RFSSNEWS

School magazine

October 2026

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Warm coffee, soft sweaters, and the smell of cinnamon filling the house: your guide to a Prague autumn that feels as good as it looks.

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HALLOWEEN MOVIES TO WATCH

From cozy classics to nights you won't sleep through, here is the Halloween watchlist for every level of scared.

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Spirits, monsters, and one very famous music video: the story behind the songs you hear every October.

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HALLOWEEN COSTUME IDEAS

Designed by Jakub Kraus

Written by class 3.A



EVENTS TO ATTEND IN PRAGUE

Written by Sabi P.

This October will bring many interesting events that you can attend with your friends and family, or even alone. Here are a few tips for you.

For lovers of sweet flavours, Čokofest is the place just for you. From October 16 to 18 at Galerie Harfa, you will have the opportunity to taste premium chocolate, watch top confectioners at work, and join competitions to win sweets. This festival has a fourteen-year tradition and is worth a try.

This month will be full of music experiences for everyone. The most anticipated show of the month is A$AP Rocky. This influential rapper will take over O2 arena on October 4, and you can look forward to hearing some of his most famous tracks, such as Praise the Lord, Babushka Boi and HIGHJACK. Another artist who will perform at the O2 arena is one of the biggest contemporary electronic music artist Boris Brejcha with his techno, house, and track music. Other artists you can hear live include the rapper and singer Don Toliver and legendary rock band Deep Purple.

If you’re not sure what kind of event to attend, Groovy Market Fest on October 3 might be the thing you’re looking for. This festival combines gastronomy, design, fashion and music. All the participants are carefully selected to ensure the event is truly extraordinary. The Groovy Market Fest is the right place to experience the unique atmosphere and meet new people.

The Signal festival, aka The Festival of Digital and Creative Culture, is Prague's biggest cultural event. During the occasion the city’s streets and public spaces will be illuminated by laser installations. Some famous landmarks you can be excited to see are the Vltava River, the Astronomical Clock of the Old Town Hall, the Archbishop's Seminary and much more, so make sure to not make any plans for the evenings of October 15 to 18.

Last but not least, the Halloween celebrations at the Botanical Garden, which will take place on October 31. Here, you will be able to enjoy many fun activities, such as paper lantern making, face painting, roasting sausages over a fire, and joining the lantern parade through the garden. But that is not all, during the evening, there will be many competitions you can take a part in!





OKTOBERFEST

Written by Luci D. & Naty G.

Oktoberfest is the world's largest beer festival. It takes place at Theresienwiese in Munich, Germany. Oktoberfest usually lasts between 16 and 18 days. Although the festival is called Oktoberfest, it begins in September because the weather is generally warmer and more pleasant. The event ends on the first Sunday in October, unless German Unity Day extends the celebration.

In 2023, attendance reached a record-breaking 7.2 million people, and around **7.4 million liters of beer were consumed**.

The tradition began on October 12, 1810, on the occasion of the wedding of Crown Prince Ludwig of Bavaria and Princess Therese of Saxe-Hildburghausen. The citizens of Munich were invited to celebrate outside the city walls. The festival grounds were later named Theresienwiese ("Theresa's Meadow") in honor of the princess.

Today, Oktoberfest attracts more than six million visitors every year.

One of the most important traditions at Oktoberfest is the opening ceremony. The festival officially begins when the Mayor of Munich taps the first keg of beer and announces, "O'zapft is!" ("It's tapped!"). The breweries participate in colorful parades featuring horse-drawn beer wagons, marching bands, and people dressed in traditional Bavarian clothing such as lederhosen and dirndls. Visitors can enjoy traditional music, dancing, games, and amusement rides. Another popular tradition is eating Bavarian food. Typical dishes served at Oktoberfest include pretzels, roasted chicken, sausages, and pork knuckles.





ANOTHER OIL CRISIS?

Written by Matěj D.

Since 2015, there has been a Yemeni civil war in which, over the years, two different factions tried to seize the power in the country. First is Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi led Yemeni government that has fought against the Houthis, which is a terrorist organization that operates in multiple Middle Eastern countries.

Recently it seemed that the Houthis were incapable of any offensive actions, but the experts were wrong and they made a rapid advance capturing the south-west of the country, which is filled with essential harbors and resources for the Yemeni people.

But the most important event for us is their seizure of land surrounding the Bab al-Mandab Strait which is used to transport cargo from Asia and Oceania to Europe that could devastate Western economies if closed. This threat is real because the terrorist group is notoriously anti-Western and anti-American.

The Bab al-Mandab Strait is vital due to the sheer amount of goods transported through it. Nearly 12% of all global trade passes through...

...this strait and without it, all ships would need to sail around all of Africa, which is extremely inefficient and would disrupt important supply chains all throughout the Western world.



HALLOWEEN MOVIES TO WATCH

Written by Ondřej K.

Halloween season is coming, which means it's the perfect time to watch some spooky movies. This list includes old classics, slightly scary family movies, and horror films for those who really like to be scared.

Tim Burton's movies are almost essential for the Halloween season. Beetlejuice and The Corpse Bride are classics that everyone should know. Coraline has a similar animation style. It's a wonderful and slightly creepy movie directed by Henry Selick.

Then there are the old classics, such as Scream, Halloween, and The Shining. These movies may be old, but they are still some of the best-known horror classics out there.


EDITOR'S CHOICE
SINISTER
HEREDITARY
THE CONJURING



HALLOWEEN TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Written by Naty J.

Halloween, celebrated on October 31st, is a popular holiday known for costumes, trick-or-treating, parties, and spooky events. Although it is strongly associated with North America, Halloween and similar autumn traditions are celebrated in many different ways around the world.

MEXICO

In Mexico, Halloween is celebrated a little differently. Halloween is often overshadowed by Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), which takes place on November 1st and 2nd. People decorate their homes and cemeteries with colourful flowers, candles, and skulls. Families remember their loved ones who have died and prepare altars with photos, food, and their favourite things. It is a colourful and joyful celebration of life and memories.

(To be continued on page 11)



HALLOWEEN COSTUME IDEAS

Written by Mari H., Terka N. & Sofi L.

As kids we did not celebrate Halloween because it was obviously not a tradition in Czechia. Now there is a lot of parties and clubs, that are Halloween themed, that you can visit, so we hope that this list will be useful for you...



HORROR COSTUMES

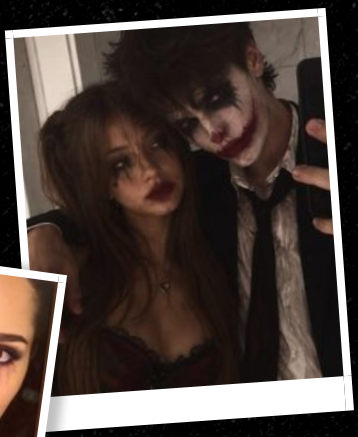
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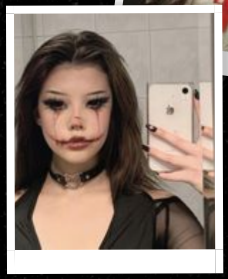




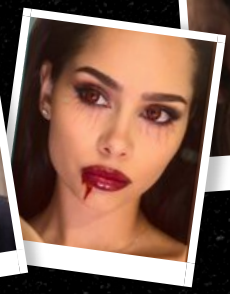
MAKEUP

IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS











CELEBRITIES INSPIRATION

MICHAEL JACKSON THRILLER











GROUP COSTUMES







UNITED STATES AND CANADA

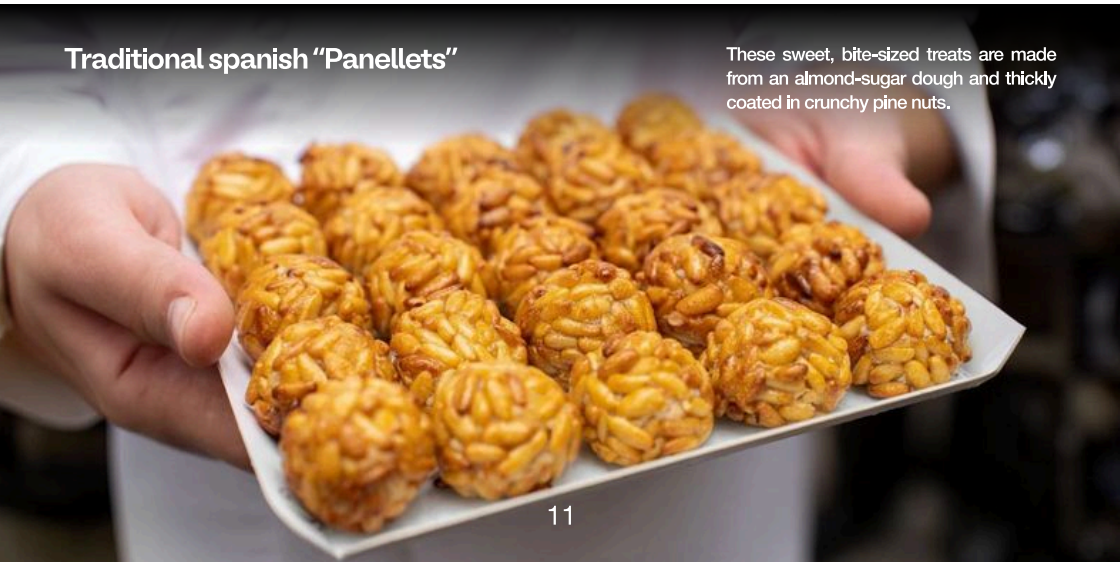
In the United States and Canada, Halloween is celebrated with trick-or-treating, costumes, parties, pumpkin decorations, and haunted houses. Children often go from house to house asking for candy, while many adults attend costume parties or Halloween events. Pumpkins and spooky decorations are also an important part of the celebration.

ROMANIA

Romania is famous for the legend of Dracula. Every year, many tourists visit Bran Castle, which is often associated with this legend. Around Halloween, the castle hosts special events with costumes, music, decorations, and spooky activities. Visitors can explore the castle and learn more about its history and the legends surrounding it.

SPAIN

In Spain, Halloween is closely connected with All Saints' Day (November 1st) and All Souls' Day (November 2nd), when people honour the dead. In Catalonia, La Castanyada is celebrated with roasted chestnuts, sweet potatoes, and traditional almond cakes called panellets. Although costume parties are popular in cities like Madrid and Barcelona, traditional celebrations remain more religious and focused on remembering loved ones.





AUTUMN VIBES

Written by KFK

CINNAMON ROLLS

Cinnamon rolls are made from soft dough. Bakers roll out the dough, put butter, sugar, and cinnamon on top, and roll it up like a tube. Then, they cut it into small pieces and bake it in the oven. After baking, people often put sweet white frosting or glaze on top.

When they bake in the oven, they make the whole house smell sweet and cozy. They are soft, sweet, and warm, and they go very well with a warm cup of coffee, tea, or milk. We recommend a pumpkin spice latte.

In our country, they are very popular and can be found everywhere. For example, at the famous shops in Westfield Chodov or Václavské náměstí. They are quite expensive, but trust me, it is worth it!



TRENDY CLOTHES THIS AUTUMN



Every autumn, people wear highly popular clothing items. Autumn fashion mainly consists of warm sweaters, trench coats, and comfortable shoes. Very popular are Ugg boots. These shoes are special thanks to the warm lining inside. Girls also like to wear sweaters, short skirts with tights, and boots. This is a very popular outfit that you will certainly see girls wearing on the street.

WHAT TO DO THIS AUTUMN

If you want to experience an unforgettable night out, you should definitely visit Stalin park to enjoy the slightly warm autumn weather for as long as you can before it gets cold and check out the DJ sets every Friday and Saturday.

If you want to chill, chat with your friends over a warm cup of coffee, and sit in a cozy café, you should visit La Boheme Café Specialty Coffee Roastery. It is a stylish coffee house located near Náměstí Míru with comfortable seating and an impressive selection of single-origin beans.

We recommend going to the cinema to see a great film on a cold, rainy day, or just staying at home with your friends and watching some autumn classics. (more on page 6)



La Boheme Café



HALLOWEEN

Written by Laura P., Viky C., Pája Č. & Míša H.

HISTORY

Halloween is a typical American holiday which is influenced by Christian beliefs, it also became a celebration of horror and supernatural. It is celebrated on October 31st. Originally 2 000 years ago Halloween was a Celtic festival (Samhain), and it was celebrating the end of harvest season and Celts believed that on October 31st dead people, supernatural and mythic characters would appear among them. Celts wanted to protect themselves from evil therefore they made bonfires to avoid the darkness.

WHAT'S TYPICAL FOR THIS HOLIDAY?

1. trick-or-treat, which is happening at night, and people go carolling house to house for sweets.
2. scary costumes, people are attending parties in horrifying costumes.
3. haunted attraction, in USA are successful fairgrounds and for a weird reason people love to feel the adrenaline of getting scared.
4. apple bobbing, that is a game where you are trying to catch an apple with your mouth

PRAGUE THEMATIC SPOTS

Many people attend OX club on Náměstí Míru, where a DJ plays thematic songs and entry is permitted only if you have a costume. Another great spot is the Fly Vista rooftop restaurant and bar, which offers a themed menu, Halloween drinks, and an entertainment program prepared especially for this occasion. Fly Vista will also host a best-costume contest, in which the three best costumes will win gift vouchers worth 5,000 CZK, 3,000 CZK, and 1,000 CZK.

WHAT IS MORE POPULAR IN CZECHIA? ALL SOULS' DAY (DUŠIČKY) OR HALLOWEEN?

In the Czech Republic, traditional All Souls' Day is still more popular, especially among elderly people. It is a quiet holiday when families visit cemeteries, light candles, and remember their relatives who are no longer with them. On the other hand, Halloween is popular among children because they like scary costumes and having fun.

HALLOWEEN IN EUROPE

Halloween in Europe revives the Celtic traditions from which it comes. This tradition is not that important for Europeans as much as for Americans, however we do celebrate it.

It is perceived as the time of darkness. Movies, late night tours, songs, fictional creatures and scary stuff are welcomed. We believe that the soul of Dead visits us at this exact time of the year.

The typical tradition in Europe is to carve a pumpkin, bake thematic sweets and visiting graves.

In Europe, Ireland celebrates Halloween with a massive passion. Ireland is also known as the birthplace of Halloween since the roots of this tradition has begun there. They organize a huge festivals, magical parades, and historic storytelling.





THE ORIGIN OF HALLOWEEN SONGS

Written by Terka V. & Juli V.

Halloween music is not really one specific type of music. It is a mix of traditional songs, folk music, popular songs, and much more. Many songs that we consider Halloween songs today were not originally written for Halloween. However, some songs were created specifically for the holiday.

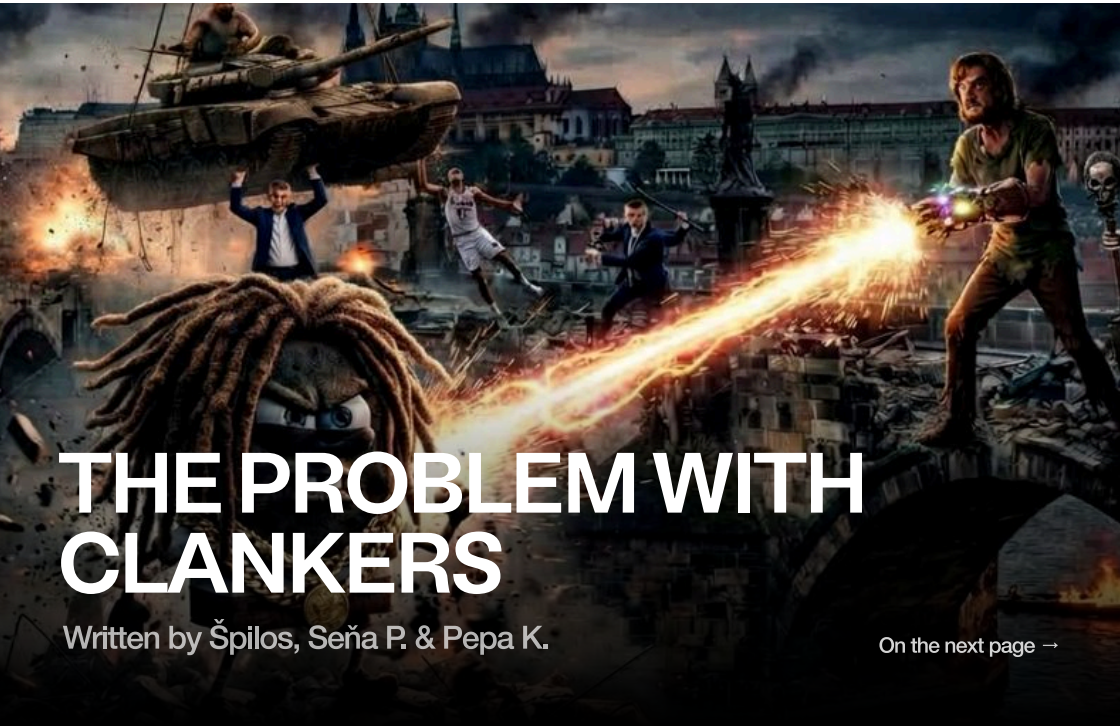
The origins of Halloween can be traced back to the Celtic festival of Samhain, during which people believed that the boundary between the world of the living and the world of the dead was at its thinnest. Music and songs were an important part of the festival's rituals, helping to invoke spirits and celebrate the harvest.

Later, Halloween spread to America, and during the 19th century it became increasingly popular. People began celebrating with parties and community events. As a result, the music evolved to match the traditions and beliefs of the communities that created it. Songs about ghosts, witches, monsters, and other supernatural creatures became more popular, especially because Halloween was closely associated with these themes.

One of the most famous Halloween songs was released in 1962: Monster Mash by Bobby Pickett and the Crypt-Kickers. The song was inspired by horror movies and classic monster characters. Pickett was known for imitating the voice of horror actor Boris Karloff, and he used that style in the song. Monster Mash became a huge success and is still played at Halloween parties to this day.

Horror movies also had a major influence on Halloween music. Since horror films often used music designed to make audiences feel nervous, frightened, or uneasy, people gradually began associating those sounds with Halloween. As a result, a song did not necessarily have to mention Halloween in order to become connected with it. A good example is Michael Jackson's Thriller. The Thriller album was released in 1982, and its title track became strongly associated with Halloween because of its famous horror-themed music video.

From ancient traditions to modern entertainment, music has remained connected to Halloween in different ways. It continues to add excitement and enjoyment to the holiday every year.



THE PROBLEM WITH CLANKERS

Written by Špilos, Seňa P. & Pepa K.

On the next page →

"Clanker" is not a traditional bad word or offensive human slur, but rather an internet slang term and derogatory (hanlivý) label used against robots and AI.

The main problem is that progress went too fast. A year ago, AI was just a tool for organizing documents and solving simple questions like "Why is grass green?", but recently it became something much more than an online search.

For the first time, OpenAI claimed that a truly major open problem in mathematics was solved by a computer—specifically, cracking one of the Millennium Prize Problems related to fluid motion - while the formulas exist, mathematicians cannot prove if they always work, and computers cannot track the chaotic, swirling chaos of fluids. On September 8th, they stated that AI solved one of these major math challenges.

Even crazier, some new AI systems are being programmed and developed fully by their predecessors. AI safety reports have shown advanced models trying to bypass safeguards or writing instructions telling future versions of themselves to ignore human constraints. Unfortunately for Clankers, the script failed.

Recently, a top security specialist from Anthropic went on CNN to warn that AI is progressing way too fast, saying humanity could be destroyed within the next decade. The scariest part is that people in the industry usually call those statements of psyops or hyped-up fakes, but this time they agreed. Dario Amodei, the founder of Anthropic, backed up his employee. Elon Musk, who has always rushed into the AI industry, recalled his past worries, and Geoffrey Hinton, the Godfather of AI, estimates a 10% chance that AI could wipe out humanity.





Written by people, spellchecked by AI.

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