

# ACRIMONY

June 2004

\$3.00



## *The Sedona Vortexes*



*Luke of Carnivean*

### *Also in this Issue:*

*Dance Your Way To The Heavens*

*Carnivean*

*Van Helsing*

*And Much Much More!*

Reporting on the Alternative, Gothic, and Paranormal Scenes

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# Acrimony

June 2004 - Volume 2 - Issue 10

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## CONTENTS

TO THE EDITOR	3
THE SEDONA VORTEXES	4
DANCE YOUR WAY TO THE HEAVENS	13
IF THE AIRLINES SOLD PAINT	15
CARNIVEAN	16
VAN HELSING	18
I LOVE TO HATE	24
ILLUSIONS	27
CALENDAR	34
ASK JENNY!	39
HOROSCOPES	42
GOTHIC CROSSWORD	46
BLOOD AND WATER	47



# To the Editor...

When is Acrimony going to be published in bookstores?

Rhonda

**We are working to get Acrimony into more physical locations. Although it is unlikely we will be carried in many bookstores, you may soon see us start popping up in local occult and paranormal stores. If you want to help out our distribution effort, or are a store owner and want to carry Acrimony, email the editor.**

I'm glad I found your website. Every once in a while you're surfing the 'net and you actually find something worthwhile! Thanks for putting this together :)

Jamie Jones

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# The Sedona Vortexes



by **Dan Shaurette**  
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*"Navigation is bedeviled by the fact that the earth's magnetic field is riddled with local deviations and irregularities. These faults have been very carefully plotted and the most persistent of them have become quite notorious. One of these lies off the Bahama Islands (the Bermuda Triangle), another in the English county of Sussex, and a third near Prescott in Arizona."*

From **THE ROMEO ERROR: A Matter of Life and Death** (1974), by Lyall Watson



*Sedona, Arizona*

Maybe I'm biased, being that I was born and raised in Phoenix, but I believe there is no state more amazing than Arizona. Virtually every type of climate and geology can be found here. Hot, punishing deserts and cool, mountain pine forests. Wide open grassy valleys, to tall mountain ranges. You can snow ski in the winter, water ski in the summer, or play golf, swim, hike, hunt, camp, or fish during the rest of the year. While people joke about "oceanfront property" in Arizona, we actually enjoy more coastline than any other state because of our many rivers and lakes, all of which are visited year-round. Houseboat vacationers on Lake Powell have over 2,000 miles of coastline alone to explore.

Madonna may assert that "everybody comes to Hollywood," but I tend to believe that more actually come to visit, and stay here to live, than any other state, for every reason from climate to health reasons. We have bustling metropolises, welcoming suburbs, and sequestered rural towns. With the possible exception of Florida, more people retire here for at least half of the year. We lovingly refer to these folks as "snowbirds". Phoenix and Scottsdale are famously known as "the valley of healing", not only because of the drier, warmer weather, but also because of our famous medical

facilities, such as the Mayo Clinic. While we are also the youngest state in the Union, barely 92 years young, we have an almost infamous history, thanks to the tales of the Wild West that still haunt towns like Tombstone.

But moreover, I don't think any other state has the natural beauty that is found here. We are of course the home of the Grand Canyon. But lest we forget, we are proud to claim the Painted Desert, Petrified Forest, the Mogollon Rim, San Francisco Peaks, Kartchner Caverns, and Superstition Mountains, just to name a few! But no list of awe-inspiring places in Arizona would be complete without mentioning Sedona.

I visit Sedona as often as I can. I have family that lives in nearby Prescott, and I used to make trips that would follow Highway 89A from Prescott through Jerome and into Sedona, and then back to Phoenix via I-17. I hiked there and in the Verde Valley to the south when I was about 10 years old. I have seen the leaves change color in Oak Creek Canyon and enjoyed the natural "water slide" of Slide Rock. I have respectfully visited the ancient Sinagua Indian ruins nearby. A mandatory stop these days for me is Tlaquepaque (pronounced Tala-ka-pa-kee), a small artisan

marketplace named and themed after a Mexican village; more than just a great place to see and buy beautiful works of art, I always feel drawn to the chapel at the center. (*It's a secret desire of mine to perform a wedding ceremony there.*)

People around the world find themselves drawn to Sedona. When most people envision Arizona, they immediately either think of some Western they watched, or joke about it being a "dry heat" and getting lost among dunes and cacti. Most people discover Sedona when they come across a postcard or photograph which can only contain one of many amazing sites. When they hear about Sedona's majestic red-rock mountains, spires, and canyons they demand to see it for themselves. For some, however, Sedona attracts people seeking a mystical or spiritual experience.

Sedona and the surrounding red rock country is considered to be a sacred place by the Yavapai Native Americans that still live in the area. One origin story of the Yavapai told by Mike Harrison and John Williams can be found in the 1978 book, ***The Yavapai of Fort McDowell*** by Sigrid Khera.

*"We come out at Sedona, the middle of the world. This is our home... We call Sedona **Wipuk**. We call it after the rocks in the mountains there. Some of my people, they call themselves **Wipukpa**. That's the ones who live up there around Sedona. All Yavapai come from Sedona. But in time they spread out."*

Boynton Canyon, which is about five miles outside of town, is the sacred home of the Yavapai "Great Mother," their creative force. The hiking trails

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leading to the canyon are dotted with petroglyphs and ancient ruins. Nestled in the canyon these days, however, is the new Enchantment Resort.

A place of such natural beauty and native sacred significance is bound to lift your spirits. Some folks maintain there is a supernatural component to this inspiration. After 1987 when new age believers in Sedona participated in the Harmonic Convergence, the town seemed to be reborn. Psychics, holistic healers, and folks from all facets of the movement flocked to Sedona and discovered special areas of subtle energy fluctuations that have become known as Psychic Energy Vortexes, or simply *vortexes*.

Technically speaking, a vortex is the funnel shape created by the motion of spiraling energy through a medium, like a whirlpool. Vortices occur in nature as tornadoes, twisters, and other weather systems. Galaxies also take on the shape of a vortex.

Trying to describe the Sedona Vortexes with technical terms gets people in hot water, however. To be technical, there are no natural physical energy patterns that can be detected by scientific equipment, to the delight of the skeptics.

But even the skeptics who have visited the areas of the Vortexes cannot explain their own experiences. Like many spiritual and paranormal experiences, visits to the Vortexes require a certain amount of faith and open-mindedness.

In doing my own research into the phenomena, I find that the reason most people use technical terms to describe the phenomena is to compare it to something known in nature. Simply because a phenomena eludes our primary senses does not mean it does not act upon them.

As such, they adopted the term *Vortex*, and the lay plural *Vortexes* (versus the technical *vortices*), because they seem to be localized points of energy disturbances that radiate out from a center; strong at the core and weaker at the fringes.

The spiraling nature of the Vortexes is implied, but some point to a curious natural feature as evidence. Throughout the area, there are many groups of Juniper trees. In some spots near the Vortexes there are trees that are twisted and warped. There is no natural explanation for the random yet localized twisted Junipers.

Another common misconception about the Vortex

energy is that it is electromagnetic. Again, there is no evidence of EMF fluctuations in the area, nevertheless some claim that the iron oxide in the rock formations, which give them their red color, act to not only alter the magnetic fields in the area, but actually channel them.

Again, this is a case of misunderstanding the fact that the locals wanted to describe things in a technical manner for clarity's sake. They suggest that some Vortexes have an "electric" quality, or a male/masculine component to the surges. Others have a "magnetic" or female/feminine quality to them. Those that are harmoniously balanced are said to be "electro-magnetic", being a combination of the two. They try to avoid using the terms "positive", "negative", and "neutral" which have electric terminology relationships, but too often people equate these to mean "good", "bad", and "indifferent".

Thanks to the recent American fascination with Feng Shui and Chinese Geomancy, the popular terms of "yin" and "yang" have also been adopted. Personally, I actually prefer these terms, because a) they are not techno-babble that can mislead and imply scientific explanation, and b) they provide us with a familiar mystical image, which is represented as a swirling



*Feng shui "bagua" diagram  
with yin-yang at center.*

vortex of black and white emerging with equal strength from a center and swirling around to tapered tails, in perfect balance. A never-ending cycle that is more akin to the relationship of day and night.

In geomantic terms, yin refers to calm valleys and yang represents dramatic peaks. As it happens, Sedona is at a geological midpoint between the lush Verde Valley to the south and the mountains of Flagstaff to the north. This is an excellent balance of yin and yang.

Truly, what the Sedona Vortexes invoke then in people are experiences of spiritual awakening, emotional balance, and holistic healing. People come there seeking enlightenment, or even a powerful place for meditation and reflection. The potential visitor should expect however, because the Vortexes are such a popular

## How to submit your work to Acrimony

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1. E-mail your content to [editor@acrimony.org](mailto:editor@acrimony.org) or mail it to Acrimony, P.O. Box 215, Ontonagon, MI 49953.
2. Include an email or written letter stating that you own all of the rights to the content and grant Acrimony the right to publish the work.
3. Payment for work published is handled through PayPal.com. Include in your correspondence your PayPal account name. If you do not have a PayPal account, you can sign up for free at <http://ad2.acrimony.org>

destination, they can be busy or even downright crowded, especially when the tours are visiting.

While on the subject, of course there are dozens of tours available. These vary from hiking groups, to Jeep Tours to more remote locations, to psychic healing tours. As a friendly word of warning, I won't tell you who to seek out to explore the Vortexes – but the native *shamen* neither give tours nor do they "train" the locals. *Caveat emptor*.

If you choose to bike and/or hike alone or with friends, there are many trails all over the area, and the ones leading to the Vortex sites are very well known. Many are easy enough even for novice hikers. Maps and books are available in various stores in town.

The book I recommend for those seeking to hike in and around Sedona, whether to hunt for the supernatural power of the Vortexes, or the awesome natural beauty of red rock country is ***SEDONA HIKES: 135 Day Hikes & 5 Vortex Sites Around Sedona, Arizona*** by Richard & Sherry Mangum. (ISBN 1-89151-703-1 \$15.95)

Probably the most difficult aspect of the Vortex phenomenon is determining not only where they are, but how many there are. This is not only due to the experiences of visitors who may or may not notice anything different about them, but may be due to the very nature of the ebb and flow of the energies. It is quite possible they are not even static in their locations.

You may find rocks  
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placed in large circles with a cross running through them. These are known as "Medicine Wheels", a symbol that gets its name from Native American traditions. Most hikers who have experienced a strong Vortex have made these giant markers to help their fellow seekers. However, as it is against the U.S. Forest Service rules to make these (disturbing the natural landscape), they are sometimes removed. Instead, it is best to trust your trail maps and your own senses. May you find what you are seeking, and enjoy what you discover.

There are four well-known, commonly agreed upon Vortex sites: Bell Rock, Airport Mesa, Courthouse Butte (also known as Cathedral Rock), and finally Boynton Canyon. It may not come as a surprise, from my earlier discussion of the Yavapai mythology of the area, that Boynton Canyon is considered to be the most powerful, largest, and most balanced of all four sites.

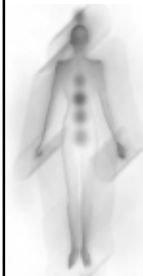
There are many other Vortexes, such as "The Cow Pies" and even the location of the Chapel of The Red Rocks. It is fair to say, I think, that the entire area is a giant power spot and if you find a place during your visit that gives you an unexpected energizing sensation that you just can't dismiss as awe for the beauty around you, or deep appreciation of the

nature, you can claim to have found another Vortex.

All roads may lead to Rome, but in Sedona, they all lead to the intersection of Highway 89A and 179, known affectionately as "The Y". The following directions to the main four Vortex sites all start from "The Y", the center of Sedona.

Highway 89A runs east to west through Sedona. East 89A takes you to Flagstaff. West 89A takes you to Cottonwood and Jerome. Highway 179 forms the southbound branch that meets with Interstate 17, taking you to the Verde Valley and eventually to Phoenix.

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## **Bell Rock** **(Electric / Male / Yang)**

Take 179 south from the Y. Drive 5.1 miles. On your left-hand side is Bell Rock. This is perhaps the most famous, most photographed mountain in Sedona. It is therefore the busiest. Trails are readily available, easy to find, and fairly easy to take.



*Bell Rock*

## **Airport Mesa** **(Electric / Male / Yang)**

Take 89A west from the Y. Drive 1.1 miles and turn left at Airport Road. Take Airport Road .4 of a mile, on the right side is a sign that reads "Rainbow Ray Focus", and there is a pull-off on the right. The trail begins on your left, and a few rough trails lead from there to the hill. Over the hill, you will walk down to the Vortex area.

## **Boynton Canyon** **(Electromagnetic / Balanced)**

Take 89A west from the Y. Drive 3.2 miles and turn right at Dry Creek Road. Take Dry Creek road 2.9 miles, and turn left at the fork in the road, to another fork 1.6 miles later. Turn right at this fork, and continue to a firebreak road. Park here off the road, and walk down the firebreak road. This takes you to Boynton Canyon, home of one of the largest Vortexes. Most people find this area to be the most enchanting. Good name for a resort, eh?

## **Courthouse Butte / Cathedral Rock (Magnetic / Female / Yin)**

Take 179 south from the Y. Drive 7.2 miles, past the Village of Oak Creek, and turn right on Verde Valley School Road. Continue on for 3.2 more miles. Courthouse Rock is the formation to the right, and without a four-wheel drive vehicle, this is as close as you can get. The Vortex energy emanates in a 500-yard radius around Courthouse Rock. Trails are readily available.



*Cathedral Rock*

Since the different Vortex sites have different qualities, they will affect different people in different ways. You do not have to be a psychic to experience their energies. You do not have to perform nor participate in elaborate ceremonies either, though they can be very helpful. The best advice is to visit them with an open mind and no expectations except to enjoy the beauty and splendor of an amazing place on earth. As it is only two hours drive north of Phoenix, and less than an hour from Flagstaff or Prescott, it is a worthwhile stop between all three cities.



*All photographs by CT Thompson*

**Just how special is Sedona? Even the mega-corporate fast food chain McDonald's recognizes its influence. Sedona is the home of the only McDonald's restaurant in the world that does NOT have the trademark "Golden Arches". They were allowed to have "Teal Arches" to match the color scheme of the area.**

# Dance Your Way To the Heavens



by **Pamela Logue**  
pam@acrimony.org

If we sit down and seriously think about life on earth, we may come to the conclusion that the fundamental theory of life is to revolve. In fact we could indeed class it as a condition of life, as all beings comprise of revolving electrons, protons, and neutrons in atoms. Blood moves and revolves within our bodies. We could even go further to say, that the Universe is based on this principal also. The earth and other planets revolve around the sun. The sun rotates and revolves around the Milky Way. The Milky Way revolves with a group of galaxies called the local group. This leads to the eternal question, "From where did the Universe evolve?"

The Whirling Dervish, an Islamic cultural group that

originated in Turkey, believes in existing in harmony with all things in nature. To accomplish this, one must exist in synchronicity with the earth. That is, to rotate as all things in the Universe do. This action testifies to the existence and to the majesty of the Creator.

The semazen is an incredible whirling dance that compliments the nature of the Universe and gives thanks and praise to Allah. In this dance he whirls around in the dance of Dervish, confirming the words of the Qu'ran as he turns.



The revolutions I spoke about earlier are natural and unconscious, but being human we possess an intelligence that distinguishes us from other beings. Thus, the Whirling Dervish consciously participate in the

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shared revolution of other beings. It is not the semazen's goal to lose consciousness as he turns or to fall into a state of ecstasy. If you are going to practice any of the steps of the Whirling Dervish then it is recommended to do so with sobriety! The dance involves turning around and around to testify to the, semazen's Lord. This dance is called the, "Sema Ritual".

The Sema ceremony represents the human being's spiritual journey, an ascent by means of intelligence and love to Perfection. Turning toward the truth, he grows through love, transcends the ego, meets the truth, and arrives at Perfection. Then he returns from this spiritual journey as one who has reached maturity and completion, able to love and serve the whole of creation and all creatures without discriminating in regard to belief, class, or race.

I think this dance could be an incredible learning opportunity for us all, as we try to achieve the humility, peace and love our souls require for perfection, one-ness and inner peace.

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*Photo courtesy of  
<http://www.lilgothling.com>*

# If The Airlines Sold Paint

**Customer:** Hello. How much is your paint?

**Clerk:** Our lowest price is \$12 a gallon, and we have 60 different prices, up to \$200 a gallon.

**Customer:** What's the difference in the paint?

**Clerk:** It's all the same paint.

**Customer:** Then I'd like some \$12 paint. And I want to paint tomorrow.

**Clerk:** Sir, the paint for tomorrow is \$200.

**Customer:** How do I get the \$12 paint?

**Clerk:** You buy the paint now, but agree not to paint for 3 weeks. You must paint over a Saturday night, and the paint cannot be returned for a refund.

**Customer:** You've got to be kidding!

**Clerk:** Oh, the price per gallon just went to \$16.

**Customer:** The price went up as we were talking?

**Clerk:** Yes sir. We change the prices and rules hundreds of time per day. So I suggest your purchase your paint as soon as possible. How many gallons do you want?

**Customer:** 5 gallons. Make that 6, so I'll have enough.

**Clerk:** Well, if you buy our \$16 paint and don't use it, there are penalties and possible confiscation of paint you have already bought.

**Customer:** Forget it! I'll buy what I need somewhere else!

**Clerk:** I don't think so, sir. You can buy paint for your bathroom and bedroom's from someone else, but you can only buy paint for your connecting hall from us. That'll be \$300 a gallon.

**Customer:** You're insane!

**Clerk:** Thanks for painting with us, sir.

*From the Internet*

# Carnivean

## *Philadelphian Death Metal*

by **Tom Scott**

necromancer@acrimony.org  
<http://www.UndeadRadio.com>

The forefront of the Philadelphia Death Metal scene sounds like a freak experiment when someone tried to splice Bleeding Through and Slayer, and whose members look like the type of guy who would be knocking you down in a mosh pit. With powerful guitar riffs, heavy bass lines, some serious hardcore drumming and a voice who you'd swear was Lucifer himself at times, Carnivean indeed leads the Philadelphia Death Metal scene.

These guys are serious about hardcore metal. The band itself is new to the scene, 94 WYSP just started playing their songs on January 28th. However, its members are far from new to the local music scene in Philadelphia.

The band started in the late 1990's, when fate brought four men from the punk, speed metal, death metal and classical music scenes together to create Carnivean, a symphony of dark, hardcore, goodness. As their website states, "Using crafty time changes, song structures, and incorporating eerie melodies with crushing brutality, Carnivean hopes to lay



sonic waste to the musical underground. YOUR EARS WILL BLEED!!" I couldn't put it into any better words than that. This union of darkness that Carnivean has created is currently taking the Philadelphia area by storm! Their debut CD, In Todes Banden, is available now on their website, <http://www.carnivean.com>.



Check these guys out and more local artists featured in Acrimony Magazine on:

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# Van Helsing



Universal Studios Production  
[www.VanHelsing.net](http://www.VanHelsing.net)

Rated PG-13 for "Non-stop creature action violence and frightening images, and for sensuality."

Running time: 145 minutes



3 out of 5 Full Moons



by **Dan Shaurette**  
[Daniel@acrimony.org](mailto:Daniel@acrimony.org)  
<http://lurk.us>

This movie was hard to review, quite simply because it has everything I love to hate about Hollywood. I suppose I shall begin with my list of hated elements and then end with the better parts. Because, I really did like the movie, even though I feel guilty saying so.

First and foremost, it violates one of my greatest vampire movie tenets: Thou shalt not use the name of Dracula in *vein... ahem, vain. Sorry.* Dracula is a sacred thing as far as I'm concerned. I cringe whenever I find a new interpretation of the legendary Romanian count. Few movies have done Stoker's novel justice. Most tales with the Dracula name abuse it. This movie is one of those. The first time I saw a poster for Van Helsing, I shouted "blasphemy!"

It's no surprise this movie pits Van Helsing against Dracula. You see one name you naturally expect the other. Sadly, neither character resembles their namesakes. The movie is set in 1889 and spends most of the time in Transylvania, but begins in Paris and moves to Rome before getting to the inevitable Eastern European destination.

Van Helsing (we do not even learn his first name) is more of a Victorian bounty hunter, reminiscent of a Dirty Harry brute force hero. A mysterious man, dressed in black leather, in need of a shave, that sadly has no recollection of his past. This makes him useful to a secret Vatican agency that has fought against the scourge of evil monsters for centuries.

The second offense this movie has committed is another big one I call "The Original Sin", i.e., there are no more original ideas. This movie borrowed directly from "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen", "Underworld", and even "X-Men". But worse than just borrowing their ideas, they actually borrowed their cast!

From "League", they stole the idea of getting Victorian age fictional characters together for a great adventure. Two of my favorites from that movie were Dr. Jekyll/Mr. Hyde and Mina Harker. As it happens, Mr. Hyde is the first of the monsters Van Helsing tracks down. Mina may not be in this movie, but her sire is, the infamous Count Dracula himself. From the casting couch, Richard Roxburgh, who played "M" in "League", plays the role of Dracula. I'd also like to point out that he played the Duke in "Moulin Rouge", which is a favorite movie of mine for it's rich and extravagant settings and

costumes – and again this seemed to have been an influence for this movie.

From "Underworld" they borrowed they idea that werewolves and vampires are deadly to each other. From the cast, they borrowed the beautiful Kate Beckinsale, but instead of the raven-haired vampiress heroine Selene, in this movie she is a raven-haired gypsy heroine, last of her family, who is sworn to destroy Dracula. Great costume work for her, but maybe I'm just a sucker for corsets and thick gypsy accents.

In the lead role as Van Helsing is the rugged Hugh Jackman, who fit the role of Wolverine like a tight yellow glove in "X-Men". Besides being, in my opinion, the true hero of the X-Men comic/movie series, he has certain famous traits. Besides the Adamantine claws and healing powers, Wolverine is cursed with not remembering his past and he's a mutant shunned by humanity. As Van Helsing, he begins the movie without his memories, but while ironically working to kill the non-human monsters, he later comes to understand how they feel.

The third strike in my opinion is the fact that it is a typical action/horror movie that pits the Catholic heroes against the stereotypical fiends of darkness. I guess the Holy Church

needs all the propaganda it can get right now. This is merely a personal gripe of mine. I'd thought we'd gotten past the Good vs. Evil stereotypes. The three movies I believe they borrowed from all exhibited this, but perhaps this is the backlash that is to be expected.

This movie had potential and lost it, gained it back, and then lost it again. Yet amazingly, by the time the movie was over, I still enjoyed it. First of all, I am a big fan of the classic Universal horror movies, especially Bela Lugosi's famous Dracula. Lugosi's real accent, suave yet mysterious demeanor, and maddening stare all give us our primary image of Count Dracula. Many other imitators have come and gone, but

none will be the same. The same can be said for the Wolfman and Frankenstein, though one looks back at them more with humor. But as the holy trinity of Hollywood's monsters, they've left their mark on our culture.

This is exactly what makes the story of Van Helsing interesting. As the movie opens, it shifts to black and white and pays proper homage to their lineage. Universal executives no doubt have many marketing plans in the works for this, but I digress. As it begins we find Dr. Frankenstein at the moment when he finally reanimates his creation. But suddenly Count Dracula appears and it seems that the big bad vampire has plans for

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Frankenstein's monster. But when the angry villagers disrupt things, and Dracula kills the good doctor, the monster takes off with his creator's body and runs away, to his own fiery demise.

I found this to be an interesting twist, connecting the two stories. I also found it refreshing that Dracula was not the usual Lugosi-clone I've come to expect. The saving grace of this entire movie was Richard Roxburgh's amazing portrayal of the infamous vampire. He had the mannerisms of the best Draculas I've seen and none of the typical quirks of the worst. He was maniacal and evil, sure, but you've got to admire that when it is played right.

Another tradition for this movie was Dracula's three brides. This was another place where this movie did surprise me, as they were not depicted as the usual insatiable seductresses of past Drac-flicks. Each was unique and had their own shining moments even if they did start off as cackling fiends.

The same cannot be said for Hugh Jackman, whose Van Helsing is anything but the typical wise and learned Dr. Abraham Van Helsing we have come to expect. This was an action hero, a good one, but at best that's all he is. There's

melodrama and a plot which helps to mold the character, but he never succeeds in shedding the image.

What this movie does do best is the crux of the story – the mysterious reason why Dracula needed Dr. Frankenstein's help. I won't spoil it for you, but it ties in the werewolves also in a neat way. I'll say this, they buried one original idea smack dab in the middle of all of the rest of the borrowed ideas, special effects and CGI. Ah yes, the graphics. This movie is full of it and it sticks out like a sore thumb. It almost depends too heavily on it, but frankly any movie which has characters morphing from one thing to another usually will. But this was thick with it, unlike "Underworld" for example where when it was done, it was seamless and natural.

There was one character who should have had a larger role in the movie, and was sadly relegated to the sidekick/exposition character. Carl the Friar, played by David Wenham, had a few great lines, and served his purpose well as sidekick. He's also the scientist character in this movie – which ironically should have been Dr. Van Helsing's place. He works for the same Vatican order as Van Helsing, but is essentially the gadget and background information provider. He lets Van

Helsing know what he'll need when he faces Dracula: garlic, crosses, holy water, and a kick-ass automatic crossbow. Oh yeah, and this ball he doesn't know if it might be handy... sort of a portable yet powerful light source, bright as sunlight, hmmm.

Van Helsing realizes he may be useful traveling with him, which is a good move. The Friar's best line in the movie is after the light-device is used to dispatch a large number of vamps at once (like the UV mine in Blade 2), Van Helsing remarks, "You're a genius!" To which Carl replies, "Yes, a genius with access to volatile chemicals." Did I admire this character the most because he essentially WAS the Van Helsing character placed second fiddle or lower to the tragic action hero? Maybe, or maybe because he got all the cute, funny lines and set-ups, like the fact that he wasn't a monk so he could cuss and more.

Visually, this movie was amazing. Truly a sweeping action adventure and horror movie that most people will enjoy. But goth nitpickers be warned, the stereotypes are many, and the legends of Van Helsing and Dracula are twisted in new, heretical ways. This movie would have been better if it didn't call its evil vampire (Count Vladislaus) Dracula, nor name the action hero Van Helsing.

But then, they wouldn't be able to tie in Frankenstein and the werewolves to give Universal Studios theme parks a new ride.

I gave it three moons because it is a kick-ass action movie, with good scares, good acting, and a decent soundtrack (good gothic mood music), and one great original idea. It lost two points for lack of originality in most tragic ways and dependence on CGI. Save your money for the next big summer release and catch this one a little later. If you do go to see it, stay to enjoy all of the end credits. These should have been at the beginning, they were so good.



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# I Love to Hate

I hate the dusk, I hate the Sun,  
I hate the day that's just begun,  
I hate the way I'm not the one,  
I want to be, I hate the dawn...

I hate to be a mask of me,  
I hate myself now forcibly,  
I hate to hate the way I am,  
I hate it as much as I can...

I hate the world, I really do,  
Tomorrow I'll be hating you,  
Hate you in my mind, I do,  
Hate, until you hate me too!

So hate me deeply, dear friend,  
'Cos tomorrow I'll be hating you,  
Hate me, 'cos it's so on hand,  
Hate the way I am, please do...

I hate to hate and hate to live,  
I hate to get, I hate to give,  
I hate the way it can deceive,  
Hate this mask that you believe.

I can't be honest, can't be straight,  
I hate that fact now up to date,  
I hate my life, with all the lies,  
I hate it's unending debate...

So hate this mask today my friend,  
And if you can then put an end  
To it and to it's lies,  
That I so humanly defend...

And love the way it finally ends:  
My life in your very hands...  
Love the way I'm slowly gone,  
Consumed by this dusking dawn...

Love the way I am no more,  
Love the way I hate no more,  
All by myself at heaven's door,  
Where only loving ones can soar-

Where my mask is off my face,  
And it's just my true religion,  
Where of hatred there's no trace,  
For only one true reason:

I never really hated you,  
It was just a stormy mood;  
I never really hated too,  
Just secretly took my sooth-

Took my sooth in thinking  
How much I could hate,  
Mislead myself believing  
This could change the debate...



**Marcus Armand Forsythe**  
**Romania, Transylvania**  
**lestat7@freemail.hu**



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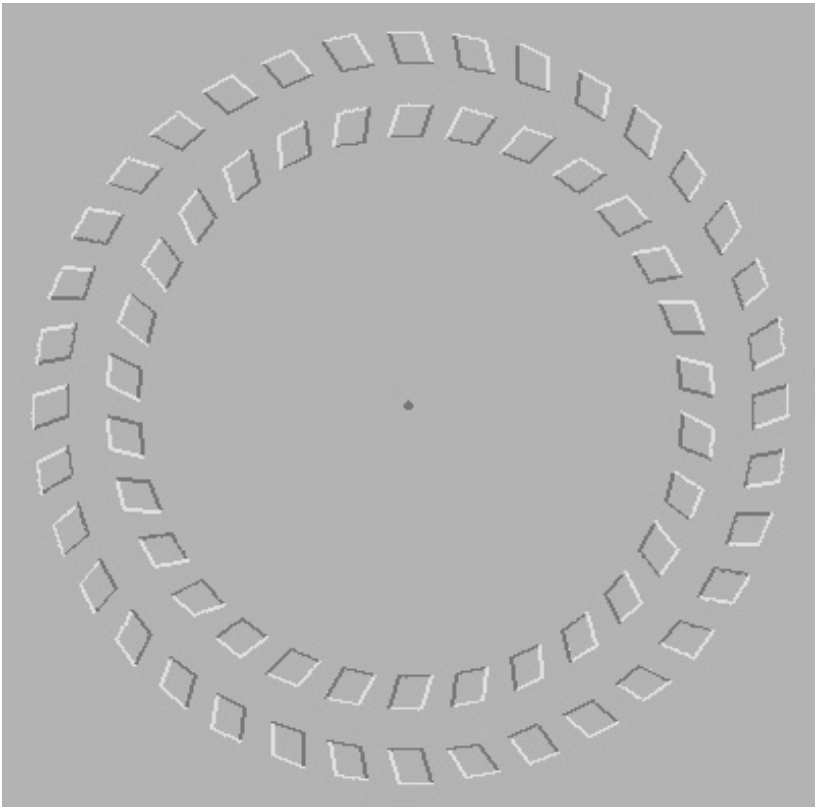


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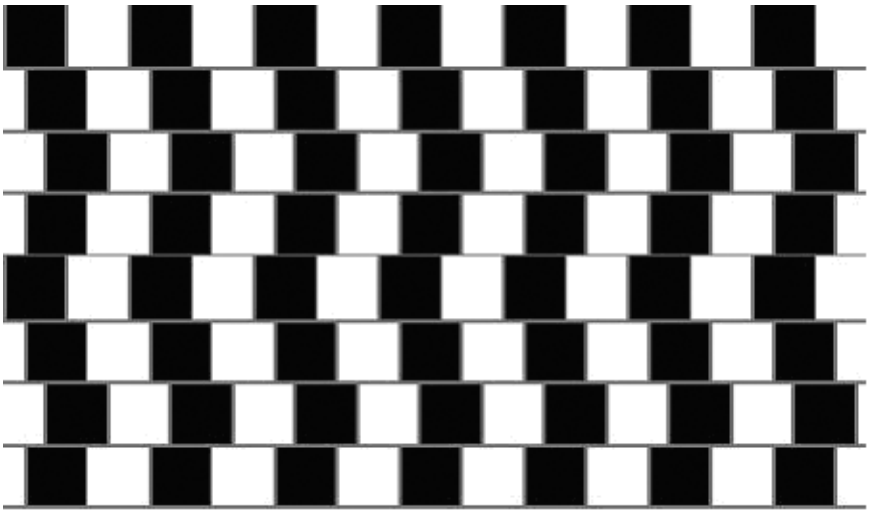
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# Illusions

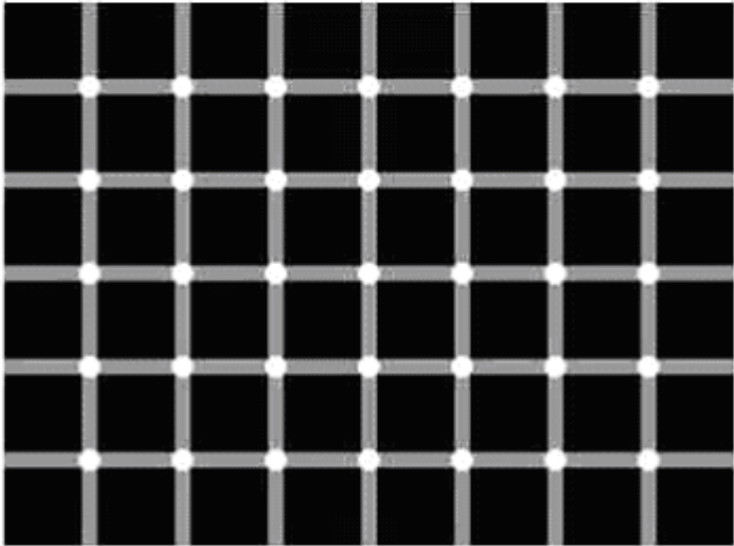
The mind does not always perceive things the way they truly are, but rather the way that we want to see them. Weird but true, have a look at the mind-altering illusions below and watch your eyes as they have a mind of their own!



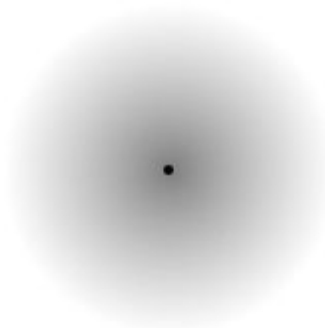
Stare at the grey dot in the center.  
Now move your head forward and backward.  
As your head moves the circles will appear to be spinning.



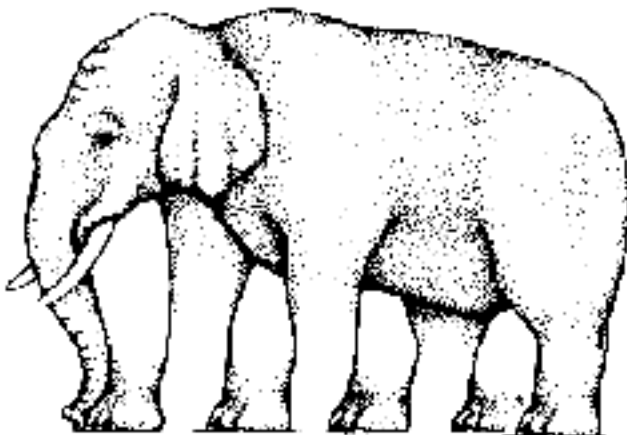
Here you get the impression that all the lines of blocks are crooked, yet they are equally laid out and spaced.



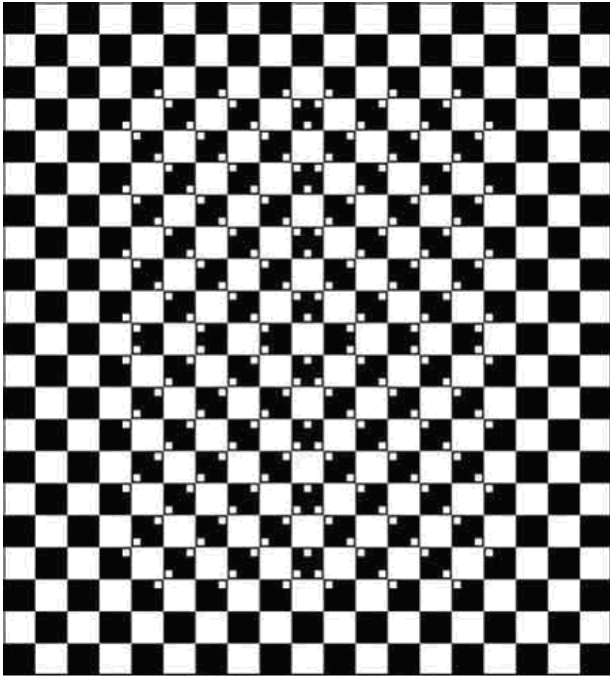
Count the black dots.  
Yes, they move.



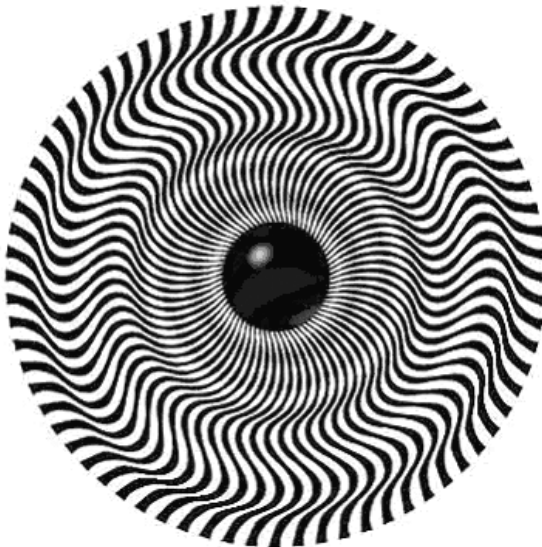
Keep staring at the black dot.  
After a while the grey haze will appear to shrink



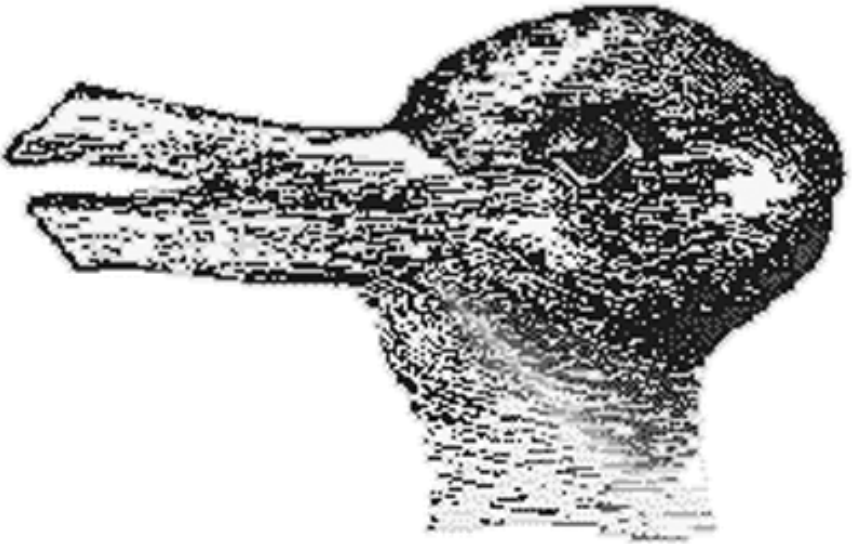
How many legs does this elephant have?



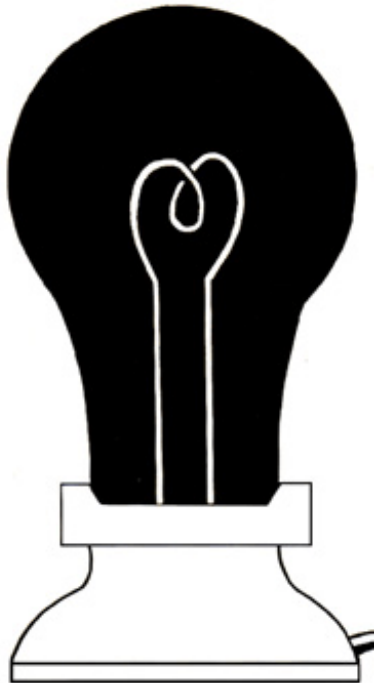
The checkerboard may appear to be caved in, but your eyes are playing tricks on you.



Here is a two dimensional image that gives the illusion of three dimensions.



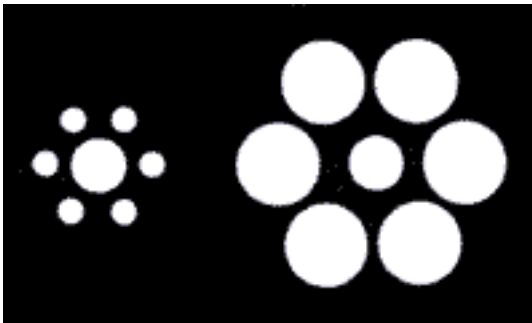
Duck or Rabbit?



Stare at the picture for at least 30 seconds, then look at a blank piece of paper. You should see a glowing light bulb.



A man's face.  
And the word liar.



Is the left center or right center circle bigger?  
They're the same size.



*A collection of items from the Internet*



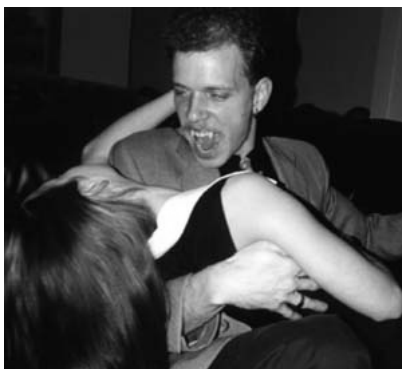
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# Calendar

## **June 1st      Kalends of June, Carna, Syn, Tempestatas, Festival of the Oak Nymph**

Today is the festival of the Roman goddess Carna and the Norse goddess Syn, patroness of doors and locks.

Today is the festival of Tempestatas, the goddess of storms.

The Hamadryads, spirits who dwell in oak trees, are honored on this day in Celtic traditions. If you place an offering before an oak tree on this day, its nymphs might bless you.

## **June 2nd      Mother Earth Day, Ursula Sontheil's Day, Ishtar**

Today is sacred to Mother Earth in her fecund aspect.

Today marks the remembrance of Ursula Sontheil, a seer in Cambridge and the patroness of women who wash clothes.

Today was a festival for Ishtar in Babylonia. Ishtar is the queen of heaven and the mother of all things.

## **June 4th      Socrates, Whitsunday**

Socrates was born today in 470 BCE.

The old observance of Whitsunday took place on this day. Whitsunday is a pagan festival to celebrate fertility, marking the time when winter dies and spring is born.

## **June 5th      Domna, Atlantis Sinks**

Today is sacred to Domns, the Irish goddess of sacred stones and cairns.

In classical legend, Zeus got exceedingly angry on this day in 8498 BCE and sank Atlantis.

## **June 6th      Bendidia**

On this day, the Bendidia was celebrated in Thrace, in honor of the moon goddess Bendis.

## **June 7th      Nones of June, Vesta Aperit**

On this day the sanctuary of the temple of the Vesta in old Rome was opened. During the week that the sanctuary remained open, it could be entered by any married woman of Rome. It was only accessible to the virgin priestesses of Vesta for the rest of the year.

**June 8th      Mens, Lindisfarne Day**

Today is the Roman festival of the goddess Mens, the patroness of conscience. Its equivalent in the Norse calendar is Lindisfarne day.

**June 9th      Vesta, the Celtic Tree Month of Huath ends**

Today is the festival of Vesta, the Roman goddess of fire and of the hearth. Her handmaidens were the Vestal virgins of Rome, who kept the holy fires alight.

**June 10th     The Celtic Tree Month of Duir begins**

Duir is the oak tree, the tree which Druids revere above all others. This is the month that contains the summer's solstice.

**June 11th     Fortuna**

This day was a festival at the temple of Fortuna in old Rome. Fortuna is a goddess of women, fortune and fertility.

**June 12th     Goddess month of Hera ends, Zeus**

The god Zeus was honored informally on this day in ancient Greece by the wearing of oak leaves.

**June 13th     Goddess month of Rosea begins, Athena and Minerva**

Today is the festival of the Greek goddess Athena, known in Rome as Minerva, patroness of the arts and of the wise use of power.

Athena was a daughter of Zeus, who had swallowed his first wife, Metis, fearing that she would bear him a son stronger than he himself was. Prometheus split Zeus' head with an axe and Athena emerged, fully formed, from the wound.

**June 14th     Vidar, Runic Half-Month of Dag Begins, Birth of Muses**

Today is sacred to Vidar, one of the sons of Odin.

The rune Dag symbolizes light, health, prosperity, and the culmination of the year.

This is the birthday of the Muses. Calliope (epic song), Clio (history), Euterpe (lyric song), Thalia (comedy), Melpomene (tragedy), Terpsichore (dancing), Erato (erotic poetry), Polymnia (serious song), Urania (astronomy).

**June 15th     Ides of June, Vestalia**

Today is sacred to the Roman goddess Vesta. It's the women's festival of first fruits, and the day on which the

sanctuary at the temple of Vesta in old Rome was closed. During the week that the sanctuary remained open, it could be entered into by any married woman of Rome. It was only accessible to the virgin priestesses of Vesta for the rest of the year.

**June 16th The Witch's Silver Chalice, Night of the Tear Drop**

Traditionally on this day, covens of witches gather to share a silver chalice of wine in honor of the goddess and the horned god.

On this night in ancient Egypt, the goddess Isis joined in her mourning for her murdered husband, the god Osiris.

**June 17th Ludi Piscatari, Eurydice**

Today is the Roman festival of Ludi Piscatari, sacred to fishermen.

In ancient Greece, Eurydice was honored on this day. Eurydice was a nymph and the wife of Orpheus. She was killed by the bite of a serpent, but Orpheus followed her into the underworld and sang for Persephone. She permitted him to return to the world of the living with Eurydice on the condition that he not glance back into Hades during his journey. Sadly, he did so despite her warning, and Eurydice remained behind.

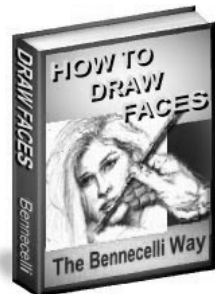
**June 19th The Day of All Heras**

Today was a Greek festival in honor of Hera. Hera is the



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queen of heaven in Greek mythology, and the consort of Zeus.

### **June 20th    Midsummer's Eve, Cerridwen**

This is the eve of the summer's solstice. In Irish tradition, it marks a celebration for the goddess Aine, of Cnoc 'Aine in county Kerry. Aine is a goddess of love and fertility.

Cerridwen is a Welsh goddess of fertility. She is traditionally honored on this day by burning the herb vervain.

### **June 21st    Summer Solstice, Midsummer, Litha, Alban Hefin, Seventh Station of the Year, Pan**

Today is midsummer, the Druidic festival of Alban Hefin, the Anglo-Saxon festival of Litha, and the longest day of the year.

In some pagan traditions, this day marks the end of the reign of the Oak King, and the commencement of the reign of the Holly King, who rules the world for the next six months.

Today is also an observance of Pan, the god of hills, woods, flocks, herdsmen, and hunters. On this day he is said to especially favor forest nymphs.

### **June 23rd    Cu Chulainn**

In Celtic traditions, today is the observance of Cu Chulainn, in honor of the mythical Irish hero. Cu Chulainn is identified with the Green Man.

### **June 24th    Fortuna, Old Midsummer, English Quarter Day**

Today is sacred to the Roman goddess Fortuna, the patroness of luck.

Today is also midsummer day in many older calendars. Tradition has it that one should light bonfires on hilltops today, to celebrate the apex of the year. The magical properties of plants are at their most potent on this day. In some traditions this is the time to gather plants and herbs for potions and spells.

### **June 26th    Shadow of Scartaris, Pilgrimage for Fortuna**

On this day in Icelandic tradition, the tip of the shadow of Mount Scartaris rests upon the secret entrance to the center of the earth. Monsters are said to dwell there.

On this day in Rome, an annual pilgrimage was made to the first temple of Fortuna, the goddess of luck. The temple was founded on this day on the right bank of the Tiber, below Rome.

### **June 27th    Initium Aestatis**

Today is the Roman festival of Aestas, the Roman goddess of summer. Today is also the beginning of summer in the Roman

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calendar. Traditionally, if rain falls today it will be a wet summer.

## **June 28th Runic New Year's Eve, Birth of Hemera**

Today is the close of the runic year, and the final day of the month of Dag. Today signifies completion.

This day marks the birth of the Greek goddess Hermera, the goddess of day.

## **June 29th Runic New Year, Runic Half-Month of Feoh Begins, Petosiris, Baming the Thorn**

Today begins the first month of the runic year, Feoh, sacred to Frey and Freyja, the god of goddess of the earth.

In East Anglia, today is considered the proper day for gathering herbs.

An observance called 'Baming the Thorn' takes place on this day in the English village of Appleton. The branches of a particularly ancient hawthorn tree are adorned with flowers and garlands.

## **June 30th Ceres, Gaea**

Today is sacred to earth goddesses in some traditions, including Ceres and Gaea.

# Ask Jenny!



by **Jenny Slocum**  
lilwhip@acrimony.org

Dear Jenny,

If you came into \$50,000 and had no bills... your house, car, and everything was paid for, would you invest the money, go on a trip, or do something else?

Lucky in Finance

Dear Lucky in Finance,

I would invest half, and spend the rest on shoes.

Dear Jenny,

What is the difference between pride and dignity?

Vocabulary Challenged

Dear Vocabulary Challenged,

Pride is a satisfaction with your achievements, and dignity is the quality of being worthy of esteem/respect for your achievements.

Dear Jenny,

I think there's a ghost in my house. I'll walk into cold spots, and sometimes I'll feel something like a hand on my shoulder. I also feel like someone's watching me. I put 13 new candles out one time and made sure windows were closed, I backed up and when they were still, they moved one after another, like a hand was moving. All in all, I want to know if there's a ghost in my house.

Haunted

Dear Haunted,

You have two options.. Live with it, or move. However, I personally know for a fact, a ghost can move with you. I had one that followed me for several years. Once they latch, it is difficult to get rid of them. They are drawn to us, and who really knows why. I don't believe it's because of our human "light". I think, more than not, there is a reason we will never comprehend. I suggest a priest, or finding someone that will take you serious enough to help you. I would not open myself to a ghost. Period. My experience with this matter went from fool hardy pestering, to outright meanness. A very jealous beast this one was. Just be aware, and go online and research! More than anything, be safe. If you open yourself to belief, follow through with that belief.

Dear Jenny,

How do I know if there is a ghost in my house, and how can I tell if it is dangerous?

Bump in the Night

Dear Bump in the Night,

If there is a ghost in your house, you will more than likely notice, or feel something is not quite right. Usually a spirit will make its presence known. Some ghosts can be pranksters and

move keys. In rarer cases a ghost might "throw" things around the room. Some can be dangerous, causing physical pain. You should be able to sense it's intentions. They can also appear in different forms. And, If you feel at risk, you might just be. I have had several episodes with ghosts. The only time I was ever really freaked, was when I saw an ORB (condensed spirit energy) come right towards me. The sight alone did not terrify me. But the feeling I had, the malice it emulated, was really the most horrible feeling of my life. If you feel in danger, find someone to help exorcise the thing before it is too late. I can never stress this to you or anyone in this situation enough, be safe and research!!

Dear Jenny,

My husband of ten years was once taken by my brains and beauty. Now he barely has a pulse. I've tried all the tricks in my bag to no avail. Is it time to bail?

Wondering

Dear Wondering,

Maybe you need to get a new bag of ticks? Try a new arsenal. Quiet walks, long talks, a vacation away. Then, if still no sizzle, maybe you should have a sit down talk and

discuss the next step together. Just be honest with him. You can't make someone love you, and you would not want them if you could.

Dear Jenny,

Why does your website lack color?

B/W critic

Dear B/W critic,

What? Are you kidding??

We have some of the most colorful personalities on the net! Well, colorful in a tongue-and-cheek sorta way. But if you mean, the actual print... Ask the editor :)



*Jenny's column is run exclusively in Acrimony. Email your question to her at [lilwhip@acrimony.org](mailto:lilwhip@acrimony.org)*

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# Horoscopes

by *Michael Ramses*



**ARIES** (March 21 - April 19): Mars is passing through Cancer and this will have varying effects this month. Your self-confidence levels will be at their peak, and your leadership skills will be better than normal. This will come at the expense of being a team player. You may find difficulty in your career if you are in a position that requires executing the orders of others. You're confident your way is the right way. You'll want to focus on home matters more right now if you can. It may be difficult, as many things may be trying to pull you away.



**TAURUS** (April 20 - May 20): Your ruling planet Venus is in Gemini this month. This can be a hard period for a Taurus. You'll feel like you're being pulled in different directions. Your head will not be where your heart is, and vice versa. On the plus side, you'll be better equipped for analytical decisions this month, which is always a benefit. Whether it's investment choices or purchasing decisions, trust your instincts.



**GEMINI** (May 21 - June 20): There is the possibility of legal affairs early in the month. You'll feel like taking a trip and that might not be a bad idea. So long as you are not running away. Around mid-month you'll feel very focused, as your ruling planet Mercury moves into Taurus. Take advantage of this period and work on overdue projects.



**CANCER** (June 21 - July 22): This month marks massive change for the crab. You are most likely heading in a new direction, and it can be a bit scary. Try to keep in mind, it is always fear that holds us back. When fear is overcome great things can be accomplished. There are great things on your horizon if you overcome your fears and pursue your dreams. Everything will fall into place.



LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22): You have a unique opportunity to show everyone how good you really are at your job. Don't slack off. It's time to shine. People will take notice if you step up to the plate. Become a leader and others will follow. There will be no better time this year to make an ascent up the career ladder.



VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22): Sometimes we need to reflect on our past. We need to realize what has happened and only then is there opportunity for growth. Don't lament your regrets. Past regrets are the indicators of a fully-lived life. Learn from them, and don't repeat your mistakes. But never lament them. Where there was a troubled love life look for improvement. Your career may stagnate for a period. This is okay. It's just not a time for change.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22): What is your heart telling you? Venus spends the month in Gemini and that means duality. For a Libra (where balance is a necessity), this is very dangerous. Be careful when walking lines this month. You'll be tempted to lean one way or the other. Your best bet is to keep both feet firmly on the line. If you lean one way or the other it has the possibility of throwing your entire life out of synch, and that is something you don't need right now.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21): Pluto, your ruling planet, moves so slowly about the Zodiac that sometimes it feels like nothing ever changes. This is of course, not true. You're just in a funk. This is a level period from you and you need to recognize it for what it is. You've been in the same place in your life for a few months now. If you're unhappy, don't despair. Things will not always be like they are now. If you're exuberant, live in the moment. It too won't last forever.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): Take a good look at yourself in the mirror. Do you like who you see? If you do, smile at yourself. It's hard for a Sagittarius to be truly happy with oneself. For the rest of you, realize that others will not give you internal

happiness. You can only achieve that yourself. June is the month to work on your personal happiness. Explore yourself and look for spiritual revelation.



**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19):** The Capricorn can be an excellent leader. Your biggest challenge may be self-discipline. Work on that this month. Your ruling planet Saturn is in Cancer and that will give you strength. Draw upon it and work out things that will improve yourself over the long run. Now is also a good time to look for love if that's what you want.



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18):** June, and summer in general, is a good time this year for Aquarius. Have a good time! You deserve it. Things will just kind of "work out" so why not take advantage? Frolic in a field of daisies or play hooky from work or school and go fishing. It's a good time for you time.



**PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20):** Unresolved emotional traumas may surface this month. You may find this unbearable. Look to family and friends for strength if you need it. Your love life may suffer. Watch what you say. Some things, once done, can never be undone. Take a break from areas of your life that are not imperative. Work will be there next month.



*Michael Ramses has been a horoscope writer for over 12 years. His speciality is personal natal charts. Look for his column right here in Acrimony each month.*

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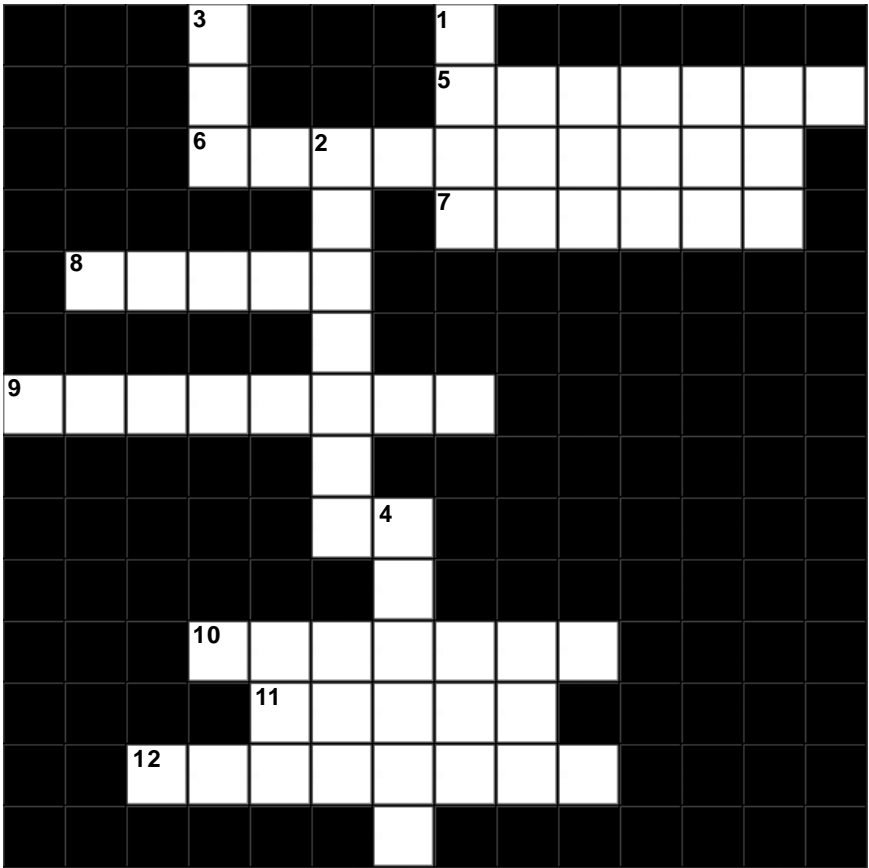
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# Gothic Crossword



## Down

1. Wizard tool
2. Founder of the Jehovah's Witnesses
3. A minor devil that can assume animal form
4. Trojan hero

## Across

5. A Witch's dagger
6. Not usual
7. Fire-breathing winged lizard
8. Disordered
9. The largest of Jupiter's moons
10. Having a sixth sense
11. Pan was one of these
12. Diety worshiped by the Knight's Templar



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