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South African Pagan Rights Alliance

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29 October 2008

Sunday Tribune
Tribune Letters
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Letter to the Editor

With reference to a letter published in the Sunday Tribune entitled '**Halloween – Prime recruiting time for Satanists**' (October 26), I wish to respond to false and spurious allegations made by Mos van Schoor.

The author's deliberate fabrication of inaccurate, unproven and academically contested 'history' to justify open discrimination against the celebration of Halloween by South African citizens constitutes hate speech and defamation.

The celebration of Halloween - October 31 (an American invention) is derived from an original Irish Celtic feast of Samhain. Samhain is celebrated in South Africa by Pagans on April 30/1 May. This religious observance celebrates the start of the new spiritual year with the veneration of our ancestors and ancestral heritage.

Whilst this Alliance believes the author is entitled to his personal religious beliefs, we strongly object to the deliberate fabrication of fiction by the author in order to justify religious intolerance against Pagans and against citizens of this country who choose to celebrate Halloween.

It should be noted that Satanism is not a Pagan religion. Paganism is a diverse reconstruction and resurgence of authentic European 'ethnic' pagan religions. In South Africa Paganism includes syncretic neo-Pagan religions such as Witchcraft and Wicca.

The deliberate fabrication of falsehoods in order to promote religious dissention and hatred of religious minorities in this country should never be tolerated!

Yours Sincerely

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Halloween – pri

ARE you prepared to let your kids take a chance on trick or treating at Halloween?

As a parent you would be very wise to read this first. Indeed, you and your adult friends should also be aware of the consequences of dabbling in the occult.

There are some ugly facts to be faced before putting on masks, dressing like ghouls, running around on broomsticks, wearing witches hats and toasting with glasses of tomato juice posing as the blood of Dracula's victims.

Dr Peter Hammond, of Africa Christian Action, has circulated some important research on the question of Halloween.

However exciting it may seem to kids, there is much more to Halloween than meets the eye. Cruelty to animals, vandalism and even murders occur with far greater frequency during Halloween,

Hammond's sources say. Halloween is a prime recruiting time for witches and Satanists. Many people have testified that they were introduced to the occult at a Halloween party.



Halloween is very religious, but it is not Christian; it is satanic. And for the benefit of those who doubt that, African Christian Action quotes no less an expert than Tom Sanguinet, a former wiccan high priest, who saw the light and then said: "The modern holiday that we call Halloween has its origins in . . . the witches' new year. It is a time when the spirits (demons) are supposed to be at their peak power and revisiting planet earth . . . Halloween is purely and absolutely evil, and there is

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nothing we ever have done, or will do, that would make it acceptable to the Lord Jesus."

Sanguinet knows what he is talking about. Now we too should consider the facts.

Halloween has strong roots in paganism and witchcraft. It began as the Druid festival of Samhain. The druids taught that on October 31, on the eve of the feast, Samhain assembled the spirits of all who had died during the previous year to return to their former home to visit the living.

Druid priests have conducted diabolical worship ceremonies in which cats, horses, sheep, oxen, human beings and other offerings were rounded up, stuffed into

wiccan cages and burned to death. These human and animal sacrifices were apparently required to appease Samhain.

To obtain these sacrifices, druid priests would go from house to house asking for fatted calves, black sheep and human beings. Those who gave were promised prosperity and those who refused were threatened and cursed.

This is the origin of "trick or treat."

One of the popular heroes of Halloween, Count Dracula, lived from 1431 to 1476. During his six-year reign, Count Dracula massacred over 100 000 men, women and children. He devised a plan to rid his country of the burden of beggars, the handicapped, the sick and the aged by inviting them to a feast at one of his palaces.

He fed them well and got

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them drunk. Then he asked them: "Do you want to be without cares, lacking nothing in the world?" When his guests yelled, "Yes!" Dracula ordered the palace boarded up and set on fire. No one escaped this original "house of horror".

The Bible warns people to be discerning about what kind of activities they allow themselves to get involved in. It says:

"Test all things; hold fast to what is good. Abstain from every form of evil."

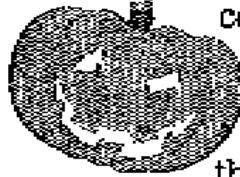
The current world-wide commercially driven spread of demonic celebrations like Halloween is also foreseen with the warning:

"Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the Faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies and

hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared . . ."

Instead of participating in paganism, walking with Wicca, being in harmony with Halloween, having our children celebrate cruelty and dabbling in a day of death, Africa Christian Action says Bible-believing Christians will instead focus their families on celebrating Reformation Day this October 31.

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses on the door of the Slosskirche (castle church) in Wittenberg, Germany. The Reformation freed the Christians of Northern Europe from the decadence of Renaissance paganism and led to the greatest freedoms and scientific discoveries in history.



MOS VAN SCHOOR
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