



# October Newsletter

## New Orleans Spirits Spook National Guard

On August 26th Katrina roared into Louisiana and devastated New Orleans. New Orleans is known for its Mardi Gras celebration and it's also known for its voodoo, witchcraft and ghosts—and lots of 'em. So it should be no surprise that with a city filled with spirits that a little flooding wouldn't stop them from coming out to "play". National Guardsmen staying at the Sophie B. Wright School have had numerous encounters with the unexplainable. Some guardsmen from California have seen shadowy figures and heard laughter—to name a few of the encounters. It seems one of the bathrooms and a storage closet are particularly

creepy. The reporter from the CBS affiliate that aired the story claimed she herself witness a cloud in the corner of the bathroom and that before she was told the stories associated with it she already had the creeps being in there. Other strange things have also happened such as a Bible being found in a boat that was floating out in the middle of no where that was opened to a particular chapter in the Book of Revelation where it says "a flood will come and destroy a city..." - strange thing about it is the same group of guardsmen found a second Bible in a separate locations that was turned to

the same verse...needless to say the guardsmen are a little uneasy.

To view the clip yourself go to <http://cbs5.com/video/?id=6789@kpix.dayport.com>.



*Soldier discussing his experience while being in New Orleans to help with the Katrina Effort.*

## Halloween Happenings this Month

There's a lot of spooktacular things to do in Virginia this month. From "haunted houses" all over the state to a lock-in in an allegedly haunted location in Dumfries—you have no excuse not to find something spooky to do....To see a

listing of haunted happenings go to [http://virginiaghosts.com/halloween\\_events\\_2005.php](http://virginiaghosts.com/halloween_events_2005.php). To see a list of events where CPRI researchers will appear go to <http://virginiaghosts.com/>



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### Special points of interest:

- *Dr. Robert Baker, Ghost Hunter Dies*
- *Find out where the spooky events are in VA*
- *Discovery Channel to air an entire season of "A Haunting In..."*
- *Find out there is a lot of money to be made with the paranormal*
- *The true origins of Halloween*

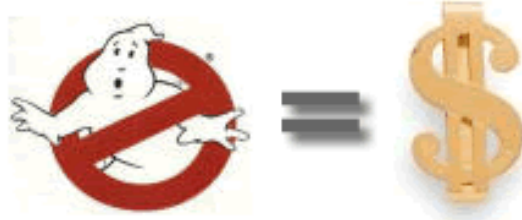
# The Business of the Paranormal

## By: Sandra Heglund of Western NY Paranormal

They're flying everywhere - dollar signs. In today's world, it seems more are flying out than in, so it's no wonder people are looking to make an easy buck. And nothing seems easier than the business of the paranormal.

This television season, we're seeing a revival of paranormal TV shows and movies - fiction, fact, and factual fiction. "It seems that everyone wants a piece of the pie. This upcoming season, five additional television series on the paranormal will hit networks to air nationwide including titles like Ghost Whisper, One Step Beyond, and Shadow Hunter among last season's favorites like Ghost Hunters, and Most Haunted" said Sandra Heglund of Western New York Paranormal of Rochester. What does this mean to the paranormal community?

First, the increased interest in the paranormal phenomenon has many amateur investigators grabbing their cameras and recorders seeking to



Some people are trying to make a profit from the paranormal.

find the unknown. But this has also caused many money motivated people to seek out compensation for their research and cleansing services. Ghostbusters has seen to move from the big screen into real life. With so many self-proclaimed experts in the field - paranormal investigation companies, psychics, astrologers, demonologists - there is the potential for those to prey on the fears of the inexperienced public. Those people who may or may not be truly experiencing

a paranormal event, but don't know how to deal with it. So they grasp at straws and end up hiring someone who claims to be able to help - for a price. Heglund states that "we've been brought up in a society that has taught us that the higher the price is - the better the service is. But are they truly as willing to help the family in dire straits once the families funding runs out?"

There have been reports from around the country of organizations beginning to charge clients. A group in New York charges \$75 for a novice to join them on an investigation, another group in Washington DC charges upwards to \$65 an hour for an investigation and the list goes on. This leads to many ethical, legal, and liability questions. motive of the investigator? Is it to financially prosper or to educate and assist" said Heglund.

**Wanna read more?** Go to <http://www.wnyparanormal.com/business.html>

## "A Haunting in..." to Debut on the Discovery Channel

Remember "A Haunting in Connecticut" and "A Haunting in Georgia"? Well the New Dominion Production company who produced those two will begin airing one hour segments of "A Haunting in..." of various places around the US on the Discovery Channel in the fall. It has already begun researching for it's second season and has asked for CPRI's help in finding cases that will make for compelling tele-

vision. Their vision is to not try to sway the viewer either way—they want to simply present the cases using re-enactments and interviews of the principle witnesses. On their website they described the show this way "strange occurrences, bizarre visions, the paranormal... A Haunting In...are the

TRUE stories of these unusual happenings, and the people that are effected by them. These supernatural thrillers combine

documentary footage, with dramatic re-enactments, making even more real these chilling tales.

**Visit Discovery.com for local air times.**

*"A Haunting In...are the TRUE stories of these unusual happenings, and the people that are effected by them."*

## Decoding the Winterpock EVP

In April of 2005 CPRI went out to investigate a private residence. During this investigation it was discovered that an analog tape recorder had been "turned off" - once the tape was reviewed there were voices where there should have been none. However no one can agree on what the voices are saying.

This case has tons of paranormal phenomena including shadow people, voices

and globes of light. What makes this case even more interesting is that there are other neighbors in the same area who all independently contacted CPRI to investigate mysterious happenings at their homes.

CPRI has posted the EVP file in hopes that someone might



*Can you make out what they are saying?*

figure out what is being said. The sample is also being analyzed Professor of Linguistic Anthropology at George Mason University. We are waiting for the results.

**Do you wanna try to figure it out?** Go to <http://virginiaghosts.com/sounds.php>

# Psychologist, 'ghost buster' Robert Baker Dead at 84

Robert A. Baker, a University of Kentucky psychology professor emeritus and a leading "ghost buster" who worked on the premise that "there are no haunted places, only haunted people," died Aug. 8 at his home in Lexington, Ky. He had congestive heart failure. He was 84.

Baker was foremost a skeptic, believing that one could not assume from the start that unusual phenomena - ghosts, UFO abductions, lake monsters, remembrances of past lives - were real. In books and scholarly articles, he argued that they could be explained as mental states, that abductions by aliens, for example, were hallucinations, or "waking dreams," that occur in the twilight zone between fully awake and fully asleep.

Much of his work involved being a sympathetic counselor to those who believed they were being toyed with or tortured by unexplainable forces.

In the 1960s, he visited a traumatized young Kentucky wife who was convinced



*The late Robert Baker(1925-2005).*

that she was seeing a "golden-haired 3-year-old girl" in her home.

"After talking with her and her husband," he wrote, "I quickly learned that she was the only one who ever

saw or heard the child. Moreover, I learned that she and her spouse wanted children desperately but had no luck. I urged them both to consider adoption, and as soon as they took these steps, the 3-year-old spirit disappeared forever."

He often worked with Joe Nickell, a senior research fellow at the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, a group based in Amherst, N.Y. Nickell said Baker was seldom confrontational in his methods.

Robert Allen Baker Jr. was born June 27, 1921, in Blackford, Ky. His father fixed shoes, and his mother was a drugstore clerk. Both were poor and unschooled, he wrote, but "they encouraged me to read, think and get an education."

## Fantasy Prone Personality

Scientists - especially UFO researchers believe there is a high correlation between people who experience paranormal phenomena and their type of personality. A study was conducted by a couple of scientists that defined a new type of personality known as the Fantasy Prone Personality type. Scientists developed a set of metrics to use to determine if someone did fall into the FPP personality type.

Initial research has shown that people who are FPP will have more "paranormal" experiences simple because they imagine them. Also many FPP people already have a strong belief in the paranormal and are more likely to prefer a paranormal explanation. Some

*"Initial research has shown that people who are FPP will have more 'paranormal' experiences simple because they imagine them."*

of the traits include they believe in guardian angels and/or fairies, etc..., as children they had invisible playmates and believe they have psychic abilities.

**To read the entire list please go to** [http://virginiaghosts.com/fantasy\\_prone\\_personality.php](http://virginiaghosts.com/fantasy_prone_personality.php)

## History of Halloween

Hallow Eve and this name is still used by some older people. Halloween was formerly also sometimes called All Saints' Eve. The holiday was a day of religious festivities in various northern European pagan traditions, until it was appropriated by Christian missionaries (along with Christmas and Easter, two other traditional northern European pagan holidays) and given a Christian reinterpretation. Halloween is also known as the Day of

the Dead, and it is a day of celebration for Wiccans and other modern pagan traditions, though the holiday has lost its religious connotations among the populace at large.

Halloween is also called Pooky Night in some parts of Ireland, presumably named after the pookah, a mischievous spirit.

In the United Kingdom in particular, the pagan Celts celebrated the Day of the

Dead on Halloween. The spirits supposedly rose from the dead and, in order to attract them, food was left on the doors. To scare off the evil spirits, the Celts wore masks. **from Wikipedia.com**



Halloween has its origins in a Celtic tradition of Samhain.

**THE CENTER FOR PARANORMAL  
RESEARCH & INVESTIGATION**

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***Serious Researchers, Serious  
Investigators who are Serious  
about the Paranormal.***

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*The Center for Paranormal Research and Investigation\*\* is a non-profit organization based outside of Richmond, VA. We conduct investigations into the paranormal in a non-metaphysical manner. One of our main goals is to seek out allegedly "haunted locations"\* and to assist those who are experiencing problems with the paranormal. We then look for authentic evidence of the paranormal and try to determine if the location is haunted\*. We are seeking genuine evidence and are careful about the presentation of this evidence... insuring that it is legitimate, researched and analyzed before being presented to the general public.*

*We use strict SCIENTIFIC methods to obtain TANGIBLE evidence - Evidence that leaves no doubt about its origin, cause and effect. Evidence that will be reproducible under controlled testing conditions.*

*We are skeptics and not debunkers - skeptic means to question and debunk means to expose while ridiculing.*

If you need help please email [help@virginiaghosts.com](mailto:help@virginiaghosts.com) or visit our website and click on INVESTIGATIONS.

## Why Do Ghost Hunters Do It in the Dark?

There are a couple of practical reason for having the lights off. The first one is to help reduce any false EMF readings - fluorescent lights are known to produce a lot of EM. Another reason would be that infrared cameras work best in the dark and some people have theorized that "ghosts" may emit infrared light which is very close to the Ultraviolet light on the light spectrum. Having other light coming in would make it difficult to differentiate IR from UV. One last advantage of conducting investigations in the dark would be that using lowlight photography to capture something maybe unseen when lights are on and while also enhancing the sense of the investigators.

On a physiological note the human is not a nocturnal animal (night vision is poor) and thus naturally becomes more sensitized to noises, movement,

odors and touch as a safety mechanism. Humans rely heavily on sight as our most important sensory device. There are also many preconceived notions, beliefs and/or various theories that a location has to be dark or only at night do the "spooks" come out to play. This is why many in-

vestigators only work during certain hours. In occult study the designated hours for hauntings to occur are called the psychic hours and they exist from Midnight (the witching hour) to 3:00 AM (with of course 3 am being the devil's hour).



*Setup for a typical night time investigation*

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**Wanna read the rest?** Go to [http://virginiaghosts.com/in\\_the\\_dark.php](http://virginiaghosts.com/in_the_dark.php)