



The Ghostwriter is the official newsletter of the Great Lakes Association of Horror Writers.

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**The deadline for next issue is November 10, 2007**

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# The Ghostwriter

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## *The Other Side of Normal: A Message from the President*

I am a writer. Not by choice, but by calling. True, I don't have a bestseller to my name and I just have a few publishing credits. But it's a start. I've been writing stories for most of my life. Though most remain unpublished, there is hope.

In high school, I started to write a novel. I would most often write this novel out longhand so I could work on it wherever I may be, whether that was at school waiting for class to begin, at a coffeehouse enjoying a cappuccino, or at the library. When someone would see me writing away in my notebook

he/she would always ask what I was doing. I would tell them that I was working on a novel. The response I would get is: "I'm going to write a novel someday."

Someday.  
Someday, I'm going to write that story. Someday, I'm going to finish my novel.

Seize your someday.  
I am proud to report that on September 24<sup>th</sup>, my someday arrived. Remember that novel I said I started in High school? Well, after fifteen years of tinkering, starting and restarting, and just plain

ignoring it, I have finished the first draft. It's not the exact story that I started with, but that's half the fun of writing. Stories that take over are the most fun to write.

Someday I will finish my novel. It is finished.  
Carpe Diem  
Seize the Day.  
Make today your someday.

I'll see you in Oz folks

Adam Gifford  
President

## *Demon of the Month* *(from monstrous.com)*

### **BABA-YAGA**

**Slavonic Goddess of Death.** She lives in a house built of human bones, complete with bone fence with inset skulls whose eye sockets light up in the dark. And it is a mobile home - it runs around supported on gigantic chicken legs. If this doesn't make you chicken out, her own eyes turn humans to stone, and her mighty mouth has knives for teeth. She can also pole herself around in a giant pestle and mortar which she also uses to grind up and unpetrify her victims. Coming soon to a forest near you.



## The Tomb Keeper Archives - by Michael Cieslak

October!  
Fall temperatures (finally)!  
The appearance of pumpkins  
at every roadside stand!

All of this can only mean one thing--our favorite holiday will be here soon. If Halloween is right around the corner, that means it must be time for the Halloween edition of The Archives!

As usual, we will start off with a few generic Halloween sites. As aficionados of the horror field, sometime in the next month each of us will be called on to explain exactly what this whole "Halloween holiday thing." Of course, we start by explaining that Halloween is second only to Christmas in terms of money spent. Then go into the history of the holiday.

What? You don't know the history of the holiday? Well there are a number of websites which will fill you in. Halloween Whipnet (<http://halloween.whipnet.net/history/>) has a nice, concise explanation of the origins of Halloween. There are also projects for children and safety tips for their parents.

Lou's Haunted House page (<http://geocities.com/heartland/8270/halloween.htm>) also tells

the Halloween story as well as providing tips, projects, and recipes to make the Little Monster's party memorable.

Similar information can be found at the Holiday Spot (<http://www.theholidayspot.com/halloween/>). In addition to the things listed above there are also downloadable screen savers and links to Halloween e-cards so you can decorate your computer and then use it to wish all of your friends Halloween.

If you are interested in party ideas and the history of Halloween, but would like something with a little less of a G rating, check out Halloween is Here (<http://www.halloweenishere.com/>) or the Haunted Doghouse (<http://www.haunteddoghouse.com/indexx.html>). Each has craft and game ideas like the sites listed above, but each also has other material which is not necessarily appropriate for the kiddies. Halloween is Here has links to a store and also to the Haunted Art Gallery. The Haunted Doghouse has the history of Halloween, but also links to Mysterious Places, Monsters and Legends, Scary People, and a host of haunting tales.

If your tastes run more to the

decorating and professional haunts, visit The Halloween Database (<http://www.halloweendatabase.com/index.php>). They have a directory of haunts (which is a little limited, Michigan has no listings yet), as well as tips, pics, and even videos of haunts from around the country.

FX Warehouse (<http://www.fxwarehouse.info/>) is a one stop shopping site for everything you might need to finish off this year's costume. Want to look like the caveman from the Geico commercial? The have the make-up. Looking for the perfect Klingon forehead prosthetic? Look no further. If you are going to order, be sure to do it soon. There is not a lot of shipping time left before the big day.

Not sure what to go as for Halloween? The movie site Fandango has a special page devoted to Halloween (<http://halloween.fandango.com/>). They have a few games, the 13 scariest Halloween Haunts in America (local haunt Erebus is #1), how-to videos from a special effects master, and a gallery of movie based costumes. There is also a quiz which, after about a dozen questions, tells

you the perfect movie themed costume for you to wear this year.

It would be wrong to mention one movie site and not the other. Fortunately, Moviefone gave me a reason to put them in this article as well--their list of the 31 Best Horror Films of all time (<http://movies.aol.com/movie-photo/best-horror-movies>). They started the countdown on the 1st of October with number 31 and are revealing one movie each day until they reach #1 on Halloween. The names of all of the previous movies are available, so you still have a chance to catch up on what you missed.

Apartments.com is running a contest which will award \$20,000 to the person with the best "Possession Obsession." Why did I include this in the Halloween list? Because one of the finalists has his entire living space decorated with monsters, ghouls, and Halloween items. Head over to <http://www.apartments.com/possessionobsession/default.aspx> and show your support of our brother beneath the skin by voting for him.

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*Check It Out*

<http://www.darklinks.com/dhauntfood.html>



# The Origins of Halloween: Tricky Myths and Tasty Facts – by Jennifer Gifford

Once a year, it happens. Retail chains put out tacky polyester costumes and overly sweetened candy in shiny foil wrappers. Religious groups warm of the evils of the coming day, while others prepare for the annual celebration of spirits. Known by many names- Samhain, Shadowfest, Old Hallowmas, All Hallow's Eve, Festival of the Dead- this special night of the year is a hallmark of the seasonal tradition of Halloween.

While many believe that it is representing the eve of the fall equinox associated with Pagans, the origins of Halloween did not start off as a pagan ritual or devil's holiday. Halloween started as a celebration of the fall harvest, the last great cultivation of life before winter set in.

Originating in Europe, among the Pic tribes that later evolved in the Celtic isles of Scotland and Ireland, it was a night to give thanks, to bid farewell to the last cycle of life before all died in winter, and to pray for safety and survival of the harsh winter months. It's a holiday filled with history, folklore, myth, magic, and divination rituals, but what it isn't is a holiday that worships the dark forces of magic, evil, or the Devil.

Over the centuries, religious leaders, namely found in most Christian religions, have stated that Halloween is not only the night when evil is worshipped, it is the Devil's holiday. Religious leaders felt that the indoctrination of young children to a holiday whose

roots originate in a polytheistic and non patriarchal society was and is still a mortal sin. Many churches today stress the importance of not participating in the holiday event all together.

The original festival that is known as Samhain literally translates to mean "summer's end". Over two thousand years ago, this meant that the last of the crops were gathered, dried, and stored for the coming winter months. An annual ritual was prepared with a great feast and bonfire that usually involved the entire village. The use of the bonfire would later come into play during the witch trials, as it was believed that Halloween and those who celebrated it were thought to have seen visions of the Devil through the flames.

Another part of this ancient celebration were the renewal of hand fasting and marriages. Hand fasting is a Gaelic tradition where a man and a woman are betrothed for a year and a day. For that time, they live like husband and wife, and at the end of that time, they can either officiate their vows with a ceremony and celebration, or they part ways. The fall harvest celebration often included those who were officiating vows, as well as new couples joining in the hand fasting.

The feast itself consisted of summer and early fall fruits and vegetables, as a means to give thanks for the bounties received during the year, but also as a way to pray for survival through the long treacherous winter months. It is this celebration that the Pilgrims of England brought with them to Plymouth Rock

when the Americanized version of the "true Thanksgiving" took place. There is however, little mention of the origins of the tradition of giving thanks from the traditionalized version of the Thanksgiving holiday from its Gaelic roots. It's funny that almost fifteen hundred years later, President Lincoln officially declared the true holiday of Thanksgiving, and that later President Roosevelt later moved the official holiday to the fourth Thursday of the month to better help out the economy by giving a littler boost to the Christmas shopping season. How ironic that the positive celebrations surrounding Halloween have been dissected and moved to substantiate another manmade custom that deals with making a profit, which in turn reflects the religious notions about the pitfalls of loving money. As a monotheistic and patriarchal society, we often edit that which disagrees with our mythos of origination.

So why the bad rep for such a cool holiday? It has to do largely, if not entirely, to two things. The symbols that represent that holiday. It's a holiday that honors the dead spirits, and the macabre symbols of skulls, ghosts, and witches all deal with the state of the soul being in a state of unrest. Anything that had to with death, and the soul not being happy, directly challenged the Christian religions and the subsequent indoctrination of its followers. It's also important to note that all these symbols date back to pre-Christian organization of religions, and were a direct threat

to the establishment of one true religion and one true faith, reinforcing the patriarchal society as older religions and traditions predating Christianity dealt with polytheistic gods and goddesses. Ironic that it's a woman who is blamed for bringing about original sin.

This author loves Halloween, and its probably her favorite holiday. (Any holiday that involves me getting free candy and wearing cool outfits has to be a good thing). I do not believe, after all that I have read or researched, that it's a black holiday, or a Pagan's holiday. Having Gaelic ancestors myself, I am aware of many of the traditions, origins, and superstitions surrounding the great fall festival.

I do not think, however, that Halloween will ever suffer the ostracization that it once felt, though I do feel its becoming a political holiday for many nations. So as I wash my pillow case in preparation, finish my Halloween costume, and get the candy ready for all those little trick o' treaters (minus the Milky Way darks because I hear that dark chocolate can stunt a persons growth, so I'm willing to sacrifice on my part), I say to all my fellow horror lovers, friends (both Pagan and non) and family: Blessed Sabbat, Happy Halloween, and Blessed Be.



## Serial Sacrifice – James Garner

Each month we will spotlight a different member. If you wish to be in the limelight for 30 seconds, please let us know, or you may wish to nominate someone else. If we don't receive any volunteers or nominations, then we will pick a member at random. This month, we will be talking to James Garner.

GLAHW: How long have you been writing? When did you get started?

JG: Since 1996.

GLAHW: Why did you choose the horror genre?

JG: I always thought I could write a better "Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>".

GLAHW: Were you inspired by a person or event to begin your writing career?

JG: The first "Night of the Living Dead" inspired me to write horror.

GLAHW: Does your family support your writing endeavors?

JG: No. I write a lot of erotic horror, even Horror-Porn (hehehe). Their too churchy for my writing.

GLAHW: Where do you get your ideas from?

JG: I'm a visualist. The spirits come to me with various stories (weird, huh?). They often will wake me up from sleep, so I can continue their story (very unfair).

GLAHW: Do you outline your stories before you begin to write?

JG: No...that's a waste of time and energy.

GLAHW: Tell us something interesting about your past.

JG: I was in the Army (1<sup>st</sup> LT.) in Military Intel. I then became a Detroit Police Officer. I got hurt on the job and started writing afterwards. I've also been an actor/model. I'm also a filmmaker, and songwriter.

GLAHW: Where do you see yourself, as a writer, in five years?

JG: Selling ten screenplays and producing "Sweet Marlene" myself. Running my entertainment empire (which is now formulated). Then becoming a billionaire.

GLAHW: Do you believe in ghosts? Have you ever seen one or had an encounter that you would like to share with us?

JG: Yes, remember, I see them all the time. So it's no biggie to me. All of my stories come from them. They show me everything from beginning to their end. I write too slow to get all the stories down (sorry, ghosties). You'd be surprised how horny ghosts are.

GLAHW: Are you superstitious?

JG: Naw. That's a waste of time and energy. Universal energy (Holy Spirit) will dictate what happens to us, whether we do a particular thing or not.

GLAHW: What do you do for a living, outside of writing?

JG: Travel, walk in the park, eat, watch women. Typical men stuff, especially since I'm retired. If you have a big booty, I'll watch it (hehehehe!).

GLAHW: How often do you write?

JG: Between 5 to 8 hours every day. Usually at night.

GLAHW: Do you keep a journal every day?

JG: No time. Too busy writing.

GLAHW: What do you prefer to write - "short stories, poetry, novels, scripts, etc.?"

JG: Screenplays, plays, short stories, comic books, songs.

GLAHW: What truly scares you?

JG: A wife, left alone while I travel on business (scary).

GLAHW: What sort of hobbies are you into?

JG: Dungeons-and-Dragons,

reading, meditating.

GLAHW: Have you had anything published?

JG: I self-published my novel, "Sweet Marlene: Mistress from Hell" but have since pulled it to update it to the cable mini-series I wrote.

GLAHW: Do you read outside of the horror genre? If so, what else have you read?

JG: Erotica, sci-fi, comedy, PORN, etc.

GLAHW: Horror stories can be pretty sick and disgusting at times. Have you ever seen a psychiatrist, or has anyone ever thought you might need one just because of what you write?

JG: People tell me I'm "sick" and I say, "Don't hate the messenger. Hate the ghost!" You should see their faces.

GLAHW: What type of horror do you like to write?

JG: All types. I don't do vampires too much, though. That's too saturated.

GLAHW: Do you use a pseudonym?

JG: Nope. I want people to know who I am, and what I've written. And I write everything from porn to gospel. It depends on what spirit is next to me.

GLAHW: What do you think makes a good story?

JG: Ones with deceit and revenge. And of course, the mutilation that follows.

GLAHW: As a child, what did you want to do when you grew up?

JG: I'm doing it, except I wanted to be surrounded by 21 sexy women or various races. Oh well. Guess I gotta practice my manifestation meditation more.

GLAHW: Are you religious?

JG: I'm a spiritual Christian.

GLAHW: What book, if any,

most influenced your life, and why?

JG: Angels, by Silver Ravenwolf. Learning to communicate with angels is intriguing.

GLAHW: What are you reading right now? Are there any authors (living or dead) that you would name as influences?

JG: The Breaking Point, by local author Janaya Black. Now that's devious horror. Dean Koontz gives me inspiration.

GLAHW: Give us three "Good to Know" facts about you. Be creative. Tell us about your first job, the inspiration for your writing, any fun details that would enliven your page.

JG: I love slapstick comedy...weird erotic art/women...role-playing (hehehe) and exotic novels.

GLAHW: What else do you want your readers to know? Consider here your likes and dislikes, your interests, your favorite ways to unwind - whatever comes to mind.

JG: I'm in a screenplay competition (Screenwriter Expo6 – in Los Angeles). When I become a semi-finalist, they'll fly me to LA. That's exciting to me. I can't stand prudish people. They're quick to dog people who write erotic material, but will secretly read it. To unwind, I like to sit in a hot tub with salts and bubbles, with a cold drink by my side (and a voluptuous woman would be nice).



## Archives – cont'd

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention Horrorfind (<http://www.horrorfind.com/>) the grand-daddy of horror sites. I have discussed this site before, so I will not go into detail again, but they have lists of links related to horror, Halloween, decorating, you name it.

There are a lot of things I love about October--Halloween (of course), haunted houses, the slew of horror movies which

get released, hot cider on a cold afternoon... However, one of the best things about October is that it means that November is right around the corner. November means its time to once again throw sanity out the window and attempt to write a novel in one month. Those of you who participated in the National Novel Writing Month (<http://www.nanowrimo.org/>) know exactly how fun, exhilarating, frustrating, and

absolutely insane the prospect is. Those who did not participate last year--what is the matter with you? Get over to the website and sign up! When you do, be sure to check out the GLAHW thread in the Writing Groups and Clubs forum.

I have mentioned a number of different websites which sell costumes or supply items for the home haunter in previous articles, so I did not add any to that list today. Check the back

issues for these links, or contact me at [thedragonsroost@yahoo.com](mailto:thedragonsroost@yahoo.com) and I will let you know which ones are best. Feel free to send along any links that you like to the same e-mail address.

That's all for this month. Happy Halloween!

## Book Review - Grave Peril: Book Three of the Dresden Files by Jim Butcher - by Jennifer Gifford

Very rarely am I able to find a book that encompass all my favorite elements of my three favorite genres, science fiction, fantasy, and horror, and finding those elements in a series, and do with an uncompromising balance. I was happily and eerily surprised when I stumbled upon book number three in the wizard files written by longtime novelist, Jim Butcher.

Having been a fan of Laurell K. Hamilton (her early true works, not the erotic smut she writes now), I was giddier than a kid was on Christmas having stumbled upon a new series.

The books center around the darkly humorous and wizarding wise guy Harry Dresden and all his magical and supernatural mishaps. Jim Butcher really brings to life the dark side of life, that seductively dark shadowed world where the things that go bump in the night are usually the result of some demonic nasty living in the alter-reality, the Nevernever.

But Butcher's writing is more than just creative narratives and backdrops. He's an illusionist

himself, creating a world of complex characters and distinctive bad guys that have put a new spin on the world of evil. His writing can be dead on balls accurate with his perceptions of all things dark and scary. "Fear has a lot of flavors and textures." Then he does what few other authors do, he shows us his observations. I have read nearly all of Butcher's work, and while books one and two of this series is more a mixture of science fiction and fantasy, book three treaded into new territory with the horror genre element. It also has many historically religious tidbits (whether true or not, they only add to the deliciously multifarious texture of the story) that make the story and its characters believable. One sterling example is the swords that are made up of the nails that crucified Christ, and are used in the hands of God's special soldiers, that only those pure of heart and righteous can wield it. Whether or not there is any religiously significance to the origin of the myth, its one of those creative twists that

Butcher frequently adds to his stories to weave his magical literary spell upon his readers.

The fantasy element of the novel can be found in the alternative universe that the nasty spirits call home, the Nevernever. The archaic elements and old fashioned rules of chivalry, engaging the enemy, and the forgotten mannerisms of old fashioned fighting help provide a contrasting duality. In the real modern world, things are more complicated with high tech thugs roaming around, and in the Nevernever, things are slow, like time has frozen, and there a clear sense of what is right and wrong though there it operates in a complete state of lawlessness.

Science fiction is another element that balances nicely in Butcher's third installment. The new spins on vicious creatures, the hierarchy and social constructs of the zombie group, the Faerie realm, and the political structure of the werewolves freshen up this long stagnant genre.

My favorite part of the book is the horror element of story, that

surrounds the presence of a reoccurring being calling itself the Nightmare. The nightmare is a tool, manifesting itself into a weapon slowly taking over the Nevernever and the streets of Chicago one soul at a time. The malevolent mobster without a form, it represented evil's presence for evil's sake.

Butcher's darkly satirical and pessimistic attitude carries through his writing when he uses his main character to reflect to reflect on the obvious plights of society. His wizarding detective, a pseudo Dirty Harry Potter older and slightly more jaded, often asks what we all have wondered. "I don't understand God. I don't understand how he could see the way people treat one another, and not chalk up the whole human race as a bad idea." I hear you on that one.

A wildly spiraling yet exciting read, I am looking forward to see what other dark creepy things that Jim Butcher has in store.

## Good News

**Jennifer Gifford** has some good news to share with everyone: "My short story, 'The Dollhouse', was picked up for publication for *Gluttonlumps*

*Chilling Tales Magazine*, due out in Spring 2008! I am finally, after laboriously writing away for a little over twenty years, published...I am in truth, happier than a pig in shit."

**Adam Gifford** also has some good news: "My story, 'Dear Father', will appear in the debut issue of *Escape Velocity* due out in late October or early November.

If anyone has good news to share with the group, be sure to email Peggy at [peggy.christie@comast.net](mailto:peggy.christie@comast.net) each month.

## The Greatest Actors in Horror – by Tom Sawyer

Whether they played deranged killers, good men gone bad or possessed, or even the obligatory monster, these guys entertained us for decades with their unforgettable portrayals of some of Hollywood's best monsters and madmen. Here is a list in no particular order of these men and the characters they played.

**Bela Lugosi-** He was and will probably remain Dracula throughout cinematic history. While he only played the blood sucking count twice, he will forever be tied to him and be remembered for his portrayal of him. Believe it or not he wasn't even the first choice to play the Count. Lugosi did not stop there. He played the Frankenstein Monster as well and even Ygor. He played several other evil characters and mad doctors as well. All cinematic vampires to this date pay him some homage to the character he created.

**Boris Karloff-** Most noted for the monster that the good doctor created, Karloff is to this day, like Lugosi the man who made the Frankenstein monster. He played the role three times. Plus he played the original Mummy, and a mad doctor, Devil worshipper and evil doer or two along his long career. On top of that he hosted the anthology horror/suspense series Thriller.

**Lon Chaney Jr.-** Has the

distinction of playing all four of Universal studios monsters. He is the only man to have played Dracula, Frankenstein's monster, the Mummy and of course the role he created the Wolfman aka Larry Talbot. While his father was celebrated as the man of a thousand faces, Jr. was just as famous in the annals of horror movies, perhaps more so.

**Christopher Lee-** Most noted as Hammer Films version of Dracula. The statuesque Lee also portrayed the English studios version of the Mummy and Frankenstein's monster. He has also portrayed everything from a Devil worshipper, a Nazi, a James Bond villain and an evil wizard in the Lord of the Rings trilogy. He has played just about every monster and bad guy on film there is. Sad to say he is the last of his kind of actor.

**Lon Chaney-** Known as the man of a thousand faces, Chaney played the Hunchback of Notre Dame, the first Phantom of the Opera, and even a vampire in London after midnight. He was a pioneer in the use of make-up and getting into actual character. He was the original choice to play Dracula in 1931, but died before he could.

**Peter Lorre-** Most noted for his comedic sidekick roles in some of the Roger Corman-

Vincent Price collaborations of the early 1960's this actor was also great at playing villains and killers with no conscience whatsoever. But he played the terrifying child killer in Fritz Lang's M and Mr. Moto in a series of movies. He played series killers to inept and bumbling murderers. He was a great character actor in everything from Hitchcock films to Casablanca to Corman B movies.

**John Carradine-** Played Dracula in one of Universal's horror movies and a werewolf in the original Howling. This patriarch of the Carradine clan played a variety of bad guys as well. He played in other and lesser known horror movies and with his thin, gaunt looks he was a natural to play some real horrible characters

**Peter Cushing-** Basically made a career of playing both Dr. Frankenstein and Professor Van Helsing in many of Hammers horror pictures. He was equally adept at playing good guys and bad guys much to the audiences delight. He also is remembered for playing Grand Moff Tarkin in Star Wars. A talented actor who villains and heroes with a wide variety of characteristics.

**Vincent Price-** Was there a villain or bad guy he did not or could not play? He was the Devil worshipping Prince

Prospero in Roger Corman's The Masque of the Red Death and a good man possessed to murder his lover in Diary of a Madman. Price gave evil characters a kind a suave and sophistication that may never be repeated or even equaled. He did this mostly without looking like a monster. He exceptions to looking deformed came with the Dr. Phibes movies and the Wax Museum film, he never really dressed or looked like a monster and yet is one of horror's most endearing characters.

**Basil Rathbone-** Most know for playing Sherlock Holmes in a series of films and the Sheriff of Nottingham in Robin Hood. Rathbone also played Dr. Frankenstein's son in the Son of Frankenstein and other Mad Doctors and evil doers from a cross section of sci-fi, television and Roger Corman films. He, like Price and Lee made evil characters both suave, sophisticated and handsome. He like Price also made them without much monster make-up.

So, there you have it. The list of horrors greatest actors. You may have your own favorites, but these men have made their marks in at least a half dozen horror movies and as different characters and monsters.

## Double Feature – Movie Reviews by Peggy Christie

I just love cable. Especially this time of year. I can usually find a plethora of scary gruesome horror flicks on almost any channel! I had such good fortune (or bad, depending on how you look at it) to view two horror movies this past weekend, just in time to write my reviews.

My first review is of “Vacancy” starring Kate Beckinsale and Luke Wilson. The movie is about Amy and David Fox (Kate and Luke) who get stranded on a long back-road drive from somewhere to somewhere else (they never really say). The mechanic that was so nice to help them so late at night didn’t really do jack for the car and they broke down anyway. They walk back to the garage and attached motel, hoping to find him again. But no such luck. They’re forced to spend the night and wait for the mechanic to return in the morning. Too bad they probably won’t live that long.

As they lay around, tired and irritated from the long drive, and spewing angry comments at each other because they’re going through a divorce, David decides to watch the provided videos in the room.

Hmmm...snuff films. Interesting choice. Hey honey, does the room these people are being murdered in look like THIS room?? Sure enough, the films are real – of real people being murdered in the exact room David and Amy find themselves in this flea bag motel in the middle of nowhere.

Now they’ve got to keep their heads (literally and figuratively) in order to survive the night. Unfortunately for them, there seems to be a tag

team of psychos responsible for the previous murders. But, they rally their strength and smarts, and put aside the nasty divorce issues, and work together to try and live.

I don’t think this movie did very well because it was touted as a horror flick. In reality, it was a thriller. And a good one. Yes, it had horror elements – the shabby motel, weird owner, no cell phone signals, psychos, murder, etc. But if anyone was expecting to see Jason or Freddy-esque bad guys, mutated mountain men, or troublesome little ghosties, this was not the flick for them.

The movie starts off pretty tense because Amy and David are in the process of divorcing over a family tragedy. They’re at each other’s throats from minute one. So throw in getting lost while driving for hours in the dark, the twitchy motel owner, mysterious pounding, and watching snuff films of previous guests at the roach motel, and you’ve got yourself a movie that’s wound tighter than a rubber band airplane. Sooner or later, something’s gotta give.

Even with no make-up, Kate Beckinsale is gorgeous. And Luke Wilson, well, he’s just totally adorable no matter what. But they both have great acting chops that take us on this couple’s journey from angry enemies to lovers with a newfound hope (for their lives and marriage) as they struggle to survive. As a horror movie, “Vacancy” was so-so. As a thriller, I truly enjoyed it.

3.5 hatchets



My second film, if you can call it that, was “Touristas”, starring Josh Duhamel and Melissa George (and a bunch of other people). There was a reason I didn’t pay \$9 at the theater to see this. But I digress.

“Touristas” is about a bunch of young people that take a bus trip around Brazil. Unfortunately, the bus driver acts like he’s in a Porsche on I696 and, no surprise here, gets in an accident, almost killing the entire passenger load. Too bad he didn’t. If he had, our pretty young tourists wouldn’t have hiked down the road to a gorgeous beach, spent the afternoon swimming in “why do I even bother with clothes since this suit looks like it’s been put together with dental floss and Elmer’s glue” bikinis, dancing and getting it on with the locals, and then waking up after being drugged to find they’ve been robbed blind.

Bummer. That’s the risk you take in a foreign country, I guess. So they are now forced to hike to a local town to find help, but only manage to piss off the entire town, where there’s no police by the way. Then one of the friendly locals from the night before leads them to a house where they can get help but only after they trek through half the jungle for about 10 hours.

Oh, but what’s this? The house is not friendly, no one is there to help them, and their organs are on the bidding block. Yeah, they’ve been lead to a black-market doctor who sells the organs of loser tourists to the high-paying white European or American elite looking for the fast-track to organ donations. Because you know all those damned Americans and white Euro-trash – can’t stand playing

by the rules, want everything for themselves and right now, don’t want to be on a waiting list, so they always go to the piss-poor countries and take the organs from the hard working honest countrymen.

Whatever.

I think at one point I was so bored watching this movie that trying to figure out a way to trip my dog was more amusing. It’s really hard to trip a creature that’s got four legs instead of two. Anyway, “Touristas” is supposed to be another in a long line of torture-porn flicks, a la “Hostel” or “Saw” but had none of the wit or originality of either, or even half the blood. The cave-diving sequences made me gasp for air as I watched them, but that’s not something to be proud of. You wonder why no one listens to Josh’s character about how taking the plane would have been safer, why does the black-market doctor need to take the organs while his victims are still alive but not in pain (he must have given them some kind of anesthetic because they don’t scream but I thought he hated them), why would this vicious ring of killers want to employ some people who don’t really want to hurt anyone, and how the heck do I get my two hours back??

Plot was lame, the characters were ridiculous, the anti-American/foreign tourist rhetoric was cliché. In other words, BO-RING.

1 hatchet



## Horror Quiz

Below is a Halloween (the movie, not the holiday) quiz from the Horror-Web site ([www.horror-web.com](http://www.horror-web.com)). How well do you know your horror? Check the last page for the answers!

### Halloween (1978)

1. Which of the following Comic Book titles was NOT one that Tommy had hidden under the couch?  
A. Laser Man B. Neutron Man C. Radioactive Man D. Tarantula Man
2. What was the name of Michael Myers sister?  
A. Edith B. Judith C. Liliith D. Gwyneth
3. Where does Laurie tell the kids to run to for help?  
A. The police station B. The McKenzie House C. The church D. The grocery store
4. In what California city can you find the house used as the location for the Doyle home?  
A. Sacramento B. San Luis Obispo C. Bodega Bay D. West Hollywood

### Halloween II (1981)

5. To which hospital is Laurie taken?  
A. Hardin County General B. Smith's Grove-Warren County Sanitarium C. Haddonfield General D. Haddonfield Memorial
6. Which cast member is the daughter of former actress Julie Bishop (aka Jacqueline Wells)?  
A. Jamie Lee Curtis B. Nancy Loomis C. Pamela Susan Shoop D. Tawny Moyer
7. For what reason did John Carpenter direct several days of reshoots for the film?  
A. Rick Rosenthal quit B. Carpenter wanted more gore C. Rosenthal was too ill to handle the duties D. Carpenter wanted the credit
8. According to an early draft of the script, who was the boy who was struck and killed by the police car intended to be?  
A. The police chief's son B. Annie's boyfriend, Paul C. Ben Traymer, the boy Laurie liked D. The doctor's son

### Halloween III: Season of the Witch (1982)

9. Which of the following is NOT a type of mask made by the Silver Shamrock co.?  
A. Jack O'Lantern B. Witch C. Werewolf D. Skull
10. What function did director Tommy Lee Wallace serve on the first HALLOWEEN film?  
A. Film editor/production designer B. Director of Photography C. Co-producer D. Assistant Director
11. From where did the witches acquire the stone used in their plot?  
A. The British Museum B. Stonehenge C. Castle Blarney D. Scone
12. Who actually designed the masks used in the film?  
A. John Carpenter B. Don Post C. Basil Gogos D. Tom Savini

### HALLOWEEN 4: THE RETURN OF MICHAEL MYERS (1988)

13. How is Danielle Harris' character Jamie related to Michael Myers?  
A. Niece B. Sister C. Cousin D. Daughter
14. To where is Michael Myers being transported when he escapes?  
A. Court B. Morgue C. Smith's Grove Sanitarium D. Federal Prison
15. In what other Horror Film was the drug store set used?  
A. Night of the Living Dead (remake) B. The Stand C. Lost Boys D. Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> Part VI: Jason Lives
16. In what state was this movie filmed?  
A. California B. Illinois C. Wisconsin D. Utah

Cont'd next page



## Horror Quiz – cont'd

### Halloween 5 : Revenge of Michael Myers

#### 17. Who played Michael Myers in part 5?

A. Dick Warlock B. Don Shanks C. George Wilber D. Chris Durand

#### 18. The Man In Black scenes had to be reshot. Where at?

A. United Kingdom B. Australia C. Nova Scotia D. China

#### 19. When asked by Moustapha Akkad how many more HALLOWEEN's he would do, Donald Pleasence's reply was?

A. "This is it!" B. "One more...maybe." C. "I stop at 22!" D. "How many do you plan on making?"

#### 20. Why was Don Shanks asked to play the Man in Black in some shots?

A. The budget didn't include enough for another actor B. Early drafts of the script indicated that the Man in Black was a blood relative of Michael Myers C. He asked for the part D. The actor who was cast was drunk.

### HALLOWEEN: The Curse of Michael Myers

#### 21. What was the ORIGINAL title of part 6?

A. Halloween 6, The Curse of Michael Meyers B. Halloween, The Cult of Michael Myers C. Halloween, the Origin of Michael Myers D. Halloween, The Hunt Continues

#### 22. Who is the leader of the cult that is holding Michael Myers?

A. Dr. Terence Wynn B. Mrs. Blankenship C. Dr. Bonham D. Barry Simms

#### 23. Which "shock jock" was offered the role of the radio DJ but turned it down?

A. Tom Leykis B. Don Imus C. Bubba the Love Sponge D. Howard Stern

#### 24. For what reason did Danielle Harris refused to reprise her role as Jamie?

A. Didn't want to be typecast in Horror roles B. Dimension Films refused to pay her the \$5,000 salary she asked for C. Wanted to, but was ill during production D. Was busy filming URBAN LEGEND HALLOWEEN: H2O

#### 25. Who is the music supervisor H2O?

A. Moustapha Akkad B. Ed Girard C. Debra Hill D. John Carpenter

#### 26. Who from the original movie was approached to play Laurie's secretary?

A. PJ Soles B. Nancy Loomis C. Kyle Richards D. Nancy Stephens

#### 27. What National park were the students heading for break in H2O?

A. Grand Canyon B. Great Smoky Mountains C. Rocky Mountains D. Yosemite

#### 28. What major plot twist was planned for the end of this film and the beginning of the next one, but dropped?

A. Keri Tate's son John was doing the killings, and that's who she beheaded B. That the previous twenty years had been a psychotic hallucination of Laurie's, and she was in a mental institution C. That it wasn't Michael Myers doing the killings at the school, but a copycat killer D. That Laurie Strode wasn't the sister of Michael Myers

### HALLOWEEN: RESURRECTION

#### 29. Along with RESURRECTION, Rick Rosenthal directed what other installment of HALLOWEEN?

A. 5 B. 4 C. 3 D. 2

#### 30. What was the original title for RESURRECTION?

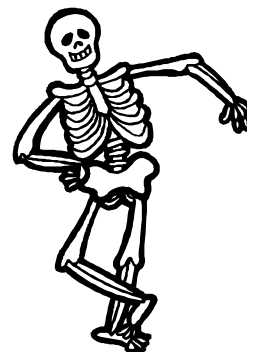
A. Reborn B. Homecoming C. Welcome Home D. The Final Chapter

#### 31. Jamie Lee Curtis was contractually obligated to be in RESURRECTION for how long?

A. 30 seconds B. 15 minutes C. 30 minutes D. She wasn't obligated to be in the movie at all.

#### 32. How many different endings for Busta Rhymes character Freddie Harris were shot?

A. 2 B. 3 C. 5 D. 7



# Market Report - by Peggy Christie

## ANTHOLOGIES

NEW: [CONE ZERO: Scriptus Innominatus \(Nemonymous 8\)](#) - annual print TP (Megazanthus Press); f/h/sf-lit (fic), theme (preferably entitled): Cone Zero. Pay: £65. Words: 2½-12k. RT: varies. Reprints: no. E-sub: [only. DF Lewis, Editor \(Q\)](#).

**Deadline:** 31 March 2008  
**PubDate:** May 2008

NEW: [TERRIBLE BEAUTY, FEARFUL SYMMETRY](#) - 1-time print (DarkHart Press); sf/df/h/historical (fic), themed. Pay: 1¢/word +copy. Words: 1-7k. RT: by 31Jan08. Reprints: no. E-sub: [only. Lisa Mannetti, Editor \(Q\)](#).

**Deadline:** 31 December 2007  
**PubDate:** May 2008

NEW: [TRAPS](#) - 1-time print (Dark Hart Press); h/df/thriller (fic). Pay: 1¢/word +copy. Words: 1-7k. RT: 4-6 weeks. Reprints: no. E-sub: [only. Scott T. Goudsward, Editor \(QS\)](#).  
**Deadline:** 31 December 2007, or when filled  
**PubDate:** Second Quarter 2008

NEW: [OTHERWORLDS](#) - 1-time PDF (SpecFicWorld); dark sf/f/h (fic). Pay: \$5 +copy. Words: 1-12k. RT: 1 month. Reprints: no. E-sub: [only. Doyle Wilmoth, Editor \(QS\)](#).  
**Deadline:** 15 January 2008, or until full  
**PubDate:** 15 June 2008

## MAGAZINES

NEW: [DOG VERSUS SANDWICH](#) - frequently updated webzine; sf/f/h/weird/offbeat/exp. (fic/flash/poem). Pay: fic=AU\$50; poem/flash=\$10. Words: <10k (prefers <6k). RT: 1 month. Reprints: no. E-sub: [only. Ben Payne, Editor \(QS\)](#). **1<sup>st</sup> Issue Debut:** January 2008

NEW: [LABYRINTH INHABITANT MAGAZINE](#) - quarterly webzine; sf/h, set in labyrinths/artificial environments (fic/nonfic/poem). Pay: <\$10. Words: <8k. RT: 1 month. Reprints: fic=yes; else=no. E-sub: [only. Matt Carey, Editor \(QS\)](#). **1<sup>st</sup> Issue Debut:** December 2007 (projected)

NEW: [ALL HALLOWS: the Journal of the Ghost Society](#) - biannual print; supernat/ghost (fic/nonfic). Pay: copies/exposure. Words: 1-10k. RT: 3-4 weeks. Reprints: no. E-sub: [prefers. Barbara Roden, Editor \(QS\)](#).

## BOOK PUBLISHER

NEW: [CURIOUS VOLUMES PUBLISHING](#) - eBooks; f/mys/h/dark humor (fic/art), adult & YA. Pay: 30% of retail, cover art=3%. Words: <150k. RT: 1-2 weeks (max 6 weeks). Reprints: query. E-sub: [only. Robin Martin, Owner/Editor \(QS\)](#). **Officially Opening:** 3 December 2007

**DEAD MARKETS:** Back Roads, Spinning Whorl, Night Terrors, Penny Dreadful, Naked Snake Press



The film's about the Earth's passage through a cloud of space dust, which results in the dead arising from their graves. In an attempt to quell the mayhem, a patented "domestication collar" is invented by a company called ZomCom, helping society integrate the zombie hordes, who quickly become "gardeners, milkmen, butlers and even pets." A boy named Timmy Robinson befriends a ghoul that his mom buys to help around the house—and then has to defend his new pal when the creature's collar goes wonky and it begins reverting to its flesh-eating ways.

(upcominghorror.com)

## Journey's End

Okay folks, it's almost that time of year again. The time of year where we grab our internal editor, tie his hands behind his back, gray tape his mouth and stuff him in that old trunk we have in the attic. It's

time for the National Novel Writing Month. During the month of November (why they chose a month with thirty days instead of thirty-one, I have no idea) I challenge you to write a 50,000 novel. Go to

[www.nanowrimo.org](http://www.nanowrimo.org) and sign up. Join us and have fun. That's what it's all about

Until next time,

Adam

### General Horror Quiz Answers:

1. C  
2. B  
3. B  
4. D  
5. D  
6. C  
7. B  
8. C  
9. C  
10. A  
11. B  
12. B  
13. A  
14. C  
15. B  
16. D

17. B  
18. A  
19. C  
20. B  
21. C  
22. A  
23. D  
24. B  
25. B  
26. A  
27. D  
28. C  
29. D  
30. B  
31. A  
32. B

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