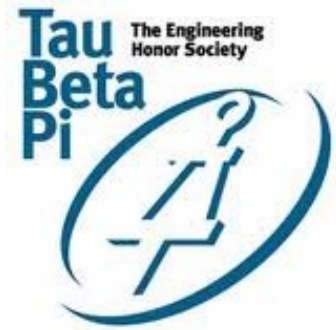


# The Cornerstone



Volume 12, Issue 3

10/22/2013

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## A Letter From the Editor

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### Important Dates:

*All meetings start at 6:30pm in 1013 DOW (unless otherwise noted)*

- *Electees/Actives II — Tuesday, Nov. 5*
- *Third Actives (Actives Only) - Tuesday, Nov. 12*
- *Initiation — Saturday Dec. 7, 4pm 1500 EECS*
- *Banquet—Saturday, Dec. 7, 5:30pm Campus Inn*

**I**t's almost Halloween!!!

Ok. Maybe I'm the only one who finds this holiday totally awesome. I have to admit that I love dressing up and getting scared out of my wits, so that's probably it. Otherwise, if you're not as big of a fan of Halloween, it's Fall now! Can you feel it, it's getting pretty cold. I heard today it was supposed to snow, even! (Not cool)

I hope everyone had a relaxing fall break, and didn't have to work too hard studying for the inevitable mid-terms. But if you did something fun and worth writing about, be sure to think about putting something in The Cornerstone. The Cornerstone, however, now has been revamped and will contain articles from the web, so if you find something on the internet that would be interesting to share with the rest of TBP be sure to send it in!

Email me ([TBPhistorian@umich.edu](mailto:TBPhistorian@umich.edu))! You can provide articles/comics/puzzles/etc. If you have any questions send it along, and I can give you feedback.

Sincerely,  
Your Historian,  
Gina Calco

## Halloween Superstitions

[www.history.com](http://www.history.com)

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Halloween has always been a holiday filled with mystery, magic and superstition. It began as a Celtic end-of-summer festival during which people felt especially close to deceased relatives and friends. For these friendly spirits, they set places at the dinner table, left treats on doorsteps and along the side of the road and lit candles to help loved ones find their way back to the spirit world. Today's Halloween ghosts are often depicted as more fearsome and malevolent, and our customs and superstitions are scarier too. We avoid crossing paths with black cats, afraid that they might bring us bad luck. This idea has its roots in the Middle Ages, when many people believed that witches avoided detection by turning themselves into cats. We try not to walk under ladders for the same reason. This superstition may have come from the ancient Egyptians, who believed that triangles were sacred; it also may have something to do with the fact that walking under a leaning ladder tends to be fairly unsafe. And around Halloween, especially, we try to avoid breaking mirrors, stepping on cracks in the road or spilling salt.

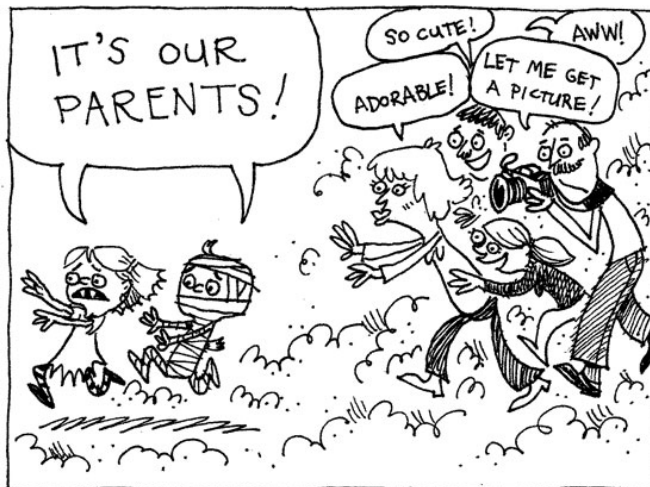
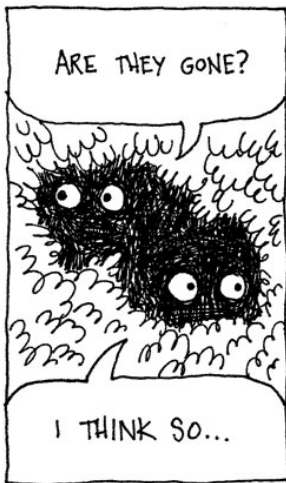
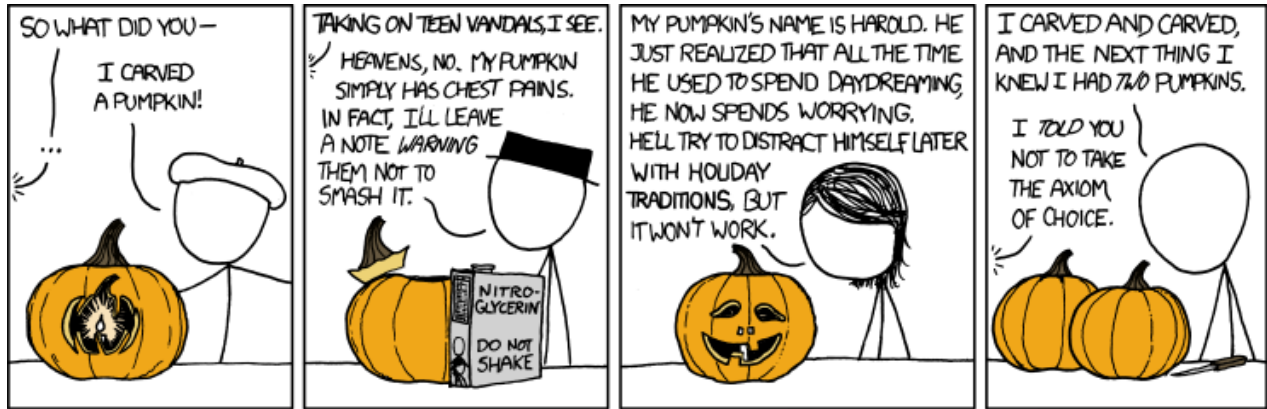
But what about the Halloween traditions and beliefs that today's trick-or-treaters have forgotten all about? Many of these obsolete rituals focused on the future instead of the past and the living instead of the dead. In particular, many had to do with helping young women identify their future husbands and reassuring them that they would someday—with luck, by next Halloween—be married. In 18th-century Ireland, a matchmaking cook might bury a ring in her mashed potatoes on Halloween night, hoping to bring true love to the diner who found it. In Scotland, fortune-tellers recommended that an eligible young woman name a hazelnut for each of her suitors and then toss the nuts into the fireplace. The nut that burned to ashes rather than popping or exploding, the story went, represented the girl's future husband. (In some versions of this legend, confusingly, the opposite was true: The nut that burned away symbolized a love that would not last.) Another tale had it that if a young woman ate a sugary concoction made out of walnuts, hazelnuts and nutmeg before bed on Halloween night she would dream about her future husband. Young women tossed apple-peels over their shoulders, hoping that the peels would fall on the floor in the shape of their future husbands' initials; tried to learn about their futures by peering at egg yolks floating in a bowl of water; and stood in front of mirrors in darkened rooms, holding candles and looking over their shoulders for their husbands' faces. Other rituals were more competitive. At some Halloween parties, the first guest to find a burr on a chestnut-hunt would be the first to marry; at others, the first successful apple-bobber would be the first down the aisle.

Of course, whether we're asking for romantic advice or trying to avoid seven years of bad luck, each one of these Halloween superstitions relies on the good will of the very same "spirits" whose presence the early Celts felt so keenly.



# Halloween Comedy

[www.xkcd.com](http://www.xkcd.com)



<http://cloudyco.com>

### Sudoku Puzzles

9	3	7			1	4	6	
	8		2	7		5		
				9		7	3	
			6		4		1	3
		2						
4	9		7				2	
5					2			7
1		9		8			4	
		6	1					



3	6		5	4	9		1	
	5	1		7			9	
		2						
4	8				1		5	
			3					9
		3				4	7	8
6		4	1	9		2		
			2					
		8		6		7		

## Sudoku Puzzles

9	3	7	8	5	1	4	6	2
6	8	4	2	7	3	5	9	1
2	1	5	4	9	6	7	3	8
7	5	8	6	2	4	9	1	3
3	6	2	5	1	9	8	7	4
4	9	1	7	3	8	6	2	5
5	4	3	9	6	2	1	8	7
1	7	9	3	8	5	2	4	6
8	2	6	1	4	7	3	5	9

3	6	7	5	4	9	8	1	2
8	5	1	6	7	2	3	9	4
9	4	2	8	1	3	5	6	7
4	8	9	7	2	1	6	5	3
5	7	6	3	8	4	1	2	9
1	2	3	9	5	6	4	7	8
6	3	4	1	9	7	2	8	5
7	1	5	2	3	8	9	4	6
2	9	8	4	6	5	7	3	1

