

# AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

Page 3 • Friday, October 31, 2003

## FEAR FACTOR: GHOSTS AND SPIRITS

By Kim Katopodis  
THE BATTALION

ative and friends watch over them and sometimes intervene in their lives.

Megan McKenty, a sophomore education major, said while she does not believe in ghosts, that she does believe her deceased relatives can see and watch over her.

"I think my grandmother and grandfather are watching but I don't feel like there are freaky, spooky ghosts haunting me or anything," McKenty said.

Wood said there are only two kinds of spirits: evil spirits and the Holy Spirit.

"It is hard to explain, but there are really only evil spirits. These are from Satan, not God. The only spirit that God lets on the earth is the Holy Spirit," Wood said.

McKenty said she is not sure if she believes that evil ghosts roam around.

"I believe in Satan and that he can test people and can use an evil spirit to do it," McKenty said. "But I don't believe there are ghosts that just haunt for fun."

Hobbs said he also saw a dark figure dressed in a straitjacket outside his window.

"I said 'hey' and he turned around toward me and hovered over my bed," he said. "I stuck my hand out to touch him and my hand flew back. I've never been so terrified in my life."

Hobbs said the soldier ghost came around almost every night after that.

Later, Hobbs said he was telling his aunt what he had seen and she speculated that it may have been his great-great-great grandfather, Jabis Rockwell.

"He fought in the Revolutionary War with George Washington, so the clothes and musket would fit," Hobbs said. "The next time I saw him, I decided to speak to him. I asked him if he knew who I was and he grunted what sounded like 'yes.'"

Hobbs' ghosts have since disappeared but who knows — maybe the ghosts will reappear on this Halloween night.

GRAPHIC BY RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION



Heath Hobbs says he is convinced ghosts once lived in his house in Houston. The summer before Hobbs' freshman year in high school, a man dressed like a soldier holding a musket began appearing to him in his bedroom, he said.

"At first I would see him about twice a month and he would just stand there for 15 to 20 seconds looking at me," said Hobbs, a sophomore wildlife and fishery sciences major. "Then my sophomore year (of high school) I woke up and saw a mother and child crying. They wouldn't stand where the musket man stood and then I watched them walk through the wall."

Ghost stories. Everyone knows one. They are perfect for camping trips and scaring younger brothers and sisters, but the question remains: Are ghosts a figment of overactive imaginations or do they really exist?

Legends of hauntings are plentiful in popular culture. Even Texas A&M is said to have buildings haunted by ghosts.

Dr. Bruce Wood, the pastor of Aldersgate United Methodist Church in College Station and Class of 1973, defines ghosts as disembodied spirits. He says the Christian faith does not allow for the concept of ghosts.

"There is this immediacy in Christianity that the spirit of a person, when they die, doesn't float around on the Earth — it goes on to another place," Wood said.

Rabbi Peter Tarlow of the Hillel Foundation said that in Hebrew scriptures, there is more of a case for people coming back from the dead than there is for ghostly spirits.

He said he believes "there is a distinction between cultural Judaism and religious Judaism and that ghosts fit better within the realm of Cultural Judaism."

"There is a concept of formless spirits in Jewish culture but not in Judaism," Tarlow said. "Ghosts are part of the folk culture."

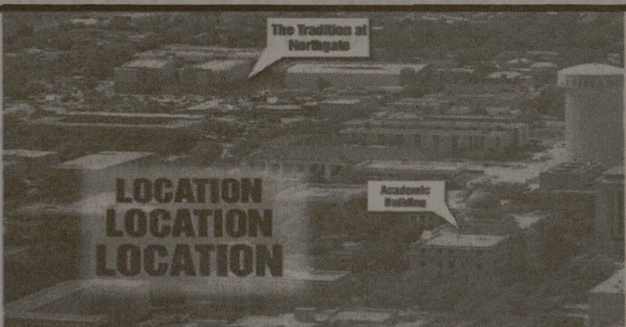
Many students hold to the belief that dead rel-

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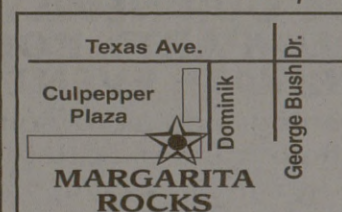
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