

# AMP

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## What Does Your Costume Say About You?

Surprise scares on silver  
screens **SUCK.**

**BOO!** Capitalism.

Greek life:  
**BLACK OUT** or **BACK OUT.**



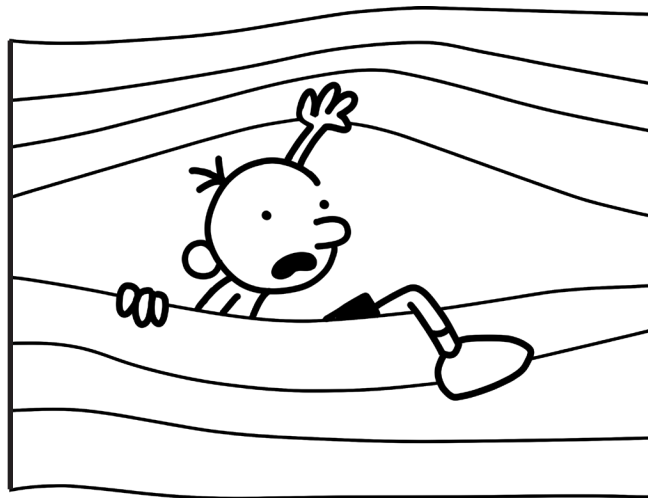
# AMP

## Editors' Desk

### Spooky Scary Skeletons

Happy Halloween, Comets! Well, in our heads it's been Halloween for months now, but once it hits October it becomes socially acceptable to say so. That's especially true now that the scorching Texas weather is finally starting to reach "comfortable" temperatures, so let's hope it'll be a cool and refreshing night of trick-or-treating. But until then, here's a few updates for you!

UTD was ranked in the Top 3 best public universities in Texas by the U.S. News and World Report, and is 36 spots higher than last year in the national rankings. Several of the undergraduate programs have also risen in the ranks. If you're actually reading the Ed Desk this month, congrats, you won a free shirt! Send us an email with your favorite article in this issue to claim it. UTD is quickly becoming a more prestigious university, as this ranking proves. It's cool to see our campus gaining more national recognition.



A new weekly podcast has debuted on RadioUTD, and a few of us here at AMP are hosts. Be sure to tune in every Sunday at 10 AM to hear Gavin, Mickey, and André on Mercury Morning News, where we'll be going over the latest local news. Our pilot episode included hot topics like the bug problems in the UV apartments and ATEC/AHT/Bass's many name changes.

Hispanic Heritage Month has started, and October is also LGBTQ+ History Month! That means you owe Editor-in-Chief Gavin Arriaga \$5 in honor of each. Pay up.

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Victoria Bruno - Art Director

Agnes Garrett - Web and Copy Editor

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## Disclaimer

Opinions expressed in AMP are those of the editor or of the writer of the article and are not necessarily those of the university administration, the board of Regents of the University of Texas System, or of the operating board of the magazine.

## Have an opinion?

## Think you're funny?

Write for AMP! Contact us at [ampatutd@gmail.com](mailto:ampatutd@gmail.com) and follow us on social media @AMPatUTD for more information.



# AMP HOROSCOPE

*Aries:* A meek little peasant boy will fall into your care this month. While his lute skills may be subpar and he's unsure which end of a broom is which, he'll find other ways to earn his keep.

*Taurus:* If you don't do anything, nothing will ever happen to you. Which, like, sounds like a pretty good gig.

*Gemini:* You can afford to do something bold this month. Just a little wild and crazy. Zany, even.

*Cancer:* You may or may not completely lose your marbles. #girlboss #slay

*Leo:* Forgiving others is hard, but forgiving yourself is harder. Now, seething with perpetual rage? Super easy.

*Virgo:* The stars say you're supposed to be in New Zealand right now. What the hell are you doing here? Get your ass over there, now!

*Libra:* Happy birthday! You're absolutely glowing today. Positively radiant. That's all, nothing else to see here, you sexy scamp. (If you're a friend of a Libra, buy them copious amounts of cheese, no matter what they say.)

*Scorpio:* Things may seem down, but look on the bright side! At least you're not a Sagittarius this month.

*Sagittarius:* Yeah, things really are down for you. :(

*Capricorn:* The stars say you should watch your step, but that's just kinda good practice. So this month, watch someone else's step.

*Aquarius:* You can be a pushover this month. If you want to.

*Pisces:* You can do anything you set your mind to! But not those other Pisces. They're all bums.

**ETHAN WUU**

sophomore | atec  
capricorn sun, libra  
moon, aries rising



# MOON MEALS

## A UTDTV COLLAB

### CAFE HWSAN

Craving comfort food? This adorable Korean brunch spot has got your back. It's about 10 minutes from campus, located on the corner of Coit and W Park Blvd in Plano with a welcoming vibe. The cozy yet chic interior is decked out in string lights, and lots of greenery. Cafe Hwasan's menu is extensive, offering both coffee and light pastries, along with traditional Korean staples and unique dishes that have special twists. We got a slew of dishes to share, and each one was amazing. The first thing I tried was their Rosé Tteokbokki (rice cakes) which was creamy, flavorful and had a nice kick. It was a large portion and came with fish cake, bacon, sausage, and lots of cheese. The Pork Katsu Curry had a light and crunchy breading, and the pork itself was tender and not too chewy. Next, we got their Bulgogi Kimchi Fries. The bulgogi was cooked perfectly, and they had ample kimchi on top of it, though the kimchi was a tad more sour than I typically prefer. Their Spicy Shrimp Yaki Udon also had a great texture paired with incredible flavor. The star of the day was definitely dessert - a Matcha Mochi Croffle that still sweetens my dreams. The croffle (croissant batter made into a waffle) was both soft and chewy, the mochi ice cream was so insanely good with the perfect stretchy consistency and the matcha had the sharp flavor all good matcha strives for. It was also really beautifully presented, with a large scoop of sweet cream drizzled in chocolate on top. There was a little too much cream, but the excess can easily be moved to the side. Lastly, we sipped on an iced vanilla latte with oat milk, which was refreshing. Cafe Hwasan proudly advertises that they have ceremonial grade matcha, which my friends who have been here also rave about, so I'm definitely looking forward to trying that next time. The prices are a bit steeper, but the portion sizes are large and very filling to make up for it. Overall, absolutely phenomenal and I'm already looking forward to going back.

MOON MEALS RATING: 9.9 OUT OF 10



### MILLSTONE BAKERY



MOON MEALS RATING: 10 OUT OF 10

This family owned small business has been one of my favorites for years. It's located on the corner of Legacy and Independence, about 15 minutes from campus and is completely worth the trek. As a self-appointed eclair connoisseur, I can say with 100% certainty that their Chocolate Eclairs are the best I've ever had. It has a perfectly light choux pastry, with a thick and decadent layer of chocolate on top. The filling inside is a heavenly blend of cool chocolate cream that will blow your mind. They rotate their menu often, and it's clear that the pastries are made by hand since there's always a little bit of unique difference in their shape and I truly think that adds to the charm of the place. Their Boston Creme Pie and Chocolate Mousse Cake slices are also definite must-tries. Their Raspberry Almond Cake was a bit dense, but had a wonderful flavor, and the coconut was very distinct in their German Chocolate Cake. I also really enjoyed their Coffee Choux au Cracklin pastry. It had a beautiful golden craquelin, and the coffee flavor in the filling inside was done perfectly, so that it didn't overpower the pastry or regular cream parts. Croissant wise, I adore their warmed-up Ham and Cheese Croissant and can usually scarf it down in just a few bites. Their Chocolate Croissant is also great if you're looking for a dessert that's not too sweet but just sweet enough. Personally, I like my Almond Croissants to have more of a filling, so it's not my go to here. Their Cherry and Chocolate Scone is thick and the cherries have a real sour kick to them that adds a surprise that I wasn't expecting in a scone. Since I clearly have a sweet tooth addiction whenever I come here, I also usually grab a shot of espresso to help cut the sweetness a little. I haven't had their bread but I've noticed it always sells out quickly, and that the customers are always eager to ask about it. You can also special order cakes ahead of time, and I love their chocolate one with buttercream. The family who runs Millstone Bakery is super sweet and every time I go in the community inside is friendly too. This is definitely a place you should frequent - I know I will.

**MINUKI MEDIS**

senior | psychology  
Your local bringer of chaos!





# DJ Showcase: Noah Rayburn

**"I KIND OF WANT MY SHOW TO FEEL  
LIKE A FEVER DREAM."**

As you might guess from a title like "Audio Transmission Sending Waves," the host of this RadioUTD show, Noah Rayburn, can be a bit eccentric. In the short time I chatted with him he told me stories of fish men from Atlantis, hinted at a dark past with the sky people, and shifted his accent and manner of speaking multiple times. That ever-changing feeling is exactly what Noah brings to his show on Wednesdays from 3pm to 6pm, and it's a blast every time.

"Every week my show is kind of different," Noah explained. "Usually I play on tropes or create little stories. This week I'm interviewing my clone... I'm just gonna try to interview myself, switching between these [characters]. I like the Jekyll and Mr. Hyde thing." But Noah doesn't only talk to himself. Rather, he tries to make his show an interactive experience for his listeners, putting out polls and taking questions from the live comments on Radio's website. It feels really personal, hearing your comment read out loud and laughing with him as he riffs on it.

In between comedy skits and character work, Noah plays plenty of ambient, experimental music that feels strange yet familiar. "I like that vaporwave-y type stuff that brings forth these half-formed memories," he said. "I kind of want my show to feel like a fever dream. Like, you're laying on the couch with a 110 degree fever in the middle of summer, and you're not sure if what you just heard actually happened, and you're not sure if that's really your dog or if you're just seeing things."

Noah recalled how he first got into electronica, not directly but through the other music he was interested in at the time. "I guess it goes back to high school... I was vocalist and lead guitar in this crappy grunge band." During his grunge phase he was a fan of Radiohead, which ended up becoming the gateway to the types of soundscapes he plays on his show today. "I heard Thom Yorke babbling about Aphex Twin in an interview, and I checked him out... That was like a dichotomy shift for me, where it was like, 'Whoa, this is a new level of music for me.' Whatever part of my brain that laid dormant there, it activated it."

With that new spark of inspiration, Noah started making his own music under the artist name Nobey One, and since then he's even been signed under an online label. He doesn't stop at music though, also

creating frame-by-frame animations to his songs in MS Paint like a one-man "Fantasia." He figures most people who like weird animations will like weird music, too, and he feels that crossover has definitely helped his growth online. "[The creator of Newgrounds] Tom Fulp, he created video games like 'Castle Crashers' and all this stuff that I grew up playing. He DM'd me saying how much he liked my animations." Impressed, I asked Noah what it feels like now that he's not just an observer, making his own music and art and getting to be a part of these communities he's looked up to for so long. "It's bizarre to see. I think if I showed high school Noah like, 'Hey, people are gonna be writing about you online,' I would have lost my mind."

Despite how important music is to him, Noah's entry into RadioUTD was practically an accident. Noah was hanging out with some of his friends who work at the Mercury, and happened to be in the Student Media office on the day Radio's DJ interviews were ending. Even though he had never officially applied, he decided to ask for an interview. "I think I talked my way into their hearts, because they gave me a chance," Noah laughed. He had been wanting to join Radio for a while, so it was especially lucky. "I like putting together playlists, I like categorizing things, and of course I love music. I also wanted to meet people that were similarly as ecstatic about music as I am, and I got that! These people in Radio, they're fantastic. They all care."

Besides being a DJ, Noah is also the Promotions Manager for Radio, planning their events on campus and taking a particular interest in the Instagram page. "What I've been trying to do is inject personality and flavor and art into it. I treat it like an art project, basically." Noah added that he doesn't see the purpose in making a social media page clinical and impersonal, especially one meant to promote music, which is an art form. He's happy to see all the positive feedback the Instagram has gotten since he started in this position, and has plenty of plans to continue improving it.

When asked about upcoming Radio events he's excited to participate in, Noah immediately knew his answer: the Halloween show. "I think they might use my two and a half hour mix for it, 'cause I put a lot of effort into this mix using dark techno, and a lot of weird dark ambient



that I mixed in. It's definitely the idea of something spooky." He was especially happy about this because Halloween is his favorite holiday. "Oh my God, it's the aesthetics, purely. It's like you get to be something else for a little bit," he whispered conspiratorially.

In the leadup to the best day of the year, Noah has started playing some more ominous songs that he feels fit the Halloween vibe. For example, Autechre's album "EXAI" has been on his show a lot lately. "Those are some spooky-ass tracks," he said with full sincerity. "That stuff is dark, primordial. It sounds like it came out of some kind of alternate dimension, and then it found hip hop and liked it. It's fascinating." The song "Mononucleosis" by Ween is also a recent favorite of his. "That album ['The Pod'] is a bit like taking too much cough syrup, and then you throw up and land face down, and that's how the music sounds." He then clarified this description was definitely a good thing, though I'm not sure any sane person should be as excited by the concept of laying in their own vomit as Noah was.

My biggest takeaway from talking to him was that Noah is such a cool and creative person. He's already accomplished as an artist and he's still growing. I only got to meet him thanks to his involvement in RadioUTD; it's crazy how something like that can bring people together, and Noah seemed to agree:

"Connecting with people [in RadioUTD] like my bud Henry - we've got a collab album that's going to be coming out on a label soon. We're hyped about that. That wouldn't have happened unless I came here."

"IT'S BIZARRE TO SEE.  
I THINK IF I SHOWED HIGH  
SCHOOL NOAH LIKE,  
'HEY, PEOPLE ARE GONNA BE  
WRITING ABOUT YOU ONLINE,'  
I WOULD HAVE LOST MY  
MIND."

## DJ DEETS

### Album on Repeat

"ISS:SA EP" by Gescom, "Does It Look Like I'm Here?" By Emeralds  
"Music Is Rotted One Note" by Squarepusher

### Vibe of Your Show

Dreamlike, fever dream. A low poly room with windows but no doors.

### Favorite Song Played Recently on Your Show

"T Ess Xi" by Autechre, "Bruce Willis Is Dead" by Mr Oizo,  
"Back To Basom" by Ween

### Favorite Character

Saul Goodman. He's such a complex character and seeing a man live out a Shakespearean tragedy spurned by shitting through a car roof is amazing. So many facets to him. Love watching what makes him tick.

### Go-to coffeeshop order

Whatever mop cleaner is in the back.

### Temoc v Enarc

They would kiss.

### Best Pizza Topping

Pepperoni. Anything more is unnecessary.

### Zodiac Sign

Leo. I don't know what that means but it may explain things for some of you.

### Favorite obscure animal

Obsessed with wombats.



# Ratford Rises From the Grave





**Q: Is it okay to think the Grim Reaper is hot?**

A: Who wouldn't? Sure, he's the walking definition of a red flag. However, he does check all my boxes. Tall, pale, bony, and over thirty. My dream guy TBH.

**Q: Is it true there's a secret witches' coven in the sewers under UTD?**

A: One night, my friends and I ate the bad type of moldy cheese. And then, a couple of juniors passed by our sewer hangout and mistook our shrieks of pain due to food poisoning for witches.

**Q: Pumpkin spice, yay or nay?**

A: Most definitely nay, I have standards. Give me tea with five sugars or hot chocolate with extra chocolate.

**Q: What dark sacrifice do I need to make to understand math?**

A: I shouldn't be telling you this, but this is an advice column. Find the math teacher who made you cry the most. Due to the emotional connection, if you sacrifice them during finals, you can absorb all their mathematical knowledge.

Editor's Note: AMP is not responsible for any sacrifices that might occur.

**Q: How to attract hot witches and ghouls to my area? I keep getting anguished souls instead.**

A: See, you're probably using candles instead of lavender incense. Also, try using "Twilight" and Hello Kitty merch as an offering instead of My Chemical Romance and Panic at the Disco.

**Q: What's your favorite scary movie?**

A: Not a movie, but any "Tom and Jerry" cartoon. It's terrifying to see Jerry being abused and chased around by Tom. Although, it is motivational to see a fellow rat getting tossed around but still being able to get up and stick it to a cat. Honestly, I see myself as Jerry. He has such a hustler mindset, just like me. I'm not like these Beta rats. Jerry and I are Sigma male rats.

**Q: I really want to meet a ghost in real life. Where can I find some on campus?**

A: Sadly, UTD isn't dingy enough to have anyone cool be wrongfully and brutally murdered on school premises. So, my recommendation for a fun DIY this Halloween season is being a go-getter and making the first UTD ghost.

Editor's Note: AMP is not responsible for any untimely demises that might occur.

**Q: Everyone gives out candy on Halloween, it's so basic. What should I give out instead to stand out?**

A: Razor blades. People tend to remember when they find razor blades with their candy. You could even end up on the news.

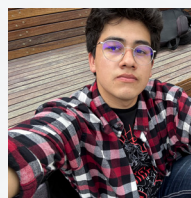
**Q: Who would you contact with a Ouija board?**

A: Finally, an easy question. It would obviously be Hannah Baker from "13 Reasons Why." I need to tell her how dramatic she is (sorry, was) and that Zach didn't deserve to be on the tapes.

**Q: Couple costume ideas?**

A: I do not want to hear or see any couples on my spooky holiday. Halloween is supposed to be scary, when did it become about love and couples' stuff? I'm not sad that I was never in a relationship during the Halloween season or that I never had someone to carve a pumpkin with or take cute autumn pictures with. La di da, let's make Ratford feel bad on his favorite holiday. I'm sure he doesn't mind. I'm sure he won't feel left out. I'm sure he doesn't cry inside every time he sees a hot demon and a sexy priest dress up together. LET US NOT INCLUDE HIM IN OUR COSTUME PARTY. NO GO AHEAD, HAVE FUN WITHOUT ME, YOU LITTLE—

Editor's Note: AMP is not responsible for the actions of Ratford.



**BETO CORTES**

freshman | animation

New to Dallas and excited to be a part of AMP. Can't wait to see how UTD motivates my work.





## The Revealing Nature of Costumes

Halloween has always been considered to be the scariest time of the year. There are ghosts and ghouls, bones and blood, and horror-themed decorations hung everywhere. Although these things may seem scary, Halloween actually gives people the opportunity to express themselves in ways they otherwise never could. Adults and children alike are able to celebrate their differences through their many costumes, whether it be store bought or handmade. Halloween allows people the chance to share their love for a certain fandom, to come to events and socialize in ways they otherwise wouldn't, and to experiment on their true selves through gender affirming costumes wherever they go.

When it comes to sharing interests with others, it can be hard to find what other people are into. Sometimes our interests can be so

niche that we don't even bother seeing if our friends are into them too. However, when it comes to Halloween, people get to wear their love for a certain franchise on their skin. Even if people may not know the franchise, it allows people to be aware of and possibly even look into it. When I was in high school, I made a Papyrus costume from "Undertale," which was my favorite game at the time. Although it was very low quality — I made my boots by covering a pair of old sneakers I had with red duct tape — I remember a friend group at the cafeteria seeing my costume and screaming like a bunch of fangirls. They all wanted to take photos with me and I loved being recognized. Even when my classmates didn't know who I was, some people still asked me about the costume and would look up the game. It made me feel good knowing my costume was drawing interest in people.



Cristina, as a cosplayer, can also relate to the fact how communities can be found through costume wearing, especially on Halloween! As a child, she had an active imagination and an obsession with fantasy worlds. Cristina recently completed a Princess Peach cosplay that she debuted at Galaxycon in Austin. She's excited to showcase this cosplay at all the Halloween events at UTD.

"In my little mind, donning princess dresses and fairy wings was the surest way to become part of those worlds," Cristina says. "It was an expression of what I loved and what I felt was part of my identity."

By participating in the various costume contests on Halloween, it allows Cristina to not only show off her most recent work as a cosplayer, but also find other cosplayers who are just as invested in making and wearing costumes as she is.

Ever since I was a kid, I've always enjoyed putting a smile on people's faces through my costumes without the need of people knowing who I was. With masks being predominant during Halloween time, that also meant giving people the ability to be anonymous at events. As a kid, I asked my parents to buy me an inflatable Baymax costume off of Amazon for Halloween, and with it, I was able to act in character and get noticed without anyone actually knowing who I was. It didn't matter if I was a boy or a girl, young or old, cute or ugly, they simply saw me as Baymax — someone who is kind and fun to be around. I love seeing all the positive reactions that people would get from my costume. No one would ever treat me differently because of who I was. To this day I still cherish this costume and still wear it to a lot of Halloween parties on campus.

Zethin, who often dresses up as his red fox character for Halloween, even to class, feels free to express himself without the fear of being judged or being treated differently. Without his costume, he would've participated in a lot fewer social events.

"Any other day of the year wearing any of it just makes you a weirdo, but this one day everyone is just going all out being silly wearing costumes and it's so fun and freeing!" Zethin said. By wearing his unique costume that Zethin personally identifies with, he also feels less self-conscious when socializing with other people.

Not only do costumes on Halloween allow someone to hide one's identity, it also allows them to experiment with it! With the ability to dress up as characters that the LGBTQ+ community connects with, it allows members of the community to experiment with what truly makes them happy without judgment. River, who identifies themselves as mascandrogynous, dressed up as Red Guy from "Don't Hug Me I'm Scared", who was one of the first characters that made them realize they weren't cisgender. With the ability to cover their face as Red Guy, it provided River the ability to be anonymous, thus preventing anyone from assuming their gender.

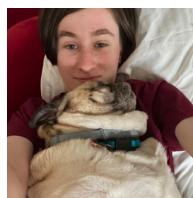
"It was a way for me to explore my gender presentation and expression as well as dressing up as a character I loved," says River. "It was incredible to see how differently I was treated when people couldn't tell if I was a man or woman."

Rosa also takes advantage of Halloween's tradition of costume-wearing to experiment on different outfits. Being already out as transfemale, Rosa has been more willing to try more costumes that fit her comfort zone without the need of being anonymous. Last Halloween, she dressed as a catgirl maid and was able to try out fishnets for the first time. Since she named herself after the "Mario" character Rosalina, she plans on going as Rosalina next Halloween.

"It's a very easy excuse for trying things that you otherwise wouldn't," says Rosa. "Nobody really questions people wearing things not traditionally worn by their assumed gender just because of the nature of the holiday."

As Halloween promotes the idea of unique costumes, people of the LGBTQ+ community don't need to worry about the judgment of colleagues or even family. River was often judged by their parents as a child over what they could wear and was often met with discouraging comments. When it came to costumes for Halloween however, their parents were surprisingly lax. By the time River got away from home and started going to Halloween events on campus, they were able to express themselves to the max.

Halloween is more than just a holiday to occupy the kids and stuff them with candy. Costumes are for adults too just as much as candy is! It is the one time of the year where communities can grow, whether it be in a fandom, in the LGBTQ+ community, or small groups of friends. It allows participants of the holiday to explore themselves in ways they otherwise wouldn't and to make new friends. So, if you're struggling to find yourself and don't know how to go about it, Halloween is the perfect opportunity to search around Spirit Halloween, Party City, or even your own closet and find your thing that clicks!



**VICTORIA STEINER**

junior | psychology

I love all the scrunglies!!!

# Reading into the Past

Ah, those nostalgic days when the FitnessGram PACER test had us dashing across the gym, our sneakers squeaking on the polished floor as we raced against our own breathless hearts. Field trips brought uncharted adventures, with youthful spirits bubbling with anticipation as we boarded the buses, windows framing a world of possibilities beyond. And oh, the holiday-themed parties, where our classrooms transformed into magical realms, twinkling with paper snowflakes and candy canes galore.

But amidst these cherished memories, there stood one tradition that cast a radiant glow of enchantment and nostalgia — the Scholastic Book Fair.

Picture it: a crisp autumn morning, leaves crunching beneath our sneakers as we made our way to the school's bustling library. Colorful posters adorned the walls, each one a preview of the literary adventures that lay ahead. As we stepped through the library doors, it was as though we had entered a portal to a realm where books reigned supreme.

If you went to an American public school, you probably remember that one week every year the book fair took place in your library, gym, or auditorium. Sites like Vox and BuzzFeed have recently put out memorable posts on relatable experiences from the fair that 2000s kids can surely remember, as shown by the high like and comment rates. Prominent YouTubers like NakeyJakey and popular TikTokers like @thekidke\_ and @rebecca.ameyileen have shined a light on the warm memories students and present-day teachers have of the fair, with many of these videos garnering well over 1

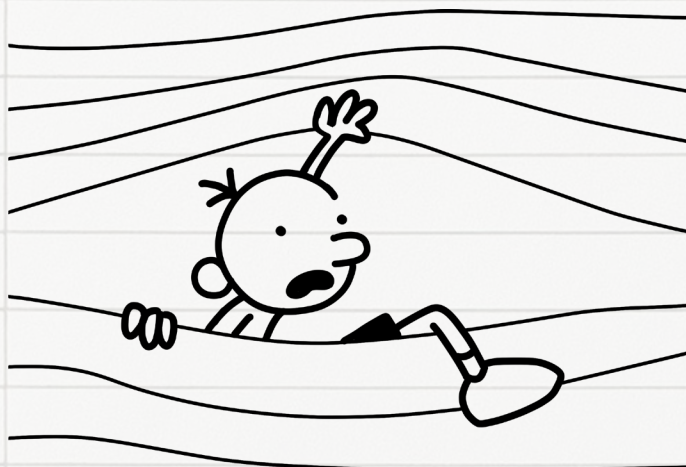
million views. The day of escapism from class, the fun exploring the fair with peers in the library, the enchanting world of books waiting to be discovered — it all made the Scholastic Book Fair a cherished event.

The Book Fair wasn't just a fleeting event, it was a gateway to a world of knowledge and wonder that left a lasting mark on many of us. The fair's unique ability to ignite an unquenchable thirst for reading and appreciation for books is a testament to its enduring charm. I'd argue that bringing book fairs to college campuses has the potential to rekindle a passion for recreational reading and intellectual exploration. Such an event can offer a welcome escape from the demands of academic rigor, creating a space where students can rediscover the joy of reading. Just as the Scholastic Book Fair did during our formative years, college-level fairs could introduce students to a diverse range of literature and ideas. By fostering a culture of reading and curiosity, these fairs can empower students to engage with the world of books and ideas beyond the classroom, enriching their college experience and nurturing a lifelong love for learning.

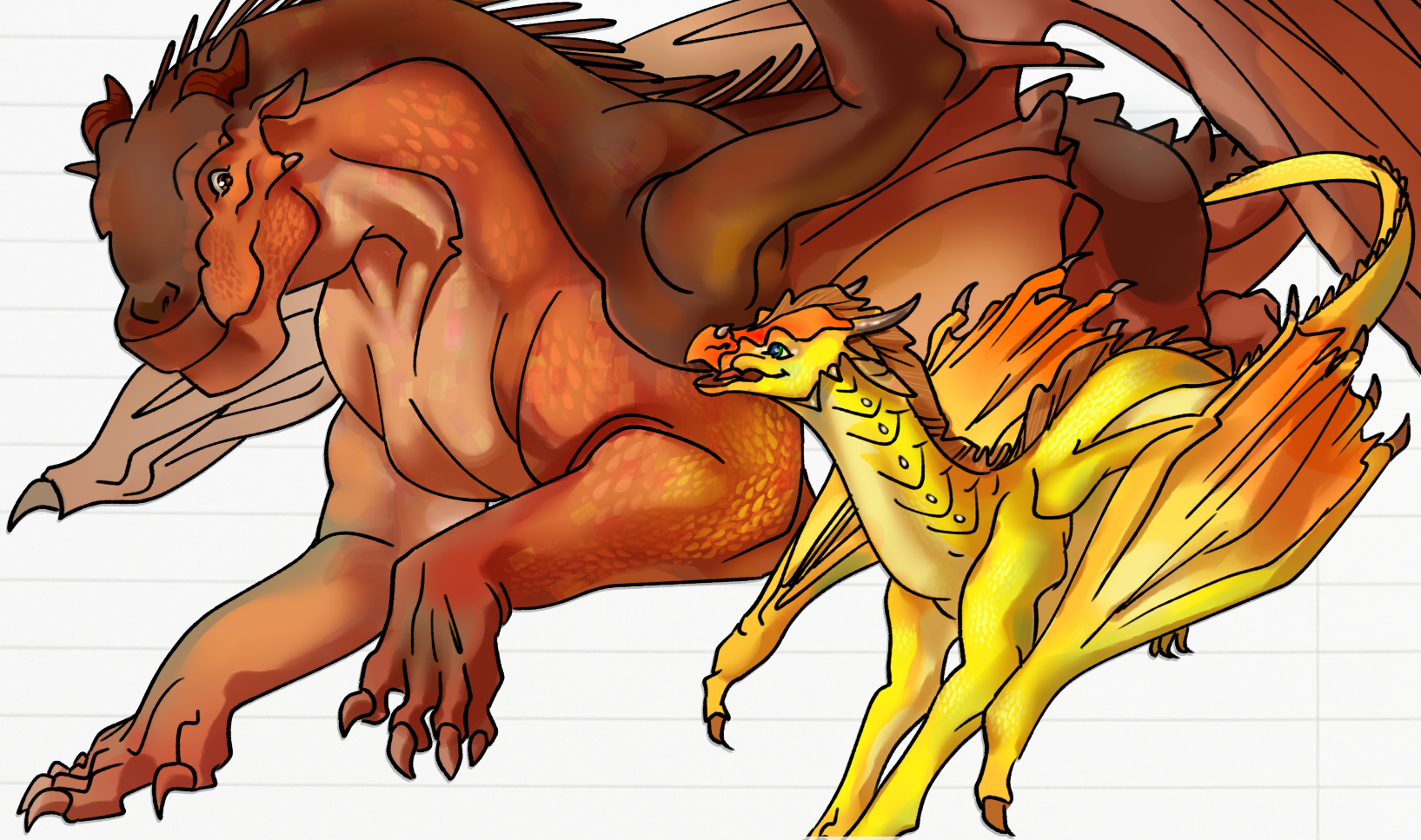
One of the most memorable recurring items at the fair for me was the Guinness Book of World Records, which I would always see students huddled around, fascinated with the vivid illustrations of fun, freaky record-setters. Most kids didn't buy one, but they leafed through the pages of the new edition year after year. Other memorable book series that became a hallmark of the 2000s book fairs included, at least for my peers, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and the *Captain Underpants* series.

Knick-knacks were also a popular purchase at the fairs, and products could range from candy-themed pens to those adorable triple highlighters in the shape of a triangle. I vividly remember those fun but not very functional bendy pencils kids used for max up to a week, but were a worthwhile purchase due to the smiles the bright, neon colored stationary brought to my friends' faces. In addition, there were loads of stickers, fun-shaped erasers, bookmarks, journals, jewelry, board games, art supplies, puzzles, magnets, calendars, you name it.

The Book Fair was more than just an event; it was pure joy. Scanning books, discovering unique trinkets, and exploring the world of stationery with friends created unforgettable moments. Yet, the magic didn't end there—it extended to the pre-book fair catalog. Who can forget those beautifully illustrated catalogs, each product accompanied by an order form at the back? For many kids,







it marked the first time they ordered a product themselves — with their parents' approval, of course!

I fell in love with the YA series *Matched* by Ally Condie and collected the entire book series over the coming years. I still remember the cover which captured my attention the day I walked into the book fair in the fourth grade. The cover was a simple but striking image of a young woman, Cassia Reyes, trapped inside a glass orb, wearing a beautiful lime green dress. The orb was perfectly clear, but there were small cracks in it, suggesting that Cassia is not truly free. With each new installment, the book covers would transform, mirroring Cassia's evolution. The glass orb, once a prison, would be shattered over the next two book covers, symbolizing her triumphant escape from the stifling bonds of a repressive world. The poetic nature of the series, as her story unfolded, left a mark on me during my elementary years and ignited a deep appreciation for literature that delves into the complexities of freedom and self-expression. The book still elicits feelings of wonder and magic in me, especially as a burgeoning dystopian YA fan (*The Hunger Games* would consume my conversations with friends the upcoming year).

I remember how the Book Fair had a profound impact on my classmates. It led them to become avid fans of book series. It kindled lasting interests in genres like YA dystopian fiction, science fiction, endearing coming of age stories, and even sparked a love for eccentric chronicles like the *Guinness Book of World Records*. The Book Fair had a remarkable ability to awaken an unwavering thirst for reading and a profound appreciation for the world of books. In today's fast-paced college world, recreational reading has taken a backseat, and it's time to bring back that sense of wonder and exploration.

As we reminisce about the Scholastic Book Fair's enchantment, it's worth considering an idea: Why should the magic be limited to elementary schools? Imagine if colleges and universities hosted their own Scholastic-style book fairs. It could provide a welcomed break from the rigors of higher education and reignite that passion for reading and learning that many of us experienced in our youth. Just as the Book Fair kindled the spark of curiosity in elementary school, a college-level fair could help students rediscover the joy of reading amidst their busy schedules. Expanding on the idea of bringing the Scholastic Book Fair experience to college campuses, it's essential to recognize the profound impact this tradition had on our formative years.

Let's advocate for the introduction of Scholastic-style book fairs on college campuses. The prospect of blending nostalgia with intellectual growth could enrich the college experience. Who wouldn't want a bit of nostalgia and a wealth of learning during their college years? It's time for college students to unlock the enchantment of the Book Fair and rediscover the joy of reading amidst the demands of their academic lives.



**SAMRAH KHAN**

senior | political science

Serious about change, but never too serious for a laugh



# Horror Movie Trailers SUCK and Need to Leave Me Alone

Greetings, everyone, I hope you have all been enjoying a spectacular spooky season. The impending horrors of Halloween are once again nigh, and to celebrate this haunted holiday, I've decided to share a scary story of my own...

This tale begins about two months ago, back in mid-August. One day, a couple of friends of mine had asked if I wanted to see the movie "Oppenheimer" with them. I had already seen it once before at the time, but having greatly enjoyed it, I was eager for a re-watch. So there I was, out with my friends, ready to watch a movie I like, sitting snugly in a comfy reclining seat in the middle of a giant IMAX theater. It seemed like a very nice time, and I was happy.

And then the trailer for "The Exorcist: Believer" played.

Oh, the horror! There I was, utterly helpless in my seat, watching as the massive screen rapidly flickered with ghosts and gore, going dark, light, black-and-white, and getting up in my face, all while the booming speakers delivered a cacophony of ear-piercing shrieks accompanied by horrible wailing music. It was absolutely mortifying! Now, I'm not a particularly squeamish person — I wasn't afraid of being in any real danger — and the trailer really only lasted a few minutes. But absolutely none of that actually matters. At the end of the day, there simply is no getting around the inherent unpleasantness of this scenario. I was left feeling uncomfortable, annoyed, and thinking to myself: Why? And unfortunately, this was not an isolated experience. I've had the displeasure of having to sit through this ordeal time and time again, and countless other movie-goers are forced to endure it every passing day. Worst of all, this unpleasantness is merely the tip of an iceberg of problems.

The fact is, horror movie trailers are all the same, and they SUCK. And I'm about to pinpoint all the reasons why.

#1. They're formulaic: Allow me to recap your average trailer. You start off quiet with some ominous music, out-of-context shots, and odd imagery. Then people start talking. They could be happy, in a futile attempt to mislead the viewers, or maybe they're all vague and cryptic. They begin referring to some spooky things, the music starts building up, then... cut to silence. Suddenly, JUMP-SCARE! Then a quick, scary montage with loud music plays as the audience watches jumpscare after jumpscare, blah blah blah. It's all been done to death, and at a certain point you know exactly how it's going to go. That trailer for "The Exorcist" I've been mentioning? It went exactly like this. Weird shots, vague dialogue, allusions to things like missing children and demonic possession (the usual), and then it sets off a loud series of screams and scares that kind of just... gets continuously more obnoxious and forgets to stop. The repetitiveness has gotten to the point where viewers have been trained to anticipate jumpscare, and to do their best to endure the annoyingly loud screams and music. The result is an experience that, while still uncomfortable, fails to actually impress or horrify, instead coming off as stale and unoriginal.

#2. They're a disservice to the movie: Want to know an issue with showing off a movie's jumpscare in the trailer? You're showing off the movie's jumpscare in the trailer. You know, the big moments that are supposed to be unexpected and shocking. If a future viewer is watching one of these trailers, then at best they're going to already be accustomed with the type of scares awaiting them in the full movie, and at worst they're going to be able to predict exactly when they happen. Other trailers like to outright flaunt whatever creatures or killers are in their movies, and



some even like to show glimpses of character deaths. Now, one could make the argument that this is simply an inevitable part of advertising, that the very existence of a movie trailer means that a few things are going to be spoiled to some degree. This is true to an extent — after all, trailers are inherently designed to entice viewers with the premise, direction, or ideas presented by a film, meaning the viewer obviously won't be going in completely blind. The issue here, however, is that the horror genre specifically is much more reliant on the tension, mystery, and shock that a bad trailer ruins. What kind of mysterious threat is lurking in the shadows? Is this character going to live or die? And are we really safe right now, or is a shrieking monster about to lunge at the camera from nowhere, throwing everything into chaos? Who knows?

...The audience would, should the trailer choose to show them all that stuff beforehand.

#3. They're just unpleasant: Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that an advertisement for a horror movie should be all happy and uplifting, but I've already discussed how a lot of these trailers aren't really great at being original or horrific. What they are great at, however, is being chock-full of stressful sensory stimulation. Why be remotely clever or subtle with your audiences when you can just hit them with a chaotic bombardment of monsters and gore, complete with booming audio guaranteed to leave them distressed and deafened? Perhaps these trailers would be more palatable if one was watching them online or on a TV, but in the middle of a big, dark theater, they become overwhelming.

#4. They aren't for everyone, and yet they're everywhere: Finally, the fact is that horror is an acquired taste, and a genre that many people would just rather avoid. These people can choose whether or not to see a horror movie, but the same concept can't be applied to these trailers. After all, audiences can't pick and choose what trailers they get before a movie, and horror trailers can play before just about anything rated PG-13 or R, in front of just about anyone. This becomes especially troublesome when you factor in the prevalence of certain sensory issues and preferences. For instance, plenty of people are especially bothered by sudden loud noises, or particularly disturbed by visual depictions of gore. Now say they go see some comedy or superhero movie, and a horror trailer full of sudden loud noises, violence, and death starts playing. There's no doubt that it would be a highly uncomfortable experience for them, and there's little they can do about it.

Now, I don't hate the horror genre itself. On the contrary, I love it. Well, it's more of a love-hate relationship, seeing as horror movies usually succeed at leaving me trembling in

my seat. But horror TRAILERS? No love, all hate. They're too formulaic, too excessively obnoxious with their sounds and visuals, they love to spoil the actual scares, and they never fail to worm their way into countless screenings of completely unrelated movies playing everywhere.

All in all, horror movie trailers suck, and they need to leave me alone. Serious action must be taken about this ASAP, before countless more people suffer at the hands of obnoxiously bad horror trailers. In the meantime, however, I urge everyone going to the theaters to be smart, be safe, and BE CAREFUL. Thank you, and have a Happy Halloween.



**RAYHAN YOUNAS**

junior | psychology

Currently hard at work procrastinating



# CANDY AND CAPITALISM

Every year as October comes around, people begin to prepare for this autumnal holiday that traditionally marked the end of the harvest season. Low budget and poor quality horror movies are released, candy starts to be sold with more orange packaging, and stores begin to fill up with so-called Halloween-themed decorations. But none of this truly gets at the essence of the holiday. Don't get me wrong, I appreciate the twelve-foot Home Depot skeleton just as much as any person should (which means I adore it), but the kind of mindless consumption encouraged by the companies that now dominate our perceptions of social events like Halloween will never be enough. Capitalism steals my bones by stripping this holiday of its uniqueness, and in their place it wants to give me the faux plastic bones of banality present in every modern holiday. I will not stand for this indignity. Halloween should be thrilling and macabre, yet there is nothing spooky about merely buying costumes and candy.

## Halloween Today

Halloween today is little more than a gaudy and wasteful day in which people buy large amounts of individually wrapped treats, single use costumes, and plastic adornments. Spending for Halloween is its main driving factor. In 2022 alone Americans spent over \$10.6 billion on Halloween; what the people of the US spent for this one night celebration is roughly equivalent to the entire annual GDP of the nation of Chad. \$3 billion of this spending was focused on just candy, that is an amount spent on candy which is 46 times as large as the annual GDP of Tuvalu. Advertisements which appropriate the ideals of Halloween are released in a constant banal sludge every spooky season. Corporations, through targeted and prolonged ad campaigns, have transformed this once bone chilling celebration into but another money grinder.

In a similar vein, the media released surrounding Halloween has somehow become the most inane and unsatisfying repeats of the

same films over and over for decades. Film franchises like that of The Conjuring, Saw, Halloween, and Paranormal Activity release movie after movie that ultimately all just do the same thing ad infinitum with no real creative exploration simply because producers know this kind of film will make money. They not only disappoint as horror films, but they sully the concept of Halloween films. Halloween currently appears to be an ode to consumerism, but it can be so much more than just consumption.

## Halloween of Yore

Samhain is an ancient Celtic festival that was celebrated at the end of the Celtic year and coincided approximately with October 31st. Samhain was the end of the harvest season, and it was the beginning of winter— a season of death and decay. It was believed by the Celts that during this transition into winter, evil spirits were able to roam the Earth once more. Groups in Britain believed that fire warded away spirits, and as such, large bonfires in which those gathered exchanged stories and partied were held to keep ghosts away while still having fun. The Celts also believed that the use of strange disguises would confuse malevolent entities and as such, keep them safe. Food was also a major part of this celebration as offerings would be left out to appease the traveling spirits of the night. Through the passage of time, conquest, and cultural assimilation, the festival of Samhain would eventually become what we call Halloween.

It was predominantly through the efforts of the Catholic church to subdue pagan beliefs that the holiday would be morphed and eventually given the name we associate with it today. As was common practice of the Catholic church throughout its history, it subsumed the local holidays and costumes of the people to which it proselytized— and Samhain was no exception. Pope Gregory III designated November 1st as All Saints Day. Saints in the Catholic church were considered to be holy or hallowed individuals, and the 31st of October started being referred to as All Hallows Eve, which overshadowed the pagan tradition of Samhain. Despite this, many of the same rituals stayed a part of the “new” holiday being introduced. It's almost like they took an existing festival and gave it a new name. As the centuries went on, people got tired of saying All Hallows Eve everytime they wanted to have a fun spooky time, and the name eventually transformed into Hallows Eve and finally Halloween.

While the name Halloween might be relatively new, the celebration itself is millenia old. Consequently, there is a wide variety of variations in the traditions associated with Halloween and its related festivals. In France, it is typical for children to use





flowers and money to decorated tombstones; in Germany, people hide their knives so that ghosts with grudges against them have fewer weapons; in Mexico, people visit cemeteries, create altars, and recite prayers; and in Sweden, children get a week off school while adults have shorter work days during the week of Alla Helgons (All Saints).

Halloween is an incredibly diverse and storied celebration. However, with the advent of capitalism, monetization of every aspect of this event has become the predominant approach to this fascinating festival worldwide as even the most fascinating practices quietly wither away under the boot of American cultural hegemony.

## Halloween 2.0

Halloween is dead, and we have killed it. This does not mean, however, that we can't redesign something spectacular in its place. We ought to make something creepy and novel to fill the void present here, a Halloween 2.0. Our current social structures make it nigh impossible to circumvent consumerism in every holiday, but because Halloween is the objectively most interesting holiday, we ought to put more effort into our approach towards reconstructing it. I, for one, think that Halloween should be absurd and full of creativity. It should be a time to do weird things on the basis that you are simply defending yourself against ghosts. What better justification is there to start hiding all of your utensils while

covering your table corners with stuffed animals than that of "evil spirits are coming for me"? The response is easy because there is no better or spookier justification. Do not simply procure the twelve-foot giant skeleton from Home Depot, but work cooperatively with your friends and random strangers to develop a story for this skeleton while you perhaps decorate it in its own disguise to hide it from evil spirits. Cover yourself in mud and run around in a forest for the night as you search out lost souls seeking a way out of this world. Consult frogs on how to put a jinx on your friends. Do all of this and more as you let your imagination run wild. We should embrace the strangeness of Halloween and demand that everything about it be both magnificent or perfectly terrible. Films, stories, and events alike should all embrace the strangeness of this Frankenstein of a holiday. We should not settle for less when it comes to such an important holiday.

Halloween is the best holiday and we ought not allow its good name to be besmirched by merch. Capitalism has been stealing our metaphorical spooky bones for far too long, and it is high time that we embraced the extravagance, eccentricity, and esoteric aspects of this storied festivity. I will be engaging in as much spooky behavior as I can this year because I personally don't want to be stabbed by grudge-holding Central European ghosts. And I strongly encourage you to do the same this season.



### GREGORIO OLIVARES G.

freshman | political science and philosophy

How can I know that I am me when the perception of self I hold seems to be so malleable? Rather easily, I liked mangoes yesterday and I continue to like them today.



# I Watched VeggieTales So You Don't Have To

The year is 1993. Two guys from the Midwest with big dreams and little to no money conceptualize a brilliant idea: animating a series of short films about talking vegetables that teach children about the Lord. Today we're lucky enough to bear witness to the adventures of one tomato and one cucumber who remain unrivaled in Christian children's programming. Their names are Bob and Larry, and I watched almost 15 hours of them so you don't have to.

To clarify, the two aforementioned midwestern guys are the creators of "VeggieTales," a computer animated cartoon about anthropomorphized vegetables that aims to teach children moral lessons found in the Bible. The creators' names are Phil Vischer and Mike Nawrocki, both of whom are well-rounded people in their fields. They each have experience writing, directing, animating, and voice acting in their own productions. It's for these reasons that "VeggieTales" was able to get off the drawing board and onto our televisions. I could speak at length about the inception of "VeggieTales" and the rise and fall of Big Idea Productions — the studio that produced it — but we don't have time for that. Instead, I'll be pitting these films against each other in a battle royale to see which ones come out on the top shelf and which ones stay shoved in the back of the crisper drawer.

Before we begin, I want to clarify something. This started as a personal mission to watch and rate every single "VeggieTales"

film as a way of celebrating the series' 30th anniversary. Unfortunately, there are 43 "VeggieTales" films in total. I'm a guy with two jobs pursuing a college degree, so I'm sorry to report that I did not watch 43 films about talking vegetables in less than two weeks. Instead, I narrowed down my watchlist to films with a runtime of 50 minutes or more. This resulted in a list of 16 films, running over 800 minutes in total. In unrelated news, I have re-succumbed to my catholic roots.

To save on time, I'll only be rating the five best and worst films. I'm also recommending the top five as essential viewing for any "VeggieTales" fan, old or new. I reviewed these on a scale of 1-10 and considered three factors: humor, relevancy, and silly songs. Humor indicates the quality of the jokes — are they funny to people other than Christian children between the ages of 5-10? (Disclaimer: I can only attest if they're funny to a 24-year-old ex-catholic, you'll have to use your own discretion if you aren't in that demographic). Relevancy means how well the films themselves hold up — did the references age well? Are the stories relatable? And finally, the silly songs. Oh boy, the silly songs. If you're unaware, "VeggieTales" is known for its vast array of silly songs, most of which are sung by Larry the Cucumber. A silly song's quality can make or break a "VeggieTales" film's chances of getting on the leaderboard. With all this in mind, let's get started!



(Side note: Almost all of these film titles are vegetable puns on already existing media. You have been warned.)

## Into the Drawer with Ye:

### 5. Saint Nicholas: A Story of Joyful Giving (2009) - 6/10

This one isn't a bad "VeggieTales" film, but it's not their most exciting Christmas special. It tells the origin of Saint Nicholas and how he became Santa, although it's fictionalized to the point where I'm not sure if any of it is historically accurate. The moral lesson revolved around generosity, which is basic as far as Christmas stories go. The silly song wasn't too strong either and featured a CGI dog that bordered on uncanny at times. Truly a middle-of-the-road "VeggieTales" film. If you're looking for one of their better Christmas specials, consider watching "The Toy that Saved Christmas" or "The Star of Christmas."

### 4. Celery Night Fever (2014) - 5/10

When I first read the title of this film, I was excited! A veggie-fied version of "Saturday Night Fever?" Sign me up! Unfortunately, the title has little to do with the actual content of the film. The story revolved around two children, Laura Carrot and Junior Asparagus, who made it their mission to save Celery Park from getting demolished by reuniting Laura's grandfather's band to play a show there. At the very least I thought that we'd get to hear some disco music, but no, we don't even get that. It's all pop except for one moment in the middle of the film where Archibald the Asparagus' character plays a disco instrumental with his orchestral ensemble. That's it. The one highlight is that we meet a new character, a venture capitalist onion named Bruce who's voiced by Terry Crews. If you want to watch a more riveting story about getting the band back together and saving the day, just go watch the Love Händel episode of Phineas and Ferb instead.

### 3. Sumo of the Opera (2004) - 5/10

I wish I didn't feel the need to put this one so low on the list, because it was funny, and I enjoyed it! The most glaring issue is that it's aged worse than other "VeggieTales" films. The overarching theme of the film was persistence. It featured three stories that were loosely connected to each other — one was a silent film, one was about the origin of St. Patrick's Day, and the other was a musical about sumo wrestling — but overall, the whole thing felt chaotic and disjointed. The main story featured Larry the Cucumber and Apollo Gourd as sumo wrestlers, which isn't a bad premise at all, except for





the fact that Apollo Gourd is... yellow. Yeah. Not to mention they did a blaccent (i.e., a non-Black person using AAVE, or African American Vernacular English) for a minor character in that same story. Additionally, they wouldn't stop dissing Paganism in the St. Patrick's Day story. Although this film is sprinkled with a fair amount of cultural ignorance, it has its humorous moments.

## 2. Pistachio: The Little Boy That Woodn't (2010) - 5/10

We're getting to the bottom of the barrel now. I wasn't sure where to put this one in the rankings, mostly because its only sin is being boring. So boring in fact, that I don't have much to say about it. As the title suggests, this film is a retelling of the story of "Pinocchio." Because of that, you'd think the moral lesson would be not to lie, right? Well, sort of. This

one was a Father's Day special, so the overarching moral was to listen to your parents, specifically your dad. Now there's nothing inherently wrong with that message, but throughout the film I just kept thinking "Man, what if your dad sucks? What then?" And get this, it's the only "VeggieTales" film that I watched without a silly song! To the crisper drawer with you!

## 1. Twas the Night Before Easter (2011) - 4/10

Finally, my least favorite "VeggieTales" film so far. I'm sure this isn't the VERY worst one since there were 27 films that weren't covered in this ranking, but it was the one that I had the least amount of fun watching. Its cardinal sin was, predictably, the fact that it was extraordinarily boring. The entire film had a predictable "We gotta save the local theater!" storyline, where the main characters weren't particularly compelling, the music was so-so, and the ending wasn't interesting enough to justify the rest of the story to me. The silly song was just okay, its one selling point being that the two French peas, Jean Claude and Phillippe, got to run the show. Also, Archibald was there so I wouldn't call it irredeemable. Anyway, don't bother with this one. You aren't missing anything by skipping it.

## The Freshest of the Fresh:

### 5. Beauty and the Beet (2014) - 8/10

Now onto the good stuff! A loose reimagining of "The Beauty and the Beast," this film's moral lesson focused on extending kindness to those who don't do the same to you. The story followed a family of traveling musicians who got stranded at an old, dilapidated inn during a snowstorm. The inn's owner, Mr. Beet, was very grouchy and continually mistreated the film's main character, Mirabelle. Throughout the film, Mirabelle continually showed kindness to Mr. Beet and the two of them gradually developed an adorable friendship and restored the inn to its former glory. The silly song in the middle of the film featured Larry singing about how his great great great (etc.) grandparents invented macaroni and cheese. Altogether it's an extremely cute and satisfying film, with fantastic music to boot.

### 4. Veggies in Space: The Fennel Frontier (2014) - 8/10

An homage to the science fiction genre in MY vegetable cartoon?! That's right, the whole film was full of cheeky references to sci-fi media such as "Doctor Who," "Star Trek," and "2001: A Space Odyssey," which was surreal coming from a bunch of talking Christian vegetables. The film even opened with a mech fight (i.e., a battle between two giant





robots), which made me wonder if someone in the writer's room was a "Gundam" fan. The moral lesson focused on greed, and how learning to share makes everything easier for everyone. The silly song featured three space cowboys wrangling increasingly large asteroids on rocket-powered horses. Overall, I'm glad that the newer "VeggieTales" films are just as entertaining as the older ones.

### 3. The Penniless Princess (2012) - 8/10

This one surprised me. I didn't expect a retelling of Frances Hodgson Burnett's novel "A Little Princess" to hit me so hard in the heartstrings, but it did. The film's moral was about showing kindness no matter what hardships you face. At one point the protagonist, Sara, was forced to cope with the death of her father while overseas and it got surprisingly somber — she was suddenly plunged into poverty and the film touched slightly on class conflict, which once again felt surreal being depicted with talking vegetables. On a brighter note, the silly song was about two girls using increasingly ridiculous 2000's-era texting slang to proclaim their friendship and love for one another. Fantastic stuff.

### 2. The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything (2008) - 9/10

One of only two feature length "VeggieTales" films with a theatrical release, "The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything" was a flop in theaters, but it's a bop in my heart. I saw this one on the big screen as a kid and loved it. It's a standard pirate story which surprisingly doesn't have any references to the Bible in it whatsoever. Three heroes (Larry, Mr. Lunt, and Pa Grape) embark on a rescue mission to save the king's children after getting fired from their day jobs. The film features a cover of the B-52's song "Rock Lobster," so it's automatically in the winner's circle for that reason alone. The other reason is because they let my favorite character, Archibald, wear a frilly cravat tie with his costume and he looks unbelievably cute. Coincidentally, Archibald wears cute costumes in nearly all of the films that made the top five list and no, that didn't influence my ratings whatsoever, stop looking at me like that.

### 1. Jonah (2002) - 9/10

At last, the winner. The Christian vegetable film to end all Christian vegetable films. A comedic retelling of the prophet Jonah's story, this film has it all: slapping people with dead fish as capital punishment, gospel choirs singing inside of a whale's stomach, a talking caterpillar who's also a Persian rug salesperson. I really can't do this film justice with words alone; you need to watch it to fully understand what I'm talking about. Among "VeggieTales" fans, "Jonah" is seen as the film that sank Big Idea Productions (no pun intended), and while the issue is a little more complicated than that, it

did accelerate the studio's untimely demise according to co-creator Phil Vischer. Think of it like vegetable Icarus flying too close to the sun and burning his little vegetable wings on the production costs that came with creating and marketing a 14-million-dollar movie. Truly a modern-day tragedy. On the bright side, Archibald portrays Jonah in this film so if you want to hear his voice actor (who also happens to be Phil Vischer) do an atrociously goofy British accent for 83 minutes then you're in for a treat!

To veggie wrap this up, although some people may have heard me griping about almost exclusively watching Christian children's media for 2 weeks straight, I had a fantastic time. Even the "VeggieTales" films that ranked the lowest still had some value to them — there wasn't a single film I watched that didn't get a mildly amused exhale out of me. While there weren't any moral and/or biblical lessons conveyed here, I do think there's one lesson to come away with: "VeggieTales" has still got it. It's a charming series that's held up remarkably well in the 30 years it's been around, and I believe that even folks without a single drop of Christianity in their background can enjoy it.



### MICKEY DOLPHIN

junior | atec

Bloodborne (2015) made me transgender but not in a way that's comprehensible







# Once You Go Greek, You Don't Go Back

'Sup fellow Bromets, the name's Chaz Hollister, president of Delta Sigma Chi-Square Alpha, the raddest party frat on campus. Now, it's already October, but I'm still hearing freshies at the Plinth complain that UTD's social life is dead. And this saddens me dudes, my dad didn't buy three new buildings and get rid of Green parking in the garage just so people can call this place lame!

See broski, the thing is no one advertises their parties. That's lame, and UT Dallas is never lame. You've gotta have the know-how if you want to get in on the action. With the help of my nine years of undergrad party experience I've put together a step-by-step guide to give you the best tips and tricks on finding the hottest underground party on campus this October!

1. Get dressed! Guys, you gotta know this combo: blue button-up shirt (first five buttons unbuttoned of course), pastel shorts, backwards snapback, Wal-Mart aviators, and you're ready to haul out and ball out. Ladies, get a shirt or dress or shoes or something.

2. Have some food. Parties last a while, so you gotta have something in your stomach to keep the vibes going. Dining Hall pizza or the half-eaten Takis bag under your bed work best.

TEMOC TIP: Say goodbye to your roommates. They'll join you at the party later.

3. There'll be a Tobor waiting for you outside. It's your one-way ticket to Party Town! Start following it.

4. Hear that, my Partido Compadre? That's right, you don't hear anything. Everyone is asleep or heading to the party. But you, my friend, you are wide awake. If you meet someone, don't tell them where you're going. They must find the party for themselves first.

5. You'll arrive at that unnamed building you've passed a million times but never been in with the too-high windows and too-low doors. There's a statue outside with a smile too wide with the teeth too long. This is a secret way of saying there is a party inside.

6. There's a line. You will not recognize the others in it, join them. Do not speak. Speak, and you ruin the party.

TEMOC TIP: You will select a mask. Choose one that matches your inner self. Place it on your face and adjust to your new breathing pattern.

7. The doors will open and you will enter. Single-file makes the process swift. The groove is bumping, but resist the urge to dance. You will dance at the party soon. The walls may start moving. Do not be alarmed. This is a normal symptom of the groove.

8. This is a very exclusive party. There will be things that want to stop you from attending. You are a party animal. Do not stop running. Do not turn your head. Do not look in the mirrors. Do not speak. These are the ways that you become a buzzkill. Other people in the line will become buzzkills. They were not meant for the party. Ignore them.

Something is behind you. Do not look back, it isn't there. Surrender to the whispers, it knows what you want, what you've always craved. Let it guide you to the party.

10. You will reach a door that looks strange. Open it and walk down the hallway. You will reach a door that looks strange. Open it and walk down the hallway. You will reach a door that looks strange. Open it and fall.

11. Down. Down. Down.

12. It's all around you now. Feel it go into your eyes and fill your lungs. Shiver in time with the music. You're almost ready to party.

13. Do you remember your sixth birthday? When you blew into the party horn until your mouth ached and wrapping paper shredded up wishes and the wax dripped from the half dozen candles and filled each slice and throat and

14. You remember high school. Blood-red Solo cups pour the stuff into choking stomachs and the shouting over karaoke freestyles and backyard conversations in the twilight summer and the endless daze of ragers, kickbacks, sleepovers, baptisms, confessions and

15. Your burial on a Tuesday afternoon. When the burrowers start to eat through formaldehyde and you are nothing but a carved rock on fresh dirt they will gather in a house draped in black where there will be catered feasts and laughter as you wail and gnash and turn to rot six feet under but for the moment you are gone except for

TEMOC TIP: Party time.

16. Almost there. Feel the crowd push and pull around you. You are a mote of sand in the ocean of vibe. What's your name/year/major/hometown? Irrelevant. You are only here for one thing. You breathe in neon and exhale strobe.

17. Tear away the niceties and convention and the four year plan. You are a party animal. Headbang prostrate on an altar of goodie bags and viscera. You are a party animal. Can you feel it? It's been there since your baby shower, your post-graduation celebration, your dorm ice cream social. You are a party animal. There is a deejay beat under the birthday skin and balloon string veins. You are a party animal.

18. Peel it back and embrace the party within you.

And just like that, you made it to the function, my hombre! Told ya campus life wasn't dead. Kick back, relax, and party on til the stars burn out. Catch you on the flip, my guy!

TEMOC TIP: Remember to stay hydrated!



**RYAN GABRILLO**

freshman | supply chain management  
It's-a me, Gabrillo.



by: you :)



You made this mischief.

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