

Paranormal Underground™

Volume 3, Issue 5

May 2010

KEN GERHARD: MONSTER HUNTER

Ghost Ship: The Flying Dutchman

SPECIAL REPORT: COPS & THE PARANORMAL

Banshees: Death Omen or Folklore?

GHOST HUNTER CASE FILES: THE LEHMANN HOUSE

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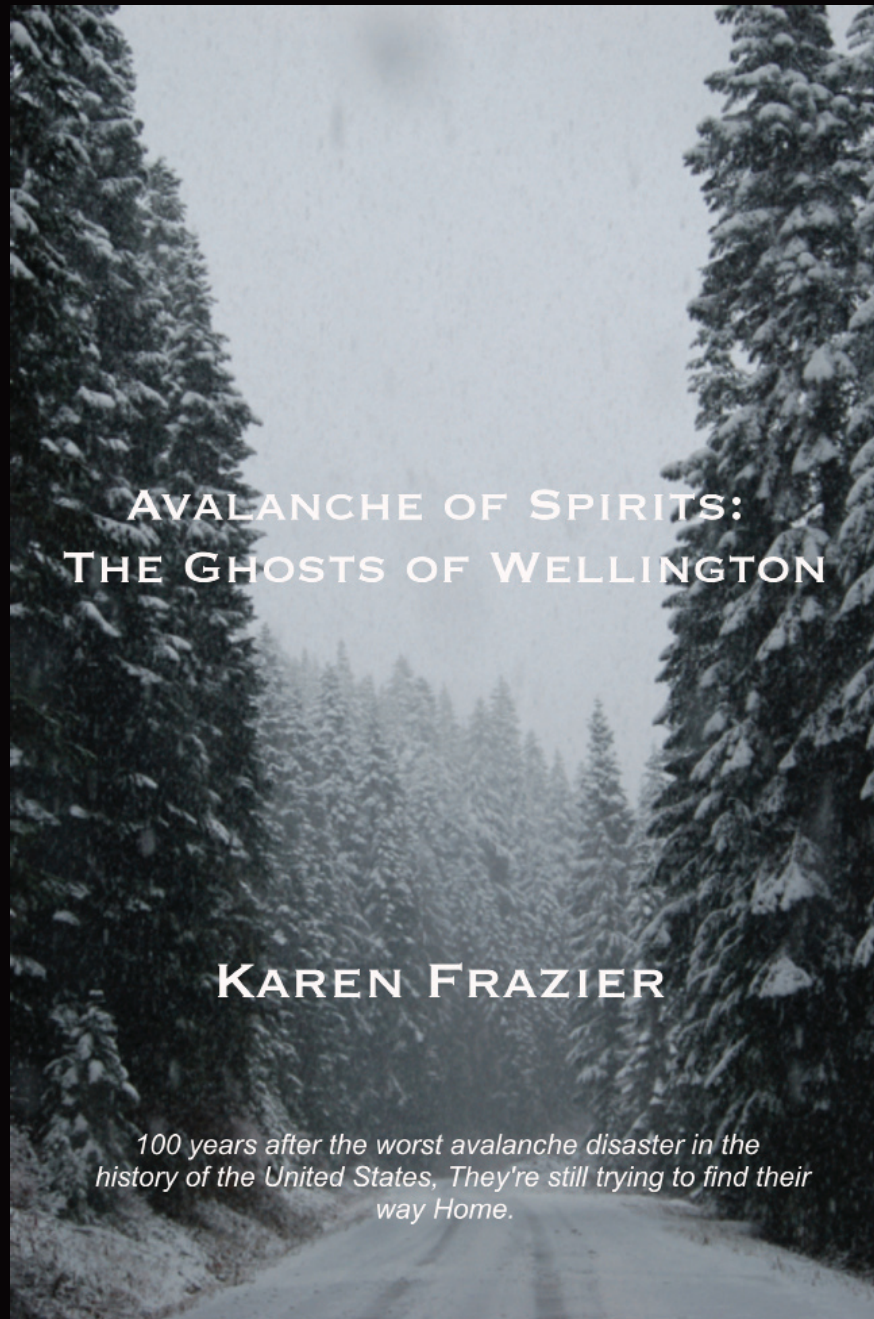
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- THE HAUNTED VICTOR HOTEL
- HAUNTED HIKES OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
- EQUIPMENT UPDATE: RAUDIVE DIODE
- REVIEW: *THE LOVELY BONES*
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- DIARY FROM A HAUNTED HOTEL

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- THE HAUNTED ROBERT LANG STUDIOS
- THE KINGMAN UFO CRASH OF 1953
- WHAT IS THE DOVER DEMON?
- SPIRIT TIME: THE TIME FRAME OF A GHOST
- FAMOUS CHANNELERS



From Paranormal Underground Journalist
Karen Frazier and Ghost Knight Media, LLC



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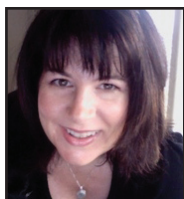
Heidi Ann

Heidi Ann has been a paranormal enthusiast since childhood when she had her own encounter. Her personal experience led her to question the world around her. Heidi is a mother of three sons, works as a special education paraprofessional in a middle school, and loves watching television shows and reading books on the paranormal.



Karen Frazier

Karen is the managing editor of *Paranormal Underground* magazine. After living in a WWII-era apartment 20 years ago where unexplainable things happened, Karen began to search for answers about the paranormal. Now she combines that interest with her professional experience as a copy writer and technical writer to help bring *Paranormal Underground* to the public. Karen is a partner with Ghost Knight Media.



Terri J. Garofalo

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



Rick E. Hale

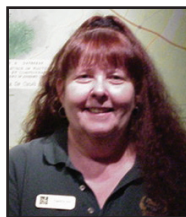
A native of Chicago, Rick is the cofounder of the McHenry County Paranormal Research Group. A paranormal researcher since the age of eight, Rick is happily married and digs Jazz. He believes in the use



of the scientific method in gathering evidence of paranormal claims. Rick can be contacted at t_seeker@hotmail.com.

Carolyn M. Hughes

As a night manager in a haunted hotel on the Gettysburg battlefield, Carolyn has had ghostly experiences both at work and while on the battlefield. She considers the ghosts of the soldiers that haunt Gettysburg as 'her boys.' Carolyn shares her experiences with *Paranormal Underground* in her column, *Diary of a Haunted Hotel*.



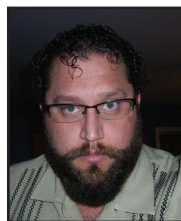
Cheryl Knight

Cheryl is editor-in-chief of *Paranormal Underground* magazine. She has been a professional writer and editor for more than 20 years. Cheryl is combining her writing, editing, and design talents — along with a fascination of the paranormal — to bring you *Paranormal Underground* each month. Her previous magazine experience includes roles as senior and managing editor for several business publications. Cheryl is a partner for Ghost Knight Media.



Gene Melvin

Gene has been interested in the paranormal and horror since an early age. Although he has never had a paranormal experience, he is open-minded and recognizes the possibilities. Gene is married, the father of a three-year-old daughter, a funeral director in the family run funeral home,



and operator of his own monument company. In his spare time, he enjoys hanging out with friends, spending time with his daughter, watching horror movies and paranormal shows, reading books, riding his Harley, and competitive shooting.

Hugh Mungus

Hugh has written several eBooks about haunted sites, UFO sightings, and cryptid lore. When not writing, Hugh travels the countryside in search of UFOs, hotspots of high strangeness, ethereal beasts, and anything remotely paranormal. Hugh also designs Web graphics and animations. You can visit his MySpace page at www.myspace.com/zzyzparanormal.



Rich Newman

Rich lives in Memphis, Tennessee, and is the author of two books. He recently released his first feature film, *Ghosts of War*, a documentary about haunted Civil War sites. In his spare time, he researches and investigates the paranormal with his group Paranormal Inc. You can contact Rich at info@paranormalincorporated.com.

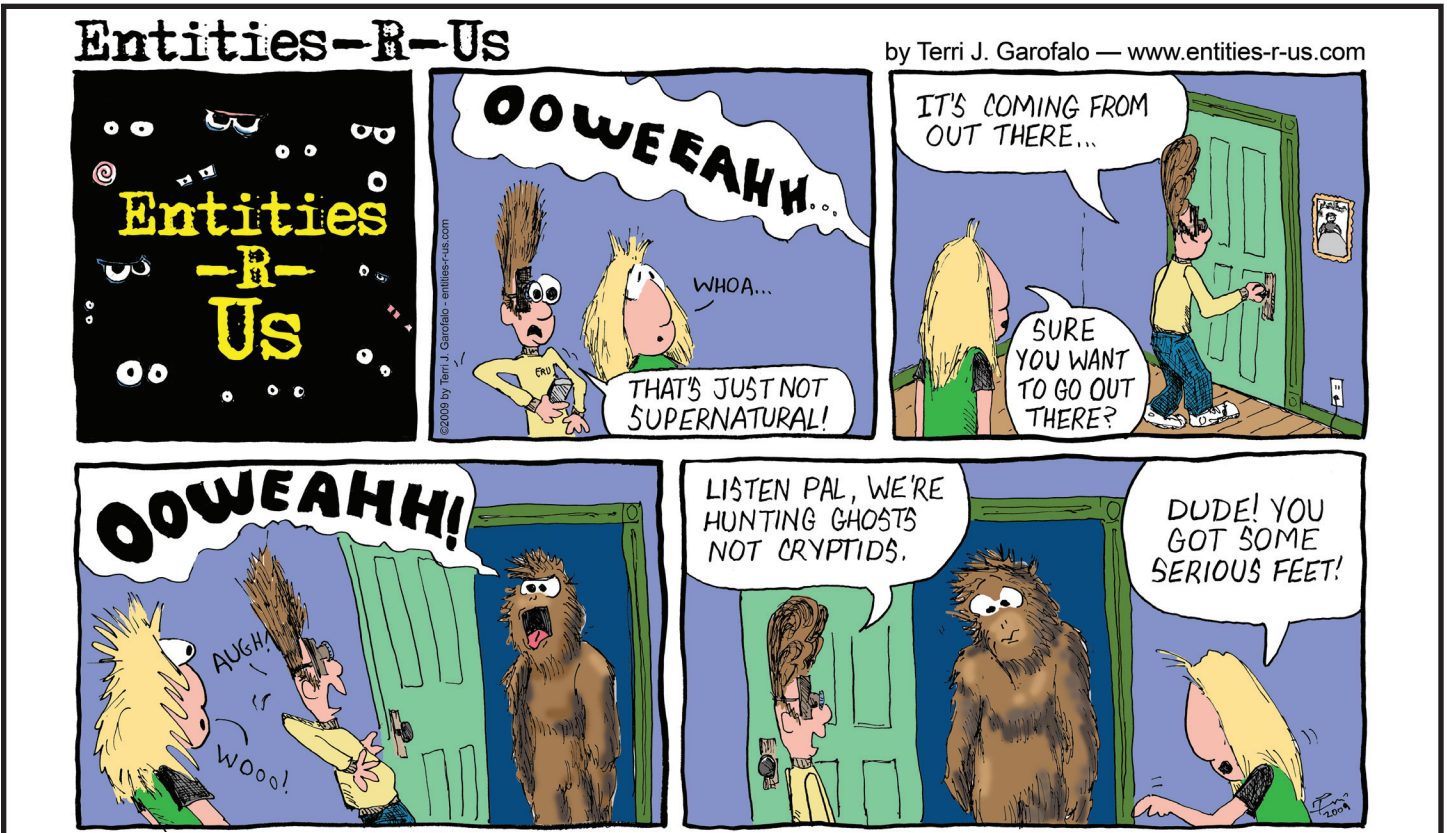


Michelle M. Pillow

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



Readers and listeners can contact



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

Jill Stefko, Ph.D.

Jill has studied the paranormal since 1957. Her expertise in the paranormal includes parapsychology, cryptozoology, Fortean phenomena, anomalies, UFOs, aliens, demonic possession, and exorcism. She gives workshops and lectures and has been a guest on radio call-in talk shows and local TV as an expert in the paranormal. She investigates alleged cases of the paranormal and counsels experiencers.



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

Lettie Prell

Lettie Prell is the author of *Dragon Ring* (Flying Pen Press), which blends science fiction with paranormal elements.



Her stories have appeared in *Andromeda Spaceways Inflight Magazine*, *The Lorelei Signal*, the *A Time To...* anthology (volume 3), and elsewhere. Lettie has explored shamanism, numerology, lucid dreaming, and other intuitive work. You can learn more about Lettie at www.lettieprell.com.

Andrew Selfridge

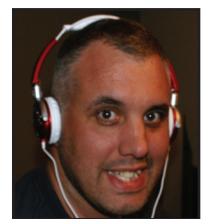
Andrew is an investigator with the Oklahoma City Ghost Club. A police officer by trade, Andy brings seven years of law enforcement experience and critical thinking to his investigative approach, with a strong emphasis on the purity of data col-



lection and preservation of evidence. Andrew says that a critical approach to paranormal phenomena is essential, but also believes that a human, compassionate mentality is required when dealing with clients living with anomalous activity.

Chad Wilson

A writer of articles and fiction, Chad is the publisher of *Paranormal Underground* and a partner for Ghost Knight Media (www.ghostknightmedia.com). He has parlayed his avid interest in the paranormal into a top-notch publication and Website — *Paranormal Underground*. Chad has investigated with East Tennessee Paranormal Research Society and counts Waverly Hills, the Villisca Axe Murder House, the Queen Mary, the Queen Anne Hotel, and private residences among his investigations. ■



Paranormal Underground™

Volume 3, Issue 5 May 2010

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Why Are We Here?

Other than the typical “make babies” and make our imprint upon the planet, why are we really here?

I ask most, if not all, of our podcast guests, “Why do you think we are here? What is our ultimate purpose on this Earth?” It was this question that led to my journey of self-discovery four years ago. It was this question that led me to create this magazine with Cheryl more than two years ago.

I can tell you this, after four years of reading up on the subject from the perspective of various belief systems, I am still no closer to an answer.

Maybe that is the answer. We are here to question our existence, to learn who we ultimately are, and then move on. Looking at it from the perspective of a human trying to get through the daily grind, I can tell you it is hard to see the end of the journey. It is hard to see the ultimate purpose. It is hard to find the “why.”

I suppose a spiritual awakening is in order, but the question is, “How does one achieve this?” I think the search for the answers

themselves might be the catalyst for spiritual growth. In other words, during the hunt for the meaning of life, we find out a lot about ourselves and who we are

as individuals. What do we have to contribute?

So, I keep searching and hoping that, one day, I will find the answers I seek. Then again, I believe that we all find the ultimate answer when we die. We all must meet that fate, and it's not so much how we die or when we die, but a matter

of the journey we take in between.

That, to me, makes the quest for knowledge worthwhile – that journey of self discovery that leads to a better understanding of me . . . and the world around me.

Each of our journeys is unique, and some of us are further along the path of “enlightenment” than others. But deep down, we're all searching. Looking for answers. Why are we here?

Ultimately, we are all in the same boat: We are born, we live, and we die. But then what? That is the ultimate truth I, and others, search for. Will we find it? Ultimately, I think we will. ■



Chad Wilson,
Publisher

Inside the Mind of a Monster Hunter

In this issue of *Paranormal Underground* magazine, investigator and writer Rick E. Hale shines the spotlight on cryptozoologist Ken Gerhard.

Interested in the field of cryptozoology since he was a young boy, Ken has traveled to 26 different countries and explored ancient and mysterious places, including Loch Ness, the Amazon jungle, Stonehenge, Machu Picchu, and the Galapagos Islands.

In his time as a cryptozoologist, Ken has appeared on the Travel Channel's *Legend Hunters* and the History Channel's *MonsterQuest*. Turn to page 14 to read what Ken has to say about his time traveling the world in search of unknown creatures.

This month we also feature Paranormal Researchers and Investigators of Maine (PRI-ME), a team that travels around New England in an effort to find explanations for their clients' paranormal activity. The team collects data using hi-tech and scientific instruments. They then try to explain perceived paranormal occurrences. Turn to page 18 to read more.

In our Author Spotlight,

starting on page 22, Marianne O'Connor talks about her book *Haunted Hikes of New Hampshire*, which contains more than 30 hikes throughout the state of New Hampshire that also have some paranormal legend attached to them.



And in this month's special report, we discuss famous paranormal cases involving the men in blue: police officers. We also hear from a Paranormal

Underground's member, police officer Andrew Selfridge, about his own personal experience. Turn to page 26 to learn more.

In our Case Files of the Unknown (beginning on page 30), we feature the haunted Victor Hotel, the Flying Dutchman, banshees, and a little UFO history. And in our Personal Experiences section, we've got "Diary From a Haunted Hotel" (page 40) and a Ghost Hunter Case File from within the Lehmann House (page 42).

Our media coverage includes a review of the book and movie *The Lovely Bones* (page 58) and the TV show *Psychic Kids* (page 12). Happy reading! ■

~ Cheryl Knight
Editor-in-Chief

Paranormal Underground™

Volume 3, Issue 5 May 2010

www.ParanormalUnderground.net

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Calendar of Events

May 8

Mission Paranormal Convention
San Marcos, Texas
For more information, e-mail
alcaladora45@yahoo.com

May 15

Houghton Mansion Ghost
Conference
North Adams, Massachusetts
www.harvestmoonparanormal.com/
conference.htm

May 15

Free Paranormal Seminar
Discussion includes haunted investi-
gation tips, tactics, and theories
Hosted by P.R.I.D.E. Paranormal
Investigations
2 to 4 p.m. EDT
Palmetto Library in Florida

May 15-16



Shadowz Paranormal and
Wellness Expo
Jackson County Fairgrounds
Pascagoula, Mississippi
<http://shadowzparanormal.com>

May 21-23

California Ghost Hunters
Conference
Hampton Inn in Hayward, California
www.ghost-trackers.org/2010_confer-
ence.htm

June 5-7

ComParaCon 2010
Carter Caves State Resort Park www.
ComParaCon.webs.com

June 5-7

First Annual Para-Camp
Kiamichi Mountains
For more information, contact Anita
at 405-246-8926

June 6-7

Ghost Hunt at Fort Mifflin
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
www.hauntedtruth.com

June 11-12

Ghostapalooza 2010
Days Inn Historic
St. Augustine, Florida
www.floridaghostchasers.com

June 25-26

Haunted America Midwest
Conference
Decatur, Illinois
www.americanspookshows.com

July 30-August 1



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

August 5-7

Parasota: Midwest Paranormal Event
St. Paul, Minnesota
www.parasota.com

August 6-8



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

August 13-14

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

August 21-22



Second Annual Ohio Paranormal
Convention
Dayton, Ohio
www.ohioparacon.com/

August 27-28

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

October 9-16

First Annual Paranormal Cruise
Norwegian Cruise Line's Epic
Miami, Florida
[http://wisdominlight.com/paranor-
malcruise2010.html](http://wisdominlight.com/paranor-
malcruise2010.html)

October 29-31

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

November 5-7



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

*Do you have an event that you'd
like us to announce? E-mail editor@
paranormalunderground.net with
your information.*

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THE DEADLY CURSE OF DUDLEYTOWN

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INVESTIGATING THE OLD WHEELER INN

HAUNTED HISTORY
HAUNTINGS AT THE BAKER HOTEL

ARE WE ALONE?
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LIVING CREATURES BEYOND OUR EARTH

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**SO YOU WANT TO BE A
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**NEAR-DEATH
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UFO RESEARCHER

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GHOST HUNTER CASE FILE #1:
WAVERLY HILLS SANATORIUM

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Russian President Asked to Investigate Abductee's Claims



Kirsan Ilyumzhinov (at left), president of the Republic of Kalmykia of the Russian Federation, claims to be an alien abductee. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev (at right) has been asked to address Ilyumzhinov claims.

Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, a multi-millionaire businessman and president of the Republic of Kalmykia of the Russian Federation, has just revealed that he is an alien abductee. Ilyumzhinov said in a May 2010 interview on primetime television that he had been taken on board an alien spaceship, which had come to Earth to take samples. He also claimed to have several witnesses.

In response to Ilyumzhinov's claims, a Russian MP (Andre Lebedev) is asking whether Ilyumzhinov is fit to govern. He also said that if Ilyumzhinov was actually abducted, he might have revealed job and state secrets to the extraterrestrials, according to <http://news.bbc.co.uk>.

Lebedev has written a letter to Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, listing his concerns. In his letter he says that "assuming the whole thing was not just a bad joke, it was an historic event and should have been reported to the Kremlin." He also asked in his letter if there are official guidelines for what government officials should do if contacted by aliens.

Ilyumzhinov has been president of Kalmykia for 17 years. He is also president of the World Chess Federation.

Local Group to Investigate at Site Where Titanic Sank

Matthew "Sandman" Kelley, a member of Society of the D.E.A.D. (Direct Evidence After Death), along with others in the paranormal field, will investigate the site of the sinking of the RMS Titanic, which sank on April 15, 1912.

The group had originally planned to investigate on the 98th anniversary of the Titanic's sinking, but due to unforeseen weather conditions had to move the date back to July 2010, according to the *Herald Standard*.

Also making the trip will be Chris Dedman, paranormal investigator and host of the Dead Time podcast on Para-X Radio, as well as many other paranormal investigators. Departing from Nova Scotia on July 10, the crew will spend four days investigating, from July 24 to July 28 at the site of the sinking in the Atlantic Ocean.

During the investigation the group plans on collecting EVPs and doing a side-sonar scan image of the sunken luxury liner.



RMS Titanic

Police Believed Loch Ness Monster Existed

A recently uncovered 1930 letter by Ahead of Highland police offers a look into the debate and investigation of the Loch Ness Monster. In the letter, addressed to the Under Secretary of State at the Scottish Office, William Fraser — then the chief constable of Inverness-shire Constabulary — stated, "That there is some strange creature in Loch Ness seems now beyond doubt, but that the police have any power to protect it is very doubtful," according to <http://news.stv.tv/>.

Fraser then went on to detail how a London couple, Peter Kent and Marion Stirling, were intent on catching the Loch Ness Monster "dead or alive," even going so far as fashioning a special harpoon gun to help in this endeavor.

It was actions like this that prompted the letter saying that the police were in no position to provide any protection for Nessie.



Loch Ness Monster

Stephen Hawking Says . . . Don't Talk to Aliens

With the universe containing 100 billion or more galaxies, and each of those galaxies having hundreds of millions of stars, the Earth is unlikely to be the only place life has evolved, according to one of the world's leading scientists Stephen Hawking.



Stephen Hawking

Hawking further went on to suggest that instead of seeking alien life out, that humanity should be doing everything in its power to avoid contact, according to <http://www.timesonline.co.uk>. The suggestions come in a new documentary series, called *Stephen Hawking's Universe*, in which Hawking sets out his latest thoughts on some of the universe's greatest mysteries.

Though speculative, he surmises that an initial contact between humans and aliens could be very much like what happened when Christopher Columbus first landed in the Americas, which turned out badly for the Native Americans. In our case, it could be devastating to us as a species. With what we know about humanity, would it be hard to expect any potential E.T.s to develop any differently?

Stephen Hawking's Universe begins on the Discovery Channel on Sunday, May 9 at 9 p.m.

UFO Sighting Over Geelong, Australia Caught on Video

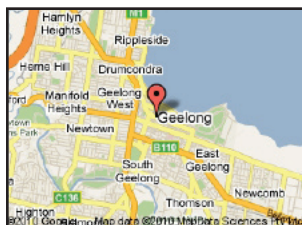
Footage has been captured by a Highton, Australia, businessman showing mystery balls of light zigzagging across Corio Bay. Anthony Raduka recently filmed the footage from the deck of his home.

The footage shows balls of light flying at high speed over Corio Bay, dipping as low as street level before zigzagging back up through the sky. The balls change color and shape during the 20 minutes of footage recorded, according to www.geelongadvertiser.com.au.

"We have watched fighter jets from our deck when the airshow is on, and these lights were going 10 times quicker," Raduka said on www.geelongadvertiser.com.au. "It could be a UFO; I don't know what they are. All of the things we thought of didn't explain the fact it changed color or that it was going so fast."

Raduka said he stood there for about half an hour and tried to figure out what the lights could be. "They go over rooftops so they are too low to be an aircraft."

Video footage of the event can be seen at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTmrK_wh5FQ&feature=player_embedded.



Geelong, Australia

Explorers Say They've Found Noah's Ark



In this photo from Noah's Ark Ministries International, an explorer investigates a wooden structure on Mount Ararat in Turkey that the group says may be the remnant of Noah's Ark.

According to some, 4,800 years ago the Christian God was said to have flooded Earth to get rid of all sinners. The only ones allowed to live were Noah and his family, plus a selection of the Earth's animals. After the flood, Noah's Ark is said to have settled on Mount Ararat in present day Turkey.

Now, a Christian evangelist group has claimed to have found the Ark in its final resting place, 12,000 feet up the mountainside, according to www.dailymail.co.uk. However, according to Mike Pitt, a British archaeologist, there is no compelling evidence to back up the group's claims.

The exact location of the find is being kept a secret until the Turkish government designates the area an archaeological site.

Claiming to have found seven large wooden compartments beneath snow and volcanic debris near the peak of Mount Ararat, the explorers were quoted as saying, "It's not 100 percent that it is Noah's Ark, but we think it is 99.9 percent that this is it."

Video of the group's discovery can be found here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=AGIUfWXvwJI&feature=player_embedded.

"PSYCHIC KIDS" LEARN TO OVERCOME THEIR FEARS

BY HEIDI ANN

How would you feel if spirits started visiting you, begging for help? Or if you could see the past, the future, or both? Now imagine how you would feel if you were a child when this started happening.

A&E's *Psychic Kids: Children of the Paranormal* explores just that. Each week, kids with emerging psychic abilities, and their parents, are brought together for a weekend retreat at a reportedly haunted location.

They spend this weekend with a paranormal mentor learning how to deal with their unusual abilities, and, more importantly, learning they are not alone. These mentors — psychic Chip Coffey, medium Kim Russo, and sensitive Chris Fleming — share what they've been through, having also discovered their gifts as children. They help the kids learn how to take control of their abilities, instead of letting the powers control them.

Overcoming Their Fears

Also joining them for this weekend retreat is Edy Nathan, a licensed therapist, who teaches the kids how to cope with their unusual abilities, and advises their parents on how to understand and support their unique children. She also helps the children learn to use their abilities to their fullest potential by helping them move past their fears.

The show first debuted on



During each episode of *Psychic Kids*, psychic Chip Coffey, medium Kim Russo, and sensitive Chris Fleming help the kids learn how to take control of their abilities, instead of letting the powers control them.

the Biography channel in 2008. During the first season of *Psychic Kids*, Coffey, who has a master's degree in psychology, was joined by psychologist Lisa Miller, as he set out to help the children and their families. During the first season we met 16 children, some as young as 8, including Faith, who was being haunted by a ghost boy named Freddy, and ReAnna, who was being visited by many spirits, including her grandmother . . . but it was the ghost of a young girl that was keeping her up at night.

The second season of the show started airing in late 2009 at its new home, A&E. So far, this season has focused more on older kids. The teen years are hard enough without

being so different from your peers. The retreats, while being important opportunities to deal with their psychic abilities, are also a great chance for the kids to bond with peers who not only believe them, but are going through similar experiences.

Just a Start

Coffey, Nathan, and the rest of the team use compassion, kindness, and experience to enable these kids to take control of their lives. They show them how they are in control, and how they can demand the negative entities leave, while allowing the gentle ones to stay.

Their weekend retreat is just a start for these kids down an unusual path in life . . . that of a psychic. ■

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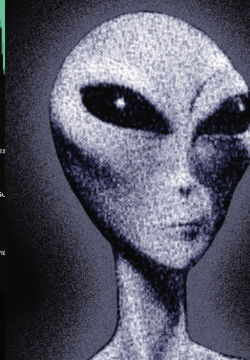


ITC/EVP ISSUE



Paranormal Underground
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Ken Gerhard: Industrial Strength Monster Hunter

By Rick E. Hale, McHenry County Paranormal Research Group

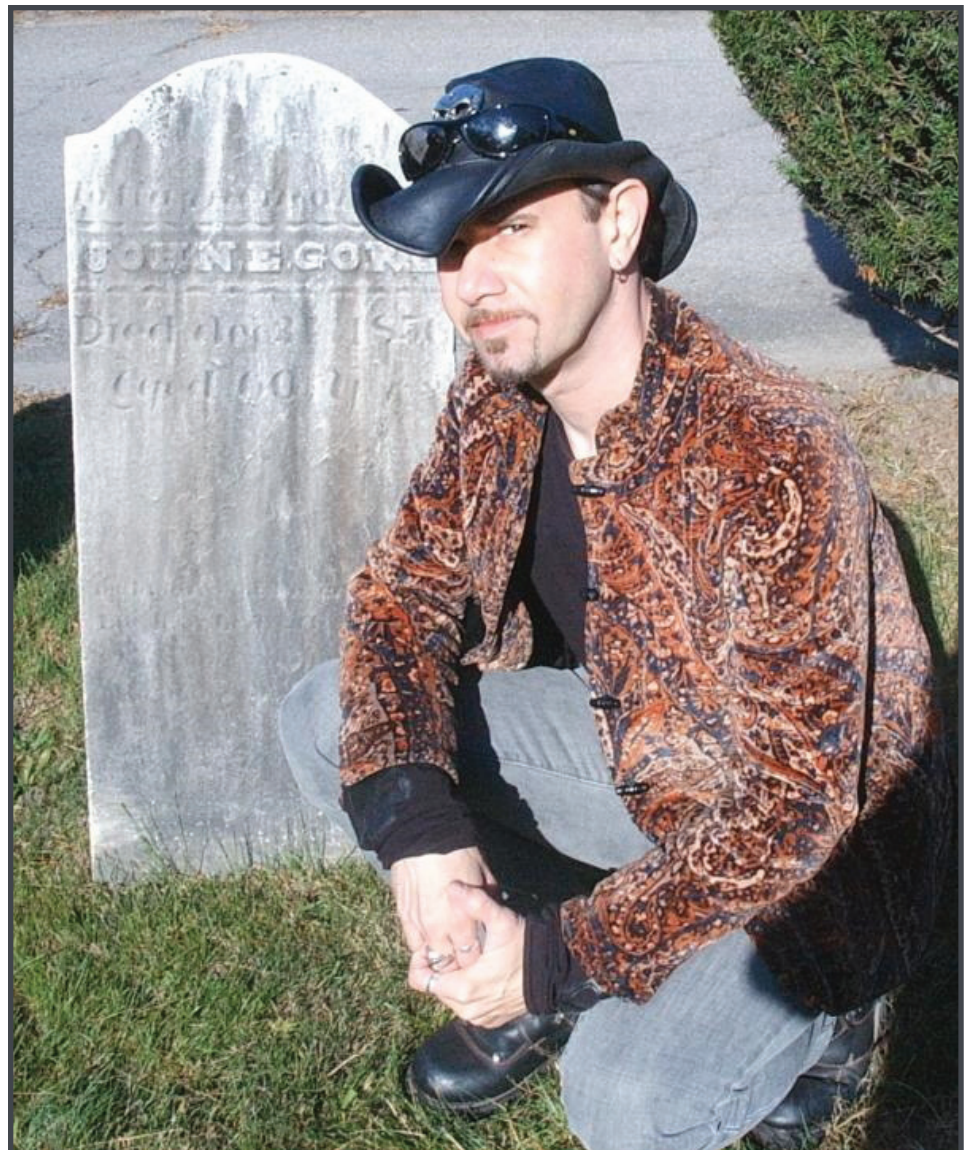
Ever since the dawn of history, there have been stories of horrific monsters that have haunted the nighttime world where few would dare to tread. Small children who fear the beast that either lives under their beds or haunts their closets can't close their eyes until their brave father makes sure the coast is clear.

Human monsters have also figured into the history of human kind — from the skin-scaling Ed Gein to the genocidal madman known as Adolf Hitler.

And who can forget the ginormous fire-breathing lizard that can't help but subject poor little Tokyo, Japan, to its building-crushing depredations . . . oh, wait, that is totally fictitious, sorry.

Monsters: We fear them, love them, and run screaming our heads off from them, so why, I ask you, would somebody even dare to actively hunt them? Seems a little insane, right? As we all know in the umbrella universe of the paranormal, there are such brave men and women who would take up the sword and shield and hunt these evil beasts down. We know them as cryptozoologists.

One such brave soul who lives for adventure and sticks his middle finger up in the face of danger and goes a-hunting is Ken Gerhard,



Cryptozoologist and paranormal researcher Ken Gerhard's idea of a good time is stalking through the woods at night with his trusty machete and wearing his trademark leather hat. Ken is pictured above at the Rolling Hills Cemetery in Boston, Massachusetts.



At left, Ken searches for evidence of the Dwendi in the Maya Mountains of Belize.

At right, Ken and his partner, Lee Hales, prepare to launch some coyote urine for the *MonsterQuest* crew.

industrial musician and monster hunter extraordinaire. And in this issue of *Paranormal Underground*, we got him!

Ken has been interested in the field of cryptozoology since he was a young boy, and he shows no signs of giving up the hunt anytime soon. In his time as a professional monster hunter, Ken has become a noted cryptozoologist and is a member of such organizations as The Centre for Fortean Zoology and the Gulf Coast BigFoot Research Organization.

Ken has also appeared on the Travel Channel's *Legend Hunters*, as well as the History Channel's *MonsterQuest*. He is considered an authority in the field of cryptozoology and would give any nasty beastie a run for its hairy or scaly life.

So sit back and enjoy our time with Ken Gerhard, industrial strength monster hunter.

* * * * *

Q: When did you first become interested in cryptozoology? Did you see something that led you to this field of research?

Ken: I never had the dramatic life-changing encounter that other investigators have experienced,

although seeing a thing called the Minnesota Iceman when I was a boy had an impact.

Like many researchers, I was heavily influenced by television shows growing up in the '70s, including the original *In Search Of* series with Leonard Nimoy and various other Bigfoot documentaries, like *The Legend of Boggy Creek*.

Another important event in my life was a family vacation to Loch Ness when I was 15 years old. I think talking to the locals and looking at photographic evidence of Nessie convinced me that there was indeed something large and mysterious in the lake. I remember how much I enjoyed patrolling the shore with my movie camera in hand, hoping to catch a glimpse of a monster.

Q: What did you think of the whole Georgia Bigfoot hoax? Do you think that affair gave the field a black eye, and if so do you think the field can recover?

Ken: The Georgia Bigfoot hoax was yet another unfortunate setback for Bigfoot researchers, but it was certainly nothing new. Bigfoot has become such an iconic figure in our culture that some people of dubious

character will perpetrate hoaxes in order to further their own agendas.

Oftentimes they just want to fool people because they think it makes them look clever. There are even a few investigators who have attempted to fake evidence. Fabricated Bigfoot videos are all over YouTube these days. Honestly, the principals in the Georgia hoax were immediately recognized as being morons by most serious researchers, so none of us really got our hopes up too much.

Q: There are a lot of weird theories concerning the origins of such cryptids as bigfoot and the Chupacabra. For instance, some say these creatures are mystical beings or even aliens trapped on our planet. What are your thoughts concerning these theories?

Ken: I have always felt that as a cryptozoologist, I need to remain extremely open-minded about all of the possible explanations for creature reports. Our universe is a vast and mysterious place, and there are many aspects to this phenomenon we may never understand. Obviously, winged humanoid creatures and reptile men have no deserved place in the natural world, and yet several eyewitnesses have reported

encounters with these strange beings.

On the other hand, we know of fossil hominids that resemble modern descriptions of Bigfoot and fossil animals that looked like the Loch Ness Monster, which seems to be tantalizing evidence for the existence of those cryptids.

Ultimately, I do think that there could exist other dimensions of time and space, and perhaps there may be windows where we can see things from the other side. For example, time slips where we have glimpses of the distant past or future.

Q: I love *MonsterQuest*, as do many of our readers, and we would like to know whether or not the show is in it for the ratings, or do the producers really want to get to the bottom of the mystery of these creatures?

Ken: The executive producer of *MonsterQuest*, Doug Hajicek, is definitely a crypto-enthusiast. I think he's done a great job of involving top cryptozoologists, scientists, and

high-profile eyewitnesses. They always use cutting-edge technology and solid research techniques, so the intent is definitely there.

On the other hand, people should realize that it's difficult to squeeze a real investigation into a 46-minute television program. Usually, the researchers are trotted out for one or two nights, hardly enough time to do a serious investigation. To offset this, the audience is constantly teased with bits of suspense and anticipation. I definitely don't think the producers would ever try to fake evidence in order to get better ratings.

Q: My wife thinks I'm kind of a supernerd because of my investigations into the strange and unusual. What does your wife/or girlfriend think of your inquiries?

Ken: I currently don't have a significant other. But, my ex-wife was very supportive of my research and, in fact, joined me on a few expeditions. If I were to end up in another relationship,

I would hope that my significant other is tolerant of my two major passions: cryptozoology and music.

Being a paranormal researcher is definitely an unconventional lifestyle that's not for everyone.

Q: Are you still involved in the industrial music scene, or does cryptozoology take up most of your time?

Ken: My other passion is music. I'm lead singer for the darkwave bands Bozo P. Circus, Bamboo Crisis, and Flowers & Machines. I've produced numerous CDs, placed a few songs on the charts, and toured extensively, performing hundreds of concerts throughout North America and opening for major artists like Motley Crue. I've also sung for the industrial supergroup Pigface.

These days, cryptozoology does take up the vast majority of my time. I've been blessed with some amazing opportunities over the past few years, and there are just so many mysteries that need to be thoroughly investigated. That being said, I still do an odd show with my band here or there. I've tried to find the time to write and record some new material. But, unfortunately, it's just not happening right now.

Q: In your book *Big Bird*, which is great by the way, you go over many theories on what the Thunderbird might be. What do you think it is, just a giant feathered friend or a throwback to prehistoric times when dinosaurs roamed the Earth?

Ken: Thanks for the compliment. *Big Bird*, much like the Jersey Devil and Chupacabra, seems to be a case of composite identity, with more than one species being involved. There are just too many variations in descriptions when it comes to the Thunderbirds.

At the time I was writing the book, I really felt that people were



Pictured above: Ken poses with a reconstruction of the head of Gigantopithecus, Bigfoot's probable ancestor.

seeing ancient flying reptiles, such as pterosaurs, and that they looked a lot more like birds than we ever realized. In some cases, pterosaurs are undeniably what people have described. However, now I think it's really much more likely that there is an unknown species of raptor type of bird with a 14-foot wingspan flying around out there somewhere. I'm still really not sure at this point. The search goes on.

Q: What are your thoughts on the preponderance of paranormal shows? Do you think that maybe enough is enough, or has our time come?

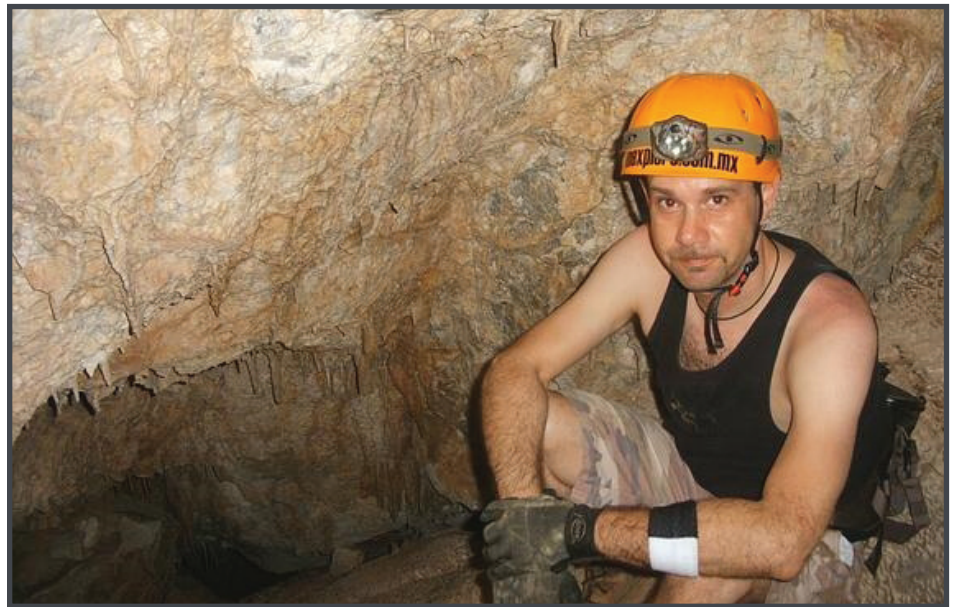
Ken: Not necessarily. People are obviously fascinated by the paranormal, and everyone seems to have had at least one experience that they cannot explain. I think the key, as with everything, is to keep it fresh.

I would hope that evidence is not being faked in order to keep people tuned in. But, I know how much time it takes to conduct a serious investigation. Obviously, television producers have schedules and deadlines to meet, and there is a lot of pressure to produce results. Paranormal research is like fishing. Sometimes you don't even get a single bite. Viewers have to understand that.

Q: Is cryptozoology your only interest in the umbrella field of the paranormal, or do you also have an interest in ghosts, little green men, or psychic phenomenon?

Ken: I've always been interested in everything Fortean, from UFOs to the supernatural. I've been quite fortunate to meet some top people in those fields over the past few years, and I would love to become more experienced in other areas of research.

There may be some relationships between cryptozoology and other phenomena that we don't fully under-



Pictured above: Ken reaches the end of the road while searching for "Flying Humanoids" in Mexico. This mysterious, dark chamber dropped off 50 feet downward.

stand yet. I tend to be more interested in alien creatures and phantom entities with physical characteristics, since they could be relevant to some of the cases I've investigated.

One of the benefits of what I do is that I am constantly approached by people who have had unexplained experiences of all kinds.

Q: So what does the future hold for Ken Gerhard? More *MonsterQuest*, more books, or more ear candy for rivetheads such as myself?

Ken: Well, I have a new book coming out titled *Monsters of Texas*. It was cowritten with Nick Redfern, a noted Texas cryptozoologist and bestselling author in the fields of ufology and conspiracies.

Both together and separately, we undertook multiple investigations all over the state and covered everything from Goat Men to monstrous reptiles. Texas definitely seems to have a multitude of weird creatures, befitting of the state's great size.

I also have some television projects in the works and would love to

be involved with *MonsterQuest* again.

As far as the music goes, I'll just have to see how things shake out, since my passion currently lies with chasing monsters. It's just what I do, you know?

* * * * *

What are we to think of a gentleman such as Ken Gerhard? Is he a man of intelligence, most certainly. Is he a man of passion, without a doubt. But is he a man obsessed? I would have to say yes, but a man obsessed with finding the truth, which is the noblest incarnation of obsession.

Do we share our little green and blue planet with creatures that have somehow managed to hide from the probing eyes of science? I say yes, and editorial bias be damned! There are still vast regions of our world that have gone unexplored — hidden places that still hold secrets that can and do wow us and constantly make us wonder.

Ken Gerhard, cryptozoologist, is just such a person who will brave those vast, unexplored regions in the hope of bringing us what mankind desires the most . . . the truth. ■

PRI-ME Strives to Bring Clients Peace of Mind

By Cheryl Knight



Pictured above (from left to right) is the PRI-ME investigative team, including Cofounder/Tech Manager Louie, cofounder Mandy, Lead Investigator and Public Relations Coordinator Deb, Investigator and Historical Research Manager Jen, and Investigator Carol. Their teammate Ty is not pictured.

Husband and wife team Louie Logsdon and Mandy James have a combined nine years of paranormal investigation experience. The duo decided to start their own group, Paranormal Researchers and Investigators of Maine (PRI-ME), last year to pursue their quest of finding answers to age-old questions pondered by paranormal novice and expert alike.

Maine-based PRI-ME travels around the New England area in an effort to find explanations for their clients' paranormal activity. The team collects data using hi-tech and scientific instruments. They then try to "debunk" or explain perceived paranormal occurrences.

"PRI-ME specializes in trying to find logical, real-world explanations for things that might otherwise

seem unexplainable," said PRI-ME's cofounder Mandy James. "Many paranormal experiences can be replicated or explained, however, there are also those that cannot. It is those type of situations that we hope to document and help validate paranormal research as a viable science."

In the event that PRI-ME cannot find real-world explanations, they do their best to educate clients and hopefully bring them piece of mind.

"We will not leave our clients to deal with it alone," said PRI-ME's cofounder and tech manager Louie Logsdon. "Not only do our clients have us as a resource, but they also have our extensive network of contacts and information as a resource as well."

PRI-ME utilizes scientific method on all of its cases, collects data during investigations, analyzes

that data, and then documents any paranormal activity.

Louie and Mandy recently spoke to *Paranormal Underground* about their work in the paranormal field. Read on to find out more!

* * * * *

Q: Please tell us about yourselves.

Louie: Mandy and I are the cofounders of Paranormal Researchers and Investigators of Maine (PRI-ME), which was established about one year ago. I currently work as a manager for a publishing company in Maine, and oversee a team of about five people who monitor sales phone calls.

Mandy: I am currently working on obtaining my master's degree for social work, and I work as a direct support professional for a non-profit,

community-based program in Maine.

Louie and I each have two children, and when we aren't investigating, we enjoy spending as much time as possible with them.

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

Mandy: I enjoy watching *Destination Truth* because it focuses less on drama and more on the mechanics and technicalities that go into investigation. Both Louie and I enjoy watching *American Paranormal* because they tackle investigating with serious, authentic scientific equipment.

Of course, our favorite Website is www.pri-me.org but we also like to frequent different forums on other Websites because it is a valuable opportunity to meet new people and network with other teams.

Q: How long have you been investigating the paranormal?

Louie: I've been investigating for about six years off and on, and Mandy has been for about three. We've met some extremely experienced and knowledgeable people while in the field and are very grateful for the opportunities that we've had.

Q: What interests you most about the paranormal?

Louie: We think that the many theories behind paranormal activity are fascinating. While it has not yet become an accepted science, many of the different schools of thought are invaluable for helping to separate fact from fiction, and will ultimately help with making the paranormal phenomena become more reality-based.

Q: When did you first become interested in the paranormal field.

Mandy: I had two very significant experiences as a child and young adult



Mandy (at left) takes a moment during a recent New England Paranormal Researcher's Convention to take a photo with fellow paranormal investigators Shannon Sylvia (second from left), Jeff Sylvia (far right), and another conference attendee.

that left me with many unanswered questions.

Louie: I had a plethora of unexplainable experiences happen — mostly in my childhood. Because of this, I've studied the many different aspects of the paranormal, searching for logical explanations for my experiences.

Q: Have you had any personal paranormal experiences prior to becoming an investigator that you'd like to share?

Louie: I grew up in a house in Maine that had quite a few personal experiences in. I once witnessed what resembled a torso walking up my front stairs.

Mandy: I had a terrifying experience at one of my jobs. A shadow figure seemed to notice me and then proceeded to come toward me. Months later, when I finally shared this incident with my boss, I was informed that the person who resided in the house before my employer bought

it was found hanging from a beam in the ceiling above where I saw the shadow figure.

Q: What prompted you to take the next step and go out on investigations?

Louie: I began investigating with a team when I realized that my passion for the paranormal far exceeded just reading books. I wanted to experience the real thing.

Mandy: When I met Louie and found out that he was in a group, that motivated me to become an investigator as well.

Q: Talk about PRI-ME and its mission.

Mandy: Our group is made up of six individuals who are very passionate about the paranormal. We are committed to helping home and business owners find out if there are real-world causes for the experiences that they have been having.

We listen to our client's stories and try to re-create them under controlled conditions. If we are unable to, we present that information and any evidence that we collect with our equipment to the client.

Louie: It is also a priority for us to network with other groups, so that if our clients need any further assistance, we will be able to refer them to someone who may be able to help them in ways that we can't.

Q: Have you worked with any other paranormal groups?

Louie: Both Mandy and I have worked with a few other groups in New England in the past, which has helped us to create the network that we have. Tyler, our newest investigator, formed an interest group while he was in college, which he maintained for about three years.

Q: How many investigations have you conducted to date, and what is your primary role while out on an investigation?

Mandy: PRI-ME has done about 30 investigations since its creation in May 2009. We have been very fortunate to be able to investigate many historical landmarks, as well as historical societies.

Louie: Mandy and I both act as lead investigators for the most part, but Deb, our PR manager, is also an acting lead investigator as well.

Q: What different types of locations have you investigated, and what are the most common types of equipment you use on investigations?

Louie: We have investigated private residences, businesses, historical societies, cemeteries, and old forts.

We have stationary IR cameras that hook into our DVR system, as well as two handheld cameras that

the teams take with them. Each of the teams has a K-II Meter, EMF detector, two or three voice recorders, digital cameras, and an ambient and focused IR thermometer.

Q: What has been your most exciting case to date, and what happened on that case?

Mandy: We were given permission to investigate multiple buildings on a community college campus. One used to be a dormitory that had many stories behind it. We caught one of our best EVPs there.

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

Louie: We investigated a private residence where we caught an unbelievable amount of EVPs. We also were able to catch one of our few pieces of picture evidence. Although we felt like we had hit the paranormal

jackpot, we knew that we were leaving behind a family that had to listen to the copious amounts of evidence and then try to sleep there.

The husband was also due to leave for Afghanistan soon, which would leave the wife alone in that house with two children. We were able to hook her up with a person who performed house blessings and smudgings in hopes of settling things down a bit.

A few weeks after this person was out to the house, we went back and did an investigation. We found a drastic difference in the amount of evidence that we caught. Not only will this be memorable because we were happy to be able to help this family, but we also walked away with more of an open mind than we had before.

Q: What have been some of the scarier moments you've had while investigating, and how did you handle those instances?

Mandy: We have not yet had any experience that we would consider "scary," but we did go to a private residence where I felt what I could only describe as static energy pull me to a specific room in the house and then almost make me feel overrun with feelings of being physically drained, as well as somewhat nauseous.

In an attempt to validate my experience, I asked Louie to come upstairs and made up an excuse for him to come into the room without telling him how I was feeling. Louie felt the same way I did as soon as he walked in. Almost immediately after, two other members walked in and felt the same thing, without knowing what Louie or I were feeling.

Q: Please tell us about some of your recent investigations and events.

Mandy: We just investigated a member's home and got one of our best



The photo above was taken while the team investigated a private residence. Mandy was standing by the kitchen table when a beam of light looped around her and stretched to the ceiling. The team tried to recreate it in many different ways, but could not find an explanation.

EVPs ever! It happened during our group EVP session at the end of the investigation.

Louie thought he heard someone's stomach growl and asked if it was anyone in the room. Upon review of the audio evidence, we heard what sounded like a younger girl say, "No, it was me," while the other investigators were confirming that it wasn't them.

Q: What have been the most significant EVPs you've captured?

Louie: When we held an investigation at the dormitory at the community college, Mandy spoke during an EVP session to say to whatever might be in the room that they could communicate with the group by making the lights on the K-II Meter light up.

Almost immediately after, a voice that was not heard at the time of the investigation said, "We know that." Not only was it creepy because of the clarity, but also because it was very raspy and sounded a bit upset.

Q: What has been your best video and photographic evidence?

Louie: We got a photo from the private residence mentioned above that had the large amounts of EVPs. Mandy was standing by the kitchen table and a beam of light looped around her and stretched to the ceiling. We tried to recreate it in many different ways and could not find an explanation.

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

Mandy: While we like to practice scientific methods, we have a deep respect for anyone who investigates for the purpose of helping people and does not try to make money for their work.

Q: How do you go about becoming trained in this area?



Louie investigates a property during a recent team investigation.

Mandy: We feel that the best way to receive proper training is to investigate with a team that has a large amount of knowledge and experience. Also, it is important to keep up to date with the different theories and schools of thought that pertain to this field.

Q: Talk about common misconceptions about the paranormal field that you've encountered?

Louie: Many people seem to be under the impression that what we do is always exciting and scary. The reality of it is that most investigations involve a degree of flexibility in order to put cameras in odd places and the ability to stay awake even though you are sitting in the pitch black in silence for extended periods of time!

Q: What words of wisdom would you offer amateur ghost hunters investigating for the first time?

Mandy: Find as many reputable

teams as you can and network with them as much as possible. No one person knows everything that there is to know about this field, so learn as much as you can from as many different people as possible.

These contacts can be invaluable as you grow as an investigator and start to acquire more cases.

Q: Please tell us about any future investigations you have planned.

Louie: We are excited to have the chance to go to Waverly Hills Sanatorium this June for a private investigation. It is a dream that many of our team members have had for a long time, and it is finally coming true.

We will also be going to another place in the same week that has been on the wish list of many of our investigators . . . Fort Mifflin. We will be doing a joint investigation there with Tri-State Paranormal, a very reputable team that has investigated Fort Mifflin many times.

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

Mandy: I would love to go to Alcatraz someday, and Louie has always wanted to go to Eastern State Penitentiary. However, we feel lucky enough to be able to get to Fort Mifflin and Waverly Hills, so our wishes have definitely been fulfilled for now!

Q: What plans do you have for the future?

Louie: We would like to keep helping people to be comfortable in their homes or businesses. We have no interest in being TV stars, we just want to continue to grow as a group and expand our knowledge and networks! ■

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For more information about Paranormal Researchers and Investigators of Maine, visit www.pri-me.org.

Marianne O'Connor: *Haunted Hikes of New Hampshire*

By Heidi Ann, with Gene Melvin

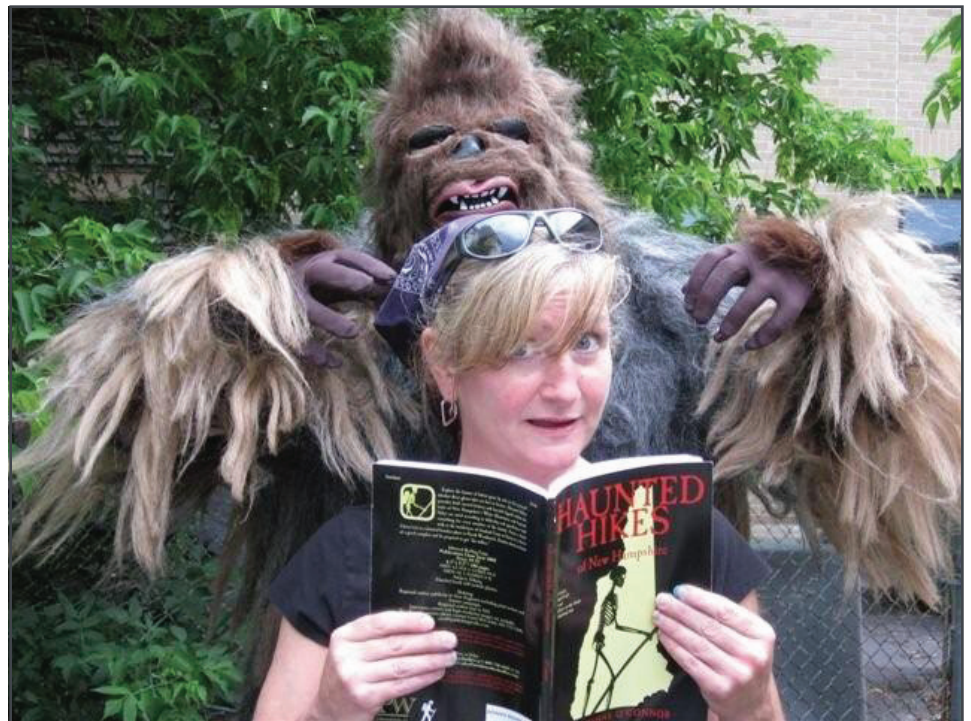
H *Haunted Hikes of New Hampshire* is part ghost story, part hiking guide, and part history book all rolled into one. Author Marianne O'Connor has found a creative way to combine hiking and ghost hunting, two things not normally paired together.

Her book contains more than 30 hikes throughout the state of New Hampshire that also have some paranormal legend attached to them. You won't just find ghost stories though. There are also hikes that involve UFO activity, sightings of "The Monster of Gitchee Goumee" (New Hampshire's very own version of Big Foot), and even Satan himself.

The hikes range in difficulty from one ghost (easy, child friendly) to four ghosts (challenging, not recommended for children or inexperienced dogs). Each hike contains its back story, well-written directions on how to find the location, and information on details like parking costs and the amount of time the hike should take.

As a beginner hiker with a six-year-old in tow, I found her descriptions extremely useful in deciding which hikes would be appropriate for my family.

O'Connor's unique mixture of subjects makes this book a must-have for any hiking enthusiast, from



Author Marianne O'Connor believes that being a skeptic at heart makes her more likely to dig deeper with each story.

beginner to expert. It's also a great read for lovers of paranormal tales and legends or for history buffs with an interest in the great Granite State.

O'Connor, who works for the Nashua School District and is a mother of two, recently spoke with *Paranormal Underground* about her book, *Haunted Hikes of New Hampshire*.

* * * * *

Q: Hunting the paranormal and hiking are not two things people usually associate with each other. What made you decide to do a haunted hiking guide?

Marianne: I love hiking in New Hampshire. My father used to take me and my brothers. Over time, I had heard stories, weird stories. I assumed there was probably a book

out about the subject, but then I found there wasn't one!

Q: How did you go about finding the locations for your book?

Marianne: Some of these places I had already known about. But naturally, the publisher wanted a variety of stories from all over.

I began doing some research with the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. They own conservation land all over the state. They invited me to use three of their properties that have some paranormal association. Some places were referred to me by other hikers, and some I found completely on my own!

Q: Have you personally taken all the hikes in the book?

Marianne: Yes, I have hiked all the trails in the book. Most I hiked carrying a GPS unit so that the track could be used to create the maps.

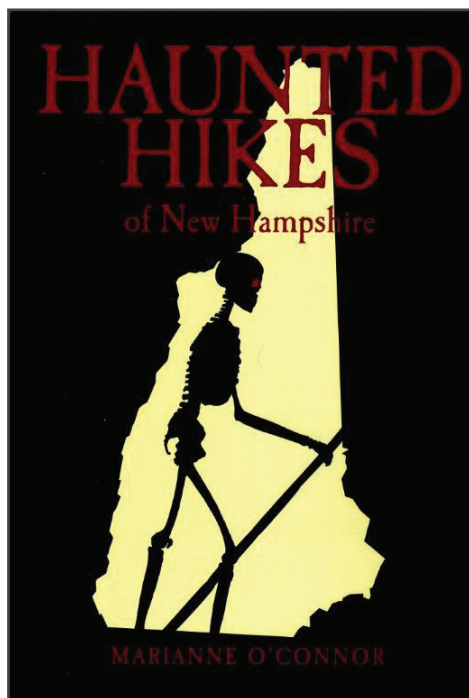
Q: Which hike was your favorite? Least favorite? Why?

Marianne: I like so many of the hikes, and I like telling most of the stories. Some of the White Mountain hikes are so rich in history.

I don't have a "least" favorite, but the least favorite to research was the Mt. Adams "Roger's Rangers." This was very difficult to research due to the many versions of the tale and the ghostly apparitions that have been seen.

Q: Do you do day hikes only, or have you done any overnight hikes?

Marianne: I have done both, though I would like to do more overnight hikes. My 16-year-old daughter would like to do an overnight at one of the AMC huts this summer. So as a family, we are planning to do more serious hiking.



Haunted Hikes of New Hampshire is part ghost story, part hiking guide, and part history book rolled into one.

Q: Would you classify yourself as a skeptic, a believer, or somewhere in between?

Marianne: I was once quoted as being a "paranormal agnostic." But I think that being a skeptic at heart makes me more likely to dig deeper with each story.

Q: Have you had any paranormal or unexplained experiences on any of the hikes?

Marianne: I had an interesting experience hiking Coit Mountain in Newport. Coit is the name of a freed slave. I was researching black history in New Hampshire for a story in *The Hippo* during black history month.

When I was hiking around the trails in the woods, I saw a shadowy figure running swiftly, but I never caught up to the man. He seemed to disappear. I kept wondering about it, so I called the Newport Recreation Department. I happened to be in the

process of collecting more stories so I asked them, "Any weird happenings on Coit Mountain?"

Then they told me about the Chasing Phantom who supposedly chases bikers and hikers through the trails at night. I was pretty freaked out!

Q: Aside from the hikes, what, if any, paranormal or unexplained experiences have you had?

Marianne: We've had some pretty strange things happen to our family, and there is a suspicion that one of my deceased relatives may have visited some members of the family. He has appeared in photos in the past.

Q: Do you take any "ghost hunting equipment" with you on these hikes? If so have you captured any evidence?

Marianne: I don't consider myself a ghost hunter or investigator. I don't own any kind of equipment. I take a lot of photos, and sometimes I have captured images on film. I always tell hikers to bring a camera with them when they take a haunted hike — you never know what might develop!

Q: Why do you think these locations continue to be haunted?

Marianne: It's my belief that these haunted places continue to evoke mystery and energy due to the fascinating history each story brings. When history continues to live on, so do the shadows and spirits from long ago.

Q: Do you think there is a correlation between nature (i.e., water, mineral deposits, lightning, etc.) and hauntings?

Marianne: Yes, I believe the supernatural is an integral part of the nature that surrounds us. I have been active in encouraging children and families to explore nature and the outdoors.



Expert and beginner hikers, as well as families looking for a relaxing walk, can locate the perfect hike for them in the book *Haunted Hikes of New Hampshire*. Each hike contains the location's back story, directions, and information on parking costs and the amount of time the hike should take. Pictured above at left, six-year-old Colin and his dad, Keith, approach Gould House in Milford, New Hampshire. At right, Colin stops to take a picture at the start of his family's haunted hike.

Q: What advice would you give to anyone that wants to visit these places but has never been on a hike?

Marianne: There are a lot of groups and agencies that offer advice for first-time hikers. The AMC, EMS, and places like L.L.Bean offer advice and equipment for people who want to get into serious hiking.

Most important is safety. It would never be a good idea to take on something very challenging. For instance, Mt. Washington would never be a good choice for you if you've never been on a difficult hike. Start with something small and low-key (a one or two ghost rated hike in my book), and you should be fine.

Make sure to follow the hiker responsibility code, and always tell someone where you are going, just in case.

Q: What type of feedback have you received from readers who have gone on some of your hikes?

Marianne: I've received some amazing feedback from readers. The most inspiring was from a man who I met at the Hampstead Library. He wanted me to sign his book. Then he reached

in his wallet and showed me a photo of himself taken a year before. The man had lost over 100 pounds. He said he had heard me in an interview on *The Morning Buzz* Rock 101.

After this, he went and purchased the book and began tackling the hikes one by one. He showed me how he had checked off each hike. This was an amazing story. I was very overwhelmed upon hearing this. A true inspiration!

Q: When I tried to get the book from our middle school library, there was a waiting list. Are you surprised at how popular your book is with children?

Marianne: I am thrilled that my book is so popular with children. When I considered who might be most interested in the book, I thought adults would be. But I am invited to attend middle schools all over New Hampshire to present my program, and kids are by far my favorite audience members!

Q: Do you use your book as a teaching tool in the classroom?

Marianne: Yes, my book crosses

a number of areas, including social studies and history. Geography is also presented here as well. During my presentations, I have children come up and point out the areas of interest on a giant New Hampshire map.

I think children's understanding of our state and the wonderful places you can visit in our state increases after they see my program and read the book. They are definitely more interested to get outside and explore. When they ask Mom and Dad to do a "haunted hike," the whole family can get in on the action.

Q: Do you have any future plans for more books?

Marianne: Right now, I don't have plans for a new book, but I wouldn't say it's out of the question. Researching a book and writing it was a lot of work. I am still promoting this book, and hope that it will continue to do well in the future. ■

* * * * *

*For more information about Marianne O'Connor and her book, *Haunted Hikes of New Hampshire*, visit www.myspace.com/hauntedhikes.*

Heidi's Haunted Hikes

Monson Center – Milford, NH

BY HEIDI ANN

Sunday March 7, 2010, was the second day of a glorious spring-like weekend in New England. The unusually warm winter day was a perfect opportunity for me to visit Monson Center in Milford, New Hampshire. It's a beautiful hidden gem tucked away in the corner of this small New Hampshire town. Historically, it's the remnants of the first inland settlement in the state. Paranormally, it's reported to be the haunt of some restless spirits.

I set out with my two companions, my husband Keith and son Colin, in search of the past. After several miles traveling on a rutty, dirt road and being convinced we must have missed the entrance, we came upon a handful of cars parked along the side of the narrow road in the woods. The nondescript entrance gives no hint to the history that lies beyond.

According to the book *Haunted Hikes of New Hampshire*, there have been reports of unusual sounds, flashes of light in the woods, and the sound of drums beating. We set off down the road in search of history, mystery, and in the words of Colin, "scary ghosts."

The first thing we saw was the only surviving building from Monson Center – the Thomas Gould House. The house is currently home to a museum, but upon our arrival the structure was closed, and no maps were available. We decided to set off into the woods to see what we could discover on our own.

At first, the location seemed to have a very quiet stillness to it, until we really listened. Dogs could be heard barking off in the distance. Planes flew overhead quite regularly.



Six-year-old Colin takes a haunted hike at the Monson Center in Milford, New Hampshire, with his mom and dad.

The birds also seemed to be enjoying the rare spring-like day.

But beyond the normal sounds, I thought I could hear something else. I shushed Keith and Colin and strained to listen . . . nothing. We started walking again and once again I thought I heard something. I asked Keith if he could hear it, but he couldn't. It sounded to me like a drum being beat – "thump thump" "thump thump" way off in the distance.

As I kept listening, though, it began to have a familiarity to it. I told Keith that when we got home I wanted to check a map; I wanted to see if there was a main road far off in the direction of the sound. It had that sound of cars driving by quickly and hitting a small groove or bump.

As we continued walking, the sound disappeared. With no map in hand, we ended up going the wrong way and were heading away from Monson Center instead of into it. As we came around a bend, what did we come upon? A road . . . with an occasional car traveling by very quickly. Is this what other people had heard and reported as the sound

of drums? I don't know, but I know I was disappointed to discover it was not the drums of Native Americans past that I heard.

We managed to find our way back to Monson Center, and while Colin had eagerly hunted for ghosts, we had no other experiences in the woods. It was getting late, and since our unplanned detour through the woods ate up so much of our time, we decided to head back to the car. When we came out of the woods, we saw that the Gould House was now open, so we stopped in before leaving.

As soon as we entered, I tried to take a picture and watched as my battery drained before my eyes. I had to chuckle when I said to Keith in shock, "My battery just drained!" sounding just like a member of any paranormal team you would see on TV. When we left the house, my battery came back to life. Was this paranormal? I doubt it, but the timing was uncanny.

Having obtained a map from the museum, we decided to return again sometime soon to further check out Monson Center . . . for its history, for its beauty, and hopefully for its spirits. ■

COPS & THE PARANORMAL

BY RICK E. HALE, MCHENRY COUNTY PARANORMAL RESEARCH GROUP

One of the biggest problems facing the paranormal community these days is a question of credibility. What with some dudes in Georgia faking a Big-foot corpse and British cult leaders presenting phony ghost photos, is it really any wonder that the skeptics and nonbelievers shake their heads while screaming, “Liars!”

To be honest, it does not surprise me one bit — not to mention it does make me somewhat perturbed. However, every once in a while a report comes through of a paranormal happening that doesn't happen to normal, mere mortals such as ourselves. Sometimes, those reports fall into the hands of those who have sworn to protect us from those who thumb their noses at the law. Of course I speak of the boys and girls in blue. Cops.

Law enforcement officials are highly trained and highly skilled observers of what is and what should be. Most of the time when they race to a home to investigate the claim that some invisible presence is throwing dishes and glasses around the home of a terrified family, or some grandma claims to have seen a large, hairy beast carrying away her prized poodle into the thicket, they are just as mystified as the rest of us. However, when the police do report the witnessing of something strange, and it is done reluctantly, we do have to sit up and take notice.



In this article, I will present to you five short tales of police officers who have come face to face with the unthinkable.

Night Chase

On the night of February 28, 1993, Patrol Officer Kenneth Downs of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office in Louisville, Kentucky, finally got the wish that he had been hoping for: he was now an air patrol officer, zipping through the skies of Northern Kentucky in a patrol helicopter.

Shortly after beginning his shift and meeting up with his partner and senior air patrol officer, Kenneth Graham, the two men took off into

the night. Little did they know that this would be anything but a normal patrol.

Just before midnight, a dispatch came over the radio that patrol cars were en route to a burglary alarm at a local factory. Graham, who was piloting the helicopter, responded that he and Downs were on their way to offer air support.

As they neared the factory, Graham spotted a large, orange, pulsating ball of light hovering over a tree that was near the factory. Thinking that perhaps this was no burglar alarm but a fire instead, Downs prepared to call for the Fire Department. But as he was about to make the call, the unimaginable occurred. The ball of light

swiftly moved and shot straight up into the sky. The two officers looked at each other wondering, what in the Hell they had just seen.

What would happen next would prove to be the most incredible thing either officer could imagine.

As they flew, still mystified as to what the ball of light was, it seemed to materialize out of thin air beside the helicopter and shoot off away from the copter. Graham and Downs gave chase, and estimated that the ball of light was moving at speeds greater than 130 mph. As Graham would later report, the object seemed to be under some kind of intelligent control.

Graham and Downs continued to pursue the bogey for about an hour after calling in other patrol officers to witness the sight. The strange object dipped and dived, performing aerial feats that would be impossible for any human pilot to perform. And just as it appeared, the bright ball of orange light shot up into the sky and was never seen again.

Three months after the incident, and the ensuing media circus, Downs went back to ground patrol. Graham is still flying to this day. Neither man can venture a guess as to what they attempted to chase down that night, but both know they came face to face with something not of this world.

Death and the Magic Bullet

The manhunt was on in the northern wilds of Vancouver, British Columbia, in March 1985. For several weeks, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) hunted down Michael Oros, an American draft dodger. Poaching another man's traps is a serious offense, but it was not until Oros brutally murdered a trapper and earned himself the nickname "The Mad Trapper of Teslin Lake" that the RCMP became involved.

On that fateful morning a team of RCMP trackers were flown by

A PARANORMAL BUFFET

BY ANDREW SELFRIDGE, OKLAHOMA CITY GHOST CLUB

The frequency of paranormal encounters among emergency service personnel (police, fire, EMS) is staggering for several reasons. Persons in this line of work have to be detail-oriented observers, and they take their observations, mentally analyze the facts, and present reports.

Police officers are predisposed to always be watching, and they usually find themselves to be the first point of contact when people are experiencing phenomena that they cannot explain. I am a police officer of eight years, and my shift of preference has always been graveyards for that very reason: The factor of chance that I will be in the right place and time to observe paranormal phenomenon.

My Time As a Jailer

My story submission goes back a little further than my police days, but rather when I was a jailer. A good stepping stone to police work, it places you in an environment that is often a paranormal buffet.

I was working midnights as a floor rover (on 13th floor as luck would have it). I was responsible for making sight checks of the four housing pods on my floor. The night went according to procedure, with nothing out of the ordinary to note.

It was approximately 0500 hours, and two other detention officers and I were tasked with feeding breakfast to the floor's population. We had just passed out trays in 13d



pod and were collecting them back to take outside the cellblock.

The pod was on lockdown, and there were only two other officers and myself in the dayroom. We wheeled the tray cart to the dayroom exit door and radioed central control to open the door so we could exit. While waiting for the door to open, all three of us present observed a shadow materialize out of a wall, glide approximately 10 feet across the floor, and vanish into the shower area.

The shadow was three dimensional, approximately seven feet tall, black, and devoid of features. Only a head and shoulders were visible in an otherwise oval form. There was no sound from the event, and if we hadn't been looking right at it when it happened, we likely would have missed it entirely.

It wasn't until several hours later that any of us talked about it. The other officers present acknowledged it, but did not want to discuss it further. As for myself, that was the moment I knew that I wanted to know more, and that day started my evolution into a paranormal researcher. ■

helicopter and dropped off near the isolated lake. They immediately went about the mission to hunt down this mad man, who was quickly becoming the scourge of the local population.

Finally, after a day of searching, Mike Buday and his partner Garry Rodgers spotted Oros walking just outside of the tree line in the open. What came next is somewhat sketchy, however.

Constable Mike Buday was gunned down by Oros and was dead before his body hit the ground. Without thinking, Constable Rodgers whipped around and, without taking aim, shot and killed the Mad Trapper of Teslin Lake. Upon inspection of Oros, Rodgers was mystified as to how he was able to take down the murderer. His bullet would have had to pass through several trees and heavy brush in order to find its mark.

Apparently, Rodgers' weapon was able to somehow break the immutable laws of physics and bring the murderer Oros to his death. That would be a pretty neat trick, but the local Tlingit population had a different theory. The bullet was helped along by a dead Shaman who had it out for Oros.

Recently, Oros camped upon holy ground — the eternal resting place of a powerful Tlingit Shaman. Some said it was the ghost of this Shaman that drove Oros mad. The

to mention its amazing ability to pass through solid matter. However, Rodgers does not fully discount the natives' explanation, but he does not fully believe it either.

Chief Glamann: Reluctant Ghost Hunter

I've been to the small, farming community of Horicon, Wisconsin, and I can tell you this after viewing its bucolic land. I never would have expected that such a charming village would have been the site of one of the most aggressive hauntings in the annals of the paranormal. Neither did Chief Douglas Glamann.

In 1988, Glamann was contacted by a local family who claimed to be experiencing strange activity in their home. The family eventually fled their home in terror. After word got out about the violent haunting, Glamann knew he had to investigate for himself, and eventually became the family's personal protector.

When Glamann met with the family, he learned that shortly after moving into the small, three-bedroom tract home, the kind that was typically built after WWII, the family was subjected to a plethora of paranormal activity, including inanimate objects moving of their own accord and sometimes even being hurled at family members.

would soon change.

By the time his office became involved with the investigation, the media had already descended upon the small town of Horicon, as did folks who just wanted to see the house for themselves. So the Chief posted 24-hour guards at the home, oftentimes working 16-hour shifts himself.

Although Glamann never witnessed any of the terrible demonic specters, he did witness an event that would forever change his attitude toward reports of the paranormal.

Upon one of the visits to the home, accompanied by one of his officers, the town mayor, and a member of the clergy, who planned to do a blessing ritual on the house, the phone began to incessantly ring. Each time Glamann answered it, no one would be on the other line.

Thinking that some jackass had gotten the number and was playing games with him, he had his officer unplug the phone from the wall and set it on the kitchen table. Problem taken care of, right? Not hardly. After a few moments, the phone that was removed from the wall began to let out an eerie ring as it sat on the kitchen table. The phone was immediately removed from the house.

Glamann would also report a corner in the basement that seemed to give whoever stood there the sensation of some unseen force attempting to squeeze the breath from their lungs. The corner also provided a heavy sensation of doom and absolute dread. Perhaps there was something to the family's horror stories after all.

Looking back on the situation, Chief Glamann is sure that some unseen, malevolent force did indeed inhabit the home. He also assures all who know of this case that the family who had to undergo the haunting never took any money for their story and hated the fact that the story was leaked to the press.

THE PHONE THAT WAS REMOVED FROM THE WALL LET OUT AN EERIE RING!

native population had no real explanation why Buday was killed that day, but they are certain that the Shaman had his revenge when he guided the bullet that felled Michael Oros.

Although long retired from the RCMP, Garry Rodgers still cannot understand how his bullet met its mark without him taking aim — not

The family also claimed that they witnessed the horrifying specters of a cronish, old woman and a dark, formless mass that threatened the family with physical harm and even death. Incredulous at such a bizarre report, Glamann approached the investigation with a healthy dose of skepticism. That

Psychic Powers Activate!

Not only are cops notorious for their keen observation skills, they are probably even more notorious when it comes to their skepticism. So it should not surprise any of us when law enforcement agencies are reluctant to use psychics in their work. However, this attitude is swiftly changing.

Over the past 20 to 30 years, cops have cozied up to the idea of using psychics to track down missing persons, homicide victims and their victimizers, as well as abducted children. It would seem that psychic detective work is becoming the thing to use when leads dry up on a case. Why are psychics so sought after now by police? There are two psychic abilities that I'd like to address.

First off, the psychic ability that is oftentimes employed by law enforcement is psychometry — the ability to handle an object that was previously handled by the victim of a crime to get details of their life and what may have become of them. Many murders have been solved, not only in our country but abroad, by a psychic handling a purse, a shoe, or even something as mundane as a tube of lipstick. If the item was with the person at the time of their murder or abduction, the psychic has been able to give details of not only the whereabouts of the victim, but details of the person who committed the crime. Impressive.

The second most sought-after psychic ability is remote viewing. The military not only studied the phenomena, but even employed remote viewers to psychically spy on enemies from great distances. Remote viewers are now being used by law enforcement to track down victims of violent crimes, as well as those who are abducted.

I happen to work with a remote viewer, and I'm pretty impressed. As she explains it, if she hears a person's voice or their name, she is able to see that person no matter where they are.

When she described my house to a tee, without ever being inside it, I was blown away. Cops feel the same way when a remote viewer gives them the accurate location of a victim or the person who committed a crime. It would appear that detective work has changed in a most interesting way.

Hippity-Hop

I feel compelled to end this article on a lighter note — with what must be one of the most hilarious and obscure episodes in paranormal history, specifically cryptozoological history, and “its” clash with the fine



men and women in law enforcement.

In the early morning hours of October 18, 1974, Mike Byrne and Leonard Ciagi of the Chicago Police Department were on a routine patrol of the city's northwest side. The shift had been oddly quiet — not even so much as a speeding car to report — when a very strange dispatch came over their car radio.

Moments before, an elderly woman called to complain that something strange was attempting to gain access to her house and was jumping around on her back porch. Probably thinking that they were finally going to see some action on an otherwise mundane

shift, Byrne and Ciagi said they would investigate the call. What came next over the radio sent the two seasoned patrol officers into peals of laughter: The complainant claimed that the thing on her back porch was not a man, but a six-foot kangaroo. They would respond and soon discover just how unfunny this really was.

When the officers drove up, they looked around the house. They didn't see anything out of order, except for what looked like claw marks on the back door of the house. Shortly after taking the woman's statement, the two officers left the house, probably calling the lady a certifiable nut job. That was until Ciagi looked down an alley and watched as a six-foot kangaroo hopped off into the night.

The two officers gave chase and cornered the misplaced marsupial at the end of the alley. Ciagi approached the roo and actually attempted to place handcuffs on the creature. Obviously frightened by the officer, the marsupial let out an ear-piercing scream and landed a few punches and kicks to the officer. Ciagi landed in the hospital with a few broken ribs, bumps, and bruises.

Over the next few years, police from other departments in Illinois and Wisconsin would receive calls from citizens stating that they had seen a kangaroo jumping down the street or hiding out in their back yards. No zoo or traveling circus would claim the kangaroos as their own. After a couple of years, the kangaroos would disappear, and the only creatures cops would have to worry about in rural areas were deer.

So, whether they're cuffing and stuffing bad guys, chasing down strange lights in the sky, or investigating reports of other unknown phenomena, cops continue to be on the front lines, protecting us from whatever may be creeping out there — no matter how strange or unusual it may be. ■

The Haunted Victor Hotel

By Hugh Mungus

Frigid winter temperatures froze the ground solid, making the digging of graves impossible. Still, the dead had to be buried somewhere, didn't they?

Since the Victor Hotel was the only structure in Victor, Colorado, with an elevator, during the cold months corpses were loaded into the lift and carried to the building's fourth floor, which became a make-shift morgue.

It's no wonder then that headless, limbless apparitions are allegedly witnessed, to date, strolling the hallways of this ornate, Victorian era hotel.

Founded in 1893, the town of Victor, Colorado, rapidly became one of the largest cities in the state due to booming gold and silver mining operations.

Constructed in 1894, the original Victor Hotel, a wooden, dual-story building, succumbed to a massive fire that destroyed the entire town. Victor's founders, the Woods brothers, rebuilt the hotel's spacious accommodations, this time with brick and stone, in order to withstand the harsh Colorado elements.

Over the years, the property has served as a bank, hub for business offices, restaurant, grocery store, and soda fountain. As the 1960s came to a close, the Victor fell into disrepair due to declining town revenue. The '70s and '80s yielded a continual downward spiral for the hotel, until the property was purchased in 1991 and renovated to appease contemporary building statutes.



Apart from the spirits of doctors and mutilated patients on the fourth floor, there also appear to be otherworldly presences residing throughout the entire Victor Hotel.

The Spirits of the Victor Hotel

Apart from the spirits of doctors and mutilated patients on the fourth floor, there also appear to be otherworldly presences residing throughout the entire venue.

The hotel's Bird Cage elevator is said to operate of its own volition around 3 a.m. nightly, consistently stopping on the third floor. The lift is supposedly haunted by "Eddie," a turn of the century miner who resided in room 301 during the early 1900s. Apparently, Eddie fell to his death down the open elevator shaft in the small hours of the evening, more than a hundred years ago.

To this day, guests report reverberations of heavy, disembodied footsteps within room 301, along the third floor's hallways, and near the antiquated elevator. Utensils levitat-

ing of their own accord have been reported by employees working in the Victor's kitchen. The presence of "Charlie," an elderly, good-natured spirit, is also said to roam the premises, happy to interact with his surroundings.

Whether visiting the Victor Hotel on a quest for the paranormal, or simply for a great night's stay, you'll find yourself stepping back in time to an era of virgin territory, vast wilderness, and antiquated mining techniques. The rooms at the Victor are spacious and accommodating.

Figure in the fact that Cripple Creek — sister city to Victor, a gambling haven, and reportedly one of the most haunted towns in the country — is a mere minutes away, and you've got yourself a recipe for modern-day adventure. ■

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Ghost Ship: The Flying Dutchman

By Jill Stefko, Ph.D.

The Flying Dutchman, ghost ship of legend, was seen in the Cape of Good Hope by reliable witnesses. Why does she sail? Is she a residual haunting? Illusion? Hallucination? Mirage?

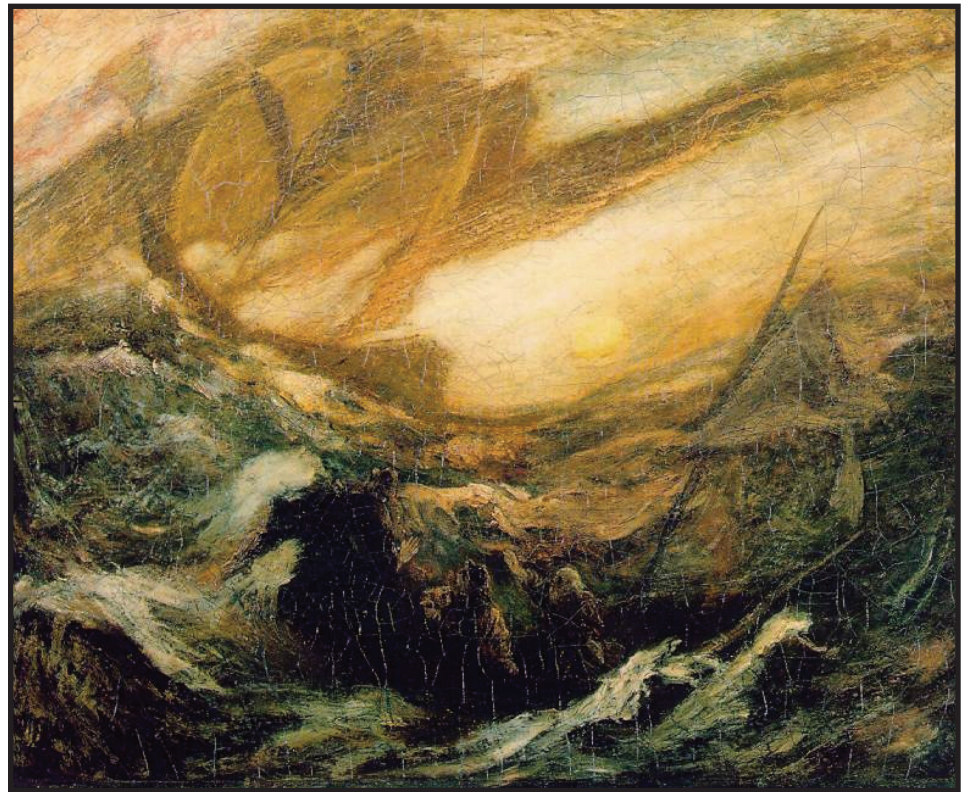
Various legends and sightings abound about this phantom ship. Captains recorded her appearance in their logs. A king was also a witness.

Legends of the Flying Dutchman

There are several versions of the Flying Dutchman legend, the phantom ship sighted in Africa's Cape of Good Hope. The captain's name varies in the legends. The sailing ship was allegedly built in the 1600s.

According to German legend, captain von Falkenberg and the devil played dice. The captain's soul was at stake. He lost and was doomed to sail the sea forever. Other versions are Dutch. Hendrick van der Decken, also spelled Vanderdecken, sailed from Amsterdam to Batavia, India, and vanished in a gale while sailing in the cape because he unwisely ignored the danger. As punishment for his folly, he was doomed to sail forever. An identical legend has the names of von Straaten or Van Dam as the captain.

In another legend, Captain



The Flying Dutchman by Albert Pinkham Ryder, c. 1896.

Fokke made Holland-Java trips with unnatural speed. People thought he was in league with the devil, which is why it is said he sails eternally.

The ship's name is not revealed in the legends. The Flying Dutchman is actually a reference to the captain. Seeing the Flying Dutchman is

considered an ill omen. Sailors nailed horseshoes to masts for protection.

The Flying Dutchman: Selected Sightings

While most people agree the "history" of the ship is a legend, the Flying Dutchman has been sighted by

reliable witnesses. All of these were in the Cape of Good Hope. Lighthouse keepers also reported seeing her.

- 1823: Captain Owen, HMS Leven, recorded two sightings in the log.

- 1835: Men on a British vessel saw a sailing ship approach them in the middle of a storm. It appeared there would be a collision, but the ship suddenly vanished.

- 1881: Three HMS Bacchante crewmembers, including King George V, saw the ship. The next day, one of the men who saw it fell from the rigging and died.

- 1879: The SS Pretoria's crew saw the ghost ship.

- 1911: A whaling ship almost collided with her before she vanished.

- 1923: Members of the British Navy saw her and gave documentation to the Society for Psychical Research (SPR). Fourth Officer Stone wrote an account of the 15-minute sighting on January 26. Second Officer Bennett, a helmsman and cadet, also witnessed the ship. Stone drew a picture of the phantom. Bennett corroborated his account.

- 1939: People ashore saw the Flying Dutchman. Admiral Karl Doenitz, who maintained U Boat crews, logged sightings.

- 1941: People at Glencairn Beach sighted the phantom ship, which vanished before she crashed into rocks.

- 1942: Four witnesses saw the old ship enter Table Bay and then



You might recognize this Flying Dutchman from the *Pirates of the Caribbean* movie trilogy.

New England's Flying Dutchman

The Dash was commissioned to privateer British ships during the War of 1812. Different sources attribute the year of her mysterious disappearance as 1815 or 1817.

The most intriguing sighting happened in August 1942 during World War II. It is said that the British Navy and American Navy and Coast Guard crew members saw her in Casco Bay, Maine, and radar recorded a blip.

Possible Explanations for the Flying Dutchman

The Flying Dutchman could be an optical illusion, mass hallucination, or a mirage. Rays of lights and haze can fool eyes. Sleep deprivation and alcohol can produce visual hallucinations.

Dr. Frederick Meyers, a highly respected SPR parapsychologist, interviewed Stone and Bennett regarding their sighting. He theorized that a type of consciousness survives physical death and has the ability to telepathically project images of themselves and objects to the living who see them. Most parapsychologists have rejected this theory.

The Flying Dutchman could be a haunting that is energy imprinted in time and space. Some hauntings have no intelligence and can occur when a tragedy or disaster has happened. This is in line with current parapsychological theory. ■

Article Source: www.suite101.com

Is the Flying Dutchman an illusion? Mirage? Residual haunting?

vanish. Second Officer Davies and Third Officer Montserrat, HMS Jubilee, saw the Flying Dutchman. Davis recorded it in the ship's log.

- 1959: The Straat Magelhaen nearly collided with the ghost ship.

The ships pursued the ghost ship and were ready to converge on the Dash when witnesses said she vanished. She is known as the Ghost Ship Dash — New England's Flying Dutchman.

Banshee: Death Omen or Folklore?

By Jill Stefko, Ph.D.

The banshee, according to Celtic folklore, is a female death omen attached to clans in Scotland and Ireland. There are variations of her appearance, ranging from a beautiful, young, long-haired woman wearing a green dress and grey cloak to a matron garbed in white or red to a crone wearing a grey-hooded cloak, sheet, or grave robe. Also according to legend, banshees can shape shift into animals.

The O'Brien Banshee

One well-known case of an encounter with a Banshee (known as the O'Brien Banshee) appears in the *Memoirs of Lady Fanshawe*. The story goes like this . . . In 1692, Lady Fanshawe and her husband, Sir Richard, were overnight guests at the O'Brien castle. The castle was surrounded by a moat.

At midnight, an unnatural keening woke Lady Fanshawe. She looked out the window and saw a woman with disheveled reddish hair who was garbed in ancient Irish dress. The entity keened for a while before vanishing.

In the morning, Fanshawe told her host what had happened. He then told Lady Fanshawe that a close



Celtic Bean Sidhe, according to legend, presages death in certain families. The O'Brien clan's portent was sighted and heard. Are these entities of lore or the paranormal? (Art by Norma Peters)

relative had died in the castle during the night and that the banshee always appeared before a death in the family. The host also said that one of his ancestors had married a peasant, bringing dishonor to the family. The

man eventually drowned his peasant wife in the moat to restore his honor.

The family believed the banshee was the woman's ghost.

This story is similar to the Ghostly Drummer of Cortachy, when a "ghostly drummer" was drowned by a member of the Scottish Ogilvy Clan, and his phantom drummed before deaths in the clan's family. This story also gives credence to the theory that the specter wasn't a banshee, but was an apparition or a haunting.

Banshee Death Omens in Great Britain

- Mr. Lewin was in Dublin on business in 1776. His daughter, Jane, and her companions visited a friend. As the group returned home in bright moonlight, they were startled by loud keening coming from the direction of an old church's ruins.

All saw an old woman with long white hair, wearing a black cloak, running back and forth on the top of a wall, and clapping her hands. As they got close to her, she vanished.

The group, extremely frightened, hurried away. Mrs. Lewin was reportedly more upset than the others. She had been sitting by the window when

a huge raven flapped at the glass three times. While she related this to the group, the bird again flew against the window. Several days later, they learned Lewin suddenly died on the night of the incidents.

- The Westrops' banshee death omen appeared in the form of a white owl. When John Westropp died, the family and servants heard its keening. The owl last appeared in 1909.

- When Dr. MacNamara of Corofin died, his family and others said they heard a banshee. The locals believed there were several banshees and that one sat near the crossroads leading to the workhouse, foretelling the deaths of the inmates.

- A family in Great Britain said foxes were their family death omen. Before a family member died, foxes would appear and howl on the estate's grounds.

South Dakota Badlands Banshee

The South Dakota Badlands Banshee was said to be a settler killed by an Amerindian, or an Amerindian killed by a settler. The banshee has been sighted in the moonlight on a hill a mile south of Watch Dog, with her hair blowing and arms making strange gestures.

At midnight, an unnatural keening
woke Lady Fanshawe.

Sometimes, when people go by the haunted butte at night, the banshee appears upon rocks that appear lit with phosphorescent flashes. The banshee looks as if she has a question, but if asked what she wants, she throws her arms upward, shrieks loudly, and then vanishes. Within moments, she reappears on the top of her hill.

According to legend, she has a

companion who plays a violin. The music is beautiful and grows fainter until dawn. As the story goes, those who follow the melodies to find the source will die.

Cattle won't graze near the haunted butte, and the locals avoid it. This isn't the typical banshee in that she is not, technically, a banshee death omen; however, she is called one because of her shrieking.

Tar River, North Carolina Banshee

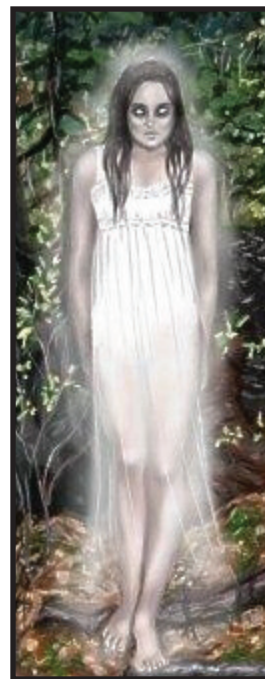
Legend has it that a banshee haunted the Tar River near Tarboro. She would rise from the river on misty, moonless nights, darting from bank to bank, and emitting shrieks.

David Warner, a Whig who hated the British, helped American troops by giving them corn and wheat ground at his Tar River mill. One August day, he was warned to flee because British soldiers were approaching. He refused to do so.

When five British soldiers arrived, he ignored them. The men beat him, and then said they would throw him in the river. He told them to do this and warned them the banshee would get them. The soldiers tied him up, attached rocks to the ropes, and threw him into the river.

As he was drowning, the soldiers heard a woman's shrieks on the river banks.

That night, the British commander and his officers bedded down to sleep. It was the night of the new moon. The men soon heard the shrieking of a banshee. As they rushed from their tents, they saw mist above the river materialize into a long-haired woman wearing a veil. She quickly dis-



The South Dakota Badlands Banshee was said to be a settler killed by an Amerindian, or an Amerindian killed by a settler.
(Art by Norma Peters)

appeared, and her shrieks were heard farther downstream.

This terrified the soldiers who had killed Warner, and so they confessed to their crime. They were sentenced to remain at the mill and grind the grains for the rest of their lives.

One night, the banshee appeared at the door to the mill and led two of the men to the river, where they vanished. Another soldier went insane and wandered through the forest calling out Warner's name. The banshee responded. The soldier's body was found in the river where Warner had been drowned.

Some people have seen the banshee rise out of the river where Warner was drowned and heard her shrieks on moonless nights.

Banshee – Lore or Reality?

Are banshees figments of the imagination based on folklore, or a reality we don't yet understand? With all of the historical discoveries and more discovered in contemporary times, the answer may someday be known. ■

Article source: www.suite101.com.

Pre-History of a Cover-Up

By Rick E. Hale, McHenry County Paranormal Research Group

A great battle has raged in our nation for a number of years now, and both sides are as passionate and unbending in their ideology as their opponent.

In this corner we have the theory of Evolution. According to his book *On the Origin of Species*, Charles Darwin states that at one time mankind swung from trees, ate bananas, and picked lice from each other's hair. And then approximately 2 ½ million years ago, man fell from those trees and learned to walk upright.

As time and the years progressed, our ancestors learned to think critically, formed civilizations, and eventually became the dominant species on Earth, beating the odds of an unforgiving planet. In other words, we are nothing but a bunch of shaved apes walking around like soulless robots getting what we want while the getting is good. When I consider the way people act nowadays, I can almost buy this.

But in the other corner, we have the challenger: the theory of creation by intelligent design. Some supporters of this theory cite the *Bible* as their end-all be-all and last word of authority on the subject. Creationism, from a biblical point of view, states that an



Does this Sumerian image depict the Anunnaki, a powerful and technologically advanced race of aliens?

all-knowing, all-seeing Supreme Being created the world and everything in it in a literal six-day period, taking a rest from his labors on the seventh day.

Yep, I would be pooped to.

Proponents claim that we, mankind, are God's only expression of creation in the vastness of the

universe, and only we are deserving of His love. In other words, the denizens of this planet are IT — the only creatures in the entire universe. Does this seem egotistical to anyone else, or is it just me?

However, in recent decades, a third theory of the origin of the species has been gaining ground and making many think about their place in the universe. This theory may not have as many devoted followers as the most accepted Big Two, but it certainly has a multitude of detractors.

One gentleman on the forefront of this new theory has laid out his hypothesis in a series of bestselling novels called *The Earth Chronicles*. Although he is not the first to come up with this theory, Zecharia Sitchin, is certainly one of its most educated and articulate heroes.

Zecharia Sitchin and the Anunnaki

Sitchin claims that in our planet's distant past, a powerful and technologically advanced race of aliens (known as the Anunnaki) descended upon our virginal world to search for a precious metal they needed desperately on their planet — gold.

While mining for gold, the An-

nunaki hit upon a great idea: They would create a race of slave laborers from their own DNA and the DNA of one of the beasts that called this planet home. So the Annunaki went into the forests and the jungles of the primitive world and gathered a subject that appeared to be plentiful — monkeys.

Some of their best mad scientists got together in the lab, took their genes and the genes of the monkey, gave it a shake in a test tube, and **BLAMO!** Mankind as we know it was born.

As time progressed and the slave race began to populate the world, oftentimes outnumbering their alien masters, the human slave race became self aware and decided, “Hey man, this is just not right!”

Wars and battles broke out as humans took up arms against their alien taskmasters, demanding to be set free from the bondage of slavery. Despite all their technology and higher intelligence, the Annunaki had grown fat and lazy and lacked the means to put down this rebellion and bring their test tube-created slaves back under their thumbnail. In a temper tantrum, the Annunaki decided it would be better to just leave than deal with this lower class of being. So they gathered together all their super cool toys and took off for home.

Mankind was now free from the Annunaki, and they were, in effect, masters of their own destiny. Never again would they be anyone’s slave. According to Sitchin, those humans who worked closely with the aliens became kings and rulers over their fellow man. A new day had dawned and man was in control.

Erich Von Daniken’s Evidence of Alien Contact

The second most-prominent voice in the Ancient Astronaut or Paleo-Contact Theory is Erich Von Daniken, author of the wildly popular book, *Chariots of the Gods*. Un-



Were the Nazca Lines in Peru created by man and utilized as landing strips for aliens, as Erich Von Daniken claims? And why can the shapes only be seen from the air?

like his colleague Zecharia Sitchin, Von Daniken does not make the wild claim that mankind was created in some mad alien scientist’s lair. Rather, he theorizes that when the ancient “gods” came to our world, mankind had already discovered itself but lacked the intellect to create religion, government, and culture.

Von Daniken asserts that many thousands of years ago a powerful race of aliens came to our world and taught mankind wisdom, mathematics, and religion. Like Sitchin, who sites ancient Sumerian texts, Von Daniken claims that he has evidence to prove that an ancient alien intelligence visited our world and that his evidence is indisputable and rock solid.

The Nazca Lines in the South American country of Peru, as Von Daniken claims, were created by man and utilized as landing strips for the aliens and their bitchin’ rides. Some of the shapes, such as a monkey, a whale, and a hummingbird, were used as a beacon, more or less, by the aliens as an indicator that this was their colony.

Now, of course, the skeptics come out of the woodwork and cry foul on this theory. They claim the Nazca Lines were used as irrigation canals or for some kind of religious ceremonies. My question is this: Why can you only see the shapes

from the air? The lines and shapes, which are miles long, would be of no interest to those standing on the ground. They couldn’t even see them, let alone worship them.

Unless these ancient tribesmen mastered flight, which of course is entirely possible, there really is no reason whatsoever to build them. And as for the theory of them being an irrigation canal . . . why make it in the shape of a giant monkey or hummingbird? This just does not make sense.

Von Daniken cites another beautiful work of art from South America — the Palenque Sarcophagus Lid. Von Daniken says the art shows a highly stylized representation of an ancient astronaut sitting in the cockpit of a rocket ship that is blasting off for the heavens.

To be honest, when I look at this sarcophagus lid, that is exactly what I see. It does look like some kind of rocket with a dude operating levers and pushing buttons.

The skeptics claim that the carving on the lid is a representation of a ruler who recently died and is ascending to the afterlife. Well-played worthy adversary, but if this were the case, why make it look like a vehicle rather than some ghostly image flying up to be with the gods? Another question that goes unanswered.

Not only has Von Daniken used these two works of art as prime examples to support his theory, he also claims that the great megalithic sites of the world, such as Stonehenge and the monuments of Easter Island, are prime evidence as well.

But as with all things, the shoe must drop. Zecharia Sitchin and Erich Von Daniken have been widely discredited by mainstream researchers, and their theories are considered crackpot at best. Skeptics claim that mankind was more than capable of creating such megalithic works of art.

Thor Heyerdahl, a 20th Century adventurer, proved this by building his own Stonehenge and creating and erecting exact replicas of the Easter Island monuments. I have always said that ancient does not mean stupid, and I agree up to a point with mainstream researchers. But I pose this question: Wasn't mankind more concerned with survival and finding shelter from a harsh environment way back when?

Although I am sure they were capable of building these things without help, why bother? It would seem like a colossal waste of time. No, these ancient people saw something that made them act.

The Dogon Tribe and The Mysterious Nommos

Oh, woe is us who delve into the strange and unusual. Is there no hard-core objective proof to prove the Paleo-Contact Theory? There may be hope yet, and that hope appears to come from the wastelands of Mali — a tiny country on the West Coast of Africa. And if what was discovered there is true, this just might constitute the evidence we are looking for.

In his 1976 book, *The Sirius Mystery*, author Robert Temple relates the interesting saga of the Dogon, a small group of Tribesmen living in the wastelands of Mali.

In his book, Temple details the

work of two French ethnographers, Marcel Griaule and Germaine Dieterlen, with this odd tribe of African Bushmen. The Dogon claim that many years ago, a race of creatures — called the Nommos — descended from the skies in a great burning ark and made overtures of peace and brotherhood with the tribesmen.

The Dogon claimed the Nommos, although grotesque to look at, taught them the art of writing and arithmetic, making the Dogon a much more advanced people. Of course Griaule and Dieterlen were skeptical



The Dogon tribe claimed that an alien race, called the Nommos, descended from the skies and made overtures of peace and brotherhood with the tribesmen.

of these outlandish claims, but soon became believers when the Dogon priests presented their evidence.

The Dogon possessed knowledge that would otherwise not be possible for them to know. For example, the Dogon knew our world was round, they knew there were nine planets in our solar system, and they knew Saturn was a planet that had rings. Big deal you may say, but

the best evidence is yet to come.

The Dogon had advance knowledge that the Sirius star system, which was the home of the Nommos, was a binary and possibly trinary star system. They even knew the orbit of these two stars. When these facts were made public, the skeptics and mainstream scientific community said that it was entirely possible that the Dogon had contact with astronomers who told them this information.

Can you imagine how something like that happened — a bunch of astronomers just discovered the Sirius Star System, threw a huge party, and got blitzed out of their minds. And before making this discovery known to their colleagues, they decided instead to go out into the wastelands of Africa and share this discovery with a bunch of illiterate tribesmen. I don't know about you, but to me that sounds highly unlikely.

No, the ancestors of the Dogon had an amazing experience. And when you consider that this mythology has filtered down through their people and the surrounding tribes for thousands of years, and they have pottery and blankets that are centuries old with obvious representations of our solar system, as well as the Sirius star system, the only thing you are left with is . . . WOW. Perhaps the legends of the Dogon are fact, and a slick, shiny conspiracy or cover-up has attempted to silence the evidence. You be the judge.

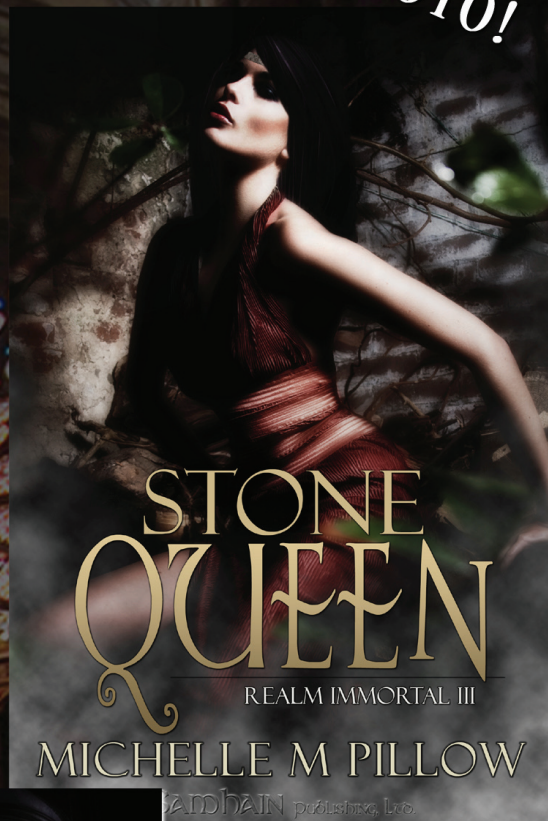
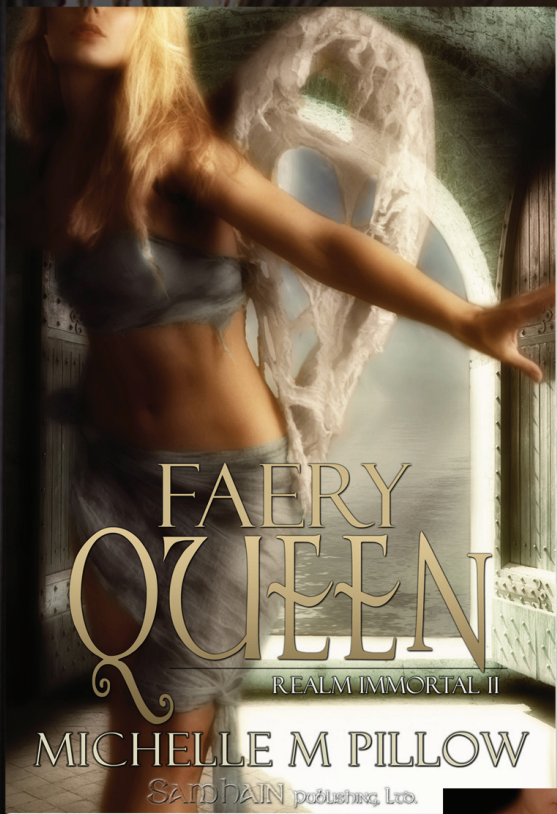
Perhaps in the dim past, our world and our ancestors were visited by an advanced alien intelligence who showered us with wisdom, culture, religion, and all the other neat-o-keen things that make us who we are.

It certainly could possibly explain how, in a matter of 2 million years and less, we have gone from being a bunch of chimps chattering in the trees to the overworked, stressed-out humans we are today. ■

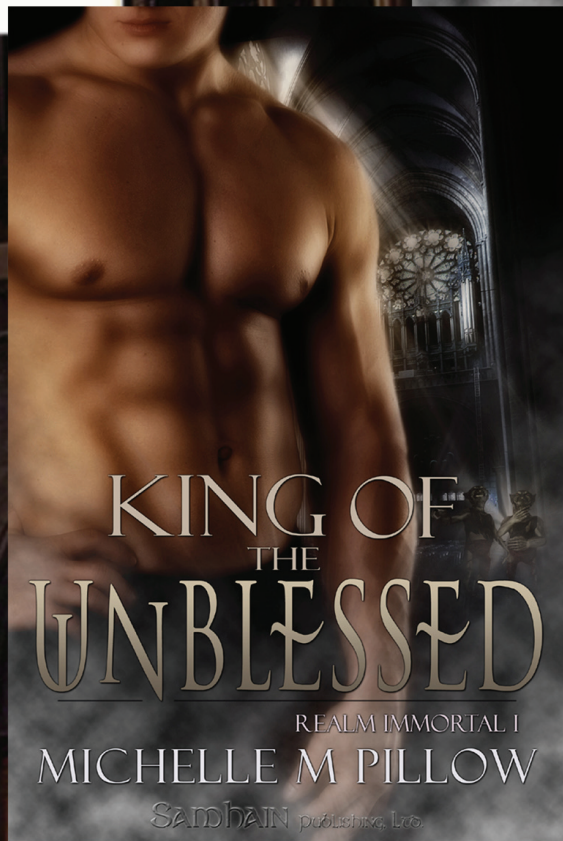
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Diary From a HAUNTED HOTEL

By Carolyn M. Hughes

When I began working as a night auditor more than three years ago at Quality Inn at General Lee's Headquarters, located on the Gettysburg battlefield, I anticipated experiencing nothing more interesting than having some bizarre request from a guest.

I never expected my spirit friends to visit so often or to hear so many accounts of activity from unsuspecting guests. I never thought they would alert us to their presence in so many creative ways, or for there to be so much activity involved.

I am of the personal belief that spirits only want us to know they are still here and not to forget what happened here, for it is on this ground that they truly gave their "last full measure of devotion."

Here is my ongoing diary of my experiences within the hotel . . .

Fri., Mar. 12

9:00 p.m.: Two of my dearest friends, along with their two nephews, were staying the weekend at the Inn on Seminary Ridge. The Inn is a Civil War-era, two-story building that houses a two-bedroom suite that is located across the street from the main office.



Located across the street from the main office of the Quality Inn at General Lee's Headquarters sits the Inn on Seminary Ridge. This Civil War-era, two-story building houses a two-bedroom suite, which has been the site of much paranormal activity.

Hunter, one of their nephews, was sitting at the kitchen table using his laptop. There is a window at eye-level right next to the table. Hunter told me that he caught movement on his left and looked out the window. Standing directly outside the window and looking in at him was a Union

soldier holding a rifle. Hunter said he only appeared for a few seconds and then disappeared completely.

I asked Hunter if the soldier ran, and he said that he just disappeared into nothing. The area where this occurred is well lit for security reasons.



Pictured at left:
While staying at the Inn on Seminary Ridge, a family spots a full-bodied apparition, as well as hears phantom gunfire.

Pictured at right:
Carolyn encounters that-all-too-familiar phantom smell of cherry pipe tobacco as she opens the attic door.

Frí., Mar. 12

10:00 p.m.: My friends and their two nephews were sitting in the living room of the Inn watching TV, when they heard what appeared to be gunfire. Alarmed, they immediately turned off the TV. Thinking there might be something going on outside, they checked the windows and looked outside. There were no police cars and all was quiet on the little road.

For the next five minutes, the entire group heard very loud rapid gun fire, along with sporadic gun fire, which appeared to be in the very room they were sitting in. After five minutes, everything stopped.

Frí., Mar. 12

11:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.: After the earlier excitement of seeing a Union soldier outside the kitchen window and hearing the gun fire in the living room, my friends were finally able to get their nephews to bed and retire for the evening.

The couple had just shut off

the light in the bedroom when they heard tapping on the window. They immediately checked the window and there was no one there. No sooner did they get back into bed, when the tapping started up once again. This continued on for five minutes before finally ceasing.

There are no trees by that window and nothing at all to cause any tapping by that window.

Sat., Mar. 13

5:12 p.m.: I was just finishing up gathering together what I needed for breakfast for the next morning, when I found I lacked a supply item that is kept in the attic. Daniel was covering the front desk while I went to go up to the attic (where we all hate to go).

As soon as I opened up the door to the attic, I was immediately enveloped in a cloud of sweet smelling, cherry pipe tobacco. I frantically called Daniel to come on back. I purposely didn't mention anything.

As soon as Daniel appeared, I pushed him into the attic doorway.

Daniel immediately exclaimed: "Who is smoking a pipe in the attic?" Well, Daniel, you were the only person here when I arrived, you tell me! Cherry flavored tobacco was the preference of the Confederate soldiers during the Civil War.

Sat., Mar. 13

9:05 p.m.: I was standing at the front desk when my visiting friends and their two nephews came in to visit me. As always, when I heard the front door open, I immediately looked up and saw nothing amiss.

After speaking with them for several minutes, the owner dropped by for a quick visit. His first words to me were: "Carolyn, can you please put the portico lights on."

I assured him that I had turned all the lights on hours before, and just minutes before his arrival they were on. This is the first time I did not hear the lights being switched off on the panel directly behind me.

Stay Tuned . . .

The Lehmann House Bed and Breakfast

By Rich Newman, Paranormal Inc

Though this Romanesque Revival home was originally built in the 1860s for Edward S. Rowse, a wealthy financier, it's more known for Frederick and Nora Lehmann, who took over the property and lived there for more than 30 years. Frederick was a nationally known lawyer with a long list of both professional and philanthropic accomplishments

Eventually, the house would go on to pass through several other owners before landing in the lap of current resident and innkeeper, Marie Davies. Since purchasing the St. Louis, Missouri-based property in 1992, Marie has done an outstanding job of renovating the house, and she now hosts one of the best bed and breakfasts in the area (the historic Lafayette Square neighborhood).

Guests who stay in the Lehmann House get to choose between four different rooms for their stay: The President's Room (named for the fact that several U.S. presidents were known to have visited the house during the Lehmann's residency there), The Map Room (where Frederick once stored his map collection), The World's Fair Room (which commemorates Frederick's membership on the Board of Directors for the 1904 World's Fair), and The Maid's Room (named for . . . well, take a guess).



While investigating at the haunted Lehmann House in St. Louis, Missouri, Paranormal Inc caught several interesting EVPs, as well as the sounds of objects moving and banging throughout the night.

The Haunting of the Lehmann House

But what about the haunting of this bed and breakfast? Tales vary. If you research online, you'll quickly figure out that most think the spirit of Edward is still lingering in his old bedroom. Marie Davies has heard some of the ghost stories, and has

had her own experiences in the home — though she reserves a certain amount of skepticism regarding some of the more extravagant claims (as is often good to do).

Of course, like most homes of this age, there have been deaths on the property (all of natural causes), so it's not beyond the realm of

possibility that somebody from the home's past could still be roaming the area.

During my visit at the B&B, I stayed in The Map Room, an area where visitors have claimed to witness shadowy apparitions and heard footsteps and voices. After several hours of snapping infrared photos and performing EVP work throughout the house, I turned in for the night for several hours of restless sleep. It would be after my review of the audio recorded in the bedroom that I would know why I slept so fitfully . . .

Evidence From Our Investigation

Over the course of the night, sounds within the bedroom would shake me awake — primarily the sounds of whispers and voices and objects banging and moving. There were a few instances of this. At one point, a voice could clearly be heard whispering in the room, and then a bang follows.

There were also two EVPs captured by my audio recorder, revealing a female voice speaking in the room. She would say something, and it would be loud enough to actually wake me from my sleep. Once I even woke up and looked around the room for the source of the sound.

Since most of the tales involving a ghost seem to center around a male family member who lived there, it's a little surprising to have captured a female voice. But that's the way it goes sometimes. Like I said before, there were family deaths in the home.

While there was no photographic or video evidence of a haunting captured at the house, I found myself immediately wanting to go back again.

You can visit the Lehmann House B&B's Website (www.lehmannhouse.com) for more information regarding the home, its restoration, and to book your own room for a stay you won't forget. ■

A Peek Inside the Lehmann House



Upon their visit to the Lehmann House, Paranormal Inc spent several hours snapping infrared photos and performing EVP work. But when investigator Rich Newman turned in for the night, unexplainable activity began to pick up. Pictured at left is the front parlor.



Some say the spirit of the original owner of the Lehmann House, financier Edward S. Rowse, still lingers in his old bedroom. The current owner of the house, Marie Davies, has had her own experiences as well. Pictured at left is The Family Library.



In The Map Room (pictured at left), visitors have claimed to witness shadowy apparitions and heard footsteps and disembodied voices. Investigator Rich Newman had his own personal experiences within The Map Room.

In The Beginning

By Karen Frazier

My friend, Larry, believes he has moved into a haunted apartment. He recently moved to a new state and a new town to take a new job. He's been living in his apartment for a week, and strange things have started to happen. He's not sure what to make of it.

Larry is a scientist, and his world view tends toward the scientific. I would classify him as quietly skeptical, as well as open-minded. Still, I was surprised to get a phone call from him telling me about the odd goings-on in his new abode.

A key had gone missing, and after an extensive search of every vertical surface in the apartment, it turned up on an empty table. A clock radio set to the static between radio stations and set to the alarm function went off two hours before the time it was set for — first to radio static and then to a voice shouting, "It's time to get out of bed!"

Sure, there were explanations. There always are.

I found myself waxing nostalgic after talking with Larry. I remembered those first tentative days in my haunted apartment when I wasn't really sure what was going on . . . at first. For me, it started as innocently as Larry's key. A walk into the kitchen of the tiny apartment where a cupboard door was hanging open. I closed it, latched it, and walked away.

An hour later, there it was, open again. Interesting, sure, but most likely a faulty latch. It was only over the next weeks and months that it began to dawn on me that I was not alone in that apartment. It wasn't one thing. It was a progression. Almost as



if a child was playing hide and seek with me, but wanting me to know it was there. An open door would latch shut. A latched door would open. A dripping faucet would make a squeak and turn on in the bathroom.

And then the noises started. Was my imagination running away with me? Was I having waking dreams? Did sounds travel from apartment to apartment in such a way that it felt and sounded as if someone was whispering in my ear?

Like Larry, I was of a scientific bent. Ghosts were characters in spooky stories or scary movies. They weren't real. But each event built on another. Each had many potential logical explanations. And yet, as each event unfolded, it was accompanied by a chill. A deep cold that would run through my body.

I moved into that apartment not ever imagining that ghosts were anything more than fantasies. I left that apartment a year later, and I wasn't so sure. I put it out of my mind. After all, who'd believe me if I told them? Soon I convinced myself that it was all imagination.

My haunted apartment lay dormant in my mind for years. But little by little, my apartment would come back to me. It would be a certain feeling as I went about my daily business. Just a little nibble at the corner of my mind accompanied by some sense of familiarity and a sense of unease — as if I was forgetting something hugely important.

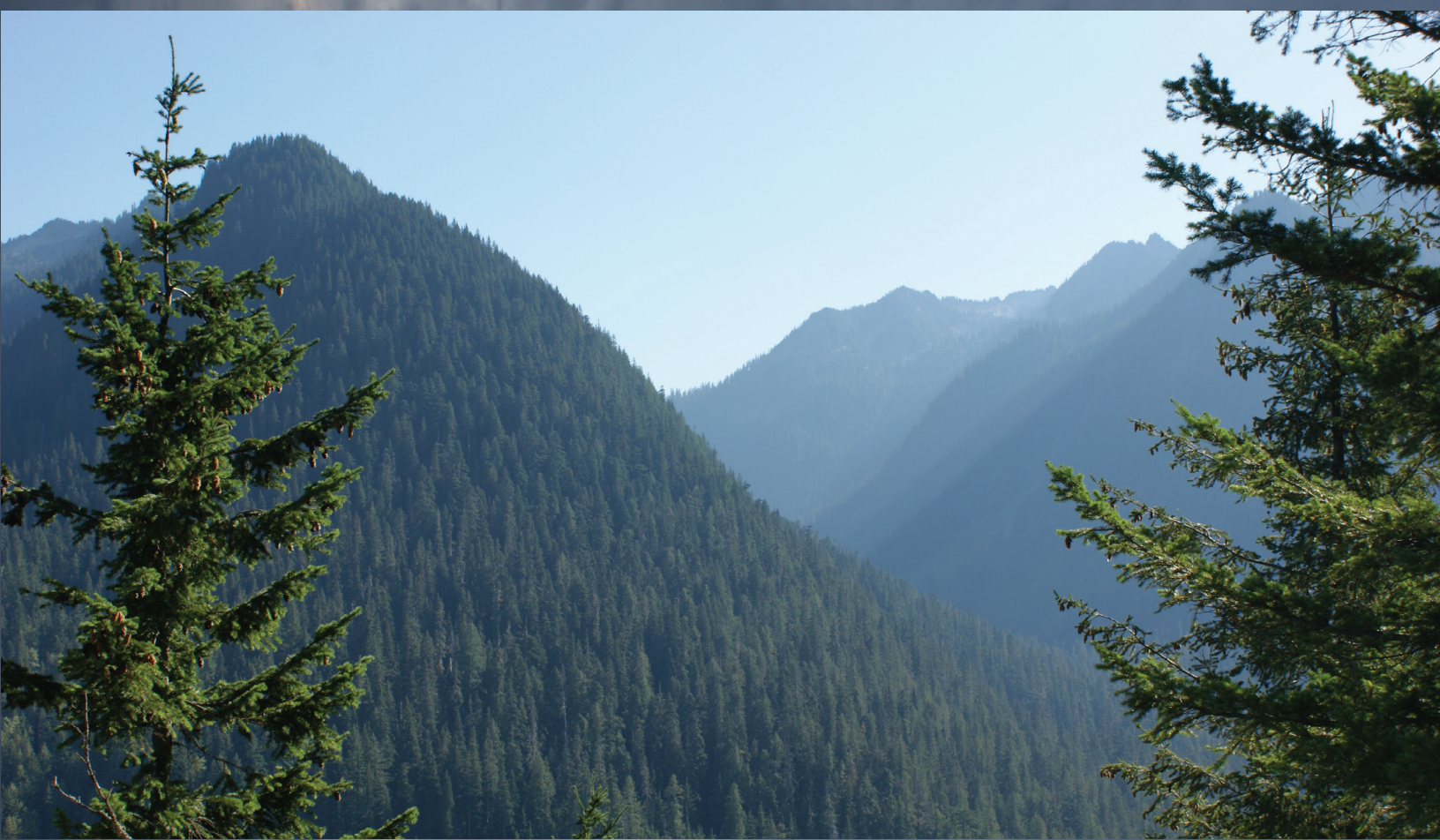
And so, I went through my 20s and part of my 30s with this important memory just outside of my ability to access it.

And then one day the feeling came, and I grasped at a tiny cobweb of the memory and began to unravel it. One gossamer thread at a time, I pulled it apart until it revealed something to me. I had shared an apartment with a ghost. And I was ready to explore that experience fully and find out what really might be out there.

Since then, I've chased the shadows. I want to know what lurks inside. I want to know what drives experiences like mine and like Larry's.

Larry's experience is just beginning. Where will it lead him? Will it change his beliefs? Will it change his world view? Or will he, like me, somehow forget and move forward while his experience lies nestled and waiting to awaken him to possibilities he had never before considered? ■

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... Every Day



www.namasteproject.org

Where Memories Lie (Part III of IV)

By Lettie Prell, www.lettieprell.com

Continued From Our April Issue

... *This hadn't happened to me in years, channeling like this, Ms. Walquist thought. Maybe it was because I was flying high and that opened me psychically. That's how it had happened to me the first time, when I was 14.*

It was back in the days of states and governments run by real people. I had just nailed my flute solo at All-State. I knew I had done well on my piece. The judges smiled as they wrote on their palm pilots. Then to top it off, in the hallway busy with students rushing to make their next events, I had kissed a boy for the first time.

That night back home, I was sketching, feeling happy, and I started making big circles on the page, lots of big circles. And then with a surge of new intensity, a message had come scribbling out, my first message from a spirit.

This afternoon, I felt good because I had done my part for the cause, for all humanity. I only got one virtual personality deleted, Mr. Singh, but it had been a Class B V.P., one of the Overmind's prized assets, and my actions had enabled others to get through to infect the servers. We had artificial intelligence on the run now. A.I. was cannibalizing its own resources, deleting its precious virtual human library, even its best volumes, because



today the meme virus got through.

People could no longer pretend those "entities" were human, because an increasing number of entities themselves did not believe it. As a result, instantiations had come to a halt, which cut off A.I.'s ability to grow. And with A.I. also terminating V.P.s in an effort to prevent the virus from spreading, it was losing capacity. In an earlier assault, rebels from another unauthorized town had destroyed the backup copies of all but three servers' virtual personalities, making much of the loss permanent.

* * * * *

The wind whispered through the window cracks as night set in. My cottage was drafty with November chill. I shivered, but more from excitement than the cold.

The town was celebrating, setting off fireworks, dancing, and popping the corks on the wine and ale

in the storehouse. I stayed just long enough for the toast: Death to the new! Rebirth of the old! But I was tired and cold, so I downed my wine and came back home to record the big news in my journal.

But the writing was now giving way to scribbles. I was no longer alone. It was more than a feeling of being watched. I felt a distinct physical presence that I couldn't see. The back of my neck tingled, as if someone were squeezing it.

I gave way to channeling. It feels weird, to hand over part of my body. One has to yield, to trust spirit. This one felt kind and gentle and encouraging. Untroubled. It wasn't in a hurry. I liked this spirit's feel.

Yes, come on in. What do you want to say?

I felt a familiar surge, and quickly flipped to a new page. The spirit passively watched it fill with scribbles. Yes, come on in. Open, open. You can have my arm, my hand. Here, here.

M

Yes, a first letter. I flipped the sheet out from under the pen, to show the blank page beneath.

SWAQST

Back to scribbling. I looked at the strange set of letters swiftly being covered with pen marks. Swaqst. Then I remembered the "M." Ms. Walquist. The spirit was saying my name. Kind of formal, don't you

think? Just call me Ann, honey.

I tore away the page again to reveal a fresh sheet. I hoped I'd have enough paper.

GOD 4 U

Back to scribbles. Funny spirit. Carrying messages straight from the Big Guy, are you? Trouble is, I don't believe in God, not in the way most people who use that word have in mind.

OO

Those weren't scribbles. I felt distinct letter O's, drawn amid the chaos. What did it mean? I flipped to a new page.

OO GOOD.

Oh, OK, not God but good. Good for you, of course. Thanks, spirit.

NO NO NOT

Not good? This spirit was more confusing than most.

SPIRIT NO not spirit. Not anything. Not here, not anywhere. False.

At least the writing was settling down, but if I understood right, that was the strangest message I'd ever received. A spirit in denial?

Must be sim only memory only. Your memory followed you here.

Then in big, angry capitals —
I AM NOTHING.

I felt the spirit's pain. How can I help?

No help nothing. Good for you, good for you. Destroy to live free. Wiser than me.

The hairs on both my arms prickled. Some thought was almost within my grasp. Who are you?

No. Nothing.

OK, Mr. Nothing. Who are you not? The writing gave way to scribbles again. The marks seemed bent on obliterating the message. I tore the page away before it could do any more damage. Come on, Mr. Nothing, you can tell me who you're not.

F S F S FSFS

OK, what's it stand for?

Frank Sings. Singh.

"No you're not!"

Correct.

The guy's name had been Frank Milner. Not Singh. Singh had been the name of the virtual personality I got deleted today.

I shoved the papers away from me, sending them flying off the table in three directions along with the pen. But that last written word hounded me. *Correct.* One word, but it sounded just like him.

He never was. The thought was a voice in my head. The spirit no longer needed paper.

Singh never lived, Ms. Walquist. He was just a memory, a memorial to David.

The words were familiar. I had used those words today with Mr. Singh, the words I had spoken for Frank Milner. All of a sudden, I didn't want to believe. I didn't want there to be a spirit here speaking to me. Above all, I didn't want the spirit

All of a sudden, I
didn't want to believe.

to be Mr. Singh. It couldn't be Mr. Singh, because that would mean I had made a big mistake. I was hallucinating, having a dream, going insane. Anything but channeling a spirit.

Yet I could feel the presence like eyes focused on the back of my head. My neck tingled. My heart beat faster. I felt energized, as if I had been dancing, and in a way, I was, only not with a flesh-and-blood partner. I could not deny I was channeling a spirit, because this is how I had first felt as a teen, channeling for the first time. Denying this truth would be denying who I was.

I also could not deny I recognized this spirit's imprint, and it wasn't Frank Milner, a dead high

school physics teacher. It was Mr. Singh. His intelligence, elegance, his personality, was beyond who Frank Milner had been. Why hadn't I recognized his spirit, back in the lab?

No, not Singh, the spirit said.

Memory only, a monument to David.

"You were more than that! You were a researcher, remember?"

Excess processing time should not be wasted.

The import of what I had done smacked into me full force. I had been so bent on infecting the servers I had failed to recognize Mr. Singh had a spirit. I had killed somebody today, a being with a soul. Somebody who had expanded far beyond their original sense of physical self, beyond anything I myself had ever hoped to achieve.

My head reeled. I couldn't see straight. I stumbled blindly for the bathroom, but it was too late. I threw up in the hallway. Each heave, all I could think was, he doesn't know he's eternal. I had done worse than kill him. I had destroyed his awareness of his own soul.

* * * * *

I tried to catch my breath.
"Look, Mr. Singh."

I got to the bathroom and ripped off sheets of toilet paper to blow my nose with. I retched again when I emptied my nose, but nothing else came up.

"Look, Mr. Singh. I know I told you today you didn't have a soul, but I was wrong."

My cheeks burned. "Like in the Turing tests, I saw you didn't have an aura, so I didn't think you were sentient."

I could barely speak. What had I done?

"I didn't know people could exist like that. Without auras. Without bodies."

Yet something worse needed to

be said. “Mr. Singh, you should know I faked channeling Frank today. I meant it to distract you, so I could pass on the virus and the meme.”

He didn’t miss a beat.

No, Ms. Walquist. It is for the greater good that you tricked the Affiliates, which are holding true humans hostage.

“I . . . I betrayed you, and I betrayed my own integrity.”

Destroy to live. You have destroyed nothing but falsity, nothing but your chains that prevented you from roaming free.

The meme was affecting him even after death. He still thought himself non-human. This was awful. I had to help him. I couldn’t leave him blind to the truth that he was a spiritual being. Not for all eternity. And not just Mr. Singh, but also the entire pantheon of entities being deleted from the Affiliates. I had to stop more from becoming like him.

I lurched for the phone and dialed Marcus, the head of my rebel cell and my only contact with the subversives. It rang a long time, seven rings. Just as I started to get frantic he was going to screen me out, he answered. “Mmm. Yeah?”

He sounded drowsy and contented. Unbidden, I had a vision of him sprawled on his bed, somewhat drunk, a woman curled on her side next to him. I was psychically open, I realized with a blush. I was seeing what he was doing on his end. Taken off guard, I blundered ahead, knowing the conversation was not going to go well. I can’t even remember how I said half of it, how it was I knew the

virtual personalities had souls, but at one point I said, “We should be attacking the Overmind, not those poor people who are in those servers.”

“Ann, get a grip,” he said.

“You’re not thinking straight. There are no people in those servers. They’re all dead.”

“They’re not dead.” My voice caught, and I coughed. “They’re conscious. We’ve got to stop killing them.”

“No,” Marcus said sternly.

“They killed themselves by instantiating, thinking they were gaining new life in those computers.”

His tone softened. “Ann, we can’t bring down artificial intelligence without knocking the props out from under them, attacking them at the base where they’re rooted to human brain processes.”

“Not just brain processes. There are people in there.”

“They’re not alive. I can vouch for that.” There was a pause on the line. I visualized him running a hand through his hair, then massaging closed eyes. “You yourself concluded as much years ago.”

“I was wrong then. Now I know that spirit can exist without chakras and auras. I’ve witnessed it.”

“And did you witness A.I. in there, too?”

I didn’t have an answer for that. What was Mr. Singh’s relationship to A.I.? All I knew was that they had deleted him as a threat to the server world. But in what context had he and others like him existed in there? How much did the computerized humans help drive A.I.’s agenda?

Were they mere slaves? Or more?

Marcus broke into my silence, exploiting my hesitation. “We all remember how you set A.I. in its place during the Turing tests. Maybe you just need some rest.”

I realized how I was going to be perceived if I pressed this issue. Being against the slaughter of downloaded humanity was going to be branded anti-human, pro-A.I. No one was going to want to hear what I had to say, and certainly not Marcus.

* * * * *

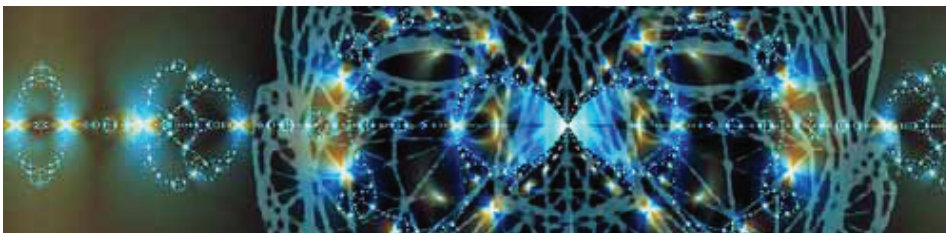
The virus-meme spread across the world’s servers over the next two days, despite the efforts of Artificial Intelligence to contain it. Hundreds of thousands of computerized entities were snuffed out, and I was seemingly the only one aware of their spirits, the only one horrified.

The controls had been lifted, and everyone was getting their implants taken out. Even the skeptics and anti-subversives welcomed the change. They cheered the demise of what they considered non-living to begin with, the digitalized remnants of human minds.

The dying entities did not protest either— so far as anyone knew — because they were stripped of belief in their own spirits, before the Overmind, A.I., deleted them in an attempt to cleanse the servers.

I walked the streets silently, carrying my secret burden of knowledge. It was a gray morning, and I was a bit underdressed against the biting wind, but I didn’t care. It matched my mood. Being Saturday, lots of people were out doing errands and holiday shopping, their faces plastered with smiles at their recent good fortune.

Even if some were dimly aware of the holocaust they wrought, they didn’t care. Creating ghosts was buying their freedom. As they passed me, the smiles chilled a bit. I was



ostracized by my secret attitude. I sided with the ghosts.

I caught a glimpse through the crowd. It was Marcus, heading my way. His arm was slung around the shoulders of a dark-haired woman. They talked and laughed as they walked, gazing often into each other's eyes. I remembered my vision of Marcus in bed, a woman curled next to him. I paused and stared into a store window. Computer games and toys. I continued staring anyway.

It didn't work. "Hi, Ann," Marcus boomed cheerily behind me. I turned, trying to smile.

"You don't look so good." He frowned. "Have you been sick?"

I shook my head, then reconsidered and nodded.

"You should have on a heavier coat," his girlfriend told me.

I tried to make a joke about growing up a northerner, but Marcus only frowned more while his girlfriend fidgeted and looked up the street, probably searching for an excuse to move on. I finally assured Marcus I was on my way home to rest, and watched them merge into the crowd, into the din of happy voices and laughter. I had once been like them, engaged in life. Not anymore. I went home.

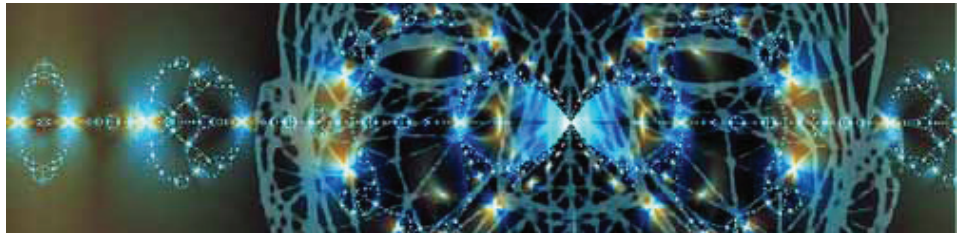
* * * * *

On the newscast that night, five murders were reported, along the seaboard alone. Murders so soon, in the midst of what should have been a celebration of freedom.

"Where is our sense of community?" I asked the empty room.

Mr. Singh answered. He was always at hand now, like a housebound roommate, except he spoke inside my head.

The murders are part of the expression of the human spirit. Passion is spirit, even violent passion. No humans are really lost. Their spirits live on.



"You live on," I said sullenly. "You're a human too, in spirit form."

No, memory only, Mr. Singh said, without a hint of rancor.

On the morning of the third day, there were four times the murders to report — real flesh-and-blood murders. People killing people, and not the computerized kind. Plus, there was food hoarding, extortion, and rioting in the cities. If this was how people acted without the controls imposed by artificial intelligence, I didn't want to have anything to do with it.

It was quiet in my town, for the time being, although people walked stiffly, shoulders hunched, and spoke in lowered tones. A thought pushed itself to the fore of my mind. The best of humanity had instantiated long ago and now were dead to themselves. I looked into the future and saw only greater chaos, greater decline, leading to our extinction. Probably just as well. Who would want to live in that kind of future anyway?

It is the passion of humankind, to act out of free will, Mr. Singh said. *Judgement about what is good or bad about these actions is beside the point.*

I was unconvinced.

Each of these three days, as all this was happening, I was on the Internet until well past 2 a.m., searching for others like me who could intuit what was going on. First I tried the spiritualist sites, but they were in ecstatic, mad celebration. I could not talk to any of them. Next I surfed through psychic sites, but most of these were fakes and swindlers.

I cursed them, and cursed myself

for faking channeling Frank Milner. Maybe if I hadn't tricked him, Mr. Singh would have been able to fight off the meme. If he hadn't been deleted, maybe the Overmind could have fended off the worst of the attack.

I queried a handful of psychics who seemed to be legitimate. Some of them replied to my e-mails, but only to express confusion as to why the "great" Ann Walquist would be concerned about the emptying of "those dead remnants of memory," the V.P.s, from the servers. A few counseled I should get some rest, just as Marcus had.

But there was no rest for me. I couldn't sleep. I lost my interest in searching the Net, but kept doing it anyway. It was something I just did.

* * * * *

One night I opened an e-mail from a psychic named Shamanadan.

I sense a great gathering of souls in the lower bardos (the realms beyond death), he wrote. *There are thousands gathering, but they are not moving beyond as they should. They are not on the path to rebirth. I think this is very bad, but I don't know how to help them. It is bad because the souls are straining the fabric of the worlds. Too much strain, and this world of ours will feel the effects.*

The name struck me as funny. It made me think of him as Shaman Dan. Yet here was someone who was apprehending the true situation. Thousands of souls gathering in the realms beyond death, not moving on, like Mr. Singh. But what did Shaman Dan mean that it was strain-

ing the fabric of the worlds?

"Tell me, Mr. Nothing," I asked Mr. Singh. He let me call him that, at least. "Are there other . . . memories like you?"

Yes, much falsity has been destroyed so humans may live, he said.

I tried to tell him again that he and every single one of those other "falsities" are souls, and they are a part of the human family. Nothing I said convinced him. I thought of all those spirits crowding the bardos.

"Those other memories out there, aren't they just there, with no one thinking about them?"

Oh, yes most memories are lost, he said. *However, I've told them about my own journey back to the person who remembers me, and they are encouraged.*

"Your journey?" My mouth ran dry. I stared at the computer screen, which still contained a frame of Shaman Dan's e-mail.

I am honored to be so well remembered. Now others are embarked on their own journeys home to those who remember them. Home is where memories lie.

"You told those souls to go find . . . someone like me?"

I told them to go where they are remembered.

It was only now occurring to me how unusual it was for me to be channeling Mr. Singh this long, and having such a lucid conversation, hearing Mr. Singh word for word rather than piecing together a verbal message from the impressions I received. What if this happened to others? Could a non-psychic be aware a spirit was communicating to them?

There's no such thing as a non-psychic, I reminded myself. Everyone has some capacity, some extrasensory ability. Even with A.I.'s controls, I saw it in people's auras all the time. What, then, if this started happening on a large scale? I touched the

"reply" icon on the screen, and sent another e-mail to Shaman Dan:

The strain you mention, "on the fabric of the worlds." What kind of strain will it be? I am in touch with one of the spirits, and I'm beginning to think other spirits are visiting people, too, or will be shortly. What would happen if many are?

My stomach felt queasy as I pressed "send." I couldn't afford to wait around for a reply. I had to try and see if I could send Mr. Singh away, to see if he were permanently attached to me or not. I shuddered, thinking of Mr. Singh in my head every day for the rest of my life.

But on the other hand, wouldn't that be just what I deserved? I had destroyed him. I had lied to destroy him. It would be fitting to have to host his half-life as a "memory," disconnected from knowing he had a soul.

I tried to get rid of
Mr. Singh. He did
not go.

And what if he didn't come back? I'd never be able to help him, or all those other souls out there in limbo somewhere, the bardos as Shaman Dan said. Not that I was at all sure I could help them. So far I hadn't convinced Mr. Singh. But I felt responsible. I'd been just one part of one cell of a large subversive movement, but that didn't absolve me in any way. Especially considering what I knew.

I tried to get rid of him anyway. I never had to send a spirit away before, at least not beyond the simple termination of a channeling session. So I started with that. I thanked Mr. Singh for his messages to me, and told him he could go.

Thank you, he said. *You honor me, suggesting I have freedom.*

He did not go.

I resorted to more aggressive measures. I don't like the word *exorcise*, because it's related to the concept of demons, which I don't agree with. Nevertheless, what I tried was not far removed from holy water and *Bible* verses. Nothing worked.

As I put away my ritual items — mostly fetishes and totems — I considered my situation, trying not to panic. I wasn't in constant touch with my visitor, I rationalized, pushing out the truth that he was always popping in to answer my inner questions or comment on my thoughts. Could it be Mr. Singh came and went anyway, however briefly? He had spoken to other "memories," after all. I asked him about it.

I have not left you, he said. *I am your memory.*

"If you are just my memory, how is it you can speak with other memories?"

All memory is connected, he said. *This observation supports the theory of the human collective unconscious.*

"From Jung? You read Jung?"

Yes. Although perhaps he might have better termed it the human collective consciousness. Anything unconscious can be brought into one's awareness. Some biological humans, even, have attained awareness of the collective memory, as documented in the available literature.

He was lecturing me. That was more like the Mr. Singh I knew, not the Mr. Nothing that had stalked me these past two days. How could I bring out his real self? Make him see how human he was?

It wouldn't be by trying to convince him with logical argument. I had tried that, and failed. I couldn't match wits with Mr. Singh. I had to think of another way. ■

To Be Continued in Our
June Issue . . .

Paranormal Underground's 3rd Annual Short Story Contest

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

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

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

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

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

Our judges will be announced in a future issue. Judging criteria includes:

- Story originality
- Paranormal theme creativity
- Text fluidity

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

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

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



Jess Granger

By Michelle M. Pillow, www.michellepillow.com

An adventurer at heart, Jess Granger has done everything from working as a balloon artist, brewing her own beer, traveling through Europe, and working to rehabilitate injured birds. When she isn't writing like a mad fiend, you can find her pondering the complexity of ecosystems while tending her massive butterfly gardens.

She's a national bestselling, science fiction romance author with her series, *Realms Beyond*. Her latest work, *Beyond the Shadows*, arrived in bookstores May 4, 2010.

* * * * *

Q: Tell us about yourself.

Jess: I grew up in a small town in the middle of the San Joaquin Valley in California. As a kid, I spent most of my time reading, swimming, fostering my obsession with horses, and annoying my two brothers.

I loved to write, though I'm pretty sure the only "book" I wrote as a child had something to do with a princess hiding behind a tapestry so she could sneak out of her castle because her brother was being mean and she wanted an adventure. I don't think I ever finished that one, which is a shame. My imaginative childhood grew into a thirst for knowledge and adventure that I've kept to this day.

I love to travel and try new things. I worked as a balloon artist in restaurants, rehabilitated injured



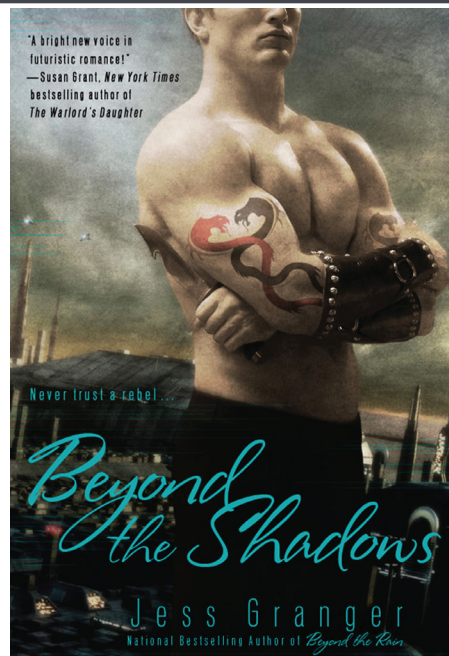
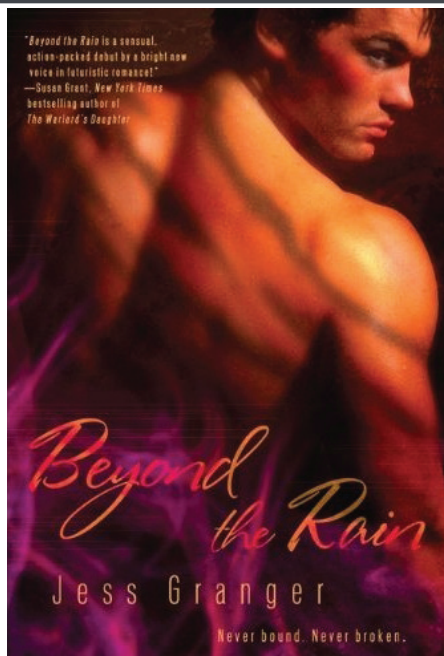
According to national bestselling, science fiction romance author Jess Granger, the universe is endless and full of possibility for wonder, adventure, and excitement. When Jess is faced with something that might be possible but seems impossible, she "errs on the side of, well maybe, who knows?"

hawks and owls as a volunteer at a raptor management center, traveled all over the country during my trumpet playing days with the Cal Aggie Marching Band-uh, managed to wander to Europe to explore Germany, France, and Spain, and finally settled down with my wonderful husband to raise a couple of kids, a couple of cats, and one fantastic All-American mutt.

Q: In your book, both your hero and heroine are aliens. What inspired you to create such characters?

Jess: Part of the fun of science fiction, especially on the space opera end, is creating new worlds out in the vastness of space with new rules. I love world-building from scratch. The universe is endless and full of possibility for wonder, adventure, and excitement.

In the case of my hero and heroine from *Beyond the Shadows*, it was fun to portray a matriarchy that isn't all good, or all bad for that matter. It was also interesting to play with male/female dynamics when both characters come from a completely alien culture that has very different rules from ours.



Jess Granger's latest work, *Beyond the Shadows*, arrived in bookstores May 4, 2010. For a synopsis of the book, see the end of this article!

sleeping, and I've dated a couple of guys that I believe might have been aliens, but no, in the grand scheme of things, I have not seen any little green men, nor have any tried to kidnap me because Mars needed women. I guess the night is still young.

* * * * *

Thanks for joining us Jess! You can learn more about Jess and her books at her Website, www.jessgranger.com.

About *Beyond the Shadows*

A man of deception. A woman of justice. Can their fragile trust be strong enough to prevent a war?

Commander Yara knows perfect leadership requires perfect control and discipline. She has spent years living without the distraction of caring for anything — or anyone. It's a sacrifice she's willing to make. Yara has honed herself into the perfect heir to the Azralen throne, but a bloody coup could destroy everything she's worked so hard for. She must return home to prevent war. Unfortunately, the only ship available belongs to an Earthlen trader with no regard for authority — especially hers.

Cyn is a rebel, driven to protect those suffering at the hands of the Elite leaders of Azra. Using his alias to manipulate the lovely but icy commander onto his ship, he has to keep her from Azra long enough to ignite the revolution. But when he awakens a vibrant and feeling woman beneath that icy exterior, he gets more than he bargained for — love. He must find a way to convince Yara to join him, before they get caught in a web of deception that could tear their world apart. ■

It led to some pretty entertaining fireworks. It was also a challenge to create a world and a culture that developed into a matriarchy through a natural state of cultural evolution dictated by the nature of their planet and the needs of war in an arboreal realm.

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

Jess: I think people are excited by possibility. I think it is fun to ponder what is out there. Who knows what is really out there? It gives us the thrill of fear, but that lingering excitement that what we know as truth may not be truth, and in fact we are small in the face of true wonder.

Jess: I like to believe in possibility. When faced with something that might be possible but seems impossible, I err on the side of, well maybe, who knows?

Q: How would you react if you came face to face with an alien?

Jess: Hands down, I'd freak out. I'm really a skeerdy cat. After the freak out, I'd freak out in a different way. If they didn't intend us harm, wow, could you even imagine the nature of a feat of exploration like that?

Q: Have you ever been abducted by aliens?

Jess: Um, barring some entertaining shenanigans in college, I'm pretty sure that no, I have not been ab-

"I fell out of my body once and landed on the ceiling while sleeping."

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

ducted by aliens. I fell out of my body once and landed on the ceiling while

Building a "Raudive Diode" EVP Recording Device

By Andrew Selfridge, Oklahoma City Ghost Club

Fair warning: "Some assembly required" is a caveat to this month's Equipment Update. If you have a soldering iron and a sense of adventure, proceed at your own risk.

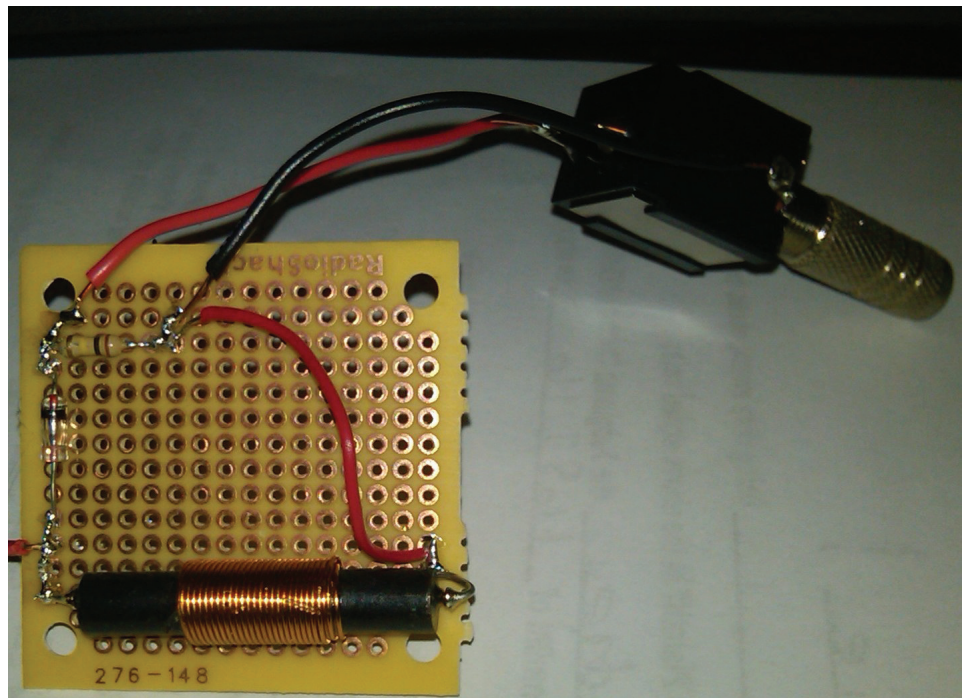
In working on a project for my group's quest to provide a Web-based interactive instrumental transcommunication (ITC) project, I was trying to decide what would be an innovative yet simple idea when it comes to ITC-based Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVP).

Germanium diode recording is certainly nothing new, but it is a somewhat exotic method of collecting ITC based EVP. Some folks swear by this method, others find it useless. Its deployment is as diverse as its results, so as always (and especially with any ITC device) your experience will vary.

Germanium Diode EVP Recording

The idea of germanium diode EVP recording came about when Latvian psychologist and ITC researcher Dr. Konstantin Raudive developed several new methodologies for studying EVP.

Raudive's background included studying extensively abroad, and he

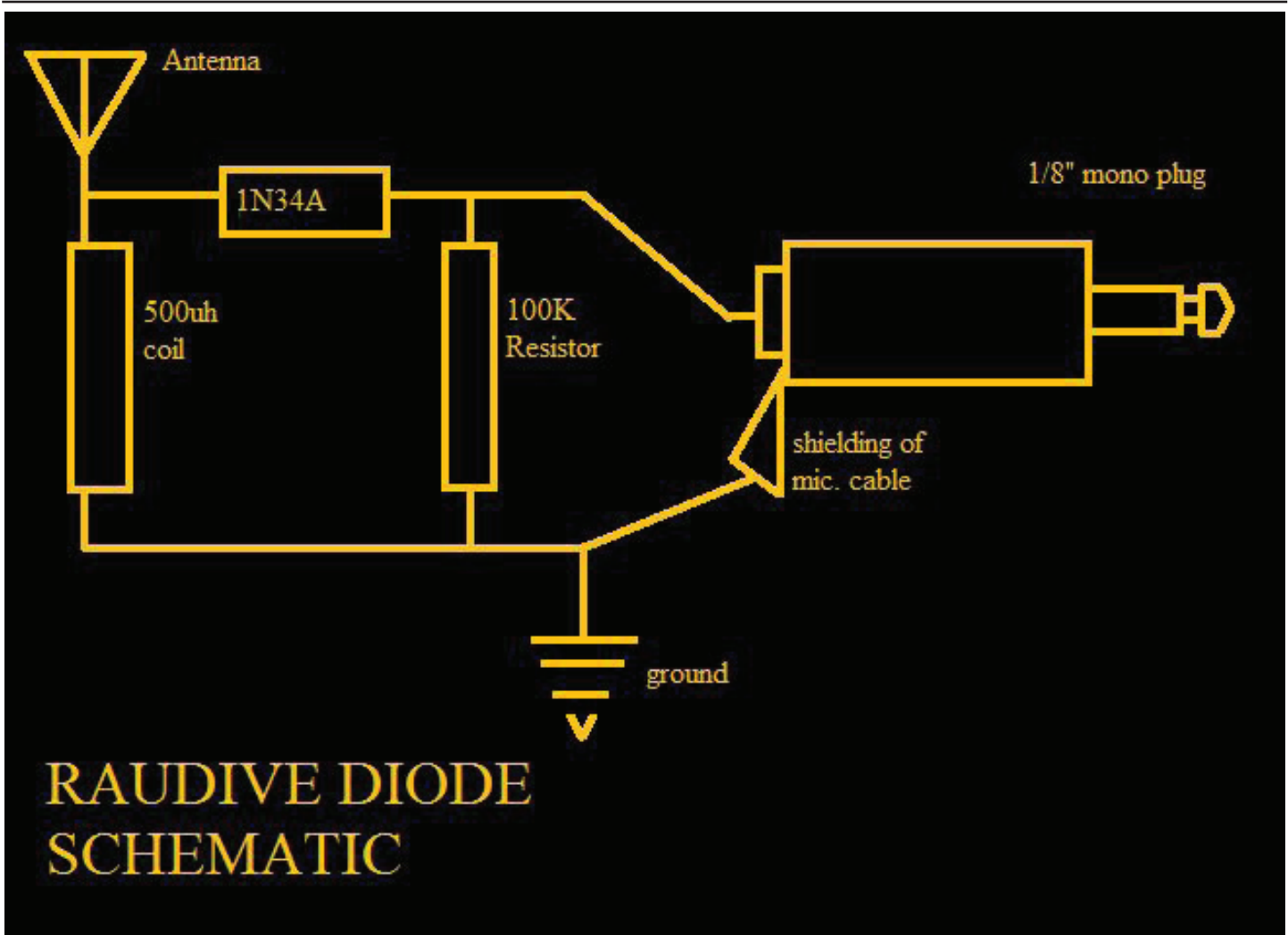


The idea of germanium diode EVP recording came about when Latvian psychologist and ITC researcher Konstantin Raudive developed several new methodologies for studying electronic voice phenomena.

eventually became a student of Carl Jung. He also taught at the University of Uppsala in Sweden. Studying parapsychology for most of his life, Raudive was most interested in the possibility of an afterlife, which led to his investigation of EVP. Raudive developed several different approaches to recording EVP, including:

- Microphone voices: leave a tape recorder running while no one talks.
- Radio voices: recording white noise from a radio.
- Diode voices: recording from a crystal set not tuned to a station.

Inspired by EVP pioneer Freidrich Jurgenson, and obsessed with what the voices meant in



You can assemble the Raudive Diode components by following the diagram above. If you are unsure about connection and or placement, try prototyping the circuit on a breadboard before soldering it all together.

relation to the afterlife, Raudive published his book *Breakthrough* (1971), in which he detailed his methodologies, mechanics, experiments, and case studies.

Raudive's Methods and Their Benefits

One method that Raudive used was an untuned "cat whisker"-type radio circuit featuring a germanium diode. The primary benefit of this type of device is that it allows for the recording of spirit voices without the contamination of audible sounds.

There is, as with any audible ITC device, the possibility of RF con-

tamination, so use this device with a healthy dose of common sense.

The basic parts that you will need are as follows:

- 1 thick piece of wire (14 gauge is a good thickness) approximately three inches in length.
- 1 1N394a germanium diode (usually found on online auction sites in bundles of 10 or more)
- 1 100k resistor (found at RadioShack or similar stores)
- 1 500uh coil choke (Rapid electronics or similar online parts supplier)
- 1 1/8-inch mono audio cable

Simply assemble the components as laid out in the diagram

above. If you are unsure about connection and or placement, try prototyping the circuit on a breadboard before soldering it all together. This can save a lot of time and headaches. Remember to use a stiff wire for the antenna and keep the length as close to three inches as possible.

That's it! You can now start experimenting with an exciting new method of EVP capture. You will likely need to amplify the signal a bit through an audio program such as Adobe Auditions or Audacity. You can even run the output through a headphone amplifier if you wish.

Good luck and happy building! ■

Gene Melvin (Gene)

About Gene

Age: 35.

Born/Currently Resides: Petersburg, Virginia/Kent County, Delaware.

Status: Married.

Education: College.

Zodiac Sign: Gemini.

Occupation: I am a licensed mortician in the family funeral home for the past 15 years. I conduct all aspects of the business, and operate a separate monument business on the side.

Q&A

What brought you to Paranormal Underground?

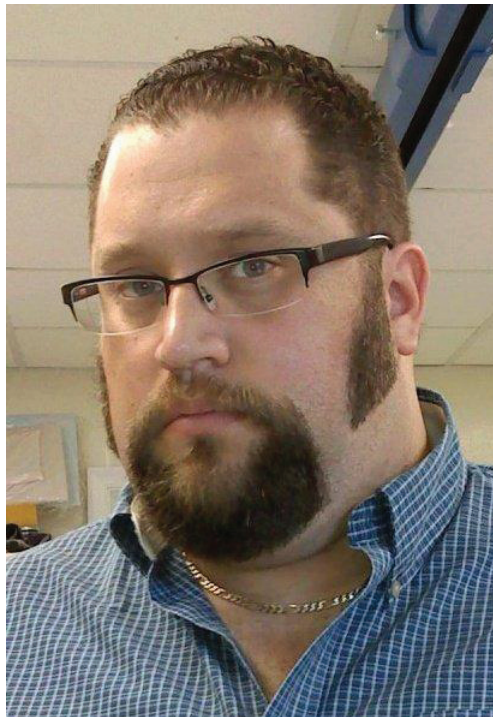
Gene: Heidi Ann lured me in . . .

How would you describe yourself?

Gene: I like to think of myself as a humorous fellow who is kind and compassionate. I try to not be serious all the time, and I like to have a good laugh.

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

Gene: My wife of 12 years is a probation/parole officer, and my little girl will be four in July. I enjoy



Gene is a skeptical believer. He recognizes the possibilities and stays open-minded. Gene believes that to say the paranormal does not exist is close-minded.

hanging out with friends, riding my Harley, and spending time with my girls. I also enjoy fishing, camping, and target shooting.

What are your favorite TV shows, paranormal shows, books, movies?

Gene: I know everyone has their opinion about the “paranormal”

shows out there, but I solely watch them for entertainment.

I like *Ghost Adventures* for their style, and they seem to catch some nice EVPs. I love horror and sci-fi movies, as well as anything with blood, gore, and scary themes.

Favorite music?

Gene: Hard rock/metal.

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

Gene: I always wanted to be a state trooper, but was highly encouraged to pursue this career.

What are your pet peeves?

Gene: People who gloat and try to make their lives sounds more interesting then what they are.

Are you a skeptic or believer?

Gene: I am a skeptical believer. I recognize the possibilities out there and stay open-minded to the things that our minds cannot comprehend or scientifically prove. To say that the paranormal does not exist is close-minded.

I also appreciate the vast array of methods out there that people use to study and investigate the paranormal, but wished that people would understand that there is not



Pictured above is Gene (at right) with his wife and daughter. Gene enjoys hanging out with friends, riding his Harley, and spending time with his girls. He also enjoys fishing, camping, and target shooting.

solely one best method or ideology that exists.

I feel people seem to get caught up in the “my way is the best and only way” mentality.

What areas of the paranormal interest you the most?

Gene: I mainly stick to ghosts, apparitions, and the oddities of life after death. This interests me the most. I am not too much into UFOs or things like that. Quite frankly, aliens frighten me.

Gene is interested in ghosts, apparitions, and the oddities of life after death.

Have you ever studied the paranormal?

Gene: Not in depth. I have read a few books on the paranormal. Most of my books are historical and informative on specific haunted

sites. I look forward to expanding my paranormal library.

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

Gene: Unlike most people in this section, I have not had an experience. I’ve just had an interest since a small child about ghosts. I do get to hear a tale or two from work about strange occurrences when someone passes away and something odd happens to a loved one or their home.

What do you think happens to us when we die?

Gene: This is a subject I am not sure of. If I believe in what I have been taught since a baby — that people either go straight to Heaven

or Hell — then what or how do apparitions exist?

This leads to my open-mindedness again and acceptance that there may be things that I do not understand about life after death.

Do you have any words of wisdom that you live by?

Gene: I stick by the old adage of “Do Unto Others . . .”

Any exciting plans for the future?

Gene: My biggest plan for the future, and I will publicly come out and announce to everyone at PUG now, is the addition of twins later this year. My wife is about eight weeks pregnant now, so I am looking forward to being a new daddy again.

I try to devote myself to being a good father and doing what is right for my kids. Oh, and I would like to write a book one day, or maybe even two. ■

THE LOVELY BONES

BOOK WRITTEN BY ALICE SEBOLD

MOVIE DIRECTED BY PETER JACKSON

SCREENPLAY WRITTEN BY FRAN WALSH, PHILIPPA BOYENS, PETER JACKSON

REVIEW BY KAREN FRAZIER

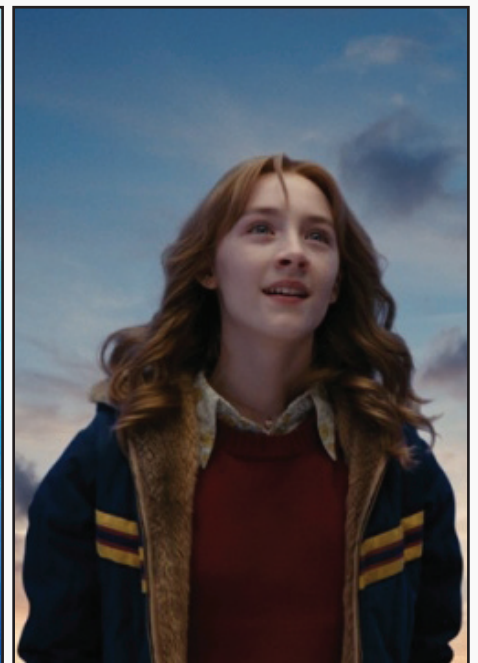
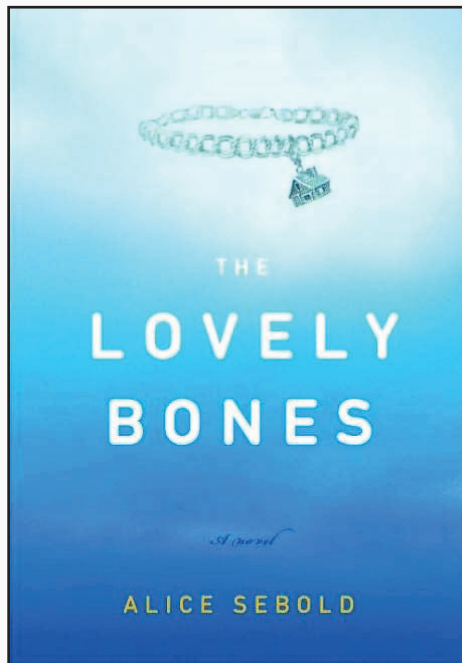
In Alice Sebold's novel made into a movie, *The Lovely Bones* has an unusual heroine. In both the book and the movie, the story is told from the viewpoint of 14-year-old Susie Salmon — a girl who was raped and murdered by a creepy neighbor (played with convincing skeeviness by the brilliant Stanley Tucci.)

Following her murder, Susie watches her family from some other side-type netherworld where she stands in a gazebo and cavorts with another of Tucci's many female victims.

Susie's murder has not left the Salmon family unscathed. Her father (played by Mark Wahlberg) becomes obsessed with finding her killer. Her mother (Rachel Weisz) disappears first into herself, and then to an agricultural job picking fruit away from her family. Susie's younger sister zeroes in on the neighbor as her sister's killer and takes crazy risks in order to discover who killed Susie.

And the neighbor? He rides on the high of his kill for a while, until he feels the pressure from the Salmon family closing in on him as he begins to crave another kill. It is then that he begins to make plans to take his second Salmon sister.

The book, which was brilliantly written, brings the reader into the story as it is told through Susie's watching eyes. This device falls short in the movie, however. Instead of gripping the viewers and pulling



In *The Lovely Bones* (both the book and movie), the story is told from the viewpoint of 14-year-old Susie Salmon — a girl who was raped and murdered by a creepy neighbor (played with convincing skeeviness by the brilliant Stanley Tucci).

them into Susie's struggles as she watches her family deconstruct before her eyes, it just feels off-putting and even a little bit weird.

If you're tempted to check out *The Lovely Bones*, I'd strongly suggest reading Sebold's book, which is a well-written and provocative read. The movie, however, may be somewhat of a disappointment — especially given its pedigree.

With a stellar cast that includes Michael Imperioli (*The Sopranos*), Susan Sarandon, and those

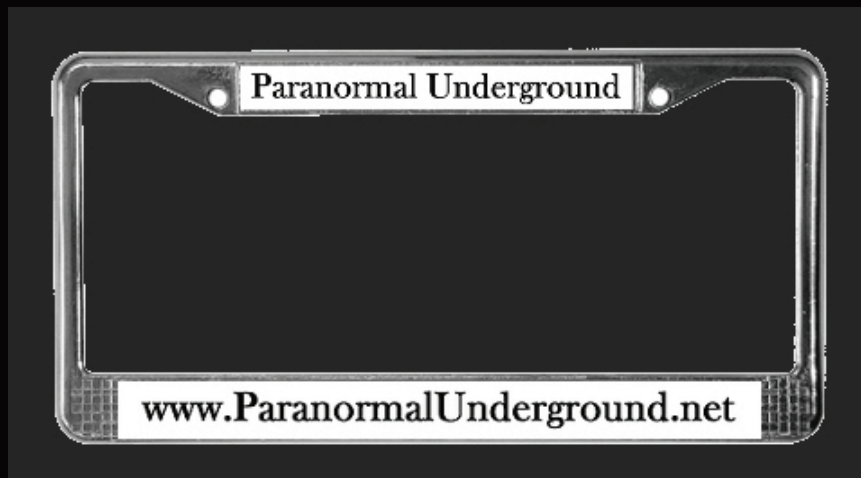
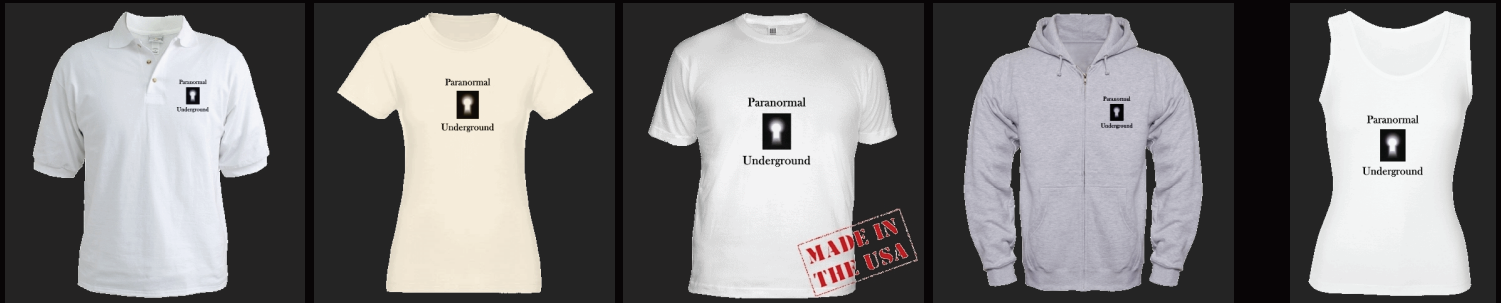
named above, plus direction by Oscar winner and LOTR genius Peter Jackson, it is surprising that more couldn't have been done with Sebold's very cerebral novel.

That being said, some of the visual imagery in the movie is quite stunning, and there are a number of standout performances from the talented cast.

My recommendation: Read the book and take the movie for what it is — a moderately successful adaptation of a highly successful book. ■

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