

# GRAVE CURIOSITIES

## Taberger's Safety Coffin

developed in 1829, allowed the "deceased" to ring a bell and alert the grave-yard workers in case of being buried alive.<sup>1</sup>



Prior to the twentieth century, some European families would hire **professional mourners** to either look sad or wail, adding the right tone to a funeral.<sup>2</sup>



Humans aren't the only ones who bury their dead. Both **elephants and chimpanzees** have been known to throw leaves and branches over deceased members of their "families."<sup>3</sup>

In 1992 Playboy founder **Hugh Hefner** purchased the crypt beside Marilyn Monroe at Westwood Village cemetery for the price of \$75,000. He said, "Spending eternity next to Marilyn is too sweet to pass up."<sup>4</sup>



## Tibetan sky burial

is the ritual practice of cutting a body into pieces and offering it to the vultures. These "sky dancers" transport the soul to the heavens to await reincarnation.<sup>5</sup>

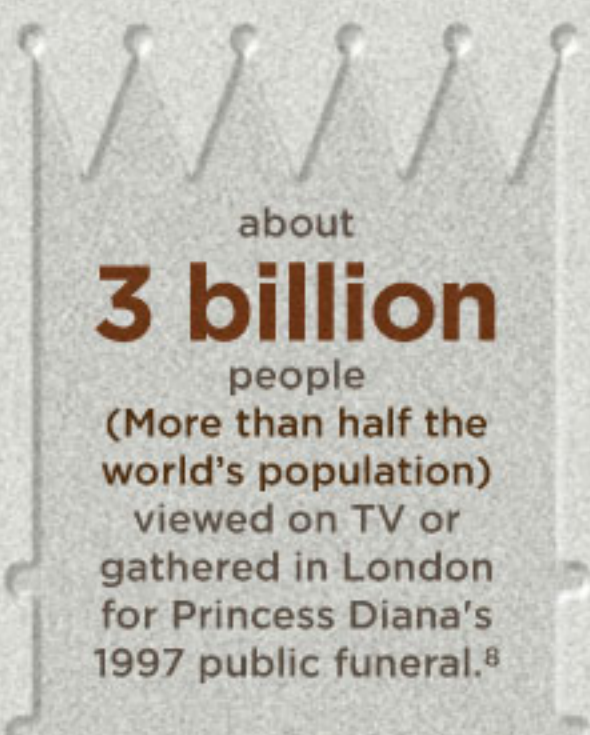
## \$2,000

Price of the average casket in the U.S.  
Costs can go up to \$10,000 or more.<sup>6</sup>

A small cemetery in **Hattiesburg, Mississippi** is located in the middle of an apartment parking lot.<sup>7</sup>



about **3 billion** people (More than half the world's population) viewed on TV or gathered in London for Princess Diana's 1997 public funeral.<sup>8</sup>



**Llano, Texas** is home to the unfortunately named **Baby Head Cemetery**.<sup>9</sup>

Each year, the United States buries enough caskets to equal

- **30 million feet** of hardwood
- **90,272 tons** of steel, and
- **2,700 tons** of copper and bronze.<sup>10</sup>

## Offerings of flowers

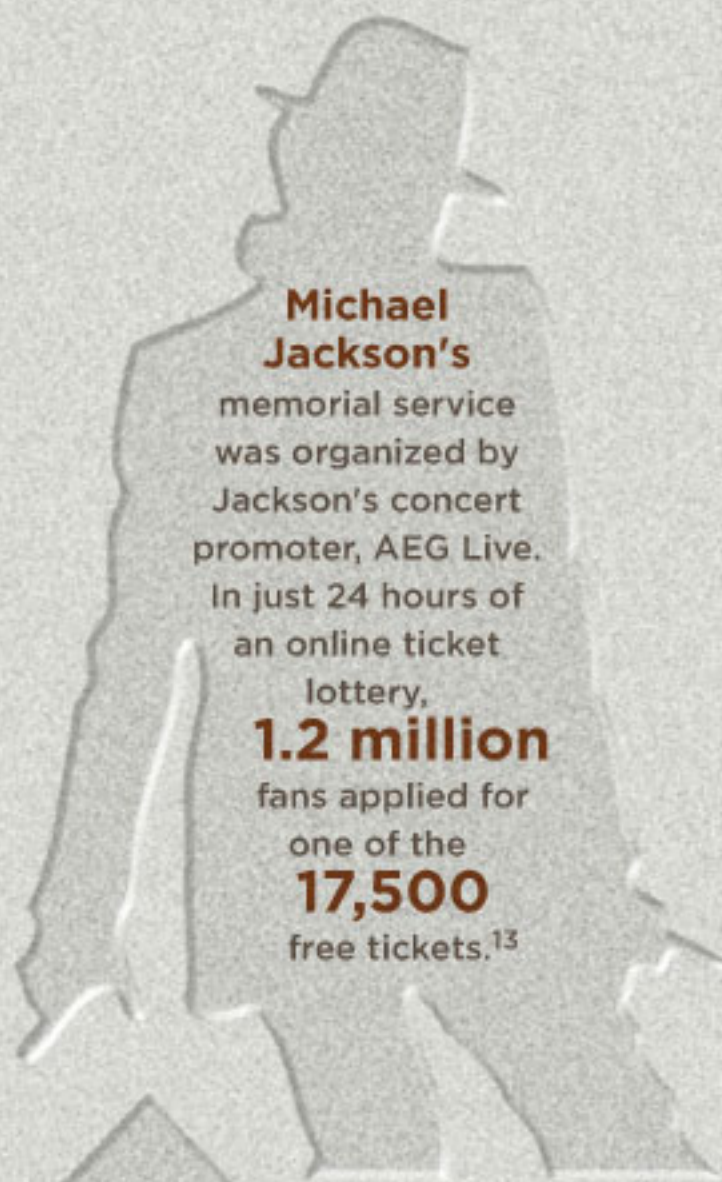
placed at the grave were originally brought to promote good will with the spirit of the deceased.<sup>11</sup>



The tradition of **playing loud, raucous music** at an Irish wake originated with the belief that it would ward off evil spirits; the wake also presented an opportunity to watch over the "deceased" to see if they would "awaken".<sup>12</sup>



**Michael Jackson's** memorial service was organized by Jackson's concert promoter, AEG Live. In just 24 hours of an online ticket lottery, **1.2 million** fans applied for one of the **17,500** free tickets.<sup>13</sup>



## Burials at sea

are still performed in this day and age. There are strict regulations, with most states requiring that the body be dropped at least 3 nautical miles from land in water at least 600 feet deep.<sup>14</sup>

Measured by area, the largest tomb in the world belongs to 16th century Japanese **Emperor Nintoku**. Measured by volume, the honors go to Egyptian **Pharaoh Khufu**.<sup>15</sup>

## 67%

of flowers purchased in the U.S. - including those used for funerals - are imported from other countries.<sup>16</sup>

Sprechen Sie Deutsch?



Bien sûr!

Growing trends in body disposal include turning cremated remains into a **wearable diamond** or shooting a small amount of the cremains up **into space**.<sup>17</sup>



## Sources

1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 17 Wikipedia 4 The Seattle Times 5 TravelChinaGuide  
6 US Funerals Online 7 Wikimapia 11, 12 Wyoming Funeral Directors Association 16 USDA