

OPINION

Halloween in Quarantine: A Step By Step Guide to an Awfully Amazing Halloween!

BY ALEXANDRIA GOSEN

C OVID SUCKS, ESPECIALLY IF you are quarantined on campus. Now, sadly, you can't celebrate with your friends because somebody decided not to follow protocol, but we don't name names here. Just because you're all by your lonesome, you don't have to be sad! Here's how to have a super funky Halloween all by yourself:

Step one: You cannot truly have fun alone, but you don't want to kill anybody, or at least you shouldn't. The solution is this: get a Ouija Board! Though normally played with many people, Ouija is a great way to communicate with those who are already dead, and therefore cannot contract the disease. Likewise, you might meet someone interesting to write your history paper on, and that's just snazzy.

Step Two: Now that you've got the dead to make the night come alive, make a huge batch of Halloween-themed cupcakes for your new dead friends. Proceed to eat them all, because ghosts can't eat, and that was low-key disrespectful. Author's Note: Whilst hosting a seance, it is important to stay hydrated! Make yourself either a piping hot cup of cider or spike your own cauldron! Either way, a hydrated soul is less likely to be possessed, I think.

Great! Now that you're well fed, hydrated, and surrounded by dead people, it's time to move to **step three:** have a costume contest. Gather a bunch of scrap material for you and your ghostly ghoulish friends, and give everyone thirty seconds to create a costume! You will most likely win, because ghosts have no physical form, and therefore anything they attempt to create will inevitably fail miserably. Congratulations, you have won the costume contest by default! How awesome for you. But, the night is still young, and you are still contagious!

Now, **step four** is a great opportunity to watch a movie with everybody. May I suggest the Patrick Swayze classic film: Ghost? Although, this might inspire your new friends to create some epic pottery, and that's a total mess. Do not watch Poltergeist, it will inspire your friends to turn on you. You've been warned.

Finally, the **fifth step** of your awesome solo Halloween party: CLOSE THE OUIJA BOARD! Say goodbye! If you don't you have released something on campus, and the CDC has not truly confirmed ghosts can't carry the coronavirus, and the whole point here is to not pass it to others.

See, it's possible to have fun by yourself, and not drown in the silence of your own inner thoughts and personal demons. **Have a Happy Halloween!**

A Risky Attempt at Protecting Students: Concordia's Plan for the Holidays during Predicted Covid-19 Spike

BY MARYKATE FENSTERMAKER

A S OF OCTOBER 14TH, the COVID-19 death toll in the United States surpassed 216 thousand. As my initial shock passed, I feared for what is to come. As our weather becomes colder and the holidays begin, there is a predicted surge of Covid cases. According to CDC Minnesota statistics, it is predicted that in the next few months, there will be about 15 deaths a day, with a steady rise every week. It would be dangerous to have students return to campus between Thanksgiving and Christmas break as it would increase the spread of COVID-19.

Many universities have recognized these alarming statistics, responding by implementing an online model for the three weeks between Thanksgiving and winter break. Following winter break and the end of the semester, in-person classes will resume, with the hope that COVID-19 cases will remain low after socialization and travel. Unfortunately, Concordia has decided not to follow this model which poses the threat of an increased number of cases on campus leading up to Christmas. Along with increased socialization over the next two months, as well as colder weather and other seasonal illnesses, reports show that we are about to face a very difficult holiday season.

Other schools such as the University of Minnesota [Twin Cities] will be going remote after Thanksgiving break. Although enrollment is much higher than Concordia, an enrollment rate of 52 thousand, this will give students the opportunity to complete final exams at home and return to campus with less worry of getting infected. Here at Concordia, the plan is to have a four-day Thanksgiving break followed by a three-week Christmas break. In between, we will resume in-person classes for three weeks. As much as I love gift giving, the lobby Christmas tree, and a Bear Mint Mocha from Comet's Café, staying in-person after Thanksgiving could impact students and their families. If someone were to contract COVID-19 during a turkey dinner, return to campus without knowing, and infect other students, those students could also unknowingly return home for Christmas with the risk of severely infecting a family member. It is shown that after recognizing the COVID-19 symptoms, which can take up to two weeks, the average person needs two weeks to recover. Ideally, Thanksgiving break would last two or more weeks; however, this is not realistic as the calendar is already set in place.

As much as we enjoy Minnesota, the cold

weather poses a challenge for us. When students gather inside, it is much harder for particles to disperse, which increases the chance of spreading the virus. December through February are typically our coldest months, and we will not get the opportunity to gather outside nor will we welcome outdoor airflow within the classroom which would help disperse particles. Furthermore, October is the beginning of flu season. The combination of the flu and COVID-19 will overwhelm the already struggling healthcare system. If you are infected with one, it is shown that you are much more prone to getting the other.

With all the information we have on this virus, the plan Concordia currently has could expose students to COVID-19. In addition, the cold weather and flu season poses a greater risk to our health and that of our relatives. It makes sense to have more time away from campus around the holidays; this gives us additional time to spend with families as well as less worry after return.

The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Debates

BY ETHAN LANGEMO

F OR THOSE OF YOU who did not watch the debate, it does not take a lot to describe what the whole ordeal was like. It was a trainwreck. Between President Trump's constant interruptions that eventually managed to draw even the well-tempered Vice President Joe Biden into outbursts and the Vice President's incoherent and garbled remarks, the whole ordeal felt more like an MMA match with the moderator/referee

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It got to the point where the moderator said 'you two know you're talking at the same time, right?' instantly causing my roommates and I watching the debate to burst into laughter.

trying and failing to produce a good clean fight. Frankly, I'm not sure what people were expecting to see. I don't think anyone expected it to be a smooth, respectful event (especially knowing President Trump's tendency to constantly be on the offense), but I also don't think anyone expected it to get that bad. It got the point where the moderator said “you