

Happy haunting

An incomplete church now used for storage is haunted by 'strange fungoid beings'

Arwen Ungar
Freelance Reporter

"Remember," Bill Smee said in a barely audible whisper. "Injury to the body is not always the worst that can happen."

Smee, who has worked on campus for many years, is making his way through an old, abandoned church. Rumor has it the old church, located at 1745 E. 17th Ave., is haunted.

"See that orange stuff, oozing out of the boarded-up window on the second floor?" Smee asks conspiratorially. "H.P. Lovecraft often refers to 'strange fungoid beings' in his writings and 'corrupted churches' as well," Smee said, pointing to the orange fungus.

Construction on the church began in the 1920s and was allegedly halted due to the Depression. The bell tower was never finished, and a section of the second floor remains inaccessible. But, Smee says the congregation had enough money to build a completely different church in another part of Eugene. Then, why was construction halted? Smee believes it was because spirits haunted the church.

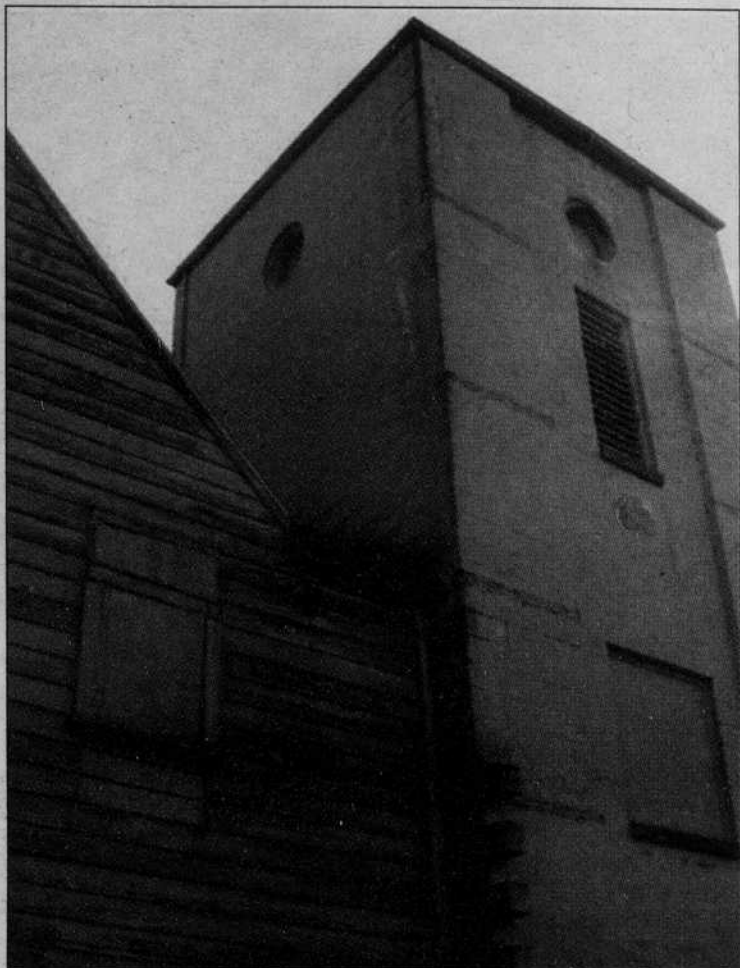
University housing acquired the church 25 years after it was abandoned and now uses for storage, although spirits may still lurk within.

"The west side of the church is very worn," Smee says pointing to the chipping paint falling from the wall of the church "To the Egyptians, the west is the direction of death."

"Notice how it's colder inside than out?" he asks, referring to an icy breeze that chills the air and bones as one ventures into the house.

"The difference is even more pronounced in the summer. It's called otherworldly presences."

Smee warns that the second floor is a "center of activity," and is mostly shunned. The floor is in a state of de-



Danielle Hickey Emerald

The unfinished bell tower is said to be where most of the haunting activity takes place within this abandoned church. To this day the tower is inaccessible.

cay and creaks with every step. Trash is piled high and the floor is spotted with burn marks.

Birds flutter frantically somewhere overhead.

"Hear that? Sometimes what we think are mere birds are really psychopomps — entities that conduct the souls of the newly deceased to the afterlife," Smee says. He nervously adds it is not good to expose oneself to such influences for too long.

The haunted church doesn't scare everyone in the neighborhood, however.

"Looks like an old building to me, it could use a new paint job though," said Ben Strawn, who frequents the building next door.

Paul Laurei, who has lived in the neighborhood for three years, says he has had supernatural experiences, although he doubts that any of them are because of the church that frightfully faces his home.

The question remains — is the old church really haunted by spirits or just in need of renovations?

Arwen Ungar is a freelance writer for the Emerald.



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

A vampire-like creature hides in the corn waiting to scare unsuspecting people. The maze is a hit for all ages.

Corn

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to get out."

Lone Pine Farms is located at 91909 River Road outside of June-

tion City. The maze is open and haunted every night from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. today through Thursday. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$6 for children. People can also visit the maze from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today through Thursday, when it's not

teeming with gremlins and goblins, and it costs \$6 for adults and \$4 for children. For more information, call Lone Pine Farms at 688-4389.

Chelsea Duncan is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

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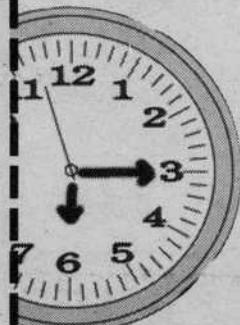
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