Bishop Canevin High School October 2020 Vol. 60, No.

We Are Back!

Jack Mickle | Editor-in-Chief

Triday, Mar. 13, 2020 was the first time in its 61-year history that Bishop Canevin High School was completely shut down. For the next few months, books remained on classroom desks, coats and personal effects were left in lockers. and the last in-person lessons still graced the chalkboards. But the learning never really stopped. Canevin hit the ground running the following Monday with virtual learning for all its students and became a model for other Catholic and public schools because of its 1:1 capability as it was the first school in Allegheny County to institute such a program back in 2011. Eventually employees were allowed back in the building and began preparing for probably the busiest summer in Canevin history.

We did a lot of research

Canevin had to think outside the box to be able to operate and re-open for in-person teaching within the protocols and guidelines the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the CDC put forth to combat the unique situation brought about from the CO-VID-19 pandemic. The de facto head of planning was Chuck Rakaczky, Executive Director for Development and Business Operations. "The big thing we were looking at was spacing," said Rakaczky. "The CDC guidelines said six foot separation was ideal and we were able to do that. So I took two measuring sticks and taped them together to create one six-foot measuring stick." Because of Canevin's unusually large classrooms, the average classroom could accommodate 20 students and a teacher safely and socially distanced. Extra furniture was removed and either disposed or stored. "Our summer crew took out a lot of desks," he chuckled.

In addition to spacing, new sanitation measures were implemented such as electrostatic sprayers to disinfect the cafeteria in-between lunch periods. "We did a lot of research into disinfecting and decided that electrostatic sprayers would be the best, and the Victory brand was the gold standard. We studied where there were high contact areas and where to put plexiglass. We placed plexiglass in the main office and along the cafeteria serving line. In addition, we implemented a new cashless system in the cafeteria."

Implementing these plans fell to Maintenance Director Dave Ellis and Assistant Tim Baker who, along with the summer crew of students, worked overtime to accomplish all the tasks by the time school opened on Aug. 31. "A majority of our summer was spent preparing all the classrooms following CDC guidelines," stated Ellis. However, regular maintenance could not be paused while handling these additional duties. "We received a grant from Duquesne Light to convert all the light fixtures from T-12 florescent bulbs to LED fixtures, which resulted in the replacement of nearly 2,500 bulbs. We also completed the set-up of the model classroom for the St. Anthony's program, prepared the former home economics suite for demolition in anticipation of the building of the new fitness center, and filled an entire dumpster with outdated furniture and materials." Small tasks such as touching up paint and removing old bushes and trees from the campus landscaping were completed as well.

Enrollment increased

While Ellis and Rakaczky were preparing the school inside and out for its reopening, Director of Admissions Madeleine Doyle was busy attracting potential students and was very successful in her efforts. "Our freshmen enrollment increased 20 percent," Doyle said proudly. Freshmen were not the only new faces in the halls as there were 16 students who transferred in from public schools like Pine-Richland, and private schools like Central Catholic and Vincentian Academy which had just closed in May. She has also started the process this fall of scheduling area Catholic grade schools for virtual visit days, organizing the upcoming Open House, and touting the benefits of a Canevin education experience to all who inquire.

The hard work and endurance shown by all associated with this community show that it will take more than a global pandemic to bring Canevin down.

BC Celebrates Mass Outdoors



A beautiful day was the backdrop for BC's first mass outdoors in September.

Ask Us Anything

Two staff reporters anonymously offer their best advice.

How can I balance school, clubs and sports?

It may seem impossible to balance everything but almost anyone you ask at Canevin is willing to help you try. Next time your teacher gives you some extra moments in class to start your homework, start it! Remember that school should be your top priority when compared to your other activities. Do not procrastinate! Try to complete homework and assignments when you have free time. Do not waste your time. Keep track of your schedules, assignments and tests. Use Google calendar, a checklist or a homework app. You are much more likely to get things done if you write down your deadlines.

What is your favorite club?

I enjoy all the clubs I participate in but my favorite is the Mosaic yearbook. It's a very time-demanding club which incorporates many skill sets. I particularly like that I can still be a part even with my busy schedule. It is very engaging work and is a great way to make friends. I also like how I can try to keep bad pictures of myself out of the book!

What's the deal with 5th period lunch?

Fifth period lunch has a very large number of students, all socially distant, in the cafeteria. For the first half of the year, some of these students are really down there being in study hall and in the second half of the year, they will be attending gym class instead. However, the long lunch line is moving along a little faster as everyone gets used to the new protocols of spacing and a cashless system.

Get to Know the Class of 2021

Sarah Barron | Staff Reporter



Christian Andrews is a Faber House Leader and plays on the Boys Volleyball Team, throws for Carlynton High School's Track & Field, and is a member of the BCDC (digital club), BCTV (camera work), and the songwriters' club. He feels he has been blessed with great friends at Canevin and sees himself in the future as a successful musician, playing his guitar.

Makaylah Ballard is a member of Faber House, the International Club and Stage Crew. She previously played on the Girls' Volleyball team and was involved in Junior Achievement. She values the welcoming and fun atmosphere of these clubs. Her fondest memories are those of the Fall Festivals and Mr. Schlicht's storytelling (she's in his homeroom). She aspires to be a Physician's Assistant in the future.



Egan Wins LABSY Award for Artwork



Senior Erin Egan won an honorable mention in this summer's LABSY competition for her pencil drawing of Ella Baker, a civil rights and human rights activist. The LABSY Award is a teen media contest hosted by the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. All Allegheny County students in grades 6-12 were invited to enter original creations, inventions and works of art.

"I had never heard of this contest until, at the end of last school year, Mrs. Kennedy suggested we submit something," said Egan. "I have loved art for as long as I can remember but I've only been involved in art classes at school." She also is involved in Circle of Friends, International Club, Junior Achievement, Stage Crew and St. Ignatius Scholars, and as a member of the girls' soccer team.

Egan plans to major in art education next year when she attends college.



Bree Bazeck, also of Faber House, is a member of the Girls' Softball team, playing a game she loves while enjoying the company of her teammates and friends. She is proud that the team has made it to the playoffs in the past two seasons. She plans on working and possibly getting married and having children in the future.

Isabel Beichner is a member of the Lady Crusaders Volleyball team, Junior Achievement, FBLA, International Club, and Faber House. She favors volleyball because she appreciates the rewarding wins that come as a result of all the hard work exhibited by the team at practices. One of her favorite memories is from freshman year's art class when she accidentally spilled a cup of red paint all over classmate Frank Nicholson. He was not too happy at the time, but today they laugh about it. In the future, she would like to be working a full-time job she loves and maybe being married and having children.



SPS Food Drive Led by BC Senior

Christian Andrews | Staff Reporter

It is often forgotten that some people in today's society are still struggling to obtain basic survival needs. Due to the pandemic, this issue has been enormous for many less fortunate families throughout the world and locally here in Pittsburgh. Bishop Canevin senior Nevan Crossey recognized this issue this summer as he was motivated to organize a food drive with the help of St. Philip's School in Crafton.

Crossey felt comfortable going back to his former elementary school. "Although the drive itself wasn't only for St. Philip's parishioners, it still felt nice being back on grounds where I grew up and feel so familiar," he said.

The idea came to Crossey when talking to his mother about the growing concerns wrought by CO-VID-19. They discussed how fortunate their own family was and wondered what they could do to help. He then remembered how the St. Vincent de Paul Society collected canned goods when he was a SPS student and that prompted his idea.

Crossey figured SVDP would be glad to have the food and they were. He created a drop-off system on Aug. 15 at the Knights of Columbus parking lot at St. Philip's Church that proved to be successful. In three hours 365 bags of food were collected from 98 separate cars. BC seniors Carmen Worrall and Brennan Hipkiss and Maddie Maziarz, BC '20, helped with the project as well.

Crossey was told that the food collected would help families for nearly a year. "I really enjoyed the experience and would love to try to participate in or organize such an event again in the future," he stated. The group's actions were an example of the BC community mission of being "persons for others."

<u>The Leonid</u>

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One of several new flags gracing the entrance to the school.

Giant Paper Doll People...

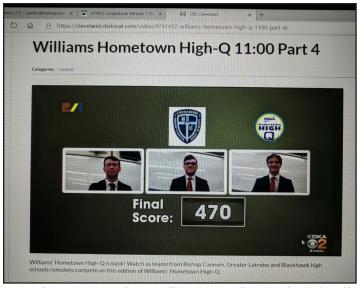
No, it is not Halloween. But giant paper people have taken over the hallway upstairs outside the Biology Lab. The Human Structure class, taught by Mrs. Denise Streeter, is demonstrating its knowledge of anatomical position and the different body landmarks.



...and Small Paper Doll People



As a conclusion to their study of *Beowulf* and the concept of the hero's journey, the students in Mrs. Charlotte Smith's British Literature classes colored a "Flat Stanley" paper doll to resemble their personal heroes. This year, many were figures of first responders, medical personnel and firemen.



Mac Johnson (L), Matthew Mell (Center) and Ian Lecker (R) smile for the camera.

he Academic Team of juniors Ian Lecker and Mac Johnson and led by senior captain Matthew Mell won the opening round of KDKA's Hometown High Q against teams from Blackhawk and Greater Latrobe High Schools. The tournaments this year are being conducted virtually. The team is coached by Mrs. Charlotte Smith.

New School Year Brings New Staff

Charles Serena and Rutanya Taylor | Staff Reporters

rs. Jeri Nagy is the new Administrative Assistant and Safe Environment Coordinator. She came on board at the beginning of March 2020 but then the pandemic hit and everyone was mandated to work from home. She has an Associates degree and is certified in ACA healthcare reform as well as being a certified payroll professional. She previously worked at Crafton United Presbyterian Church and was an implementation specialist with Automatic Data Processing. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, reading and traveling.

Mr. Jordan Wiegand, the new physical education and health teacher, received his Bachelor's degree in Health and Physical Education from Slippery Rock University and his Master's degree in Sports Administration from Lock Haven University. He previously taught at Winchester Thurston High School. He finds the Canevin campus very welcoming. "The size of the school allows a teacher to get to really know each student and give more individualized instruction," he stated. Wiegand additionally serves as the Head Boys Varsity Soccer coach at Pine-Richland High School.

Ms. Lydia Albin is the new school counselor. Prior to coming to Canevin, she served as the counselor at Rensselaer Middle School in Northwest Indiana. She also taught a class she designed called Success Skills which is very similar to the Freshman Seminar class she is teaching this year at Canevin. Both courses include academic skills like notetaking and organizational skills along with social and emotional skills like conflict resolution and managing emotions. She received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Philosophy from California University of Pennsylvania and her Master's in School Counseling from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She just obtained her second Master's degree, this time in Child, Youth and Family Ministry because she feels that God is guiding her towards helping students go through their own spiritual journey.

She became a counselor because "I love the idea of helping people find their niche and their passion." In her spare time, she likes to hike and camp and cares for her cats and dwarf rabbits. "I want to be the person I needed in high school, a safe person who can teach you new ways of doing things, someone you can talk to about whatever, who will be an ally who cheers you on, celebrates with you during your triumphs, pushes you to be better, and reminds you that, on bad days, God still loves you and it will get better," she emphasized.

Mrs. Andrea Collins, religion teacher, graduated from Denison University with a degree in religion and a minor in educational studies and psychology. Her Master's in theology is from the University of Notre Dame. Originally from Buffalo, NY, she was a long-term substitute at Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart, an all girls Catholic high school. In her free time, she loves traveling, reading, listening to hip hop music, and speaking Spanish. She is part of a small group through a local parish that centers on the issue of racial justice and she handles all the graphics for the Association of Pittsburgh Priests. Her favorite Bible verse is Micah 6:8 which says "You have been told, O mortal, what is good and what the Lord requires of you: only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God."

Mrs. Karen Harper is a graduate of Illinois State University and previously taught chemistry at Marcus High School in Flower Mound, Tex. before moving to Pittsburgh and coming to Canevin to teach chemistry. She likes the smallness of Canevin because it makes the classes more personable.

Fr. Aleksandr Schrenk is the new school chaplain. Ordained in 2017, he additionally is the parochial vicar at Parish Group #210, the Catholic community of Carnegie, Scott Township and Green Tree parishes of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Saints Simon and Jude, and St. Margaret of Scotland.

Johnson Returns to Lead Marching Crusaders

Christian Andrews | Staff Reporter

r. Kevin Johnson has returned to teaching music at Bishop Canevin and leading the Marching Crusaders. A graduate of Slippery Rock University, he attended the University of Illinois and Duquesne University for his graduate degree, majoring in organ performance. He first arrived at Canevin to lead all music-related activities in 2009. He directed the Marching Crusaders, the Canevin Choir and the Concert Band until 2017 when he left. He continued, meanwhile, to direct the Diocese of Pittsburgh's band program.

"I'm really proud of everyone on how well they're stepping up this year," he said, referring to all the safety protocols the students and staff are following.

He is particularly satisfied with the commitment of the Marching Crusaders for "sticking with it." He says the school is his "professional home" for he bleeds blue and white.

"Since God places us where He wants us to be, returning to Canevin is a sense of being home," Johnson stated.



Maintenance Director Dave Ellis and assistant Tim Baker take aim before sanitizing the cafeteria.



One of many Covid protocol reminders around campus.



A Day in the Life of the Assistant Athletic Director

Mac Johnson | Staff Reporter

alancing a schedule of classes, extracurricular activities and life outside of school is a daily routine for the students of Bishop Canevin. This is also the reality for Peter Barakat. Not only is he the assistant athletic director, but he is also the lead volleyball announcer for the Bishop Canevin Sports Network, the assistant coach for the girls' volleyball team, and the head coach for the boys' volleyball team. Each job requires a lot of time and effort. Barakat does a great job in balancing the workload and gives his full effort to every task.

Each day tends to be different for Barakat, and he has to be flexible because his schedule can change at any time. As the assistant athletic director, some of his responsibilities include providing a bus for Canevin's many sports teams, updating the Bishop Canevin athletics website with the latest news and scores, and writing stories on the website for each game and match. His workday depends on whether there is a home game, an away game or none at all. On a day where there are no games, he prepares for future games, works on schedules and makes sure each team gets a bus on time. Managing the bus schedules is a job that Barakat takes seriously and ensures it goes as planned.

"I really try to make sure that goes right because it's a big problem when it doesn't work," said Barakat.

According to him, not getting a bus on time causes delays and stress for coaches and athletes. He takes each team's success to heart and tries his best to assure that everything is in order to give them the best experience possible. When there is a home sporting event in the gym, Barakat helps to set up the area which would include making sure the bleachers and tables are out and the scoreboard is up and running. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, other tasks that needed to be done were setting up concessions and tables for boosters to sell tickets. When he is traveling to an away game, he will bring a camera and accessories to record games.



This is because of an initiative by the athletic department to create a video archive of sporting events.

As a man of many talents, Barakat also coaches volleyball. In the fall, he coaches alongside Kevin Walters, the girls' volleyball team head coach, and, during the spring, he is head coach for the boys' volleyball team.

"I've really enjoyed coaching volleyball and especially here at BC," he said. "I really do think we have a great group of students."

He always wants the best for his athletes and does his best to prepare them for games. He always speaks highly of this team and his staff.

"I've always believed we might have the best coaching staff in the WPIAL. The girls have been so dedicated and are such great teammates and are just high quality student- athletes," said Barakat. "It's a great environment to be a part of and, when you put it all together, it's almost always going to be successful."

Barakat recently took up the responsibility of being the lead volleyball announcer for the new Bishop Canevin Sports Network. Being a broadcast journalism graduate of Syracuse University, he was the right man for the job. His skill set fits the job perfectly.

"After the first game I did (the girls' volleyball opener against OLSH), I relaxed a little bit and realized I was having fun," he stated.

With all of his different obligations, Barakat's itinerary is always very busy and time-consuming. Even with a busy schedule, Barakat tries his hardest in everything he does. His hard work has definitely paid off and this can be shown through his accomplishments. The Bishop Canevin Sports Network has been a great success; he has helped to lead the girls' volleyball team to three straight WPIAL championships; and he has done his best to give many Canevin athletes a great experience as the assistant athletic director. Barakat is a great example to students of how to properly manage time and how devoting time and effort into one's endeavors will ensure that success will follow.

Golf Team on Par to Win

Luke Andruscik | Staff Reporter

Golf combines two favorite American past times: taking long walks and hitting a ball with a stick," once quipped golf journalist P. J. O'Rourke. This quote helped me learn how much of a pastime golf has been for the Canevin golf team. This season they had six wins, which is five more than last year. Led by senior Mike Smith and Head Coach/Spanish teacher Ms. Claire Barber, this team experi-

enced quite the turnaround. "I think the team can almost all agree that Chartiers Country Club is our favorite course as that is our home course and it is very scenic," Barber said. Although the COV-ID-19 outbreak affected how teams practice or actually play the game, she stated that the golf season was not affected too much. Some changes that had to be made were mandatory temperature checks, not being able to exchange scorecards with their opponents, and being unable to remove the pin from the hole when going for a putt.

Her favorite moment of coaching was when the team got their first win this season against Bentworth. She said that finally winning after a couple of losing seasons made her so happy. When she is not coaching, she can be found out on the links herself. "As the students saw at the Student-Teacher Scramble this year, my short game is not my thing," Ms. Barber chuckled.

"I would say my driving is my best attribute."

Bolstered with the talent of some freshmen who will continue to grow into the sport, the golf team is on par for more winning seasons in the future.

Football Has New Attitude



ctions by the new Canevin football coaching team has generated momentum this school year. The team, led by Coach Richard Johnson who was hired right before the March lockdown, focused on the mental part of life, academics and sports as they received weekly Zoom calls from the coaches during the lockdown so everyone could stay in touch. Then there were the virtual sessions with motivational speakers by Mike Hilton from the Pittsburgh Steelers, Immanuel Quickley (the SEC men's basketball player of the year from Kentucky) and Alison Pate from Florida.

They all worked together to upgrade the practice field and alums helped clear and reconstruct the path leading down to the field. The players and coaches adjusted to the new social distancing rules when practices began in late summer. A totally renovated locker room was revealed in mid-September. A new workout facility for all of the school's athletes will be unveiled later this fall. When it is completed, the fitness center will be a state-of-the-art air conditioned exercise center that will provide treadmills and exercise bikes as well as strength conditioning stations and free weights.

Canevin has a rich tradition on the gridiron as one of only a handful of schools in the WPIAL with more than 300 victories. The "new team" is proud to continue building the program – brick by brick – for the community and play some great football, too.

Follow the team's exciting progress on Facebook @BishopCanevinFootball or at www.bishopcanevinathletics.com.

Book Review: *Red Queen Are secrets stronger than family?*

Renee LaGrosse | Section Editor

ed Queen, written by Victoria Aveyard, is a dystopian young adult novel. The focus of the story is a society separated by red and silver blood. Those with red blood ("Reds") are considered to be less than those with silver ("Silvers"). The Reds are peasants to the Silvers, as the Silvers consider themselves royalty. This is because their silver blood gives them abilities that they use to instill fear and maintain power.

Mare Barrow is a 16-year old Red, living in the Stilts with her family. She has no job and, because of this, she is one year away from conscription. At the age of seventeen, all Reds without a job are conscripted into the army to fight other Silver kingdoms. Mare finds herself being pulled in many directions and this is clearly portrayed in the first chapters.

When Mare pickpockets a stranger, her life takes a drastic turn: a new job at the palace, an accident waiting to happen, and hidden identities revealed. Now it is all up to Mare who has to find the difference between fact and fiction before it is too late.

I would rate this book 4.5 out of 5 stars. It was beautifully written and definitely well thought out. This is one of the rare books that has made me cry while, at the same time, get very frustrated. I do believe the book contains some clichés but, trust me, they are not the ones that you expect.

Spooky Shorts The Leonid staff used some creative prompts to compose a few spooky short stories....



Movie Review: *The Candyman* is a sweet scare of a classic

Adam Reyes | Arts and Entertainment Editor

he Candyman is a 1992 horror film directed by Bernard Rose and stars Tony Todd as the "candyman" and Virginia Madsen as Helen Lyle. I've decided to review this movie in 2020 before there is the reboot/ sequel in 2021 which is set to be directed by Jordan Peele.

The Candyman follows a graduate student (Madsen) as she skeptically attempts to uncover the mystery behind the superstition of the Candyman (Todd) who haunts Chicago's near North Side. This film is turning quite old this year and, even though it has many years on the shelf, it still feels like a movie that could just come out this year.

Why? Because this film is a staple for many of the psychological and horror thrillers that have been pumped out for years. This simple plot allows for the main protagonist to go down the crazy rabbit hole and leaves the audience scratching their heads wondering what's going to happen. This formula can prove to be extremely successful as seen by last year's *The Invisible Man* which followed the foundation that *Candyman* set in 1992.

The sound production is good but nothing noteworthy or that you're going to remember, but good enough to add to the movie just a bit. In terms of cinematography, this movie really shows its claws, boasting incredible wide shots and downright bone-chilling camera angles, especially in the scenes in Chicago's near North Side. The two main leads deliver absolutely top notch performances that really sell you on the emotional trauma and weight of the situation. You can tell Madsen needed some mental health time after filming some of these truly emotional scenes.

Overall, *The Candyman* is a horror thriller that started its own subgenre in horror and earned its place as a classic. Hopefully next year's *Candyman* will be just as great as its 1992 counterpart.

he has emerged from the underground bunker. Three months had passed since life was normal. The political rope was more taut now than ever. She's just seventeen, but life is not that simple anymore. When she wakes up, she worries. Will she be ridiculed? Will politics change the way she's looked at? If she doesn't follow a certain agenda, forget her and all that follows? Is she supposed to have her life decided for her at 17? Tomorrow brings college and, in a week, marriage. She is terrified. The times are crazy enough by themselves to bring her here and, on top of this, political and societal pressure to "grow up" makes her want to cry. This is the life of a teenager in 2020.

Christian Andrews

The coronavirus has gotten worse. It has gotten so bold that everyone must stay in their homes. This doesn't stop people from leaving their homes, but stores are closed. Everyone has become savage-like and are looting from people's homes. People have started going back into bunkers to stay safe from everyone else. For food and supplies once a week a helicopter flies over the town and drops boxes and crates full of food, water and other necessities. It is too dangerous for anyone to bring things into the town. There is a crate in front of our bunker we can see with a camera. No one is around so we finally emerge from the underground bunker ---- just to be killed by a family waiting to take over our bunker.

Charlie Serena

The cure had to be here somewhere. I had been rushing down flights and flights of stairs. The dark abandoned factory was cold and eerie. The boarded windows let in swift breezes of autumn air. A deafening scream came from somewhere deep in the basement. I came to an abrupt pause. "Hello?" I asked. There was no response. There are very few people left on earth, so who could that possibly be? I had left my two partners outside to keep watch. I began to slowly walk down the steps again. Sounds began again, sounding like footsteps. I couldn't tell whether they were going up or down. I kept going. A loud thud shook my core. It came from a flight behind me. I began to run. My head was spinning with fear and I was blind in this darkness. Something grabbed my shoulder. I tried escaping it. Looks like I'm not finding the cure. Good night.

Spooky Shorts continued...

e turned around, but no one was there. This frightened the sixteen year old boy, so he ran to the house to tell his grandma. She told him to get his grandpa; he couldn't find him which caused them both to worry. He heard his grandma scream; he ran down to the kitchen but she was nowhere to be found. He did a sweep of the house but couldn't find a sign of his grandparents anywhere. As Billy went out to check the barn, he saw a girl in a flower dress with long blonde hair, but he could not see her face. Billy went towards her, thinking the girl needed help. As he got closer, her face stayed the same - blurry. He was extremely scared but he tried to talk to her. When he asked her name, her face became clear. Her eyes were teary and she didn't know what had happened to her. Her name was Betty and it turned out she had been in a car accident a few weeks ago. She was currently in a coma and didn't know how to get back to her body. She said if he would help her she'd figure out how to get his grandparents back, so that's what he did. He told her to get in his truck and he headed straight to the hospital. On the way there, the girl kept going in and out but they did not understand why. Once they got to the hospital, it was like a ghost town. Billy asked where was Betty's room and the lady at the counter just pointed at a door. Billy opened the door and saw Betty's body flatlining and her spirit starting to fade. He immediately started CPR and her spirit came back into her body. Then his grandparents appeared in the doorway and everything in the hospital went back to normal. No one remembered anything and were very confused. Betty sat up from the bed and gave Billy a hug, thanking him for saving her. They never left each other's side since that day.

Rutanya Taylor

nce upon a time, a hero by the name of Splash Boi Chris locked up all the greatest Halloween villains in a dungeon that he called "Da Lockdown." One day Splash Boi Chris had a wedding to go to so he left Smove run the place. Smove got the keys to let everyone out when he heard "Test Subject A is unaccounted for." Smove locked everyone back up.

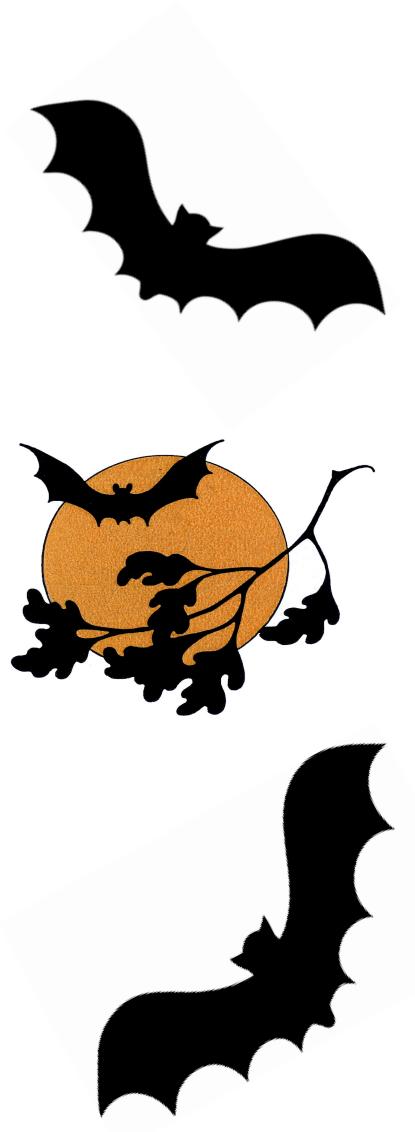
Keyshawn McCaskill

She turned around, but nobody was there. It was the strangest thing Lily had seen. One moment she was being followed by the ominous shadow. But as soon as she turned to confront it, it was like it completely disappeared. Now, frightened, Lily seeks shelter to hide. As she wanders the deep and vast woods, hiding behind a tree isn't her first option. This thing could be anywhere, she thinks. "Why me? Why today?" she whispers to herself. "I'm sure there has to be a place to hide." Lily started to walk faster, jog, then broke into a sprint. The chill on her back gave her an immediate indication that the shadow was near again. Slowing down, Lily didn't have enough endurance to keep running forever. Not a moment after catching her breath, she saw a mysterious tunnel up ahead. The forest was still thick with evergreens and black wooded trees. Running out of ideas for shelter, she sprinted into the dark and sinister tunnel. A loud crash of thunder cracked on the roof of the tunnel. Rocks came crashing down, sealing the entrance of the tunnel. "How will I get out now?" she wondered. That same chill she felt on her back was present again. Lily swung around, saw the creation, and turned to stone.

Keira Kozlowski

I pulled my jacket closer and looked around in fright. It seemed as if I was the only one out tonight. Then I heard it, the soft taps of rain and I knew I was doomed. Looking back and forth I tried to find any form of shelter at the overgrown park. Bench, no. Tree, not good enough. "Oh no, I'm going to die." That's when I saw the pavilion. But it was far too late. I looked down at my arms. The rash was already spreading.

Renee LaGrosse



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