

# SAB puts on Halloween Dance

By ADDY LIU  
Feature Editor

A longstanding NCSSM tradition, the Halloween Dance is an informal social event that tends to fall on an exam weekend, just as it does this year. For this reason, it is designed to be a low-key, stress-relieving event where students can forget about looming exams for an evening.

Jennifer Ashe, the Assistant Director of Student Services, discussed this and said, "The point of the Halloween Dance is for it to essentially be a study break. Lots of other dances during the year, like prom and semi-formal, take up a good part of the day: getting dressed, taking pictures, and going out to dinner ... the Halloween Dance is supposed to just be very casual and fun."

Ashe also commented that she tries to keep the Halloween dance close to the actual date of Halloween. This way, the dance still occurs during the time of greatest holiday spirit. However, due to exams it was impossible to schedule it dur-

ing October this year.

Possible themes for the dance are still being debated but one strong contender so far is a Ghostbusters theme, which would happen to tie into the summer reading, since this classic '80s cult film was mentioned in "Ready Player One" as one of the book's many references to '80s pop culture.

When asked, Ashe was rather invigorated about this possible theme, having already begun preliminary work on constructing part of the red and white no-ghosts signs emblematic of the movie.

Besides the dance itself, which will play music typical to that of the other dances during the year and not Halloween-themed music, there is a possibility of vintage Halloween movies being shown during the dance. Such movies could include "Teen Wolf", the 1985 fantasy comedy starring Michael J. Fox or "Hocus Pocus", a 1993 horror comedy about a trio of witches, one of whom is played by Sarah Jessica Parker.

Ashe and the Student Activities Board will also be hosting a Halloween costume contest, with winners that will be chosen according to the following categories: most creative, most school spirit, scariest, and best group costume. The judges of this competition are traditionally chosen from NCSSM faculty but given interest, there is potential for there to be student judges this year.

Tying in to this Halloween weekend, there was campus-wide trick-or-treating on Wednesday, Oct. 29, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.. During this time, students could dress up and go to participating faculty and staff members' doors to get candy and/or other treats. Those participating had a pumpkin on their door.

The Halloween Dance will be held in the PEC on Saturday, Nov. 1, from 9 p.m. to midnight.

The costume contest will take place at 10:30 p.m. in the PEC classroom. Refreshments at the dance will include candy, punch and water.

# West African Ebola epidemic spreads to United States

By CAROLINE LIU  
News Editor

The ongoing Ebola virus disease (EVD) epidemic began in Guinea. The outbreak is traced to a 2-year-old child who died on Dec. 28, 2013.

Eventually spreading to Liberia and Sierra Leone, smaller subsidiary outbreaks have occurred elsewhere. Outbreaks in Nigeria and Senegal have been successfully contained and the two countries are now free of the disease.

In addition, secondary infections have occurred among medical workers with very low case numbers in the United States and Spain, neither of which have shown any signs of spreading in the general popu-

health officials identified all close contacts of the person for further daily monitoring for 21 days after exposure. Duncan died of Ebola on Oct. 8 and was cremated.

On Oct. 10, Nina Pham, a healthcare worker at Texas Presbyterian Hospital who had provided care for Duncan, reported a low-grade fever and was referred for testing. The healthcare worker tested positive for Ebola according to preliminary tests by the Texas Department of State Health Services' laboratory.

Hospital officials said the nurse wore the recommended protective gear when treating Duncan on his second visit to this Dallas hospital, and she

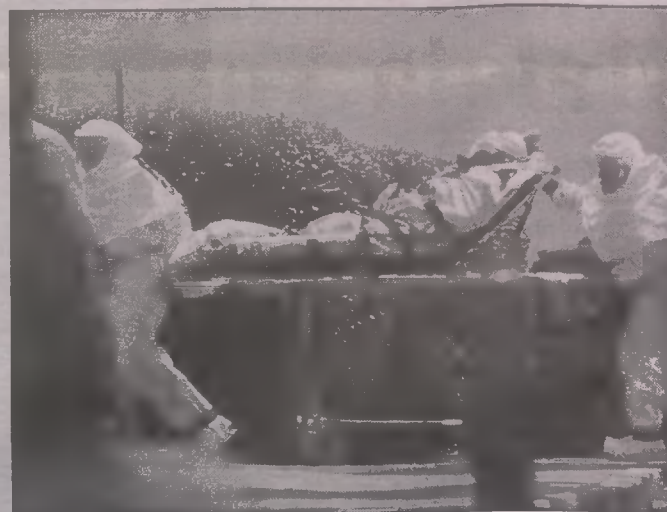


Photo courtesy of USA Today

Nancy Writebol, 59, the second American hospitalized from the current Ebola outbreak. The North Carolinian is shown above arriving at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta.

lation. The current epidemic of EVD is the most severe outbreak of Ebola since the discovery of the virus in 1976. The epidemic has caused significant mortality, with a Case Fatality Rate (CFR) reported as 71% according to the CDC.

On Sept. 30, 2014, the CDC acknowledged the first laboratory-confirmed case of Ebola to be diagnosed in the United States. Thomas Eric Duncan of Dallas, Texas had worked as a personal driver for the general manager of Safeway Cargo, a FedEx contractor in Liberia.

On Sept. 15, 2014, the family of Ebola patient Marhalene Williams was unable to summon an ambulance to transfer Williams to the hospital. Their tenant, Duncan, helped to transfer Williams by taxi to an Ebola Treatment Ward in Monrovia, Liberia. Although Duncan did not have symptoms when leaving West Africa, symptoms began to develop approximately four days after arriving in the United States.

When Duncan tested positive for Ebola, local public

had "extensive contact" with him on "multiple occasions". Pham was cured of Ebola and released on Oct. 24. The nurse's infection was the first case contracted on U.S. soil.

Although the threat of the Ebola virus may seem imminent, there is no need for widespread panic. Ebola is not as contagious as more common viruses like colds, influenza, or measles.

It only spreads to people who directly contact the skin or bodily fluids of those infected by the virus. A person who has Ebola but has no symptoms can't spread the disease. \*You cannot get Ebola from air, water, or food.\*

Despite this, planes, boats and buses have been quarantined when a person aboard showed symptoms of Ebola, which can bear incredible similarity to diseases such as the common cold. The best defense against Ebola is to not panic, since it is not a highly contagious disease.

† according to WebMD and CDC information

# Seattle changes Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day

By MAX SCHLENKER  
Staff Writer

Columbus Day, celebrated for the first time in 1905 before being declared a national holiday in 1934, used to be known as a day to celebrate the "founder of America," centering around a nostalgic idea of Christopher Columbus sailing the ocean blue and discovering the New World in 1492.

It was not until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century that American children would begin to hear the real story of how Columbus accidentally stumbled upon the island of Hispaniola and oversaw the genocide that led to the extermination of the native Taino people.

To acknowledge this, the people of Seattle, Washington, recently worked with indigenous tribes in the area to change the name of Columbus Day to "Indigenous Peoples' Day" in the hopes of being more conscientious of the damage Columbus caused and the true nature of the bloody beginnings of America.

This name change honors the large presence of Native American tribes in and around Washington.

The treatment of Native Americans had already been a point of controversy due to the name of the other Washington's NFL team, the Washington (D.C.) Redskins. The term 'redskin' is widely considered

a pejorative and an offensive slur for Native Americans.

The motion to change the name of the holiday was voted in unanimously by the Seattle City Council this summer following large protests organized by activist groups in the area.

"This action will allow us to bring into current present day our valuable and rich history, and it's there for future generations to learn," said Fawn Sharp, president of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians and of the Quinona.

The change has been opposed by Seattle's Italian-American community, who viewed Columbus Day as way of honoring the Italian explorer. Italian immigrants were those who originally pushed for the creation of the holiday.

Italian-American council member Nick Licata disagreed, arguing the change would not take away anything, but would allow everyone to celebrate a new day where everyone's strength is recognized.

"This is about taking a stand against racism and discrimination," Seattle City Council member Kshama Sawant said. "Learning about the history of Columbus and transforming this day into a celebration of indigenous people and a celebration of social justice... allows us to make a connection between this painful history

and the ongoing marginalization, discrimination and poverty that indigenous communities face to this day."

The change in Washington is only one of a recent trend of American states altering the holiday to better reflect early American history. South Dakota celebrates Native American Day and Hawaii celebrates Discoverers' Day. California, Alaska, and Oregon are also taking measures to either rename or discontinue the holiday altogether.

While a few select groups are still in full support of Columbus Day, its prominence in American culture is dwindling quickly as more and more people become aware of the problematic historical context involved.

Although a federal holiday, Columbus Day is one of the least celebrated holidays in the country already, with only 23 states giving employees the day off to celebrate.

Columbus Day has become less of a celebration of Christopher Columbus, than an excuse to have an extra holiday, such as Labor Day. This, combined with the prejudiced implications of the holiday, is leading to a trend of states not honoring the holiday.

Seattle mayor Ed Murray signed the resolution on Oct. 14.