

- Whilst the rest of the United States at midnight of October 31st, celebrates Halloween; Mexicans keep to their customs and celebrate ~~el Día de los Muertos~~.
- But the two holidays have different origins, and their attitudes toward death are different: in the typical Halloween festivities, death is something to be feared, but in ~~el Día de los Muertos~~, death — or at least the memories of those who have died — is something to be celebrated.
- ~~el Día de los Muertos~~ continues until November 2nd and is the largest celebration in Mexico all year long, even bigger than Christmas.
- In the past, this period represented the time when the deceased could return to the world of the living and visit their loved ones, but now it is usually a time to remember them and pray for their souls.
- People pray, clean off family graves and decorate them.
- How the deceased lived their life determines how the friends and family should decorate the ~~ofrenda~~.
- If the person smoked or drank often in life, then the family would most likely offer them a shotglass and a pack of cigarettes.
- If they had a favorite candy or food, this would be placed on the ~~ofrenda~~, as well. During the celebration of ~~el Día de los Muertos~~, it is common to see children running around in masks asking passerbys for candy, small toys, or money while they hold out a plastic pumkin-bowl.

- Most of North America celebrates Halloween and some of that has gone down into Mexico.
- Many Mexicans are concerned over the detrimental influence this will have on the ~~muertos~~ celebration, but the parades and celebrations are still strong and they don't seem like they will die out anytime soon.
- The symbol of this festivity is the ~~caca~~ ~~coffins~~ ~~coffins~~ ~~coffins~~ ~~coffins~~ decorate the inside of shops and are dressed as judges, soldiers, housewives, soccer players, doctors, etc. Death and the skeleton is seen in a much different way by the Mexicans than by most Westerners. It is seen in a mocking, cheerful way.
- Usually entire regions prepare for the great **fiesta of Los Días de Muertos**. The square fills with stands that offer all types of colorful figures allusive to death, the most popular made of sugar.
 - In my opinion, just because I know that many people are scared of Halloween I believe that this holiday is a "holly" remake of it and it forces people to remember and think about those who've passed away. I believe that it is much safer than Halloween and it wouldn't lead to so many incidents.
 - I just hope that in the future people will become more aware of this and start