

Mulvane  
High  
School

# Cat Tracks

october 30, 2007

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mulvane, kansas

## Cross Country State Champs

Best Horror  
Flicks

Halloween Haunts  
in the USA

Mystery Student and  
Feature Teacher

next issue: winter sports preview, thanksgiving, foreign exchange update

Sports Update

Be sure to check the litterbox!

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On the cover: coach Dale Landes, Nikki Trooien-Smith, Nick Lockwood, Wyatt James, coach Brad Canfield; Evan Landes, David Roberts, Josh Hansen, and Nathan Sooby.

## Feature teacher: Mrs. Damm

feature by: tyler schuckman

**Q:** What made you want to be a theatre teacher?

**A:** Growing up I never could decide between becoming a teacher or an actress. It was in my high school drama class when I realized I could be a teacher and perform



every day in my classroom; I realized it was my fate.

**Q:** Who was the most important figure in your life and did they influence you to become a teacher?

**A:** My mother was the most important, the most amazing, strong, and supportive role model any child could have. She taught me the important life lessons about strength, grace, adversity, and growth. She gave me the wings to dream and explore.

**Q:** What is the most exciting thing about being a drama teacher?

**A:** In my classroom, creativity and spontaneity thrive! I never know what students or ideas are going to shine; It is amazing.

**Q:** If you could teach anything else what would it be?

**A:** P.E. I love sports, athletes, and the gym. I would love to be involved with sports throughout my life, not only for the fun, competition and team bonds, but also to promote a healthy lifestyle.

**Q:** Where did you go to high school and college?

**A:** I grew up in Leavenworth and graduated in 1998 from Immaculata High School. My college is Pittsburg State University; I majored in Communication Education and minored in Coaching. I then went to Pitt State grad school and earned my Master of Arts in Directing Theater.

## Mystery student

feature by: katie holladay

This week's mystery student. . .

- . . . plays softball
- . . . has one brother and one sister
- . . . hates gum, but really likes potatoes
- . . . is a member of Thespians
- . . . has four dogs and four cats
- . . . favorite movies are *Shaun of the Dead* and *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*
- . . . likes wolves
- . . . favorite band is Motion City Soundtrack

If you think you know this person, submit your guess to Ms. Ebersole in Room 513 by the end of the day Wednesday. All correct answers will go in a drawing for a prize that will be given away Friday morning.



kristy ebersole  
heather branson  
axel costello  
chance carmichael  
jamie thomas  
katie holladay  
jackie schwemmer  
robin carmichael  
tyler schuckman

adviser  
life editor  
photography editor  
opinion editor  
deputy photo editor  
sports editor  
copy editor  
activities editor  
"the new kid"

All views expressed in the opinion section are those of the writer. These views do not reflect those of the Mulvane school district or the *Cat Tracks* staff. Letters to the editor are accepted and printed on a space available basis. All letters must be typed and double-spaced. The *Cat Tracks* staff reserves the right to edit all letters for length and content.

# Dia de los Muertos celebrates loved ones

story by: heather branson

Contrary to the more common belief of Halloween, Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is a belief that celebrates and honors the lives of the dead.

This tradition, which goes from October 31 to November 2, started more than 500 years ago when Spanish conquistadors landed in what is now Mexico, and encountered a ritual that seemed to mock death.

The tradition is celebrated in Mexico and some parts of the southern United States like Arizona and Texas.

On this festive day, people get decked out in wooden masks and dance in honor of their deceased relatives. Sugar skulls have the names of the dead and are eaten by family members or friends. These skulls symbolize death and rebirth.

Halloween is supposed to be scary and enforces the paranormal belief in ghosts and ghouls. El Dia De Los Muertos is the opposite, it focuses more on the life before death and the celebration of the deceased. Instead of trick or treating and dressing in costumes, these believers present their deceased family members and friends with gifts.



A common symbol of the holiday is the skull, which are represented in masks and foods such as sugar skulls, which are inscribed with the name of the recipient on the forehead. Sugar skulls are gifts that can be given to both the living and the dead.

To learn more about Dia de los Muertos and the Spanish culture, check out these websites:

<http://www.azcentral.com/ent/dead/>

[http://www.mexconnect.com/mex/\\_muertos.html](http://www.mexconnect.com/mex/_muertos.html)

<http://www.diadelosmuertos.us/>

## BEST Robotics



photo by Maria Mejia

Ryan Malanchuk and Riley Mallatt make some adjustments to their robot. The team of 35 students worked about six weeks on the project and took sixth place in the BEST competition and 14th place in the robot competition.

## 2007 NHS members

The National Honor Society induction ceremony will be held Monday, November 5 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium.

### SENIORS

Amber Bilby  
Stephanie Boal  
Rachel Boden  
Lachelle Branine  
Joshua Carroll  
Brent Cline  
Jessica Harms  
Caleb Hatfield  
Michael Humbolt  
Angela Korbe  
Emily Lager  
Kristen Lervik  
Noelle Lewis  
Kayla Loper  
Preston Madding  
Matt Martin

Melinda McKee

Maria Mejia  
Lauren Miller  
Michael Pagels  
John Pine  
Becki Rhodes  
Quinton Smith  
Austin Stephens  
Aerica VanDorn  
Tamara Vasko  
Katie Ybarra  
Logan Young

### JUNIORS

Amanda Burrell  
Laken Campbell  
Daniel Crowe  
Max Heersche

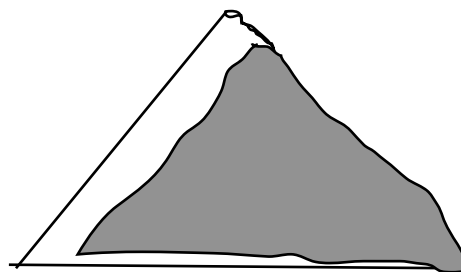
Lauren Johnston  
Brook Kendall  
Susan McDaniel  
Devon Miller  
Dana Nelson  
Kristina Nulik  
Rachael Ott  
Devan Redington  
David Roberts  
Jacob Snider  
Brandon Songster  
Huldon Tharp  
Jamie Trapp  
Brice Walsten  
Kyle Walsten  
Kourtney Welch  
Maddie Wise



# Our Haunted Homeland

story by: *chance carmichael*

Reported hauntings are recorded every year in the U.S. Here are a few of the creepiest and scariest in our country!



## The Winchester Mystery Mansion *San José, CA*

Sarah Winchester, widow of famed gun maker William Winchester, was convinced by a psychic that her husband was killed by the spirits of people who were killed by his guns. "Build a home for yourself and for the spirits...you can never stop building the house...stop and you will die." So, she built and built until she died. There are 160 rooms in the house. There are doors and staircases that lead to nowhere at all. The spirits of the dead are said to still haunt the house along with Sarah herself!



San Jose, CA

Estes Park, CO

## The Stanley Hotel *Estes Park, CO*

The Stanley Hotel was the inspiration for Stephen King's *The Shining*. The hotel has embraced this and the fact that many of its workers and guests have had ghostly encounters. In 1907 Oscar Stanley broke the ground to the Stanley. Some people still see him hanging around (left).

Some former employees of our local Pizza Hut have admitted to feeling like someone is watching them, someone is right behind them, and unexplained noises. Employees have named the ghost "Pickles." The legend has grown so much that Pizza Hut can be found on many haunting listing websites.

1.

### Field of Screams

4055 N. Tyler Rd.  
Maize, KS 67107  
Phone: (316) 303-2037  
Admission: \$13.00 for adults



For those of you who need a little more to scare them senseless. There is the 2,000 square foot haunted Spurlock home and a huge graveyard. It's sure-fired to scare your pants off!

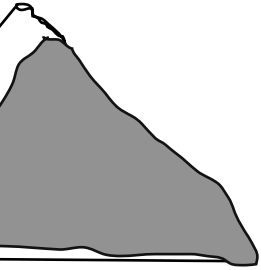
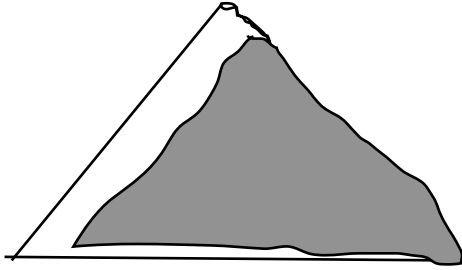
2.

### Bergmann's Corn Maze

8401 S. Meridian St.  
Haysville, KS 67060  
Phone: (316) 524-1790  
Admission: \$9.00 for adults



Bergmann's is an amazing 15 acre corn maze where you answer fun trivia questions and riddles thrown throughout the maze to win prizes. There are also two mini theaters playing free movies!



## The Site of The Battle of Gettysburg *Gettysburg, PA*



The site of the battle where 45,000 casualties lay to rest on the field nearly 150 years ago is in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Whether you see some ghosts and goblins or not, just the feeling and emotion in this area is said to be enough to call it haunted. One of the bloodiest battles in the Civil War and the turning point for the North, Gettysburg's casualties equaled the importance of the North's victory to abolish slavery.



Mulvane, KS

Gettysburg, PA

St. Augustine, FL

## St. Augustine, Florida America's Most Haunted City *St. Augustine, FL*



St. Augustine, Florida is not only the oldest European-settled city in the United States, but is said to be the most haunted. There are ghost tours of the town which most businesses participate in. The town's ghosts include a dead widow that comes in the form of a floating swinging lantern on the top of an inn and a stubborn Spanish evictee.

# 3.

## Horror of Muldoon High

Mulvane Saddle Club  
Admission: \$10.00 for adults  
\$5.00 for children under 48"



Visit our very own haunted house and support the MHS band trip to the Alamo. You can still visit tonight from 7:00 to 10:00 or tomorrow from 7:00 to midnight.

# Costumes!

## 1. Marilyn Monroe

You will need a white flare dress, some white heels, and a short, blonde wig. Most costume items can be purchased at your nearest Goodwill.

## Hippie 2.

Get a tie-die or 70s print top or dress. Put your hair in braids or big curls, and wear a tie die or 70s print bandana. Get some yellow-tinted, round glasses.

## 3. Batwoman

You will need a black skirt with a black tank top. Get a yellow belt with a batman sign made from yellow felt. To make the mask get a strip of black felt and cut out the eyes.

## Clown 4.

Wear mismatched, oversized clothes. Use face paint. Finish with a red clown nose and a colorful wig.

## 5. Policeman

A pair of black leather pants with a fitted black t-shirt. Black boots and a black cop hat. Finish it off with a police badge.

## Spiderman 6.

Black pants with a black long sleeve shirt. Get a pair of black gloves to finish off with a simple Spiderman mask.



Pictured at the top: (from left to right) P. Diddy as Hercules, Mischa Barton as Betty Boop, Heidi Klum as a vampire, and Anne Hathaway as Cleopatra.



# Cookin' with Costello: a pumpkin of a recipe

## Pumpkin Roll

3 eggs  
1 C sugar  
2/3 C pumpkin  
3/4 C flour  
1 t soda  
1 t lemon juice  
2 t cinnamon  
1 t nutmeg  
1/2 t salt

Beat eggs for five minutes. Mix well with other ingredients. Line a jelly roll pan with waxed paper. Grease and flour the paper. Pour in batter and sprinkle with nuts. Bake for 15 min-

utes at 350 degrees.

Sprinkle powdered sugar on towel then turn cake onto the towel and roll up like a jelly roll. Cool.

Unroll and spread with the following mixture:

1 C powdered sugar  
4 t butter  
8 oz. cream cheese  
1 t vanilla or lemon flavoring  
Spread on cake and re-roll. Chill. (Can be frozen. Tastes better when made the day before. Sprinkle with powdered sugar before serving.)



Axel made this for us last week and we all agree it was delicious!

## The Horror of Muldoon High Q&A with band director Paul Howe

story by: jamie thomas

**Q:** How long did it take to plan out?

**A:** Three months

**Q:** How long did it take to set up?

**A:** About 2000 man hours

**Q:** How much help did you have?

**A:** A lot of help...probably around 100 people

**Q:** What is your favorite part about it?

**A:** Literally scaring the pee out of somebody

**Q:** Whose idea was it to bring back the haunted house?

**A:** Mine

**Q:** Who all is helping out?

**A:** Do you really want me to list all 150 (band members and families)?

**Q:** How much money are you hoping to raise for the band trip?

**A:** About \$30,000



photos by Laken Campbell



photo by Axel Costello

David Roberts strides ahead of the pack to take first place at state.

## Perfection defined

story by: jackie schwemmer

*Eagle* reporter Derrick Mead.

Cross Country traveled to Clearwater two weekends ago for an outstanding 4A regional tournament and then took another successful journey to Wamego on Saturday.

Junior David Roberts led the pack with a perfect season, winning every one of his races as well as the Class 4A title.

At state, Roberts won by 22 seconds, with a time of 16:30:27. "Of course my goal was to win, but I really just wanted to come out and do my best. My teammates all ran well, too; we all did well today," Roberts told *Wichita*

Five other MHS athletes placed in the top twenty, which earned the team first place and put them 30 points ahead of second place. Nikki Trooien-Smith finished in seventh place, Evan Landes at 16th, and Nick Lockwood, Wyatt James, and Josh Hansen took 18, 19 and 20th.

"We're just going to enjoy this one for quite a while, I think. This is huge for Mulvane High School," coach Landes said.

Congratulations Cross Country on an incredible season!

## Sylvester motivates freshman volleyball

story by: chance carmichael

The freshman volleyball players ended their season with high standings, and a claim that their luck lies with a snake.

After a day full of losses at the Chaparral tournament, freshman coach Sarah Haar found a plastic snake in the MHS gym and named him Sylvester.

"We started the season a little rough. I found this fake snake in the gym and I made it our new team mascot. The freshman girls were all excited," Haar laughed.

The snake may have only been superstition, but it

gave the girls confidence and helped them bond during the season. Coach Haar would stand on the sidelines and swing it around during the games to cheer the girls onward to victory.

"We would swing him around to get the good vibes goin' on the court," Adriann Thomas said with a grin.

The snake did just that. With Sylvester, along with bus rides manned by Coach Haar herself, the team soared through the season with laughs, camaraderie, and fun.

Haar liked to imitate an old-aged, mean bus driver when the team reached the train tracks.

"When we got to the tracks, she'd say, 'Shut it, you maggots!'" Thomas said fondly.

The freshman volleyball girls finished their season with 19 wins and 11 losses. Whether it was from Sylvester or from the zest on the bus driven by Haar, the team's connection and drive was very evident this season.

"It was a team bond, it was a friend bond, it was a sisterly bond. We fought like sisters, but always got along," Thomas admitted.



Freshmen Meredith McKee and Kelsey Miller with Sylvester the snake. Photo by Chance Carmichael.

2007 Season	
JV	14-14
Varsity	5-32



# Beating the odds

story by: tyler schuckman

Undefeated Mulvane Wildcats 9-0! This has been a memorable season, from a double overtime to beat the Hill to Huldou Tharp breaking the single season rushing record.

Some said it wasn't possible, coming off of an excellent season last year and losing so many seniors. "Many never thought this team would do this good due to the fact that they lost many seniors," William Bird said.

Many players have shown improvement like senior Justin Leatherman with his blocking.

"We have a very complete team that's very dedicated and has the desire to win," Leatherman stated.

Desire, skill, overcoming obstacles, whatever the reason, the Cats are certainly beating the odds. So even if you haven't been to a game all season, come out tonight out to a game filled with emotion and watch Mulvane hand Rose Hill their sixth loss of the season!



photo by Axel Costello

Tyler Springer watches for Belle Plaine defenders.

## Solo state performance

story by: axel costello & chance carmichael

Senior Kim Ruhter was the only golfer from Mulvane at the state tournament this year and placed eleventh out of 102 golfers.

"I didn't realize I was going to state until I was leaving the regional tournament. I was mostly excited about getting sixth place at regionals," Ruhter said.

Overall though, the girls golf team fell a little short of goals this year. "No, we didn't fulfill my hopes for this year because I wanted to send the whole team, but I only ended up taking

Kim," coach Paul Howe said.

Coach Howe was very proud of Ruhter though for braving the hard terrain of the state course and a few slithering critters on the course.

"When we got there they told us the course was full of snakes. I was terrified," Howe said with wide eyes of fear.

Despite the snakes, Mulvane's very own Kim Ruhter found herself in the top 15 % of the girl golfers at state. It truly is a success. Congratulations, Kim Ruhter!



## Can't we all just get along?

editorial by: robin carmichael

Recently, I have noticed quite a few rumors flying around the halls. I'm sick of it! If you're in the middle of a web of dirty, immature rumors, or just tired of them, I have some pointers.

First, don't start them. If you think, key word "think," something may or may NOT be true, keep it to yourself. Tell your siblings or parents before you tell somebody you don't for sure trust. Blood is thicker than water. If you absolutely know your best friend won't tell, tell them if you have to.

Second, defend yourself; if you know it's not true, try your hardest to prove it's not . . . because sometimes your own best friend abandons you, and you may find yourself in a rumor that your supposed "best friend" started.

Next, ignore the facebook, myspace, or text message rumors in general. It's obviously not true and just causes fights. It will even cause Internet fights through messaging on myspace and facebook, which are what thirteen year old girls engage in. Last time I checked, this is high school.

Saying that, I am meaning the wounds ARE deeper, and the kids ARE meaner. So stop saying things that aren't true. Sometimes you could tell everybody a rumor about a certain person, before they even have heard about it themselves.

Above all, be nice, so stop the rumors and accusations! In the famous words of Jack Nicholson, "Can't we all just get along?"

## Not too old for trick-or-treats

editorial by: katie holladay

I don't understand why some people get so upset about teenagers trick-or-treating. In many adults' opinions it is only acceptable for young children and their chaperones to go trick-or-treating. I wonder what is so wrong with others participating.

Okay, so we're taking free candy. And, according to society, we are at an age where we should have a job that would enable us to buy this on our own. That's not the point. All of the teenagers I know that trick-or-treat barely get any candy anyway. It's more about having fun with your friends. We're not out there to swindle some little old lady out of her hard-earned money; we're just big kids enjoying ourselves.

Trick-or-treating is

supposed to be fun. So why can't it be fun for all ages?

And if you look at it, trick-or-treating is good for the community, too. First, it gets more people out together. Holidays are generally supposed to bring people closer. And people can't be brought together if some aren't allowed to join in the activities. Also, trick-or-treating provides a safe alternative to many other activities that could be going on.

In the end, though, if someone doesn't want teenagers to trick-or-treat, I guess they can refuse us candy. But that's about all they can do. Because I know at least I will be dressed up and ready to say those three candy-coated words.

Have a happy Halloween!

## Zombies rock at life...or not

editorial by: chance carmichael

The streets are completely deserted. Cars are left in the middle of the street with their doors hanging open. Newspapers and trash blow across the cracked concrete. And through the dense fog off in the distance, brainless, bloody, grey people edge their way toward you.

Zombies are like the former Soviet Union. They share their brains among the people to create a more equally-balanced system of citizens. Well, not technically, but they're more powerful because of their sheer numbers. Zombies are just plain awesome. (How's that for a thesis statement?)

C'mon, what are our other choices? Werewolves, vampires, and witches? Werewolves only appear once a month. Arithmetic eliminates werewolves right now with the power of probability. The chances of you getting ambushed by a "wolf-man" are slim to none. They're also just way too hairy. . . it's like "here's a map to Hobbitville."

Then there are vampires. "Boo-hoo hoo, look at me with my Eastern European accent and I can turn into a bat." Vampires always have to be torn, angsty, and sullen. Hey, I know a bat that's cool and not pale and lame. His name is Batman and there isn't enough

room in this world for pale pans-pires with him around fighting crime.

Frankly, after reading *Harry Potter* witches and wizards don't frighten me much either. We all know even if some witch went "Avada Kedavra" on our butts, the Department of Apprehending Mischievous Muggle Hunters would knock them right into Azkaban.

So, now, that I have confused all but a few of you, time to blow your mind with two facts why zombies are awesome!

1. Zombies don't take names and don't have any feelings. They're like walking vegetables who have decided that since they have lost their

brain that they need to devour another's to gain knowledge. WHAT? Awesome, that's what.

2. They have the ability to make more zombies on the spot. Wait for a full moon? No, sir. Suck the blood, then feed it back, then wait a bit for another pans-pire? No, ma'am. Zombies become zombies lickety-split.

So, basically zombies rock. This Halloween don't fear the reaper, fear grey, oozing people who work like a well-oiled machine to eat your moooooaaaaannnn brains.

# Staff picks their favorite scary movies



©1978 Compass International Pictures

**Axel Costello:** For my favorite scary movie I chose one of the classics, the original *Halloween*. This movie, in my point of view, is a must-see. It revolves around the psychotic murderer Michael Myers who is hungry for blood after he escapes from a mental institution. It was made in 1978 and directed by John Carpenter, and the first showing was actually in Kansas City. If you want to see what horror movies now-a-days evolved from, watch this.



© 1979 Warner Bros

**Chance Carmichael:** *The Shining* is full of creepy feelings and unanswered questions. It is one of the most frightening tales, because it involves murdering family members, ghosts, telepathy, and a big abandoned hotel. With these elements, good actors, and interesting characters *The Shining* quickly became a cult classic.

After seeing it an actual theater, I was blown away. Seriously, what happened to the woman in the bathtub, why is the hotel so haunted, and what exactly is "The Shining?" Try to sit through this horror masterpiece and not jump at the iconic scene where the little boy Danny pedals down the gold and red carpet with his big wheels, meets the blue-dressed apparitions of the girls who were murdered by their father years ago, and not jump. *The Shining* is not really gory or horrific, but it is creepy and it will freak you out. To top it all, it has no cheap, horrible re-makes confusing people. It's simply because nothing can beat *The Shining*.



© 2004 Universal Studios

**Jamie Thomas:** My favorite scary movie is *Shaun of the Dead*, because it's supposed to be scary but it's actually really stupid/funny, and everyone in the movie acts like an idiot. My favorite part of the movie is the end, when Shaun and his zombie friend are playing the PlayStation together.



©1986

**Jackie Schwemmer:** If I was to seriously see one of the aliens from *Aliens* in real life I have no idea what I would do. The suspense was unsettling and I never knew what was going to happen. The story line and setting were something different from other horror films. Sigourney Weaver, who played Ellen Ripley, was a good actress and did a great job, I really enjoyed her performance. The aliens in the movie were disgusting, huge, and scary. Blah!



© 1998

**Katie Holladay:** *Psycho* is a classic horror, made in 1960 and remade in 1998, that everyone's got to like. They take a creepy middle-aged man, combine him with a lost "tough" girl, and tie it off with murder. This girl, who is running from the law, feels she

is tricking Norman Bates with her false name. But really Bates is the one with a secret. This irony just adds to his obsession with his deceased mother.

I love the overall creepiness of this movie. The scariest part is that anyone could have this happen to them. *Psycho* will make you weary of hotels for the rest of your life. You never know what someone will do with you once you give them your trust.



© New Line Productions, Inc.

**Robin Carmichael:** "One, two, Freddy's comin' for you..." is a major line in my favorite scary movie *Nightmare on Elm Street*. You may not find it terrifying, but think about it. Freddy Krueger gets you in your dreams, and you HAVE to sleep. You can't control your dreams so when he flies in, things aren't going to fair too well for you. Not only is this movie creepy, but it has all the other essentials of an '80s horror movie, Wes Craven being one of them. He directed *Scream* (my second favorite scary movie), produced *The Hills Have Eyes* (2006 version), directed *Swamp Thing*, and *The Last House on the Left*. Silly special effects, mysterious characters, hilarious dialogue, and synthesized sound effects make *A Nightmare on Elm Street* one of my favorites.



### jamie's random fact

Halloween's roots can be traced back to Celtic culture in Ireland. According to their "Druid" religion, November 1st was New Years' on their calendar. The celebration would begin on October 31st, and last into the following day. The spirits of all who died in the prior year would rise up and roam the earth on this night.

This is an evil night when spirits roamed the streets and villages. Lord Samhain, the lord of Darkness, would arrive in search of the spirits to take them to the underworld.

Reference: <http://www.holidayinsights.com/halloween/facts.htm>

## Happy Halloween!



### jokes of the month

The door bell rings, and a man answers it. Here stands this plain but well dressed kid saying, "Trick or Treat!"

The man asks the kid what he's dressed up like for Halloween. The kid says, "I'm an IRS agent." Then he takes 28% of the man's candy, leaves, and doesn't say thank you.

Reference: <http://digitaldreamdoor.com/pages/quotes/halloween.html>

Q. What is a Mummie's favorite type of music?

A. Wrap!!!!

Q. Where does a ghost go on Saturday night?

A. Anywhere where he can boo-gie.

Q. What did the skeleton say to the vampire?

A. You suck.

Q. Why did the game warden arrest the ghost?

A. He didn't have a haunting license.

Q. Why didn't the skeleton dance at the party?

A. He had no body to dance with.

Q. Where does Count Dracula usually eat his lunch?

A. At the casketeria.

Q. Where did the goblin throw the football?

A. Over the ghoul line.

Q. What is a vampires favorite holiday?

A. Fangsgiving

Q. What kind of makeup do ghosts wear?

A. Mas-scare-a.

Q. Why did the skeleton cross the road?

A. To go to the body shop.

Q. Who was the most famous ghost detective?

A. Sherlock Moans.

Q. What do you call two spiders that just got married? A. Newlywebbed

Q. What do you call a little monsters parents

A. mummy and deady

