

If there's something weird, and it don't look good, who you gonna call???

Paranormal Investigators!

By BILL BURDETT

All people have their own ghost stories. Some are just for fun, but some people really live with frightening environments, dreading their basements or attics.

Many people are afraid to tell their stories for fear of being criticized or made fun of. If you are one of these people, you may consider telling your story to a paranormal investigator.

Paranormal investigation is a serious science. Investigations are not "kooky witch-hunts", but are carried out as serious scientific studies. Like any occupation, there are professionals and amateurs. Some colleges actually offer courses in the supernatural.

You can even earn a PhD in parapsychology. Greenwich University in Hawaii.

Several local organizations operate nearby such as the Lake Cumberland Ghost Research Organization and Southern Ghost Research that you could contact for assistance if you desire.

Generally, there are two types of spirits that are widely dealt with by paranormal investigators that may sound familiar to you.

One is a spirit of what was a human at one time and it has remained in this world due to unfinished business, guilt, love or other human related emotions or relations. They may not even know they're dead. These ghosts are like

the person when they were alive. They may be good or bad, but generally are not dangerous. You may also encounter residual haunting, which is a playback of past events happening again. This is like watching a video of the past replaying like a broken record. These human spirits account for about 95% of most hauntings.

Another type of ghost that could be found is a type that was never human and is generally a bad or evil presence. These presences are rare but are still worth mentioning and worth being aware of.

Some frequently haunted places could be cemeteries. Age does not matter, however, the older it is the more time it has had to accumulate restless spirits. Other haunted hot spots could be schools, theaters and battlefields.

Some paranormal investigators make their first priority to rule out paranormal implications, such as in the recent investigation of the Shelbyville police headquarters, which was carried out by the Louisville based Scientific Investigative Ghost Hunting Team (SIGHT). The brick building, which dated back to the 19th century, had reports of opening drawers and shifting temperatures. SIGHT members concluded that the desk which had the "haunted" drawers had soft catches and was off



Graveyards are traditional "hot spots" for paranormal activity.

balance which caused the drawers to open due to gravity. Also the cold spots and changing temperatures often associated with the presence of ghosts were due to a defective thermostat.

According to a recent article in the *Courier Journal*, SIGHT's building inspector, Danny Owen, said that 95% of the time everything can be explained.

"It's the 5% that keeps us interested," he said.

There are eight paranormal research groups in Louisville alone. About half use the scientific method using scientific instruments to measure or rule out

paranormal entities. The other half use more metaphysical methods such as psychics and other less scientific and technical means of investigation.

The SIGHT team mainly tries to rule out paranormal possibilities. This allows the team to be more confident in their findings of when they do find a possibility of a ghost's presence. It also causes people to not be as skeptical once they have heard the technicality of the investigation.

Of course, not all scientists believe in ghosts. At the national physical laboratory in England, recent research indicates that

spooky occurrences could be a result of very low frequency sound waves called infrasound. Inaudible to human ears, it is believed to be used by elephants to communicate over long distances or to repel enemies. Although humans can not hear the sound we can feel it. Caused by natural occurrences such as storms, weather patterns, seasonal winds and some earthquakes, this infrasound can have several unusual effects on people such as anxiety, extreme sorrow, or chills.

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Close the curtains, lock the doors, and prepare for a creepy Halloween

By PAULA ROWLAND

It's what you feel at campfires, it's what is passed around by a flashlight in a group of friends, and can be passed on in the darkness by a single "boo"...they're called chills.

Everyone has heard the tales of Bloody Mary, The Candyman, and even Operator, Operator. These are the stories that make the hair on the back of your neck stand. The stories that send goose bumps throughout your entire body. However, once you've heard these stories so many times, they lose their zest in scaring the hoobaggees out of you. Which is why I'm here to let you in on a few stories that should be told this Halloween night.

Close the curtains, lock the doors, and make sure to have a flashlight nearby if the lights suddenly go out...these are the TRUE ghost stories that your parents would never let you know as a child.

(CAUTION: these stories are NOT for the FAINT OF HEART...you read at your own risk)

Two Eyes Shut, Too Many

In a house, not too far from here, there once lived a family with two kids. The little boy was six while the little girl was four and they shared nothing in common except for one thing...they were both terrified of the dark. The two never slept and their phobia was beginning to affect their lives as well as their friend's and family's. They didn't know of their house's past or what lurked behind closed doors and dark hallways, so the two came up with a scheme to overcome their paranoia of the darkness; one would stay awake for four hours and let the other sleep while the other would stay up the last four hours.

This seemed to work for both of the children, at least they were getting some sort of sleep. One

night however, as the little boy sat awake waiting for his last hour to be up, he heard a noise out in the hallway. He listened quietly, but heard nothing more and continued writing in his journal. But then he heard it again...the rattling of chains dragging against the floor "screeeeccccchhh". He started to say his sister's name when he heard it again at the end of his bedpost. This time the chains clinking against his bed, "clink clink clink clink clink clink..." He leaned down towards the end of his bed for a closer look, but the noise had stopped. He figured if he heard it again, then he would wake his sister. "clink clink clink clink c'mere clink-clink clink" He nudged at his sister as the noise grew louder. "CLINK CLINK C'MERE LIL BOY CLINK CLINK". The little boy was terrified as two fiery red eyes pierced the darkness. He tried to wake his sister, but he couldn't

make a sound. Before he could grab his sister hard enough to wake her, the huge dark figure rose and darted so quickly overtop of him that he didn't even have time to catch his last breath.

The chains wrapped around the small boy's body and he was drug off the bed in an instant. He was engulfed by the floating shadow and chains. The sister thought she heard a muffled scream and sat straight up in her bed only to find her brother not there. When she listened, she could hear chains being drug across the hallway outside her room. Her brother was never seen again, but legend says that soon after the little boy's disappearance the family moved and the shadow is still out looking for revenge upon little kids that can't sleep at night. So when you lay your head down tonight, don't be afraid to keep your eyes open. The only time to get worried is if you hear chains dragging across

your floor and see red eyes...and the faint noise of "clink clink clink"

Knocking, Who's Knocking at My front door

It was Christmas eve and everyone at the Adams' house was settled down to watch Christmas-time movies and drink eggnog. The adults sat in the den, sharing memories of the past; while the young ones played on the floor with their newly opened toys. The wind was blowing fiercely outside, knocking the shutters against the house and making a snow storm in the yard.

Which is why no one paid attention to the FIRST knock on the door. KNOCK KNOCK. The kids sat startled, but came to the conclusion it was just the wind. Then it happened again, KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK. One of the

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