

Supernatural creatures have fascinated humans for centuries, blurring the line between reality and fantasy. They often serve to explain the unknown; for instance, El Chupacabra — a Latin American legend said to attack and drink the blood of livestock — was blamed for mysterious animal deaths before disease was understood. Though some still claim sightings, it is generally considered an urban legend. Yet for some, such creatures may not purely be fantasy.

"It's always a possibility that [these creatures] may have [existed] in the past," said sophomore Austen Ying. "The idea lingers in my mind: where are they now? What happened to them?"

Classic literature, mythology and the evolution of Halloween have all helped keep supernatural phenomena central in our otherwise science-driven culture.

"I [started] reading *The Odyssey*, and [one] of the big things that [has] been circling my mind is the Cyclopes," Ying said. "It's really interesting how ... [each] monster has a [purpose] and they're all very different."

From classics like "*Frankenstein*" to modern series like "*Twilight*," mythical creatures continue to shape popular culture. Vampires remain iconic, while others fade. For example, the Baba Yaga from Slavic mythology remains a popular icon, but creatures like the Bukavac — a many-legged, draconic monster — are largely forgotten.

Edward has sucked the color out of certain objects on this page!

Color the blank entities to help Elpha-ba!

MYSTICAL AND MAGICAL

"Double, double, toil and trouble; fire burn and cauldron bubble," chant Shakespeare's witches as they concoct Macbeth's demise. For centuries, stories of witches hunched over tattered spellbooks or riding charmed brooms have spread worldwide, from nursery rhymes and dances to myths and religious texts.

Legend or not, the real-life implications of witches are tangible. Published in 1486 amid intense religious fervor, "*Malleus Maleficarum*" ("The Hammer of Witches") sparked Europe's witch hunt craze, leading to the execution of countless vulnerable or independent women, especially widows and midwives. Crises common to the time like plague or failed harvests were chalked up to the machinations of the Devil and his disciples: the witches.

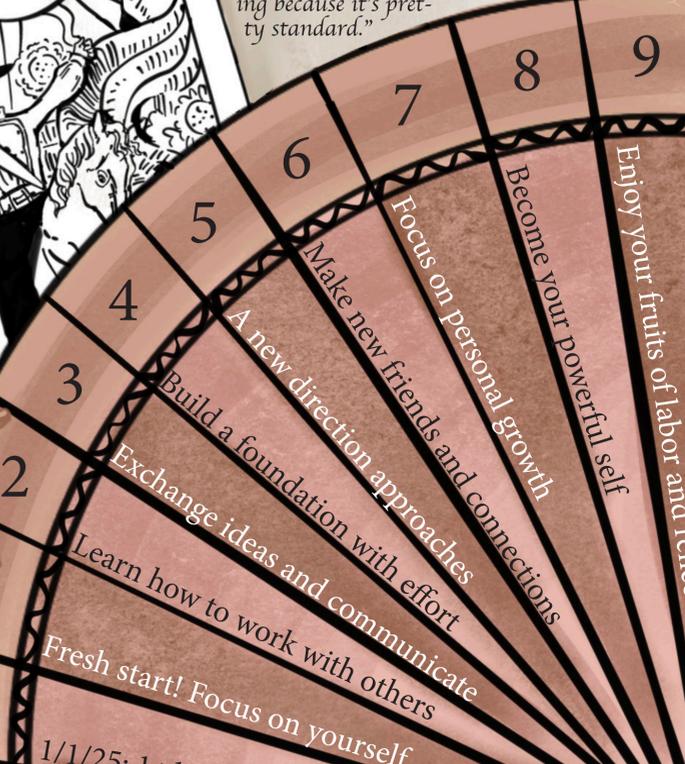
"People want things to make sense. That's just human nature ... magic or gods, anything that isn't realistic, but is reasonable enough, they'll believe it," said sophomore Joshua Wu. "People [didn't] know why [diseases] exist because they didn't know about bacteria. So they had this Pandora's box story where [she] opened the box and [let out] all the diseases."

Tarot originated in 15th century Italy as a card game and became associated with fortune telling in 18th-century France. Over time, the practice spread to many different cultures and countries.

"My grandmother taught me, her mother before her and her mother before her [taught her]," said English teacher Kelsey Gamble. "Tarot is incredibly important to the Romani people; it's tied to that nomadic background we have. It's very difficult to keep track of your heritage when it is something that's so incredibly nomadic and unfortunately, very poorly documented. But she really wanted us to have some sort of connection to that spirituality."

Tarot has 78 cards — 22 "major arcana" for major life events and 56 "minor arcana" for daily matters. Each may be interpreted in relation to the client's intention, allowing for introspection and insight. The specific steps of tarot reading vary based on the spread and the reader.

"A lot of times, I'll do a single card reading," Gamble said. "Then you divvy up the cards, they pick one, and you read that one. If I want to do something more in depth, I usually stick with the three cards: past, present and future reading because it's pretty standard."



Games like *Dungeons and Dragons* help revive these otherwise forgotten creatures. "A lot of [D&D characters] come from folklore and mythology [from] different places," said sophomore and D&D club president Gabriella Pate. "Sometimes [people] create their own monsters [too]."

Crystals have long been valued for their symbolic powers. Ancient Egyptians used amazonite for protection in the afterlife, while Ancient Chinese jade — shaped into ritual objects like the circular bi disk and square cong tube — symbolized purity and similarly safeguarded the dead in the tomb. Today, people carry crystals for metaphysical benefits like emotional and aura balance.

Palm reading, emerging from Ancient China and India, interprets destiny and character. Practitioners observe the palm's creases, shapes, and fleshy areas; for example, a long heart line suggests emotional sensitivity, and Earth hands (short fingers, square palms) convey a practical nature. Nowadays, palmistry often appears in media as a symbol of a character's search for answers.

Foretell with numerology: add up the digits of your 2025 birthday together repeatedly to find your key takeaway of the year!

On Sept. 4, Principal Mike Jones performed palm readings on the students during lunch.

"Lots of students wanted to know if they were going to pass their class, if they were going to get an A," Jones said. "Someone wanted to know if they would be asked out to Homecoming ... [It's] another opportunity for me to get to know our students in a different light. Most people have never had [a palm reading]."

9	Enjoy your fruits of labor and reflect
8	Become your powerful self
7	Focus on personal growth
6	Make new friends and connections
5	A new direction approaches
4	Build a foundation with effort
3	Exchange ideas and communicate
2	Learn how to work with others
1	Fresh start! Focus on yourself

Ex See

1/1/25: 1+1+2+2+5 = 11, 1+1=2

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