

Scariest Halloween Costumes

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Spookiest trick-or-treaters that could darken the doorsteps of New York convenience store operators this Halloween:

FEE CREATURE: Voracious, multi-tentacled monster with “V/MC” emblazoned across its chest that sucks the blood out of retailers who accept credit cards.

WAFER MAN: 6-foot-4 and weighing just 75 pounds, using a sawed-off tank dipstick for a cane, portending continued emaciation of retail gas margins.

PIRANHA MONTANA: Big-box store offering fuel and convenience items at retail prices lower than surrounding C-stores can buy them at wholesale.

SNEAK-A-TAXER : Ax-wielding zombie threatening higher federal and/or state taxes on cigarettes that would drive more customers into the waiting arms of “tax-free” competitors.

CASPER MILQUETOAST: Timid elected official who, contrary to campaign promise, refuses to enforce law requiring collection of taxes on Native American sales to non-Native American New Yorkers.

BEER GHOULER: Masked investigator pulling Radio Flyer wagon overflowing with beer-brand banners, beach umbrellas, coolers and other logoed promotional items confiscated from C-stores as illegal “gifts and services.”

GRIM REDEEMER: Toothless bag lady with shopping cart full of unrinsed soda and beer cans for deposit redemption. Only thing worse would be if state expanded deposit law to cover non-carb beverages.

DEC INSPECTOR: Clipboard-toting bureaucrat who moans about faded fill cap paint, worships 10-day reconciliation reports, and levies five-figure fines.

FREDDIE MERCURY: Thunderbolt and lightning, very very frightening consumer activist ranting about forcing C-stores to install temperature compensation devices on gas pumps.

FED SKELETON: Empty suit with U.S. Food and Drug Administration badge salivating over chance to regulate tobacco into oblivion.

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