

De Rit in de Kist



Cabdriver Hank E. Panké provided reliable and relatively inexpensive citywide transportation six days a week, noon to seven p.m., for which he earned a satisfactory wage, and that was good enough for him. His financial advisor, however, implored him to put windows in his cab, for each day more than one claustrophobic client turned down what was known as *de rit in de kist*, or “the ride in the coffin.” But Panké would not be swayed. Turns out, that was a good idea, as the International Year of the Goth had just started, and fans of the darkwave subculture from all over the world descended upon Panké’s home of Death’s Door, Illinois. Business was suddenly so good that he added a midnight-to-four a.m. shift to his hours of operation, which proved to be even more lucrative.