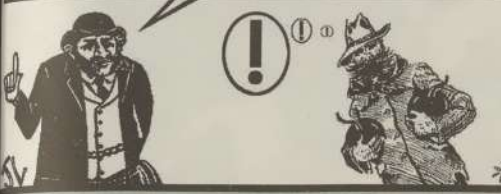


COMIX

Creationism is a theological concept but intelligent design is a scientific theory which holds that nature is so complex it must have been the work of a Creator. It's just like the Big Bang theory.



VENEER



CHAOS THE CAT by Nathan Birchfield



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No Such Thing As A.D.D.



'Tis the season for squash mutilation

Tayo Stalnaker
The Clackamas Print

Ask anybody the first thing that comes to mind when they hear "Halloween" and most of them will say the jack o' lantern. However, if you ask people about the history of the jack o' lantern and pumpkin carving, most will have no clue.

So, what is a jack o' lantern? How did it get its name? Was it always made out of a pumpkin? How can you make really cool pumpkins? If you want to know, read on ... if you dare!

The jack o' lantern was originally brought to the states by the Irish. However, the jack o' lanterns they brought weren't carved in pumpkins. They were made out of turnips, potatoes and gourds.

The legend of the jack o' lantern goes back centuries. According to Irish legend, a miserable, drunken prankster named Jack tricked the Devil. Jack somehow managed to get the Devil to climb an apple tree. Once the Devil was up the tree, Jack put crosses around the base of the tree so the Devil couldn't get down. Jack then told the Devil not to send him to hell when he died. The Devil agreed and Jack took the crosses out.

When Jack died years later he went up to heaven but wasn't let in. Saint Peter told him that he was too mean and cruel to be allowed in heaven. So Jack was sent down to hell. However, the Devil kept his promise, and didn't allow Jack into hell. Jack asked the Devil how he could leave through the darkness. The Devil tossed him an ember from the flames of hell which Jack, in turn, put into a hollowed-out turnip. Jack forever after roamed the Earth, lighting his way with his "jack o' lantern."

The Irish started carving pump-



Megan Koler Clackamas Print

kins when they came to America. They found pumpkins were easier to carve than turnips. They could also make better designs.

Pumpkin carving has changed a lot over the decades. We're starting to see more and more intricate designs and artistic concepts. If you want to find out more about pumpkin carving, then log on to www.pumpkin carving.com. Here you can find out how to make templates to place over your pumpkin so you can make works of art. You can also find more information on Halloween history, pumpkin carving, and even the proper way to bury a pumpkin.

If you're into more of a rebellious way of carving pumpkins, then check out the website www.extremepumpkins.com. This site is about "extreme pumpkin carving." Here you will learn ways of carving pumpkins with saws, drills, and even explosives. The designs they've come up with on this site are pretty crazy. My favorite is the "Gunshot Wound Pumpkin."

Pumpkin carving is great fun for the whole family, but it can be dangerous. Kids, always have an adult around when you're carving the pumpkin. Remember, if you're going to stab something, stab a pumpkin.

Dia Des Los Muertes celebrates the dead

Mike Guidice
The Clackamas Print

In the United States, around this time every year, when the leaves have begun to fall and the air has gotten crisp, we know that fall is in full swing and we begin preparation for Halloween.

Everyone with a pulse knows of the holiday and most Americans celebrate it to a certain extent. However, there is another holiday that deserves some attention about this time of year, and that is the Hispanic celebration of Day of the Dead, or Dia De Los Muertos.

Beginning in mid-October and extending to the first week of November, the ancient festivity is intended to recognize the dead, but also acknowledge the children.

This primarily takes place in two days, with Nov. 1 being the day to recognize deceased children and infants, while Nov. 2 is seen as the day to remember the elderly deceased.

The Hispanic people acknowledge the dead while at the same time reuse the continuity of existence. This is an example of the circle of life and they believe that both creation and demise are equally important and need to be celebrated.

Generally the festivities on this extravagant holiday include two main aspects. The first is welcoming the deceased back into their home by various methods. In most cases, the family constructs an altar that serves as a shrine for the individual(s).

The altar is decorated elaborately with many beautiful bright and vibrant colors, consisting primarily of

flowers and other floral arrangements that are meant to attract the soul of their loved one. The hope is that the spirit comes back to witness and even take part in the family's remembrance and prayer.

The second main aspect of the holiday is the celebration that takes place at the cemetery, atop a grave site. Family members gather around and deck out the tombstone and surrounding area with lavish flowers and various other decorations and things to remember the deceased by.

Once the area is elegantly and colorfully arranged, the family members set up a picnic, eat and socialize with each other and other members of the community.

The food for the picnic is prepared before hand and consists of highly sweet snacks, namely "pan de muerto," or bread of the dead, and countless other cookies and chocolate. Extravagant spicy meat dishes are also concocted and alcoholic beverages are brought along as offerings to go along with the meals.

Despite what would normally otherwise be a very somber and gray atmosphere, Day of the Dead is made into a huge festival that reaches countless homes and cemeteries all over Mexico. It's viewed as a special occasion not to mourn the dead, but to celebrate their lives and participate in remembrance with the friends and family they have lost.

While Halloween gets a lot of attention in the United States, it's good to know that other cultures have their own special way of celebrating during this time of the year, turning something as depressing as death into a huge festival of fun, food and excitement.

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