

Skeletal Discoveries  
By ANONYMOUS

On January 19, 1971, there was a dance being held in the cafeteria of Cheranov High School. This was the usual high school Prom dance with everyone dressed in their best fancy clothes. The boys looked great in their tuxedos and the girls in their beautifully elegant dresses with fancy hair styles and formal makeup. At the dance, a student named Peter Jones was there with his girlfriend, Judith Smith. Now, Peter's adoptive family wasn't terribly rich but they ran the corner chicken shop where he was forced to help out every day. Peter and his family didn't get along well to the point that Peter was looking forward to moving out when he was of legal age. Judith came from a posh family and she planned to inherit a fortune when she turned 18 next month. In fact, she was the one who drove Peter to the dance after she cajoled him to go wither, as she'd secretly had a crush on him since the ninth grade. Yet, Peter had fallen into the wrong crowd as the Deadly Sins gang learned that he was quite clever and forced him to help, or do, their math homework. He had no idea that the gang leader, Jose Rivera, really liked Judith and was planning to take her to the dance tonight. Also, Peter had stood up to Jose and refused to do anymore of the Sins' homework for them. At the dance, Jose confronted Peter who stood his ground and refused to be swayed so Jose discretely pulled a knife out and stabbed Peter in the stomach. The Sins pretended to have a friendly conversation with Peter while they carried him to the trap door that led into the maintenance tunnels below the cafeteria stage. Judith had been talking with her posh friends thinking that Peter was just getting them something to drink so she never knew what happened to him. After Jose had cleaned off the knife and himself, he went up to Judith to tell her that Peter had taken off with this girl in his advanced math class that he'd seen Peter hanging around all term. Judith was shocked and hurt so she left. After the dance, Judith didn't see Peter and the Sins continued with business as usual. Peter's family and friends figured he'd finally had enough and just ran away. Nobody realized that his body was hidden deep below the stage and body was never found leaving his spirit bound to the high school.

Some years later on the same tragic day, I was a senior at the high school and I had made some interesting and bizarre discoveries. These discoveries were made near midnight while I finished my senior art portfolio for the big College of Art and Design Scholarship. First prize was a four year scholarship covering all expenses. Being late at night, the school was practically empty except for the janitors so technically I was all alone in the high school. While I was walking through corridors towards the vending machines, I heard a soft moaning sound coming from the upper northern hall. The janitor was still cleaning up so I thought it might be him making those noises. Yet, I followed the sound past the library towards the stairs and cafeteria. Following the sound further, I was led to the cafeteria, and as I reached the door, the sound stopped abruptly. Confused, I looked around to see if maybe it had been the janitor. It couldn't have been him because he was at the other end of the hall. So I entered the cafeteria and looked around for someone or something to reveal the source of that strange sound I had heard. I looked all over the cafeteria, even behind the stage curtains but I didn't find anything that would give me a clue. Then I double checked the room and discovered a trap door hidden in the floor, underneath the curtains. There was a lot of dirt and dust on it from ageless time and countless numbers of feet. As I brushed off this part of the floor, I discovered a small yellowed with age piece of paper. When I looked closer at the paper, I discovered it was a 1971 student's ID card. The name I deciphered was Peter James or Jones, but that didn't mean anything to me. I was fascinated with this because it was so old and I am a little sentimental. After reading the card, I heard music begin to play and muffled feet dancing to a Jimi Hendrix song. I was frightened and confused by these

bizarre occurrences. Yet, I got over my fright and confusion very quickly because I kept my head and didn't panic. Then I looked around the room to see what was happening and saw a disco glitter sphere hanging from the middle of the ceiling. The sphere was rotating in time with the ghostly music and eerie lights were bouncing off the sphere. The lights hit the floor as multi-colored dots in the darkened room.

On the stage, I saw a dark shadowy figure beckoning me to come over to him. Curiously afraid, I began to move towards the stage but as I neared it, I tripped over a chair. When I looked up, I saw a small concealed trap door on one side of the stage and I tried to open it. Just as I was discovering that the door was locked, the music stopped and I couldn't hear feet dancing anymore. As fate would have it, I heard the janitor coming down the hall. I ran out of the cafeteria and asked him if he had the key to the hidden door, but he didn't have it. So, I went back into the quietly lit room to look for the key to that door. As I looked near the stage, the room darkened a little and I heard the sound of music playing and feet dancing very faintly. Again, I saw the eerie, gloomy figure dancing slowly on the stage. He was waving the key in his hands, as if he wanted me to take it. So, I walked up to the stage and took the key from him. As I took the key, I noticed his finger pointing down to the concealed door on the stage. Then he smiled sadly at me and mouthed a thank you. As I placed the key in the keyhole, I heard an almost inaudible drawn-out sigh of relief. When I looked through into the crawl space, I saw the strange figure's source of misery. Now, he is relieved of his earthly bounds and there is one less undiscovered skeleton hidden in a strange, lonely place.