

Your Friendly Neighborhood Ranter "The Goth Test"

Before I begin, here's a little disclaimer: This pertains to religion. Specifically, the Catholic religion. Whereas I don't view religion as a taboo, some do, so I will be as kind as possible and honestly say this: I am *not* bashing, badmouthing, or slandering Catholics or the Catholic religion. I am, however, poking fun at whoever wrote this RIDICULOUS document. I used to simply assume that most religious folk were wise and kind, accepting all who live on the planet; in fact, it's one of the commandments: *Thou Shalt Love Thy Neighbor*. Apparently, the individual(s) who produced this particular "test" skipped that commandment. Prepare to laugh. My comments are not in bold. The test itself, however, is.

1. Listed below are some warning signs to indicate if your child may have gone astray from the Lord. Gothic (or Goth) is a very obscure and often dangerous culture that young teenagers are prone to participating in. The gothic culture leads young, susceptible minds into an imagined world of evil darkness, and violence. Please seek immediate attention through counseling, prayer, and parental guidance to rid your child of Satan's temptations if five or more of the following are applicable to your child.

Hee. Even the introduction got me excited. I knew I was about to read the single most ignorant creation ever to grace the earth.

2. Frequently wears black clothing.

Honestly, if you learn anything from me, it's that clothes don't make a person. They seem to disregard the fact that most *priests* wear black, proving my statement even further.

3. Wears band and/or rock t-shirts.

Hah! Rock always seems to get the short end of the stick here. Do they never listen to a single rap lyric? Personally, I think rap is far more profane and dirty than any rock song (there are exceptions, and I do like rap, I am just making a point so don't get yourselves into a tizzy). Don't even get me started on all the innuendo weaved into pop music.

4. Wears excessive black eye makeup, lipstick, or nail polish.

Well, there is definitely *something* wrong with your kid if they think black lipstick looks good (it just does not work for about 90% of those who wear it) but there's nothing wrong with a little eyeliner! Going by this logic, if you wear white nail polish, you've got a free pass through the pearly gates. Please. Colors don't mean a thing, whether it's skin, clothes, or makeup.

5. Shows an interest in piercing or tattoos.

Well, that leaves just about...10% of the population non-goth according to this. What if it's a tattoo or an earring of a cross?

6. Complains of boredom. Sleeps too excessively or too little. Is excessively awake during the night. Demands an unusual amount of privacy. Requests time alone and quietness. (This is so that your child may speak to evil spirits through meditation.)

7. Insists on spending time with friends while unaccompanied by an adult.

Heh, no offense to parents and adults, but we teens would like to hang out with our friends without some parent hovering over us. It's awkward, and to let you in on a secret, most of us swear whether you know it or not. Most of us know more than you think. Al-

most all of us have a dirty sense of humor. Hang out time would basically be a silent hour with awkward conversations if a parent or adult were nearby.

8. Disregards authority figures; teachers, priests, nuns and elders are but a few examples of this.

Oh come now, no adult on the planet can deny being rebellious in school. They should know from personal experience kids hate being told what to do.

9. Eats excessively or too little

Well, that takes up the remaining 10%. Yep. All of America is nothing but evil Goths. Evil Goths with cheetos, donuts, and cheesecake...

10. Eats goth-related foods. Count Chocula cereal is an example of this.

It was at this point where I had to walk away before I had an aneurysm. I suppose Franken and Boo Berry are conspiring with him, and only angel's food cake can save the day...

11. Watches cable television or any other corrupted media sources. (Ask your local church for proper programs your child may watch.)

If you don't want television to mess up your kid, try being a good parent and teach them the difference between reality and fiction. They'll know you can't just throw open a trench coat and take out an endless supply of weapons and watch television for what it is and supposed to be: *ENTERTAINMENT*. Anyone who takes it for more than that should not be allowed within ten miles of a television set.

12. Uses the Internet excessively and frequently makes time for the computer.

This takes out most college kids and every teenager on the planet basically.

13. Makes Satanic symbols and/or violently shakes head to music.

Again the writer is associating rock with the devil. It's called Head-Banging, by the way. Most teens that draw satanic symbols do it for attention. And what have I said before, class? Everyone knows the best attention is Negative Attention! Very good. Moving on.

14. Is homosexual and/or bisexual.

I was wondering when they were going to put this in here. Allow me to give those who agree with this a bit of valuable information:

I watch IFC a lot, and it is filled with lots of great independent films and film shorts. One film short that I love to death is a spoof of the old government PSA about how bad it is to be gay, and it is called *Shame No More*. They even filmed it in black and white. The film starts out normal, set in Cherry Creek, but you notice one odd thing right away: everyone is in same-sex relationships. The entire film is based on a reversed universe where it's a bad thing to be straight. As I watched the first few minutes of this, I thought to myself, *"This is so absurd!"*

And I stopped. It was absurd. See, they reversed the gay/straight thing on purpose. You find it completely absurd that one would think it a sin to love another from the opposite sex. And if you still believe it's wrong to be gay and still agree with what I have just said, you are a hypocrite.

Think about that.

If five or more of the above apply to your child, please intervene immediately. The gothic culture is dangerous, and Satan thrives within it. If any of these problems persist, enlist your child into your local mental health center.

(-St. Mary's Catholic Church)

Danielle Mammano, Junior

The Funny Thing About War

Chris Petty, Sophomore

If you are planning on going to the army, air force, or whatever remember these ten rules.

10. The easy way is always mined.

9. War does not determine who is right. War determines who is left.

8. The only thing more accurate than incoming enemy fire is incoming friendly fire.

7. It is not known with what weapon World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones.

6. All five-second grenade fuses burn down in three seconds.

5. Never forget: your weapon was made by the lowest bidder.

4. The enemy diversion you were ignoring was the main attack.

3. It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed.

2. A Purple Heart just proves that were you smart enough to think of a plan, stupid enough to try it, and lucky enough to survive.

1. When in doubt, empty your magazine.

Shadows in the Light

Gregory Maddock, Sophomore
Part 1

I slinked down the dark ally. It was just me and the click of my heels on the ground. I looked up and down Fifth Avenue, but I could see nothing but a slight fog hanging over the street.

"Good," I thought, "Now I won't be seen. But then again, who wanders the streets at midnight?"

I crept out of the ally and onto Fifth Avenue. I seemed to have stepped in the pathway of a cool autumn breeze. The air made my auburn hair tingle. I smiled. I loved the clean, crisp air of autumn. I must admit I was rather fond of these types of things, perhaps the reason why I loved Nolan Brown. For a moment, I lost my awareness that I was out alone at midnight and enjoyed the fresh scent of leaves turned red and gold. Suddenly, a stack of *"Frank's Seafood"* crates tipped over behind me in the ally. I jumped, and my mind returned to the present moment. I quickly looked behind me. Was I being watched?

"It was nothing," I said to myself. *"I'm just making myself nervous."*

I continued walking down the street, once more guided by the clicking of my heels on the ground. My heart was beating like the wings of a hummingbird. I began to feel lightheaded, too lightheaded to walk any further. I decided to sit down on a bench beneath the nearest streetlight. I felt like steam was going to whistle out of my ears at any moment. As I sat on the bench, I began to think. I wasn't doing anything wrong...or was I? What does a girl do when her mind is overflowing with thoughts? I had to think about them, that's what. I wasn't going to go any further until I had. I tilted my head back closed my eyes.

To be continued...