

# THE

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## October 31st is More Than Costumes and Candy

MICHELLE CRABTREE

Once a year on the 31st of October the sun goes down and the spirits run free. This leads us to All Hallows Eve.

*Ghosts and Goblins  
come out tonight,  
Trick-or-Treaters run  
away in fright,  
Witches cast a haunt-  
ing spell,  
Werewolves secretly  
cry out the tale,  
Vampires hunt the  
juicy blood,  
Which then brings us  
to this Halloween  
flood...*

Have you ever wondered if this is really true? If Halloween is really the day of the devil? The day of Evil? Where did it come from? Why is it here?

Halloween originally started from an ancient Celtic celebration

in Great Britain and France. Halloween was never known as the devil's day, it just became overly exagger-



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ated through time. The Celts believed that the last day of harvest was the day Samhain, the god of the Dead, called spirits to walk the earth. This was the day that he would select those who would die the following year. The Druid priests held Samhain ceremonies to keep away bad spirits with rituals and enormous "bone fires", now known as bonfires. These cel-

ebrations were held on October 31. During these rituals the priests would sacrifice animals and humans in these fires. The Romans later introduced Catholicism, which at-

tempted to end these Pagan rituals by creating All Saints Day on November 1. October 31 became known as All Hallows Eve, which was later shortened to *Halloween* by the Scots. So to a certain degree, our views of Halloween are correct. We just tend to exaggerate them a bit.

Rick Jacobs said that the meaning of Halloween is, "...to dress up as someone else and eat lots of candy. It's just for fun."

Why do people dress up on Halloween? During rituals Celts were encouraged to wear masks to confuse the dead spirits. If they were dressed up as someone else, then it would make it harder for the spirits to choose who would die the next year.

When going to these huge festivals the Celts placed candles in turnips, potatoes, and other solid



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vegetables to light the way for their escape. When Irish and Scottish immigrants brought this custom to the United States they used pumpkins because there were more of these than turnips or other items.

Why do we trick-or-treat on Halloween? The custom of trick-or-treating was thought to have originated with a ninth-century European custom called *souling*. On All

Souls Day early Christians would walk from village to village begging for "soul cakes". The more soul

**HALLOWEEN** *Continues on Page 3*

## Superstitions Prevalent in Brevard Athletics

KRISTEN WEAVER

Superstition and special pregame rituals seem to go hand and hand with the success and achievement of many athletes. Some athletes may eat a good meal such as pasta and chicken before a game. The majority of athletes like to have a good night's sleep, so they have plenty of energy for the game the next day. Other athletes rely on specific clothing, colors, hairstyles, or even a charm to get them pumped for peak performance.

Cheerleader Katie Ahrens, said, "My ritual begins with a meal full of carbohydrates." She prepares her body for optimal performance by indulging in a large bowl

of pasta, bread, and water before a game.

Aside from physical rituals, many athletes focus on their spiritual well being. Holly Dula, fast pitch softball player, said, "Before a game, I sit in the grass on the softball field, while I pray, meditate, and focus on the upcoming game."

Many athletes have certain superstitions that they believe are necessary for them to excel in their

game. Matt Brown, baseball player, feels it is essential to wear the same socks every game.

Throughout the past eleven years of Camilla Lacey's soccer career, she has been wearing a shirt under her jersey, and for the past six years, she has been wearing the *same* shirt under her jersey.

Kelly Sisley believes that if she wears dark clothes, especially black, she cannot jump as high, and considering she is the goalkeeper

for Brevard College's soccer team, let's hope she sticks with light colors. Quita Foster, who is on the woman's basketball team, consistently wears a rubber band on her right ankle, and a beaded bracelet on her left wrist during her games.

All of these superstitions and rituals are held dear to the hearts of these athletes. It is a belief that they feel enhances their game performance. It is something they have been doing for years, and has brought "luck" to all of them. And whether they are really lucky superstitions and rituals or not, the Tornados are not willing to give any of them up.

