

Spooky Season at the Mount How Students Celebrate Halloween Traditions

By Elysian Alder
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As the leaves begin to change and the fall season settles in, candy, costumes, jack-o'-lanterns, and haunted houses begin to make their comeback—some of the familiar staples of Halloween, celebrated every year on October 31.

The holiday may have its roots in ancient Celtic traditions, particularly the pagan festival of Samhain (pronounced “Sow-in”), which celebrated the transition from the lighter half of the year to the darker half, marking the end of summer and the changing of the seasons, as well as a time when the “veil” between our

earthly realm and the spirit world is said to be at its thinnest.

While Halloween today is often a gloriously whimsical time for tricks and treats, scary stories, pumpkin picking, and dressing up, it actually shares some similarities with how ancient celebrants of Samhain may have observed their holiday.

Historians say some Celtic celebrations of Samhain involved villagers dressing in costumes—often made from animal skins—to ward off evil spirits and phantoms. While trickery and mischief were typically blamed on fairies rather than ne'er-do-well children and teens, food and

treats still played a significant role in the festivities, much like they do today during Halloween.

One notable tradition believed to have originated from Samhain is called the Dumb Supper—a reverent, silent dinner held in honor of the dead, where the courses are served in reverse, beginning with dessert. During the meal, candles (usually tealights) are placed around the table to represent each spirit being honored.

If starting the supper with dessert isn't treat enough, later historians also note that “guising” and “mumming” may have become popular ways to celebrate Samhain, especially in



Photo by Neven Krcmarek from Unsplash

Ireland and Scotland, with some stating the practices might've led to the earliest forms of trick-or-treating. Guising involves dressing in costumes and going door-to-door for treats—though

these treats were not quite like a Kit Kat or a Snickers bar. Instead, they included items like

continued on page 2
“Halloween History & Traditions” >>>

‘It Was Horrible!’ Thackery Binx Remembers Life as a Cursed 300-Year-Old Black Cat

By Desiree Leader
STAFF WRITER

Thackery Binx, a 312-year-old Salem resident, is a hero in every sense of the word. Waking on a cold October morning 300 years ago to the sound of his beloved sister Emily being abducted, he followed discreetly behind to the home of the Sanderson Sisters, known throughout town as being witches.

“It was terrible!” he declared. “Their house smelled like chicken soup and dead man’s toes!”

Binx retells the tale he has shared for 300 years to anyone who will listen. He shares how he was discovered by the Sandersons when the middle sister, Mary, caught his scent. “It was uncanny, the way she was able to sniff out children – I’ve never seen anything like it!”

What happened next was fantastical. Binx explained how he looked on in horror as they created a potion to rob children of their youth. When they gave it to Emily to drink, Binx jumped up to save her and tried to pour out all of the potion. Unfortunately, he was too late to save his sister, and the witches literally sucked the life right out of her. He was able to overturn the cauldron and spill what was left of the potion, but Winiford Sanford cast a spell on him, turning him into a black cat.

“It was horrible,” he recounted. “My skin hurt so much, my tongue felt like sandpaper, and I had the taste of fish in my mouth.” Binx went on to explain that his own family couldn’t recognize him, so he wandered for years by himself.



Image copyright Walt Disney Pictures

“Before they were hanged, The Sanderson Sisters cast a spell; if a virgin lit the black flamed candle on Halloween night, they would return. I guarded that house on Halloween for literally 300 years, and then one night a kid named Max lit the candle. I tried to stop him, but he lit it anyways.”

After the witches’ return, Binx stayed with Max, along with his sister and the girl he had a crush on. He helped them to survive the very long night, until the sisters went back to the grave after an unsuccessful attempt to

continued on page 4
“Binx Profile” >>>

PREVIEWS

Halloween Hot Takes From the Observer Staff

What is the Worst Halloween Candy?
For the full discussion, see page 3

Student Profile: Dakota Potter

For the full article, see page 2

MWCC CIS Major Lead at GCC

For the full article, see page 4

Scaryoke at MWCC

For the full feature, see page 5

Pawsitive Vibes

Pet Wellness Month at the Mount
For the full feature, see pages 6-7

Arts: Creative Writing and Comics
see page 9



Student Profile: Dakota Potter

By Desiree Leader
STAFF WRITER

Dakota Potter, a 29-year-old Liberal Arts Major from Keene, New Hampshire is not your average community college student. Potter, in his last semester at the Mount, will be graduating in May. He will be transferring to Bridgewater State University for the spring semester, where he was recently accepted into their Archeological program; but that is not what makes him different from your traditional college student.

Potter has a gift for the English language – a gift he has been nurturing since he was just a child. “I got my start when I was really young,” he reflected, mentioning that he was quite a precocious reader. At just five

years old, he was reading (and comprehending!) the Harry Potter book series, and he started writing stories when he was eight or nine. “They weren’t very good,” Potter admitted, “but I had the passion for it.”

Potter didn’t let that discourage him. Determined, he kept on writing and improved by reading a lot. “I was very lucky to have a handful of very understanding and caring English teachers in Middle school,” he said.

Perseverance seems to be a theme for Mr. Potter. He started his college career at Johnston State School in New Hampshire right out of high school, but it wasn’t a good fit for him. It wasn’t until he came to Mount Wachusett Community College for the first time in 2015 for

transfer credits that he found what he was looking for. He decided to come back and re-enrolled in 2021.

He explained his love for the Mount, saying, “It really stands apart from any other community colleges... the first time I ever came here to the campus it really stunned me by how

beautiful it was.” He credits the beauty of the campus, with the windmills, as well as the variety of the students for his interest in this school. He was most impressed by the faculty and staff. “You can tell that they really care about and support their students.”

Potter’s newest venture is a book of poetry that he wrote, bound, and published himself. The title, *Squash Blossom*, came

from an Italian dish. “I was making fried squash blossoms and zucchini pasta,” he said. “I love to cook.” He thought about cooking while cleaning up, and then thought about measured prose, and the poem that lent its name to the title was born.

The book is an anthology of ten poems that he wrote, inspired by his recent study abroad trip to Iceland, as well as the writers’ group he attended on campus. Potter mentioned that he doesn’t usually write poetry, but he had a lot of encouragement from his professors and his classmates.

One of those classmates, Lindsay Mahoney from Groton, stated, “He is an extremely talented wordsmith, which shows in his work.” She continued, mentioning, “His words... evoke

a very visceral array of emotions, thought, and reflection.”

The book itself is certainly an act of love for the craft. Printed out and bound by hand on cardstock and high quality cotton paper, the book of ten poems was also hand-sewn, and the cover was illustrated by the writer himself. For those interested in reading the published poems of this MWCC student, they are available on Amazon as an E-book, or as a hard bound copy from the writer’s website: torenfanepress.myshopify.com.

Haiku By Dakota Potter

Sharing is scary
But when it’s necessary
Courage will follow

Halloween History & Traditions

>>> continued from page 1

cakes, fruit, nuts, or, rarely, coins. Mumming, on the other hand, features masked performers putting on short skits.

Some believe that the costumes were used to deter evil spirits or scare them away, taking the earlier tradition of dressing in animal skins and bringing it door-to-door. This practice was not just for fun, though; many hoped that visits from costumed individuals would help keep their homes safe from evil spirits and fairies, hoping for a sense of peace for the night.

horror movies.” Although Deltoro mentioned her plan to dress up as the notorious slasher Ghostface from the *Scream* franchise, she also shared her enthusiasm for a recent horror movie she enjoyed called *Abigail*. “It’s becoming

“I love Halloween. It’s the time of year when everyone can be themselves and feel accepted for being quirky.”
- Mikaela Techera, automotive

one of my favorite movies,” she explained. “I just love everything, from the plot development to the horror elements that make the cinematography award-winning. I highly recommend it.”

Chelsea Martin, a 29-year-old nursing major, eagerly shared her enthusiasm for Halloween. “I absolutely love Halloween and all things spooky,” she said. “My four kids and I are dressing up this year. Two of them chose to be scary characters, while the other two picked their favorite cartoon characters.”

Pumpkin carving is a tradition for many, including Martin’s family. According to a 2023 statistic, more than 154 million

people in the U.S. planned to carve pumpkins last year, up from about 149 million the previous year. “We make sure to light the jack-o’-lanterns first thing on Halloween and keep them glowing until midnight,” said Martin, adding that they’ll also be

watching *The Nightmare Before Christmas* and *Beetlejuice*.

Martin isn’t the only student at the Mount with Halloween traditions. Gerry Garcia, a 41-year-old media arts and technology student, said, “I always decorate my house with skulls and pumpkins, and I always dress as one of my favorite horror characters—either Michael Myers or Freddy Krueger.”

In fact, many students are planning to dress up this year.

Mikaela Techera, a 20-year-old automotive student, attended the annual Scaryoke event at the Mount dressed as Lady Dimitrescu from *Resident Evil: Village* and hopes to wear the costume again for Halloween.

“I chose her because she’s a popular character. I love wearing sunhats, and it was the perfect opportunity to make myself freakishly tall with my new Demonia platform boots,”

Techera said. “I love Halloween. It’s the time of year when

everyone can be themselves and feel accepted for being quirky.”

Sam Thomas, a 19-year-old early childhood transfer major, felt similarly. “I’m dressing up as a black cat this year. I’ve loved Halloween since I was a kid; I love being creative with costumes,” they said.

Jay Morris, an 18-year-old science major, shared his love for the holiday as well. “I dressed up as a reindeer with my sister for

Scaryoke. Reindeers are cool,” he said, adding that Halloween is his favorite holiday, especially for watching the *Halloween* films.

Asher Howes-Jensen, a 19-year-old early childhood education major, dresses up every year. “I love Halloween. I love fall, I love dressing up in dark colors, and I love Scaryoke at the school,” they said. “I love the expression that comes with costumes, and I love getting to feel confident in the outfits I choose.”

Scaryoke, the Mount’s annual “scary karaoke” event, offered students a chance to mingle while dressed in costumes, singing karaoke, getting their faces painted, and enjoying spooky food arrangements. Attendees also had the opportunity to win door prizes, participate in a costume contest, and enter raffles. The event took place on Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2024.

For more highlights from the event, check out the photo spread feature elsewhere in this issue.

HALLOWEEN HOT TAKES from the Observer Staff

What is the worst Halloween candy?



Elysian Alder, 27, Professional Writing, Editor-in-Chief:

Butterfinger, no contest. Eating one is probably the closest I’ll ever get to knowing how SpongeBob felt drying out at Sandy’s house—if you know, you know. Honestly, I can’t think of anything drier on this planet than a Butterfinger. Sure, there are probably worse-tasting candies out there, but Butterfinger just makes me so mad for some reason.

Kent Yang, 29, Computer Information Systems, Staff Writer:

First off, I have to say the worst Halloween candy isn’t black licorice, candy corn, nor circus peanuts.. But it is Dum-Dums Lollipops. What I find annoying is, when consuming dum-dums, right before you get to the center of it, the stick starts falling apart and you would get this slight wet paper taste along with the candy. For the most part, I find dum-dums bland in flavor. The ones that are more exotic are either surprisingly good but rare or pure awful and plenty. As a kid trick-or-treating in the neighborhood of Fitchburg, I’d come back with an abundance of dum-dums at the end of the night. When trading candies with other people, dum-dums hold almost no value.. Because no one wants them.



Elysian Alder, 27, Professional Writing, Editor-in-Chief:

Can confirm. Although I’ve willingly eaten an embarrassing amount of lollipop stick paper in my life.

Benjamin Heffner, 17, Dual Enrollment, Observer Contributor:

This is honestly such a hard question because I love all types of candy! But if I had to pick one to do without, it would be dark chocolate. Just a bit too bitter in my opinion.



Maiki Coggins, 24, Art, Observer Contributor:

I personally believe there is no such thing as a bad Halloween candy. Part of the fun of Halloween is trading candy with your friends afterwards, and it’s good to have a big variety. If you don’t eat it, someone will. I just like carrying around a big bag of spoils!

Tom Hill Jr., 30, Graphic Designer:

I echo Maiki’s sentiments on Halloween candy; there’s something for everyone! On that note, however, I posit: Circus Peanuts. The packing material the candy industry tries to pass off as “food.” Comes already stale, for your convenience. Since it’s barely food anyway, I think it counts!



Vana Kingsley, 29, Professional Writing, Assistant Editor:

It’s Raisins. It’s 2024; we should all realize that no one wants to get a pouch of raisins in their cute little Halloween bag. Intrinsically, there’s nothing wrong with a raisin—but the Internet should have taught us by now what happens when children receive boring, dispirited presents as gifts (an avocaadoooo, thaaaanks). I want to see FULL SIZE candy bars from you people, not a box of shriveled fruit turds! The idea that “something is better than nothing” simply does not apply here. Unless you’re trying to sneak a little treat to grandmas everywhere, please do not give out raisins. If I see a single raisin change hands on Halloween this year, I’m going to scream.

Jordan Chila, 31, Professional Writing, Editor-in-Chief:

I think the popcorn balls are the worst. They are impossible to eat. Hard as a rock. And they make everything such a mess. I remember my mom packing them in my lunch the next day and being miserable because I couldn’t even take a bite out of it! Usually they would be my first trade in the family candy trade off. Followed by all things licorice! If I wanted to eat wax, I would just bite a candle! Yuck!



Lindsay Mahoney, 37, Professional Writing, Observer Contributor:

Mary Jane’s! Just, why?! It’s not 1947 anymore, and I cherish my fillings.

Matthew Infantino, 44, Environmental Conservation, Observer Contributor:

The single wrapped piece of licorice. The one Twizzler wrapped on its own. Nobody eats just one Twizzler. It’s not that it’s bad, because it’s good, it’s just that it doesn’t want to fit in with the rest of the stash. Like the dum-dums, they hold no trade value... if you won the lottery, the dum-dums and single wrapped Twizzler would be the loose change that’s irrelevant contrasted against the jackpot.



Desiree Leader, 61, Interdisciplinary Studies, Staff Writer:

It absolutely has to be Smarties. In general, I guess that they aren’t bad. They aren’t my candy of choice...you may as well give me a piece of dry, sour chalk to chomp on. But Halloween is the night kids look forward to all year long! Don’t be cheap - splurge for those Reese’s bars! Invest in some real candy, and do right by the kids.

GET INVOLVED!

Want to join a club or participate in a community event? Then visit [InvolveMOUNT](https://mwcc.campuslabs.com/engage/) at <https://mwcc.campuslabs.com/engage/>



MWCC CIS Majors Lead at GCC



Photo from Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges

By Kent Yang
STAFF WRITER

As part of the ongoing workforce development expansion at local community colleges, I had the incredible opportunity to team up with my classmate and fellow Computer Information Systems (CIS) major, Kourtney Tibbets, to serve as instructors for the "IT for Healthcare" course at Greenfield Community College, hand-picked by Dr. Gary Ackerman. For those unfamiliar with Dr. Ackerman, he serves as an adjunct Professor at Mount Wachusett Community College and teaches in the CIS department. Outside of MWCC, Dr. Ackerman is the Director of Teaching and Learning Innovation at Greenfield Community College.

The "IT for Healthcare" course is a six-week program with a total of 80 hours designed

to teach and prepare students for the CompTIA IT Fundamentals certification. Dr. Ackerman shared, "We looked at several options for industry credentials and decided on the CompTIA IT Fundamentals (ITF+) as the best option. This decision came after consulting with area healthcare managers to identify their needs."

The first cohort of the "IT for Healthcare" workshops took place in spring 2024, with Dr. Ackerman leading the initial session. However, due to scheduling conflicts, he was unable to teach the fall cohort; as a result, the workforce development team at GCC decided to recruit three IT professionals to take on the teaching responsibilities—two students from Mount Wachusett Community College and Edward

Patenaude, an IT professional for a company based in Spofford, NH. Dr. Ackerman shared that he

thought of Kourtney and I right away, saying, "I knew [you] both had experience working in the field, and I had seen firsthand the quality of [your] work."

When Dr. Ackerman chose me for this opportunity, I admittedly had mixed feelings. There were two reasons for this. First, although I work in IT, I am part of the small percentage of IT professionals who are self-taught. My position as a System Administrator means I'm technically levels above the fundamentals I'd be teaching, yet I couldn't shake the question: How confident am I? Adding to that, public speaking and teaching were never my strong suits—the idea of standing in front of a classroom was nerve-racking. But then I thought, if someone like Dr. Ackerman sees potential in me, I'll give it my best! So, I took the leap.

Going over the course

material, I was relieved to find that I knew and understood the content. Surprisingly, the real challenge wasn't the teaching itself—it was the preparation for those hour-and-a-half, lecture-based PowerPoint presentations on our assigned teaching days, usually a Tuesday or Thursday, or the four-hour in-person classes on Saturdays. For my first class, between prepping the extemporaneous speech and building my first PowerPoint, I spent a solid four hours just preparing. I have a newfound respect for teachers and professors everywhere.

In addition to teaching the actual hardware session, I was the primary instructor for a four-hour lab focused on hardware and helped out during another four-hour session covering software, cloud computing, databases, and programming. My classmate Kourtney volunteered to teach the remote sessions held every Tuesday and Thursday.

Kourtney shared with me her enthusiasm for teaching, and her hope for the future: "I have always felt that inner desire to help others through the learning process. I was extremely honored and flattered when I was recommended to participate in this learning workshop to help others develop a foundation in information technology in healthcare. It is also extremely rewarding to be able to share my experiences and provide real world context which helps assist in the learning process. My hope is this is only the start of something great!"

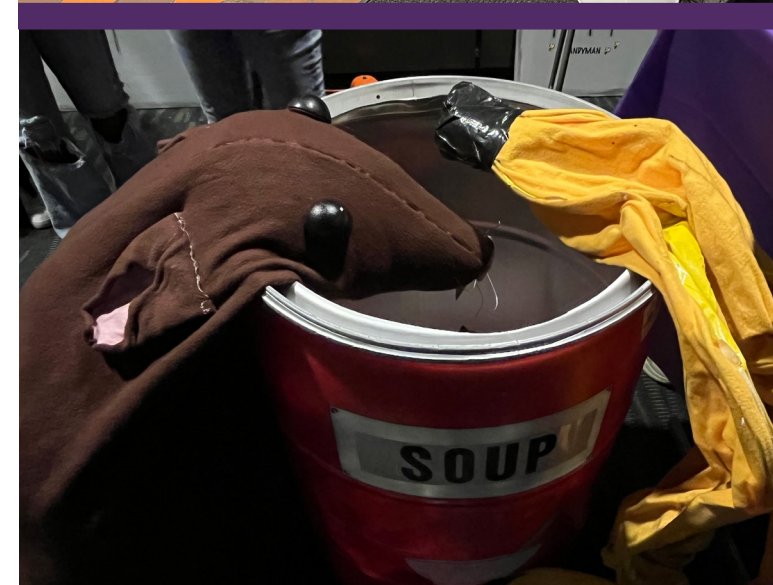
Dr. Ackerman has been

supportive in providing regular feedback throughout the experience, even stating, "They have been fantastic additions to the instructional team, and feedback from our learners suggests they have been well-organized and prepared, which is essential to good teaching."

CompTIA, the Computing Technology Industry Association, is a non-profit that offers IT certifications recognized throughout the industry. Following the success of programs like GCC's, Mount Wachusett Community College is rightfully looking to add more IT courses to their workforce development catalog for IT fields. This could open doors for more student teaching opportunities if the requirements are met.

Allowing students to teach with faculty support is empowering. It allows students to gain invaluable teaching experiences by bridging the gap between academic knowledge and real-world application.

Balancing full-time work on top of full-time school, along with this role, was not easy, but I'm glad I did it, and I'd highly recommend other students take opportunities like these if they get the chance. By the end of the course, I found the entire experience so rewarding—I felt like I had made a difference. I'm still amazed at what I've accomplished—being the first in my family to teach at a college and breaking generational barriers along the way.



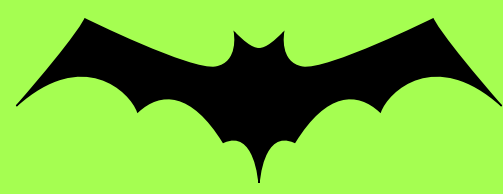
Binx Profile

>>> continued from page 1

suck the life out of all the children in Salem. "I was unable to save my sister, but I helped Max save his. She is a sweet girl. I guess her (Dani) and I bonded."

One of the worst parts of all of this ordeal for Binx was the inability to die. He so wished to be with his family.

"The best thing to come out of this," he pondered, "is that I was finally able to die and be reunited with my sister, Emily. It was a very long 300 years," he said, "but worth every minute. We were able to defeat the witches, and I made some new friends. Now I can finally rest in peace, knowing that the world is safe from The Sanderson Sisters."



Have your own opinions on current events, hot-button issues, or events on campus? Write an opinion piece and send it to mountobserver@mwcc.mass.edu

It may just end up in our next issue!

SCARYOKE AT THE MOUNT

Photos by Tom Hill Jr.



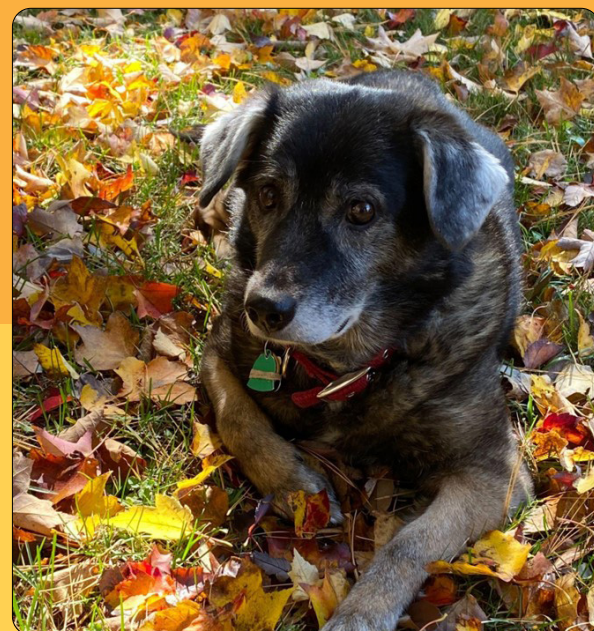
PAWSITIVE VIBES

Pet Wellness Month at the Mount



"This is Dobby. His favorite toy is his sock from when he was born. But he does also like his peanut butter filled pacifier."

— Helene Metivier, Substance Use Counseling (SAC) student



"Her name is Gypsy. She loved carrots, and her favorite word was 'Food.' The shelter we adopted Gypsy from told us she might be a Norwegian Elkhound mix. Gypsy loved the winter! Her favorite thing to do was scoop up snow with her mouth while running. It was the cutest thing."

— Wendy Joubert, Environmental Conservation major



"This is Fish. He has morning zoomies every morning."

— Jay Morris, Science major

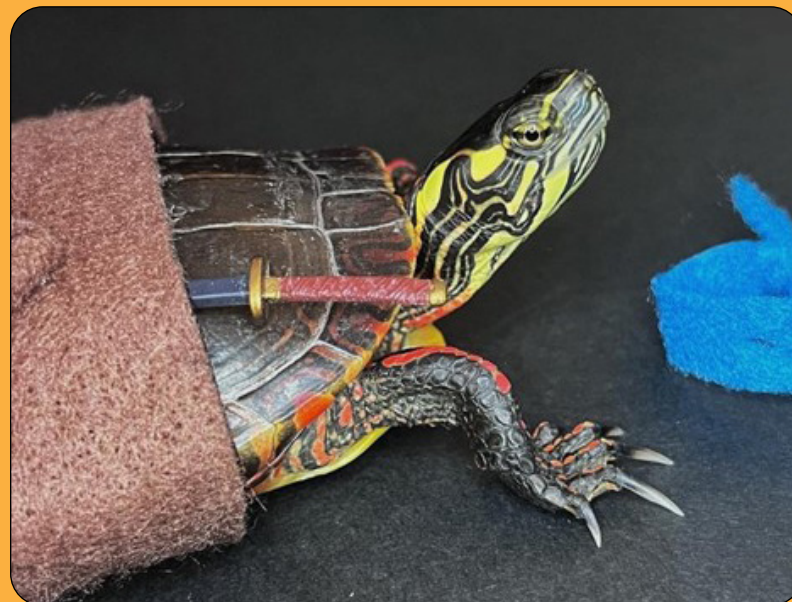


"This is Rudy. She loves teddy bear cookies."

— Jay Morris, Science major

"This is Angel, and he is about 8-10 years old. He loves to go outside and explore nature (loves to eat grass). He is a big cuddle bug (but only on HIS terms). He enjoys playing with his string toys and loves to go into boxes and half closed spaces (like my drawer). Fun fact about Angel is that he likes butter and occasionally likes whipped cream. Another fun fact about him is that if we don't feed him at the right time, he will be near us wherever we go and will not stop meowing until he is fed. (He literally does this even after we fed him an hour ago?). Overall, he is such a good and special boy who loves his food and his cuddles."

— Kaylee Guyotte



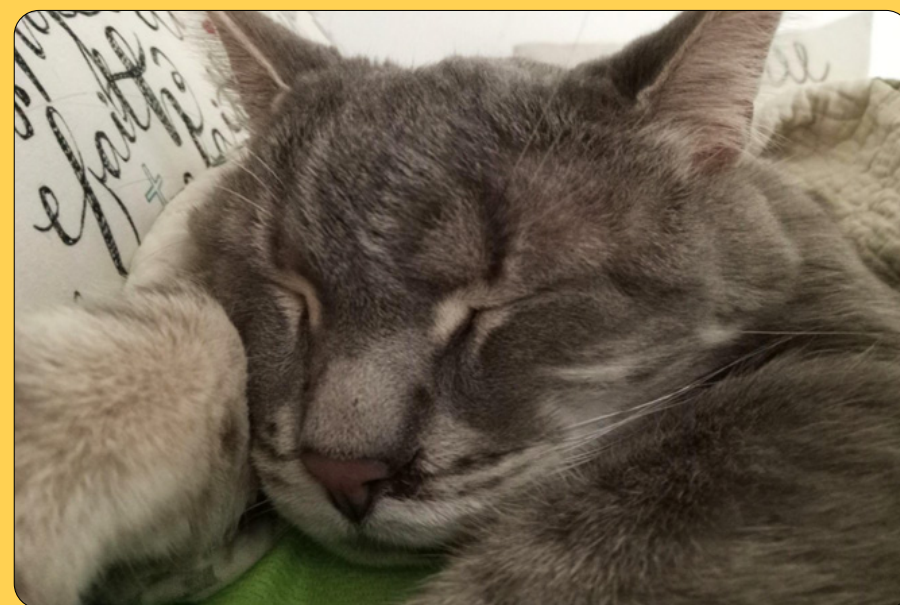
"Here is my turtle Bip dressed up as Leonardo the ninja turtle! He's a 6 year old painted turtle. He likes to spend his time basking and digging in the gravel for tasty tidbits! His favorite thing is getting shell scratches!"

— Vivian Stronghold, Health Science major



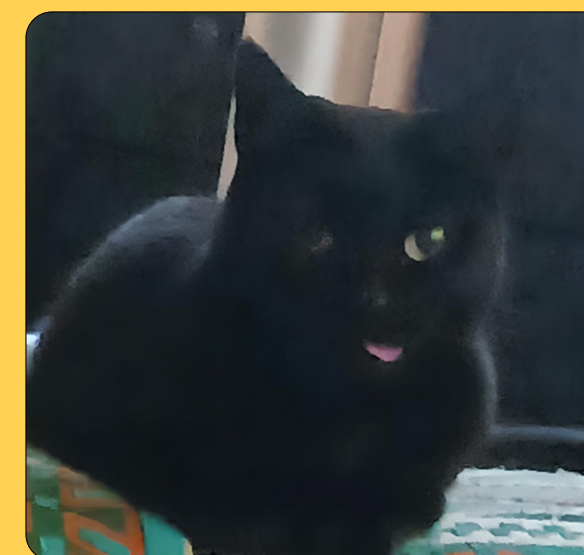
"Meet Ember! She's around seven months old now, and I adopted her in June 2024. She's an Australian Cattle Dog mix, and her Embark DNA test revealed a whole bunch of breeds mixed with it, including husky, pit bull, boxer, Cocker Spaniel, and more! She's a super happy and sweet girl who loves giving kisses, doing parkour, sniffing everything and, of course, testing my patience."

— Elysian Alder, Professional Writing major, Editor-in-Chief



"This is my labradoodle, Harley! A fun fact about Harley is that he loves to lick people's faces and no other spot."

— Elijah LeBlanc, Cybersecurity Certificate student



"This is YumYum. She has no teeth, and she loves to scream. She is very smol. I love her."

— Maiki Coggins, Art major



"This is Quill."

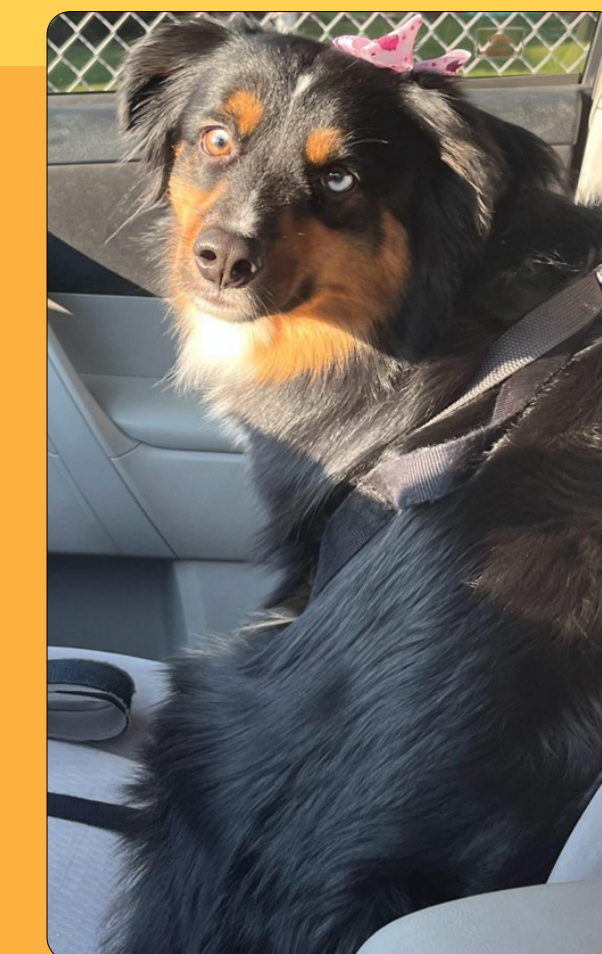
— Vana Kingsley, Professional Writing major



"The mainecoon mix is Leo, our four month old rescue. He was found on the side of a wooded road in Austintown, Ohio at about 6 weeks old and came home with us not long after. He is playful and loves to play his hunting games on the iPad."

The Grey cat is Bella. Bella was rescued after almost going to a shelter at 10 years old. Three years later, and she has become the queen of the house. We were told she does not like people, kids or other animals but she seems to love them all with us. Her favorite time is to lay and watch first responder shows with her momma!"

— Ashley Wiseman, Allied Health major



Meet Loki. He is 3 years old and traveled to us all the way from Texas. Loki is a Mini Australian Shepherd that enjoys cuddling, belly rubs, and stealing the occasional food off someone's plate. Loki is super-fast and loves to outrun his tiny human friends especially when they try to dress him up. His eyes are two different colors, and he has the softest ears. His favorite food is cheese and chicken. Loki can sit, lay down, and shake your hand. His bashful face is sure to earn him a snuggle.

-Jordan Chila



"I introduce you to my fur babies, Salem and Luna. Salem is 3 yrs old, and Luna will be 4 yrs old on Halloween. They were both adopted from the MSPCA as kittens when our cat Boo passed away. Salem is a momma's boy and has a habit of knowing exactly what to do to get what he wants. He's very playful and enjoys paper bags and cardboard. Luna is a daddy's girl but will stick around anyone who gives her treats or attention. She loves to cuddle and enjoys belly rubs. They are a huge part of our lives, and we wouldn't trade them for anything in the world."

— Valerie Perales, Allied Health and Art Major



Thanks to everyone who shared their love for their pets! We had so many submissions, we couldn't fit them all in just one spread, so check out the full list of submitted pets at [mountobserver.com!](http://mountobserver.com/)



WHAT'S COOKIN' AT MWCC

Recipe of the Month: Moroccan-Style Stuffed Acorn Squash

Benjamin Heffner (Passed on from my grandmother and great-grandmother!). Serves 4.

Ingredients

- 2 Acorn Squashes
- 2 tsp Olive Oil
- Ground beef
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/8th tsp of cinnamon and nutmeg
- 1 onion, finely diced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 3/4 cups bulgur
- 2 cups water



Directions:

1. Cut two acorn squashes in half and take out the seeds. Place them cut side down in a baking dish. Bake in a 400-degree oven until tender, for about 35 minutes. The filling should be made while the squash is cooking.
2. In a medium pot, heat up 2 tsp of olive oil. Add ground beef, a tsp of salt, and 1/8th tsp of cinnamon and nutmeg. Cook until the beef is brown, for about 7 minutes. Strain the meat onto another plate while saving whatever liquid remains in the pot. To that liquid, add one finely diced onion and cook for about 5 minutes. Then add 4 cloves of minced garlic until they're fragrant. Stir in 3/4 cups of bulgur. Add 2 cups of water and bring to a boil. Then reduce heat to medium-low, cook covered for 15 minutes. Remove from heat, but keep it covered for another 5 minutes.
3. Add in the reserved beef as well as a handful of golden raisins, some chopped parsley and a couple tablespoons of toasted pine nuts. Scrape out the flesh from the cooked squashes and add to the filling. Equally divide the filling among the 4 halves of squash. Bake another 10 to 15 minutes to warm everything.

See Your Recipe Here!

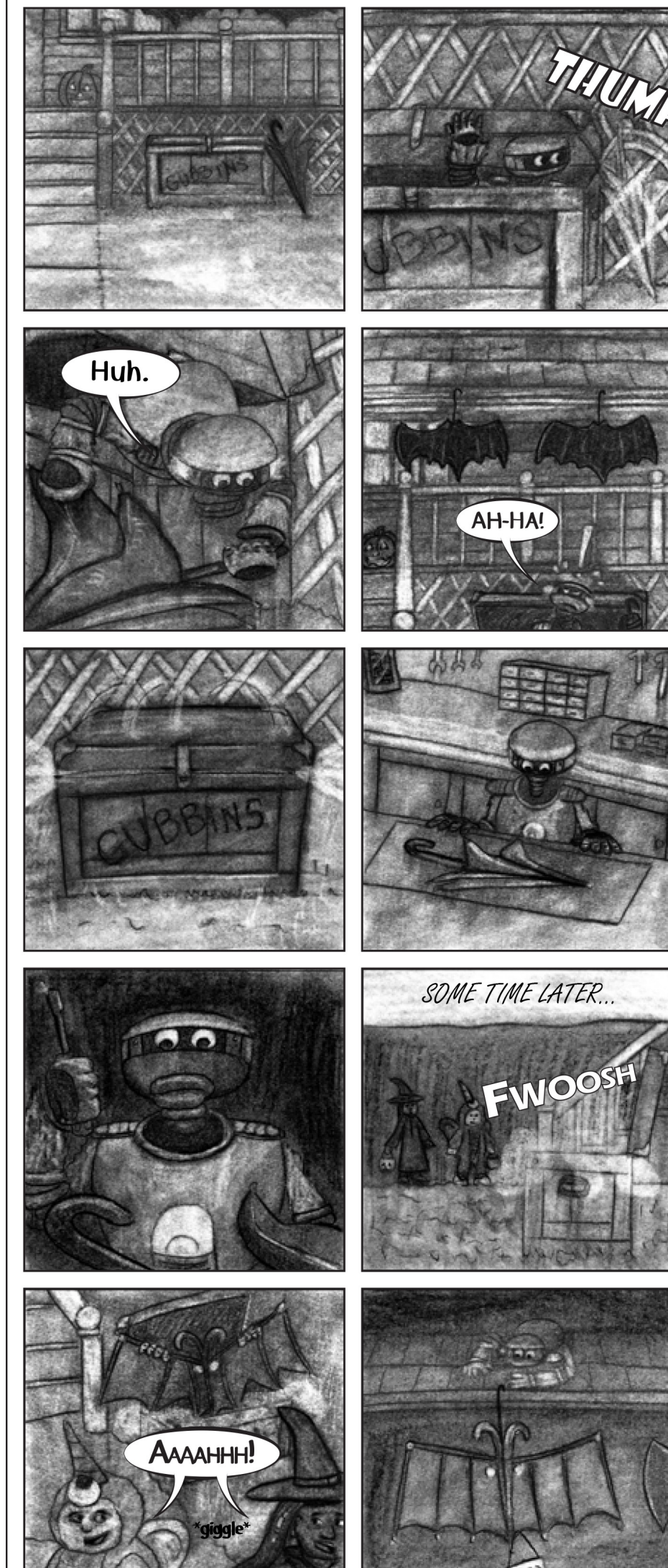
Send your favorite cooking combos to us at mountobserver@mwcc.mass.edu

Have your own thoughts on a TV show, film, book, or video game? Write a review and send it to mountobserver@mwcc.mass.edu It may just end up in our next issue!

COMICS

GUBBINS

Created by Tom Hill Jr.



Copyright Tom Hill Jr.

Creative Writing

Lestat

An Interview with the Vampire Blackout Poem by Elysian Alder, Editor-in-Chief
Excerpt from page 19 of Interview with the Vampire by Anne Rice

"I saw Lestat again. I saw him as I have seen him before, stark in the night.

I saw him, his life and blood; radiant, luminous. I saw only Lestat.

It was as if I was so enthralled with Lestat that I looked at nothing else for a long time.

His laughter, his heart. It was confusing: soft but distinct, increasing but discrete delight—my Lestat.

Rid yourself, don't fall so madly in love that you lose.

I became so enamored with a thought of him, the night beckoning me, and I began to ache, dying yet completely alive—fear.

I ran back to Lestat."

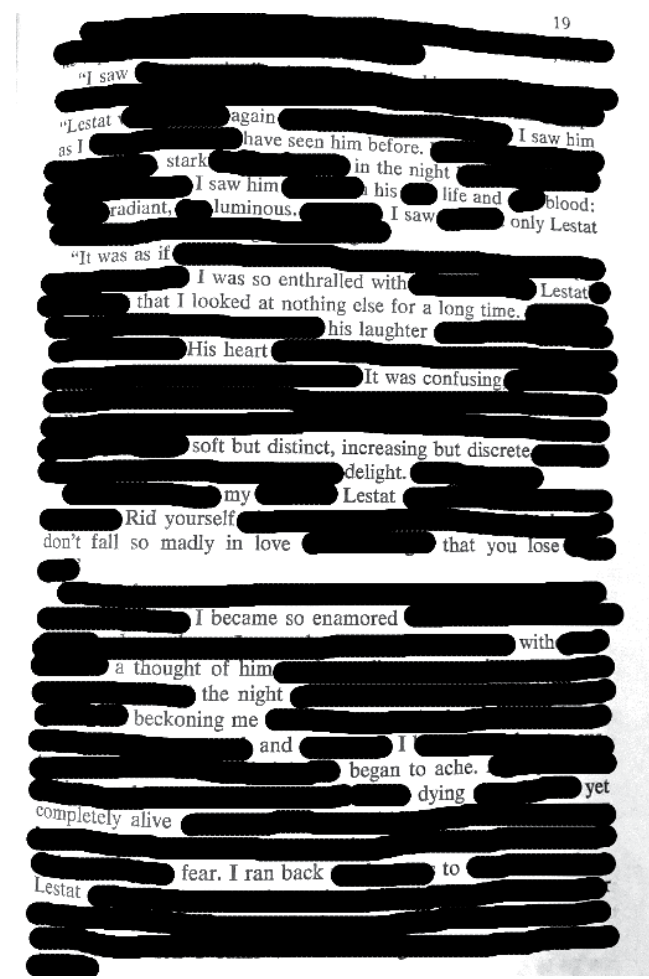


Photo by Elysian Alder



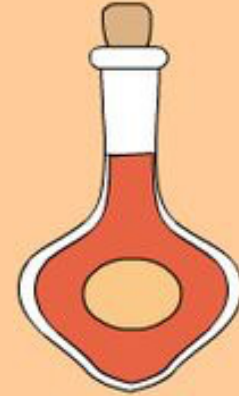
WHAT IS YOUR HALLOWEEN NAME?

First Letter of Your First Name

A.Spooky
B.Blood-Curdling
C.Frightening
D.Creepy
E.Eerie
F.Wicked
G.Horrid
H.Shocking
I.Chilling
J.Spine-Tingling
K.Bizarre
L.Ominous
M.Evil



N.Freaky
O.Haunting
P.Soul- Stirring
Q.Hair-Raising
R.Spine-Chilling
S.Ghostly
T.Nightmarish
U.Monstrous
V.Terrorizing
W.Dreadful
X.Scaring
Y.Magical
Z.Shadowy

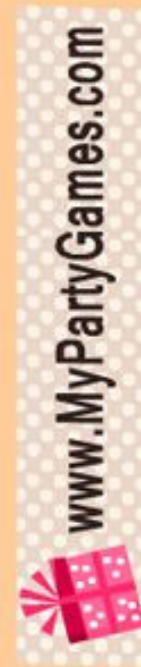


First Letter of Your Last Name

A.Monster
B.Vampire
C.Bat
D.Cat
E.Fangs
F.Skull
G.Night
H.Spider
I.Scarecrow
J.Crow
K.Pumpkin
L.Witch
M.Demon



N.Zombie
O.Mummy
P.Goblin
Q.Beast
R.Eyeball
S.Demon
T.Ghost
U.Hat
V.Moon
W.Mask
X.Nightmare
Y.Trick
Z.Web



THE COUNT OBSERVER | VOLUME BOO!, ISSUE 4 | OCTOBER 31, 2024

Editors-in-Chief:

Elysian Alder
Jordan Chila

Assistant Editors:

Vana Kingsley
Princess Yeboah

Staff Writers:

Desiree Leader
Kent Yang

Graphic Designer:

Thomas Hill Jr.

Contributors:

Benjamin Heffner
Maiki Coggins
Matthew Infantino
Lindsay Mahoney

Adviser:

Katie Fuller

Address:

Room H353, MWCC,
444 Green St.,
Gardner, MA 01440

E-Mail

mountobserver@mwcc.mass.edu

The Mount Observer reserves the right to edit and condense all submissions. *The Mount Observer* is a member of the College Media Advisers, Inc.

The Mount Observer Advertising Policy:

The Mount Observer will reject any ad that is libelous, obscene, violates any laws or encourages discrimination against any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, age, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.

The Mount Observer reserves the right to edit or reject any ad copy at any time.