

# IUN

## International Upire News

Vol. 1, January 2006

Edited by Josep Frgols



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**Catalunya (Catalonia)**

*Països Catalans (Catalan Nations)*

## *Vampire seeks Minnesota governor's job*

MINNEAPOLIS - Minnesota voters, who eight years ago elected a former professional wrestler as their Governor, may find a self-proclaimed vampire on the ballot for the office this year.

"Politics is a cut-throat business," said Jonathan "The Impaler" Sharkey, who said he plans to announce his bid for governor on Friday on the ticket of the Vampyres, Witches and Pagans Party.

Like Jesse "The Body" Ventura, who was elected governor as an independent in 1998, the 41-year-old Sharkey once was a wrestler, although he spent his time "The Unholiest of Kings: Tarantula" on obscure professional circuits. "I'm a Satanist who doesn't hate Jesus," Sharkey told Reuters. "I just hate God the Father."

However, he claims to respect all religions and if elected, will post "everything from the Ten Commandments to the Wicca Reed" in government buildings.

Sharkey also pledged to execute convicted murders and child molesters personally by impaling them on a wooden pole outside the state capitol.

Sharkey told the Minneapolis Star Tribune that he's a vampire "just like you see in the movies and TV."

"I sink my fangs into the neck of my donor ... and drink their blood," he said, adding that his donor is his wife, Julie.

The field for the governor's race in Minnesota is far from complete. Republican incumbent Tim Pawlenty is widely expected to seek another term in November and his Democratic opponent has not been determined.

Sharkey said he planned to announce his candidacy on Friday -- the 13th -- because that was "my lucky number."

*Reuters, Jan 12, 2006*

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## *A vampire musical without bite....*

Has Elton John's midas touch with musicals deserted him?

After the runaway worldwide success of the film-to-stage version of *The Lion King* (for which he provided the songs for the original film that were then retained for the stage, augmented with new material from African musician Lebo M), a more modest Broadway success with subsequent Disney project in *Aida* (still unseen in London) and now the London smash *Billy Elliot*, he was lining up for another Broadway original working for the first time in the theatre with his long-time pop collaborator Bernie Taupin, *Lestat*, that has booked Broadway's Palace Theatre for an April opening.

But whether it will get there now has been called into serious question by the reception the show has received at its San Francisco premiere on January 8. The San Francisco Chronicle theatre critic Roger Hurwitt wrote, "Didactic, disjointed, oddly miscast, confusingly designed and floundering in an almost unrelentingly saccharine score by Elton John, Lestat opened Sunday as the latest ill-conceived Broadway hopeful" to play in the city, after Mambo Kings (that never got to New York) and Lennon (that did, briefly, after San Francisco). He went on to comment that the songs "range from mildly interesting to, for the most part, banal and virtually undistinguishable. Taupin's lyrics are often woodenly prosaic and rarely advance the story or our understanding of the characters.... John seems to spend most of the evening trying to become Andrew Lloyd Webber at his most vapid and pretentious."

Another local review, the Mercury News said "the vampire musical showed few signs of life" and "lacks teeth", before concluding, "Unless its creators can find a way to infuse more intensity, Lestat may be dead on arrival on Broadway in the spring." The Contra Costa Times, meanwhile, declared, "When dealing with vampires, it's usually best to keep your neck covered and your garlic handy. Lestat proves the exception to the rule. The greatest danger.... is death by boredom."

Of course, out-of-town try-outs are precisely the sort of place to hear such comments, and re-tool the show, if necessary, for Broadway. Elton John's own Aida was completely overhauled after a critical mauling in Atlanta, with its then-creative team – including Lestat's current director Robert Jess Roth, entirely replaced for Broadway.

But Broadway may be particularly nervous of vampire-themed shows after the fast failures there of Dance of the Vampires (that took Michael Crawford back to Broadway for the first time since The Phantom of the Opera but quickly expired; as Broadway columnist Michael Riedel called it yesterday in his New York Post column, it was "a campy fiasco that cost its investors \$12 million and Michael Crawford his Broadway career") and Dracula ("a \$10 million bore that drove the final nail in composer Frank Wildhorn's Broadway coffin", according to Riedel). And whether Elton John is (a) available for the kind of rewrites that might be necessary, and (b) would want to run the risk of a Broadway failure at this stage of his new theatre career that has made him one of the most successful of all contemporary writers of musicals is another question. Watch this space.

[www.thestage.co.uk](http://www.thestage.co.uk), Jan 12, 2006

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### ***Bone-chilling, blood-draining fun in vampire tour***

NEW ORLEANS - - Walking along the streets of the French Quarter, many will notice no matter what corner they turn, there is always a story to tell in this historically rich city.

The Crescent City is renowned for its laid-back way of life and decadent celebrations such as Mardi Gras. But come 8:30 p.m. under the clock of St. Louis Cathedral, there is the beginning of a darker story of New Orleans that many have not heard and may not want to hear.

Garden District Tours offers vampire tours of the city's oldest section that dispel and explain the myths of the centuries-old creatures that have piqued the curious and the morbid. They also offer ghost tours.

Brent Baudean, a theater performer since the age of 6 and New Orleans native, presents the tour. Dressed in black from head to toe with a red mesh undershirt and a blood red ribbon tying back his ponytail, Baudean enjoys the spotlight.

Surrounded by seven tourists - - the largest group Baudean has led since Katrina - - in Pirate's Alley alongside the cathedral, he begins his tour debunking the folklore of vampires: They are not repelled by sunlight and don't turn into bats.

He jokingly reminds them that they were crazy enough to pay to go on this tour. "Ignorance is bliss and you paid to take this tour," Baudean taunts his audience who rewards him with laughter.

Baudean highlights the history of vampires with such famous storytellers as Bram Stoker, who penned the novel "Dracula," and former New Orleans resident Anne Rice whose novel "Interview With The Vampire" went on to become a major motion picture starring Brad Pitt and Tom Cruise.

As Baudean heads off down Pirate's Alley, he makes the point, "At no point in this tour am I going to tell you to believe in vampires." He adds that the stories are all based on facts and police reports.

By Julie Ann Sanchez  
[www.theranger.org](http://www.theranger.org), Jan 13, 2006

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### *New course to explore vampire folklore*

UW-Madison is offering new international studies courses this spring semester, including Literature in Translation 248, "The Vampire in Literature and Film."

"The course examines the development of the legends of the vampire, starting from folklore, then moving on to literature and then to cinema," said Toma Longinovic, a professor of Slavic language and the instructor of the course.

"We historically follow the development of the vampire from sort of this animalistic, horrible creature into this tall, seductive, dark and mysterious figure," he said.

Longinovic said the vampire course has been very popular among students, and has gotten excellent feedback, especially considering this is the first semester it has been offered. "It's not even in the course catalog and it was closed within an hour," he said.

Students have shown such an interest in the course that Longinovic said he is hoping to open it up to larger enrollments in the near future so more students have an opportunity to take it.

By Danielle McKenzie. Extract from *The Daily The Daily Cardinal*, Jan 20, 2006

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### **Vampire gubernatorial candidate arrested on warrants**

MORA, Minn. - A self-described vampire and candidate for governor whose platform includes public impalement of terrorists found himself behind bars Tuesday on a pair of outstanding arrest warrants.

Jonathon Sharkey, 41, of Princeton, was arrested Monday night on two felony counts from Indiana, said Mike Smith, the Mille Lacs County jail administrator. One warrant was for escape, another for stalking.

Smith didn't have any other information and Sheriff Brent Lindgren didn't immediately return a phone call.

Sharkey launched his campaign last month. His platform includes an emphasis on education, tax breaks for farmers and better benefits for veterans, but he also said he favored impaling certain wrongdoers in front of the State Capitol.

Sharkey describes himself on his Web site as a "Satanic Dark Priest, Sanguinarian Vampyre and a Hecate Witch."

Associated Press, Jan 31, 2006