**Good Riddance to Halloween**

For many kids, the countdown to Halloween begins November first and lasts an entire year. All year they dream of dressing up as princesses, witches, firefighters, cops. Then they walk from house to house to collect pieces of teeth-rotting candy.

Have you ever thought about how weird this concept is? Parents advise their kids to do the one thing they always tell them not to do: go up to strangers offering candy. It's time to stop this nonsense: Halloween should not be a holiday in the US.

Halloween is a disaster for parents, too. According to North­eastern Uni­ver­sity Pro­fessor James Alan Fox, crime rates on the night of October 31st spike up 50% (Post). Because so many parents go with their kids trick-or-treating, many homes are vacant of security and protection. The candy bowl left on the porch means no one's home. For kids, the candy bowl means, “YAY take as much candy as I can fit in my bag,” but to thieves it means, “YAY no one's home...time to go in,”.

Car accidents spike up as well. According to BrandonGaille.com children ages 5 through 14 are four times more likely to be hit by a car (“12 Halloween Crime Statistics”). Although drivers should be more aware of the potential of kids on the streets on Halloween, some reckless stupid drivers are unaware.

By the age of 13, teens are eager for the opportunity to be more independent from their parents. On Halloween, this means going trick-or-treating without an adult trailing behind. This leaves many children unprotected on the streets alone. Although their chances of anything happening to them is low considering they are most likely in a large group, it still raises the risk of kidnapping.

As children become teens and young adults, Halloween becomes an opportunity to party. According to a 2015 statisticbrain.com survey 34% of all Americans plan to either host or attend a party of Halloween (“Halloween Statistics”). Underage drinking is even more of an issue on college campuses. Huffington Post claims the number of DUI’s on college campuses increases drastically on the evening of October 31st (Rendon). In Santa Barbara, California in 2013, the County Sheriff made 18 arrests on the evening of Halloween, with 9 being related to a DUI (“Stats for Halloween Weekend in Isla Vista”).

Halloween is a stupid holiday that promotes crime, kidnapping, drinking and bad judgment. Is the free candy really worth the risks?

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