

Trick or Treat?

- Jack Krivit

I have finally made the transition from under to upperclassman, meaning that my days of trick or treating are ultimately over. Not only am I too tall and covered in splotches of facial hair, but to walk around in a costume among four foot tall elementary schoolers would really just make me depressed (not to mention the amount of embarrassment I would experience). So now that that part of my life is done, I have the freedom to do whatever I want this Halloween. The only problem is, I have no idea what to do. Trick or treating was always a safe activity to rely on, but now that I'm older, I essentially have to fend for myself. As I stress over my choices, I have to think: is this some kind of good fortune, or will it just prevent me from enjoying the holiday altogether?

Becoming a high-schooler is the time when Trick or Treating comes to an end for most students. However, it was more difficult for me to let go of the tradition, which is why I still went during my freshman and sophomore years. In order to avoid being recognized, I donned my homemade dinosaur costume that still somehow fit me, and mimicking a prepubescent middle schooler, practiced saying the three words that would grant me my reward. In both cases, although part of me knew that it wasn't necessarily right to take the candy, I just couldn't seem to let go of what I had been doing for the past fourteen years of my life. Other kids my age were going into Salem or throwing parties, already having moved on. But I was determined to have one last night before, as I believed it, I had to officially grow up. Before even an hour of collecting candy and being disapprovingly eyed by other Marblehead residents (thankfully they didn't recognize me), I decided it was time to go home. As sad as it was to admit, my days of Trick or Treating were over.

Although the tradition has officially ended, I now have to find something to fill the gap. Since this is a new experience for me, I am overwhelmed by the number of choices I can make. Instead of attending a party, I could go into Salem, or instead of that, I could always just stay in town and relax with some friends. This whole month has been an ordeal of worrying about what to do and if I will actually have a plan when the night of the 31st comes around. The reality of the situation though, as important as it may seem, is that it really is just a night. No one wants to miss out on enjoying Halloween, but the great thing about it is that it is an annual event. I am now past the age of Trick or Treating, meaning that I no longer have to worry about missing my "last chance to do it again." Although I have been stressing over what to do on Halloween, what I originally thought of as being a trick has ultimately transformed into a treat, allowing me to make whatever decision I want and not feel bad about not doing something else. So enjoy your Halloween everyone! I know I might.