

The 3-D effect made the movie more than the usual dangerous stunts. The effect allowed the audience to experience any explosives being set off during the stunt.

Jackass 3-D is rated R, which is no surprise considering the male nudity, extremely crude and dangerous stunts throughout and for language. Despite the unattractive storyline, the movie grossed over \$50 million on opening day, Oct. 17.

This movie is definitely not a date movie and is targeted more

towards the male audience. Although, women do find a taste for viewing these types of movies there is a weird amusement in watching the cast being punched in the face or in the agony they experience after the performed stunts.

I would consider this movie to be a good time for male bonding, but girlfriends can please their boyfriends by suggesting this movie, just don't expect to laugh because the stunts are funny or out of entertainment, but just perhaps at how idiotic the cast must be do this. If you are like me, I wondered, "who thought to do this," throughout the entire movie.

If this is your type of thing, men basically fighting for their lives, then *Jackass 3-D* is a must see. I wouldn't recommend for anyone who has a weak stomach.

While I have to admit, this isn't the usual movie that catches my interest, the buzz regarding the film persuaded me to give it a chance and go see with my own eyes what all the hoop-la was all about. This certainly isn't going on my top-ten favorite movies, but at least I can say I watched real jackasses and they certainly made fools of themselves.

Alejandra Rojas is a senior majoring in communication. You may e-mail her at alejandra.rojas@sckans.edu.

Deadline dread delivers distress



ERIN MORRIS

I have accidentally sat down only inches away from a bull snake. I have looked down to see a wolf spider the size of my hand in between my bare feet. But never before have I been as terrified as I am tonight.

Here I sit. It's 12:13 a.m. The

third floor lobby of Cole Hall is quiet. I have been staring at my laptop for several hours now, waiting. Writer's block has moved in and taken over my brain, showing no intention of leaving anytime soon.

My screen begins to blur, so I blink a couple times. It doesn't help. I look at my agenda. Oct. 23 still says "Personal Column Due." Dang. This assignment is kicking my butt and it's due by 7 a.m. What the heck am I going to do? I log into Facebook.

Don't judge me. I have already Googled every word and phrase I can think of. My first draft stands a full 205 words strong. Unfortunately, it sounds more like a research paper than a news column,

and no one is going to want to read an article about the positive effects of fear. Yes, there are good things about fear, believe it or not.

For example, have you ever looked up to see a big, black dog running straight at you growling like it was going to eat you for lunch? Well, fear is what helped you focus. It initiated the adrenaline rush that allowed you to pick up your little sister and sprint to the house just in time to slam the door in that dog's face.

According to Molly Gordon, a personal growth coach, that type of fear you experienced was Fear 2, the type that "focuses attention, provides adrenaline for extraordinary effort, and sharpens perception." It initiates a whole

body response, allowing you to step out of your comfort zone and move forward powerfully and safely.

Wow, that technical, medical stuff is boring.

After failing with the informative version, I decided I needed to try something else. I looked up some of the most common fears and found that flying and presenting a speech are the top two. I thought about making fun of those fears.

Take flying, for example. If thousands of people weren't afraid of getting on an airplane, the demand for tickets would go up and so would the price. Then

you would only be able to afford a one-way, and let's face it, you don't want to stay with the in-laws forever. So fear of flying is a good thing. Thanks to it, you can afford round-trip tickets.

How about presenting a speech? If you throw up, the instructor may grade on a curve and your classmates will love you forever. You will never live it down, but what's a little sacrifice in exchange for eternal devotion?

My sarcastic version stands at 127 words. It's not going anywhere, because, as you have probably already noticed, I'm not funny. In fact, if you were to stop reading this right now, I

wouldn't blame you.

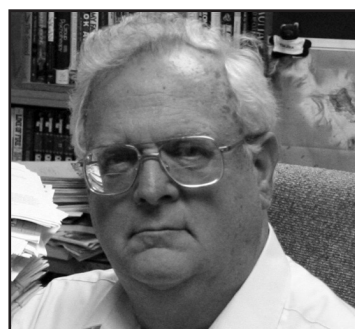
The truth is, I have never written a personal column and I am scared to death of it. I don't know any of the formatting rules, I have very little experience with scary stuff, which happens to be my topic, and it is now 1:05 in the morning and I still feel like I have nothing. I'm afraid of writing this wrong and afraid of the amount of red ink I will see on it tomorrow morning and afraid of Stacy Sparks' rejection of my work.

Personal columns are scary. It's 1:16 a.m. And there you have it.

Erin Morris is a freshman majoring in communication. You may e-mail her at erin.morris@sckans.edu.

PERSONAL COLUMN

PUT IT IN PERSPECTIVE



PHIL SCHMIDT

I know that in today's world there are folks who think that Halloween is a tool of the devil and that it is wrong to recognize it. As a historian I'd simply re-

mind us that it is a derivative of "All Saints Day," November 1, which in medieval Europe was an important high holy day which essentially everyone celebrated. (If you have European ancestors who lived there prior to the Protestant Reformation of 1517 and they were not pagans, that means they were Catholics—the Catholic Church was the only organized Christian Church in Europe of that time period.) "Halloween" derives from the term "All Hallows' Eve," the time period the evening before All Saints Day when the spirits of the deceased

ancestors (their "ghosts" if you will) were supposed to be coming back to the community where they had spent their lives, so as to observe and enjoy their being honored in the next day's celebration. Under those circumstances the little kids started dressing up as ghosts in order to "scare" people, and those practices evolved into today's Halloween. In my book it is completely harmless and a bit of fun for the kids, who deserve to be able to have their excitement—no reason to get stressed out.

Phil Schmidt is a professor of history.

Is Halloween evil?



ELIZABETH HILL

I was raised in a home at which we did not celebrate Halloween. For most of my life, I hated the fact my parents held me back from all the fun my

friends were experiencing. Now, I respect their decision and am thankful for what they taught me through this experience. Holidays are days of celebration, and for some Halloween is seen as celebrating evil. My parents wanted me to celebrate the beautiful blessings in life instead of the things that create fear. They wanted me to celebrate who I was in God not someone or something I would rather be.

Now that I am able to make my own decisions, I do participate in Halloween. My view on it is different than what it would have been without my parents' influence. I see Halloween as a fun night to dress up and be in the company of good friends—I celebrate God's goodness by creating good memories on Halloween.

Elizabeth Hill is a senior majoring in elementary education.

Celebration combines customs with costumes

INGER FURHOLT

Halloween, one of the world's oldest holidays, is celebrated annually on the night of Oct. 31. Though it originated in Ireland, Halloween is now celebrated in quite a few countries. It is celebrated in different ways, with different activities like, bonfires, costume parties, "haunted house" tours, pumpkin carving, scary movie watching, and many other activities depending on the culture.

Many view Halloween as another fun holiday, an excuse to dress up and go trick-or-treating or to a costume party. However, not everyone celebrates Halloween or even believes that it is just innocent fun.

Halloween has undergone many changes over the years. Originally known as Samhain, the holiday was the mark of the end of the summer for the

old Celtic people in Ireland. They believed that this was a time when hostile supernatural forces were active and ghosts and spirits could wander as they wished. Therefore, the Celtic had their own ways and traditions that eventually underwent changes.

Christianity spread throughout Europe and instead of abolishing the tradition of Samhain, it was instead introduced to new ideas that reflected Christianity. Since then, Halloween has become a confusing mixture from Pagan cultures and Christian traditions.

Halloween came to America in the late 1800's and witches, black cats, pumpkins, candles, masks, parties and pranks started to appear with the Irish immigrants who came to settle. With immigration, the old traditions of Samhain spread to this foreign shore as well, and slowly

turned into what we now know as Halloween.

Pumpkins with cut out faces did originally represent demons and were meant to frighten away evil spirits. Black cats were believed to be reincarnated spirits. People also used to believe that witches could turn themselves into black cats, so when black cats were seen they were believed to be witches. Witches and witchcraft are several things that have been considered a big part of Halloween.

People have different views as to what Halloween is, and most have their own way of looking at the holiday. To many people these days, Halloween is just another holiday that gives us an excuse to dress up, go trick or treating, eat candy, go to costume parties and do something different than what a person usually does on a normal day.

However, looking into the

history of Halloween and its origins, it can be understandable why some do not want to partake in Halloween festivities. Many parents do not let their children go trick-or-treating or participate in classroom Halloween parties for religious reasons.

Even though the traditions have changed over time, and countries, cultures have different views as to what Halloween really is, it all originated from one Pagan holiday.

While it is really a celebration of the change of seasons, the idea of supernatural or even evil forces makes some people queasy. This origin can definitely clash with ideas and religions of many kinds, but what it has turned into now seems more fun and "innocent" than its first purpose.

Inger Marie Furholt is a senior majoring in journalism. You may e-mail her at inger.furholt@sckans.edu.

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