



Photoby Lisa N. Lipinski

It is said that the residents of North Morton Hall have been entertained by a ghost known as "Cathy" for many years. "Cathy" is said to have been a resident of the hall who committed suicide by hanging herself in the 1940s.

Tales from the crypt never die at NAU

By Samantha Doyle

The Lumberjack

"Urban Legends" — is it just a movie or a reality at NAU? Some students would say it is a reality.

Legends around the NAU campus are alive among students. The stories vary from ghosts to tales about what has occurred in residence halls.

The most widely spread story on this campus is about North Morton Hall. The story, as told by students, is that a young girl in her 20s was engaged to a man that was fighting in World War II.

When the girl got word that her fiancé was killed in battle, she hanged herself. Her suicide occurred in a room in North Morton, which was where she was living at the time.

Now it is said that Cathy, the girl who committed suicide, roams through the halls and rooms of North Morton. She is a nice ghost and does not look scary, said Allison Powell, a junior American history major and a North Morton resident. Cathy can apparently close doors and some peo-

ple say they have heard her.

"I saw her for about five seconds and that was all," Powell said.

She was wearing a gray top and had shoulder-length hair. Powell said she looked like any young girl in her 20s. Powell said that Cathy appeared in her room and then disappeared.

Sarah Trappman, a resident assistant in Morton Hall, said she has not had any residents say anything to her about Cathy sightings. During resident assistant training, Trappman said that Cathy was mentioned, but was not a focal point.

"You have to be sensitive to any issue and this is one of them," Trappman said.

Although the floor of Cathy's room location varies from person to person, there is yet another story about the door to her room. After Cathy's death, the resident assistants tried to paint the pink door white.

However, no matter how many times the door was painted it always returned to the original pink color. The room was apparently shut and no one lived there for 10 years, said Mak-

enzie Selland, a junior English major and resident assistant in North Morton.

Taylor Hall, is also rumored to be haunted, said Adam Cordenner, a senior American political studies major and former resident assistant in Taylor Hall.

He used to live in the basement and heard noises from the building settling. The noises were relatively loud and Cordenner said he was occasionally awakened during the night because of the noises.

"I do not really consider it haunted, but the noises are definitely not comforting," Cordenner said.

Another story about Taylor Hall concerned its boiler room. Apparently, there used to be a boiler room in Taylor when the dorm was a half-way house for unwed pregnant women. Cordenner said when the women had their children they would go to the boiler room and burn their babies.

In addition, Ouija boards tend to have many legends around them and it is no exception at NAU. Ouija boards are used to bring back spirits

from the dead to find out about the past and sometimes the future. Kristen Engle, a junior English education major, said some students contacted a student through the Ouija who was burned and killed in a fire. The fire burned Bury Hall down the middle creating what is now two buildings. One of the halves is now Taylor Hall and the other remained Bury Hall.

NAU has gone through many names in its history and Shari Samlaska, a senior Spanish and international affairs major, said she had heard an explanation of NAU's first name, Arizona Normal School.

Samlaska said Campbell was supposed to be an insane asylum, but it became part of the Arizona Normal School. NAU was given its name to emphasize that it was not an insane asylum, Samlaska said.

All of these stories have been passed from person to person over the years. Some may have some truth to them and some may be fictional.

Either way you look at it, these tales continue to remain part of NAU's urban legends.