

AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

Page 3

Forget the ALAMO

The 'River City' has night life, haunted sites — not just home of historic fight

BY JUAN LOYA AND VERONICA SERRANO
The Battalion

Home to at least eight colleges and universities, and numerous celebrations — including The Battle of Flowers and Diez y Seis de Septiembre — San Antonio is a city that plays host to many parties.

Beyond Fiesta Texas, the missions and the Riverwalk, San Antonio offers visitors and residents more than just the run-of-the-mill tourist attractions.

Though most big-name bands perform at the Alamodome, many small venues throughout San Antonio offer entertainment from local bands, as well as touring alternative and indie bands. Over the last few years, the White Rabbit on St. Marys Street (which is also home to several other establishments that cater to the college crowd) has become one of the main venues for these bands, drawing bands like Cake, Voo Doo Glow Skulls and Lords of Acid to its stage. The Laboratory Brewing Co., located on Jones Maltzberger Road, also offers live music from local bands and touring acts such as Ian Moore and Vallejo.

Visitors looking for live jazz should

check out The Landing located right on the river. Frank Chance, a junior computer science major, said he enjoys the music The Landing club offers.

"On the weekends, a band called the Jim Cullum Jazz Band plays, and they're really good," Chance said.

San Antonio offers a greater variety of restaurants than those on the Riverwalk.

Such as Planet Hollywood and The Hard Rock Cafe. The Pig Stand, which has the distinction of being the first drive-in restaurant in the United States, still serves customers at three locations in San Antonio. The restaurants no longer offer drive-in service, but they still offer food that is good enough to have earned the eatery a cameo in the film *The Evening Star*.

For food served in a festive setting, the Magic Time Machine provides an eclectic atmosphere for customers.

"The servers dress up like fictional characters from movies and TV shows and whatever else," Katie Cooper, a senior geophysics major said.

Thrillseekers will also find that San Antonio has just what they are looking for be-

cause many sites of the historic city are reputed to be haunted.

Of these sites, perhaps the most infamous are the train tracks on Shane Road, located on the south side of San Antonio. According to local legend, several students were killed when their school bus stalled on the tracks and collided with a train, and the streets surrounding the accident site were named for the victims.

Since the accident, the ghosts of the children have supposedly haunted the tracks and pushed stalled cars off the tracks to safety. Traditionally, visitors to the site put their cars in neutral about 50 yards away from the tracks and the spirits push their cars across the tracks to safety; some also test the theory further by placing flour or powder on the backs of their vehicles to see if hand prints from the children appear.

While accounts of when the accident occurred vary from the 1930s to the 1940s, and others have questioned if the accident occurred at all, the curious have not been deterred from visiting the tracks.

San Antonio's main attraction has always been the Alamo, and while most visi-

tors go for the historic value of the monument, there are eerie aspects to the old Spanish mission as well. Ghosts of the many soldiers who perished during the battle of the Alamo have been sighted on several occasions. But the other-worldly visitations are not limited to people who were actually at the historic battle. Sightings of deceased actor John Wayne, star of the film *The Alamo*, have also been reported in the area, according to the book, *Spirits of San Antonio & South Texas*, which refers to a *San Antonio Express-News* article from Jan. 27, 1991, that trumpeted the headline, "John Wayne's Ghost Remembers the Alamo."

The book also cites a passage from the Wayne biography written by his widow, Pilar, who said, "... if his spirit visits the Alamo, it is no doubt just to 'visit' with the brave men who defended [his] ideals."

And there are still other haunted locations. *Spirits of San Antonio* alone lists more than a dozen, and the *Express-News* Website lists more, and these are just a few resources one can use to find these locales.

No matter what one may be searching for, be it a parade, a concert or even a supernatural experience, one has to look no further than San Antonio.

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