

Paranormal Underground™

Volume 3, Issue 7

July 2010

Special Report:
Five Strange Conspiracy Theories

HAUNTED HISTORY:
ALEISTER CROWLEY — THE GREAT BEAST

Cryptids & Mythological Creatures:
Is the Loch Ness Monster a Shapeshifter?

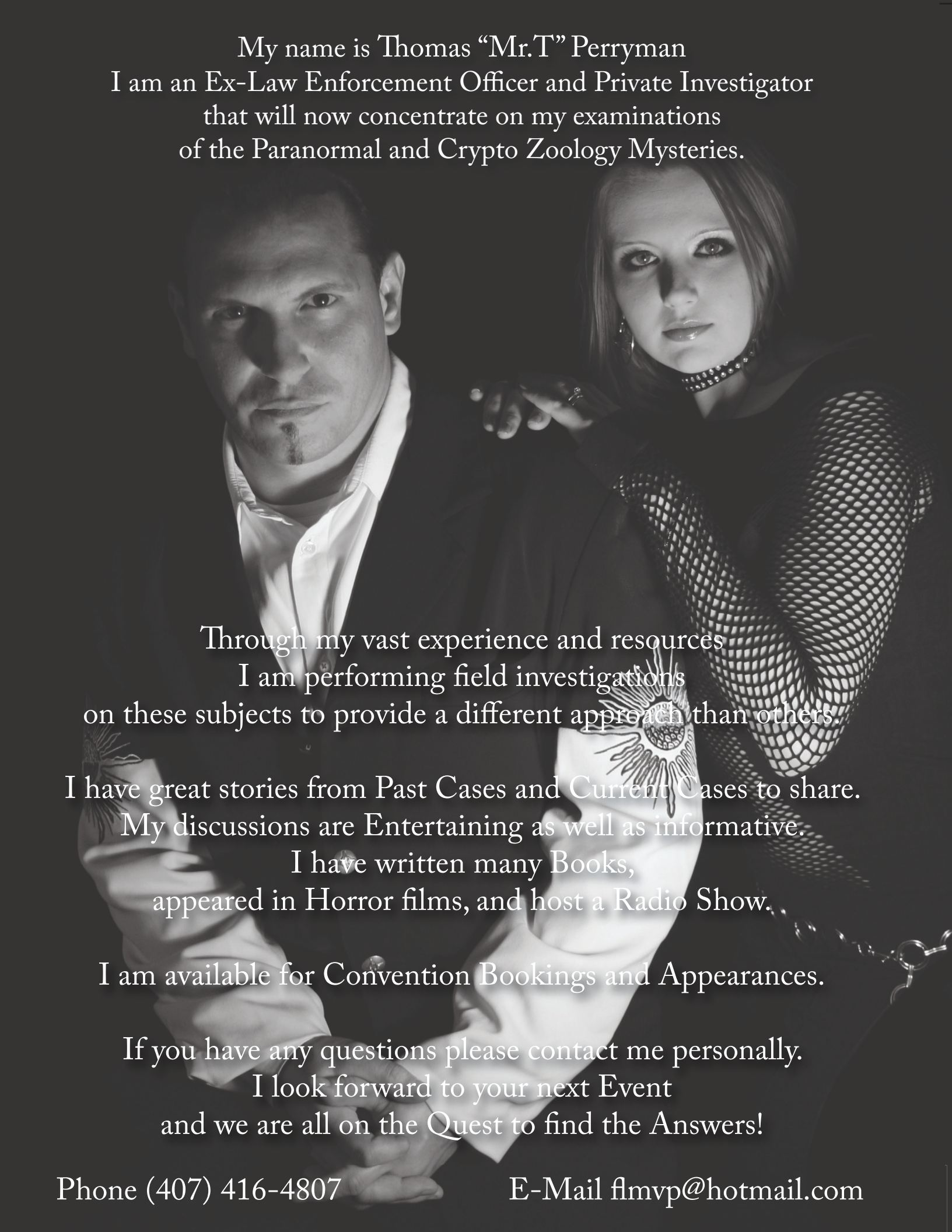
ARE WE ALONE?:
AN ENTOMBED EXTRATERRESTRIAL

SCOTT TEPPERMAN:
THE NEW
GHI GUY

DANGER
CONFINED SPACE
DO NOT ENTER

ALSO INSIDE:

- HAUNTED SITES: STONEHENGE
- FLYING MONKEY PARANORMAL INVESTIGATIONS
- CASE FILES: MCPRG VERSUS THE INHUMAN
- EQUIPMENT UPDATE: THE PHANTOM LITE
- HEIDI'S HAUNTED HIKES
- TV WATCH: *MARY KNOWS BEST* & *FACT OR FAKE: PARANORMAL FILES*
- REVIEW OF THE MONTH:
2012: THE PARANORMAL COOKBOOK



My name is Thomas “Mr.T” Perryman
I am an Ex-Law Enforcement Officer and Private Investigator
that will now concentrate on my examinations
of the Paranormal and Crypto Zoology Mysteries.

Through my vast experience and resources
I am performing field investigations
on these subjects to provide a different approach than others.

I have great stories from Past Cases and Current Cases to share.

My discussions are Entertaining as well as informative.

I have written many Books,
appeared in Horror films, and host a Radio Show.

I am available for Convention Bookings and Appearances.

If you have any questions please contact me personally.

I look forward to your next Event
and we are all on the Quest to find the Answers!

Phone (407) 416-4807

E-Mail fmvp@hotmail.com

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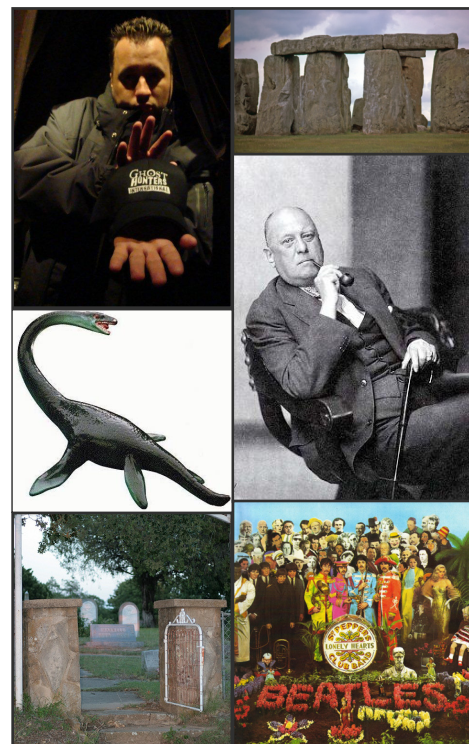
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Heidi Ann

Heidi Ann has been a paranormal enthusiast since childhood when she had her own encounter. Her personal experience led her to question the world around her.



Heidi is a mother of three sons, works as a special education paraprofessional in a middle school, and loves watching television shows and reading books on the paranormal.

Shaun Belekurov

Shaun (aka S.M. Belekurov or Shaun B.) has spent 18 years in the field investigating paranormal phenomena. This has taken him everywhere from investigating Chupacabra sightings outside Tijuana, Mexico, Bigfoot Hunting in Washington State, and most recently trailing the “Hellhound of the Ozarks” in his own backyard.

His lifelong pursuit of all things strange has led him to recently publish 2012: The Paranormal Cookbook (Convergence of Reality and the Supernatural). Shaun founded S.P.O.O.K.S. (a paranormal field investigative unit based out of Springfield, Mo.). He enjoys riding his Harley and doing field work. His Website is www.spooksfield.com.

Paul Bottini

Paul has written several eBooks about haunted sites, UFO sightings, and cryptid lore. When not writing, Paul travels the countryside in search of UFOs, hotspots of high strangeness, ethereal beasts, and anything remotely paranormal.



Paul also designs Web graphics and animations. You can visit his MySpace page at www.myspace.com/zzyzxparanormal.

Chris DeMent

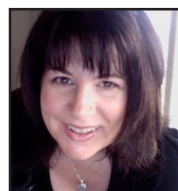
A long-time paranormal investigator, Chris founded his own California-based paranormal group, Parachasers I.N.C., for people interested in paranormal phenomena. He is an artist, inventor, and paranormal enthusiast. Chris has worked in numerous technical and artistic fields, and currently works as a fiber optic technician for a telecommunications company.



In the future, Chris would like to investigate Waverly Hills Sanatorium, Gettysburg, and Myrtles Plantation. His Website is www.parachasers.com.

Karen Frazier

Karen is the managing editor of *Paranormal Underground* magazine. After living in a WWII-era apartment 20 years ago where unexplainable things happened, Karen began to search for answers about the paranormal.



Now she combines that interest with her professional experience as a copy writer and technical writer to help bring *Paranormal Underground* to the public. Karen is a partner with Ghost Knight Media.

Terri J. Garofalo

Terri is a paranormal investigator, as well as the author and illustrator of *Entities-R-Us*, a Ghost Hunter Comic. For more information, visit www.entities-r-us.com.



Rick E. Hale

A native of Chicago, Rick investigates with the McHenry County Paranormal Research Group. He writes a biweekly blog for www.paranormalunderground.net

about his frequent investigations. A paranormal researcher since the age of eight, Rick is happily married and digs Jazz. He believes in the use of the scientific method in gathering evidence of paranormal claims. Rick can be contacted at t_seeker@hotmail.com.



Michael Kleen

Michael is the publisher of *Black Oak Presents*, a digital magazine. He writes a monthly electronic serial, *Legends and Lore of Illinois*.



His research on the paranormal also led him to pen several books about ghosts and hauntings, having most recently published *Legends and Lore of Illinois: Case Files*. Michael's other titles include *Tales of the Supernatural and Other Mysteries of the Universe*; *Ashmore Estates: Myth and Legend*; *Tales of Coles County*; and *Six Tales of Terror*. Michael's Websites are www.trueillinoishaunts.com and www.michaelkleen.com.

Cheryl Knight

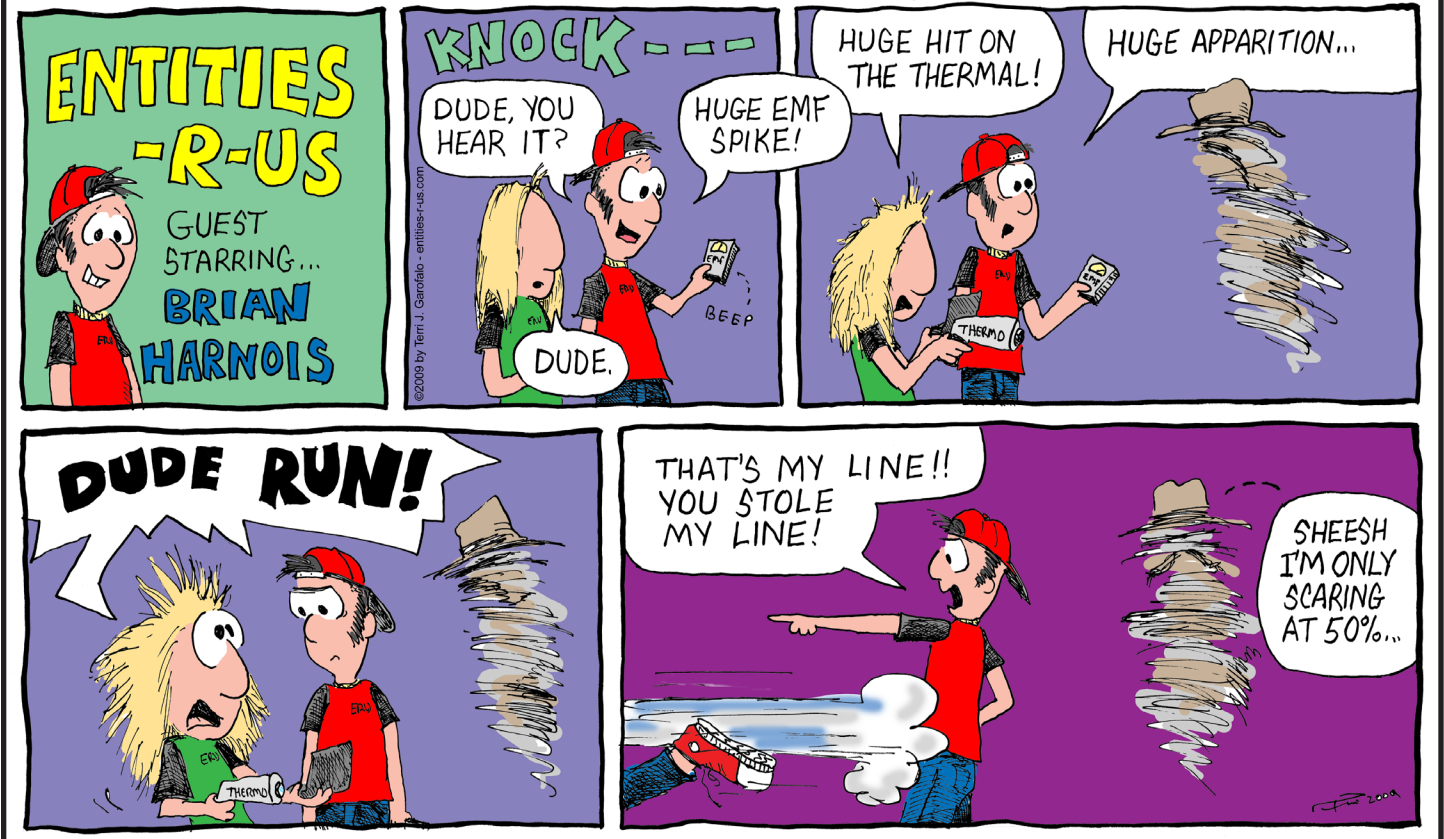
Cheryl is editor-in-chief of *Paranormal Underground* magazine. She has been a professional writer and editor for more than 20 years. Cheryl is combining her writing, editing, and design talents — along with a fascination of the paranormal — to bring you *Paranormal Underground* each month.

Her previous magazine experience includes roles as senior and managing editor for several business publications. Cheryl is a partner for Ghost Knight Media.



Entities-R-Us

by Terri J. Garofalo — www.entities-r-us.com



Michelle M. Pillow

Michelle is an award-winning author writing in many romance fiction genres, including futuristic and paranormal. A skeptical believer, she has a fascination with anything paranormal. She's also a photographer and cohost of Raven Radio.



Readers and listeners can contact Michelle through her Website, www.michellepillow.com. You can catch her latest three book series, *Realm Immortal* (*King of the Unblessed*; *Faery Queen*; and *Stone Queen*) in bookstores in January 2010.

Jill Stefko, Ph.D.

Jill has studied the paranormal since 1957. Her expertise in the paranormal



includes parapsychology, cryptozoology, Fortean phenomena, anomalies, UFOs, aliens, demonic possession, and exorcism. She gives workshops and lectures and has been a guest on radio call-in talk shows and local TV as an expert in the paranormal. She investigates alleged cases of the paranormal and counsels experiencers.

Jill is the Feature Writer in the paranormal topic for www.suite101.com, an international ezine. Jill is the director and founder of FIRE-Psi, which was established in 1996.

Ryan Tackitt

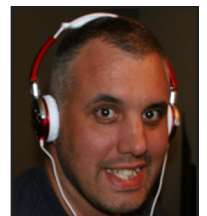
Ryan is the founder of Paranormal Investigators of Central Texas (PICT). He is a certified paramedic working in Waco, Texas, and a part-time EMS instructor at the local community college.



Ryan and his friends educate, investigate, and help people who have paranormal problems. Ryan has had many personal paranormal experiences over his lifetime and realizes that science can only explain so much.

Chad Wilson

A writer of articles and fiction, Chad is the publisher of *Paranormal Underground* and a partner for Ghost Knight Media (www.ghostknightmedia.com). He has parlayed his avid interest in the paranormal into a top-notch publication and Website — Paranormal Underground.



Chad has investigated with East Tennessee Paranormal Research Society and counts Waverly Hills, the Villisca Axe Murder House, the Queen Anne Hotel, and private residences among his investigations.

Paranormal Underground™

Volume 3, Issue 7 July 2010

www.ParanormalUnderground.net

EDITORIAL

PUBLISHER

CHAD WILSON

PUBLISHER@PARANORMALUNDERGROUND.NET

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

CHERYL KNIGHT

EDITOR@PARANORMALUNDERGROUND.NET

MANAGING EDITOR

KAREN FRAZIER

KARENFRAZIER@PARANORMALUNDERGROUND.NET

SCIENCE EDITOR

J.D. HARRISON

SCIENCEEDITOR@PARANORMALUNDERGROUND.NET

CONTRIBUTORS

HEIDI ANN
SHAUN BELEKUROV
PAUL BOTTINI
CHRIS DEMENT
TERRI J. GAROFALO
MICHAEL KLEEN
CHERYL KNIGHT
KAREN FRAZIER
RICK E. HALE
MICHELLE M. PILLOW
JILL STEFKO, PH.D.
RYAN TACKITT
CHAD WILSON

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Paranormal Underground Radio Begins!

I'm excited to announce that Paranormal Underground has begun its new Internet radio show, *Paranormal Underground Radio*. Each Thursday night on www.ztalkradio.com, from 9 p.m.-11 p.m. Eastern, we will talk with paranormal researchers about their insights into topics ranging from hauntings to UFOs to afterlife theories to cryptozoology, and more!

July 1 marked our first radio show, which featured Jason Haxton, owner of the infamous Dibbuk Box, and Jason Offutt, who is writing a book in conjunction with Haxton about the Box. We also talked with paranormal investigator Andrew Selfridge about new audio equipment.

I am very excited for future shows and the myriad of guests who will join us. Scheduled to appear on the show this summer are *Ghost Hunters International's* newest member Scott Tepperman; Shaun Belekurov, author of *2012: The Paranormal Cookbook*; local investigative groups NEPA Paranormal and NWPIA; parapsychologist Loyd Auerbach; the *Ghost Adventures* crew, Zak, Aaron, and Nick; UFO experiencer Stan Romanek; and past-life regressionist Melissa Watts, among others.

All radio shows will be added to our podcast offerings on iTunes, and will also be available on www.paranormalunderground.net. Just go to our home page and click the Radio On Demand/Podcast Archive drop-down tab. So, please join us each Thursday on the Z Talk Radio Network!

A big thank you goes out to those who joined us in the Z Talk Radio chatroom during our first show, including GettysburgLady, HeidiAnn67, GhostHunter50, RyanNREMTP, Steven Raebel, Cali-Girl90, and many others.

On another note, Paranormal Underground's 3rd Annual Short Fiction Contest is just around the corner.

We are looking for works of fiction in the paranormal, sci-fi, horror, fantasy, and spiritual genres. For more information about the contest, visit page 59 in this issue. Prizes for the top five entries will be awarded.

And, finally, I would like to say a few words about "positivity." I am of the

mindset that having a positive attitude brings positive results into our lives. This falls in line with the Greek philosophers' theories about negative thought forms . . . basically, if we have negative thoughts, they become, in essence, what the Greeks called Daemons, which then went out to try to accomplish the negative action.

Eventually, the Daemons would return to their creator, bringing with them the original negativity multiplied. For me, it stands to reason that if one can send out negative energy, that the opposite is also true. Through positivity we can change our lives and become much happier in the process. Why dwell on that which might bring us pain and despair when we can focus on that which makes us happy?

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Paranormal Underground* magazine. ■

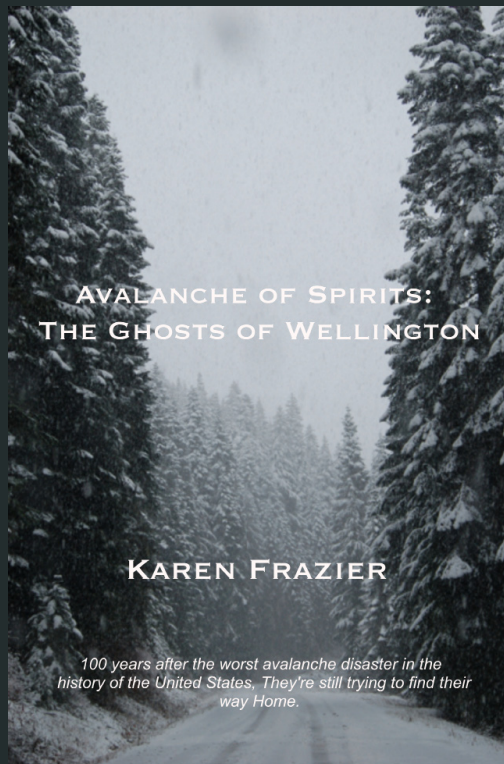


Chad Wilson,
Publisher



100 Years After a Devastating Avalanche Took Their Lives,
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“The Ghosts of Wellington.”



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Paranormal Underground Radio

Thursdays @ 9-11 p.m. ET

<http://ztalkradio.com/>

Beginning
July 1



With Hosts Rick Hale & Karen Frazier

Don't Forget! Our Annual Short Story Contest Deadline Approaches!

In this issue of *Paranormal Underground* magazine, we talk with Scott Tepperman, the newest paranormal investigator from the Syfy Channel hit show *Ghost Hunters International (GHI)*.

A veteran paranormal investigator and Queens, New York, native, Scott cofounded the Association for Locating Paranormal & Haunted Activity (ALPHA) in 2008 to expand the field of paranormal research through professionalism, integrity, and accuracy.

After joining *GHI*, he traveled to the UK, South Wales, Nicaragua, and Honduras to investigate with the team. New shows begin airing July 14! Scott's Q&A can be found on page 16.

Also featured in July's issue is the Northern California investigative team, Flying Monkey Paranormal Investigations. Investigator and founder Don Duncan leads the team by researching possible investigation sites, working with audio and camera equipment, and reviewing case evidence. Turn to page 22 to learn more.

And in this month's special report, author Rick E. Hale delves into Five Strange Conspiracy Theories in his article "Paranoia Will Destroya" (page 26).

In our Case Files of the Unknown (beginning on page 30), we feature the mysterious UK site known as Stonehenge; occultist

and magician Aleister Crowley; the Loch Ness Monster as a paranormal entity; and an alleged UFO crash in Aurora, Texas.

And in our Personal Experiences section, we've got a Ghost Hunter Case Files on "MCPRG Versus the Inhuman" (page 40); one family's ghost story (page 44); and Heidi's Haunted Hike to Madame Sherri's Castle & Forest (page 46).

On page 54, Chris DeMent and Chad Wilson discuss their field tests of the new Phantom Lite illuminators from creator Randy

Croisette. Plus make sure to read our reviews this month on the book *2012: The Paranormal Cookbook* (page 58) and the Syfy Channel TV shows *Mary Knows Best* and *Fact or Fake: Paranormal Files* (page 14).

Don't forget: Our 3rd Annual Paranormal Short Story Contest is still under way. Turn to page 59 for more information. This year's entries are due by August 15, and prizes will be awarded for the top five winning entries. The first-place winner will be published in *Paranormal Underground Magazine*; receive a Zoom H2 Handy Recorder; and have the option to take part in an upcoming "Paranormal Underground Radio" show. We look forward to your submissions.

Happy reading! ■

~ Cheryl Knight
Editor-in-Chief



Paranormal Underground™

Volume 3, Issue 7 July 2010

www.ParanormalUnderground.net

ART

ART DIRECTOR

CHAD WILSON

DESIGN AND LAYOUT

CHERYL KNIGHT

ON THE COVER

SCOTT TEPPERMAN

PROMOTIONS

PROMOTIONS/MARKETING

KAREN FRAZIER

KAREN.FRAZIER@PARANORMALUNDERGROUND.NET

MYSPACE

www.myspace.com/paranormalunderground

TWITTER

<http://twitter.com/ParanormalUG>

YOUTUBE CHANNEL

www.youtube.com/ParanormalUG

ADVERTISING

Interested in Advertising in Paranormal Underground Magazine, on our Website, or in our Podcasts? Call 1-714-646-4197

or e-mail:

editor@paranormalunderground.net

Send comments and letters to:
editor@paranormalunderground.net

Calendar of Events

July 30-August 1

Indiana Paranormal Convention
Hilton Hotel
Indianapolis, Indiana
www.indyparacon.com

August 5-7

Parasota: Midwest Paranormal Event
& Celebrity Ghost Hunt
St. Paul, Minnesota
www.parasota.com

August 6-8

Canadian-American Paranormal
Convention at the Quality Inn
Sarnia, Ontario, Canada
www.canamparacon.com

August 12-15

PhantomCon
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Hickory, North Carolina
<http://phantomcon.com>

August 13-14

2nd Annual Psychic & Paranormal
Gathering
Holiday Inn, Southwest
Louisville, Kentucky
E-mail: spiritseekers@att.net

August 21-22

Second Annual Ohio Paranormal
Convention
Dayton's Hara Arena
Dayton, Ohio
www.ohioparacon.com/

August 27-28

Haunted America East Coast
Conference
Cape Cod Community College
West Barnstable, MA
www.americanspookshows.com

August 27-29

Paranormal Information Association
Conference
Clewiston Inn



Clewiston, Florida
<http://paranormalinformationassociation.com>

September 10-11

Paranormacon
Masonic Temple Fundraiser
Historic Fort Wayne, Indiana
<http://innomineparanormalresearch.com/>

October 16

Parafest 2010
The Ambassador Rooms
Workshop Masonic Hall
Workshop, Nottinghamshire, UK
www.parafest.info

October 29-30

Port Gamble Ghost Conference

The Pavilion
Port Gamble, Washington
www.portgamble.com/default.asp?ID=126

October 29-31

Haunted Horrors Paranormal and
Film Convention
The Marriott MeadowView
Conference Resort and Convention
Center
Kingsport, Tennessee
www.thehauntedhorrors.com

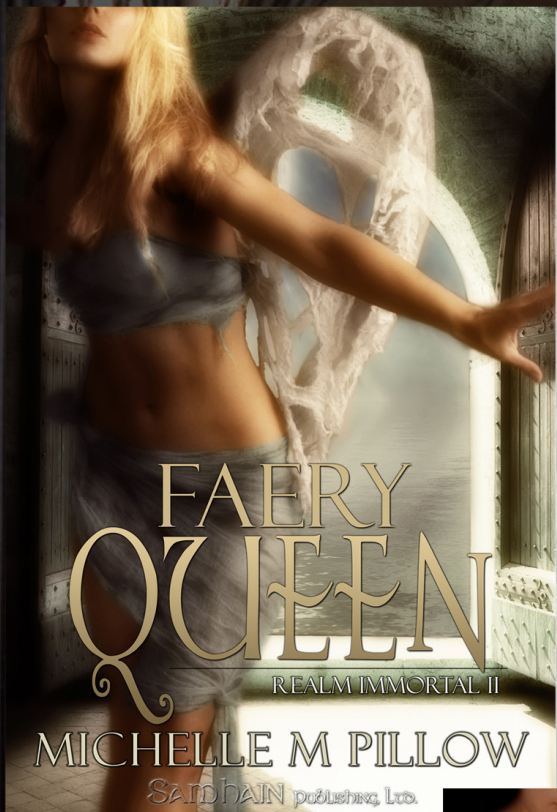
November 5-7

ScareFest Horror & Paranormal
Convention
Lexington Center
Lexington, Kentucky
www.thescarefest.com

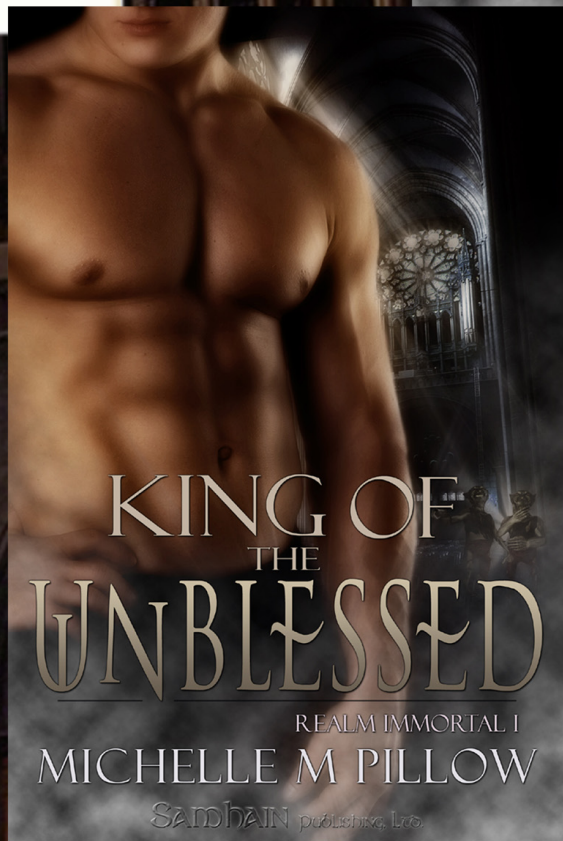
Realm Immortal

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"...an intriguing tale of
love, lust, and
what happens when
you're not careful what
you wish for."
Novelspot

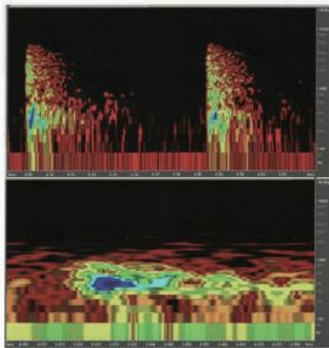


*Immortality
has a way of
Changing Fate*



www.MichellePillow.com

Proof of “Poltergeist Knocking”?



Pictured at top: The acoustic pattern of a “normal” double knock. At bottom is the acoustic pattern of a “rap” from reported poltergeist activity.

A newly published study is said to have picked out a distinctive acoustic pattern for “poltergeist rappings.” The current edition of the *Journal of the Society for Psychological Research*, has published an article by scientist Dr. Barrie Colvin, Ph.D., showing instrumental evidence for an “inexplicable and objective banging sound detected in recordings made during alleged poltergeist activity.”

The article explains that whereas raps and knocking sounds produced by ordinary means exhibit a normal acoustic pattern, those recorded in alleged poltergeist cases show a different sound signature. Colvin analyzed recordings of alleged poltergeist knocking obtained from around the world over a 40-year period.

According to www.spr.ac.uk, Colvin stated, “Ever since my . . . investigation of a rapping poltergeist at Andover, Hampshire, in which it was absolutely clear that no normal explanation could account for the observed phenomena, I wondered whether the recorded raps were in any way different to those produced by normal methods. It is now clear that they are indeed different.”

EU Lawmaker Calls for UFO Secrecy to End

A European Union official’s “crusade” to get all UFO information released has gone into full force. Mario Borghesio, leader of the Italian Northern League party, is pushing to get the European Union to create a UFO study commission.

Borghesio has submitted an official request asking all 27 EU member governments to disclose their UFO files. According to the European Parliament’s Website, the declaration has received 17 signatures to date.

According to www.aolnews.com, the text of the June 14 declaration reads, “Many members of the scientific community have been looking into the issue of UFOs and have denounced the systematic covering-up of information on the subject. . . a study of the material collected by the governments of all the member states would have major scientific and technological spinoffs.”

Borghesio also says it’s “essential to set up a scientific center for the analysis and dissemination of the scientific data gathered to date by various European bodies and governments.”

UFOs have been a continuing topic of discussion in the European Parliament.



Mario Borghesio

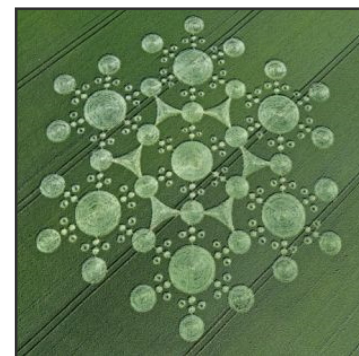
Giant Crop Circle Found in Wiltshire, UK

Nearly 200 crop circles have appeared in just one formation close to Warminster, Wiltshire, UK. Some say the location is the UFO capital of Britain.

The circular 90m (300 feet) design is believed to represent the passage of the Moon and Sun. The entire crop circle contains 193 rings, including six larger circles and a seventh in the middle (crop circle is pictured at right).

According to www.metro.co.uk, crop circle expert Karen Alexander said, “This is the most complex circle so far this year.”

According to public comments about the circle on www.metro.co.uk, some are suggesting the crop circle is promoting the number seven. Mike Orrell, a San Diego, California, resident, has this explanation, “. . . there are seven interstellar molecules, seven regions of the visible light spectrum . . . seven spinal chakras, seven regions of the electromagnetic spectrum, seven seas, and so on. The famous Nazca Lines are a major example of the importance of the number 7.”



Crop circle found near Warminster, Wiltshire, United Kingdom

Jim Morrison's Ghost Said to Haunt West Hollywood Restaurant

Does Jim Morrison's ghost haunt a West Hollywood restaurant? According to Christina Arena, general manager of Mexico, a restaurant that's been open about a year, he does. She believes that the late Doors front man roams the restaurant in the afterlife.

According to www.aolnews.com, Arena was quoted as saying, "You feel it here almost every day, throughout the entire place, but especially near this spot," referring to a unisex restroom, which was once a vocal booth where Morrison recorded The Doors classic L.A. Woman in 1970.

The building Mexico occupies was formerly "The Doors Workshop," an office space and recording studio used by the band in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Office Manager Christine Chilcote also believes Morrison hangs around the restaurant. She was quoted as saying, "Funky things happen all the time we can't explain. Lights popping on and off at weird times. But when that bathroom door handle jiggles by itself, that's the weirdest sign. It's totally inexplicable."



Jim Morrison

Yvette Fielding Leaves Most Haunted TV Show

Iconic paranormal host and investigator Yvette Fielding is leaving the hit TV UK show *Most Haunted* after 10 years. Fielding made the announcement in a statement posted on Antix Productions' Website, which is the show's production company. Fielding and her husband, Karl Beattie, set up the company to expand paranormal programming.

Fielding was quoted on www.digitalspy.com as saying, "It has been a great 10 years. However, after a lot of thought and soul-searching over the past year, I have come to a decision. It is now time for me to hang up my long black coat, move on, and leave *Most Haunted* as its presenter in order to pursue other projects."

Fielding, who is 41 years old, said that she is proud of what her "baby" achieved over the years, including being "watched by royalty" and parodied by shows like *Saturday Night Live*.

She also plans to continue working in the field, including staying with her current ITV2 show, *Ghosthunting with . . . Living* has yet to let viewers know if the show will continue with a new presenter.



Yvette Fielding

Bigfoot Researcher on the Verge of Major Discovery?



Pictured above: Bigfoot "witness" Billy Willard (Photo by Bill O'Leary/*Washington Post*)

Spotsylvania County resident Billy Willard says he's on the verge of a major discovery: proving that Bigfoot really does exist. Willard contends that he has seen Bigfoot 14 times in the forests surrounding Lake Anna in Spotsylvania County during the past 10 years.

Willard recently led a week-long expedition to a site where Bigfoot was spotted. During the trip, he installed five motion-sensor cameras hoping to catch Bigfoot. So far, no luck.

According to www.boston.com, Willard said, "We believe we may be close to some kind of major discovery. All the things they would need are here — fresh water, shelter in the woods. The high concentration of sightings tells me they're here."

Willard hosts an Internet radio show, maintains a Website from his home in Manassas, and monitors his Bigfoot hotline for reported sightings.

Pictured above, Willard poses with a plaster cast he made of a "suspicious footprint." He says he will continue looking for evidence that Bigfoot is in Virginia.

SYFY BRINGS NEW PARANORMAL PROGRAMMING TO VIEWERS

BY HEIDI ANN

From the channel that brought you *Ghost Hunters*, *Ghost Hunters International*, and *Ghost Hunters Academy*, comes two new paranormal reality shows. On July 15, Syfy will be debuting the new original series *Mary Knows Best* and *Fact or Fake: Paranormal Files*.

Mary Knows Best

Mary Knows Best follows Mary Occhino, a psychic intuitive, and her three children Jackie, Chris, and Carl — one a paranormal investigator, one a reluctant psychic, and one a skeptic. Occhino, who has had psychic abilities her entire life, hosts her own radio show, called *Angels on Call*, on Sirius/XM's Stars 102. She has also authored three books (*Beyond These Four Walls*, *Sign of the Dove*, and *Awakened Instincts*) and conducts seminars all over the United States.

In 1992, Occhino was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and has said her abilities were heightened after her diagnosis.

Mary Knows Best gives viewers a glimpse into the unusual life Mary and her family lead . . . at times funny, at times touching, but always fascinating. Along with her children, we'll also meet other members of her family, including her grandchildren and her older brother, Charles, a very outspoken member of the family.



The Syfy Channel expands its paranormal TV programming in July with two new shows, *Mary Knows Best* and *Fact or Fake: Paranormal Files*.

Fact or Fake: Paranormal Files

Fact or Fake: Paranormal Files features former FBI special agent Ben Hansen and his team of five, who dissect some of the most intriguing paranormal photos and videos that can be found online and around the world. Hansen, who has been fascinated with the paranormal all his life, and his team will attempt to recreate the footage captured in the photos and videos. Hansen then decides which cases they will investigate more thoroughly.

The investigations, which include interviewing witnesses, collecting evidence, and experimentation

using the latest tools and CGI, help lead Hansen and his team to determine if the footage is Fact or Fake.

Mary Knows Best debuts on the Syfy Channel on July 15 at 9:00 p.m. EDT, followed by the premier of *Fact or Fake: Paranormal Files* at 10:00 p.m. EDT. July will also see the return of two Syfy Channels hit series, *Warehouse 13* and *Ghost Hunters International*. *Warehouse 13* begins its second season July 9 at 9:00 p.m. EDT, and *Ghost Hunters International* continues the hunt for spirits all across the globe July 14 at 9:00 p.m. EDT.

For more information about these shows, visit www.syfy.com. ■

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Paranormal Underground
Volume 2, Issue 10
October 2009

GHOST ADVENTURES
27 HOUR LIVE SHOW — OCT. 30!
TRANS-ALLEGHENY LUNATIC ASYLUM

HAUNTED SITES
THE DEADLY CURSE OF DUDLEYTOWN

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Scott Tepperman: The New *GHI* Guy

By Cheryl Knight

Ghost Hunters International, the Syfy Channel's hit paranormal *Ghost Hunters* spin-off show, begins its next run on July 14 at 9/8c. This time around, you'll notice a new face on the team, that of Scott Tepperman, a local U.S. paranormal investigator, professional chef, and Insane Clown Posse fan.

The adventurous Queens, New York, native and now-Florida resident first became involved with the paranormal after visiting the original Amityville Horror house in Long Island. Intrigued with the case since childhood, Scott immersed himself in all things Amityville, eventually leading him to professional paranormal investigation.

In 2004, he joined a paranormal group in his area, and in 2005 began touring the local bookstore circuit, co-creating a popular "Ghost Hunting 101 Lecture Series" with his friend and co-investigator Ron Bordner. The series included a month-long, interactive seminar geared toward anyone interested in the basics of paranormal studies and investigations.

Scott and Ron decided to strike out on their own, and created the Association for Locating Paranormal & Haunted Activity (ALPHA) in 2008. Scott frequently speaks about paranormal investigation at conventions and universities, and plans to write a book about his experiences with paranormal research in the future.



Paranormal Investigator Scott Tepperman joined the *Ghost Hunters International* team in 2010. Scott's very first investigation with the team was at The Ostrich Inn in Slough, UK.

This year, Scott took his investigations of the unknown to a new level when he joined the cast of *GHI*. To find out more about Scott, ALPHA, and his time investigating with *GHI*, read on!

* * * * *

Q: Tell us about yourself.

Scott: I am a professional chef by trade and have always had an interest in all things paranormal and horror since a very young age, especially the "slasher" movies from the '80s and the *Saw* franchise. I'm also a die-

hard Juggalo. I am totally obsessed with the Insane Clown Posse.

Q: How would your friends and colleagues describe you?

Scott: They would say I'm a huge extrovert, always positive, gets along with everybody, and very meticulous and detail-oriented. I'm also a perfectionist to the point of being a pain in the ass.

Q: How did you become involved in the paranormal field?

Scott: I moved to Tallahassee, Florida,



Scott traveled to the UK, South Wales, Nicaragua, and Honduras to investigate with *Ghost Hunters International*. His favorite location to visit since joining the team was an underground political prison in Nicaragua.

in 2004 and got involved with an amateur “ghost hunting” group. After spending four years with them, I decided to shift my focus to more professional and structured investigations and left with another member of that group, Ron Bordner, to form the Association for Locating Paranormal & Haunted Activity (ALPHA) in 2008.

Q: Tell us about some of the paranormal experiences you’ve had.

Scott: Unlike many people who have had childhood experiences, I experienced nothing paranormal in my youth. My main interests lied with being an avid horror movie fan and being intrigued by the actual Amityville Horror case in Long Island, New York.

Two of my most notable experiences actually happened fairly recently. The first was in 2006, while investigating the Old Jail in St. Augustine, Florida. Two members of my “ghost group” at the time were using a Ouija board (which I personally do not condone) to antagonize a spirit. While I was videotaping the Ouija board session, my right forearm was yanked quite abruptly, and

I lost balance and fell off the bench I had been sitting on. I had actually been physically manipulated by some unseen force, and it got my attention.

The second one occurred this past March while investigating a castle in South Wales with *GHI*. I can’t disclose the details, but it was pretty significant and will be aired on the show in July.

Q: What interests you the most about the paranormal?

Scott: The unknown aspects of the afterlife and knowing that when you die, you just change form — you never really disappear, but rather exist on a different plane. Knowing that thousands of people are actively trying to find answers and are still only barely scratching the surface is exciting.

I can’t wait to find out what else there is to uncover in the future.

Q: Whose work in the paranormal field do you respect the most?

Scott: No one person in particular, but I have a great deal of admiration for people that try to help legitimize the field by being honest, selfless,

responsible, and thorough when conducting an investigation. I really respect and support anyone who seems to be in the field for the right reasons — to help further the cause of paranormal research.

The field has undoubtedly been tarnished as of late by countless opportunists and half-assed “ghost groups” simply out to make a buck. Everyone needs to make a living, but doing it at the expense of cheapening the legitimacy of the paranormal field is unconscionable.

Q: Talk about the paranormal group you cofounded in 2008.

Scott: The goal of ALPHA is to preserve and expand the field of legitimate paranormal research through professionalism, integrity, and accuracy in all of our findings. Our focus is on quality, not quantity. We pride ourselves on recruiting only the most knowledgeable, skilled, and thoroughly trained investigators in the business to help with achieving our vision.

We want to be the best of the best and have established quite a good reputation and a pretty strong following for a team that has had no



In 2008, Scott co-created the Association for Locating Paranormal & Haunted Activity to expand the field of paranormal research through professionalism, integrity, and accuracy.

TV exposure or other crazy marketing tactics. First and foremost, we are paranormal investigators. Additionally, we are simply approachable, easy to understand, and always willing to help and/or answer questions regarding the paranormal. This philosophy is what has made ALPHA a success.

Q: What are the most common types of equipment you use during investigations

Scott: ALPHA is more about technique than equipment. While we try to use some decent equipment (standard and hi-def video cameras, full spectrum photography, numerous audio devices, thermal imagers, EMF meters, and even scrying boards), our finances (like many groups) are extremely limited.

However, our main focus has always stressed the importance of technique: being thorough, detailed,

professional, and honest when investigating a location. Paranormal research is an ever-growing field, and we want to make sure that we help set precedent by conducting ourselves in a professional, approachable manner at all times.

Q: What has been the best paranormal evidence ALPHA has collected to date?

Scott: Aside from some physical experiences, we have captured some very clear EVPs directly answering our inquiries, witnessed items being moved from one location to another, and documented numerous sessions with equipment sounding off or lighting up on demand. No apparitions, but some pretty cool stuff nonetheless.

Q: What has been your favorite ALPHA investigation?

Scott: The Windsor Hotel in Americus, Georgia, has been a favorite place of ours to investigate for several years. The hotel was built in the late 1890s, is gorgeously preserved, and has had a decent amount of paranormal activity over the years.

Staff, guests, and residents of the community have reported a wide range of unexplained phenomena, including pots and dishes upending in the kitchen, footsteps, disembodied voices, and the distinct apparition of a young girl roaming the hallways. We were so impressed with the location that we decided to hire a small production crew from the local college to film a three-day investigation there.

This ended up becoming our first DVD, *Dead Air [Live]: From The Windsor Hotel*. The film was met with great praise from people who embraced our “hands-on approach” teaching style. We were constantly

breaking the “fourth wall” by addressing the viewer during the investigation’s more interesting points to explain what was transpiring on screen. We have sold quite a few copies, and they are still available on ALPHA’s Website. We plan on filming future installments (we already have the sites picked out) as time and/or finances permit.

Q: What led you to create the lecture series “Ghost Hunting 101.”

Scott: Two main factors contributed to the creation of this lecture series: 1) I was receiving many inquiries from people asking me questions about the field, and 2) The lack of any grassroots, local “group next door” paranormal teams in Tallahassee.

Prior to forming ALPHA and working independently from the team I was with at the time, future ALPHA cofounder Ron Bordner and myself launched the seminar series in early 2005 with some crude poster boards and photocopied hand-outs in a corner of the café in the local Books-a-Million. We had five people attend. Very soon after, word spread about what we were doing, and within a year we were hosting events at Borders Books with crowds near 50.

Shortly after that, we began marketing ourselves to many local conventions. Before we knew it, we had a fully interactive lecture series complete with PowerPoint presentations, Q&A sessions, mock investigations, and equipment demos. Our lectures currently draw upwards of 200 people, and we are regularly booked at college campuses, conventions, and other social and professional gatherings.

Q: You have studied the Amityville Horror house case for many years. What are your conclusions about the alleged “supernatural” occurrences in the house?

Scott: In my opinion, the house does

indeed harbor some deep secrets. I believe some of it to be supernatural and some of it to be sensationalized — mostly due to the extensive coverage received by the news media and Hollywood's treatment of the story.

There is no doubt that the DeFeo murders were an actual crime. However, some of the details surrounding the actual cause of the act remain fuzzy to me. I believe that the Lutzes originally moved in with the intent to capitalize on some of the hype regarding the house, but were not prepared for what actually transpired after they moved in. Since they have both since passed, the mystery will probably remain just that. Just my opinion . . .

Q: In 2010, you joined the cast of the Syfy Channel's show *Ghost Hunters International (GHI)*. Why did you decide to join the show?

Scott: I was a huge fan of the franchise since day one and wanted to make it my goal to somehow get on board with these guys. *GHI* was of particular interest to me because they were traveling all around the world experiencing places that were extremely rich in both history and political aspects.

Even though I have a huge sense of humor, I also admired their non-nonsense approach to investigating a location. I have had a lot of respect for them since I first tuned in to watch.

Q: What locations did you investigate during your first season of filming for *GHI*?

Scott: I traveled with the team to Slough (London), the Galleries of Justice in Nottingham (UK), South Wales, Nicaragua, and Honduras. As with any paranormal group, we had some great cases and some that were not as good, but the investigations were always top-notch and expertly executed.

Q: What can viewers expect from the next season of *GHI*, scheduled to air on July 14?

Scott: Whenever new people are brought into an already existing show, the dynamics undoubtedly will change. I truly believe, however, that the changes are for the better. We have great chemistry and it shows — we are more lighthearted, funnier, and I believe more interesting. People have been telling us this all the time — even commenting on Facebook about our chemistry based solely on our posts to each other.

Additionally, the team is armed



Scott's favorites include the movie *The Exorcist*, TV show *Knight Rider*, and musical group Insane Clown Posse.

to the gills with a brand new arsenal of equipment. Some great devices are utilized in some unique, non-traditional ways. It should make for a real interesting watch.

Q: What has it been like working with the different investigators on the show?

Scott: Each and every team member is extremely professional when it comes to investigating. What you don't know is that everyone has a great sense of humor. The team

chemistry is sharp, witty, and really funny. We're not always as stoic and serious as you see on TV.

Q: What has been your favorite country to investigate in?

Scott: My favorite location since joining the team in February was an underground political prison in Nicaragua. Great case, great evidence, and some beautiful sites as well.

Q: Was investigating with *GHI* what you expected?

Scott: Being a fan of the show, I was hoping that joining wouldn't change my view of it. I was hoping that nothing was faked or staged. I am proud to say that what you see on *GHI* is legit. No B.S. The guys never fake anything, nor are they asked to do so by the crew. There's some solid, honest investigating here. I haven't seen anything to make me think otherwise.

Q: How is investigating for *GHI* different than investigating for *ALPHA*?

Scott: Whether it's *GHI* or *ALPHA*, I approach each case as its own animal. It's just the "next case," regardless of who I'm investigating with. Obviously, the dynamics are very different — different teams, different equipment, and international locations — and there's the TV factor. But I feel like I've adjusted very well and feel as if I can switch gears pretty easily if I need to.

Q: What would our readers be surprised to hear about investigating for a TV show like *GHI*?

Scott: The thing I feel most people would like to know is that this is the most grounded, well-read, "down-to-earth" group of individuals that you will probably ever meet. We are like one big family; we're friends away from the show, we share a general

Investigator Spotlight

concern for each other, and we definitely have got each other's back for anything. They're a great group of people to lean on if needed.

Q: What have been your most exciting cases to date?

Scott: One of my favorite cases as a paranormal investigator outside of *GHI* was the Andersonville Civil War site in Georgia. My group spent the entire evening locked in the massive location and heard music sounding as if it was stemming from the ground, heard knocking and footsteps in one of the holding cell areas, and experienced a real sense of what actually transpired there due to the condition of the property. It was still so intact that we actually felt as if we were prisoners there. It was definitely an overwhelming experience.

Q: What case will you remember the most and why?

Scott: The Ostrich Inn in Slough, UK, simply because it was the very first investigation I filmed with *GHI*.

Q: What sites do you have on your wish list to investigate?

Scott: I think Jonestown would be something intense to experience. So many sudden deaths in one place at one time. There has to be activity there.

Q: What do you have in store for the future?

Scott: I just want to add my own flavor to the legacy of the *Ghost Hunters* franchise, whatever that may be. I also want to help push the whole field of paranormal research forward because there's definitely much more out there than meets the eye. ■

* * * * *

For more information about Scott, visit www.alphaghostteam.com.



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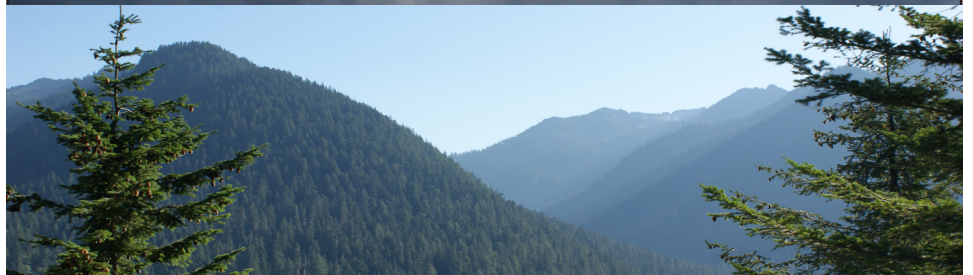
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Flying Monkey Paranormal Investigations: Spirit Chasers of California

By Karen Frazier

Ghost Adventures and Ghost Hunters fans may remember both teams' investigations of Preston Castle in Ione, California. The team Flying Monkey Paranormal is quite familiar with the place. That's because they've spent time investigating Preston Castle themselves. In fact, they were there in 2009 when TAPS came out to investigate.

Preston Castle is just one of many places investigated by the Flying Monkey Paranormal Investigation team. Based in Dixon, California, the team has investigated a number of historic sites and private residences since the group's inception in 2008.

The team is made up of Don Duncan; Don's son, Brean; Sally Aquino; Keith Clifton; and Dan Retterer. Recently, Don was kind enough to answer our questions about his team's mission and continuing investigations.

* * * * *

Q: Flying Monkey Paranormal Investigations . . . tell me how you came to choose the name and the significance behind it?

Don: I was brainstorming some names for our group when Flying



Monkeys came to mind. I did a search and came up with some interesting information. The flying monkey is known as a "Spirit Chaser."

Traditionally, they are made to protect sleeping children from evil spirits, assuring their safe return to this reality when waking up. What a perfect name for a ghost hunting group!

Q: Tell us about your team.

Don: My son, Brean, and I started off investigating together. I joined a larger paranormal team and was active with that group for about a year. Brean and I then decided to form another group. That is when the other two members joined us.

Members of the team have been investigating the paranormal since

2008. The team has investigated a number of historical infamous haunts as well as many private residences.

Q: Tell me about your team members and what roles they perform on the team.

Don: I am the lead investigator and founder of the group. I'm involved in every aspect of paranormal investigation, including researching possible investigation sites, working with audio and camera equipment, and reviewing the evidence.

I studied Christian theology at St. Mary's College in Moraga, California, and Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, California. Later on, I was trained in energy practices and healing. Through this teacher, I met a shaman, who trained me in Shamanic practice for five years. I bring this background in spirituality to our paranormal investigations, and I'm committed to helping clients understand and deal with paranormal activity in their home.

My son, Brean Duncan, is an investigator and tech specialist. Brean started watching paranormal investigative programs when he was a teenager. It was Brean who got his me interested

in paranormal investigation. Brean has always had a keen sense for the paranormal and an interest in the unexplained. As a child, he spent numerous hours in front of the TV watching programs on the Discovery channel, Syfy channel, and the History channel.

Brean is also adept at figuring out technical devices, such as computers and camcorders. Brean brings all of these skills and knowledge to our team. Brean is responsible for making sure all the video gear is set up correctly and running properly. He is also an investigator. On top of all that, Brean always comes up with some clever ways of interacting with spirits.

Our team's research specialist and contact person, Sally Aquino, has always been interested in the paranormal. She researches for possible investigations and interviews the clients prior to the investigation. It is her job to know all the active areas at the investigation site. She also assists in reviewing evidence from our investigations.

Dan Retterer is an investigator and assists with tech equipment. Dan has had a lifetime interest in the paranormal. Beginning when he was three years old, Dan saw an apparition of a woman standing at the top of a staircase. In 2000, he saw another apparition of an old man standing in a doorway of a house. Dan has a keen sensitivity to spirit-based energy.

Keith Clifton is our media specialist, videographer, and tech assistant. Keith is responsible for taking pictures, assisting with camera set up, and taking video of our investigations. In the near future, he will be responsible for creating some short videos for us that document our investigations. Additionally, Keith helps to examine evidence.

Q: What led you to start investigating the paranormal?

Don: Brean, my son, piqued my interest in paranormal investigation.



Flying Monkey Paranormal Investigations lead investigator and founder Don Duncan researches possible investigation sites, works with audio and camera equipment, and reviews case evidence.

He invited me to watch a TAPS investigation on Syfy. I've been hooked ever since! My interest in paranormal investigation is new; however, my attraction to spirituality has been a life-long endeavor.

For me, paranormal investigation seemed to be a marriage between spirituality and science. I take a scientific approach to investigating the paranormal, although I never forget that investigating the paranormal is essentially a spiritual endeavor. It was my spiritual experiences that led me to paranormal investigation.

Q: Describe some of your early experiences with the paranormal.

Don: As a child and teenager, I was always fascinated with shows like *The Twilight Zone*. My love of reading actually began when I read ghost stories.

I don't remember any paranormal experiences as a child. Most of

my paranormal experiences have been in my adult life. I had a powerful dream during the time I was working with the shaman. In a nutshell, the dream involved me taking an artifact that belonged to a Native American group. I was told to return the artifact because it was needed for the future.

The next day, I was walking with my students — I taught at a school for juvenile court offenders — when a student noticed this cardboard box full of clothing and books that was laying on a nearby lawn. The student said, "Hey Dunk, that's the stuff you took from the Indians."

I had not told anyone about my dream. When I asked him what he meant and why he said it, he replied that he was just messing around. During this same time I dreamt of spiders. When I was leaving for work the next morning, I opened the truck door to find spider webs cover-



On each investigation, investigator and tech specialist Brean Duncan ensures that all of the team's video gear is set up and running correctly.

ing the cab inside.

For about a year after that incident, I kept encountering spiders. For instance, a spider web was covering my classroom door. Another time, a spider was descending from the ceiling of my classroom to dangle about my head. I didn't notice it until my students started pointing.

Most profound, was when a spider spun a web from a wall corner onto my altar. My praying altar is located on the floor in a corner of the room. The spider had actually built a web from the corner wall onto my altar. That spider lived on that web for over a year. In shamanic practice, we would call that spider medicine.

Q: What is your team's philosophy when it comes to investigation?

Don: Flying Monkey Paranormal Investigation integrates a scientific and spiritual approach to investigat-

ing the paranormal. Our investigative method utilizes empirical evidence and, at the same time, employs a spiritual perspective.

The most important thing, however, is the intent of the investigation. We strive to collect as much information as we can to assist the client in understanding and dealing with paranormal activity and experiences.

Most important to our group is that we are here to serve the client.

Q: Do you use any specialized equipment?

Don: We utilize a "spirit box" called P-SB7 in our investigations as well as K-II Meters. These devices help us to facilitate communication with spirits.

Q: Your team has been heavily involved in investigating Preston Castle in Ione. Can you talk about your investigations there?

Don: Preston School of Industry, also known as Preston Castle, was built between 1890-1894 as a school to rehabilitate juveniles. Just being in Preston Castle was interesting for me because most of my teaching career has been spent with this type of "at-risk" population.

Preston Castle ended up being one of the most active places that we have investigated. Although we have never captured any video evidence, we have some interesting pictures of orb-like objects. We also have several interesting EVPs from Preston. One says "commander" very clearly.

I researched for more information about Preston Castle and found out that it was run like a military school. The older cadets were in charge of the younger boys. These older cadet leaders were called commander.

Another interesting EVP is when an investigator asked, "Is anyone here?" The response was, "Samuel."

Samuel Goins, a student at Preston, was killed when trying to escape in 1922.

In addition to these interesting EVPs, we have had numerous experiences at Preston. Investigators have heard doors slam shut. Others have been touched by something unseen. One investigator told the spirits that she would be their mommy and invited them to sit on her lap for a hug. A K-II Meter next to her lit up, and she described the accompanying feeling as being plugged into a light socket.

I had two incidences with objects being thrown. The first one was when a ChapStick came bouncing down the hall at us. Another time was when I heard something thrown in the room next to me. I went into the room and no one was there. I searched the room trying to discover what had been thrown. I found a wine cork on the floor. I threw it up against the wall to see if it would replicate the sound I heard. The sound was identical.

The team tried to debunk all of these experiences, but was unable to do so. They go into the file of unexplained phenomena.

Q: Tell us about some of the other places you've investigated.

Don: Another location I would also consider very active is the Stone House Restaurant in Nevada City, California. The Stone House was originally built as a brewery in 1882. A cave was dug into the hillside behind the restaurant to store the brew. Apparently, at one time, there was a mine shaft constructed down into the ground inside the cave.

According to a story that we were told, the mine had collapsed and several miners were killed. During this investigation, while in the cave, one investigator was scratched by something unseen. The investigator was provoking the spirits trying to get a response, and he was scratched on his stomach. I lifted his shirt and there were three fresh scratches across his stomach. There was a little blood, and the scratches were red and swollen.

I searched the area for anything that could have possibly scratched him. I thought maybe he brushed up against something. I couldn't find anything that may have been the culprit. For about five minutes after that, we kept calling the spirit or entity to show itself. Suddenly, something forcefully slapped a plastic tarp on the ground next to us. It absolutely startled us.

Q: Is there a single piece of evidence that you have obtained which you consider the best evidence of a haunting?

Don: I don't think we have found the Holy Grail of paranormal evidence yet that unequivocally proves the existence of the paranormal. We have many EVPs that can't be

explained, but that doesn't mean that they are paranormal.

Most of what you find during an investigation is extremely subjective and usually based on someone's experience. It is very difficult to obtain empirical evidence of the paranormal.

Q: Have you ever come across something that frightened you?

Don: I must admit that I have been startled a few times during investiga-

“Paranormal investigation is a marriage between spirituality and science.”

tions. For the most part, however, I have never been frightened. The closest thing to being frightened was when we did a private residence in Sacramento. The client thought something demonic was harassing him. The client was fairly emotional and was seeking some kind of relief.

As I approached the house, the front door was open because team members were bringing equipment into the residence. When I got to the door, it slammed shut. I opened the door and entered the premises. No one was near the door. I asked the team members in the kitchen if any of them had closed the front door. They all stated that they were in the kitchen.

I ended up coming back to the residence a few days later to do a house cleansing. Nothing paranormal occurred during the cleansing, but I was a little nervous.

Q: Do you have a wish list of places you'd like to investigate? What are they?

Don: I would like to investigate some Civil War battlefields. I have

been to several battlefields more as a historian, but not as a paranormal investigator. Being around all that death is quite overwhelming. I would also like to investigate some castles in Europe.

Q: What advice do you have for investigators who are just starting out?

Don: Learn all aspects of being a paranormal investigator, including research, tech equipment, evidence

review, investigative techniques, and the latest theories about what others have experienced in terms of spirits and entities. It is better to be prepared when facing the unknown.

Lastly, remember that everything you learn about the paranormal is based upon theory. It is all part of the greater mystery.

Q: If someone is interesting in having you come investigate, how can they contact you?

Don: I can be contacted at the following e-mail: djduncan21@sbcglobal.net.

Q: Is there any other information you'd like our readers to know?

Don: Our primary purpose for being in this field is to help people having difficulties with paranormal activity. If you need a group of dedicated paranormal investigators to help you understand and deal with paranormal activity, please contact us. ■

* * * * *

You can learn more about *Flying Monkey Paranormal Investigation* at www.flyingmonkeypi.com.

PARANOIA WILL DESTROYA: FIVE STRANGE CONSPIRACY THEORIES

BY RICK E. HALE, MCHENRY COUNTY PARANORMAL RESEARCH GROUP

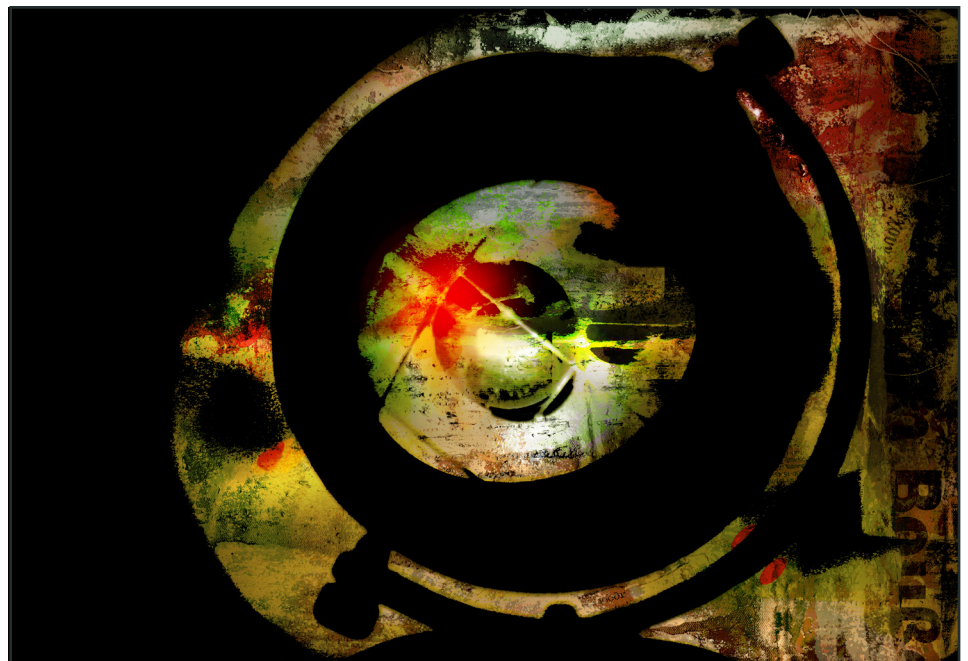
Across the street from my parents lives a kindly, elderly gentleman who is always quiet and never bothered anyone. So imagine our surprise when the true story of Jozsef came to light, and he ceased to be just a peaceful man of 96, but became a hero in our eyes.

In 1942, while the Nazi scourge held Europe in its iron grip, Jozsef was arrested and sent to the hell hole that was Aushwitz to die a terrible death. What could have been Joe's crime? As far as I knew he was not Jewish, but Roman Catholic. I had seen him at Mass numerous times.

Nope, Joe was something far different. After the Nazis invaded his home turf of Poland, Joe took up arms and joined the resistance movement to banish the fascists from his fatherland. If you ask him, and I have, he may just allow you a peek at the faded numbers that still adorn his wrist.

Although Joe's story may be interesting, and could probably be turned into a movie, Joe is not our query; rather, we are concerned here with his son, who has another story to tell.

Joe's son honestly feels that our government, in cahoots with an evil alien power, attempts to read his mind in the hopes that they could probe his inner most thoughts — for what reason I don't know. I have actually seen Joe's son arrive at his father's house wearing a baseball cap covered with tin-foil. My



Conspiracy theories the world over range from the purely bizarre to more believable scenarios. What are your favorite conspiracy theories?

guess is he thinks it will keep the alien baddies out of his brain.

As odd and hilarious as this may seem, thousands of Americans and millions the world over have bought into certain tales that sound as if they come from a bad horror or sci-fi movie. Millions believe that some imperceptible force or organization is out to get them and turn them into unwilling slaves for their nefarious purposes.

Millions believe that there are vast conspiracies out there bent on world domination. Seems pretty funny right?

Well let me tell you, to "them" it's not funny; they believe it and live every day of their lives in abject fear.

Let's take a look at five strange conspiracy theories.

The World Needs a Scapegoat

Although some conspiracy theories, on the surface, may seem positively absurd and downright funny, other conspiracies are sinister purely by nature, and have even caused the death of thousands.

In 1895, before communists

dominated Czarist Russia, a document came to light that would cause a national panic and lead to thousands of Jewish citizens losing their lives. Although many of the world's countries were anti-Semitic at the time, the document known as the "Protocols of The Elders of Zion" certainly did not help matters. Instead of people just hating Jewish citizens, the document would help turn bigots into murderous monsters.

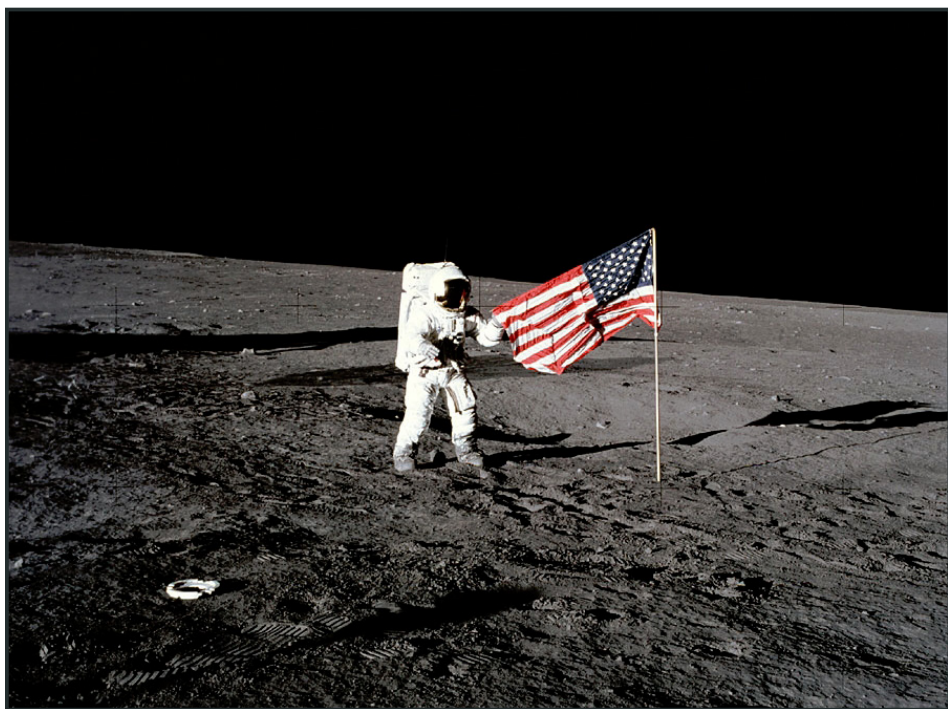
Those who discovered the document claimed that a secret cabal of Jewish Rabbis, in concert with Masons, laid down a 24-point or protocol plan to take over the world, systematically turning the world into a Jewish world. It wasn't for another 10 years that the *Protocols* were published. But as soon as it was published, terrible pogroms began in Czarist Russia that either drove Jewish citizens from their homes, or caused their murders — all because they were misunderstood and blamed for the Russians losing their war against the Japanese.

When it was discovered that the Protocols were a forgery written by a Russian journalist, named Pavel Krushevan — a member of the Pro-Czarist, virulently anti-Semitic Black Hundreds group — it was already too late. Hitler had read the document and believed every word. The Arab nations read it and despised their Jewish neighbors even more. And many in America read it and attempted to use the document as a means to keep Jewish folks out of the country.

The damage had been done, and millions were ruthlessly murdered over several decades.

Moon Shot to . . . Nevada?

On July 20, 1969, every American who owned a television watched with breathless anticipation as U.S. astronauts and great American heroes landed on our closest celestial neighbor, the moon, and planted the



Did U.S. astronauts really land on the moon during the summer of 1969? Conspiracy theorists say no. They maintain that the U.S. government staged a moon landing at a secret government soundstage in the Nevada desert.

Stars and Stripes upon the barren globe, proclaiming victory in the name of the American people. It was perhaps the United States' finest moment and greatest accomplishment.

However, what would you say if I told you that thousands of people around the world believe that this crowning achievement never even occurred? In fact, they say the entire event was filmed at a secret government soundstage in the Nevada desert and not from the barren, lunar surface. And even though it sounds absurd, multitudes of normal everyday people believe Buzz Aldrin never bravely tread where no man has tread before.

For the last 40 years, the idea that the United States never made that trip to the moon has been fodder for books and radio talk shows that cater to the paranoid set. And a major motion picture even got in on the act. In 1978, a thriller titled *Capricorn One* dramatized a faked Mars landing.

The movie was supposedly inspired by allegations that the Apollo Moon landing was all just a hoax.

So just what evidence do NASA's playa haters possess to prove the Apollo 11 landing never took place on the moon? Theorists site numerous claims, and I have to admit, many seem plausible. For example, when the astronauts exit the lunar lander, stars cannot be seen in the background.

They also say that if the surface of the moon is so dusty and the flyboys were able to leave footprints, why is there no dust on the lunar lander's landing gear? And why is there no blast crater made by the lunar lander? Theorists further ask, if the moon is such a sterile place, why were the astronauts kept in quarantine for numerous days? Some say it was to coach the space cowboys in what to say to the media and the rest of the world.

If the lunar landing was faked, why was it faked? At the time, the

United States was embroiled in a bitter conflict in Southeast Asia, and Americans needed a good old-fashioned shot of patriotism when it was apparent that things weren't going well. Also, the government had made the promise of going to the moon for so long, they needed to do something after numerous mishaps at NASA. If the truth were told, the United States would lose some serious street cred and look weak in the eyes of its Soviet enemies.

"Oh My God, They Are Coming for Our Kids!"

In 1989 and later in 1991, two children's book were released that touched off a Hellfire storm of controversy and led to millions of people believing that homosexuals were coming for our children.

Heather Has Two Mommies, written by Lesléa Newman, and *Daddy's Roommate*, written by Michael Willhoite, would do something that had never been done before — paint lesbian women and gay men in a positive, wholesome light. I remember when these books were released, and the controversy and down-right hatred they engendered. It was unthinkable to many, and still is, that homosexuals could be considered a part of everyday life, and because of this, a new conspiracy theory was born.

Leading the charge to have these books suppressed was any number of conservative citizens and religious leaders. Suddenly, many leaders believed there was a vast homosexual agenda to swoop into our schools and turn little Billy or Sally into a person of differing sexual orientation. Many claimed such books and the leaders of the gay community were after nothing more than pure indoctrination to steer our children

away from God-fearing straightness, whatever that means.

Some say that this frenzied reaction ultimately led to the death of a young man in Wyoming. On the night of October 6, 1998, a college student from Wyoming was brutally tortured and murdered by two young men simply because he was gay. After the death of Matthew Shepard, a Congressional act in his name and honor was written to make it a hate crime to target gay men and lesbian women.



A conspiracy theory from the late '60s suggested that a Paul McCartney look-a-like took the place of the real Beatle after his untimely demise.

Paul Is Dead . . . And Currently on Tour

Perhaps the most ridiculously hyped conspiracy theory is perhaps one of the funniest. On October, 12, 1969, Russ Gibb, a rock jock in Dearborn, Michigan, received a sinister call from a someone who identified himself as "Tom."

Well, Tom told a tale that would send many teenage girls running for their tissues. He claimed that on a warm summer night in 1966, while the world famous rock band The

Beatles were working on their new project, a fight broke out between the band members over creative differences. Paul McCartney, being the sensitive Beatle, stormed out of the studio, climbed behind the wheel of his Aston Martin, and drove off to his great reward.

Tom claimed that shortly after the brawl, McCartney was found behind the wheel of the twisted wreck of his sports car sans a head. When Russ asked for the proof to back up this wild claim, Tom told the jock to listen to the tune "Revolution #9" backwards and the truth would be known: Paul was indeed dead and a look-a-like would take his place.

My aunt is a huge Beatles fan, and like many of her generation she bought this story hook, line, and sinker. Shortly after the call was made to Russ Gibb, millions ran to their Hi-Fi system (a record player for those of you under 25) and practically ran the needle into the dirt playing the prescribed song over and over again backwards, listening for clues as to the death of Paul McCartney.

It would also appear that the message "Paul is dead" is not the only clue to the demise of the mop-topped musical genius. Fans claimed that clues to his death turned up in many song lyrics, as well as album covers. Apparently, "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," the project they were working on when Paul reportedly lost his head, is a huge piece of the puzzle.

On the cover of the album, a hand is raised over Paul's head that is meant to signify that he was dead. Also on the front is a wrecked Aston Martin, signifying the vehicle Paul allegedly died in. And on the back of the original album, the three "still-living" Beatles are facing forward,

while Paul has turned his back to the viewer. Those who buy this conspiracy claim that the person with his back turned was not Paul at all, but a look-a-like who had stepped into his shoes before his plastic surgery to make him look exactly like Paul was finished.

Many songs apparently hold clues as to the truth of Paul's demise. A few are: "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" and "A Little Help From My Friends." And practically every song on the *Abbey Road* album is said to have some message concerning Paul's untimely demise — not to mention the infamous funeral procession where Paul is the only one without shoes because corpses aren't buried with their shoes on.

With the "Paul is dead" conspiracy, it would appear that The Beatles were probably having a little bit of fun with their fans by planting these clues into their songs and on their album covers. Anyone who knew John Lennon would tell you he had a devilish streak in him and had no problem having a bit of fun with people.

However, conspiracy theories aside, it appears that Sir Paul McCartney is very much alive and well, and still rocking his senior citizen ass off on tour.

Ding, Order Up. A New World

On September 11, 1990, Papa Bush, then-president of the United States, gave a speech that would make the blood of many freedom loving Americans run cold, not to mention make them run for their gun cabinets to await the end of the USA as they knew it. In his speech, "Toward a New World Order," the Prez made it very clear that America needed to drop its borders and become a proud citizen of a one-world government where peace and prosperity reigned supreme. Doesn't sound so bad, right? Well to some,

this was the nail in the coffin of the Red, White, and Blue.

For centuries, conspiracy theorists have claimed that there are a multitude of Secret Societies out there who are just waiting in the shadows for the day when they can overthrow the good ole US of A, and drag us kicking and screaming

ARE SECRET SOCIETIES PLOTTING TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD?

into an ecumenical mess of religion, politics, and a single world currency. Folks who believe this also believe that one of these sinister societies is already on the move and dipping their greedy, little fingers into every aspect of American life.

If such a secret society exists, who are they and what do they want? There are allegedly three biggies out there, and you can take your pick; any one will do. Here are the conspiracies involving these three groups:

In 1776 Germany, Adam Weishaupt, a German free thinker and former seminarian, started the Illuminati as a means to express his dissent over the German government and usher in democracy in Germany. Theorists believe that Weishaupt was a pawn used by a much older society bent on world conquest. This Illuminati, also known as the "Enlightened Ones," are still on the move today and will stop at nothing to bring the world under its iron-fisted rule.

The Freemasons is another organization sited as having aspirations of global conquest. Masons, as well as theorists, claim that the order was started by Hiram Abiff, a stone mason who would not give up his secrets to enemies of the Jewish people while building Solomon's Temple.

Over the years, many wild claims

have been asserted that several of the United States' founding fathers were members of this sinister organization, and clues to their dreams of world conquest can be found in many of our cherished documents and symbols. Personally, I have known many Masons in the past, and this I can tell you; they are more concerned

with drinking scotch and complaining about their wives than they are with world conquest.

And last but certainly not least, we have the Trilateral Commission (TC). The TC was instituted by fabulously wealthy David Rockefeller in 1973 and was concerned with bringing the North and South American continents into a one-world government with England and Japan. The TC wanted to create a one-world currency and religion, where no one would be left out.

It would appear that Rockefeller and company, who had enough cash and all the time in the world to bring about this earth-shattering change, couldn't make it happen.

When considering those who believe these preceding theories, and the thousands more floating out there, some ask: Are they truly insane? Do they need to be medicated? Do they throw their front door open in the morning and shout, "You'll never take me alive!"

I have to say, no, certainly not. I know a few people who buy into any number of conspiracy theories, and they are perfectly healthy and perfectly sane, just like the rest of us. I'm sure there are some who take things a bit too far, stock piling guns and food, waiting for the day when the enemy appears on their doorstep. ■

Stonehenge: The UK's Mysterious Monoliths

By Jill Stefko, Ph.D.

Stonehenge is one of the United Kingdom's greatest treasures. Located in the English county of Wiltshire, its original purpose is shrouded in mystery. Some speculate it was a place of worship. Others postulate it was an astronomical observatory for marking significant events. And still others say it was a sacred burial site for high-ranking citizens from ancient civilizations.

Many of the original stones from the site have fallen or were removed by previous generations. Before the 1978 edict that prohibited touching the bluestones, visitors severely damaged some. The prehistoric carvings on the larger sarsen stones show signs of significant deterioration.

Building Stonehenge

The henge was a large bank and ditch arrangement constructed approximately 5,000 years ago. It's believed the ditch was dug with tools made from red deer antlers or wood. The underlying chalk was loosened by tools made from cattle's shoulder-blades.

Bluestones, weighing up to four tons apiece, are in the inner stone circle, the first one built circa 2000 BCE. It's thought they came from the Prescelly Mountains, about 240 miles away, in southwestern Wales



Was Stonehenge originally created as a place of worship, an astronomical observatory, or a sacred burial site? No one really knows. (Photo by Frédéric Vincent)

and were dragged over land and carried by rafts in water.

The Outer Ring consists of giant sarsen stones, each weighing as much as 50 tons, transported from Marlborough Downs, about 20 miles away. It's estimated that it took more than 600 men to get the stones past Redhorn Hill.

Some estimates propose that Stonehenge was completed around 1500 BCE.

Who Constructed Stonehenge?

While different groups of ancient people were given credit for building Stonehenge, the most well-known theory is that the Druids built it. Druids were members of an order of priests in Gaul and Britain in the pre-Christian era. They appear in Welsh and Irish legend as prophets and sorcerers.

This theory was espoused by English writer and antiquary John Aubrey in the 1600s. Julius Caesar



While different groups of ancient people were given credit for building Stonehenge, the most well-known theory is that the Druids built it. Druids were members of an order of priests in Gaul and Britain in the pre-Christian era.

and other Roman authors wrote about the Celtic Druid Priesthood around 55 CE, the time of the first Roman conquest in Britain.

The stones had already reportedly been there for 2,000 years. However, Druids were known to worship in forest temples, not henges. Some say it's more likely that people of the late Neolithic period, circa 3000 BCE originally built Stonehenge and the later Beaker Folk continued construction.

Stonehenge: Arthurian Legend

Twelfth Century writer Geoffrey of Monmouth wrote that Merlin brought the stones to the plain from

Britain, but he employed his magic to accomplish moving them. These stones, on Mount Killaraus, were taken from Africa to Ireland by giants and used for rituals and healing.

Stonehenge and the Druids

Druid civilization was neglected by the conquering Romans, and then the early Christian missionaries. During the Renaissance, interest in ancient Greek and Latin writers was revived. People read the works of Tacitus, Julius Caesar, and Pliny, which described the Celts and Druids in detail.

By the 1600s, a romantic portrait of the Druids surfaced in English and French literary fiction.

by the Romans, people still associated the henge with the Druids.

There is evidence to support the earliest revival of the Druids was the Ancient Order of Druids (AOD), founded in 1781 by Henry Hurle. There were conflicts within the group that led to the founding of the still active United Order of Druids, which has lodges in the USA and Australia. Winston Churchill, who was initiated into the Oxford's Albion Lodge, was a member of the AOD.

It's unknown when the AOD started their annual Summer Solstice celebration at Stonehenge. There are photographs that date back to the late 1800s. By 1900, visitors were causing significant damage to the henge, so property owner Sir Edward Antrobus fenced it in and charged a fee to visitors.

In 1918, Stonehenge was donated to the UK. It was placed under the jurisdiction of the English Heritage, a quasi-independent agency founded by Parliament in 1984, which has the responsibility of caring for ancient sites in England. ■

Source: www.suite101.com

Ancient English Henge Marks the Summer Solstice.

Ireland. It was written that Saxon leader Hengest massacred 3,000 Anglo noblemen in the 5th Century, and High King Aurelius Ambrosius wanted to create a memorial to them.

Merlin was to go to Ireland to bring the Giant's Ring stone circle to

In 1614, 17th Century poet Edmund Bolton credited Boudicca (a British Celtic warrior queen who led a revolt against Roman occupation) with building Stonehenge as a monument to herself. While John Webb claimed Stonehenge had been built

Aleister Crowley Was the Great Beast

By Jill Stefko, Ph.D.

I don't remember when I first read about Aleister Crowley, but I do remember that it was in a psychology book, in which he was labeled a sociopath and Satanist.

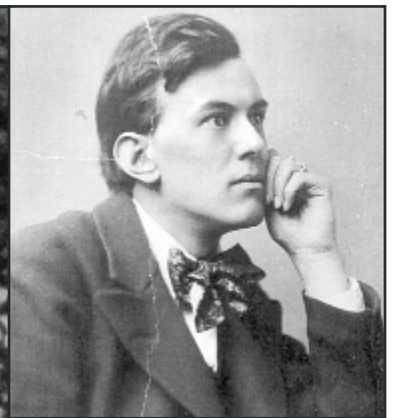
Crowley was notorious for his occultism, magic, and formal rites. According to all accounts, he was addicted to drugs and sex, and wasn't liked by those outside of his circle, including the press. But among his followers, he was considered greatly misunderstood and a man ahead of his time.

Crowley's Early Life

Born Edward Alexander Crowley on October 12, 1875 in Warwickshire, England, he was raised by wealthy parents, brewers Edward and Emily. Devout Christians and staunch members of the Plymouth Brethren, they were considered the personification of respectability.

Crowley grew up in a home filled with pious, religious narrow-mindedness and continually rebelled. After his father died, he inherited the family fortune and went to Trinity College Cambridge. It was during this time that he became interested in the occult and studied it extensively with his roommate Allan Bennett.

Crowley became highly influenced by Arthur Edward Waite, an occult writer and co-creator of



Aleister Crowley (pictured at age 13 at left and as a young man above) was the occult founder of the Thelema religion. He was also a Satanist and ceremonial magician.

the Rider-Waite Tarot deck, after reading his book, *The Book of Black Magic and of Pacts*. The book hinted that there was a secret occult brotherhood, and Crowley wanted to learn more. Waite referred him to another book that had information about a "great ceremonial brotherhood group," the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn (HOGD). He and Bennett soon joined the group.

An Aspiring Ceremony Magician

After Crowley left college, he moved into a London flat and began calling himself Count Vladimир. He then devoted all of his time to pursu-

ing the occult, quickly rising through the ranks. However, he was denied entrance to the "second order."

Crowley then traveled to Paris to see S. L. MacGregor Mathers, the head of the HOGD, and insisted that he be installed in the second order. Mathers agreed.

After Crowley's initiation, the two men fought and, allegedly, engaged in magical combat. Mathers supposedly sent an astral vampire to attack Crowley, who retaliated with an army of demons led by Beelzebub himself. There were other problems within the London lodge that led to both of them being expelled.

Crowley then traveled extensively and studied Eastern and other philosophies and occult systems. In 1909, he began publishing a magazine, called *The Equinox (The Review of Scientific Illuminism)*, in which he serialized the HOGD's secret rituals, resulting in negative publicity and notoriety.

Crowley, Ordo Temple Orientis and Thelema

A practicing Satanist, Crowley identified with the number of the "anti-Christ," 666. Crowley also kept a series of "Scarlet Women" — Leah Hirsig, called the Ape of Thoth by Crowley, was the most notorious. They overindulged in drinking, drugs, and sexual magic.

Crowley became involved with the Ordo Templi Orientis (O.T.O.), a secret magic order formed in Germany around 1895. It was at this time he named himself Baphomet and moved to Sicily where he established his Abbey of Thelema, a polytheistic religion that tells followers to seek out and follow their own "true will." The religion also emphasizes the ritual practice of magic and mysticism.

After a religious experience Crowley had while in Egypt in 1904, he believed himself to be a prophet of the new age, called the Aeon of Horus. However, the press called him the "The Wickedest Man in the World." But Crowley relished this appellation. There was talk of alleged orgies, blood sacrifices, and other perversions at the Abbey. Mussolini eventually expelled Crowley from Sicily. Crowley was on the move again, this time to France, but he was later asked to leave because of heroin dealings.

One of Crowley's most notable writings was *The Book of the Law*, in which he included his version of the Law of Thelema: "Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law." He interpreted it as rejecting con-



Aleister Crowley is known today for his magical writings, especially *The Book of the Law*, the central sacred text of Thelema, a mystical religion Crowley started in 1904.

ventional morality for the life of drug addiction and womanizing. A line from one of his poems sums up his mentality: "I rave; and I rape and I rip and I rend."

Crowley sued author and sculptress, Nina Hamnett, for libel because he said she wrote that he practiced black magic. Her evidence of Crowley's bizarre lifestyle and scandalous writings was so great that it horrified people. He lost the case and was forced to declare bankruptcy, which pleased the press.

Crowley's Night of Terror

I decided to do some research about Crowley's psychological profile while writing *Occultist Aleister Crowley: Sociopath, Schizophrenic, or Both*, and discovered that he had a very strange experience. Toward the end of his life, Crowley performed a secret ritual with his illegitimate son, MacAlister, in a locked Paris hotel room.

Their friends heard a commotion coming from the room, as the two men began screaming. The friends ignored it. The next morn-

ing, when the two men didn't meet them for breakfast, they called the hotel detective, who broke down the door to Crowley's room. They found that both men had scratches on their bodies and their robes were badly torn.

MacAlister was dead and had an expression of extreme horror on his face. Crowley was cowering in a corner, babbling incoherently. Later, it was determined that MacAlister died of heart failure due to fright. Crowley was never the same after that.

To this day no one knows what happened in the room. Did the two have an altercation? Or, as some say, did Crowley summon a demon he couldn't control?

A heroin addict, Crowley died from a respiratory infection on December 1, 1947, in a Hastings, East Sussex, England, boarding house in 1947. He and his doctor died within 24 hours of each other. Newspapers claimed Crowley put a death curse on Dr. Thomson because he refused to continue his opiate prescription. ■

Source: www.suite101.com

Is the Loch Ness Monster a Shapeshifter?

By Shaun Belekurov, www.spooksfield.com

It must be hard to be a crypto-zoologist these days. On one hand, the scientific establishment belittles and mocks you at every given opportunity. On the other hand, true believers get frustrated with your living creature flesh and blood position. This is currently the most popular model used to view the Loch Ness Monster.

Whether a giant eel, a procrastinating plesiosaur that ignored her own extinction, a group of otters or, an oversized sturgeon, the vast majority of researchers view Loch Ness Monster as a physical, albeit elusive, creature. In the 1930s, the Scottish Police Chief (head of Constabulary) stated, "That there is some strange creature in Loch Ness seems now beyond doubt . . ."

Nessie: A Supernatural Entity?

There is a small but growing contingency that feels Nessie is similar to Bigfoot in that it has the uncanny ability to remain hidden by supernatural means. It has been pointed out elsewhere, but bears repeating here, that both "crypto" and "occult" mean "hidden."

So here I will reiterate my theory (present throughout my book *2012: The Paranormal Cookbook*) that these creatures could

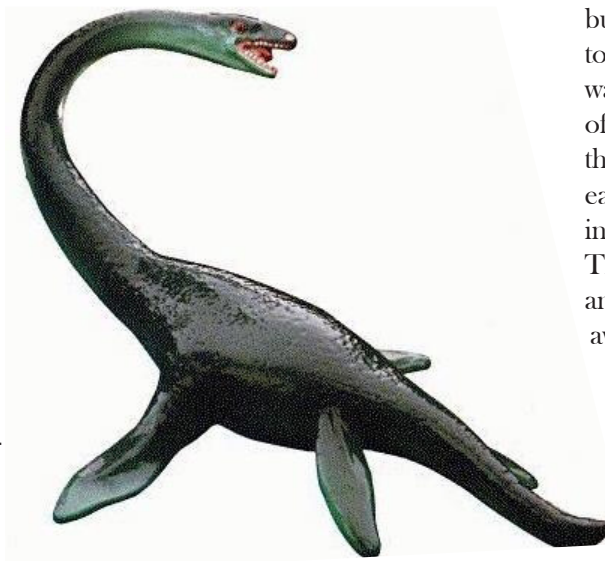
represent environmental archetypes – interdimensional creatures that can manifest in so-called objective reality under certain circumstances. Such circumstances could include physical environmental factors, such as the "dark and stormy night" dynamic (if there is any truth to the theory that the paranormal manifests through electromagnetic activity), or psychological triggers (altered states of consciousness initiated by fear, anxiety, and/or expectations).

Since inception, the Loch Ness Monster was considered by natives to be a shapeshifter. It was in a class labeled as a Kelpie ("water horse"), which would assume the form most pleasing to the specific traveler. It

would appear to weary travelers on foot as a horse standing on the edge of the water, tempting the wanderer with an easy ride. The traveler mounts up, and the horse wades out into the lake and drowns the traveler before he can repent for his mortal sins. In this scenario, Nessie is a supernatural agent of the devil. The Kelpie can also manifest as a beautiful woman and a wild man and is said to manifest during thunderstorms, bellowing like a banshee during tempests.

Supporting this belief is the first written account of a Westerner and their interaction with Nessie: In the *Life of St. Columba* (dating back to 565 AD), we have the saint who arrived on the banks of the Loch and found some men preparing to bury a comrade who had been bitten to death by a water horse while he was swimming. The saint told one of his followers to swim out across the Loch to set the natives' minds at ease. The monster heard the splashing and swam toward the swimmer. The saint made the sign of the cross and commanded the creature to go away; the creature obeyed.

So again we see elements of the supernatural present in the creature's behavior. The saint saw it as a manifestation of evil, possibly demonic, so he did what would be natural in his position. He





**Is the Loch Ness Monster a giant eel, a procrastinating plesiosaur, a group of otters, or an oversized sturgeon?
What if the Monster isn't any of those things, but instead a supernatural, interdimensional creature?**

invoked the name of the Lord and commanded the creature to depart. Of course, this is not the association most people have when they hear about Nessie. But it is a consistent, although often-overlooked, theme.

How Are UFOs and Nessie Connected?

Thinking of Nessie as a supernatural creature would help explain how we get so many compelling witness sightings of a creature many scientists say couldn't exist. Of course, it does raise more questions on its own.

But let's not take credit as if this is a new idea. In 1972, Reverend Donald D. Ormand (descendant of Scottish "Highlanders," who are known for their prowess of the "second sight") was determined to exorcise Loch Ness and drew the attention of various media types, including researcher Ted Holiday (author of *The Goblin Universe*) who was often on the Loch for months at a time.

There was no question in Ormand's mind of the real existence of the powers of evil. When the

two men met, one of the subjects they discussed was a strange story concerning a Swedish writer named Jan-Ove Sundberg.

On the night of August 16, 1971, Sundberg had tried to take a short-cut through the forest near the lake and got lost. As he made his way through the woods, he came across an "extremely strange machine." It was 35 feet long, a grayish black, cigar-shaped craft resting on the ground approximately 200 feet from where he stood. Sundberg heard a rustling in the underbrush, and three figures stepped into view. Each of them was wearing an outfit that looked like a diving suit equipped with helmets. Soon after their appearance, they climbed inside the craft through a hatch on the top, the craft "then rose 40 or 50 feet in the air, and then shot off at a phenomenal speed.

Upon returning to Sweden, Sundberg said he was followed around by "mysterious figures in dark suits — the notorious Men In Black. He eventually suffered from a nervous breakdown.

After Ormand and Holiday got together, they concluded that their research supported the idea that Nessie was a supernatural entity. And once Holiday started to accept Nessie as a mystical creature (whether interdimensional or projected), he seemed to have activated the part of the mind that initiates synchronicity and attracts paranormal activity.

This idea of conjuration was reinforced when some American students found a tapestry and a conch shell underneath a grave-slab while exploring a nearby cemetery. The tapestry, thought to be Turkish in origin had worm-like creatures embroidered on it. Holiday believed these items to be part of a ritual of black magic, left behind following a hasty departure.

Psychotic Bunk? Or Not?

Holiday's theories may seem a bit fantastical in nature, but he had a skeptical side as well. He himself said that he would have considered the tale "psychotic bunk," except there were other reports of UFOs that same week when Sundberg had his experience.

So on June 2, 1973, Reverend Ormand, accompanied by Holiday, went to Loch Ness to exorcise the lake. He performed this ritual at five separate locations. The following Monday, Ormand re-enacted the exorcism for a crew from the BBC.

On Tuesday, Holiday set out to investigate the Sundberg UFO report, but first he called on a local psychic by the name of Winifred Cary. Upon visiting, he told her about the Sundberg incident. Cary

head and got a terrible fright."

Holiday decided not to visit the site that day, but the next day as he went to run an errand, he noticed a peculiar figure. About 30 feet from him was a tall man dressed entirely in black. Holiday described him as follows:

"He was about 6 feet tall and appeared to be dressed in black leather or plastic. He wore a helmet and gloves, and was masked, even to the nose, mouth, and chin."

filmed some of the best footage of Nessie to date, including a 1966 film that was analyzed by Air Force Intelligence and NASA computers, which verified the footage was of a large, mobile object that was "definitely not a boat or submarine."

And according to Dinsdale's closest associate, researcher Jon-Erik Beckjord, Dinsdale had a change in his views. In his numerous night vigils searching for Nessie, he had many experiences that "defied logical explanation." The event that convinced him there was an undeniable supernatural element attached to the monster transpired one night while he was anchored just off of Boleskine House, which was the estate of author and occultist Aleister Crowley from 1899 to 1913. Crowley had performed the Abra-Melin rituals there 70 years prior to Dinsdale's visit. The ritual's ultimate purpose was to call on the Holy Guardian Angel, who would then appear and reveal magical secrets to the magician.

According to Dinsdale, he "endured a series of ghosts, ghoulies, and demons crawling into his boat and coming at him." They never harmed him physically, but they finally killed off the plesiosaur idea for him.

Beckjord was convinced in later years of Nessie's supernatural existence. After he voiced his opinion, he was shunned by traditional researchers of Loch Ness. And in 1987, when Beckjord attended the International Society for Cryptozoology in Edinburgh, he was not even allowed to speak at the main conference.

However, he did show a 1983 16mm film after the sessions were over. The film was, according to Dr. Jack Gibson, co-sponsor of the conference, "THE most important film he had ever seen of Nessie."

The film showed a white shape-shifting "thing" that was not a reptile. ■

Is Nessie a Supernatural Entity?

commented that she, along with her husband, a royal Air Force commander, had also witnessed UFOs in the area around the same time.

She tried to dissuade Holiday from visiting the site, just as Ormand had warned him before. Holiday wrote an account of what transpired next in his posthumously published book, *The Goblin Universe*.

"At that precise moment, there was a tremendous rushing sound like a tornado outside the window, and the garden seemed to be filled with indefinable frantic movement. A series of violent thuds sounded as if from a heavy object striking either the wall or the sun-lounge door. Through the window behind Mrs. Cary, I suddenly saw what looked like a pyramid-shaped column of blackish smoke about eight feet high, revolving in a frenzy. Part of it was involved in a rosebush, which looked as if it had been ripped from the ground. Mrs. Cary shrieked and turned her face towards the window. The episode lasted 10 or 15 seconds and then was instantly finished."

Cary also observed the disturbance and recalled in her own words how she "saw a beam of white light that shot across the room from the window on my left. I saw a white circle of light on Ted Holiday's fore-

Slowly, Holiday approached the figure and walked a couple of feet beyond the man. Holiday gazed at the lake for a couple of seconds. He started to turn his head in the direction of the peculiar stranger, and at that moment he heard what he described as a "curious whispering or whistling sound."

He turned fully, and the man was gone. Holiday quickly reached the only nearby road and looked for his strange visitor. He said, "There was about half a mile of empty road visible to the right, and about a hundred yards to the left; no living person could have gotten out of sight so quickly."

Holiday returned to Loch Ness in 1974. A couple of days into his trip, he had a nonlethal heart attack while on the lake's shore. As the paramedics put him on a stretcher and moved him up the side of the Loch, he passed directly over the exact spot where he had seen the dark man on his earlier visit.

Evidence Supporting Nessie as a Mystical Creature

Another Nessie hunter that eventually had to amend his view on the lake monster was a researcher named Tim Dinsdale. He had

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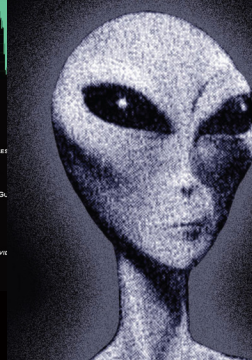


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An Entombed Extraterrestrial

By Paul Bottini, <http://zzyzxparanormal.com>

Is an actual being from another planet buried in an unmarked grave in rural Texas? According to the UFO community, the answer to that question is a definitive “Yes.”

A paranormal conundrum the magnitude of the Roswell Incident shook the tiny town of Aurora, Texas, during the night of April 17, 1897. It was on this evening that an unidentified, flying aircraft allegedly crash-landed on private property, destroying a massive windmill in its wake and shattering the collective consciousness of rural America.

As stated in the *Dallas Times Herald* on April 19 of the same year, not only was a mysterious flying vessel recovered from the wreckage, but so too was the body of a live, yet mortally wounded, extraterrestrial.

Reportedly, townsfolk arriving on scene attempted to aid the interstellar visitor by sheltering it in a local barn. Unfortunately, the diminutive humanoid perished during the evening as a result of its physical trauma.

A 1986 feature film, called *The Aurora Encounter*, is partially based on these events. The story has also been featured in several TV shows, including a December 2, 2005, episode of *UFO Files* and a November 19, 2008, episode of *UFO Hunters*.



During the night of April 17, 1897, an unidentified, flying aircraft allegedly crash-landed on private property, destroying a massive windmill in its wake.

Does an Aurora, Texas, Cemetery Hold Proof of Extraterrestrial Life?

In 1897, extraterrestrials were far from the tabloid headlines they are today. After all, this was an era before man had conquered flight. There were no manufactured aircraft, to date. Thus, townsfolk allegedly reacted far differently than

contemporary individuals may have if thrust into a similar situation.

Rather than seek the media, the citizens of Aurora treated this recently deceased space visitor with the same courtesy they would afford their own dead; they buried it.

According to the tale, the Aurora Cemetery, in Aurora, Texas, is

now the final resting place for what may be the greatest discovery to date: physical proof of extraterrestrial life. A modest gravestone, complete with a carving of a spacecraft, was erected to mark the remains of this deceased traveler. In time, what would today be international headlines, became nothing more than a memory for a select few.

The incident was all but forgotten until 1973, when a group of miscreants stole the grave marker denoting the space alien's place of interment. This minor criminal act made local news, and then, once again, the entire legend quietly disappeared.

A Hoax? Or Something More?

Today, some claim the tale was a publicity stunt concocted by S.E. Hayden, the author of the April 19, 1897, *Dallas Times Herald* article, as a means of generating revenue for his dying town. However, there are still those who believe a dead alien remains buried in the Lone Star State.

UFO researchers claim the town's lack of intent to capitalize on what could easily be a tourist gold mine speaks volumes. True, inhabitants of Aurora are reticent to mention the matter, and no alien-related businesses have sprung up around town. Even more curious is the fact that documentation of the crash, and burial of an alien body, now reside on a Texas Historical Commission marker outside the Aurora Cemetery.

But what of the remains of the downed craft, itself? Are they locked up in some basement some-



According to local legend, the Aurora Cemetery, in Aurora, Texas, is now the final resting place for what may be one of the greatest discoveries to date: physical proof of extraterrestrial life.

where, still glowing with otherworldly power?

According to legend, portions of the shattered space vehicle were carted off as mementos by citizens arriving shortly after the crash. One

Some say an alien body is buried in the Aurora Cemetery in Texas.

piece of the vessel was said to have been buried with the alien itself, while the remainder of the burnt, twisted metal was thrown down a nearby well.

Brawley Oates, a subsequent owner of the property upon which the aforementioned well resides, suffered grotesque swelling of his joints and bones the likes of which had never before been documented. Although Brawley is now deceased, he attributed his affliction to his continual use of what he later believed to be contaminated water from the well.

But the story doesn't end there. Is a metal slug recovered from the alleged 1897 crash site proof of extraterrestrial contact? Metallurgists concluded this inch-long chard is composed of high-grade aluminum that simply didn't exist in 1897 and even today would be difficult to manufacture.

Do Alien Remains Reside in Aurora, Texas?

UFO investigators continue their efforts to exhume whatever is buried in a now-unmarked grave in the Aurora Cemetery. However, they face a slew of legal roadblocks from local authorities attempting to protect their tiny town from further vandalism.

Should you care to visit the Aurora Cemetery yourself and gaze upon what might be the most important grave on the planet, the boneyard is located on Cemetery Road in Aurora, Texas. Aurora is nestled in the northeast portion of the state. From US 81/287 in Rhome, take Highway 114 and head west for a mile and a half before turning onto Cemetery Road and venturing south.

The Aurora Cemetery resides half a mile down on the left hand side of the street. ■

MCPRG VERSUS the Inhuman

By Rick E. Hale, McHenry County Paranormal Research Group

This is a true case files of the McHenry County Paranormal Research Group (MCPRG). Due to confidentiality agreements, names of clients have been changed and cases will only be specified by the counties they occurred in.

Stories of Demons

Demons seem to be making a huge comeback these days, what with movies like *Paranormal Activity* and *The Haunting in Connecticut* being huge box office hits. It would appear that Satan and his dark minions are enjoying a renaissance, so to speak.

Stories of demons have always been with us since man formed religious groups and came to fear the night. Basically, a powerful and righteous Supreme Being needs his arch enemy to keep tabs on – Yin/Yang, right/wrong, good/bad – the eternal struggle has always been with us.

As a rule, I really don't believe in demons, not in the strictest sense, of course. I don't buy into the whole red jammies and poking people in the ass with pitchforks just for shits and giggles. However, with that being said, I do believe that there must be an all-pervasive evil energy out there that wants to cause havoc on Earth. Huh, I guess that explains *Grey's Anatomy*



Seventeen-year-old Jonathan invited an entity into his life for the sheer purpose of seeking revenge. He got what he wanted, but now the dark entity wanted so much more.

and its ability to stay on the air.

But can this negative energy be personified? Can it be given a shape and a face? After the investigation that MCPRG recently conducted, we have come to the conclusion that perhaps, yes, there is something lurking in the dark, desiring to disrupt mankind.

Even if you don't believe in black magic and devil worship, many people actually do believe, and they seek to make contact with dark entities that

might reside just beyond the veil.

Jonathan, a 17-year-old boy from McHenry County, Illinois, was one such person who sought to pierce that veil and invite an entity into his life for the sheer purpose of seeking revenge. Jonathan eventually got what he wanted, but then the dark being wanted so much more.

Tony Olszewski, our founder and 30-year retired vet of the McHenry County Sheriff's Office, received a call one spring afternoon

— a call from a young man who was desperate for help and didn't have anywhere else to turn. He told Tony a story of black magic rituals performed in his basement and the calling forth of a demonic entity that appeared before him as a man clothed completely in black.

Tony was so struck by the young man's plea for help, he sent out an e-mail, rallied the troops, and MCPRG was on the case.

The Investigation

Being sensitive is not something I am comfortable with for two reasons:

1. I'm a guy who loves gadgets. Being the tech guy in the group, I love playing with all the nifty gizmos we have, especially the thermal imager. I feel like Batman, James Bond, and Captain James T. Kirk all rolled into one.

2. I feel I can't really rely too heavily upon impressions and feelings because it isn't exactly something you can present to the client as hard core data.

However, when the van pulled up and four people in their late teens to early twenties got out, those feelings became all too real to me. Jonathan, the client, was with them, and after conferring with Victoria, one of our mediums, I could tell this was the real deal and that this entity was not attached to the home, but to the 17-year-old boy who called begging for our help. The environment took on an air of evil. The chase was afoot.

When the crew entered the small tract home, which is all too familiar in McHenry County, a feeling of straight-up evil became so thick that we could cut it with a knife. Usually at the start of an investigation, we find a staging area to unpack our gear. This time was no different, and after a few moments, I had my trusty Fluke thermal imager in hand and was ready to rock and roll. Ap-

parently, so was the negative entity haunting young Jonathan.

As I pointed the imager down the hallway that led to the bedrooms, I watched as something poked its head out of one of the bedrooms. I immediately snapped a picture. I sent Gracie, one of our investigators to the area to check for anybody who may be trying to get slick with us.

Gracie raced down the hall and took a good look around, being mindful of anything or anyone that could be giving me a false positive.

"This room is just plain bad."

Nothing and nobody was there. The entity had showed itself and was ready to play — little did I know what was really ahead of us on this particular investigation.

On our last investigation, we learned an important lesson, too many cooks can spoil the stew. We are a large group, and our members have a tendency to step on each other, especially when doing EVP sessions. I can't tell you how many EVPs I've had to throw out due to human contamination.

So tonight we would try something different, each team would have a designated area, and after an hour, we would rotate. One theory suggests that entities react differently to different people. My first post, along with Jenny and Michelle, would be in the creepy basement.

Provoking is not really allowed in our group, but hey, I gotta' be me. When we entered the basement, all three of us felt the same thing: We were being watched, and the thing watching us did not like our presence. As I panned around the basement with the thermal imager, Michelle took pictures and Jenny held the digital recorder as I asked my questions. Of course, I started

off with the usual questions, "Is there anyone here?" and "Can you make your presence known?"

After a few moments of this, Jenny said that she felt we should conduct our session behind a closed door we had discovered. And that is when we found the room.

The Room in the Basement

I don't necessarily believe that just because a basement is a basement or an attic is an attic makes it creepier than any other room in a

house. After all, if a home is truly spiritually disturbed, a nice, cheery, little girl's room with pink wall paper and a slew of dollies could be the belly of the beast.

However, as soon as the door was opened, this room in the basement just seemed to reek of negativity. After a moment of entering, Jenny, one of newest members blurted out, "Holy shit, this room is just plain bad."

And sure enough, it was. I mean sure, there was no obvious signs to the casual observer that this was anything but a spare bedroom that was being redecorated. But to a person endowed with mediumistic abilities, this room was the belly of the beast.

After a few moments of panning the room with the thermal imager and taking a bunch of pictures, I felt that it would be a good time to do an isolated EVP session. As I said earlier, we aren't really allowed to provoke, but I felt that maybe a little antagonizing would be called for if only to call the negativity out. We found a box, placed it in the middle of the room, and set a digital voice recorder and K-II Meter on top. Then we began the session.

I asked a series of questions that

were sure to piss off any entity. “So let me ask you, do you like dressing up like a woman and prancing around in frilly white undies?”

Jenny and Michelle laughed, but there was no reaction on the K-II.

“Were you invited by the owner of the home, and if so, you know that you could be forced to leave?”

Nothing.

“Have you ever felt the sun on your face and the sweet taste of oxygen in your lungs?”

No reaction on the K-II, but the air in the room became thicker and seemed to be charged with an energy that was anything but friendly. And then the door began to open.

Lucia the Psychic Medium

As the door opened I yelled, “Who is that opening the door?”

Before I could ask another question, Tony, our founder and lead investigator, walked through the door with Lucia, our most talented psychic medium. After working several cases with Lucia, I had come to believe she was the real McCoy. And I could tell that as soon as she entered the room, she felt the negativity, and it was affecting her in a real way.

“I feel that this room was used for some kind of ritual,” Lucia said as she held her hand to her chest.

“I see a pentagram, but not the pentagram used as a symbol for the

divine feminine. This is an upside down pentagram. The mark of something dark.”

Lucia began spinning around and counting.

“This room was used for worship of darkness.”

I could tell right away that Lucia was in pain, not physically but psychically. One of my jobs in the group is to protect the mediums from harm and to remove them, if need be by force, from a hot spot that becomes a little too hot.

“Lucia,” I asked, “are you okay?”

Before I could ask another question, Lucia turned on me and growled, “Shut your fucking mouth you moron!”

I knew that this was not Lucia, but that the negative entity was speaking through her. And damn was it ever pissed at me.

Tony once told me that I have a tendency and a talent for pissing spirits off; why this is, I have no idea, but this entity really hated me.

Shortly after Lucia’s outburst, she regained her composure and apologized profusely for calling me a moron. I told her that I understood; it was not her talking but the inhuman entity speaking through her.

Lucia also advised us that the room was now dead; whatever had been in the room had departed to another area of the house, and our time was up as another team descended the basement stairs.

Jonathan’s Room

After an interesting time in the basement, my team and I found our way to our next post, the client’s room.

After determining that Jonathan had invited this entity into his home through a black magic ritual, I felt it wise to be on the lookout for any occult trappings in Jonathan’s room. The only thing we could find, amid



During our case at a private residence in McHenry County, Illinois, one of our group’s psychic mediums, Lucia, revealed that a room in the house was used for rituals and worship of darkness.

the posters of scantily clad woman and a poster for a really shitty movie, was the plaster casting of an arm with the hands making the devil's horns — you know, that thing everyone waves at a metal concert. Otherwise, it was a fairly normal room for a teenage boy. No devils or demons here.

Or so we thought.

After setting up the K-II Meter and a digital recorder on the bed for another isolated EVP session, I began to pan around the small room with the thermal imager and quickly received the shock of my life.

As I panned, I watched as a white, grotesque face flew away from the wall toward me. Of course I couldn't see this with the naked eye, but I did get it on the thermal. The only problem is our imager doesn't take video, only pictures. And this image came at me so fast I didn't have time to snap a picture.

Sorry dear reader. I have no proof of this event — just a personal experience that will forever be etched into my memory. The entity was here.

The Cleansing of Jonathan

In MCPRG, being the tech guy and being the handler of the thermal imager comes with the price. If the boss calls, I have to run.

Before we could start to really get into investigating the activity that occurred in Jonathan's room, Tony called me over the radio and requested that I come to the back bedroom. Lucia was performing a cleansing ritual on Jonathan, and she wanted the thermal imager present to see if we could get anything on it. Jonathan claimed that the entity was there, and he was pissed.

I have to be completely honest with you, sometimes I have a little trouble wrapping my mind around the more mystical aspects of paranormal research. You really can't see a person cast a spell or, in Jonathan's

case, drive an oppressing entity from his body.

When I arrived in the bedroom, I found Jonathan sitting in a chair and Lucia standing in front of him holding his hands.

"Why did you bring this being into your life?" Lucia asked.

"For revenge," Jonathan replied, staying perfectly still.

"Revenge against who?"

"Against everyone," Jonathan replied, his eyes closed. He was acting as if nothing serious was happening,

The inhuman entity was making its presence fully known!

and he seemed almost completely oblivious to the fact that his immortal soul was at risk.

"But I wish I never would have called him."

"Well," Lucia replied, breathing heavily, "he's here now."

Tony looked at me and told me to stand behind Lucia. She said she felt a strong hand from behind trying to shove her down. I immediately did as Tony asked, and as I began to focus, my attention was drawn to an open closet two feet behind the oppressed young man.

Standing in the doorway was a black, shrouded figure staring directly at me. Yes, I know it seems a little cliché. I could only see this figure in the display of the thermal imager.

I was somewhat suspicious of what I was seeing, and I asked Karen, another investigator, if she could go to the closet and make sure that there wasn't anything there that would give me a false image.

When Karen got to the closet, she said, "Rick, there is nothing here."

The inhuman entity was making its presence fully known, and he was staring me down like a caged animal.

As Lucia began her cleansing

ritual, the shape that I took continuous pictures of began to do something strange. I watched as it seemed to change in size and shape. One second it would be about two feet shorter, and the next it would fill the entire doorway of the closet. Something else struck me as odd. I watched as a shimmering, white light appeared to flow over its body, sometimes revealing a face . . . the same face that flew out of the wall at me in Jonathan's room.

"It is done," Lucia declared as she

let go of Jonathan's hands. I could tell that the petite woman was spent — her shoulders slumping as if she had just fought a raging battle and won.

The Saging

In MCPRG, if a negative entity is present and refuses to leave, we will use a Native American method of burning sage to neutralize the negative energy, allowing the positive energy to flow. I used to think that it was New-Agey crap, but I'm quickly coming around.

As we began to sage the property, a funny thing happened. Jonathan's friends hauled ass out of the house and stood on the front lawn, refusing to come back into the house.

Talking to Tony a few days later, he said that he believed the friends were members of a satanic sect and the cause of the negative influence in Jonathan's life. Tony also told me another little tidbit of information. He firmly believed that Jonathan was only half sincere in wanting to get this negative entity out of his life, and believes that one day, Jonathan, in a moment of weakness will invite this thing back into his life.

Only time will tell. ■

Family Ghost Story

By Ryan Tackitt, Paranormal Investigators of Central Texas

Every family has them . . . family ghost stories. Some are told to the children or grandkids at night to scare them. Others provide an entertaining evening while roasting hot dogs over a camp fire. Most are probably just made up as the evening wears on.

My family has several — some interesting, some scary, some downright frightening. Whether or not they are real or fake, they are worth retelling to the next generation of my family. These stories that are passed down are a dying family tradition. Our ancestors started telling them as a way to keep their ancestors alive in our memories.

Many of my family's stories didn't involve ghosts or specters moaning in the night. But this one does.

The Bluff

Part of my family that I grew up "knowing about" were from all over Texas. My great grandfather settled down in East Texas on nearly a hundred acres of land. He has an interesting past that would fill up many pages of this magazine and distract us from what this story is about. So we won't venture there today.

The land that he owned wasn't used for much. A vast majority of it was covered in thick oaks and various other trees. Briars covered the ground along with poison ivy and

other plants that weren't good to be near. Nestled in random spots were open pastures of tall grass. Trails could be found leading anywhere and nowhere, while large quartz geodes could be found slightly exposed in the ground.

I can remember going down to what everyone called "The Bluff" as a kid — as early as about the age of



My great grandfather told us stories about a specter man riding a ghost horse that would come sprinting out of the woods on certain nights. He also told us about a hanging tree.

five. I loved going down there and exploring. I could watch squirrels running around trees or the ground looking for pecans or horse apples.

Occasionally, you would see a deer right before it would run off into the brush. Armadillos, opos-

sums, and other creatures, like cougars, were sometimes seen, or we'd at least find evidence of them "passing through." The majority of the time I would be at The Bluff with a cousin, sister, or some other family member. And almost every time I went down below The Bluff, there was a small section of the woods that I had to visit. It was called "The Haunted Area."

The Haunted Area

My great grandfather told us stories about a specter man riding a ghost horse that would come sprinting out of the woods on certain nights. He also told us about a hanging tree that was used to hang thieves that stole horses or cattle centuries ago.

I always wondered about these stories and sometimes believed they were made up. But The Haunted Area was real — I've seen it with my own eyes. This section of woods was strange; the trees and underbrush grew strangely, and the sunshine never seemed bright enough to get through the tree branches. When most people ventured into this area, they would claim uneasiness and sometimes mention the hair rising up on the back of their neck.

My great grandfather's dogs would not go into this area for some reason. Animals were never seen in The Haunted Area either. No squir-



Almost every time I went down to The Bluff, there was a small section of the woods that I had to visit. It was called The Haunted Area.

This section of woods was strange; the trees and underbrush grew strangely, and the sunshine never seemed bright enough to get through the tree branches.

rels, rabbits, or anything else would go into it. No one ever told me why, but that's the way this area has always been. It was like some sinister event occurred here in the past, and the land never forgot or recovered.

Many family members avoided this area and would not go through it, even when in a hurry to escape the rain. They just skirted around it and pretended it wasn't there. Not me, I always headed straight for this area to explore and see what I could find.

My family hated me going down there, but it wasn't long before I was allowed to venture down there by myself. From all the many trips I made down there, however, I don't remember ever seeing anything paranormal — or even scary for that matter. I made trips down there during all times of day and night. The Bluff was a great place to camp under the stars, and I would lead friends down there that had never been or heard of The Haunted Area. Each one would whisper that they didn't like the area and wanted to leave.

I visited The Bluff several times a year during my teenage years. My great grandfather died when I was still young, and then later my great grandmother passed away. The land was broken up between several family members and then again to others. It has luckily stayed in the family and was never sold off to strangers.

Currently, it has undergone tremendous changes. Most of the Bluff is gone and converted into a long driveway. There is a house there now where one of my cousins lives. A new stock tank was made, and cattle now roam the woods and pastures.

Mexican Jumping Stones

Several other strange and interesting stories come from this area, like the Mexican Jumping Stones, a story that I know for sure my uncle made up. He told us kids that if we jumped on these flat rocks and grunt at the same time, we would have good luck. I don't know how many trips we made down there so we could jump on these poor rocks and

grunt like idiots.

The only good luck that was made was one of my cousins did manage to find a real diamond at her house while vacuuming the living room. After that, a great deal more folks jumped onto those stones.

The hanging tree was still down there the last I saw, its large branch hanging there with what looks like rope scars in the bark. No one is able to verify if anyone was ever actually hung from the tree, but it wouldn't surprise me one bit if a vigilante mob had hung someone there at least once. And I never saw the horseman running from The Bluff to scare off anyone, but The Haunted Area is one that I know exists and still might be there no matter what people do with the land.

I haven't gone down below to walk around in a very long time. I hold on to the memories of what I experienced down there, and the ghost stories remain for me to tell my kids around a campfire while roasting hot dogs on a stick. ■

Heidi's Haunted Hikes

Madame Sherri's Castle & Forest

By Heidi Ann

“Snow!” That was the excited cry from the back seat of the car as we traveled west toward the New Hampshire/Vermont border. Although it's not unheard of to get snow at the end of April in New England, I certainly wasn't expecting it when I chose April 28 to take my next Haunted Hike from Marianne O'Connor's book, *Haunted Hikes of New Hampshire*.

Along with my usual companions — my husband, Keith, and son, Colin — I was headed to Chesterfield, New Hampshire, to investigate Madame Sherri's Castle and hike the surrounding forest.

The Story of Madame Sherri's Castle and Forest

Antoinette De Lilas, born in 1878, had been a cabaret singer in Paris at the turn of the 20th Century. She married the silent film actor Andre Riela, and the couple moved to the United States in 1911. Upon their arrival in the United States, they changed their last name to Sherri, and Madame Sherri began designing costumes for the theater in New York. She was very successful, even designing for the Ziegfeld Follies, and soon became quite rich.

In 1925, her husband died unexpectedly, and she found herself drawn to the Chesterfield area, which was popular with theater peo-



As we arrived at the entrance to Madame Sherri's Castle and Forest, there was only one other car in the parking area. It was very quiet . . . eerily quiet.

ple as an artistic retreat. She soon built a 15-room summer home that came to be known as the “castle.”

Madame Sherri enjoyed entertaining at her castle and would throw legendary wild parties for her guests. Eventually, her health and mental state began to deteriorate, and she found herself living in a Vermont nursing home.

Her castle, which lay abandoned for years, burned to the ground in 1962. Madame Sherri

died three years later, poor and alone, on the very day her property was finally sold. All that remains of the castle is some foundation, a fireplace, and a majestic staircase that led into the castle.

According to Marianne O'Connor's book, *Haunted Hikes of New Hampshire*, reports claim that ghostly waltz music can be heard if you touch the staircase, and Madame Sherri's ghost can be seen floating down the stairs.



According to author Marianne O'Connor's book, *Haunted Hikes of New Hampshire*, reports claim that ghostly waltz music can be heard if you touch Madame Sherri's staircase, and Madame Sherri's ghost can be seen floating down the stairs.

Madame Sherri's Castle Was Both Breathtaking and Eerie

As we drew closer to our destination, the snow had thankfully changed back to rain. The day was cold, raw and wet. I considered cancelling the hike, but Colin was eager to go. We decided if it was raining too hard when we got to Madame Sherri's, we would just go back home.

After two hours of driving, we had finally reached Chesterfield, and I was glad to see that the rain had stopped. As we turned off and began driving down a long, winding back road, I joked to Keith about how all these hikes seemed to be out in the middle of nowhere.

We finally came upon the entrance to Madame Sherri's Castle and Forest, and there was only one other car in the parking area. It was very quiet . . . eerily quiet. I checked the book to find out which way we had to go to find the castle remains. We followed the path into the woods a short way and then suddenly it was upon us.

I have to say, the site of the grand staircase leading to nowhere was amazing. Colin, ever the eager "ghost

hunter," ran to touch the staircase to see if he could hear any music. He heard nothing. Keith and I also tried touching the staircase, but sadly we didn't hear anything either. Keith remembered he had his MP3 player with him, and he suggested doing an EVP session. So he began recording as we continued our investigation.

Is Madame Sherri's Castle and Surrounding Forest Haunted?

There is something about Madame Sherri's castle staircase that called to us. The urge to climb it was overwhelming. So Colin and I began climbing the stairs that decades ago Madame Sherri used to welcome her many guests.

Upon reaching the top, I immediately got dizzy. The far side of the stairs drops off into a deep gully. A fear gripped me, and the desire to get off the staircase was great. As we descended the stairs, Colin nearly fell, which was more terrifying than any possible ghostly encounter. Relief washed over me after Colin and I were back on the ground.

We then entered the foundation

of the castle. Colin was fascinated by the remains of the fireplace. While Colin and I imagined what it had been like when the castle was there, Keith walked around asking Madame Sherri a few questions. We hoped some sort of reply would show up on his MP3.

We then headed off to hike the forest. The views were spectacular. The cold, raw day turned out to be a blessing, keeping us from becoming too hot during the hike. Nothing paranormal occurred during the hike, but we did come across a mailbox in the forest. It was filled with notes from other hikers. One eerie note simply said, "Heard the screams in the woods — 3/21/10."

Later, while reviewing Keith's recording at the castle, we didn't find any EVPs. Regardless, Madame Sherri's Castle and Forest is an amazing gem hidden on the New Hampshire/Vermont border. The hike was spectacular, and the castle ruins are hauntingly beautiful. I wish it were closer to home, as I would love to try to connect with Madame Sherri again . . . but I will never climb her staircase again! ■

Cthulhu Dawn

By Michael Kleen

The sand underneath Private Jonathan Bradley's feet seemed to explode upward on its own and blocked his vision for a full hundred and twenty degrees. The rest of his company disappeared in a shower of dust and dirt.

To Private Bradley nothing was enough to escape the carnage around him. Bullets whizzed by his ears as he frantically tried to keep his footing on the shifting yellow matter below him. Something heavy fell to the side, but he couldn't make out what it was. His eyes stung from the harsh wind, and the air moved like a swarm of bees. The stone wall of the building next to him felt thick and cold as his shoulder slid up against it.

I have to get out of here, he thought frantically. He clutched his M-16 tighter and fell down into the sand, sliding against the sandstone bricks the whole way. From this new vantage point, everything seemed clearer. He could see from underneath his helmet that there was a dark entrance to the building just feet away. He figured if he could crawl to it, he would be okay.

There were several more loud explosions and sharp thuds from unfriendly bullets landing near his legs. He could hear the men around him all yelling at once, curses, encouragement, screams. He clawed his way to the opening and felt his fingers rap around the cold frame of the door. Most of it was buried in the sand, and there was just a small area to crawl through. The entrance must have



been uncovered during the fighting.

Jon squeezed his way past the treads of a gigantic M1A1 Abrams next to him and pulled himself into the darkened interior. The noises of the battle around him seemed to become muffled as he slid on his flak vest into the abyss, eventually losing his traction and rolling down the mound of sand. Sand was all over his face. He felt the grains in his mouth. His once-camouflage uniform was caked with yellow.

Finally, he was deposited against a cold stone floor. It took him a few moments to feel around and find his army-green, curved-neck flashlight. The light pouring in from the crevice above was only enough to illuminate the pile of sand he'd rolled down on. Flicking the switch, it became apparent that he was in some kind of vault. From what he could see, the room was perfectly square, and the walls were barren. There was only one door at the other end.

The explosions outside sounded even more distant, and he turned his head to see if he could ascertain what was happening with the rest of his company. At about that time, something that looked like a body fell in front of the hole. He was plunged into almost total darkness.

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Jon's heart leapt into his chest when the shuffling noise from the far corner interrupted his thoughts. The beam from his flashlight fell on the form of a little Iraqi boy, bony and tan, dressed in rags. "What are you doing here?" Jon asked him without expecting an answer. "Probably the same thing I am, huh."

The boy stared at him curiously. He cocked his head to the side, letting his bushy black hair fall over his eyes. "You weren't the one who told the soldiers where to find us were you?" Jon continued. The boy leapt

to his feet, smiled, and darted out of the flashlight beam and into the darkness. Jon heard the boy's feet sliding across the smooth floor.

He shivered and made up his mind to follow the strange lad that had evaded his original sweep of the room. That required him to leave his unit behind and move deeper into the structure. It was better than going back outside and getting shot at, he reasoned, and they would forgive him if he captured a potential Iraqi informant.

A thousand eyes scattered in every direction.

His unit had been ambushed in the ancient city of Ur a few minutes ago after they had gotten word that all the Iraqis had been cleaned out of the area. *So much for accurate intelligence from Central Command*, he bitterly thought.

He removed his helmet and hung it from his belt so that it wouldn't get lost. Slinging his M-16's strap over his shoulder, he pointed his flashlight onto the door in front of him. It was wooden and cracked, petrified from all the years in the stale air, and swinging loosely from its hinges. Jon pushed on it lightly.

The door led to a narrow causeway that seemed to go on forever. The void swallowed up the flashlight beam, and Jon looked over his shoulder toward the small opening he had crawled through. The far wall seemed to vibrate with every muffled explosion. He hesitated momentarily. If he pursued the boy, he might get valuable information, but he would also be abandoning his unit. The Marines taught him to make split second decisions, so he decided that finding out what was in this building might be the most important thing to do. He cursed himself that he had left his night-vision goggles in the truck.

His Adam's apple thrust up and down as he swallowed and stepped into the passageway. The narrow walls were barren here too. Nothing but darkness and smooth sandstone surrounded him. The air was stale and had a strange taste to it.

I should have stayed in Tennessee, he thought bitterly as he moved forward with caution. Back home was beer, football, and off-road racing. He didn't understand how these Iraqis could live without any of that in this shit hole. All they needed

was Pepsi and blue jeans. He felt the darkness swallow him up from behind as he moved forward. There was no sound except for a strange, almost inaudible tapping, like a thousand little pins hitting the ground. He swung his flashlight around trying to find the source of the noise.

The beam fell on a black mass covering the crevice between the floor and the wall. It seemed to move around, and he leaned in to find out what it was. The mass reacted strongly when the yellow glow of the flashlight hit "them." A thousand eyes scattered in every direction. Jon recoiled when he saw their tiny claws and erect stingers. He almost dropped his flashlight, but he reacted quickly, saving it just before it struck the ground.

He usually had no problems with insects, but these were huge. His forehead started to perspire heavily again despite the cool air. Jon pressed himself up against the other wall and carefully moved past the pulsating mass. His boots were inches away from a scattered bunch of black legs and segmented bodies.

He bitterly smashed one of the scorpions with his boot before shaking his head and moving on. He felt like he had been walking for a while



before he heard noises in the distance. They sounded like whispering voices. Jon strained his aching ears.

* * * * *

“U.S. Marines!” he called out, hearing his voice echo down the corridor. There was no verbal response, but the voices stopped. He readied his machine gun with one arm. Wild scenarios played in his mind. It could have been that the boy was leading him to an Iraqi torture chamber or a chemical-weapons lab. He would be a hero if he could confirm that and somehow get back to base. His heart raced with excitement. Jon thought it was funny how a month ago he couldn’t locate Iraq on the map, but now it held great importance to him and his friends.

He picked up his pace and soon his flashlight revealed another door. He was confident that no one was inside the next room. If they were, why hadn’t they seen his flashlight and confronted him?

Even still, he braced himself and proceeded cautiously. The door led to a small room that opened up into an even larger cavern. The walls of

this new room were covered in small pictures of some sort. There were carvings of strange animals and sunbursts and what looked like wings. The Iraqi boy was standing silently in the far corner.

Without taking his eyes off of him, Jon momentarily forgot about the fighting and tried to radio back to his unit. Maybe the pictures were some kind of code, he thought. Only a thick layer of static answered.

“Well, shit,” he cursed in a soft voice. He spun around trying to take in the whole picture. Not one inch was barren of the carvings. Why would someone take the time to do all of this? “What is this place?” he asked the boy.

To his surprise the child answered him in a calm, steady voice. “This is the temple of the ancient ones,” he replied in broken English. “You have disturbed their slumber by coming here. Thousands of years before the dawn of man they ruled the Earth. Then the great Elder Gods came and locked them beyond the seven gates. The priests of the Ancient Ones are forever trying to bring them back into

this world so that they can rule again. The Ancient Ones will consume every living thing on Earth. You must not stay here. You are not wanted.”

At that point, the noises started up again. Both Jon and the boy’s heads turned toward the cavern next door. A steady orange glow illuminated the portal. Private Bradley flicked off his flashlight and hooked it onto his belt. The sounds took on a chanting quality to them, but he couldn’t distinguish what language it was. It didn’t sound like anything he had heard while moving through the Iraqi villages.

The boy dashed past him and into the long corridor before he could stop him. “Shit,” he swore, reacting too late. Jon nervously looked into the darkness and then back at the portal.

He peered around the doorway, and the cavern took on a new life. It was enormous. Lean pillars of stone thrust out of the floor and rose to the ceiling. The far wall looked like it was on the other side of a football field. His jaw dropped open at the sheer enormity. The source of the orange glow was a giant fire to the far right. It was burning in a pit in the floor without the use of a visible source of fuel. Behind that was a large stone altar. And behind that was a large stone statue of some kind of a half-man, half-beast figure.

There was a group of robed figures in the center of it all. They were standing in a circle and didn’t look armed. “Hey, you!” Jon yelled, slightly irritated at his own method of attracting their attention. “I’m with the U.S. Marines. I’m taking all of you prisoner! Show me your weapons!”

The group of men continued to chant and ignored him. He nervously looked at the thick red liquid running down grooves in the wall, collecting somewhere out of sight. “Hey,” he yelled again. “Didn’t you uncivilized bastards hear me?”

Whatever was going on here was definitely on the border of being

sick. He must have been right; this was one of Saddam's demented torture chambers.

* * * * *

He stepped closer to the group, feeling very small in the vacuous surroundings. "Hey!" he yelled at the top of his voice. The word echoed throughout the cavern. The chanting of the men stopped abruptly and they turned toward him. His blood ran cold. Everything was silent for a long moment as the figures and he stood and watched each other.

"You're too late," one of them said coldly, although he couldn't figure out which one. He was surprised they could speak English. Jon held his M-16 tighter and walked toward the group.

"If you speak English you should understand this: Put your goddamn hands in the fucking air right now!" He thought that was forceful enough, but the group of strange, robed men strolled toward him completely unafraid of his weapon. His mind rushed with possible scenarios. They were committing suicide. They couldn't possibly think they could get him in a rush with an automatic weapon in his hands. "Are you fucking deaf?" he screamed at them. "I said put them in the air!"

"Killing us will only make him stronger," the man in the group hissed at Jon. They began to move faster toward him, covering a few yards in seconds. They moved in unison. "We have opened the seven gates of Yogo-Sothoth." Their voices vibrated with a serpentine pitch. "The blood you have spilled has fed him, the hatred you've unleashed has fed him, and now nothing you can do will stop him. Blood for blood, death for death — revenge."

"You're all out of your minds!" Jon shouted, raising his gun at the ready. The room started to shake slowly. Several bricks fell from the ceiling and smacked against the floor, shattering into a dozen pieces.

"Take one step closer and I'll waste all of you!" he warned.

The robed men kept walking and he pressed the trigger down with a trembling index finger. The muzzle of his gun lit up with flame and dozens of bullets issued forth. The men in front of him were cut to ribbons. They fell to the ground without so much as a cry of pain, and Jon watched with awe as the robes flattened out against the ground as if nothing had been in them. He ran over to the black piles

The room started to shake slowly.

under a shower of dust and debris.

Using the end of his M-16, he raised one of the robes high into the air. He recoiled as the stench hit him. The pile of greenish liquid under the robe stank like a corpse that had been rotting for a few weeks. His eyes teared up, and he gagged.

The floor under him started to tremble and crack. Jon quickly regained his senses and dove out of the way. His M-16 slid far out of his reach. Large sections of the floor fell out of place and tumbled into a growing pit. A god-awful roar emitted from the opening, and he stared in horror as more than a dozen tentacles rose up from the cavity. They whipped around and broke the altar in two like a toy. Jon couldn't believe what he was seeing. Nothing in his training prepared him to face something like this.

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He shook his head and tried to crawl toward the door he had come through. He'd take his chance with the Iraqis outside now. The thing in the pit continued to screech in manners the little million-year-old monkey in him never thought his ears would ever be subjected to. The noise was primeval. Sounds uttered before the time of

man, before the time of the dinosaurs, before any living thing had existed.

The soldier didn't even stop to look at what was behind him as he pulled himself off the dusty floor and threw himself into the small room with the carvings covering the walls.

He knew the beast was still behind him as the cadaverous wind propelled him down the dark hallway. He almost slipped on the mess of scorpions, and he could feel that the beast's tentacles weren't far behind. They probed the smooth walls

blindly led by a sense developed in the darkest pits of the ocean floor.

Jon hoped that the strange boy had enough sense to get out before that thing tore him to pieces. He burst into the room he had sought shelter in before all of this had begun and was relieved to see that the hole to the outside was bigger than it had been before. No doubt someone else in his unit had discovered the crack and investigated his disappearance.

He didn't wait for his eyes to get adjusted to the new brightness before throwing himself up the sand embankment. Cold hands latched around his wrists and pulled him into the light.

"Shit, Jon," he heard someone say. "We've been looking all over for you."

"Thank God you guys are alive," Jon gasped as he got to his feet. The ancient temple behind him roared as fighter planes broke the sound barrier above them. Rivers of blood ran through the sand and pooled along the sides of the carefully built walls. Bodies were piled up next to burnt-out hulls of trucks and Humvees.

"God save us," he trembled as he surveyed the scene, "but the worst is yet to come." ■

Stacey Kade

By Michelle M. Pillow, www.michellepillow.com

From her first childhood scribbles about a magical necklace that would turn people into cats, young adult fiction author Stacey Kade has long been fascinated with what happens when the “ordinary” bumps up against the “out of this world.” Her newest novel from Disney-Hyperion, called *The Ghost and The Goth*, released last month.

She’s also written under the name, Stacey Klemstein, penning two science fiction romance novels in a series for adults, involving first contact with aliens and conspiracy theories, entitled *The Silver Spoon* and *Eye of the Beholder*.

This month we talk with Stacey about her new book and her thoughts on the paranormal, in general.

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Q: In your book, *The Ghost and The Goth*, your heroine is a ghost. What inspired you to create such a character?

Stacey: I think humans have long been fascinated by what happens after death, and, to some extent, wish to be around, unchanged, forever. In this book, I wanted to explore that idea and the potential downside of such an existence. Plus, it was just fun.

Alona is a mean girl who’s had almost everyone bending to her will her whole life. It was interesting to see how she reacted to being in a situation where she had very little control.



Young adult fiction author Stacey Kade says, “I believe in the supernatural . . . The possibility for anything and everything still exists.”

Q: When world-building, did you base your story off of known myths throughout history?

Stacey: I’m the daughter of a Lutheran minister who also happens to be a big science fiction/fantasy fan, so both of those elements are deeply embedded in who I am and how I see the world. When I started thinking about the afterlife for *The Ghost and The Goth*, I knew it wasn’t going to be based on the traditional explanation, but something closer to science. In my world, spirits are basically energy. Different dimensions (or, heck, parallel universes) exist, and they are only able to pass through to them under certain circumstances.

Q: What myths or legends inspired you?

Stacey: I’ve always been fascinated by the afterlife/Heaven. I think it stems from a plane ride early in life when I couldn’t figure out why I wasn’t seeing people walking on the clouds that were just outside the plane’s window. Once I figured out that Heaven wasn’t a literal place (as we know it on this Earth), it made me start thinking about what it was. I believe it exists, but I don’t think you can fly (or drive) there!

Q: Why do you think readers, and society in general, are fascinated by the paranormal?

Stacey: Because it gives an explanation to the otherwise inexplicable. Because it gives us the “rules” to make us feel safe and feel like we understand the world (e.g., you’re

safe from vampires as long as you don't invite them in). And because, heck, it's exciting. It means there's still more out there we don't know, we don't understand, and while that exists, the possibility for anything and everything still exists.

Q: Do you have any paranormal pet projects?

Stacey: No, though I'm a big fan of Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) (www.seti.org/seti).

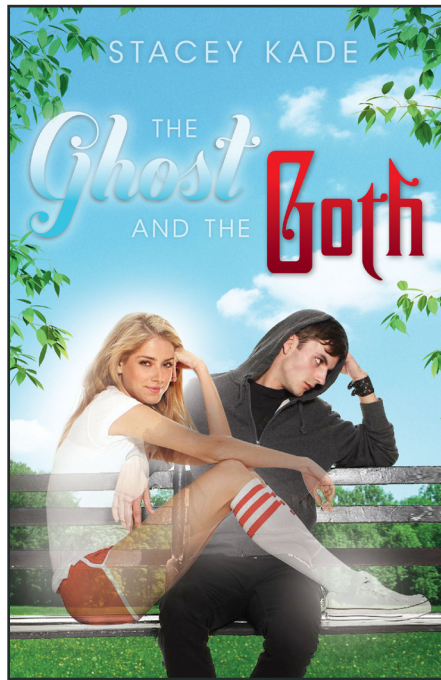
Q: What are your favorite paranormal shows, movies, and books?

Stacey: I love the new show on BBC-America called *Being Human*. A vampire, a werewolf, and a ghost all living together as roommates. Does it get any better than that? *True Blood* is a big favorite, too. And the classics, of course, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *The X-Files*.

One of my favorite paranormal movies is *The Others*. That one had a twist I didn't see coming and still chills me to this day. I also loved *The Sixth Sense*, though I have to watch parts of that one with my eyes closed. *Ghostbusters* is my classic, all-time favorite movie — that one I have memorized!

The paranormal romance genre is one of my favorites, so it's almost impossible for me to narrow it down to just a few books. In young adult, I'm a huge fan of the *Mortal Instruments* series by Cassandra Clare; *The Mediator* and *1-800-Where-R-You* series by Meg Cabot; and, of course, *Twilight* by Stephenie Meyer. For adults, I love the *Mercy* series by Patricia Briggs; the *Sookie Stackhouse* series by Charlaine Harris; and the *Fever* series by Karen Marie Moning. On the science fiction side of things, anything and everything by Linnea Sinclair.

Q: Do you believe in the supernatural? Or are you a skeptic?



In her new novel, *The Ghost and The Goth*, author Stacey Kade's heroine is a ghost.

Stacey: I believe in the supernatural, yes, but I believe that they are all things that will be explained or explainable one day once our science or knowledge base catches up.

For example, I think about the stories in the *Bible*, specifically in the *New Testament*, about people being possessed by demons as a form of illness. That was a rational explanation at the time. However, these days, some theologians and scientists believe these people may very well have had epilepsy or some other medical condition that is commonly recognized as such today.

Q: Have you ever had a paranormal experience?

Stacey: Yes and no. When I was on my honeymoon in San Diego with my husband, we went to the historical Whaley House, California's only haunted house authenticated by the state. I didn't experience any of the footsteps or voices others have reported hearing (thank goodness!),

but it was so cold in there. And it was a beautiful, warm, sunny day outside.

Q: What kind of paranormal creatures do you wish you could meet?

Stacey: Honestly, I think it's probably safer to stay under the radar and not meet any of them! But if I had to choose, I'd love to be present for (though not a central figure in) first contact with life from another planet. That would be pretty cool.

Q: If given the chance, would you become a ghost?

Stacey: No, I think it would be too hard to see everyone I love moving on with their lives afterward. If I had to choose, I'd rather be a ghost-talker (AKA medium) like my hero, Will, though even that would probably be way too stressful!

Q: How would you react if you came face to face with a ghost?

Stacey: Probably faint! I know that's not very daring, but it's true. I believe they are out there, but I'm very glad I'm not a medium. I suppose you get used to it a little if you grow up with it, but to suddenly one day be able to see and hear them when no one else can? No thanks! I think that's why I like writing about them — gives me a chance to explore safely, you know?

Q: What does the future hold for Alona and Will?

Stacey: I'm very excited that Alona and Will's story will continue in two more books (in 2011 and 2012), so I'll get to explore even more aspects of this world. ■

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Thanks for joining us Stacey! Learn more about Stacey and her books at www.staceykade.com and www.staceyklemstein.com.

The Phantom Lite

By Chris DeMent, Parachasers I.N.C.

So what do you get when you mix bad infrared lighting with ghost hunting? First of all, you get bad evidence. Secondly, you get frustrated. And finally, you get a man determined to build a better infrared illuminator. This is exactly how the Phantom Lite came into existence.

I'll start off by saying that I've tested the Phantom Lite and was very impressed! So let's get down to the visuals. The LEDs glow a very dull redish-orange to the human eye. For infrared-based cams, we are looking at a viewing distance of about 50 feet.

When testing the Phantom Lite outside, my camcorder night vision was at least doubled at 43 feet. So next I gave it a try indoors at about 15 feet, and it was truly like night and day for infrared. Phantom Lites have a very wide angle light on them, so they light up the entire room — not like a flash light that shows varied bright and dark spots.

They do work with cameras that are set up for infrared viewing and any camcorder and cam that has a night vision mode or NightShot. They also have a removable tripod connector on the bottom for mounting to your devices. To top it off, this high-power infrared illuminator only uses a 9 Volt battery, yet gets over 12 hours of IR.

When speaking with the Phantom Lite creator, Randy Croisette, we find that he is not just some pop-up paranormal lover. He has been



The above pictures show use of the Phantom Lite (pictured at the top) compared to the Sony NightShot (pictured at the bottom). These pictures were taken indoors.

into the paranormal scene for about 12 years and is an avid investigator and founder of Cold Spot Paranormal. He has had paranormal experiences since he was a child.

“One of the houses I have lived in had some good activity, like someone banging and scratching on the doors,” Croisette said. “Also, you would hear something running down the hall. I used to set up a Sony Handycam with NightShot, and let’s just say the commercial illuminators would always let me down. I would get everything setup and recording before I would go to bed, and later in the night I would be awoken with a banging on the door and come to see that the illuminator was dead!”

I’m sure many of you reading this have dealt with dead lights, and as we all know, it can be frustrating.

After Croisette’s own frustrations with commercial illuminators, he spent two years and countless hours designing a board that not only was really bright, but lasted for over 12 hours. Now three years later, he has a great product that is affordable for everyone.

Every Phantom Lite Illuminator is machined, hand built, and tested by Croisette. Ultraviolet models are available, as well as a full-spectrum model for just a few dollars more.

For those of you wondering, the full-spectrum model will work with your Sony cams, as well as in the NightShot mode creating a cool blue glow. Since this light is strong and really lasts, I suggest you go to your Sony camcorder’s on-screen menu and turn off the IR light, but keep the NightShot switched to on and use the Phantom Lite to extend the battery life of your camcorder.

The Phantom Lite has a great price and is highly useful. Be it for ghost hunting or just night surveillance, I totally recommend these lights!

Check them out at www.phantomlite.com. ■

The Phantom Lite Infrared Illuminator

By Chad Wilson

I recently tested a Phantom Lite Infrared (IR) Illuminator. I really hoped it would be a solution to an “infrared problem” I was having with my new Sony hi-def shoulder-mounted camcorder.

To accommodate my new IR illuminator, I bought a hotshoe adaptor on www.B&Hphotovideo.com, which allowed the illuminator to slide right into place at the front of the camera. The adaptor worked perfectly.

I soon found myself once again taking the two-hour Paranormal Walking Tour at the Queen Mary Hotel in Long Beach, California, on Thursday, June 24. I had my camera all set up with the illuminator attached. The first part of the tour was pretty well lit, so I didn’t get to use it much.

Then we came to the engine room. My first chance to use the Phantom Lite IR Illuminator was upon me. What can I say? I was excited!

Now, the NightShot feature on the Sony hi-def works great in its own right, being a little dark in darker areas,

but it suffices for smaller rooms due to the reflection off of the walls, which increases the potency of its own onboard IR significantly. On the other hand, in a larger area, it does not cut the mustard. That is where the Phantom Lite IR Illuminator came in.

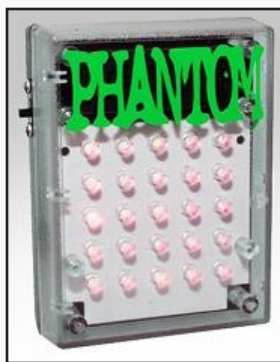
Let me tell you, the difference is significant. The Phantom Lite is almost like an infrared spotlight, casting its invisible glow upon the paranormal thrill seekers who were on the tour with us. It even seemed a bit too bright in certain situations, but it was not that big of a deal, as all I did was tilt it up slightly, which cut back the intensity of the glow. A dimmer switch of some sort would have been a nice addition, but is not even close to a deal breaker for this impressive piece of equipment.

I seriously recommend this product to those seeking an infrared solution. A reported 12 hours of operation on one 9-volt battery makes this a good buy in my book.

I give the Phantom Lite IR Illuminator 5 out of 5 stars! ■



Pictured above is Phantom Lite creator Randy Croisette, operating a video camera with the Phantom Lite attached.



The Phantom IR Illuminator is almost like an infrared spotlight, casting its invisible glow upon those on the tour with us.

Andrew Selfridge

(Forum Name: Ourobouros2k2)

About Andrew

Age: 33.

Born/Currently Resides: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma/Tecumseh, Oklahoma.

Status: Married.

Education: High School.

Zodiac Sign: Capricorn.

Occupation: Police Officer.

Q&A

Q: What brought you to Paranormal Underground?

Andrew: Ryan.

What does your forum name mean?

Andrew: Symbol (snake or dragon eating its own tail, formed usually in a circle) meaning rebirth, beginning anew, cyclical quality of nature.

Q: How would you describe yourself?

Andrew: Passionately devoted to technical paranormal research. It is much more than a hobby to me; it's more of a lifestyle.

I love adapting and building devices for use in the paranormal field. Some folks call me shy or quiet, but I am just merely taking inventory of my surroundings and people



A skeptical believer, Andrew is most interested in EVPs and the emotions behind the voices captured during an investigation.

therein. I am introspective . . . always chewing on what paranormality means in the big picture, as well as to myself.

Q: Tell us about your family and what you like to do.

Andrew: I'm a happily married dad. I have two great girls, a 14-year-old and a two-year-old. We love going

to the lake and going swimming as a family. Zoo trips are a big hit with the kiddos as well.

Q: Are you a member of a paranormal group?

Andrew: I am a member of the Oklahoma City Ghost Club (<http://okcgc.net>). I have been a member of this team twice, from 2003 to 2006 and from 2009 to present.

Our team is structured a little different, as we have done away with title and positions. Every member contributes according to their own gifts, and if an area is lacking, we jump in to fill in the gap. I would have to say my role would be equivalent to a technical investigator.

Our doctrine has us all doing all aspects of paranormal investigations and research. We then collate our results, and we all contribute to the reporting aspect.

Q: How long have you been investigating paranormal phenomena?

Andrew: I've been investigating the paranormal since 1999, back in the days of 56k modems and AOL 50-hour free CDs. Yup, I had my Sony Mavica FD-93, shoebox cassette recorder, Trifield Natural, and my analog 8mm NightShot. Those items, along with a healthy dose of naïveté, and I was a Y2K-equipped ghost hunter.

Q: *What is the best paranormal evidence you've captured to date?*

Andrew: Probably not relevant to anyone else other than myself, but I would have to say my first EVP. It was simply a female voice saying, "I am Samantha." Sure, I have captured better and far creepier EVPs, but that was the first one.

That moment, my previous belief systems were voided and I was certain that there was a tangible phenomenon at work. It was an Earth-shattering event, at least for me.

Q: *What would our readers be surprised to find out about you?*

Andrew: I am just a big teddy bear. I am told that I intimidate people by my physical presence, but I am just a sofie.

Q: *Are you a skeptic or believer?*

Andrew: Skeptical believer. I do believe in ghosts and ghostly phenomena, but I don't take every piece of evidence passed around the Net as prima facie evidence of Casper.

I, like many others, don't want to be fooled, so I place evidence through the ringer. The old adage "When in doubt, throw it out" is a motto I live by when it comes to evidence of the paranormal.

Q: *What areas of the paranormal interest you the most?*

Andrew: EVP interests me the most. It has the most "human" aspect to it. I derive much more satisfaction from hearing the emotion behind the voices than just seeing a needle spike on an EMF meter.

Q: *Talk about any paranormal experiences you have had and how they affected you.*

Andrew: I would have to say the experience that started me on this

path years ago. It is the sidebar in Rick Hale's article, "Cops and the Paranormal," featured in the May 2010 issue of *Paranormal Underground* magazine.

Basically, I and several other jailers witnessed a shadow person form, glide across the floor, and disappear into the wall of a jail. This sparked my interest, and here I am still going strong.

The old adage "When in doubt, throw it out" is a motto I live by when it comes to evidence of the paranormal.

Q: *Who are your heroes?*

Andrew: Native American actor Will Sampson. His most notable roles were as "Chief Bromden" in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and as "Taylor the Medicine Man" in the horror film *Poltergeist II*.

Q: *What are your favorite books, movies, TV shows, and paranormal shows?*

Andrew: Favorite book honor would have to go to *The Most Haunted House in England* by Harry Price, with *The Uninvited* by Steven LaChance a close second.

Movies? *Blackhawk Down*, *Casino*, *My Cousin Vinny*. There are really too many to mention. I have a diversified taste in movies.

TV favorites include *24*, *Stargate Universe*, and *V*. Paranormal shows usually annoy me, but if I had to pick I would say *American Paranormal* on NatGeo (for substance) and *Ghost Adventures* (for guilty pleasure).

Q: *Favorite music?*

Andrew: Tool, Perfect Circle (or any Maynard project), Killswitch Engage,

Slipknot, Disturbed, In This Moment, Guns n' Roses, Velvet Revolver, and most '80's metal.

Q: *Other favorites?*

Andrew: Ben and Jerry's Key Lime Pie ice cream . . . just sayin'.

Q: *What are your pet peeves?*

Andrew: Groups with idiotic acro-

nyms that don't make sense, obnoxious use of the papyrus font, and people taking advantage of paranormally afflicted people/families for their own monetary gain.

Oh yeah, and groups/people that don't take the time to learn how to use their equipment properly.

Q: *What do you think happens to us when we die?*

Andrew: I think our life energy ascends to a higher frequency or state of being. Not burdened by the limitations of our physical body, I believe we must learn higher truths of both morality and universal harmony if we intend to successfully navigate the "spirit" world.

Q: *Do you have any words of wisdom that you live by?*

Andrew: "A fool thinks himself to be wise, but a wise man knows himself to be a fool." —William Shakespeare.

Q: *Any exciting plans for the future?*

Andrew: I will be investigating Waverly Hills Sanatorium with a group from *Paranormal Underground* in August. I can't wait. ■

2012: THE PARANORMAL COOKBOOK

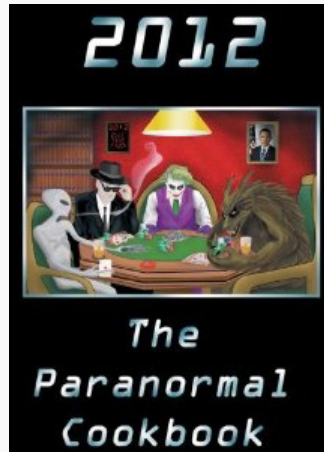
BOOK WRITTEN BY SHAUN BELEKUROV

REVIEW BY KAREN FRAZIER

What do 2012, creepy clowns, werewolves, synchronicity, cryptids, the Joker, and Men in Black have in common? According to Shaun Belekurov, maybe more than we could ever imagine.

In the book *2012: The Paranormal Cookbook*, Belekurov takes the reader on an extremely well-researched journey through the world of the odd and often unexplainable in pursuit of his central goal – taking another look at the nature of reality. The result is extremely informative, often creepy, and always interesting.

Belekurov, who is a paranormal investigator, takes an in-depth look at a number of phenomena associated with folklore, explores clusters of paranormal activity in unlikely locations, and shares his theory



about why it is that so many of these things may just actually be manifesting in “the real world” and how it all relates to current cultural fears about the year 2012.

Belekurov’s central thesis is well thought out. Clearly this is something he’s been chewing on for quite

a while. Some of the phenomena Belekurov explores in support of his overarching theories, include:

- The Mothman Prophecies
- Poltergeist activity
- Cattle mutilations
- The Jersey Devil
- Creepy clowns (*shudder* – a personal fear of mine)
- Movie curses
- Black-eyed children

Could it be that all of these phenomena, and more, are somehow linked to where we are headed as a society – and ultimately as a species? And is 2012 really the end?

Read *2012 The Paranormal Cookbook*. Whether or not you agree with Belekurov’s theories, you’ll walk away more informed – and definitely just a little more creeped out. ■

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Thursdays @ 9-11 p.m. ET

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Paranormal Underground's 3rd Annual Short Story Contest

Paranormal Underground magazine is holding its 3rd Annual Short Story Contest. If you are a writer of fiction, love to write about the paranormal, and would like to see your story published in one of our upcoming issues, then this contest is for you!



The contest is open to members AND nonmembers of www.paranormalunderground.net. Fiction themes may include paranormal, sci-fi, horror, fantasy, and spiritual. Contest rules include:

- Stories due by August 15, 2010.
- Stories must be a minimum of 1,000 words and a maximum of 3,000 words (submissions under 1,000 words and over 3,000 words will not be considered eligible for the contest).
- All submitted works must not have been previously published.
- If you are submitting artwork and/or photos to accompany your fiction, please site the source of the artwork/photos.
- Submit to editor@paranormalunderground.net.

The first-place winner will be published in our October issue. We will be awarding prizes for 1st through 5th place as follows:

- **First Place:** Publication in *Paranormal Underground Magazine*; a Zoom H2 Handy Recorder; and the option to take part in an upcoming "Paranormal Underground Radio" show.
- **Second Place:** Choice of shirt from Paranormal Underground's Gear Store and possible publication in *Paranormal Underground Magazine*.
- **Third Place:** Any book listed in Paranormal Underground's Bookstore (valued at \$25 or less) and possible publication in *Paranormal Underground Magazine*.
- **Fourth & Fifth Places:** Paranormal Underground bumper sticker and possible publication in *Paranormal Underground* magazine.

Our judges will include *Paranormal Underground* Publisher Chad Wilson; *Paranormal Underground* Managing Editor Karen Frazier; paranormal fantasy author Michelle M. Pillow; and paranormal investigator and police officer Andrew Selfridge. Judging criteria includes:

- Story originality
- Paranormal theme creativity
- Text fluidity

Submissions will be compiled and sent to the judges by the editor-in-chief, and all judges will not know who wrote each submission until after judging is completed and scores are tabulated by the editor-in-chief. Winners will be announced based on a ranking system, which will be compiled from first to last place.

When e-mailing your submission to the editor, also include your name, story title, e-mail address, word count, and illustrations/photos, if any. Please spell-check your entries and ensure that they are print-ready. We reserve the right to edit all fiction published in the magazine, but will obtain each author's approval prior to publication.

If you have any questions regarding the contest, please e-mail editor@paranormalunderground.net. Last year we had a great response, and we hope to see even more writers join us in our 3rd Annual Short Story Contest.

