



THE VASQUEZ POST

HALLOWEEN EDITION



Story of Samhain

Samhain is a Gaelic festival that occurs on November 1st signaling the conclusion of the harvest season and the start of winter, also referred to as the darker half of the year, Samhain is the name of November In the Irish language. Samhain is usually celebrated in countries such as Ireland and Scotland and also celebrated on the Isle of Man. The history of Samhain is thought to have a celtic-pagan origin. Samhain is talked about in early 9th century Irish literature. Some Irish stories have Samhain as great feasts and a portal to the Otherworld(world of the Gods and possibly the dead). Other stories have it as a time for sacrifices and bonfires. The festival wasn’t recorded till the modern era where livestock are brought to be slaughtered and special fires are lit that have protective powers. It is also thought that during Samhain, the veil between this world and the otherworld gets blurred allowing more contact with spirits. People would often have gifts for the pagan gods in hope that the livestock would survive the winter. Food was often left out for the spirits of the dead king that visited on this day.

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Horror Games Review

If you're looking for a good scare and some fun you should try out a horror game. They are perfect if you want to have a thrill late at night. Some horror games range from just making you jumpy to being absolutely terrifying. Every horror game is different; following the genre of ominous, creepy, and frightening. The first game you should check out is **The Last of Us**. This game follows the story of a post-apocalyptic world where a mushroom virus for ants mutates into a human mind controlling pathogen with only one motive: infect as many other humans as possible.

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Two Sentence Horror Stories

I nodded at the detective's words, promising to give any information I found about my missing neighbor. As soon as he left, I checked under the mattress, just to make sure her body was still wedged between the bed and the wall.
-Jenna DeMatteis

I heard a scream from outside. Then I remembered I live in the middle of the forest.
-Mason Berger

As a lady was waiting for her uber, a black car stopped right in front of her and she got in assuming it was her uber. Half way into the ride as she was talking to the driver she got a notification on her phone saying her uber would be arriving shortly.
-Liam Byrne

As she walks home alone she hears the sound of another's footsteps close behind as they crunch in the snow. She turns to see nobody there, and yet somehow a trail of two pairs of footsteps.
-Alexandria Van Blarcom

I was going to a Halloween party, when I arrived at the house, someone behind the door told me to come in. When I opened the door, no one was there, I started to explore more, but realized I had the wrong house.
-Shoned Carr

I stood silently, hands folded behind my back, as my teary eyed brother gave his speech. I wondered why everyone was crying and giving their condolences for the death of my father, after all, he was standing right next to me.
-Jenna DeMatteis

Clouds of gray pour over the cities. With nothing to do but watch as the world caves in.
-Alexandria Van Blarcom

I can’t move, I can’t breathe, I can’t speak or hear and it’s so dark all the time. If I knew it would be this lonely, I would have been cremated instead.
-Khloe Roque

I went to sleep at 12 am. Woke up paralyzed with two aliens staring down at me.
-Abby Garcia

Two “friends” walk into the woods. One comes out, stained in red.
-Alexandria Van Blarcom

When my secretary threw open my door, the heart jumped into my throat. I had to suffer through an entire 20 minute rant before she left, and I could finally finish my breakfast.
-Jenna DeMatteis

Haunted Places Around The World

Stanley Hotel - Colorado

One of, if not the, most famous haunted hotels of all time, with each feature room coming with a different dreadful story to go along with it. It was the inspiration for Stephen King’s *The Shining*, and Kubrick’s film based on the novel. Ghosts have been sighted at the hotel for over a hundred years, ranging from friendly haberdashers to more vengeful spirits; the Stanley is said to be full of trapped spirits. Some of the most famous tales from the hotel being the one of a housekeeper, who after an accident involving an oil lamp, blew up a portion of the hotel, and of course Stephen King’s stay in room 217, where he dreamt of a hose chasing his son down a hallway. Still an incredibly popular place for people to visit, there are always new ghost stories coming out about the grand hotel.

The Sedlec Ossuary - Czech Republic

A Roman Catholic Cathedral elaborately decorated with the bones of 40,000-70,000 people, which have been arranged to form chalices, candelabras, candle holders, a family coat of arms, and a magnificent chandelier which features nearly every bone in the human body. After bodies from a holy burial ground were exhumed and piled into the church, a local woodcarver began to shape them into works of art. The chapel is still adorned with the bones, and though it looks rather macabre, it was considered a sacred site.

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Common Fears

Arachnophobia- Is the fear of spiders.

Glossophobia- Is the fear of public speaking which is mostly found in people who have social anxiety.

Acrophobia- Is the fear of heights.

Thanatophobia- The fear of death. This fear happens to all of us during our childhood to our adulthood.

Information provided by Liam Byrne and Gerardo Pelayo

Scary Fun Facts

- There was a time in England when human skulls were used as bowls and cups.

-The average person crosses paths with 36 murders in their life.

-Climbers on Mount Everest sometimes use dead bodies as markers.

-There’s a type of lizard that squirts blood out of its eyes.

-Rattlesnakes kill more people each year than sharks.

-A cockroach can live for over a week without a head

-Dead bodies can get goosebumps

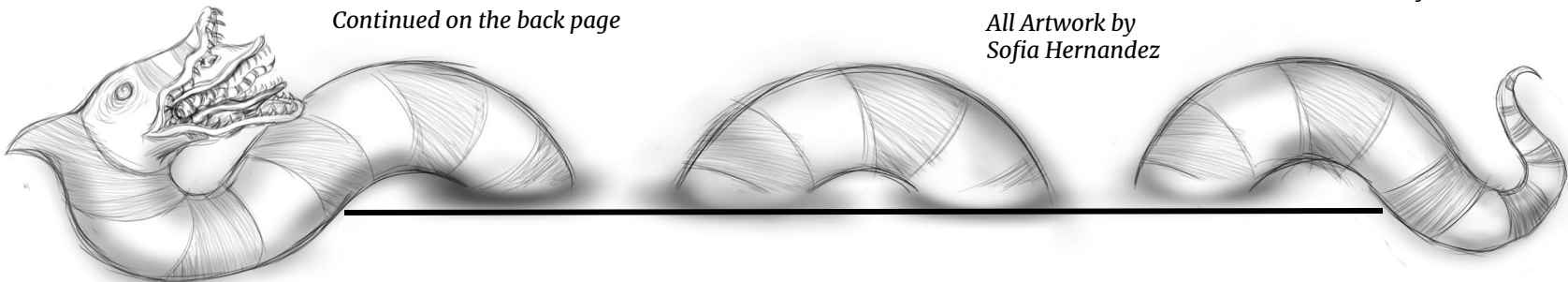
Information provided by Jenna DeMatteis and Lina Rodriguez

Local Scary Stories

A super creepy tale is the Yucca Man is said to be a legend that lives in the Mojave desert. His first appearance was said to be back in 1971 where he attacked a marine base. The story is that the Yucca Man attacked a guard on watch duty and bent the man in half. The man only said a few words before he passed and those were “ it was very hairy, it was very tall, and had very big glowing eyes. The Yucca Man has been said to be seen a few more times before after this encounter but no one has any evidence to show any truth.

Article by Adam Hernandez

All Artwork by Sofia Hernandez





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Halloween Baking Recipes

Spider cookies: 1) Melt the chocolate in a double boiler or in the microwave, stirring every 30 seconds until smooth and melty. Transfer the chocolate to a piping bag or Ziploc bag with a tiny bit of the end snipped off. 2) Place a tiny bit of melted chocolate in the middle of a peanut butter cookie then press a mini peanut butter cup on top. Using the piping bag, create 8 “legs” with the chocolate, 4 on each side. Repeat with remaining cookies. 3) Use a bit of the melted chocolate on the front of the Reese’s peanut butter cup and place 2 mini candy eyeballs on top, pressing them on, 12 peanut butter cookies (store-bought or homemade), 12 mini Reese’s peanut butter cups, 1/4 cup semi-sweet chocolate melted, 24 mini candy eyeballs.

Rice Crispy Monsters: 1) 6 oz candy melts (in any color), 8 Rice Krispie squares (homemade or store bought), 1/4 cup assorted candy eyeballs, sprinkles for decorating. 2) Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside. In a microwave-safe bowl, melt the candy melts in the microwave in 30-second increments, at 70% power, stirring each time until smooth. Stir until smooth. 3) Holding the end of a Rice Krispie square, dip it into the melted chocolate until it’s covered 3/4 with chocolate. Hold it up to let the excess chocolate drip off. Place the square on the baking sheet. Immediately press in various candy eyeballs, and add the sprinkles, if using. Repeat with remaining squares. Place the squares in the fridge for 10 minutes until the chocolate is hardened.

Poison Apple Punch: 1) Smash the ginger slices with the flat side of a chef's knife and transfer to a medium saucepan. 2) Add the apple cider, orange zest, lemon zest, cinnamon sticks and cloves. Bring to a simmer over medium heat. Simmer for 10 minutes, then strain through a fine-mesh sieve into a pitcher. 3) Let cool to room temperature, then refrigerate until chilled, about 1 hour. 4) Poke holes in the apple wedges with a chopstick or skewer and insert a gummy worm into each. 5) Add the cranberry-apple juice and whiskey, if using, to the punch. Serve over ice. Garnish with the apples.

Information provided by Mason Berger and Ulysses Miron

Haunted Places Around The World continued from the front page

Eastern State Penitentiary - Philadelphia

Haunted prisons are nothing new, but Eastern State Penitentiary is different from any other. It was known for three things. The first being its strange treatment of prisoners, which forced them to wear masks and stay isolated during their stay. The second, it's most infamous resident, Al Capone. And of course, the many claims of ghostly sightings from workers, janitors, and prisoners alike. One of the prisoners who claimed to have seen a spectral being was Al Capone himself, who swore he was haunted by one of the victims of the St. Valentine's Day Massacre.

The Conjuring house - Rhode Island

Aka “The Old Arnold Estate”, is a colonial house built in 1736 known for its paranormal activity. This house is located in Harrisville, Rhode Island, and was made famous by the Conjuring movie in 2013 which depicted the Perron family that lived there in the 1970’s. The paranormal activity goes back to the 1700’s when the spirits of native tribes remained in the land till today. From time to time, people can see these spirits visiting the house and land from underground. The house was built on 8.5 acres beside a river, forest, open fields and is surrounded by stone walls. Andrea Perron, one of the five daughters of the Perron family, describes her home as “ a portal cleverly disguised as a farmhouse.” Since the house was opened to the public in 2019, thousands of people have been to the attraction and have witnessed and experienced the famous paranormal activity.

The Catacombs - Paris

were built in the 18th century due to major health problems tied to the city’s cemeteries. The leaders of Paris then had the decision to transfer the bodies from the cemeteries to the underground. Covering a huge area, the Catacombs of Paris stretch over 174 miles underneath Paris. However, only a small part of the catacombs is open to the public. Visitors of the catacombs normally report seeing apparitions, hearing disembodied voices coming from the wall, witnessing strange orbs and spectral lights, being touched, to only find out no one is there when you turn around.

Information provided by Charlotte Hernandez and Cailin Perdomo

Horror Movies Reviews

NOPE - 2022

I honestly love the movie Nope. After the first time watching it I wanted to watch it over, and over again. Just seeing most of the things getting sucked up and thrown out lets my creativity flow very nicely. It’s a very interesting movie and it caught my attention right away.

SCREAM - 1996

I’d say Scream is a classic, and I enjoy the way it makes you guess and throws you off to think that the killer is someone else. I like the way everything is laid out for the movie. It's an amusing movie to watch in your free time and there are many scream movies which excites me because you can sit and watch each one.

THE CONJURING - 2013

The conjuring isn’t the scariest movie but just knowing that it happened in real life gives me chills, and the mom gets possessed and tries to kill her daughters. The catholic couple gets involved due to the mom losing her necklace in the basement, but the most interesting thing about this catholic couple is that they collect any object that absorbs any bad energy.

THE AMITYVILLE HORROR - 1979

The Amityville horror is similar to the conjuring, they just have different backstories and instead of the mom getting possessed and wanting to kill her children, it’s the dad that is getting possessed and hearing voices making him want to kill his family. They are both based on a true story.

THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE - 2001

In the beginning of this movie I didn’t think it was scary because it started with a group of young people traveling and having fun. But then they run into Leatherface and his family and everything goes downhill. What I like about this movie is that there is a lot of suspense. This movie however is not based on a true story but was inspired by a serial killer, it just made me more interested to watch the movie.

Article by Abby Garcia



Story of Samhain continued from the front page

Another part of this festival would be people going door to door reciting verses in exchange for food. The name of this festival today is known as Samhain but in early times it was pronounced as Samhuinn. Irish mythology was originally only a spoken tradition but was written down by Medieval Christian monks.

Article by Mikayden Matson

Horror Games Review continued from the front page

Another amazing horror game you should play is **Little Nightmares**. This story follows a little hungry girl who must escape The Maw, A massive iron vessel inhabited by horrifying and monstrous creatures who will do anything to stop her escape.

The last game I’m recommending is **Resident Evil 7: Biohazard**. This game follows a man named Ethan Winters who is trying to find his missing wife. While searching for his wife, he is eventually led to an abandoned house where a mysterious family lives who harbor a very dark and evil secret.

Article by Elijah Hernandez

