

# Screams and scares: The history of Halloween

**Chantel Azevedo**  
Staff Writer

Many questions arise this time of year about the upcoming holiday known as Halloween. Where did this “haunted holiday” originate? Why do we celebrate it in the manner we do today? These are only two of the many questions people have in their minds as October ends.

Modern day Halloween traditions date back to the late 1940’s, but the traditional reason for this celebration can be traced back to the Middle Ages. Extensive religious propaganda from the late Middle Ages sights the Wiccan religion as the origin of Halloween.

Halloweens spooky spirit can be linked to the fact that Wicca itself has often been correlated to Satanism. In actuality, Wiccan beliefs and practices are no closer to Satanism than they are to Buddhism, Hinduism, or Islam. In fact, Wiccans do not recognize the existence of an all-evil supernatural being similar to the quasi-deity Satan who is found mainly in Christianity and Islam.

However, there are three superficial points of similarity between Satanism and Wicca. Both use a five pointed star as a symbol. Satanists align it so that two points are upwards. Wiccans orient their star with two points downwards.

Also, both generally perform their religious rituals within a circle marked on the floor or ground. Most Wiccans and Satanists engage in magic, however, Wiccans are limited to non-manipulative, consensual, positive magic.

In Wiccan practices, Samhain signifies “summers end” or November. Samhain was a harvest festival with huge sacred bonfires, marking the end of the Celtic year and the beginning of a new one. Many of the practices involved in this celebration were fed on superstition.

The Celts believed the souls of the dead roamed the streets and villages at night. Since not all spirits were thought to be friendly, gifts and treats were left out to pacify the evil and ensure next year’s crops would be plentiful, which eventually evolved into trick-or-treating.

This is where our ‘scary’ and ‘spooking’ Halloween came from. Our traditions of dressing up, going out into the streets and asking for candy and treats originated from this superstition. Many people who go out and trick-or-treat on Oct. 31 are really not sure why they do it. Many just do it because that is what they grew up doing when they were children.



## ROAST BEAST

*from Chef Boy-ar-Dave*

**Average Cost of Meal:** \$10 - \$15

**Time of Preparation:** 10 minutes

**Cooking Time:** 1 and a half to 2 hours

**Serving Size:** 4-5 people

### Ingredients:

- Round Roast
- Beef Broth
- Basil
- Oregano
- Garlic Salt
- Onion Powder
- Bay Leaves
- Black Pepper

### Instructions:

- Preheat the oven to 375°.
- In a pyrex dish season the roast with the basil, oregano, garlic, onion, and black pepper.
- (OPTIONAL: Sear the roast on both sides before cooking it in order to seal in all the flavors. Heat a skillet on high heat for a few minutes. Sear one side of the roast for 2 minutes and the other for an additional 2 minutes.)
- Pour the broth in the pyrex dish until it is a half inch deep.
- Add a few bay leaves to the broth and put in the oven for 1.5-2 hours, until the inner temperature reaches at least 140°.

*Trevor Wolford plays guitar as Blake Ellege sings “Mack the Knife” to close Tuesday night’s BC Jazz Ensemble concert at the Porter Center. The show featured solos by Wolford and other ensemble members on such jazz standards as “The Girl from Ipanema,” “I’m Beginning to See the Light” and “Summertime.” The next musical performance by BC fine arts students will be the BC Choral Concert tomorrow (Oct. 30) at 7:30 p.m. in the Porter Center. Admission is free.*