

Cowboy cookies

By Haley Wade

Editor-in-Chief

Cowboy cookies are chunky oatmeal cookies filled with chocolate and pecans and sprinkled with cinnamon. This recipe makes about 24 cookies.

Ingredients:

- 2 cups of all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons of baking powder
- 2 teaspoons of baking soda
- 2 teaspoons of ground cinnamon
- 2/3 teaspoon of salt
- 1 cup of butter
- 1 cup of granulated sugar
- 1 cup of packed light-brown sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 2 teaspoons of vanilla extract
- 2 cups of semisweet chocolate chips
- 2 cups of old-fashioned rolled oats
- 1 1/3 cups of sweetened flake coconut
- 1 1/3 cups of chopped pecans

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350° F.
2. Mix flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, and salt in a bowl.
3. In an 8-quart bowl, beat butter on medium speed until smooth and creamy for one minute.
4. Gradually beat in the two sugars for two minutes. Add eggs, one at a time, beating after adding each. Beat in vanilla extract.
5. Stir in flour mixture with the liquids until the mixture combines.
6. Add chocolate chips, oats, coconut, and pecans.
7. For each cookie, drop ¼ cup of dough onto ungreased baking sheets, spacing three inches apart.
8. Bake for 17 to 19 minutes, until edges are lightly browned. Rotate sheets halfway through.

Friday the 13 terrifies the superstitious

by Quincey Klein

Editor-in-Chief

Why is it that Friday the thirteenth strikes an uneasy feeling in the hearts of Western culture? It comes from way farther back than just hockey masks featured in the horror movie franchise of the same name. This superstition of the date has been around since the nineteenth century. Although no expert can say for certain, the aversion to the day is supposedly because thirteen is an unlucky number and Friday is an unlucky day. In numerology, where the number twelve signifies completeness (months, apostles, gods of Olympus), thirteen is seen as imperfect.

The fear of the number thirteen even has a name: triskaidekaphobia. Friday has been considered universally unlucky since the birth of Christianity because the Bible says that Jesus was crucified on a Friday. The hybrid of the two phobias into one originates from the popular book and silent film titled Friday the Thirteenth in the early twentieth century. It told of a malicious stockbroker who wished to crash the market on that date.

Although to some it may seem silly, millions of people carry a real phobia with the infamous date. According to the Stress Management Center and Phobia Institute, an estimated 17 to 21 million people in the United States are affected by

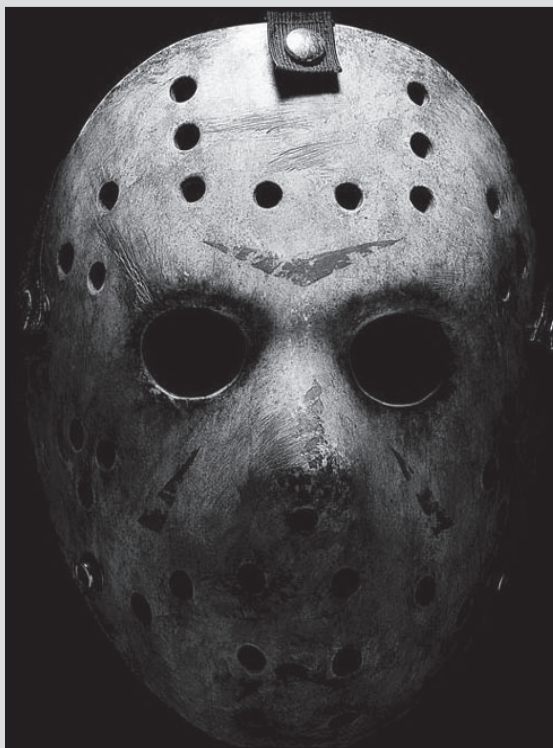
a fear of this day making it the most feared day and date in history. Most tall buildings skip the thirteenth floor, jumping straight from 12 to 14. Markets globally experience a loss of \$800-900 million dollars worth of business.

People believe it is unlucky to set sail, harvest, get married, move, start a new job, give birth, or basically do anything out of the ordinary on this day. Anything you do, or so the superstition says, can end in bitter failure and misfortune.

Famous celebrities such as Tupac Shakur and Julia Child have met the end of their lives on this unlucky date. Some people blame Black Monday, a huge decline in the stock market in 1987, on the occurrence of three Friday the thirteenth that year. On Friday, July 13, 1956, United States and Great Britain ignored pleas from India and Yugoslavia to halt atmospheric nuclear testing.

Even though Friday the thirteenth stigma is prevalent, there is much support to end it. The Thirteen Club, created in 1881, strove to debunk any fears surrounding the number. The original thirteen members eventually grew to over 400, including five US presidents. Although scientists contend that there is no truth to the myth, cultural superstitions are

nearly impossible to kick. To be extra careful, don't do anything too life-threatening today just in case there is any truth to the myth. (Sources: Times Magazine)



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BEN AFFLECK TAKES OVER THE ROLE OF BATMAN IN NEW MOVIE

By Ari Sweedler

People editor

The choice made by Warner Bros has been heard across the nation. Ben Affleck is the new Batman. Depending upon whom you ask, Affleck is either a great choice or someone who should not have even been considered. Val Kilmer, an actor who starred in the title role in the movie Batman Forever made in 1995 tweeted, "[We should] give Ben a chance!"

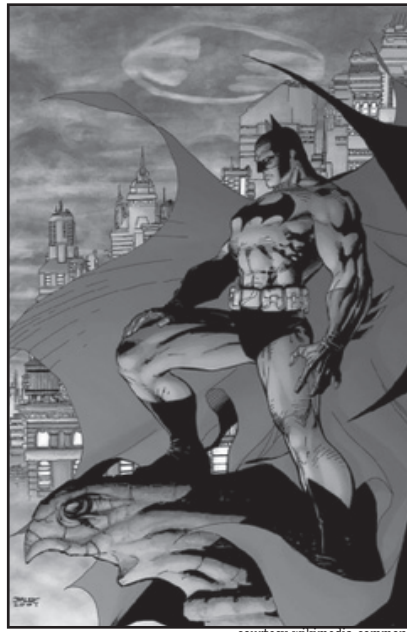
More support for Affleck came from his good friend Matt Damon, who told the Times of India, "I think it will be great. It will be terrific. I know there are a lot of people grousing on the internet. I just think it's kind of funny. You know, he's not playing King Lear. It's Batman! Certainly within his skill set."

On the other hand, many people



think that Affleck is a bad choice. A student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is one of those critics. When asked about what he thought of the new Batman, Matt Sunderman replied, "Ben Affleck? That is so bad. First of all, after he played in his last super hero movie, he vowed never to play a superhero again... The whole thing is dumb." Sunderman is just one among many who believe that Affleck is not the right choice.

Despite the number of people set against Affleck, the fact remains that when Batman vs. Superman comes out in July of 2015, Affleck will be playing the role of Gotham's hero. Adam West, who played Batman in the 120 episode, 3 season TV series said, "with the cape and cowl comes



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great responsibility (and lots of heat). Bring deodorant."

Personally, I think that Affleck will be a fine Batman. The main complaint against Affleck is his looks. His critics describe him as more of a "cool dad" than a ninja vigilante crime fighting superhero. But give him enough time in the gym, some armor, and a cape, and Affleck will look the part. My main concern about Affleck is whether or not he will be able to make the famous "Batman voice," a voice infamous in the Gotham underworld that marks the end of your career. Overall, no one can accurately judge if Affleck is capable of the part until we have some solid evidence. Until then, we can only look forward to July 17, 2015.

(Sources: Daily Nebraska)

A WAVE OF NEW MOVIES HITS THEATERS THIS SUMMER

By Anna Esslinger

Culture Editor

As the days of summer are winding down and the stress from the new school year is rising, new movies are coming out that mark the end of the "Summer Blockbuster" season. These new films are a great way to unwind and forget about your copious amount of homework.

Blue Jasmine:

Just like all Woody Allen movies, Blue Jasmine can be described with two words: witty and well-written. I was thoroughly impressed with this movie. Blue Jasmine tells the story of Jeanette, self-renamed Jasmine, after her husband is caught organizing a ponzi scheme. The movie shows flashbacks from Jasmine's earlier life as a rich New Yorker, but mainly focuses on her present crisis. Cate Blanchett carried this movie phenomenally; she transitions from a put-together New York socialite to a woman having a nervous breakdown and talking to herself on the streets of San Francisco. While most movies that take place in San Francisco only show montages of the Golden Gate Bridge and Pier 39, Blue Jasmine features an accurate depiction of San Francisco and Marin County. The film had many memorable moments including Jasmine's working-class sister's comments on the fact that although Jasmine claims to have nothing, she flew to San Francisco first class with Louis Vuitton luggage. This is not Woody Allen's best movie, because nothing will ever be able to compete with Annie Hall, but it is definitely as must-see.

Warning: You may be the only one in the theater under forty-five.

We're the Millers:

This movie will probably not go down in cinematic history, but it sure provides a few laughs and is a good way to spend a slow Saturday night. We're the Millers tells the story of a low-key drug dealer, David, who is forced to smuggle weed across the US-Mexican border in order to pay off his supplier. In order to be as inconspicuous as possible, David hires a

fake family to cross the border with him. If you couldn't tell by the brief summary, the humor in this movie is more mature and I would suggest seeing this movie with your friends as opposed to your younger siblings or grandparents. SNL alum Jason Sudeikis leads the movie well and Jennifer Aniston proves just as strong in her role as David's fake wife. But the real comedians in this movie are Nick Offerman, famously known as Ron Swanson from the NBC show "Parks and Recreation," and Kathryn Hahn. They play a typical nerdy couple who are also en route from Mexico in an RV. Memorable moments include when an eighteen-year old boy raps TLC's "Waterfalls" and when Nick Offerman attacks an international drug lord with a thermos. If you're in the mood for two hours of screwball comedy and uproarious laughter then this movie is perfect for you.

Jobs:

Although this new Steve Jobs biopic has received mostly negative reviews, I believed it was a good representation of Steve Jobs' life. The movie shows the origins of the company that basically dominates our lives, Apple Computer, and the eventual ousting of Jobs from his own company. The movie portrays Jobs as an eccentric visionary, a jerk you can't help but admire. The movie and origin story of Apple is inspirational to say the least; this Silicon Valley magnate started in a garage and transformed into one of the most influential companies of our generation.

Some of the criticism of the movie is accurate, but some does not make any sense. There are those who thought that Jobs too closely resembled David Fincher's The Social Network. No offense to those critics, but that criticism is completely absurd; a biopic cannot rip-off another biopic. Surprising criticism came from Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, but this may not be as credible because Wozniak is working with Aaron Sorkin on another Steve Jobs movie. My only criticism is that the movie elaborated too much on Jobs' family life, specifically with his daughter Lisa. In comparison to the gripping and interesting story that is the history of Apple, the whole estranged daughter storyline seemed unnecessary and should have been left out. Overall, I thought that this movie was well done and Ashton Kutcher did a surprisingly good job in the title role.



S. Bainbridge