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Modern Vampire Trilogy Offers New Twist on Timeless Classic

San Diego, CA (PRWEB) July 31, 2006 -- With the competition to succeed as fierce as any war at Triton University, students will do just about anything to succeed. Considering the amazing effects promised by a breakthrough research project developed by Dr. Travis Cohn, many have decided to sign up. Hoping to eradicate ailments, and enhance intelligence, athletic performance, and personal appearance, participants in the project are willing to forgo the reasonable side effects in exchange for the guaranteed results....but it's a new set of fangs and the need to drink blood that has this last research group concerned.

“The Vampire Within: The Beginning” (ISBN 141963643X) sets the stage for the horror filled initiation as a group of college students journey into the world of the modern vampire. With nausea, muscle pain and headaches giving way to more obvious blood-thirsty vampire behaviors, all hell breaks loose for everyone involved. Those who participate in the research project are about to get a very abrupt awakening to a living nightmare. Each must ultimately decide whether to accept their fate and fight the evil that is responsible, or be hunted by the very creatures that they've turned into.

Silver is a huge fan of the classic vampire story that began with the original Dracula and Bela Lugosi. Inspired by observing the similarities between our lives and that of vampires, Silver's trilogy “The Vampire Within” was born. “Vampires seek power, wealth, beauty, and eternal life. Most of us seek that as well and would do whatever we could to get it.” Wanting to keep the excitement of the vampire realm alive in old fans and hopefully gain new ones, Silver intertwined the past and present in a feasible way with modern themes of science and DNA manipulation. It truly would be good versus evil if we could create the ultimate vampire – wouldn't it?

A degree in Criminal Justice, a twenty year history studying the martial arts and a life-long attraction to horror themes are Silver's combined experiences that provide a wealth of possibilities to pull from in this fast-paced trilogy. With her captivating writing style and talent for observation, this new author is reawakening the slumbering expectations of vampire fans. Do not miss the unforgettable beginning of this whirlwind trilogy that is leaving readers thirsty for the sequel.

Drew Silver grew up in a farming community in Indiana, and now resides in San Diego, CA. She attended Indiana University, and went on to work in law enforcement. Silver holds numerous black belts in karate with extensive knowledge of weaponry which comes to play in her 2nd and 3rd novels, set for release in 2007 and 2008. Her life-long passion for writing is unfolding as she announces the release of her first novel. “The Vampire Within: The Beginning” (ISBN 141963643X) is available at online bookstores.

PRBWeb, 1 Aug.

Playmate a vampire, cabby said

A city cabby involved in an infamous tussle with the first openly lesbian Playboy Playmate warned investigators that his shapely passenger was really a vampire who threatened him with her deadly Dracula teeth.

At a TLC hearing yesterday to determine whether the driver, Eric Darko, should keep his hack license, agency prober Azam Kifaieh said Darko told him during his investigation of the incident that Miss November 1992, Stephanie Adams, "showed him her vampire teeth."

The prober recommended that Darko get a psychiatric evaluation. Meanwhile, Adams said she's not out for blood, "just justice." "I want to make sure this does not happen to anyone else," she said. Darko could not be reached for comment.

Adams contends that a "glaze-eyed" Darko became belligerent when she asked to be dropped off closer to her West 22nd street home and in an ensuing fight, falsely told cops she had a gun.

www.nypost.com, 2 Aug.

Warren and Suchet lift lid on Dracula for BBC1

Hustle star Marc Warren is to star in the title role of Stewart Harcourt's new television adaptation of Bram Stoker's Dracula on BBC1.

David Suchet, will play vampire scholar and Dracula's nemesis Van Helsing, in the revamped drama. The Corporation has also lined-up a host of the UK's upcoming talent including The Line of Beauty's Dan Stevens, Thunderbirds and Doctor Who actress Sophia Myles and Tom Burke, best know for The State of Play.

Timothy Spall's son Rafe, who is fast making a name for himself with roles in hit urban film Kidulthood and BBC4's The Chatterley Affair, also stars as solicitor Jonathan Harker and Stephanie Leonidas as his girlfriend Mina.

Julie Gardner, who is head of BBC Wales and executive producer on the show, said: "Stewart Harcourt's adaptation is a visceral, sexy and bold retelling of Bram Stoker's classic chiller which will blow the cobwebs off traditional period drama and we've brought together a cast of thrilling young talent to bring it to life."

Filming on the production, which is a Granada Production for BBC1 and will be directed by Bill Eagles, begins later this month.

Fellow executive producer Granada's Damien Timmer added: "Stewart Harcourt's extraordinary script introduces some bold new elements and unexpected twists to the Dracula legend. It's emotionally hugely powerful and genuinely terrifying."

www.thestage.co.uk, 11 Aug.

Grave stone found

TAUNTON - In 1806, a month-old baby boy died in West Greenwich, R.I. Two centuries later, a Taunton woman discovered his headstone - stolen from the spot where his grieving parents placed it in the soil over top his tiny casket long ago - displaced in a backyard shed.

As a search for the child's burial plot continues, the reasons behind the monument's abduction remain a mystery.

Was it stolen by an occult believer, as a memento of a southern Rhode Island vampire legend? Or was it merely a vandal's prank - evidence of a reckless, inconsiderate cemetery binge?

Janice Nepini has been fighting her former tenants in court for months. First, she evicted Norman Chadwick and Tony Nesbit from the house she owns at 70 Tremont St. for not paying rent.

Finally, last week, they vacated the property. Neither left a forwarding address or has a listed phone number. Attempts to reach them have been unsuccessful.

In an effort to move on, the distressed landlord started cleaning house, preparing the home for a fresh tenant.

Not only did Nepini find her refrigerator missing, she found something new - something she was sure didn't belong - something she says was not there before her last tenants moved into the three bedroom house in October.

In the overgrown backyard, inside a downtrodden structure no bigger than an outhouse, she discovered a small rectangular stone marker.

Taunton police Sgt. Colby Crossman is investigating the case. He said several laws may have been violated, including vandalism, possession of stolen property, tombstone theft and grave desecration. Proving who actually stole Varnum Waite's tombstone, and from where, however, may prove difficult.

Nepini, a Norton resident, wondered if the gravestone was pilfered from one of many city cemeteries.

"Finding it was a little disturbing," she said, straining to hold the small but heavy marker perpendicular to the ground. "I really want to get it back where it belongs."

The inscription was short, but telling: "Varnum, Son of Gideon & Martha Waite, Born, Feb. 27, 1806. Died April 7, 1806. Aged 1 month & 11 days."

Upon first look, Andrew Boisvert, a staff researcher at the Old Colony Historical Society, didn't recognize the Waite family name as native to the Taunton area.

A search through volume after volume of vital history records for every neighboring town reveals very few marriages, births or deaths by anyone with the surname "Waite." Of those few "Waites" listed, none match Varnum, Gideon or Martha.

Boisvert, himself a Rhode Island native, was familiar with the "Waite" family name, and has encountered it many times over years and years of genealogical research on Ocean State family trees.

A quick search of the Family Search web-site, hosted by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, revealed the "Waite" ancestral file, complete with records back to young Varnum Waite's parents and grandparents.

According to the site, the family plot sits nestled in a relatively peaceful, but overgrown cemetery, off Plain Meetinghouse Road in West Greenwich, R.I.

Less than an acre of barely legible graves - most snapped in half and knocked over - have been left to crumble, exposed to the elements, behind a shuttered First Baptist Church, which date back to 1750, according to a marker hung on the building's siding.

The Waite family plot isn't the only ailing resting place.

The grave of "Alfred James, Born 1810" has been cracked at its center. James' death date cannot be read, tossed to the weeds in small chunks of granite. Only his age, 71 years when he died, can be decoded, the deep letter groves shallowed with time.

The twin tombstones of Benjamin and Alma Gorton, both dead in the last five years of the 19th Century, lay side by side, overturned in waste high grasses, naturally decorated by bursts of bright white mountain laurel and exploding milkweed pods.

Near the southwest corner of the cemetery, one of three large pointed monuments, marks the Waite family plot. Family names have been carved on all four sides - "At Rest," engraved above them.

Little Varnum's grandparents, Gideon and Lois Trip Waite, have been immortalized in stone. Tiny, rough and darkening markers surround, the tops each have raised initials, or simple identifiers like "Mother," "Father," and "Baby."

Several appear to be missing. A search to be sure is underway.

Ptlm. Donald Fravala, of the West Greenwich Police Department, said he and his fellow officers have initiated extra patrols in the area, a common loitering spot for local teenagers and vampire enthusiasts.

"It's big legend around here," he explained, standing in a quiet hallway of West Greenwich Town Hall after hours. "We've had lots of problems in that cemetery; tombstones breaking and disappearing. Kids go on the Internet, and they find out that there's supposedly a vampire grave buried there."

Fravala referenced the creepy tale of Nellie L. Vaughn, who many modern occult fetishists have labeled a real-life vampire story. According to multiple "Rhode Island Vampire" web sources, Vaughn died at age 19 on March 31, 1889.

On her grave, a mysterious inscription may have led to a case of mistaken walking dead identity.

The message read simply, "I am Waiting and Watching for You." Coupled with local folklore, West Greenwich youths have taken its meaning to refer to the young girl's pension for drinking blood, neverending youth and aversion to crosses.

Vaughn's tombstone has since been removed and preserved by members of the community. Vampire enthusiasts, however, have continued to raid the solemn grave sites nearby.

"Maybe that's why they took it," Fravala said. "Nellie was originally buried in the backyard of her family home along Robin Hollow Road. Then, they say her body was

moved to the Plain Meetinghouse Cemetery. Kids hang out there all the time. They think they're going to catch a glimpse of the afterlife."

Rory Schuler
www.tauntongazette.com, 25 Aug.

Irwing honored with plaque

Sir Henry Irving, Bram Stoker's employer, has been honored with a plaque at the Lyceum Theatre in London. The following is the inscription:

Henry Irving was the first actor to be knighted (1895). From 1878 he managed the Lyceum Theatre.

Whilst working at the Lyceum as Irving's acting manager, Bram Stoker wrote "Dracula".

This plaque was unveiled by Ian McKellen (KBE 1988) on 13 February 2006 to commemorate the centenary of Irving's death.

Plaque donated by the Edgar Allen Poe Society.

Irwing was famous for dramatic roles, including Hamlet, Macbeth, King Lear and Mephistopheles. His representation of theatrical villains may will have influenced Stoker's Count Dracula.

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