

# ACRIMONY



Reporting on the Alternative, Gothic, and Paranormal Scenes

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## Happy Halloween!

### Dispelling Halloween Myth-conceptions



by **Dan Shaurette**  
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The American holiday of Halloween seems to be under a constant wave of negative attacks. It has a long and interesting history with Christian and Pagan origins. But in this country it barely stands for the original purpose in both religions, which is to honor the dead. Today it seems nothing more than a chance for hyperactive children to dress up in costumes, from the humorous to the horrific, in order to justify their begging of candy from strangers.

In years past, this tradition has raised fears of adulterated candies being distributed with the intention of harming children. Because of this, many state and local authorities have attempted to ban trick-or-treating. In the wake of the September 11th tragedies, there were new fears that contaminants, such as Anthrax, would be used or be the focus of hoaxes. Officials argued that emergency teams were already taxed to their limit, and Halloween pranks and legitimate threats would make an already dangerous situation worse.

So the question is posed, "Should we allow Halloween trick-or-treating?" My answer is a resounding "Yes, but with caution." I mean, we would all be foolish to play into the hands of terrorists and fear-mongers. But to deprive us and our children of having a good time would not only be unfair, it also gives in to their plans of striking fear into our hearts. Perhaps now it is time to change some of our traditions and restore Halloween to its original purpose - to revere the spirits of those who have passed away.

So, what is Halloween all about? If you ask a Christian Fundamentalist, you'll hear that Halloween is derived from All Hallows' Eve and is a day to prepare for All Saints' Day (November 1) and All Souls' Day (November 2). The three days together are known as Hallowtide. "Hallow" is a word that derives from the word "holy" and also "Saint". All Saints' Day was originally celebrated on May 13 (and is still



Continued on page 6

# To the Editor...

Thank you for explaining my gift so scientifically - the ability to see the "Fourth Dimension". Unfortunately, to paraphrase Hollywood, I can see the recently ascended. Your article will give credence to those who question the validity of the sightings.

*L Plucinski*

I'm glad you enjoyed the article, "Multi-Dimensional Existence" (printed in the August 2003 issue). That particular article has gotten quite a response.

Editor

Send your comments to [editor@acrimony.org](mailto:editor@acrimony.org)



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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 18330, Phoenix, AZ 85005.
- 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 and PayPal will give you \$5 just for doing it. To sign up for PayPal go to <http://ad2.acrimony.org>

# Rocky Horror running strong 28 years later



by **CT Thompson**  
ctthompson@acrimony.org

It's been 28 years since *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* first opened at the United Artist Westwood theater in 1975. The ensuing phenomena that was predicted by no one and that baffled everyone caught Hollywood by surprise. A movie that opened as a flop had turned into a cult classic. People started returning to see the movie over and over. Moreover, they were starting to dress up like the characters in the film and began acting out the scenes in front of the screen.



**Matt Chandler who plays Dr. Frank-N-Furter for  
*Broadway Bound and Gagged***



***Broadway Bound and Gagged's Pre-Show***

The Rocky Horror Picture Show had a great run in the late 70's and throughout the 80's. Today, it is the longest running cinematic film of all time. In the 1990's however audience numbers began a long steady decline, and screenings of the film in many towns throughout the United States ceased.

Today Rocky Horror persists in select markets throughout the country. One such market that has seen marked success is Phoenix, Arizona. They have had their trials and tribulations but they push on week after week, often seeing attendances in excess of 200 people.

"Ten years ago Rocky was still pushing the momentum of the seventies and eighties. It can no longer coast, Rocky now has to be run as a business. But it has to be run as a business by the freaks who have a business sense, which I think some of us kind of have," says Matt Yenkala, producer of the Rocky troupe *Broadway Bound and Gagged* in Phoenix, Arizona.

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# The Pendulum



by **CT Thompson**  
ctthompson@acrimony.org

The pendulum is a tool used for divination.

Several theories exist as to how the pendulum works. Some say it is a way of direct communication with one's sub-conscious mind. Others proclaim it is a way to communicate with spirits from other realms. Other theories suggest that a pendulum reacts to certain energy fields in various environments.



## History

The pendulum has been used throughout history by the Hebrews, Egyptians, Chinese, Romans, Greeks, Druids, Hindus, Peruvians, and the American Indians.

## Time Line

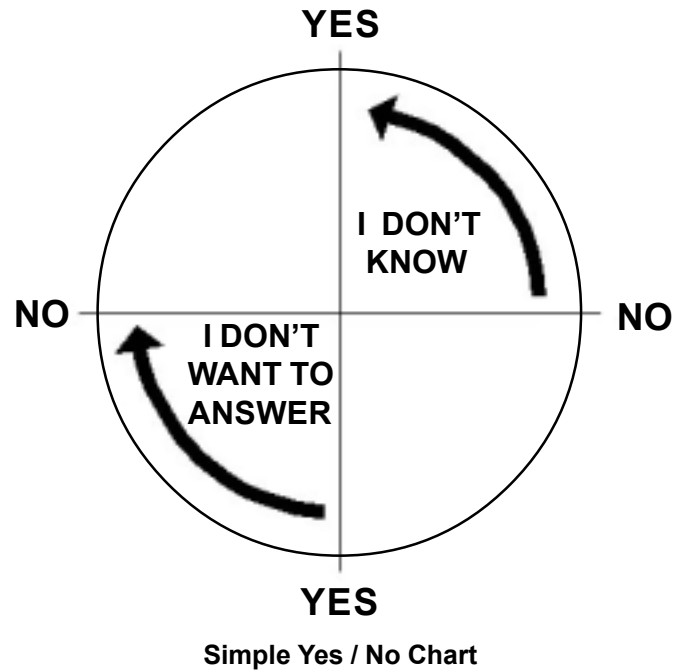
The pendulum is one of the oldest occult tools. Its use can be traced to 8000 BC.

## Construction

Pendulums vary greatly in shape and size. A simple pendulum is a chain 10 to 12 inches with a weight at the base. A washer tied to a string would suffice. The weight may be made out of anything - crystal, wood, or metal. When held in the Querent's hand, the pendulum should hang 1 to 1 1/2 inches above the "Chart."

## Method

The pendulum is held lightly by the first and second fingers, and the thumb. The elbow is brought to rest on a surface such as a table, and the wrist bent.



The Querent either asks a loud or thinks a question. The pendulum will then either move in a circular motion, or in a straight line, back and forth. A chart is used to determine the response.



## Charts

There are hundreds of different charts for use with the pendulum. The Querent usually makes his or her own variations.

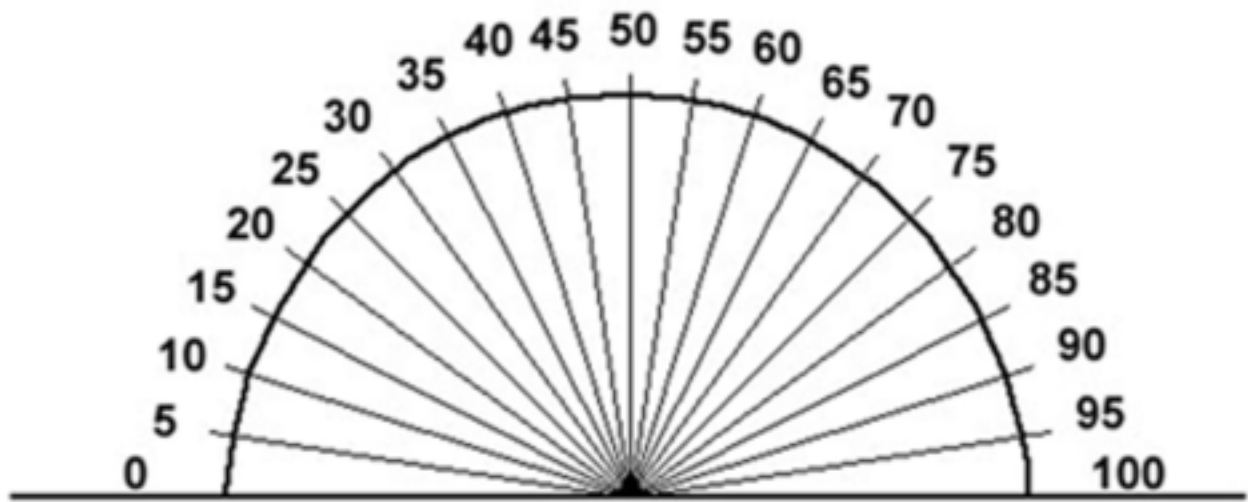
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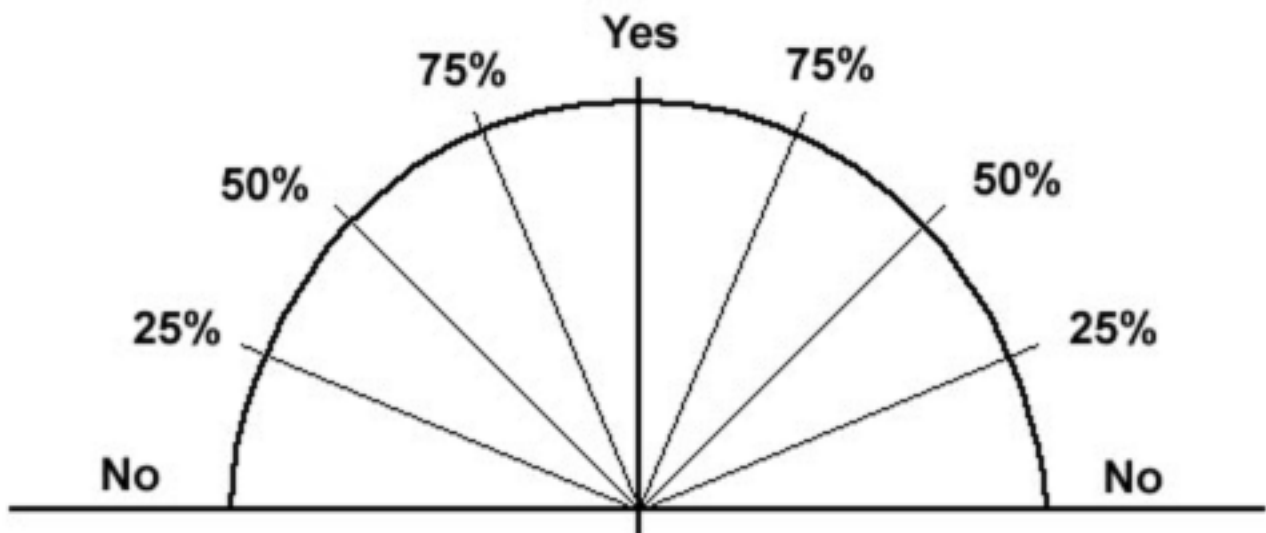
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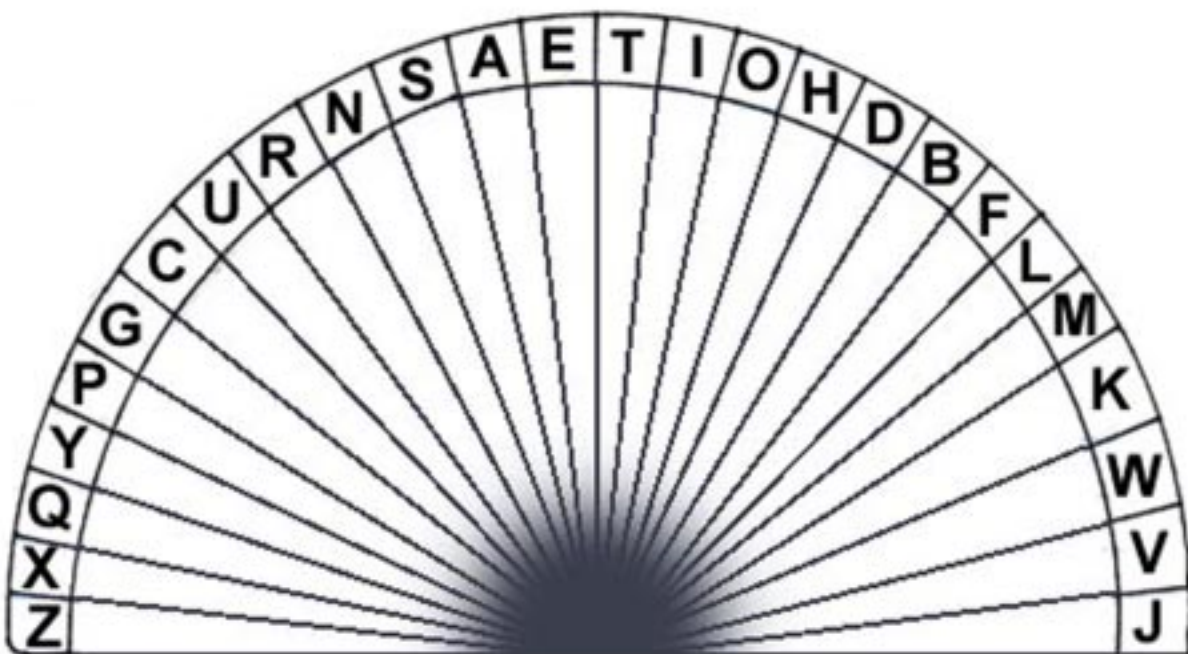
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Numeric Chart



Percentage Yes / No Chart



Alphabetic Semi-Circle Chart



## Dispelling Halloween Myth-conceptions

*Continued from Cover*

celebrated by Eastern Orthodox on that day) and was intended to be a day to honor all of those Saints that did not have a day of their own. In 835 CE, Pope Gregory moved the day to November 1. Around 1000 CE, the Church created All Souls' Day on November 2. They will also probably strenuously deny that Pope Gregory's move had anything to do with trying to compete with the Pagan festival of Samhain.

If you ask a Pagan (or any historian or theologian) they will suggest that indeed the Church wanted to find a way to get the Heathens into their fold, or encourage their new followers to not practice the old traditions. The Church recognized the need to revere the dead. They knew the peasants celebrated October 31 as a day to commune with the dead. So, the day to honor the Saints was moved to November 1 and the Church encouraged the practice, but introduced their doctrines instead.

To the Celtic Druids of what is now called the United Kingdom, and their clans in Western Europe and parts of Turkey, November 1 was the start of the new year. They followed the seasons and the cycles of life and observed that this was the time of the Harvest. Autumn is the time when the leaves turn and fall, plants wither, crops are harvested and finished, and preparations for winter begin. They divided the year at this point because it signaled the time that the reign of the Sun was ending.

As it was the end of their year, it was also when they believed that the veil between the world of the living and the dead was thinnest. Ceremonies of bonfires would run for three days (October 31 to November 2) in which the Druids believed they could not only communicate with the dead, but that the living could travel to the other side, and the spirits could travel to our side. This festival was known as Samhain, which is pronounced "Sow-en". (The Gaelic "mh" sounds like our English "w".)

Many traditions that we find during Halloween come from Ireland and were brought here by early Irish immigrants. There is an old Irish folk tale about a man named Stingy Jack who was quite a trickster. Apparently, one day the Devil came to visit old Jack, but Jack knew how to get rid of him. Jack tricked the Devil into climbing into an apple tree and then carved a cross into the trunk. The Devil was trapped there and was quite furious with Jack. When Jack died, he couldn't go to Heaven because of his mean tricks, and the Devil held a grudge, so he wouldn't let Jack into Hell. Instead, Jack was condemned to wander the Earth forever. Jack needed a lantern to light his way, so the Devil conceded to giving him a hollowed-out turnip and placed a flaming coal inside. Stingy Jack then became known as "Jack of the Lantern" or



"Jack-o-Lantern". It is from this legend that the Irish put out carved turnips and gourds with candles in them by their doors on Halloween to scare away all those spirits that walk the earth on that night. When Irish settlers came to America, they discovered that pumpkins were much easier to hollow out and carve than turnips. So a new tradition was born.

Another popular Irish tradition made its way into practice around Halloween. Unmarried people would attempt to bite into an apple that was either attached to a string or floating in a pail of water. The first person to succeed at this would be the next to get married. This has nothing to do with Halloween so much as the Harvest, when apples are plentiful and used during the festivals. Why apples? Well, there is much myth associated with them, besides the Garden of Eden. One explanation is that the apple is a symbol of fertility blessed by the goddess. Have you ever noticed that if you cut an apple in half horizontally, that the seeds and core form a natural five-pointed star?

Even the tradition of going door-to-door seeking cakes, candies, and other treats is one from Irish and European history. The source of this one is cloudy because there are many legends that all seem to conflict. In one story, students use to go around their villages collecting treats, cakes, and milk from the housewives in town. In other cases, young children on their way to a party or festival and would go around town asking for apples or nuts for their party.

The tradition of dressing up in costumes, grotesque or otherwise, also has many roots. One of the most interesting is that of the Mexican holiday "Los Dias de los Muertos." These "Days of the Dead" run, also remarkably, from October 31 to November 2. During the Fall, thousands of Monarch Butterflies return south for the winter

and make their way into Mexico and find shelter in the oyamel fir trees. The Aztecs believed that the spirits of the dead were carried back to them on the wings of these butterflies. It is these spirits that are honored during the festivals. Modern costumed revelers dress up as ghosts and skeletons, mummies and ghouls. They form a parade through the streets, carrying people around in coffins (don't worry, they're still alive, but usually dressed up as the deceased). Vendors and parade watchers toss candies, fruit, and flowers into the coffins as offerings.

So many other cultures celebrate their dead around this time that I can't list them all. I focused on the Christian and the Celtic/Druid/Pagan/Irish because these come together in a melting pot called America to form a whole new tradition called Halloween. It is a shame that the religions must fight over it and ruin such an important time. The reverence and remembrance of our ancestors is very important. This vital process should not be abandoned because of religious infighting, political posturing, immature pranks, terrorist plots, or rampant commercial exploitation of children.

October 31st should remain a holy day as a time of reflection on family, friends, and ancestors. Visit graveyards and tend to their sites. Put up shrines in your homes or chapels. Hold séances to speak to them. Have candle-light vigils. Put out Jack-o-lanterns to keep dangerous spirits at bay. Dress up as those who have gone. Celebrate their lives with festivals and parties. But never forget them. Never.

If you want safe alternatives to Trick-Or-Treating because you are worried about candy and strangers, then host a party. Or go to a church and find a Family Festival. There will be many Harvest Carnivals, County and State Fairs. Enjoy them all. But don't just hide at home. Don't let the fear-mongers win. Halloween is not about being scared. Hollywood may have capitalized on the genre, but that isn't what Halloween is about. It is about veneration of our loved ones and ancestors. It is to remember who we are and where we've come from. Hold our traditions dear, for they are our history. Dispel your misconceptions.



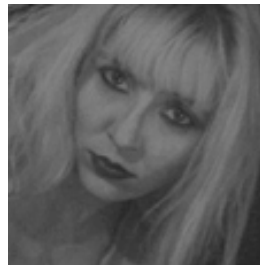
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# Dragon Con 2003



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

For the uninformed few who don't know what Dragon Con is, it's a yearly convention held in Atlanta, Georgia. The theme is anything sci-fi, comic, or gaming related. Over 20,000 people attended this year's convention. This was my fifth con, and not to be my last. Try to imagine a sea of people, most of who are in costume. Bands were abundant this year. Some of the more notable ones were Voltaire, The Last Dance, Godhead, and Lost Boys. You can go blind from all the camera flashes.



So it begins. One pretty blonde in a sea of thousands. I'm looking for something. That rare anime toy, a captain Kirk bobble head doll, James Marsters...

My first stop was at the booth of one of my favorite artists, *Brom*. He autographed for me a calendar that contained some of his prints. Brom got his professional start when TSR hired him at the age of twenty-four. For the next three years he would work as an illustrator in the highly successful Dark Sun world. Since then he has worked in all aspects of graphic illustration including novels (Micheal Moorcock, Terry Brooks, E.R. Burroughs), role-playing (TSR, White Wolf), comics (DC, Chaos, Dark Horse), video games (Doom 2, Diablo 2, Sega, Activision), and film (Sleepy Hollow, Galaxy Quest, Bless the Child, Ghosts of Mars).

I found Brom warm and inviting, with a little bit of  
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devil behind his smile. Check him out and see his vision for yourself at <http://www.bromart.com>.



*The artist Brom*

My next stop was the booth of *Joseph Michael Linsner*. This was a true delight. You might know him best from *Dawn Comics*. Besides that, he has the sexiest pin-up girls dressed in vampire splendor that you will ever see. I have several on my walls and so should you! His website is <http://www.linsner.com>.



*The artist Voltaire*

*Voltaire* was my next adventure. Any true Goth doll knows who *Voltaire* is. I was sure to get a picture of him holding my pussy. He has just released a new song called, *You know you're Goth when*. Find his stuff at:

<http://www.voltaire.net>

Several celebrities were roaming the convention (most hawking wares of some kind) including George (Sulu) Takei, Gil (Buck Rogers) Gerard, Lou (Incredible Hulk) Ferrigno, and the teenie-bopper favorite, James (Spike) Marsters.

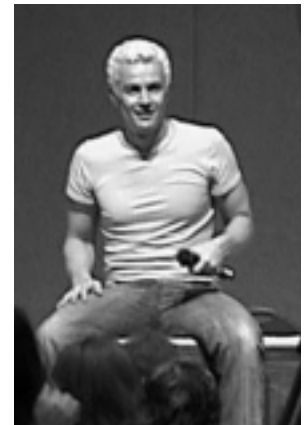
*Lou Ferrigno - better known as The Incredible Hulk.*



It was quite fascinating to observe all the little teenie-boppers who followed James around like lost puppy dogs. A few even tried to follow him into the restroom. More than a couple asked him to take off his shirt. I did not *get* why they wanted him shirtless. I did not *get* his band, *Ghost of the Robot*. Maybe if he had sung naked the performance would have left a better taste in my mouth. However he was fully clothed, and when on stage he just stood in front of the microphone with hardly any stage presence whatsoever. He looked like Billy Idol without movement. Every song sounded the same. But, the teenie-boppers didn't care. They were everywhere cheering him on. I suppose the moral of the story is if you do one really good on-camera sex scene you will have a loyal teenie-bopper following forever.

Although I didn't quite enjoy James Marsters, I do look forward to seeing him in upcoming season of *Angel*. I trust the writers of the show will have the wisdom to not script any singing scenes.

*James Marsters - better known as Spike from the hit TV show Buffy the Vampire Slayer.*



All and all it went well. From opening parade to closing ceremonies I had a good time. I could write one long continuous bitch about the security company who went far out of their way to annoy a bunch of geeks who came to catch a glimpse of David (Kung Fu) Carradine or the friendly giant Richard Keil, but I won't.

Some people came for live role play. Some came for computer gaming. Some were simply fans of art, music, or comics. Some came for geeky fun (I'm in this category). If you didn't get a chance to experience the con this year you should attend next time around. I'll be there. Look out for the tall blonde in platform shoes running from the security nazi's. They're easy to spot. If you're blind you'll hear them yelling, "Make a hole!" about every 15 minutes.

## Vampyric Chat

*Where Vampires chat  
on the Internet*



<http://www.UndernetVampires.com>

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# Late Night Observations

What I need is another cigarette  
And a soul-dark cup of coffee  
What I need is a place, and a face-  
Something to keep me sane in the unreality  
And what I need is for someone to take  
all the erudite blandishments  
out of my face-  
and stuff them up their makers' asses.

I need the band to start playing  
So I can hum along.  
I need another book.  
The one I've got's too faded by comparison.  
And what I need is the answer-  
The unequivocal key to all my problems  
The balm that should have come years ago.

I'm waiting for the revolution to come  
When everybody's back is to the wall  
I'm waiting for the Messiah  
And hoping to God it isn't me.  
And I am waiting for that door to open  
The Man to walk in  
And say it was all a big mistake.

I'm waiting for the perfect music  
So I don't have to hum along  
I'm waiting for the end of it all  
Or maybe it's the beginning  
And I am waiting for that goddamned Metro bus  
That will take me away  
From this unreality.

And I still need that cigarette  
And the soul-dark face  
And a damn strong cup of black coffee

by **Dmitri Arbacauskas**

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# Autumn moons

Harvest moon wanes in her lunatic cycle  
The harsh yet necessary heat of summer  
Is fading fast, sunny days are past.

Hunter's moon waxes in to shine down  
The turning leaves are falling free from  
October's rust, in Autumn we place trust.

For this season brings such a beauty  
What a magic time to see how  
The world keeps turning, leaves are burning.

Soon a moon will rise before Yule  
The chill is in the air now  
The world is dying, now I'm crying.

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Daniel@acrimony.org

Poem excerpt from the upcoming collection, DARK  
DECADE. Visit <http://www.dark-decade.com> for more po-  
etry and prose by Dan Shaurette.

## Heaven or Hell? It's Your Choice...

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# The Seven Deadly Sins



by **Michael Ramses**  
ramses@acrimony.org

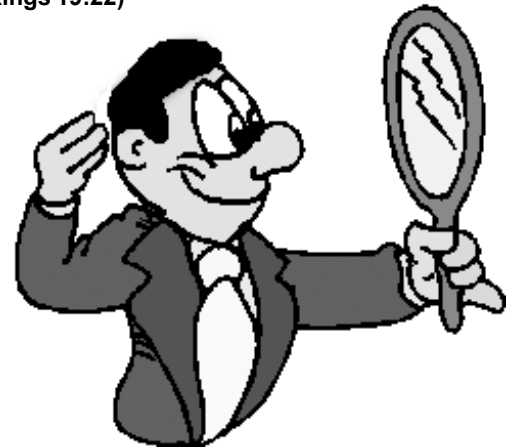
The Seven Deadly Sins can be found throughout the Christian bible, although there does not exist a chapter or verse that contains an all-inclusive list. Pope Gregory the Great created the first list of these sins in the late sixth century with his work, *Moralia in Job*. This writing was an extensive examination of the biblical book of *Job*. Gregory was certain that God spoke allegorically in the bible. It was up to the reader to decipher what God really meant. This task the Church of Rome was more than happy to assist with and consequently came Gregory's writing and the Seven Deadly Sins.

The Seven Deadly Sins are **Pride, Envy, Anger, Avarice, Sloth, Gluttony**, and **Lust**. Each of these sins has been written upon and rewritten upon over the last two millennia. Gregory's writings seem to have specialized in telling people how they should conduct their lives. He did this in two fashions: example and direct instruction. In Gregory's *Pastoral Care*, he provided priests with an ideal model of their duties with reference to their ministries. In *Dialogues*, he wrote of the lives of some of the saints of Italy, including Saint Benedict. *Moralia in Job* was a condensed list of vices or sins of which he wanted his parishioners to avoid.

Writers of the past have listed the Seven Deadly Sins in various orders of importance. Gregory however seems to equate all of them on an equal level. Equal meaning that they are all deadly and will cause damnation of the soul. They are called deadly because they are in opposition to love and damage to our personal relationship with God. Pope Gregory and Aurelius Augustine seem to have shared the same view regarding the role of love. God is love and he created us to love. Augustine's view of *Disordered Love* in many respects corresponds with some of the Seven Deadly Sins. The love of objects translates to avarice and gluttony. The love of people can lead to envy, anger, and lust. The love of oneself often results in pride. This makes perfect sense given that Saint Augustine and Pope Gregory lived during the same period. It is possible that Gregory's writings and teachings heavily influenced Augustine's views.

The first Deadly Sin is **Pride**. Most likely this sin is listed first since this is the sin that resulted in Lucifer's fall from grace. Saint Augustine called pride the root of all sin. Pride is an excessive confidence in an individual's own abilities that interferes with the individual's acknowledgment and understanding of the grace of God. Pride can incite many other sins including vanity, arrogance, conceit, superiority, and egotism. Pride places the love of oneself above the love of God. It prevents man from being humble before God. In the presence of pride there is no recognition of the supremacy of God.

**Who is it you have insulted and blasphemed? Against whom have you raised your voice and lifted your eyes in pride? Against the Holy One of Israel! (New International Version, 2 Kings 19:22)**



The second Deadly Sin is **Envy**. Envy is a feeling of discontentment created by witnessing or hearing of the advantage, benefit, prosperity, gain, or success of others. Envy is mentioned numerous times throughout the Bible. Mathew tells the first story of envy in the New Testament:

**So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" For he knew it was out of envy that they handed Jesus unto him (Matt. 27:17-18).**

The first chapter of Romans lists envy along with other sins:

**They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice (Rom. 1:29).**

Envy is the prelude and motivation for some of the worst crimes of man. The book of Acts tells how envy led to Joseph's brothers selling him into Egypt:

**Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him as a slave into Egypt (Acts 7:9).**

Envy is obviously a very serious sin. However it is not so strong that it cannot be controlled. Peter taught to lay aside one's envy and to gain from the resulting spiritual growth.

**Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good (1 Pet. 2:1-3).**

1 Corinthians teaches how through love envy can be conquered:

**Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud (1 Cor. 13:4).**

Finally, Galatians teaches that envy will keep a person from enjoying the bliss of Heaven:

**And envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God (Gal. 5:21).**

The third Deadly Sin is **Anger**. Anger is the rejection of love. Anger leads to fury and sometimes to wrath. Wrath, the byproduct of anger, is easily found throughout the Old Testament. The New Testament documents the coming of the Messiah and marks the end of Mosaic Law. The New Covenant is then established with man. Anger is a reaction, most often to a minor sin of another person. Anger does not have to result in wrath to be a sin. The feeling of anger alone can lead to damnation. Anger occurs when man chooses not to forgive.

**But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment (Mat. 5:22).**



The fourth Deadly Sin is **Avarice**. Avarice is sometimes referred to as greed or covetousness. Avarice is the overwhelming desire to gain wealth. Avarice places the love of physical objects above the love of people and the love of God. Idolatry can be the result of avarice.

**Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." (Luke 12:15)**



The fifth Deadly Sin is **Sloth**. Sloth is the procrastination or evading of either physical or spiritual work. Sloth causes man to become complacent. The Bible is filled with tasks performed by man in the service of God. Sloth prevents to completion of God's will. Sloth can be a direct affront to the commandments of God.



The sixth Deadly Sin is **Gluttony**. Gluttony is the excessive desire for food or drink. Gluttony, along with avarice, places the love of physical objects above the love of God. Gluttony however can cause direct physical harm to a temple of God, the body.

**And put a knife to your throat if you are given to gluttony (Prov 23:2).**

The seventh Deadly Sin is **Lust**. Lust is an excessive sexual appetite that results in one seeking immediate or ruthless satisfaction. Additionally, Saint Augustine defined lust as sex not intended for procreation. Lust places the love of other people above the love of God. Lust can lead to masturbation, homosexual acts, and sex outside of marriage. All of these practices were heavily admonished during the Medieval Period. Modern day Christians attribute pornography to lust.

**You will have these tassels to look at and so you will remember all the commands of the Lord, that you may obey them and not prostitute yourselves by going after the lusts of your own hearts and eyes (Num. 15:39).**

So, now that you know the sins, where do you stand with your creator?



## Sky Watch



SkyWatch provides a personalized, on-line sky calendar by sending email to its subscribers about satellite passes that can be seen from their location. It also keeps them informed about meteor showers, eclipses and other astronomy news.

<http://ad3.acrimony.org>

## Ghost in a Jar



by **Atreyana Star**  
star@acrimony.org

Pushing through the brush, you spot a rundown foundation and what appears to be a cemetery. Your trusty metal detector held firmly in your hand, you push onward. Off the path you are sure a treasure will be buried around what was once a dwelling in the woods. You scan the ground. Beep..... Beep..... Beep... Beep... Beep. Beep. You have found something. You pull out your trowel and begin to dig. While working your mind drifts off and you imagine finding chests filled with gold and jewels. You begin to dig faster in anticipation of your prize. Thud! You hear the sound of your trowel striking wood. You quickly clear away the dirt and pull a wooden box from the hole. Your eyes wide open, a grin growing across your face, you creak the rotted box open. Inside you find two jars and an old journal. While pulling one of the jars from the box it slips from your grasp and smashes. On the ground lay the shattered pieces and a candle that was apparently inside. Then you notice a black smoke slowly dispersing through the air. You quickly snap some pictures, gather your new treasure, and leave the area.

That is what happened to Tommy Johnson some 20 years ago. Since then he has been plagued by what he refers to as *The Black Thing*. It appears as a black cloud mostly assuming no definite figure, but occasionally it resembles a profile. Tommy recalls the happenings of that night when he returned home. "I had my first visit from what I can only describe as *"The Black Thing"*. While lying in bed, this "thing" fell on me and it felt like I was being pushed down thru the bed and the floor, into a pit if you will! I struggled with it and managed to somehow escape its clutches," tells Tommy.

Since that night Tommy has been attacked and haunted by the mysterious black figure. Even Tommy's family has come into contact with *The Black Thing*. One of his grandchildren claims to have spoken to it. *The Black Thing* asked to be referred to as *Marcello*. Desperate, Tommy contacted anyone he could think of to learn all he could about his supernatural finding. "I finally talked to someone who is versed in these things and was told that the only way to rid myself of this thing was to pass the unopened jar on to someone else," tells Tommy. He then



**The Cemetary where Tommy Johnson found the jars**

placed the jar up for auction on e-bay (<http://www.the-ghost-in-a-jar.com/archived/ghost-in-a-jar/index.html#>) with a starting bid of \$99.00. The link quickly circulated throughout the Internet. Unfortunately for Tommy a majority of the bids made on the precious jar were bogus astronomical bids. It only brought negative attention to him and his home. Ultimately the winning bidder too was a bogus bidder and Tommy still holds the jar.

Tommy often attempted to catch Marcello on tape to no avail until earlier this year. When he did he quickly copied the short video on to his computer and began making copies for the masses. One person gave Tommy the idea that if he could capture Marcello on tape, he could then disperse of the entity bit by bit. While reviewing a short recording he made Tommy paused the tape. While paused the image of *The Black Thing* slowly turned and faced him.

Tommy currently sells floppy discs containing the short video clip on his website (<http://www.teajay101thejar.com>). The initial copies seemed to



**The remaining unopened jar Tommy Johnson found.**

have plagued their new owners. "Since getting it, my computer has been going haywire and usually at the most inappropriate times! I've also been having nightmares, something which I seldom ever do," states one purchaser.

"We have been noticing small black flies in the computer room (never anywhere else in the house) that only come out at night. At first it was only one or two, until finally, the night I was in here alone listening to the Sci-Fi radio broadcast, one, then two, then half a dozen started flying around and landing on my computer screen. I swiveled around in my chair to see where they were coming from, and the entire wall behind my computer was covered with them," claims another customer.

After receiving a number of such correspondences, Tommy searched through the old journal and found a containment spell. Tommy now claims that *The Black Thing* is completely contained within the disc.

I myself experienced problems in contacting Tommy. When I attempted to call him, his phone did not ring at all in his home. He attempted to email me multiple times, yet I received only a portion of the emails. Tommy has not let Marcello rule his life. He has not even let the ridicule he has received rule his life. This, I am sure, is a daunting task to say the least. I am not sure what Tommy brought into his life two decades ago, but it certainly was not a helpful spirit. I cannot imagine living my life with a spirit making itself fully known and running rampant throughout my house.

**Tommy Johnson's official website is:**  
<http://www.teajay101thejar.com>



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# Underworld

Lakeshore Entertainment

<http://www.EnterTheUnderworld.com>

Rated **R** for Strong violence, gore, and language.  
121 minutes running time.

○ ○ ○ ●● 3 ½ Full Moons



by **Dan Shaurette**  
[Daniel@acrimony.org](mailto:Daniel@acrimony.org)  
[www.ShauretteNet.com](http://www.ShauretteNet.com)



Welcome to the underworld, where vampires and werewolves (called Lycans) are waging a centuries old battle. Old wars breed ancient hatreds, and between immortal supernatural creatures it's bound to be messy, yet amazingly super-secret. In feuds like this, secret alliances are traitorous and romances are unspeakable.

First off, let me just say this is NOT a gothic Romeo and Juliet. Hell, this isn't even West Side Story. One is naturally inclined to try to compare this to Shakespeare's famous tragedy. But Shakespeare did not own the rights to the notion of star-crossed lovers of warring families.

No, this is not the Montagues and Capulets of vampire and werewolf clans. But I can imagine how that might work, "But, soft! What light through yonder window breaks? It is the east, and Juliet is the sun... oh crap! POOF!"

What this movie is, however, is a very luxurious, dark tale that is very fun to watch... so long as you aren't looking for a plot. Oh you'll find one about two-thirds of the way, but you'll get lost trying to find one until then. No, it is best to just go and enjoy the dark gothic shadows this film plays in.

For action movie fans, you'll find lots of guns blazing. This film even introduces two unique types of bullets. They are both quite clever, but almost too convenient. The Lycans created (or stole) some bullets filled with a luminescent liquid; literally firing light into the vampires. The

vampires in turn steal the idea, but fill the bullets with silver nitrate to work against the beastbreed. Some action scenes seemed taken directly from Blade, or The Matrix - - but then again, who hasn't ripped off sequences from these movies.

For werewolf movie fans, you'll find some really great man-into-lycanthrope morphing scenes, and the director didn't depend on this too heavily though as if to show off. All of the special effects were well done -- unnoticeable as being CGI or other effects. It's done where necessary, and comes out quite well.

For those looking for dark, tragic romance, which we all know is the root of most devastating wars, this movie does it well without being sappy. No, it isn't the central focus of this movie either, which is good.

For vampire movie fans, well, this is where I think the movie had trouble. While there are quite a few vampires (too many almost) they aren't anything all that incredible. They are mostly stuffed shirts and peacocks lounging around having a good time. Kate Beckinsale as Selene is the outstanding exception, but even she only seems to be there to strut around in leather, shooting guns. Hey, I'm not saying it's a bad thing, just not what I expect from a vampiress. It's Kate that's sexy, not Selene.

Also, as a side note, the soundtrack is less than impressive. It's a good score and supports the movie, but there's precious little memorable music. It has none of the heart-pounding intensity of Blade or Queen of the

Damned. As a music lover who buys soundtrack albums, I was disappointed. I guess Danny Elfman was too busy.

While the movie is mostly eye candy and gun play, it does get better in the last 30 minutes or so, as everything comes together, secrets are exposed, and some really kick-ass action gets underway in the climax. Another difficult thing is deciding who to root for, the vamps or the wolves. There's no defined good vs. evil in this movie, but in a way that's refreshing. What's evil here is the war itself, and not the clans themselves.

I give Underworld 3 1/2 out of 5 because it is a fun, stylish, dark movie and I will recommend it for gothic/supernatural/action film lovers. But I like a little meat to a movie and a plot to keep me interested and I think this movie could have had that if it tried. I'll probably see it again before Halloween comes.



## Paranormal Terminology



by **Atreyana Star**  
star@acrimony.org

About the time I started writing my first article for **Acrimony**, I realized that although I understood most of the terms dealing with the paranormal, many of them were still a mystery. Thus I thought what better way to ring in the "holiday" season (ie. Halloween) than to briefly acquaint me and you with some of the more common terminology.

**Abduction:** The kidnapping of an individual or group by an unknown being. Those who are abducted report these beings to be extraterrestrial in nature. During the abduction the abducted is analyzed and sometimes operated upon. Reports have surfaced claiming surgery, collection of fluids or tissues and even implantation of tracking devices.



**Alien:** A life form from another planet, world, or dimension. A foreign being.

**Apparition:** A ghostlike figure that is so similar to a human being it is often indistinguishable from a living person.

**Aura:** Subtle energy field surrounding all living things, including plants, animals, and human beings. Appears as a myriad of colors that follow the shape of the being. Dominant colors or brightness are said to

dictate the psychological condition, relative health, or spiritual advancement of the being.

**Celestial Being:** An advanced spiritual soul that guides others and teaches them the way.

**Clairvoyance:** The literal translation is clear seeing. It is used to describe a division of Extra Sensory Perception phenomena. The clairvoyant "sees" visions either as actual images or as thoughts.

**Close Encounters:** A part of the "Hynek Classification System" of "UFO" sightings, the encounters are broken into five categories:

**Close Encounter of the First Kind:** A UFO seen up close. However; there is no interaction with the surroundings.

**Close Encounter of the Second Kind:** A UFO seen up close, and physical evidence is noted.

**Close Encounter of the Third Kind:** A UFO seen up close, and aliens are seen.

**Close Encounter of the Fourth Kind:** Alien abduction.

**Close Encounter of the Fifth Kind:** Establishes communication between human and alien.



**Deja Vu:** An overwhelming sense that current events have happened to the individual before.

**EEG (electroencephalograph):** A scientific method of recording and measuring electrical activity in the human brain.

**Electronic Voice Phenomenon (EVP):** The capture of sounds on analog and digital medium that is often unexplainable. The most prevalent theories suggest that these recordings are ghosts trying to communicate with the living.



**Empath:** A person who is sensitive to paranormal events and ghost-like activity.

**ESP (Extrasensory Perception):** Communication by means other than the physical senses.

**Ghost Hunter:** A person who explores ghostly phenomenon through research and documentation of alleged cases involving paranormal phenomenon.

**Hell Hounds:** Ghostly pack of dogs, suspected to be transporters of death.

**Levitation:** A form of psychokinesis (PK) wherein an object or a being is floated through the air.

**Metal Bending:** "Psychokinetic" ability to bend metal objects, using the power of the mind alone.

**Out-of-body Experience (OBE, OOB):** A fully conscious experience in which a person feels as though he is looking at himself from outside his own body.

**Past-Life Regression:** A technique where a form of hypnosis is used and a subject is guided to recall events from previous lives.

**Poltergeist:** An apparition that is associated with mischief, often involving practical jokes and general aggravations.

**Psychokinesis (PK):** The psychic ability to affect physical events with the mind.

**Psychokinetic Energy (PKE):** The energy that surrounds psychokinesis.



**Reincarnation:** A practice that involves a soul migrating through several corporeal existences, the purpose being increased spiritual knowledge.

**Talisman:** An item such as a necklace or pendant used as a charm, often having spiritual or magical power.



**Tarot:** A deck of 78 cards used for fortune telling.

**Telekinesis:** The movement of objects using the mind.

**Telepathy:** Communication through means other than the five senses. Similar to clairvoyance.

**Thoughtography:** The paranormal ability to produce images on blank photographic film stock by concentrating on a mental image.

**Unidentified Flying Object (UFO):** An unexplainable object in earth's atmosphere. Most are thought to be of extraterrestrial origin.

**Voodoo:** A religion with origins in Africa and Christianity, now most prevalent in the Caribbean island nations of Haiti, Jamaica, and Cuba. "Magical" rites, "trance" states, and spirit "possession" are prominent features of the religion.

**Vortices:** Ghost hunting term applied to photographic abnormality believed to be an exhibit of the souls of the dead, characterized by appearing as a segmented white chord which arcs through the photograph.

**Zombie:** A zombie is a soulless corpse resurrected from the dead that feeds off the blood of humans.



This is by no manner all of the terms that are out there, but it does help a little while you are listening to the hustle and bustle of Halloween preparation. Of course don't forget it may even help you to work up a great ghost story to scare lots of miniature ghosts and goblins out of their bulging bags of treats.



## Rocky Horror running strong 28 years later

Continued from Page 3

It takes a very large commitment to join a Rocky troupe. Screenings are still done at midnight on Saturdays. Cast members arrive hours beforehand in order to apply makeup, get in costume, and prepare. Furthermore, additional rehearsals are done throughout the week.

"I enjoy performing, I enjoy the atmosphere. The movie is really like nothing else. Its silly, its fun to be a part of. The audience reaction is always fun too," tells Rebecca MacCart who has been involved with Rocky Horror since 1999.



Brooklyn Feustel who plays Trixie for Broadway Bound and Gagged

The vast majority of people in both cast and audience of Rocky Horror these days were not even born when the movie was originally released. Although there are the stalwart veterans that return week after week, the show is getting an infusion of younger people. It is this infusion that keeps The Rocky Horror Picture Show alive.

"My mom was really into Rocky, she went when she was in college. She's the one that brought me for the very first time," tells Amy Pokhias who is only 22 and who now plays Magenta.

*For the blood is the life, the blood is eternity...  
But at what cost?*

**What would you do...**

*If the mysterious woman in your dreams was real?*

*If the woman in your dreams was a vampire?*

*If you were dying would you want to taste immortality?*

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**The Rocky Audience**

For many years there has been a link between Halloween and Rocky Horror. No one is quite sure how this started up, although it most certainly has something to do with the fact that Rocky cast and audience regularly dress up in costume each Saturday night. Broadway Bound and Gagged habitually sells out its Halloween performances and often do extra shows in order to fill demand.

"The freaks come out on Halloween and the freaks always come to Rocky Horror," tells Dawn Grigsby who has been Broadway Bound and Gagged's cast manager for the past 6 years.



**June - Becca Levin who plays Columbia**

The future of The Rocky Horror Picture Show is uncertain. No one predicted that this B-movie would still be screened 28 years after its original release. While the show no longer goes on in many parts of the country, large markets still show the film and will carry on as long as there is demand. Support of your local Rocky Horror cast is important if the show is to have a continuing future.

"I think Rocky will be running somewhere for at least 50 years. Certainly in New York, southern California, and a few other isolated places there will always be Rocky Horror. The days of 300 prints being scattered through every small town in America are

long gone. But I think Rocky can continue to thrive in America if its properly nurtured and promoted." - Matt Yenkala.

*Broadway Bound and Gagged presents The Rocky Horror Picture Show at the Grand Cinemas Spectrum Mall located at 15th ave and Bethany Home in Phoenix, Arizona each Saturday night. Doors open at 11:00pm. Pre-show starts at 11:30pm, and the movie begins at midnight. Admission is \$6. For further information visit <http://www.AZRocky.com>*

*Halloween week Broadway Bound and Gagged will be presenting 3 performances of The Rocky Horror Picture Show. On October 31st shows at 8:00pm and 11:00pm and on November 1st the regular 11:00pm Saturday show.*

*Experience an actual Rocky Horror wedding! Two cast members will wed at the 8:00pm Halloween show. Sheryl Policoff who plays Columbia will wed long-time Rocky Horror veteran Scott McDonald who plays Eddie.*



**Justin Reed and Becca MacCart playing Brad and Janet**

All Photos by CT Thompson



# Meteor crashes into Indian village



by **CT Thompson**  
ctthompson@acrimony.org

**Bhubaneswar, India**  
**September 28th 2003**

Two people were injured and several homes badly damaged when a meteor came crashing down out of the sky and struck a small village in eastern India. The meteor touched down just after sunset. Witnesses reported a large fireball illuminating the evening sky, which caused panic among many of the local residents.

Additional reports from surrounding areas described a thunderous noise that cracked and shattered several windows as the meteor broke up in the atmosphere during its decent. One of these fragments came down in the Mayurbhanj district and set several homes ablaze. Further reports in a neighboring village stated that other fragments were responsible for at least one more house fire, although these reports could not be confirmed.

Government officials are scouring the countryside looking for additional fragments. They are asking citizens not to pick up suspected meteorites.

Meteorites are a valuable commodity. They often sell on eBay for a few hundred to a few thousand dollars. Very large meteorite's go for extraordinary prices.

On an average day, hundreds of objects collide with the Earth's atmosphere. Known as shooting stars by ordinary people, these objects are actually meteors. Traveling at over 10,000 kilometers per hour, all but a very few burn up in Earth's atmosphere before they make contact with Earth's surface.

# Evening Prayer

When the setting sun falls below the sky  
And the evening Moon begins its rise  
The Children of the Night stir and awake  
Driven by hunger, damned by fate.

Knowing not pleasure, knowing not pain  
They hunt their prey, they strike the vein  
Endless cycles of death and fear  
Small droplets of blood fall near.

In the last moments, before the last sigh  
A moment of ecstasy, daylight draws nigh  
As the sun returns, they flee to their graves  
In the darkness, a silent prayer to be saved.

by **Michael Ramses**

ramses@acrimony.org

<http://www.MichaelRamses.com>



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# The Wheel of the Year



As the wheel turns, Pagans celebrate eight holy days or Sabbats. Some say the Lady of Life rules spring and summer, while the Lord of Death and Resurrection rules fall and winter. Others say the Divine Son is born of the Great Mother at Yule, lies in ecstasy with the young Goddess at Beltane, and sacrifices himself in life's cause at Lughnassad.

This month marks the celebration of Samhain, an ancient Pagan holiday.

# Ask Scarlett!



by **Scarlett Crawford**  
scarlett@acrimony.org

Dear Scarlett,

Where can a gothic guy buy good male gothic clothing? And I'm not talking about the long-kabuki-dress-crap some poser Goths wear. I want Victorian plush velvet jackets and beautiful silk scarves and shirts.

Dear Men's Where?,

I have found that eBay is an excellent source of some very unique clothing. You need to make sure that you read the descriptions and the shipping terms very carefully though. I suggest you stay away from the shopping malls, nothing like showing up to a great show and having someone else wearing the same jacket. There are some excellent Internet based stores that specialize in what you are looking for. Some of my personal favorites are <http://www.fairygothmother.co.uk> and <http://www.victorianelegance.com/men.html>. I truly believe that the best way is to have your clothing made for you. Then you get the ultimate fit and control of your own individual style. You can often find people with these skills thru a metaphysical/gothic store or your local renaissance reenactment society. Ultimately the concept of goth is to stand out and not be like everyone else.

Dear Scarlett,

I recently made a huge mistake. I cheated on my husband with a really good friend of both of ours. I don't know whether I should tell him, or just keep it inside. It's killing me. HELP!!!

Dear Subconscious Swinger,

Well, I think honesty is vital to a relationship. Without honesty a relationship is nothing. The fact that you went outside of your relationship to have your needs fulfilled tells me that your husband isn't satisfying you in some way. As for whether or not to tell him, you need to decide whether or not you are ready to face the fact that your husband may also have needs that have been unfulfilled throughout your relationship. Perhaps you could introduce your friend into your relationship; swinging and nesting are gaining popularity as alternative marital styles and they work well in many cases. I think that the lines of communication must remain open and a set of

guidelines complete with consequences be set up in a relationship, open or closed, in order to survive in today's society.

Dear Scarlett,

I am a sophomore in college. Throughout my life I have had hard times. My father abandoned us when I was just 3 yrs old and left my bipolar mom to bring up both my brother and I. We lived life with mom hopping from one destructive and abusive boyfriend to the next. Her inability to find love left her bitter and she turned to alcohol and drugs for the comfort she couldn't find in the arms of a man. Fortunately I, unlike so many impressionable minds, have risen above my mothers' troubles and now have a 3.9 GPA and am doing great with my boyfriend. This morning I just found out that I am pregnant. I thought I was being responsible. I was taking my birth control pills. The only thing that I can think of that could have caused this is that recently I was ill and was put on antibiotics by my doctor. Maybe that affected the birth control. I am now worried that I will end up just like my mom. But also I love my unborn child and could never dream of punishing my child for my mistakes. I don't know what to do or how to tell my boyfriend. Please be nice to me, but help.

Dear Soaring out of the Trailer Park,

I commend you on having risen above the circumstances that you grew up in unlike so many others. You seem to have accepted who your mother is and why things have transpired the way they have. However, if you truly strive not to end up in similar straits as your mother, the only choice is to place this baby up for adoption. It sounds like to me that you have your life on the correct path and this baby will do nothing but detour or derail your life. I suggest you contact an adoption agency immediately to discuss your options, as today there are many types of adoptions. They will provide you with psychological counseling that will enable you and your boyfriend to make the correct choice for all three of you in the end. As for telling your boyfriend, the biological father has specific legal rights that differ from state to state. Speaking from the standpoint of karma, this is his child as much as yours and his decision to make as well. You did not tell me what your boyfriend's emotional and financial statuses are and those factors greatly impact the advice given. I suggest you visit the website [www.lifetimeadoptions.com](http://www.lifetimeadoptions.com) or call them at 1-800-923-6784.



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

**[www.Acrimony.org](http://www.Acrimony.org)**

# Meditation

## Thoughts are Things



by **CT Thompson**  
ctthompson@acrimony.org

*"Thoughts are things, and as their currents run they may become crimes or miracles" - Edgar Cayce*

Thoughts are very real and tangible, even if modern science fails to recognize it. Our thoughts have consequences and if they are unbridled, can help or cause harm. The Catholic Church has known this for some time. Unclean thoughts, as well as deeds, are sins in the eyes of the church.

Psychics, spiritual advisors, and new age practitioners have also held to the tenants of controlling one's thoughts. Edgar Cayce, one of the greatest psychics of the last century, taught that the key to keeping clean thought was in not dwelling in the past. When we dwell, our mind tends to fester. Live in the present and future, not in the past.

Spell casting is the concentration of thought towards a desired goal. Group ritual is the combination of group energy and thought towards a greater goal. Some consider group prayer very similar (in effect, if not deed) to group ritual.

For the ordinary individual, thoughts come in two forms: positive and negative. Each of these forms of thought are sub-divided into two more categories: conscious and subconscious. Conscious thought can be sub-divided further into two more categories: reactionary and pre-meditated.

Positive thoughts are among the greatest things in our universe. When adversity strikes, it is often positive thought that changes the situation. Negative thought, and all of its sub-divisions, are very dangerous and should be avoided at all cost.

Negative thought is very detrimental to the body and spirit. Negativism always leads to person failure. How many times have you met someone who is quite literally living under "a black cloud" and everything they seem to do results in failure?

Negative thought is also a very powerful weapon. When focused on another individual manifestations will soon be seen. However this practice should never be

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indulged, as it will result in bad karma. Poor health conditions are almost always negative thought focused on the self, or bad karma. The karma being the result of negative thought focused on another individual. These types of thought need not be conscious in order to be damaging.

You should tackle controlling negative conscious reactionary thought first. These are the thoughts that seem to automatically shoot into your head when something happens. Maybe someone cuts you off on the freeway. Immediately you think, "You god-!@#%& S.O.B.!" Almost no effort is put into the generation of these thoughts. These are dangerous, as they send negative energy out into the universe. With practice, these thoughts can be controlled. For some people it will be harder than it is for others. In all cases however, a change in temperament will be required.

The second sub-category of conscious thought is pre-meditated. Because these thoughts are not impulsive, they are easier to avoid. If you have a vindictive vengeful personality it will be more difficult. These negative thoughts are usually the result of being tread upon. When we seek revenge these thoughts are usually the result. Thoughts of this kind are far more dangerous than negative conscious reactionary thoughts. Their power comes from an individual dwelling upon a subject. With enough time, the thought will turn into a reality.

Negative subconscious thought is difficult to avoid. These thoughts come in the form of dreams. Some people may not experience any of these thoughts whatsoever. Others however, have very violent dreams. A meditation regimen can help in changing one's dreams.

One of the greatest powers of meditation is the manifestation of thought. Meditation gives the sole practitioner the ability to achieve many things not otherwise in one's grasp. Through meditation you can focus your mind and inner spirit and truly achieve noticeable results. When at your most comfortable, relaxed state, focus on what it is you want to achieve. Be disciplined and do not let your mind aimlessly wander. Focus on what you want to change. In no time at all, you will be able to affect meaningful change in your life.

A word of caution, what is sent out into the cosmos, returns from the cosmos. If your thoughts are not pure you will be subject to the consequences of the universe. The old saying, *What goes around comes around*, may have originally been meant for physical deeds, but holds more karmic truth in regard to evil thought.

**Their feet rush into sin; they are swift to shed innocent blood. Their thoughts are evil thoughts; ruin and destruction mark their ways.**

Isaiah 59:7



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# Cosmic Events

## **October 1st Kalends of October, Festival of Fides.**

Fides was the Roman goddess of faithfulness

## **October 2nd Goddess Month of Mala Ends.**

## **October 3rd Festival of Dionysus, Goddess Month of Hathor Begins.**

The Festival of Dionysus, and of the Roman god Bacchus, is a time of wine and license after the harvest.

Hathor is the Egyptian goddess of love and happiness. She is also the goddess of the sky.

## **October 4th Jejuniun Ceres.**

The goddess Ceres was honoured by fasting on this day in ancient Rome. She is an earth goddess, and the protectress of agriculture.

## **October 5th Mania.**

Today is a time for the remembrance of departed ancestors. On the second day of this festival, spirits may return from the nether world.

## **October 7th Nones of October, Festival of Pallas Athena and Victoria, Ishtar and Astarte.**

Pallas Athena, or the Roman goddess Victoria, are the deities of triumph. They are traditionally honoured on this day.

The Sumerian year begins on this day with a celebration for the goddesses Ishtar and Astarte.

## **October 9th Felicitas.**

Today is the festival of the Roman goddess of good luck.

## **October 11th Vinalia, Old Lady of the Elder Trees.**

Today is the Roman festival of Vinalia, whereupon the new wine is to be tested... and tested... and tested. Today is sacred to Bacchus.

The Old Lady of the Elder Trees is honoured in several Teutonic pagan traditions on this day. She watches over elder trees, and requires that elderberry wine be poured on the roots of any elder tree from which a branch or root is cut for magical purposes.

## **October 12th Fortuna Redux.**

Today is the Roman festival of the goddess for successful journeys and safe returns.

## **October 13th Fontinalia, Runic Half-Month of Wyn begins.**

The Roman festival for wells and springs is celebrated today.

The half-month of Wyn is a time for harmony within a chaotic world.

## **October 14th Winter's Day, Vinternatsblot.**

This is the first day of winter in the old northern calendar.

## **October 15th Ides of October, Harvest of Mars.**

Today is the end of the season of combat for Romans, when weapons are put away until next spring. Perhaps paradoxically, today is also a Roman celebration for the god Mars. In addition to his more notable reputation as a god of war, Mars also presides over fertility and agriculture. The symbol used to represent Mars is actually a fertility object, not a weapon.

## **October 17th Hengest.**

Today is the Asatru festival of Hengest, commemorating the fifth-century Anglo-Saxon settlement of eastern Britain.

## **October 18th Great Horn Faire, Hu Gadern, Herne, Atho, Cernunnos, Panrosos.**

Today in some parts of Britain the Great Horn Faire has been held since medieval times. It includes a parade of men wearing antlers, to celebrate the power of the lord of the forests.

The horned god is called by a variety of names, including Hu Gadern by the Druids, Herne and Cernunnos by Celts, and Atho by the Welsh.

Today is the festival of the Greek goddess Pandrosos, who refreshes.

## **October 23rd Winter Saturday.**

Today is the first day of the Asatru festival for the commencement of winter.

## **October 24th Winter Saturday, Feast of the Spirits of the Air.**

Today is the second day of the Asatru festival for the commencement of winter.

In some pagan traditions, today is the Feast of the Spirits of the Air. Incense is burned in honour of the Sylphs, the elemental spirits of the air. Ancient belief held that four elements comprise the universe, with spirits for each. The spirits of the air were Sylphs, the spirits of fire were Salamanders, the spirits of water were Undines, and the spirits of earth were Gnomes.

## **October 25th Dioscuri.**

Today is the festival of the Dioscuri, sacred to Castor and Pollux, the sons of Zeus. Castor and Pollux are said to be the protectors of sailors.

## **October 26th Hathor, Creation of the Universe.**

The Egyptian goddess Hathor is honoured on this day.

A seventeenth-century Anglican archbishop calculated that the universe was created on this day in 4004 BCE.

## **October 27th Celtic tree month of Gort ends, Allan Apple Day.**

There is a tradition in Cornwall which holds that you can divine the identity of the person you will marry on this day by sleeping with an Allan apple beneath your pillow. Rising before dawn on the following day, you must wait under a tree for the first person of the opposite sex to pass by. This person will be your future mate.

## **October 28th Fyribod, Runic Half-Month of Hagal begins, Celtic Tree Month of Ngetal begins.**

The festival of Fyribod, of forebodance, marks the beginning of winter.

The month of Ngetal symbolizes measurement and record. It is a time of seeking after and finding order.

## **October 30th Goddess Month of Hathor ends.**

## **October 31st Samhain Eve, All Hallows' Eve, Goddess Month of Samhain begins.**

The feast of Samhain marks the beginning of the dark time of the year, when the barriers to the nether world are at their most insubstantial.

# Calendar

**Archon 27**  
**October 2nd through October 5th 2003**  
**Collinsville, Illinois (St. Louis, MO area), USA**

General science fiction convention that's been running since 1977.

<http://www.stlf.org/archon>  
Price: \$40 in advance / \$45 door

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**Bizarre Vampire Bazaar**  
**October 18th and 19th 2003 3pm - 2am**  
**600 Queensway Drive**  
**Long Beach, California 90802 USA**

The Bizarre Vampire Bazaar is an annual Southern California event unlike any other, held in the city of Long Beach, CA. This event is a combination of circus, music festival, and open-air marketplace. A traditional pre-Halloween happening in its 8th year. See website for full details.

<http://www.gothicbeachstudio.com/clubs/bvb2003/index.shtml>  
Price: \$15 in advance / \$20 door

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**AZ Witches Ball**  
**October 25th 2003 5:30pm - 1:00am**  
**The Crowne Plaza Hotel**  
**2532 W. Peoria Ave, Phoenix AZ 85029 USA**

An elegant event and celebration of Samhain for Arizona Pagans, Practitioners of Magick and those walking the Old Path. We will honor the Ancestors through the spiritual celebration of Samhain while also providing dinner and entertainment.

This event is for Ages 16 and Up Only!

Seating from 5:30 to 6:00 PM  
Dinner from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

<http://www.azWitchesBall.com>  
Price: \$32

**Goth Con**  
**October 30th through November 1st 2003**  
**Atlanta, Georgia, USA**

A 4 day convention that has everything Goth. Grab your fishnet and mascara and jump on the bus!

<http://www.GothCon.org>  
Price: \$48 / 4 day pass

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**Cirque Du Nuit-Vampire Halloween Festival**  
**October 30th through November 2nd 2003**  
**Tipitina's French Quarter**  
**New Orleans, Louisiana, USA**

Celebrate Halloween New Orleans style. Featuring bands Session Nine, Killswitch Inc., and several other local acts. Plus vendors, raffles, and more.

Hotel and itinerary packages available.  
See the website for all information.

[http://www.geocities.com/belfazaar\\_ashantison](http://www.geocities.com/belfazaar_ashantison)  
Price: \$25 in advance / \$30 door

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**Toward a Deeper Meditation**  
**Eastern & Western Methods & Concepts**  
**December 6th 2003 8am**  
**Virginia Beach, Virginia, USA**

Learn deep meditation techniques by expert John Van Auken. You will enter a semi-hypnotic state where you will awaken your individuality, soul, and higher mind. At conclusion, you will move into contact with the Infinite Consciousness.

[http://www.edgarcayce.org/conferences/hq\\_va\\_beach.html](http://www.edgarcayce.org/conferences/hq_va_beach.html)  
Price: \$49 Members / \$59 non-Members

# Horoscopes

by **Michael Ramses**



**ARIES** (March 21 - April 19): Aries begins the month with its ruling planet Mars in opposition to the giant Jupiter. This opposition continues until the middle of the month. This unfavorable alignment will result in negative influences in the areas of gain and growth. Now is not the time to start new projects. Furthermore, Aries will feel restricted and as a result, your patience with others may be shorter than usual. The end of the month is better, as Mars and Jupiter move out of alignment and Mars moves into a favorable Trine alignment with the smaller giant, Saturn. Saturn quite often represents fear for Aries. This great alignment means it is time for the ram to step up and overcome what he or she is most afraid of.



**TAURUS** (April 20 - May 20): This is a very good month for the bull. There are multiple Trine alignments between Taurus's ruling planet Venus and Neptune and Mars. The alignment with Neptune will bring increased spiritualism and psychic energy. Your creativity and empathy will also be on the rise. You'll want to help those you find in need. The Trine alignment between Venus and Mars produces an increase in your overall energy, which further feeds the positive effects of Neptune.



**GEMINI** (May 21 - June 20): The dualistic Gemini will start October feeling emotionally down. You won't have your normal get-up-and-go. Persevere, things will get better. By October 12th you should be emotionally recharged. Additionally a Trine alignment between Gemini's ruling planet Mercury and the Sun produces all-around favorable results. Work, home, and love lives will all be enhanced.



**CANCER** (June 21 - July 22): This month will be challenging for Cancer. The quickly moving moon is a look into the ever-changing moods of the crab. This month is no exception. There will be a series of Opposition and Square alignments this month, all of which are detrimental to the sensitive crab. Try to avoid family confrontations. You won't come out ahead in the long run. Try to stay focused on your work and things will turn out okay.



**LEO** (July 23 - Aug. 22): Leo's ruling planet, the Sun, starts out October with a very favorable Trine alignment with Neptune. This enhances all aspects of the

Lion's being. You'll experience an increase in your psychic energy. You'll feel the urge to pick up the flag of the fallen and champion under-dog causes. This will continue until the end of the month when the Sun and Neptune move out of the favorable Trine alignment and into a negative Square alignment. This alignment will counteract everything that was felt and experienced in the beginning of the month. This will all be very confusing indeed to the gentle lion.



**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22): The virgin will sense an intense need for intimacy this month. This will be fueled by the fear of prolonged loneliness. Virgo shouldn't sweat it. There's nothing really to worry about here. Don't let your mind run away with negative fantasies. On a more positive note, the end of the month brings a favorable Mercury and Sun conjunction. This will help you get back on track and help you focus on the more important things in your life.



**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22): This is going to be a hard month for Libra. Your communication and analytical skills will be impaired. Do your best to think everything thoroughly through this month. Rash decisions will lead to detrimental situations in the long run. Try not to let your emotions run wild. This will especially be an issue in the middle of the month. Don't start any new projects, wait until next month.



**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21): This will not be your month. Pluto, the scorpion's ruling planet is in multiple Square alignments with the Sun, Mercury, and Neptune. This is very bad. It will affect all aspects of your being. Emotionally you will feel drained. Your spiritual faith will be questioned. You will be overly jealous of your romantic partners. It will be difficult for you to concentrate at work. Whatever you do, don't start any new ventures. There is one small ray of sunshine during this otherwise bleak period - a brief conjunction between the Moon and Pluto will uplift you at the beginning of the month.



**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): Sagittarius will feel a little conflicted this month, as if being pulled in two directions at the same time. On the one hand, emotionally, you will be on top. It's a perfect time to begin new relationships or work on existing ones. On the other hand, your overall energy will be

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depressed due to a lasting Square alignment between your ruling planet Jupiter and the slow moving Pluto. These two forces would be analogous to really wanting to change the TV channel, but being unable to get off the sofa. Hopefully you'll have good batteries in your remote control.



**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): This is really your month! You'll kick off October with Saturn, your ruling planet, in a favorable Sextile alignment with Jupiter. This will bring advancement, gain, and growth

in all aspects of your life. Next Saturn comes into multiple Trine alignments with Mercury, Venus, and Mars. This multi-faceted alignment brings enhanced communication, analytic skills, an affectionate nature, social standing, and overall energy. Now is the time to accomplish anything you've been wanting too.



**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): You'll feel a lift in your psychic, spiritual, and emotional energies this month. It's a good time for new endeavors, romantic or otherwise.

A middle month Trine alignment between the Sun and your ruling planet Uranus will solidify any actions you decide to take. Only one small word of caution: if you do decide on pursuing a new romantic relationship, try hard not to go to far to fast.



**PISCES** (Feb. 19 - March 20): The Pisces' ruling planet Neptune is in a month-long conjunction with Uranus. Out of this favorable alignment you'll feel the need to express your freedom and invent new

ways of doing things in your life. Now for the bad news. Neptune is in multiple negative Square alignments with the Moon, Venus, and Mercury. This is very destructive to your romantic life. If you're involved in a relationship try not to start any fights. Little things will explode into big things and your relationship will suffer. If you are single, stay single until November.



*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.*

<http://www.MichaelRamses.com>

## September Crossword

W	E	R	E	W	O	L	F										
		B	L	O	O	D		R	O	C	K	Y					
M	C			G	A	R	G	O	Y	L	E						
I	R			J	U	D	A	S									
C	U	S	S						W	M							
H	C	A	U				D	R	E	A	M						
A	I	T	N	C					L	S							
E	F	A	L	A			R		L	C	F						
L	I	N	I	P			E			A	R						
	X		G	E			A		G	R	E	Y					
	I		H				P			A	D						
B	O	O	T	S			E					D					
	N						R					Y					

## September Brain Teaser

“A” and “W”. The letters represent the first letter of each word of the brain teaser sentence.

# Personals



Have you found your life mate?

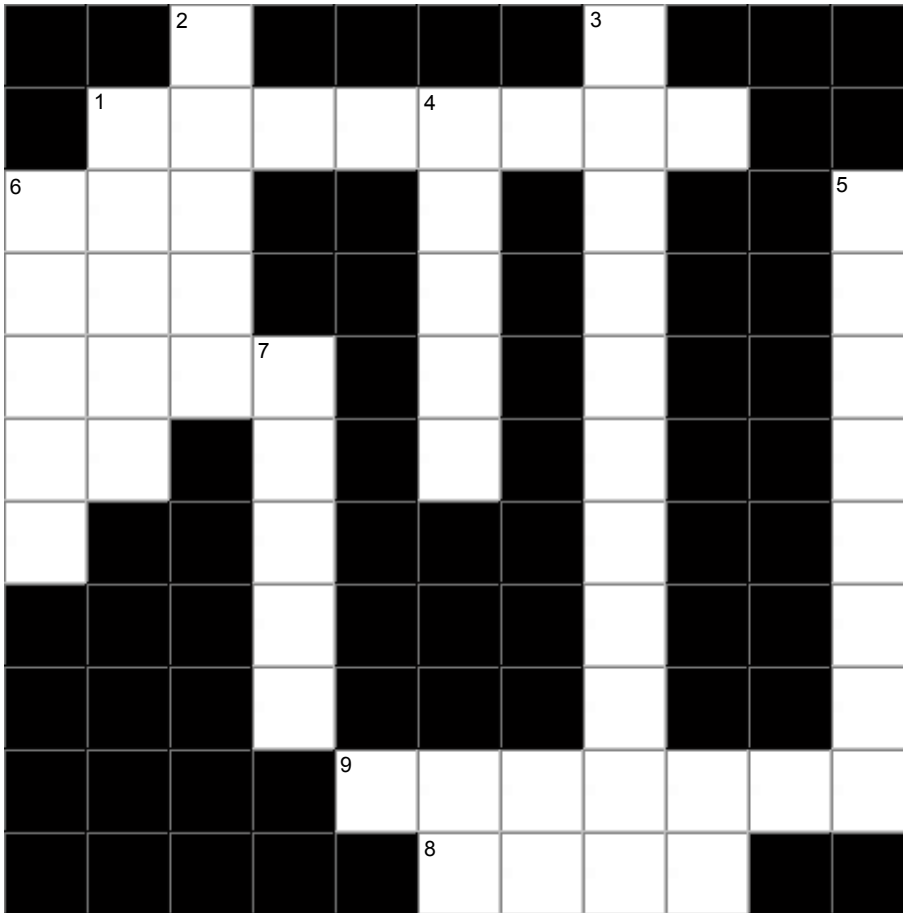
Personal Ads are printed free of charge in Acrimony. Whatever you're looking for, ask for it here.

Full details at <http://www.Acrimony.org>

Click on Personals

[www.Acrimony.org](http://www.Acrimony.org)

# Gothic Crossword



## Across

1. Bracelet
8. The Egyptians believed that these creatures could protect one from evil spirits
9. All Hallows Eve

## Down

1. Casper
2. Tinkerbell
3. October 30th (2 words)
4. Lives under a bridge
5. Witch's pot
6. Witch's transportation
7. Present-day Halloween gifts

## BRAIN TEASER

What eight letter word has kst in the middle, in the beginning, and at the end?

**The Devil's Panties**  
by  
Jennie Breeden

by **Jennie Breeden**

[jennie@acrimony.org](mailto:jennie@acrimony.org)

<http://thedevilsanties.keenspace.com>



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