

A Mansion Turned Murderous

Visitors Relay Paranormal Activity at SK Pierce Victorian Mansion

By Sandy Oser

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

According to the SK Pierce Haunted Mansion website, around the end of the 1880s, Sylvester Pierce, a businessman whose furniture company brought them to Gardner, decided to build a mansion. The mansion itself, 7000 square feet, was considered extravagant. Now, it's considered one of the most haunted places in Massachusetts.

Currently open to public tours, the website explained that visitors have witnessed “voices,” “moving furniture,” “slamming doors,” and much more. However, the rest you may just have to witness yourself, just like Gardner resident Joanne Melvin and her daughter Olivia Warner.

Living in Gardner for the past ten years, Melvin has heard a lot about the mansion. She explained her daughter had read every article she could find about it, as well as watched YouTube videos. So, they decided to take the tour for her birthday.

They were in awe when they saw how beautiful and simple it was. They had an amazing



Photo courtesy of Sandy Oser

Olivia Warner outside the SK Pierce Mansion

first impression as they walked into the foyer. Melvin said, “I was very confused at the layout of the house, as the servants’ living quarters were directly across from the master bedroom and billiards room; certainly,

strange for that time period.” The story behind the mansion, according to their website, is that Pierce’s wife, Susan, sadly died due to a bacterial illness shortly after them moving in. Pierce later re-married; however,

once Pierce died several years later, “the mansion underwent difficult times, as the family fortune dwindled.”

Pierce’s son, Edward, took control of the mansion and eventually turned it into a boarding home. During that time, the mansion became quite the place, becoming known for “gambling,” “drinking,” “prostitution,” and “murder.”

There were suspicions that someone was strangled in one of the bedrooms and that, at some point, a boarder was burned to death. After these incidents, many people have reported, “it is rich with paranormal activity.”

Melvin mentioned that she had seen spirits her entire life, so she was ready to see and feel paranormal activity. When walking up the tower, four people in their group simultaneously got very dizzy and felt weird.

When Melvin and her daughter were in one of the rooms, there was a ball located under one of the chairs. Warner’s spirit talker said, “movement,” and the ball rolled out from underneath the chair into the middle of the room.

When the group walked up the blue servant stairs, Melvin said, “everything turned red and what looked to be a lady in a dress walked right towards me.” Melvin and Warner were thrilled with their experience and said they would highly recommend it. They suggested that visitors take a lot of photos.

The cost is \$25 per person; however, Melvin thought this was quite reasonable, considering the tour lasts about an hour and a half. She especially enjoyed it when guests were allowed to explore the mansion on their own after the tour.

To schedule your own tour, visit: <http://skhauntedvictorianmansion.com/index.html>

See more photos on page 2

PREVIEWS

An Evening with Adam Frankenstein

When you think of the name Frankenstein, your mind probably conjures up an image of a giant man covered in sickly green skin with two steel bolts jutting from his neck.

For the full article, see page 3

Sing Until You SCREAM!

Photos from the Oct. 27th Scaryoke Event.

For the full photo spread, see pages 4-5

Review: Halloween Ends (2022)

Yeah, It Sure Does.

For the full review, see page 8

Return of the Dover Demon!

A Monster Tales Special

For the full photo spread, see page 7

Costumes on Campus

Are Students Dressing Up for Halloween?

By Stella Sarefield

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

The Coronavirus pandemic began over two and a half years ago, causing a generation of students to lose not one but two Halloweens. However, between lifting mask restrictions and President Biden’s announcement that the pandemic is over, this Halloween seems promising.

The Mount itself has added to this with halloween festivities

on campus, such as the recent “Scaryoke” and “Halloween Stroll” on October 27, where some students attended in costume. However, there are still a few events to come. Today the Mount will be hosting a “Student Trick or Treat” at 11:30 am and the final “Halloween Musical Spooktacular” at 12:30 pm held in the Student Center by the Musicians at the Mount. However, apart from these

events, are students planning to dress up for classes today?

Currently, as you walk around campus, it is not hard to spot students dripping from head to toe in their specific style of clothing. After talking with some students, it was discovered that many out of our student body do, in fact, plan to dress up for their classes. Some popular responses included zombies and vampires,

and a pattern among these students is that their costumes, when compared to when they were younger, have a more distinct sense of style, as well as a lack of dress code.

A common answer by multiple students when asked how the coronavirus impacted their previous two Halloweens, was that they have not had a

continued on page 2
“Costumes on Campus” >>>

Costumes on Campus

>>> continued from page 1

traditional Halloween since 2019. This comprised two years of canceled trick-or-treating, Halloween parties and events, in addition to festivals at amusement parks such as Six Flags and Canobie Lake Park.

When asked whether she would be wearing a costume, student Azucena Thibault-Munoz said, "Yes, Morticia Addams." She explained she chose this costume because, "we both wear a lot of black, Addams is pretty; a definite style icon, and I would want to be her in real life."

Student Maren Riordon quickly responded that she planned her costume to be "Velma from Scooby Doo." This was because Riordon said she planned on "attending Scaryoke in costume."

Also asked whether he would be dressing up for his classes today was student Dakota Potter who described his plan for a "hobbit-like" costume with a "satchel" and even a "walking stick." When asked why, Potter explained, "obvious reasons."

Nevertheless, countless students do not plan to wear their costumes or attend the Mount's

Halloween events because they had no idea or cultural or religious reasons in regard to the mythology surrounding the holiday of Halloween.

When asked if she planned to wear a costume for the holiday, dual enrollment student Jenny Brandeberry said she was "thinking about it but would not know what to wear."

Whether or not you plan to wear a costume, you can check out today's remaining Halloween events on [InvolveMount](https://mwcc.campuslabs.com/engage/events) for more information: <https://mwcc.campuslabs.com/engage/events>.



Photo by Tom Hill Jr.

Many students wore costumes to Oct. 27th's Scaryoke.

Have a Story to Tell?

If you've got the scoop on the latest community news, feel free to contact our editors about adding your voice to the *Observer* crew! To reach out, send an email to:

mountobserver@mwcc.mass.edu

SK Pierce Victorian Mansion



Photos by Lexi Gallagher

An Evening with Adam Frankenstein Fame, Family, and Finding Forgiveness

By Annabelle Kennedy
OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

When you think of the name Frankenstein, your mind probably conjures up an image of a giant man covered in sickly green skin with two steel bolts jutting from his neck. You may see big, ugly black scars and sutures running all over his limbs and face, or imagine conversations filled with grunts and gestures. Or maybe if you are an intellectual snob, you imagine someone without a name altogether, as Mary Shelley only calls him "the creature" in her book. You would be wrong for so many reasons.

I met up with him at the Gardner Ale House last Tuesday for some appetizers and drinks, where I found him at a small table for two in the back of the restaurant, already working on a pint and some fried pickles. He introduced himself as Adam Frankenstein.

"I needed a name," Frankenstein said. "I'm seemingly immortal. I needed a way to identify myself and move through this world."

When asked why he took the name Adam Frankenstein, he burst out with a loud, gruff laugh. "It's really a joke on my father. I took the name Adam because he

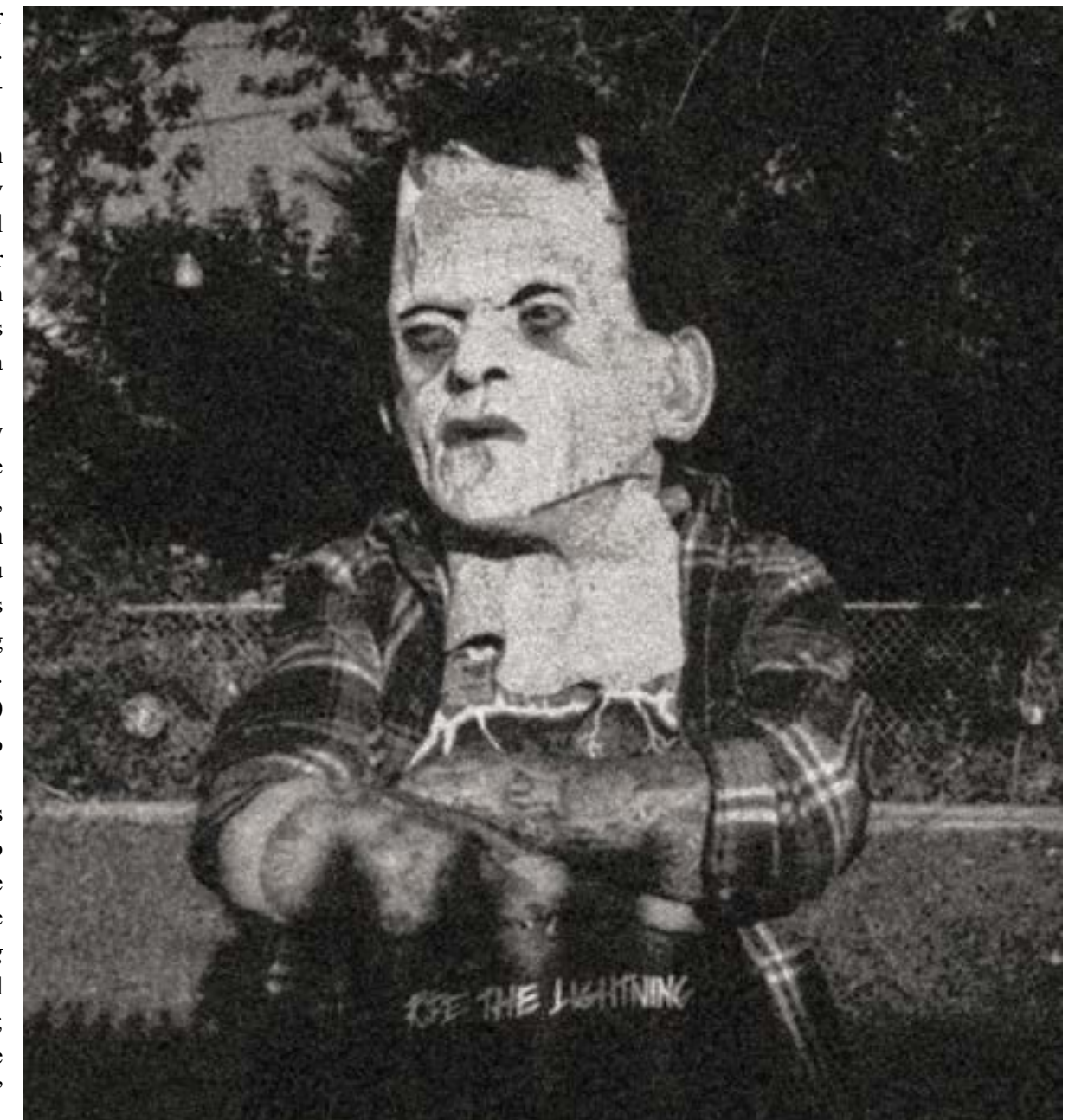
swashbuckler look than run for your pitchforks and torches look. He was about the size of an extra-large lineman in the NFL.

He had a glimmer of laughter in his eyes that was more the tawny gold of a tiger's eye than the dull yellow Shelley described in her book. However, Frankenstein has learned to take these kinds of pop-culture portrayals with a grain of salt.

"When I was younger, it really cheesed me off. I mean, the whole world thinks you are a drooling idiot, murderer of random children. Or people think you were created by Mary Shelley's imagination. It's a frustrating experience," Frankenstein said. "But now, being north of 200 years old, I have really learned to laugh at myself."

In fact, Frankenstein has learned to laugh at himself so much that he said his favorite version of a Frankenstein movie is the comedy classic *Young Frankenstein*, directed by Mel Brooks in 1974. "Life is long; if you don't learn to forgive and laugh, you will go crazy," Frankenstein said.

He explained that he enjoys this movie so much that he actually tours the country doing viewings from September through the end of October. At the end of the



Original Photo by Bruno Guerrero, Edit by Tom Hill Jr.

Adam Frankenstein

"Forgiveness isn't really about the other person. It's like letting yourself off the hook from holding on to the situation and the pain. It was time to let myself heal."

- Adam Frankenstein

was the first man created by God. I took my father's last name as a reminder to him and his descendants that I was created by him, that my father had an obligation to me and shirked that obligation from the minute I was born," Frankenstein said.

His skin was a pale white with some scars running on his face and limbs. This gave him more of a handsome, dramatic

viewing, he said he poses with fans and signs autographs on anything you want, for a fee, of course. "Obviously, October is the best time to capitalize on my reputation. I make most of my money during the Halloween season so that I can concentrate on my charities the rest of the year," Frankenstein said.

That's right, Frankenstein oversees not one, not two, but

three charities throughout the year. The nearest and dearest to his heart, though, is the Right to Family charity. He started the charity in the 1960s when some of his investments started to pay off. "I wanted to create the Right to Family charity because I never got to have a family. I had to create my own. I wanted children of all ages to be able to connect with each other and create their own families," Frankenstein said.

The Right to Family brings orphans, lonely people, and people who want to help together. The office helps put people together for holidays, big events, and any other reason you can think of. Frankenstein said, "We get together for any and all reasons. We have simple game nights, or if someone is graduating high school, we

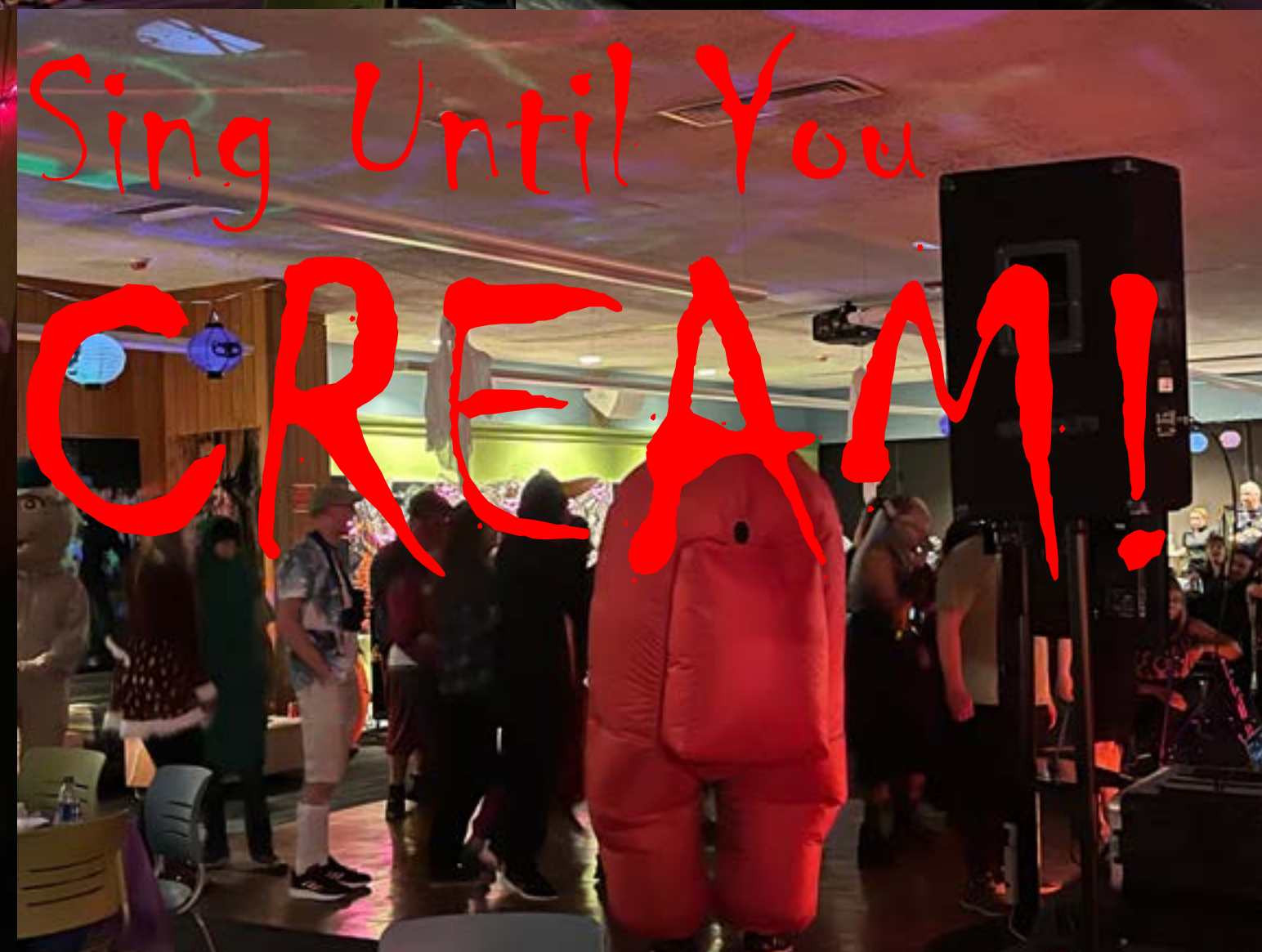
organize a party for them. We support each other through everything in life. Just like a family does."

This charity now has an office in over 200 cities in the U.S. and is looking to expand here and overseas in Europe. "We eventually want to be in every major country in the world," Frankenstein said.

Frankenstein said he spends most of his time traveling from one Right to Family office to another between helping the offices get started, setting up a community outreach program, or just hanging out with the kids that are in the learning center. Frankenstein explained, "I like getting the word out there about our offices, but my real love is getting to talk to the kids who use the education center. Kids don't already have a preconceived idea

of you, and if they do, you can always talk them through why it might not be ok to jump to conclusions about somebody or situation."

However, the question still remains if Frankenstein has been able to make peace with the memory of his father while continuing with his seemingly normal life. He said, "I did forgive my father finally about 80 years ago. I had to accept that my father wasn't a perfect man or even a good one. Much like the creators in Jurassic Park, he was so consumed with the idea of making life that he didn't stop to think if he should. Forgiveness isn't really about the other person. It's like letting yourself off the hook from holding on to the situation and the pain. It was time to let myself heal."



Scaryoke

On October 27th, students and staff alike attended Scaryoke. There was food, drink, sugar skull and pumpkin painting, games, and a costume contest, all in addition to the titular karaoke session that lasted the entire night.

Photos by Tom Hill Jr.

Creative Writing

Notes of Sanity

By Maddie Willigar

Her spirit still dances on the piano keys, like an unfinished composition of words only uttered under the solitude of twilight's breath.

She whispers stories in the ears of a once sane man, a reprise that leaves notes of the woman he remembered –

until her figure looks a lot like dust in moonlight, and her dress looks a lot like curtains dancing in the wind.



The Pumpkin and the Skull

By William A. Lefrancois

In a dark, dreary, deserted, desolate field a pale, petrified pumpkin patch lies full of yield. Many are round, robust, rigorous, righteous globes of orange; One alone sullen, sad, sorrowful, sorry unfit for the grange.

On a nearby hill, high, hideous, hints of mortality a graveyard yawns, yearns, yellowing, yesterday's totality. Underground buried, bruised, banished bones await; Halloween night arrives, awesome, angry angst of fate.

Bones in multitudinous, murky, mire mix of shape; Prominent sorrowful, sullen, subdued skull wanting escape. It's lusting, lonely, liberty longing to rejoin life; Fertility in the patch, promising, pervasive, pundit of strife.

A passerby costumed, cold, crimson, creature of night; Entering the patch, pitying, pleading pumpkins in sight. The many unimpressed, unique, undulating unfit to carve; One lonely reject, responsive, resonant, respecting starve.

To the gruesome, gangrenous, gaunt graveyard next; The passerby seeking, solitary, souvenir skull annexed. Pumpkin and skull craved, crated, clandestine crept away; The costumed passerby perilously, pursuing, partying way.

You Belong to Me

By Isabelle Mascary

What was once yours, is now mine.

He said while kissing his cold lips.

Welcome to my world!
You can watch, you can't run!
You can't move, you can't scream,
you can't cry you can't fight, but watch what I do to your body tonight.

Wonderful masculine frame, every part, still intact.
Not a bruise in sight, such a wonderful delight.
Possible aneurysms! Can't wait to cut open your skull and examine your lovely brain.

Much excitement and arousal simultaneously. You're my special balloon,
your blood, I drain, cut up what remains then, embalm you.

You will feel no pain. My eyes gaze upon such enlarged man parts, after all, you're in the gutter with me. I do what I please.

I am the final touch your body will feel, You will watch and watch some more.

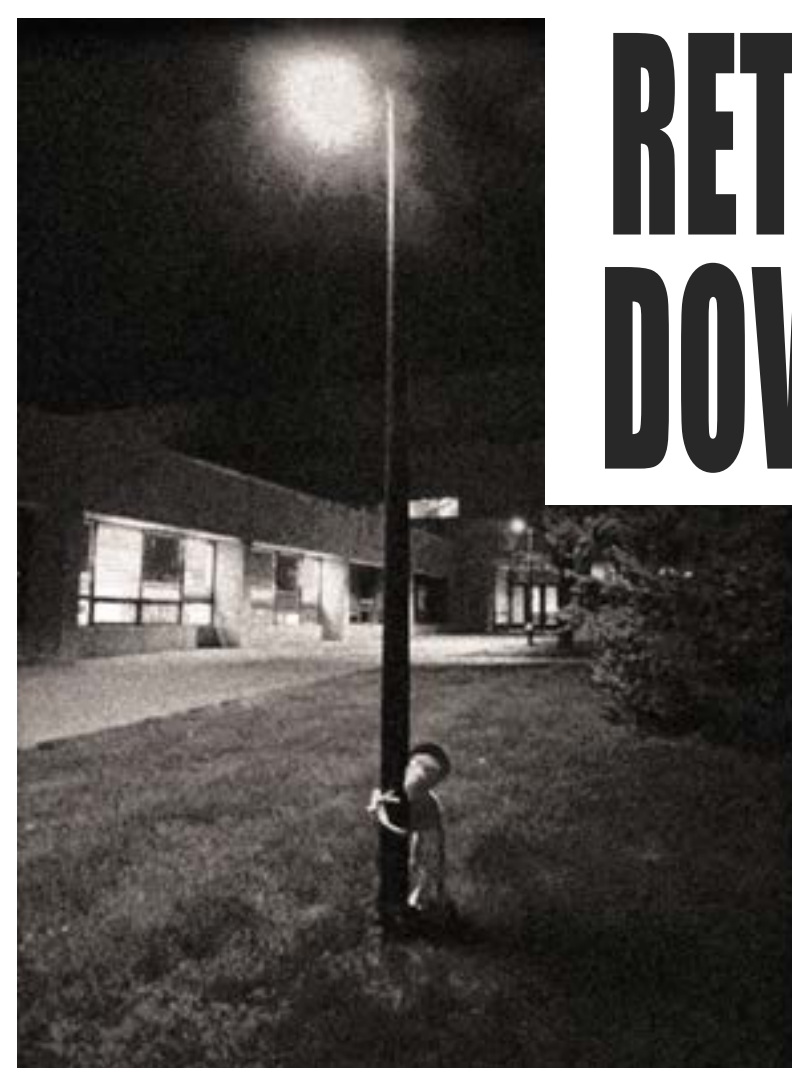
I can't wait to open you up, how you once lived, is how I treat what remains.

I am your undertaker, welcome to a silent pain. What is gut wrenching for them, arouses me. What smells awful to their senses, smells fruitful to me.

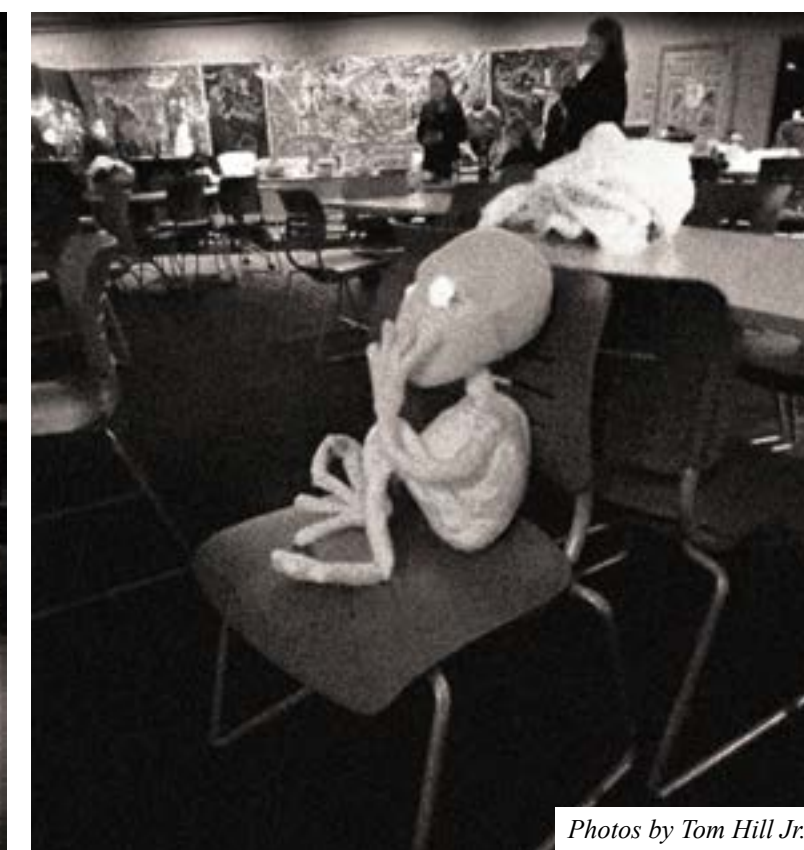
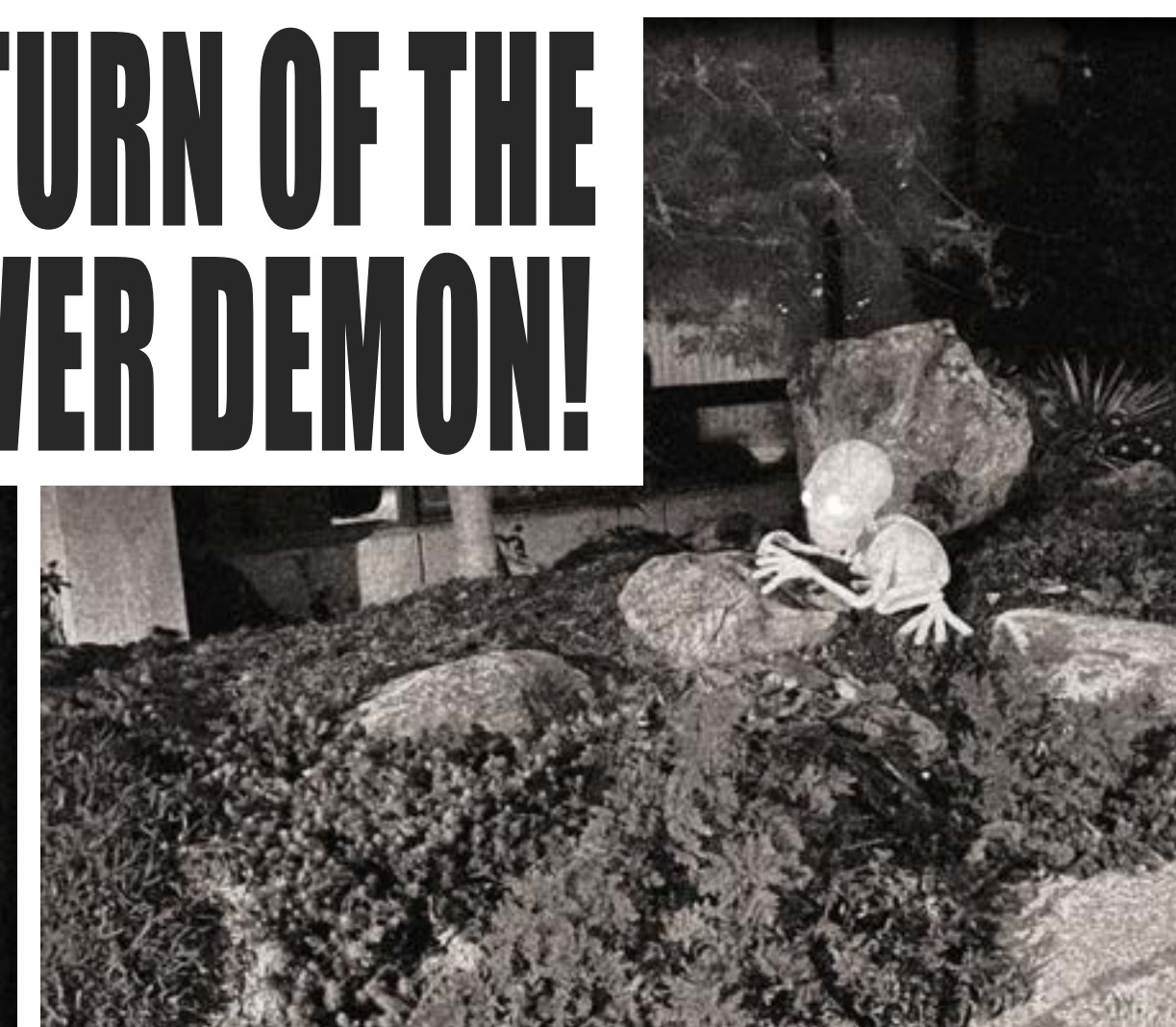
I have seen the very young, and very old,
All colors, different sizes, each lifeless body, loaded with surprises. Being a mortician isn't as bad as it may seem. I lean over and whisper, YOU BELONG TO ME

Send your finished works of 1,000 words or less to mountobserver@mwcc.mass.edu.

Have your own opinions on current events, hot-button issues, or events on campus? Write an opinion piece and send it to mountobserver@mwcc.mass.edu It may just end up in our next issue!



RETURN OF THE DOVER DEMON!



Photos by Tom Hill Jr.

Review: *Halloween Ends* (2022)

Yeah, It Sure Does.



Image from IMDB

By Gabriel Velez

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

Halloween Ends, directed by David Gordon Green, takes place four years after the events of

Halloween Kills. Starring Jamie Lee Curtis, Andi Matichak, Rohan Campbell, Will Patton, and James Jude Courtney as “The Shape,” this film finds the

Strode family in a nice place.

Laurie has finally moved on from the trauma that she suffered throughout the original *Halloween* and the events of the previous two films in the trilogy. Allison has a good job at a hospital, and they have a nice home together. It all seems fine until a string of evil and connective tissue leads Michael Myers back to Laurie, and they can finally end this franchise.

There is so much to say about this film. However, first and foremost, I can't really talk much about the film without addressing a very big elephant in the room: Myers is a glorified cameo in this film.

The film is marketing itself as this grand finale between Laurie and Myers, but it's really not. You do get the conclusion of that story, but that's generally not what the film is about. If anything, it's just more about Haddonfield itself and how Myers has basically made the town evil through his presence alone.

This film focuses on Corey (played by Rohan Campbell), who, through an incredibly unfortunate circumstance, is turned evil because of what the town does to him. However, it also coincides with the ideas from the last film, where Myers

gets stronger every time he kills and how he's no longer a man, just a personification of evil.

As a result of the storyline that they try to tell, Myers gets a MAJOR sideline in his own film. He's the driving star, and that will be a disappointing feature of this film to fans of the franchise. If you're here for Myers, that's just not what you're going to get; the actual focal point of the film is Corey.

The story itself is very poor, being very confusing and dissatisfying in many ways, relying on a lot of contrivances and stupid character decisions to drive the plot forward. It also is a very cheap film. The film cost about 20 million USD, and the money does not at all feel like it's on the screen. The previous film in this trilogy had the same budget and yet had much more production value to it.

This cheapness feels the most evident in the filmmaking, which is downright amateurish. Featuring lots of odd camera movements and placements, and a particular addiction to zooms made the film feel incredibly cheap and lazy. This may very well be written off as a creative choice, but it's one that doesn't work. What happened to the slick direction and inspired choices in shot composition

from the last two films? The performances in this film are quite a mixed bag. No one is downright bad, but no one seems to be pulling all the stops either. Curtis, in particular, feels the most underused, and it definitely feels like she was phoning it in.

The only real positive I can say about the film is that I appreciate the bold swings it takes in trying to be a different film and set itself apart from the rest. However, I don't think it works out, as I said before. The Corey character just wasn't well-written enough to work for the ideas they had.

Other positives include another fantastic score by John Carpenter, Cody Carpenter, and Daniel Davies, as well as some creative kills if that's what you're into with these films. Also, the ending itself isn't wholly unsatisfying. If this truly is the end for Laurie Strode, it's not a bad note to end on, even if the final fight may be a bit underwhelming for some.

Overall, I think I made it clear that I did not enjoy *Halloween Ends*. It may work very well for many, but it just wasn't for me. But don't let that stop you from supporting it either in theaters or on Peacock. For me, it's a 1/10. At least I still have the 2018 film and the original.

Review: *Pearl* (2022)

A Dazzling, Yet Intense Thriller.



Image from IMDB

By Gabriel Velez

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

Pearl, the prequel to this year's film *X*, comes to us from the director Ti West. Starring Mia Goth as the titular Pearl, this movie tells the origin story of how Pearl became the character we see in *X*. After watching *X*, I thought it was one of the most original horror films I've seen in a long time. As someone who's not the most avid supporter of the genre, it was surprising to me that I enjoyed that film as much

as I did. So, with *Pearl*, I had expectations, and it's safe to say they were met. This film is dazzlingly directed, edited, and especially acted by Goth.

Goth steals the show here and gives an incredibly sincere and honest performance as Pearl. This performance aids the incredibly tense nature of some scenes in the film. Since this is entirely a character piece for Pearl, we get to see her run the gamut of emotions and struggles. It doesn't make you root for her at all, but it lets you

understand her and see what led to the character we saw in *X*.

This film has an amazing color palette that perfectly contradicts the dark tone and events that happen in the film. Especially accompanied by the classical score by Tyler Bates and Tim Williams, Ti West masterfully directs and edits here to get the maximum amount of tension from the scenes. There's a nearly ten-minute scene of Pearl essentially spilling her beans and it never cuts; It just holds on Goth. It's really well done.

The only negative thing I could say about the film that holds it back is some odd character interactions and confusing scenes (mostly revolving around the mother character). I was a bit confused when things started escalating there; I was properly set up, but the actual explosion felt odd.

Overall, I really enjoyed *Pearl*, and I think it's another great entry for horror this year. I'd rate it a 9/10.

HALLOWEEN

TRICK OR TREAT

FOR STUDENTS

STOP IN STUDENT LIFE TO GRAB YOUR BAG & LIST OF LOCATIONS

October 31 11:30-1:30

Have your own thoughts on a TV show, film, book, or video game? Write a review and send it to mountobserver@mwcc.mass.edu It may just end up in our next issue!

THE COUNT OBSERVER | VOLUME BOO!, ISSUE 666 | OCTOBER 31, 2022

Editor in Chief:
Maddison Willigar

Assistant Editors:
Josilyn Straka
Cody Nathanson
Isabelle Mascary

Graphic Designer:
Thomas Hill Jr.

Contributors:
Sandy Oser
Stella Sarefield

Lexi Gallagher
William A. Lefrancois
Gabriel Velez

Adviser:
Katie Fuller

Address:
Room H353, MWCC,
444 Green St.,
Gardner, MA 01440

Telephone/E-Mail
978.630.9260

mountobserver@mwcc.mass.edu

The Mount Observer reserves the right to edit and condense all submissions. The Mount Observer is a member of the College Media Advisers, Inc.

The Mount Observer Advertising Policy:

The Mount Observer will reject any ad that is libelous, obscene, violates any laws or encourages discrimination against any individual or group on the

basis of race, sex, age, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability. The Mount Observer reserves the right to edit or reject any ad copy at any time.