Photo of the Day | Eat candy tomorrow...



A person sits outside Susan V. Herbst Hall with a dog. The fall weather attracted many outside this week to enjoy the colorful leaves.
PHOTO BY AKIRA GUNAWAN, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

NOBODY CARES ABOUT HALLOWEEN ANYMORE

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Halloween is fast approaching, but the excitement over the holiday is not what it used to be. Initially, I thought it might be nostalgia talking, convincing me it's not like the old days, but then I started speaking to friends, family and classmates and hearing things like "I'm doing the same thing as last year," "I don't want to spend money on a costume" or "I'm just gonna wear my old flannel. As a result of constant inflation, rising hopelessness and stale costume ideas, people are losing interest in the spooky season.

In the past few years, there has been a significant decline in Halloween fun, especially when it comes to costumes. In a survey of 2,000 Americans, 76% said they have no plans to dress up this year, and 77% said they were not planning to attend a Halloween party. As someone who takes Halloween arguably too seriously, I was disappointed to see this steep decline in Halloween spirit. Then I started thinking about why that might be.

It's not that suddenly everyone decided to stop caring, but rather that the state of the world has made us not care. The United States is still the biggest celebrator of Halloween in the world, but with the rising price of groceries, gas, housing and just about everything else, people are focused more on survival than festivities.

Consumer data showed that 70% of young adults report having nightmares about money. It's not an unwarranted fear either. Since the 1990s, the biggest era of Halloween, essentials like housing, higher education, healthcare and childcare have all doubled in price. Things have only worsened under the Trump administration's economic policies, with its budget cuts and tariffs. Price gouging made its way into Halloween stores, with the price of a basic costume averaging $50-$70. For an item that is non-refundable and will likely be worn only once, most people don't want to make that monetary commitment.

Alongside the economic shift, there is a mental health crisis affecting people's desire to go out at all. For young adults in low-income households, the depression rate has increased from 22.1% in 2017 to 37.4% today. Even those with greater financial means still lack the urge to party. Overall, the rate of depression in 2025 was 18.3%, meaning around 47.8 million Americans suffering with hopelessness. In conjunction with the sadness is fear — about one-third of young people globally experience social anxiety and distance themselves from large crowds, instead preferring cozy movie nights.

Unlike attendance rates, spending is skyrocketing, with shoppers expected to spend $13.5 billion this year. Those might be big numbers, but they do not indicate that everyone is spending; rather, that those who can spend will spend. Rising prices of decor, costumes and candy also affect the budget. Regardless of whether Halloween will make money, it used to be accessible to all but is now exclusive for the middle and upper class.

Interestingly enough, despite the economic and mental health issues targeting young adults, they are 10% more likely to celebrate than the rest. Yet the celebration is less focused on the pageantry and more on alcohol. Many people — particularly young and broke college students — rely on low-effort DIY costumes. While there's nothing wrong with being smart with your money, creativity has died. Wearing your normal clothes with a crappy eyeliner cat nose is not a costume, it's a defeat! In fact, the lack of effort may be one reason people are no longer participating, as 75% of survey respondents say most costumes are overused and boring.

Having to coordinate an outfit you can't afford and spend your day off at a party you might hate may not seem ideal, but I argue not to let the evil forces of the economy and burnout win. To take back Halloween, we have to start caring again. Nobody needs to spend $69.99 on a Spirit Halloween costume made in China that does not include wig, shoes or accessories.

Instead of spending an arm and a leg, perhaps make an arm and a leg. For decades before commercialized costumes existed, people made their own — and they weren't lazy about it either. A major skill Americans have lost that helped avoid buying costumes was the art of sewing. Those avoiding their strange aunt teaching them to thread a needle can instead opt for the crafting route with glue, tape or even papier-mâché. If you possess no skills at all but still want to look possessed, you can go to your local thrift store, Five Below or Dollar Tree. If you absolutely refuse to buy something, use your closet, but be creative about it — enhance your look with detailed makeup. Let's not let the state of the world kill our sense of whimsy. Let's take back Halloween!



Halloween, also known as All Hallows' Eve or All Saints' Eve, is a celebration observed in many countries on Oct. 31. Writer Ava Wilson said that the United States is the biggest celebrator of Halloween in the world.
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A CHECK ON POWER: WHY VOTING IN THE MIDTERMS MATTERS

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I'd like to begin by expressing my horror that in researching for this article, Google supplied me with a search suggestion which said, "Is Republican the conservative or liberal party?"

Who needs a Halloween scare when you have that?

But truthfully, people are generally very uninformed in terms of politics. Midterm elections are coming up next week, and people have a lot of questions as to why they even matter. Only about 40% of voters vote in midterms each year and most people don't know much about them.

However, these midterms are important. Our government, for the past two years, has been in the "Republican Trifecta." The House of Representatives, the Senate and the Executive branch are all ruled by Republicans. This trifecta has created a compromise of checks and balances in this country, one that we are trying to fix with these midterms by flipping the Senate and the House from red to blue.

To flip the House, the Democrats must have 218 representatives out of the total 435. Based on current polling trends, the Democrats are predicted to safely win 220 seats. There are also 17 toss up races, meaning it's too close to predict a winner at this time. Because Democrats have an almost guaranteed 220 wins, they could lose every single toss up and still win back the House.

The Senate, however, is a much tighter race, though one I think the Democrats will win. To obtain the majority in the Senate, the Democrats need to hold all their existing seats and flip four seats. They have a high chance of flipping a seat in North Carolina, where they are running the favored Roy Cooper, who has developed a very good rapport with North Carolina voters. However, the other five races that Democrats have a chance to flip seats in are incredibly close. I believe they will manage to flip Alaska, Ohio and Texas, with Maine also being a potential win. Conversely, if Democrats lose the seat in Michigan, which is also a very close race, they will have to obtain five seats to get the majority — they will have to win North Carolina, Alaska, Ohio, Texas and Maine. The chances of this are not high, nor are they promising.

But why does this really matter? Why are we so worried about this trifecta when there have been others in history?

Because unlike other times in history, our president is actively committing tyranny.

Having a Republican supermajority means that Donald Trump can do almost anything he wants, and Congress does not correct or admonish the behavior. Congress has become submissive to President Trump, and thus the checks and balances system our founding fathers set up to prevent tyranny is collapsing.

During the past two years of Congress being majority Republican and subordinate to President Trump, he has used congressional powers that are out of his jurisdiction to do whatever he wishes. Donald Trump froze, withheld or delayed billions of dollars in congressionally appropriated funds, attempting to reshape spending passed by the legislative. He passed tariffs via emergency powers, although the power of the purse — the power to impose tariffs — is specifically designated to Congress in the Constitution. He has bypassed or challenged statutory protections by removing or sidelining independent agency leaders and members of board who are designed to have insulation from direct presidential control. He has moved to dismantle congressionally chartered or funded entities, including parts of the Department of Education. He has deployed federal law enforcement and taken military actions without congressional approval. He has attempted to amend the Constitution to outlaw birthright citizenship and enforce immigration measures that infringe upon Congressional authority over immigration law.

And what has happened? What repercussions have been faced?

Congress has the power to investigate acts that infringe on congressional duties or which abuse executive power. They have the power to pass new laws limiting executive action. They have the power to impeach the president.

And what have they done?

Nothing.

If the "Republican Trifecta" continues, that's exactly what you can expect for the next two years: a Congress that will never hold Donald Trump responsible for his actions.

So, do your research. Look into the candidates in your district. Look into your state or district to find out if the election there is important.

You don't have to vote Democrat. Vote for a candidate that won't allow dictatorship.



Democratic nominee in the 2026 United States Senate election in Michigan, Abdul El-Sayed. If Democrats lose the seat in Michigan, they will have to win North Carolina, Alaska, Ohio, Texas and Maine to obtain the majority.
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