



# The Paranormal Press



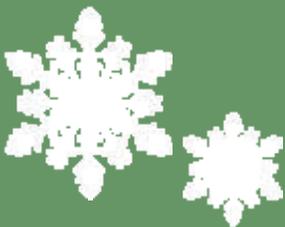
The Official Newsletter of the Northwest Indiana Ghost Trackers

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Newsletter Creator  
and Creatrix

Chris & Jennifer  
Mojica

## NEWS/UPDATES

Last month, the Porter County Home in Valparaiso caught fire. Investigators say the fire was set on all three floors causing extensive damage.

Props to Chris Mojica

for he is the lion's share of the blood, sweat and tears behind this AMAZING newsletter!!!

Big thanx to all who helped at the Halloween Bash by decorating, manning the door and cleaning up!

We have permanent digs for our monthly meetings now: the even months are at Langel's Pizza in Highland and the odd months are at the Valpo Elks.

Meetings are the first Saturday of the month (except for holidays or other events).

New member Michael Esposito is compiling a Cemetery Restoration book, which should be available soon.

Possible overnight investigation at Story Inn, Story, Indiana, in January or February.

Any location suggestions for a potluck Christmas gathering??

Membership cards coming from "State" (these are in addition to the ID cards received at Chapter level).

New chapter position: Trainer

## LOCAL HAUNTS

We now find ourselves smack dab in the middle of the holiday season. No doubt many of you are well under way at completing your Christmas gift purchases (while some of you are holding out for those very last-minute sales). *The Paranormal Press* would like to provide you some holiday things to do, as a break from the stresses of shopping and a time to simply be with your family & friends. We hope you can participate in, at least, one of these ac-

tivities and that it reminds you of the best part of the holidays...being with those you love.



**Christmas Past on Buckley Homestead** (Lowell) gives visitors a glimpse into old-fashioned yuletide festivities. Check it out Dec. 3rd & 4th (\$3

age 8 & over).

**Tree Decorating Naturally** at Gibson Woods (Hammond) on Dec. 3rd from 1-3. Making ornaments using acorns, pinecones and other dried natural "finds" for the park's Christmas tree and your own.

**Wildlife Holiday** at Gibson Woods on Dec. 10th from 1-3. Creating edible ornaments for the park's furry and feathered friends using popcorn, peanut butter and mini donuts.

**HAVE A HOLLY JOLLY HOLIDAY!**



**Best Couple**



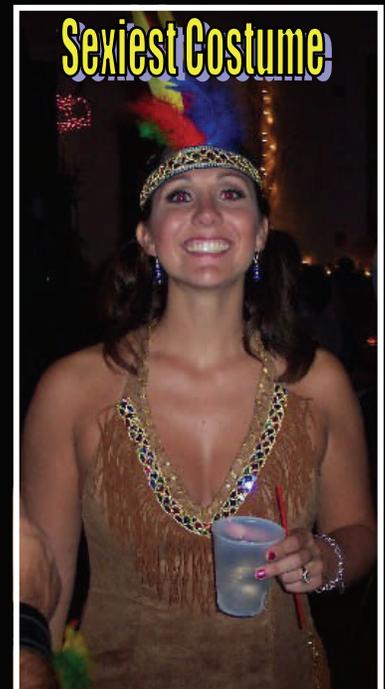
**IGT  
Halloween Bash  
2005**



**Scariest Costume**



**Best Costume**



**Sexiest Costume**



# IGT Halloween Bash 2005





## NIGHTMARE FOR CHRISTMAS

was the modern technology. The idea of sitting around the fireplace sharing tales of ghosts and goblins is equivalent to today's family movie night; it was the entertainment of choice, probably the only entertainment just short of playing with sticks and dirt.

Wow, here we are again! It seems that it was just a few weeks ago that I took down last year's Christmas decorations. Well, O.K., so it was. I would have left them up all year round, but I was getting nasty looks from the neighbors. Passing off the large, plastic, luminous Santa Claus in the front yard, in the middle of March, as a yard gnome bought me a couple of months; eventually the neighbors caught on. I had to get real creative with the sleigh and eight tiny reindeer on the roof! (Don't ask!)

'Tis the season once again for decorating, shopping, entertaining, baking and ghost telling? Over the centuries Christmas and the supernatural have gone hand in hand, but why? What is the connection between these two subjects that has spurred the plethora of songs, books, stories and films on the subjects? Whether it's a generous, magical, jolly specter who has children delighting in his once a year visit or a story of a greedy miser who finds inner peace with the help of three holiday spirits or a film that tells the tale of our two favorite holidays, Halloween and Christmas, that happen to meet by mistake. The connections are too numerous to list, but the themes are all the same—Christmas and the supernatural.

The idea of telling ghost stories on Christmas goes way back to when candle making

The long winter nights made for a great opportunity to gather the loved ones in front of the fire and embellish upon ghastly tales or tell of mysteries filled with suspense and intrigue to friends, creating close bonds and a togetherness which become even more significant during Christmas time.

The custom continued when a few nineteenth century British magazines began publishing special Christmas editions. In these issues ghost stories were added as holiday tradition, but were also being used to fill the space. The Christmas ghost stories wouldn't always have that of a Christmas theme. At times the stories were meant to frighten and terrify their audience. It became a competition to see who could spin the most sinister and menacing stories imaginable.

Many well-known novelists have written Christmas ghost stories, including Robertson Davies, Henry James, John Kendrick, M.R. James, even Shakespeare touched on the subject. But probably the most famous was Charles Dickens with his *A Christmas Carol*.

Some of his other Christmas ghost stories include: *Ghosts at Christmas*, *The Goblins Who Stole a Seton*, *The Mother's Eyes*, *The Haunted Man and the Ghost's Bargain*, *The Rapping Spirits*, *The Haunted House*, *The Goodwood Ghost Story*, *The Signal Man*, and *The Last Word of the Old Year*.

So turn down the lights, lite the ole yuletide log and share some ghost stories with friends and family. And if that doesn't work, just fire up the boob tube and watch a scary movie instead.



## CREATURE FEATURE



Last month, Sony Pictures released a new DVD box set of one of the most famous ghost hunting teams in history: the *Ghostbusters*! Along with the two films, the set is packed with additional features, including: Director's commentary, deleted scenes, film stills and much more.

It's been 16 years since *Ghostbusters 2* was released and 21 years since the original film hit theatres (wow, talk about feeling old!). It was this film that peaked my interest in ghosts and the paranormal. I'm not exactly sure if it was the futuristic devices used to capture the ghosts, like the proton packs and ghost traps,

or the souped up Cadillac hearse (the "Ectomobile") the guys hauled their equipment around in or whether it was the one size fits all jumpsuits. Whatever it was, I was hooked and couldn't wait to see a ghost for myself.

Since the release of the *Ghostbusters* DVD box set, I decided to sit down and watch the two films and relive those fond memories I had as a kid. I was quite excited because I haven't seen the films in years and had forgotten a lot of the details. After I watched them, I sat back to collect my thoughts and I summed it up with two words - that sucked! Don't get me wrong, I still love the films, characters and the premise, but I was totally disappointed in the stories! I don't know, maybe as a

kid we're so enamored by the magic of moviemaking that you can embrace your imagination and lose yourself in the story, but as an adult we're too analytical and think too much about reality and its limitations.

The writing in these two films lacks an interesting plot structure (especially *GB2*, talk about hokey! *Plan 9 From Outer Space* had a better plot!) and, despite the comedic genius in these films, the acting is only mediocre. I'm a big fan of Murray, Aykroyd, Ramis and Weaver, but a collaboration from these greats warrants a more memorable performance, especially after *Caddyshack*, *Stripes*, *SNL*, *Blues Brothers* and *Aliens*.

To sum up in one word, I say- **Booo!** (sorry, couldn't resist)



(Editor's note: The views and opinions expressed here are strictly of this film school graduate and should in no way be taken to heart. Don't take my word for it,



## DEADLINES

### Exorcism causes death in young woman

*The Exorcism of Emily Rose* was based on a true story about a 1976 exorcism that ended in the sad and controversial death of a young woman. Just when you'd think that something like this could never happen in this day and age, well, think again!

This past June, a Romanian Orthodox priest and four nuns were charged with imprisonment leading to death. Priest Daniel, of the Holy Trinity monastery, told police that Sister Maricica Irina Cornici was possessed and that crucifixion had been a part of an exorcism ritual. "I don't understand why journalists are making such a fuss about this. Exorcism is a common practice in the heart of the Romanian Orthodox church and my meth-

ods are not at all unknown to other priests," Daniel replied.

According to Romanian police, Cornici was found dead, chained to a cross and gagged. She was left alone for three days without any food or water in a cold room of the monastery. Her fellow nuns called for an ambulance when Cornici was unresponsive. Asphyxiation was the official cause of death. "They all said she was possessed and they were trying to cast out the evil spirit," police spokeswoman Michaela Straub said. A parishioner of Holy Trinity added, "[Maricica] had to be punished; she had an argument with the Pastor during a Sunday mass and insulted him in front of the congregation."

Initially, Cornici had come to Holy Trinity monastery in north-eastern Romania to visit a friend and decided to join the convent. She had only been part of the monastery three months before the incident.

"God has performed a miracle for her, finally Irina is delivered from evil," Daniel was quoted.

Cornici suffered from schizophrenia which may have been the reason for her argument with the priest. The 29-year old priest is said to be unrepentant, saying the nun's death was justified.

If found guilty of killing Cornici, Daniel and the nuns could face 20 years in prison.

And on a side note: In case you were wondering, the punishment for sassing off to just a nun consists of a two-finger gouge to the eyes, stomping of the foot and blunt force trauma to the forehead, usually with a hammer or something metal.

(Just kidding about the last paragraph—I wish the same could be said for the whole story.)

## GRAVESITES

[www.paranormalexpeditions.com](http://www.paranormalexpeditions.com)

Quality trips at affordable prices

[www.theghoststalkers.com](http://www.theghoststalkers.com)

Links to state paranormal organizations

[www.rootsweb.com/~inpcrp/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~inpcrp/)

Indiana Pioneer Cemeteries Restoration Project

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

Association for Gravestone Studies



# WHAT'S ON SLAB

## DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Meeting (Langel's)
4 Christmas Past	5	6	7	8	9	10 Wildlife Holiday
11	12	13	14	15 Full Moon	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Merry Christmas	26	27	28	29	30	31 <b>Happy New Year</b>



**Notes:**

This month's meeting begins at 4:30. Be prepared to VOTE!!  
 Christmas @ Buckley Homestead the 3rd (10-4) and 4th (12-4)  
 Gibson Woods activities the 3rd (Tree Decorating Naturally) and 10th (Wildlife Holiday)

### TOPICS FOR DISSECTION

#### COFFEE & TALK



- ☞ How did the Collier Lodge October investigation go? Any photos...EVP...results??
- ☞ Do you have any holiday traditions...ones that have been handed down for generations...that connect you with your ancestors???
- ☞ Do you have any holiday ghost stories?

Quote of the Month

"One need not be a chamber to be haunted; One need not be a house; The brain has corridors surpassing material places."

Emily Dickinson

Eerie facts

In 1870, A Christmas Carol novelist, Charles Dickens, died before completing his last novel, The Mystery of Edwin Drood. In 1873, Thomas Power James finished the novel for him. It was the spirit of Dickens that "commissioned" James to do so during a séance in 1872.

OFFICERS

Northwest

Director Mike McDowell

Secretary Jen Jacob

Treasurer Michelle Walavich

Public Relations Denise Williams

EULOGY

MUCHAS GRACIAS!! To all who took photos at the Halloween Bash and for providing them to The Paranormal Press for inclusion in this month's newsletter.



Ghost Wear

T-Shirts, polo shirts, denim shirts, sweat-shirts and lanyards are still available to purchase. Quantities are limited!

Attendance Needed

Please be sure to attend this month's meeting, Saturday December 3rd, as we will be voting on all positions.

Ghosthunting 101

Basic Ghosthunting classes are taught every couple of months. If you are a new member, please contact Mike for the next class. You MUST complete this course to be eligible for investigations!!!

A Special Thank You

To Mike McDowell for all his time and devotion as interim director to the Northwest Division!



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

See you next year!



Annual Dues

Dues can be paid in three different ways: mail, in person or online with PayPal. Our website will provide all the necessary information to help you through the process.

Simply select "Membership" from the homepage to begin.

E-mail submissions for The Paranormal Press to: paranormalpress@hotmail.com