

*Солтис О., курсант Національної
академії внутрішніх справ, ННІ № 1
Консультант з мови: Марченко І. В.*

THE MOST HORRIBLE CRIMES COMMITTED ON HALLOWEEN

In the United States, the holiday of Halloween invokes images of costumes, trick-or-treating, scary movies, creepy decorations, and

similar festive décor. However, it is also connected to darker ideas, such as various disturbing urban legends, paranormal mythology, and similar themes. On a more worldly level, many have wondered if the last day of October, especially during the evening, is a time of immense criminal activity. Many have asked online and off whether Halloween is a date that involves a dramatic increase in criminal acts. A spokesman for the Atlanta Police Department, told that he doubts such a trend exists in the crime rate. "I spent 11 years working in street patrol before taking my current assignment and spent many of those years working on Halloween during evening hours," said Lyon. "I do not, however, recall that night being any busier than any other night. But that is my personal experience."

The director of the Office of Communications for the Metropolitan Police Department of Washington, D.C. provided The Christian Post with statistics contrasting Halloween 2011 and Halloween 2012. He noted that between those two dates, violent crime was down 26 percent, property crime was down 11 percent, and overall crime was down 15 percent. Many communities have their own neighborhood watches during Halloween, which may factor into there being a lower and possibly decreasing crime rate. One example can be found with Fairfax County, Virginia, where the University's student government annually organizes an event known as "Witch Watch." As part of "Witch Watch," the groups of about four to five volunteers go to various communities in Northern Virginia and serve as neighborhood watch. While some argue that Halloween does not have a significant increase in crime, others have pointed to different cities where a correlation between Halloween night and criminal activity does appear to exist.

Northeastern University Professor James Alan Fox argued that from 2006 to 2009, the violent crime rates for Boston spiked on three dates each year: New Year's Day, Independence Day and Halloween. In 2011, Fox stated that not only was Halloween a horrible time for criminal activity, it was the worst. "The evening violent crime count on October 31 is about 50 percent higher than on any other date during the year, and twice the daily average," wrote Fox. "The most popular hours for gathering Snickers and Junior Mints around the neighborhood are apparently also the prime time for violent crime."

Halloween crimes are usually thought of as the thoughtless mayhem of demented strangers who enjoy poisoning candy or putting razor blades in apples. But crimes committed on Halloween are much more serious - and more real - than those urban legends. There have been numerous murders, kidnappings, and assaults that have taken place on October 31, and many are directly related to the festivities of the holiday. While it remains debatable whether or not there's a spike in crime on Halloween, there's no debate that all of these particular assaults happened in connection with the holiday. Many of these crimes have been carried out by people who took advantage of the occasion to wear a costume and fool their victims for just long enough to kill them. Others involve people out trick-or-treating, or returning from parties late at night. But as with most violent crime in general, crimes that happened on Halloween are usually committed either by someone known to the victim, or in a case of mistaken identity. In a few cases, the crime has never been solved, and years or decades have gone by with no closure for the loved ones of the victims.

Poisoning of Timothy O'Bryan

While the vast majority of Halloween scare stories about razor blades in apples or poisoned candy are either urban legends or moral panics, one story is, unfortunately, completely true. And it had nothing to do with a demented stranger randomly killing children. Eight-year-old Timothy O'Bryan had a packet of Pixie Stix given to him by his father to cap off his trick-or-treating. He almost immediately went into convulsions, and died an hour later. The death sent the O'Bryan's small Texas town into a panic, and the police determined that the Pixie Stix that Timothy ate were laced with cyanide. When Ronald's story kept changing, police began investigating him. They found him to be deeply in debt, and that he'd taken out massive life insurance policies on his children. Police found that other O'Bryan children had also been given the candy by their dad, but hadn't eaten them. Ronald O'Bryan was found guilty of murder, sentenced to death, and executed.

Liske Family Murders

On Halloween 2010, Ohio teenager Devon Griffin returned home from Sunday church services to find the corpses of his brother

Derek, mother Susan, and Susan's new husband William Liske. The killer had bludgeoned Derek with a claw hammer, shot William five times with a 22-caliber pistol, and raped Susan before shooting her three times. Devon was so traumatized he could only say it was like “something out of a haunted house.” The killer was found to be William Liske’s son from a previous marriage, William Liske Jr., who had a history of schizophrenia and violence. Liske was picked up at a halfway house, and pleaded guilty to all three murders. He committed suicide in prison in 2015.

Murder of Tony Bagley

Seven-year-old Las Vegas boy Tony Bagley went trick-or-treating on Halloween night with his sister, aunt, and mother. They were walking down the street when a man in a hood ran towards them with a gun and opened fire, killing Tony. He then jumped into a waiting car and drove away. The killer has never been caught, and police speculated that the shooting was revenge against Tony's father for a drug deal gone wrong.

Список використаних джерел:

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2. <http://www.christianpost.com/news/does-the-crime-rate-spike-on-halloween-107814/>