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### LIVEBLOGGING BEGGARS NIGHT

October 30, 2005

Des Moines does Halloween a bit different. We do "beggars night" on October 30th, instead of Halloween, for starters, but we have another local custom that is, as far as I know, unique: we demand the little beggars render up jokes before we surrender the candy.

Begging hours commenced at 6:00 pm. So far the best joke is:

*Why did the teacher wear sunglasses? Because she had such a bright class.*

Others so far:

*What do you call a deer that eats grass? A "fawn mower."*

*Why didn't the skeleton cross the road? He didn't have any guts.*

It will only get better!

6:30: business is slow so far. Are the jack-o-lanterns too frightening?

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Or perhaps the kids have heard the rumors about the scary "blogger"...

**6:40 p.m.** : A large group, all with jokes:

*Where do cows go for fun? To the mooovies!*

*What's a mummy's favorite music? Rag-time!*

*Why did the rooster cross the road? Because he wasn't chicken.*

*What school did Sherlock Holmes go to? Elementary, my dear Watson! (asked by a Sherlock Holmes - best costume so far.)*

There was also a "Darth Tater" punchline by a Darth Vader, but I can't remember the setup...

**6:50:** What's the Dracula's favorite holiday? Fangs-giving!

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FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS



7:00:

*What's a pirate's favorite fast-food restaurant?  
AAAAAARRGGh-by's!*

*How do you keep a ghost from spending too much? You take  
away it's charge cars?*

Oh, and the skeleton-guts one, again.

7:05 It's 'arry Potter!

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7:20 pm: Mr. Incredible saves the day!



7:40 pm.

*What do you call a cow with no legs? Ground beef.*

Unless there's a late flurry, this has to be the slowest beggars night since we moved here. This is even worse than the first one here, when it snowed. One

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mom says the Embassy Suites hotel has some halloween party that may be sucking in the beggars. I'm sure that she's at least partially right, about the verb part.

**8:00** Begging hours are over. Where was everyone? I know they don't have soccer practices after dark on Sundays in late October... do they?

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## COMMENTS

GREAT POST! Yes, Iowa is unusual in that it requires a joke before the candy is handed out. Our neighbor across the street moved to Iowa recently and we had to instruct them as to the REQUIREMENT that a joke be told. They didn't get it. Bah, foreigners! They'd never even heard of May Baskets! We had a good night, lots of ghostly visitors. Great pictures!

Posted by: [Brent](#) | [October 30, 2005 8:41 PM](#)

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Man, you live-blog everything!

First it was Allison Kraus, now Halloween. I'm almost afraid to stop by on Thanksgiving! ;-)

Our Beggars Night is tonight, and my daughter just came in and said "Hey Dad, I want to go as a nerd. Can I borrow a pair of your shorts, and a shirt, too?"

Sheesh!

And Thank You! very much for the kind words and link below.

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Posted by: [hgstern](#) | [October 31, 2005 4:46 PM](#)

Hank, your daughter is already scary, before she even has a costume!

Posted by: [Joe Kristan](#) | [October 31, 2005 5:13 PM](#)

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