

NEWSLETTER

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IS HALLOWEEN NECESSARY?

OK, I admit it. I'm the Halloween version of Scrooge. Bah, humbug, who needs Halloween?

Halloween can be dangerous to your kid's health. Walking around at night with a mask on is not my idea of child safety. All that candy causes cavities.

Halloween can be tough on the wallet. A catalogue I glanced at recently showed page after page of costumes for kids costing \$59.95 plus shipping.

Halloween can be harmful to grown-ups too. Many wear expensive costumes to work and the now popular costume parties at bars and homes are followed by the inevitable drunk-driving catastrophes. Halloween night is now one of the highlights of the year in terms of numbers of alcohol-related car crashes.

Obviously parents can minimize all of the above risks that jeopardize their kids:

- o Face makeup instead of masks for Trick or Treat.
- o Every young child accompanied by an adult.
- o New rule: Each child can save seven pieces of candy-one for each night for a week-and the rest is given away.

Sure kids like to dress up. I send old clothes and jewelry to my grandkids all the time. But let's face it, Halloween has become a very commercial holiday. The idea of a family with three kids spending almost \$200 on costumes to wear only one day horrifies me but it sure enriches the wallets of those who manufacture and sell costumes.

I personally dislike the idea of young children going from door to door for any reason including selling stuff for a worthy cause.

Neighborhoods and schools can have costume parties instead of Trick or Treat. Parents and kids can be creative together making costumes. Parties can charge a small admission fee and donate the proceeds to a charity.

If I had a magic wand I would turn Halloween into the annual fall
Holiday-to Raise-Money-for-the-Needy!

But until this happens, have a safe and sane Halloween!