

## Wolfman, myth or imagination?



**CHRISTIAN MCPHATE**  
OPINIONS EDITOR

“Even a man who is pure of heart can change into a wolf when the wolfsbane blooms.”  
— Madam Eva, “The Wolfman.”

On Sept. 10, 2006, the English Pravda’s website reported that Leonid Kliuchevskiy, a police officer in the Perm Krai region, a federal subject (kind of like a state) of Russia, announced that he belonged to an ancient clan of werewolves.

Do what?  
There is more.  
He believes that gray fur sprouts over his body and a green birthmark appears on all the men in his family’s cheeks when the light of the full moon blooms.

“It is hard to describe my experience,” Kliuchevskiy explained. “Right before the full moon, I get terrible headaches and feel aggressive and anxious. My facial features sharpen and my body becomes covered in light gray fuzz.”

And the sad thing is that he is not alone in his belief.

Through the centuries, werewolfism or lycanthropy, as it is known in modern science, has afflicted individuals, communities, the church and the law with its infected bite, bringing death, destruction and fear to the masses.

Many European countries have stories, telling about the canine-disease ridden individuals: France (*loup-garou*), Greece (*lycanthropos*), Spain (*hombre lobo*), Bulgaria (*varkolak*, *vulkodlak*), Scotland (*werewolf*, *wulver*), Ireland (*faoladh* or *conriocht*) and well, all of them.

The Greek term *lykánthropos* [*lykos* (wolf) + *ánthropos* (man)] is the belief in a transformation process that affects the human body

and/or mind (Kliuchevskiy’s gray fur problem) and usually goes hand in hand with werewolves as well as other “shapeshifters” of Pulp culture, religious and New Age beliefs.

In Greek mythology, the story of King Lycaon of Arcadia is one of the earliest examples of lycanthropy. According to Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*, Zeus transformed Lycaon into a wolf for eating and trying to serve the flesh of his own son to the god in an effort to refute Zeus’s divinity.

In the *Histories*, historian Herodotus wrote about the Neuri, a tribe of people located in the north east of Scythia who annually turned into a wolf for a few days.

During the dark to middle ages, a black shroud of ignorance and superstition encompassed the walls of society, festering within the minds of the citizens, clergy and monarchy, which eventually led to the Inquisition.

The witchcraft trials of the royal-n-church escapade was a crusade where witches, sorcerers, shamans, druids, werewolves and any other unfortunate soul that made a pact with the devil and exhibited unusual physical or social characteristics (like not believing in their god) were excommunicated in a spiritual and physical sense.

A veil of fear retardation settled over the illiterate populace of Europe in those ages of middle and resulted in a number of werewolf sightings—30,000 by sum estimations.

In 1591, a few of the local citizens cornered a large wolf in the German countryside of Bedburg.

After setting their dogs loose on the beast and stabbing the creature a couple of times, the wolf stood up on two legs and transformed into a middle-aged man by the name of Peter Stubbe.

The citizens strapped him on a wagon wheel and tortured him by stripping his skin off with a pair of

hot tongs and breaking his legs with a sledge-like hammer. Needless to say, he confessed to killing 16 people, including two pregnant women and 13 children. His torture and eventual beheading was so popular that the populace created a woodcut of the episode, “Nurnbera.”

Did the man really change into wolf and murder all these people?  
Yes.

According to Wikipedia, clinical lycanthropy is a rare psychiatric syndrome that involves a delusional belief that the affected person, is, or has, transformed into an animal, and researchers from the McLean Hospital implemented diagnostic criteria to locate people afflicted with the werewolf disease.

For instance, if a patient looks back and sometimes feels as an animal or has felt like one, then the person of less fortune than the rest of us is a lycanthrope.

If a patient behaves in a manner that resembles an animal’s behavior in the form of crying, grumbling or creeping, then the unfortunate soul is a werewolf or a were-whatever animal type they are acting out like a werewolf, werpig, wereraven, werewolf, weredolphin or wereshark.

This would explain the werewolf police officer, but what about the country bumpkins near the sixteenth century town of Bedburg, Germany?

A recent theory, which was probably proposed by a vampire in Transylvania, states that ergot, a fungus that infects certain types of grain in wet growing seasons after a extremely cold winter, poisoned the poorer areas of town and resulted in hallucinations and paranoia.

In addition, back-lab scientists of the 60s cultivated the LSD properties of the fungus.

However, the intellectual members of the rational thought community have rejected this controversial theory.

## Horror films rack up scary time



**JASON KIMBRO**  
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

There are plenty of horror flicks out there for us to gaze upon.

Most of today’s youth, however,

have no real idea of what horror truly is in the realm of cinema. They have been subjected to one PG-13 piece of crap after another, never truly experiencing what the genre really can offer.

Lately a few flicks of voluptuous gore have graced the screens, but most of them have lacked any true value or density. A few being remakes and some others very loosely based upon actual events, these gorefests provide some visual tantalization for the sick-minded, leaving most of us looking for a great horror-film experience.

For those of you actually yearning for a good fright flick experience, I have listed some of my personal favorites (in no particular order) that I am sure you will enjoy.

Some are obvious classics and some are lesser known to the status quo of MSU, but all are sure to please anyone interested in a good, scary, night of cinema.

First I would like to talk about a couple of John Carpenter’s films. This horror genius is better known for his horror classic “Halloween,” which set a standard for slasher flicks in the late 70s and early 80s.

But that aside, Carpenter has done some ingenious films that most usually push aside.

One such movie is 1987’s “Prince of Darkness.” Filled with an im-

mense degree of originality, some decent gore and a lovely religious undertone involving the rule of Satan over earth, this film provides a grand scale of escapist enjoyment for those willing to search this film out.

Another Carpenter film sure to please, that is if you can get past the ill-fated ending and generally hopeless feeling throughout the entire movie, is Carpenter’s entry in 1995, “In the Mouth of Madness.”

An intensely produced film, it takes its viewers to a world not unlike our own, yet twisted to a degree that may help some understand exactly how warped a writer like Stephen King truly is. Either that or confuse the hell out of ya, either way this movie is a lot of fun.

The next film I would like to suggest is the 1979 classic “Phantasm.” Made famous thanks to the help of imaginative narrative and a cool silver, flying ball of death, this demonic thriller will make you think twice the next time you decide to play with your balls—the large silver ones that fly around that is.

Growing up, my parents let me watch the first two minutes of a film, then made me go to bed in order to keep from getting any ideas.

That movie was “Children of the Corn.”

Now this movie has a lot of unintentional comedic relief and most people get really upset at the fact you don’t get to see “He who walks behind the...” whatever it is, but there is a lot of fun to be had anyhow.

There are several movies that have many sequels. One may ask, which of these dozens of sequels are worth my while?

Well, I will tell you of one that would be worth taking a gander or two. The first is the best of the “Nightmare on Elm Street” series,

“Wes Craven’s New Nightmare.” This installment of the Freddy Kreuger flicks takes place in the “real world” as actors from previous NMOES movies and Wes Craven all play themselves. Even Robert Englund makes an appearance.

This flick was genuinely scary, very much so compared to the other eight films.

Next I would like to express my joy for one of my greatest guilty pleasures.

And that is my love for the three “Final Destination” movies.

Back in the 70s, a little movie called “The Omen” was released and it began a whole new sub-sub-genre of films in which the writers would attempt to come up with the most inventive and elaborate deaths possible.

The “Final Destination” films are the crowning achievement of these type of movies.

From one extremely gory death to another, these flicks provide an awesome amount of entertainment and shocks guaranteed to leave you yearning for more.

Thank God each of their DVDs come with awesome extras.

Finally I would like to finish up by talking about one of the weirdest horror flicks you will probably ever see.

That movie is called “Xtro.”

It isn’t often you see a movie about vampirish aliens attacking earth, impregnating our women, turning toy soldiers into life-sized killing machines and making the women they impregnate give birth to full-grown men.

And this is just half the carnage this movie has in store. Though a bit dated (understatement), this is indeed one of the most fun movies you will find this side of the graveyard.

Well, I hope this list serves you well, and I hope you can actually find some of these films, for some can be difficult to get your hands on (including “Xtro.” The rental places only seem to have their paltry sequels).

And if you can’t enjoy a good horror flick such as these and you’re just looking for a good time, then stop by and see the best gosh-darn bartender in town, Augie over at Toby’s. He might not be scary, but he sure is entertaining (perks please!).

## Campus Voices

### Q: Do you believe in ghosts?



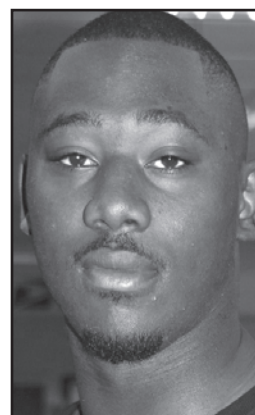
“Yes, because I’ve had occasions where it seemed like they were there. I’ve had objects fall and land on the other side of the room.”

— Sam Hellinger, 20, junior, criminal justice major



“Yes and no. No because it’s like a fairytale, and yes because you believe in angels, so why wouldn’t you believe in ghosts.”

— Ola Muhammad, 23, senior, criminal justice major



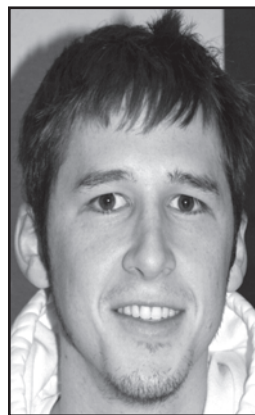
“I believe in spirits, but I don’t know about ghosts. I don’t know if they’re the same or not. I’ve never witnessed it, but I believe this because my church believes it.”

— Emanuel Bagley, 19, sophomore, mass communication major



“I don’t believe in ghosts. I don’t think any of it’s real. I think it is all for the media.”

— Ivy Itty, 22, junior, nursing major



“Not really. Every now and then when Halloween comes around I watch the “Exorcist” and “Exorcism of Emily Rose,” those shows are scary, I might believe in ghosts when I watch those kinds of movies.”

— Jay Whaley, 22, senior, arts and science major

**New Jerusalem Baptist Church** 1400 Borton Lane  
Wichita Falls, TX 76305

**Rev. Angus Thompson,**  
Pastor

“The Church That Reminds  
You of Home”

We Welcome Our  
New Neighbors

Lively music and  
down home  
preaching and  
teachings.

Sunday School 9:30 A.M.  
Morning Worship 10:45 A.M.  
Bible Study Wednesday Evening 7:00 P.M.

**SUPERCUTS®**

3909 Kemp • Open 7 Days • No Appointment Necessary