Twitter Thread by "Critical Kate" Willært ■■



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Well, this is certainly an interesting variation on the old candy tampering myth.

Ever wondered how this Halloween myth got started? Here's a quick thread.

> Halloween candy and marijuana edibles can look similar, so Indiana State Police are sharing safety tips so parents can look out.\u200b https://t.co/S2pcJYpgTV
>
> — ABC 7 Chicago (@ABC7Chicago) October 30, 2020

The first time trick-or-treating apeared in a movie or show was Disney's 1952 short "Trick Or Treat."

It was a relatively new phenomenon at the time. Previously, kids dressed up & messed up people's yards. Now you could bribe kids with treats so they wouldn't give you a trick.

But Donald being stubborn, he decided to give the kids lit firecrackers.

I don't think this is where the myth started, but it's the first example of an adult using trick-or-treating o play a trick on kids.

In 1964, a housewife made prank packages of inedible items to hand out to trick-or-treaters she thought were too old. These held random kitchen items like steel wool, dog biscuits, and ant poison clearly marked as poison.

The poison upset another parent, who had her arrested.

It seems the story was warped in retellings, and parents worried each other with tales of poison candy. Sometimes kids pranked their parents, i.e. "look what I found in my candy!"

Fun Size candy showed up in 1968, presenting a safe alternative to unwrapped treats.

Only one child has ever died of poisoned candy...and it turned out his own father put the cyanide-laced Pixy Stix in his bag! In 1974, he was inspired by the common myth as a way to collect on the life insurance plan he'd taken out.

This is why cyanide found in bottles of Tylenol in September 1982 led to a Halloween panic (and also led to the safety seals we're all used to now). Reporters couldn't help but wonder out loud whether cyanide might show up in candy in a month?

The panic shook up the whole Halloween industry, which invests all year in a single month of profit. The shakeup is a big reason why those old plastic masks went away. https://t.co/Z6h5n12Qeo

> Ben Cooper was hit hardest, because they had so much inventory and far more licenses than even their nearest competitor, Collegeville (pictured).
>
> Halloween bounced back, but Ben Cooper declared bankruptcy. But it would be a company called Rubies that changed Halloween forever. pic.twitter.com/DjerEeFc0t
>
> — "Critical Kate" Will\xe6rt \U0001f918\U0001f3fb (@katewillaert) October 28, 2019

I think the biggest danger of mixing recreational drugs with Halloween is that it might bring those masks back.

By which I mean I was completely sober when I worked at a Halloween company and pitched doing adult-sized plastic masks and vinyl jumpsuits, and maybe if they were high they wouldn't have rejected it.