

## ***Virtual Mentor***

American Medical Association Journal of Ethics  
October 1999, Volume 1, Number 2: 13.

### **VIEWPOINT**

#### **Witchcraft, Folkloric Remedies and the Paranormal**

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- Searching MEDLINE using "supernatural" terms and keywords yields the following:  
Werewolf — 20 citations  
X files — 260 citations  
Trick or Treat — 74 citations  
Ghost — 1634 citations
- The *Transylvania Journal of Medicine* (1828-1839) was published by the Medical Department of Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky. The university still exists, but the medical school closed in 1860.
- Division of Personality Studies at the University of Virginia Health Sciences Center investigates apparent paranormal phenomena.
- Human sacrifice was widespread as a gift to the gods among the Aztecs in the mid-15th century. An estimated 10,000 to 15,000 people were sacrificed each year.
- Witchcraft medicine uses a variety of plants to treat various afflictions. For example: Leaves from *Thuja occidentalis* are burned on coals to purify patients and exorcise evil spirits; *Phytolacca Americana* is used by the Iroquois as an expectorant, emetic, cathartic, and for bewitchment; Smashed *Linaria vulgaris* plants when taken induces vomiting that can remove bewitching; and *Sarracenia purpurea* is used by sorcerers—exact use is unspecified.
- October 31 is the birthday of:  
John Keats, British lyric poet and physician, who died of tuberculosis at age 25; and  
Marian Chace, who founded and championed dance/movement therapy as a profession based on body-mind relationships.

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