



To Whom It May Concern

by: AEVGS

This Week's Topic is:
Leftover Candy

As I write this, it's Halloween morning and the children of the Upper East Side are all being brought to school in costume by their West Indian nannies. From the window over my desk I've seen princesses, puppies, fire people, Spider-man: all the classics. But I suspect that's not the best New York can do. This weekend was wild enough - I picked up food in Chinatown after work on Saturday night and the trains running through the neighborhoods of the city's young and wealthy were filled with sexy angels, sexy doctors, sexy zombies. There was a fantastic handmade couple's costume wherein the woman was dressed as a beautiful spotted lantern fly, and her date was a large, glittering sneaker, ready to squash her. Tonight, Greenwich Village hosts their 50th massive and free-flowing parade with 50,000 marchers to which I plan to come dressed as a kiwi bird.

But, as you read this, the spookiest night of the year has come and gone, and you're probably picking through a bowl of Milk Duds either earned on the strength of your witch's hat and Margaret Hamilton facepaint, or because you were secretly setting your favorites aside when dishing treats out of the variety bag. Everyone's got a couple of sugary indulgences that pull them through those early days of November: Reese's peanut butter cups are usually near the top of the list, but I'll take the wildcard here and say that I maybe like those peanut chews in the orange and black waxed paper even better. A memory lives vividly in my mind of trick-or-treating at my third grade teacher's rental unit and being given a handful of this old fashioned Halloween anachronism, being a little disappointed even that it wasn't something showier like a Baby Ruth, but because of the kindness of my third grade teacher who was brand new and every one of us loved, I loved the peanut chews in the orange and black waxed paper too, and the taste of one - even just thinking about it - is always toned by the dim light of that Plankinton rental property's foyer where I first enjoyed it. Just like how Mallowcups and Mary Janes will always be suffused with exoticism: "so this is what they get going door-to-door in Pittsburgh" I'd think to myself while opening the box which arrived in that morning's

mail from my Studeny grandparents. Adeline, on the other hand, would that year take one look at my Sherlock Holmes costume and hand me an O'Doul's. In other years, she'd give out Bottles of Boos: little jars filled with quarters, lotto tickets, and Tootsie rolls.

Mine was surely among the last eras to be given homemade cookies and handful of loose candy that would rattle around in the bottom of your treat bag, and inevitably get thrown away when you got home, again because of how hard it was hammered into you that all unwrapped foodstuffs were laced with LSD, rat poison, needles, and Satanism. This was hard to square against the image of Charlotte and Ed Nolan sitting on their porch next to a bowl of candy corn into which I'd nervously reach, grab a few pieces, and then think about them there in the backseat: would they somehow taint the Snickers bar I was so looking forward to? Why would my parents tell me to not eat anything suspicious, but then encourage these visits to people who would so blatantly flout the conventions of safety year after year through the 1990s as if we were still in the Depression and a molasses taffy was something to cherish, to hold and think about like Laura Ingalls Wilder thought about cakes made with white flour. And, in a roundabout way, these people who were relics did get me thinking about molasses taffy, but usually with a certain amount of fear and anxiety.

Candy corn, they say, has fallen on hard times. Two separate stories on CNN right now talk about the "love-it-or-loathe-it" qualities of the treat, insisting that there's never been a better time to get back into candy corn now that the major suppliers are experimenting with new flavors like cranberry sauce. The fact that both of these stories went live within a day of each other makes me feel like Brach's is planting these in the news cycle; just last week - so the article tells me - Travis Kelce fought with his brother on their podcast over the candy with Kansas City's tight end taking the side in favor. Everything Kelce touches right now becomes gold thanks to his association with Taylor Swift who has shifted the light of her star-making power to shine on the NFL. I know that if there is a conspiracy to move more candy corn, this would be the most convoluted way to go about it, but celebrities

Another recommendation, Councilperson Carl made was to hire someone who does not have to have a lifeguard certification, but who will be present at the front door for taking tickets and selling concessions. Mayor Kehn added, "That could be a source of revenue too, selling concessions. The problem, is when you start having merchandise yourself, you start risking of losing it to the kids," and recommended doing an inventory. "If people are given the opportunity, they will steal, that's all there is to it," he concluded.

Councilperson Jason Schurz said the pop machine that is at the pool, does not belong to the City. "We are at their mercy when they decide to come and fill it," said Jason, who added the City is not receiving any money from them. Councilperson Magdalena Popek-Hurst said "but it is on our (the city's) property." Mayor Kehn said he will speak with the pop distributor's representative sharing with him the City is considering removing it, due to all that is doing is "costing us electricity."

In regard to the lifeguard wages, Mayor Kehn said the City needs to be competitive with all of the businesses in the community.

This past summer lifeguards were paid \$12 for starting wage, 50¢ per hour more for each returning year, and \$14.50 for head guard.

The Council will be reviewing the lifeguard wages before making a determination in December.

do nothing just because they like to. There's PR gamesmanship attached to everything, such as last month when Swift brought some friends to watch the Chiefs play in New York and the headlines were filled with references to Taylor rooting against the Jets. Earlier this summer, the news cycle was dominated with stories of the carbon impact of traveling on private planes, with Swift being one of the worst offenders, but now when you Google "Taylor Swift + Jets," you get very different results.

Did Brach's make a deal with Kelce? Who knows. But when the Beatles came to America, kids threw handful of jellybeans at them as they got on and off planes thanks to a comment that George Harrison once made about jelly babies (a very different, very British, and much softer confection when used as a projectile...) being his favorite sweet. Will Swfities wearing number 87 pelt the field at Arrowhead with a blizzard of yellow, orange, and white candy now that they know their idol's paramour would put family on the line against his snacking predilections? Brach's surely doesn't care if the nuggets they

work so hard to sell - somehow both chalky and waxy at the same time - get eaten, just so long as they get bought. As for me, I'll hit the stores tomorrow for the 50% sales. I've got a shopping list - you can maybe guess what will and won't be on it.

Altman

Locals

Lighting birthday candles: Joan Jensen, Lori Haak and Charlotte Brown on November 1st; Kelvin Prien and David Hoffman on the 2nd; Kurt Fink, Rodney Kinyon, Chuck Faulhaber and Rochelle Von Eye on the 3rd; Daren Johnson, Joyce Erpenbach, Meredith Konechne on the 4th; Linda Heath and Justin

CLOSING NOTICE

The Aurora County Courthouse will be closed on **Friday, November 10th, 2023** in observance of Veteran's Day.

Susan Urban,
Aurora County Auditor

November Community Calendar

Sat. & Sun. Nov. 4th & 5th

- White Lake Community Theater "Dead Pan"
- Saturday: Dinner Theater at 7 p.m. *Advance Tickets Only*
- Sunday: Performance 7 p.m. White Lake Events Center

Sun. Nov. 5th

- Daylight Savings Time Ends - Set Your Clocks Back 1 Hour and Check Your Smoke Alarm Batteries

Fri. Nov 10, 2023

- Veteran's Day Program at School • 10 a.m. *Watch for Closings!*

Wed. Nov. 15, 2023

- Plankinton Service Club Meets Noon at Roadhouse

Mon. Nov. 20, 2023

- PHS All School Play "Here Come the Cows" Dinner Theater: 6:30 p.m. School Commons

Thurs. Nov. 23, 2023

- Happy Thanksgiving! Counting Our Blessings*



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Deadwood Grant

(Continued from page 1)

pride in Plankinton!" He was especially impressed how each of the individual rooms told a different story of the families' who adopted, and furnished them. "I see a lot of (historic) buildings," Kevin stated, "but I don't always hear what they mean to the people in the community."

The Preservation Society was the fortunate recipient of a \$4,300 matching grant from the Outside of Deadwood Grant fund for the veranda roof repairs, which were performed by the crew at Plankinton Lumber.

Since 2002 the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission has helped promote the preservation and interpretation of historic sites, buildings, and properties throughout the state with the Outside-of-Deadwood Grant program.

Before heading back west to Deadwood, Kevin was treated with a creamy Whirla Whip ice cream treat, created on the hotel's vintage machine, by Preservation Vice President Jack Marette, which Kevin reported was truly unique and delicious.

Fundraising has begun for the next project for Plankinton's over 140 year old historic gem, painting of the exterior. All donations are tax deductible as the Plankinton Preservation Society is a 501c3 organization.

Everson on the 5th; Joe Kelty and Barry Moller on the 6th; Bob Nickles on the 7th.

Brrr! Temps have been 20-30 degrees below normal with lows dipping down into the teens at night.

According to the most recent US Drought Monitor, Aurora County has been removed from the drought category, though many dugouts remain low and waterholes dry.

Aurora Reformed Church was pleased to announce it raised

\$3,531 at its annual soup supper and \$382 for its bake sale.

Duane and Connie DeBoer of Oacoma attended the beautiful outdoor wedding of their son Mark and wife Allie in Lewistown, Montana recently.

Anniversary time for: Tim and Eileen Sorsen on the 4th; Dean and Susan Suelflow on the 6th.



VETERANS DAY

Luncheon
Friday,
Nov. 10th
11:30 a.m.

at the
Plankinton
Methodist Church
Following the program
at the Plankinton School
*hosted by VFW Post #6554
and Auxiliary
EVERYONE Welcome!*



to Pam Vissia at
605-770-5089

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