WARDROBE INVESTIGATION

What your Halloween costume says about you

// BY LIZETH ORTIZ-CALLEJA

Ah, Halloweekend. The beloved set of days for which college students just cannot seem to wait. It seems as though just yesterday, Halloween was a one-day celebration where we went trick-or-treating in polyester Party City costumes. By the time it was 9 p.m, we were tucked in bed by our moms, sugar sick from the number of Twix bars we'd eaten.

But now, 9 p.m. is the time you start getting ready for whatever spooky plans you have. The costume laid out on your bed says a lot about the statement you want to make for the night. Maybe you want to make your ex jealous in your ridiculously hot nurse costume. Or you want to make people laugh in a Tung Tung Tung Sahur costume.

Whether you are going to the midnight YSO show, Woads or a frat party, you will bump into a multitude of people with costumes that say a lot about them. Here's what I think your Halloween costume says about you, from a girl trying to make your Spirit Halloween purchase seem deeper than it might be in reality.

The Lorax

Dressing as the Lorax might have gotten you a couple of laughs in 2023. But I'll be honest, it's not really my cup of tea. Personally, I'd rather not spend my night sweating under a bald cap in a crowded room. But who am I to judge? If I see you in that bright orange outfit, I know you came out tonight to make people laugh, and you have the confidence to wear it in public. I respect that. You'll spend the night speaking for the trees to anyone who'll listen, and you'll probably end up in many photos.

Patrick Bateman

You already had the suit from your finance recruiting coffee chats, so all you needed was the raincoat. This can be a pretty cool costume, but only if you wear it knowing that the character is a satire of the soulless, status-obsessed Wall Street culture you're currently networking your way into. Do not go around saying you're "literally him," because I will not be trusting you alone in a room.

Fairy, Ladybug, Bumblebee and all that requires wings

Looks like a cinnamon roll, is a cinnamon roll. You're sweet as a pea, aren't you? You are your friend group's guardian angel, the protector. You have everyone's location and are checking it constantly — why do multiple of your friends appear to be at their ex's dorms? You wanted to be something a bit more extraordinary, but you didn't have enough time to plan. Honestly, you don't mind — in contrast to your friends, Halloween isn't as big a deal to you. As long as you're with your girls, you'll have a good time. The streets will see you one night, or maybe two if you're feeling a bit rowdy. After countless hours of bumping into everyone with your wings, you'll call it a night and retreat to the comfort of your bed.

Clark Kent/Superman

Did your suit come with padding, or have you been living in Payne Whitney since September? Either way, you ripped that white button-down open just enough to flash the "S," and you want everyone to notice. This is your time to shine! By day, you're a nerdy econ major in glasses who is into comic books. By night, those geeky interests finally get the applause they deserve. You'll correct anyone who mixes up Marvel and DC, and somehow they'll still ask for your Instagram. You'll spend half the night re-buttoning and unbuttoning your shirt for the photos, but you won't let it slow you down.

Sexy Nurse, Sexy Construction Worker, Sexy Anything:

To be honest, you probably procrastinated your Game Theory problem set to plan out your costumes. Instead of reviewing lectures you missed, you were scrolling on Pinterest — you do not play about Halloweekend. You'll be outside for all four days, from Wednesday night Woads all the way to Saturday, and will try to convince your friends to pregame your study session on Sunday. The vocation you're dressing up for is intentional: are you a nurse? You'd like someone to care for, to need you. Handcuffing people all night as a police officer? You want to attract the rebellious archetype and you know it. Going shirtless as a firefighter in 40-degree weather? You want to be someone's hero, and you'd like the whole street to see your abs while you do it.

Your Favorite Character from an extremely niche show

"What are you?" is what you're going to hear all. Night. Long. I am speaking from personal experience — I was Mía Colucci from Rebelde, a Spanish TV show I used to watch. Your choice of costume is based on two things: either you planned this months in advance, ordering the perfect pieces for your costume a month ago, or you got together random pieces from your closet, because you forgot to order a costume. Regardless, you don't really care much about costumes or having the best one. You want to express yourself and your interests.

Cat ears with painted whiskers

You swore up and down all week you weren't going to go out — you're a homebody now. You are ready to settle down! Or maybe you saw how hot the Fifth Harmony girls looked in Bought a construction worker costume? You want to build a foundation with someone and the Work from Home Music Video. You are ready to play all week long.

The cat ears you have come from your roommate's Catwoman costume with her then saw your suitemates having the time of their lives pregaming and decided to stop being a boyfriend. Abandoning your late night binge watching of The Addams Family was the greatest idea you had. You end up having the most fun out of all your friends and it makes sense: You didn't spend a dime and there's no explaining your costume: you're the most basic thing ever.

The onesie

You are, without question, the warmest person in the room, and you will not let anyone forget it. While everyone else is shivering in short sleeves and fishnets on the walk to Woads, you're zipped up in fleece from head to toe. You're also the only one with pockets, so you'll be carrying the IDs and phones of every pocketless soul in your friend group. The catch? The second you step inside, you'll start sweating in places you didn't know could sweat. And let's not even get started on the bathroom: unzipping yourself completely just to pee is a nightmare. But when the night's over and everyone is shivering on the walk to Brick Oven Pizza, you'll be cozy and already dressed for bed.

Take what I say with a grain of salt. Halloween is about the time you spend dancing with your friends and the escape you get from your day-to-day life. You're not the overwhelmed Yale student with two midterms next week and a problem set due Sunday night. You're a fairy, a clown or a unicorn trying to bring a bit of laughter and color into other people's lives.

Contact
LIZETH ORTIZ-CALLEJA
at lizeth.ortiz-calleja@yale.edu.



ILLUSTRATION BY JOYCE KIM

WEEKEND RECOMMENDS:

TRICK-OR-TREATING IN EAST ROCK