

Rip off

Ghost haunts tunnels

By RICHELLE ELLIS
Columnist

It's not known by many, but beneath the grounds of our campus there is a network of tunnels. They were used by the women students of the past to move about campus without having to go outdoors. The tunnels have long since been closed and passage through them is forbidden.

According to legend, however, there is one student whose spirit occupies the tunnels every Halloween night. Her name is Elizabeth and for years her voice has been heard, crying through the tunnels in frantic search of her secret admirer. She was to meet him in the tunnel beneath her dorm the night of the annual Halloween ball, but never did. Instead, that night ended with her tragic death.

Elizabeth was very quiet and spent most of her days alone in her room. There were rumors that she was psychic and could communicate with the dead. Girls would often hear her mumbled strange words and small pieces of music passing by her door. Some claim she would contact her deceased mother and talk to her about problems she was facing in her life. Others simply believed Elizabeth was crazy and they ignored her.

Elizabeth was far from average. Although her figure and features were nice, she never made any attempt to improve on them. Her posture was poor and her face was always hidden behind her long, stringy black hair.

She hated everyone on campus. This included her house mother, even though Elizabeth would run to her whenever she caught one of the other girls in mischief. Her resentment was especially strong toward a group of five girls who lived on her hall. They were all very pretty and were known as "The Five," because they were the five most popular girls on campus.

The Five got their kicks by picking on Elizabeth and were constantly pulling practical jokes on her. It was one of their practical jokes that triggered Elizabeth's death.

Unlike most of the girls, Elizabeth never caught the eye of male visitors. The Five thought it would be funny to see what would happen if she had a secret admirer call on her. They planned a prank that would not only humiliate her but would scare her at the same time. It all started the Monday before the college's Halloween costume ball.

They sent Elizabeth flowers with an unsigned note attached. At first she thought it was just another prank and put it out of her mind. But the cards and notes kept coming. Elizabeth soon believed there really was someone out there watching her.

The last note The Five sent asked her to come to the Halloween ball dressed as a princess. (Is the admirer) would go as a prince and would find her.

Elizabeth ruled out all possibilities of this being another joke and anticipated the ball. She worked hard on her costume and rehearsed what she would say when she met her prince.

The night finally arrived. It was bitterly cold outside and the wind was gusting. Elizabeth crossed the grounds from her dorm to the ball with her princess gown blowing in the wind and her nose silky black hair pulled back behind her glowing face. She was beautiful. When she arrived, the crowd became silent. A look of astonishment was on everyone's face. Elizabeth, however, didn't even notice the reaction of the people. Her eyes were searching for her prince.

She stood motionless against a wall, scanning the crowd, waiting for him. The night was growing old and the crowd began to thin out. But Elizabeth stayed, waiting. By 11:30 in the place had emptied. Elizabeth still stood there, but now she was filled with rage. She was convinced that The Five had gotten her once again. As she started to leave, a member of The Five approached her and handed her a note. Elizabeth was confused because the girl didn't speak and kept a concerned, almost sympathetic expression on her face. The girl turned and walked away.

The note was from the admirer and asked her to meet him in the tunnel beneath her dorm at midnight. His name was signed at the bottom. Elizabeth feared she was setting herself up, but decided to show up anyway.

When she went down to the tunnel entrance it was very quiet. As she passed into the tunnel she quietly called his name. In an instant the entrance door slammed behind her and the lights went out. Elizabeth screamed and ran to the door kicking it and pounding her fists on it. She heard laughter from the other side. She turned and ran down the tunnel calling the admirer's name. It was completely dark and as she was running she tripped and fell, breaking her neck. She died instantly.

It's believed Elizabeth still visits every campus Halloween party dressed as a princess asking for her prince, and still visits the tunnel every year at midnight crying for him. Legend has it that, when she finds him, she will let it take him to their meeting spot in the tunnel where she'll keep him forever.

I haven't told you the admirer's name and for good reason. There is a new student this year with the same name. So if you fit this description, I suggest you don't talk to any princesses Friday night. She'll be looking for you!



'Number One' signifies survival

To the Editor:

A few remarks in reply to the comments Dr. Weiss launched in my direction Oct. 25.

I'd like to thank those who protested the Vietnam War when I was a student as "unpatriotic, blind and lacking in common sense" and even in the years since have confirmed this opinion. When the Radical Union took over the Student Government office at the University of Illinois, they decorated it with pictures of Lenin, Mao and Ho Chi Minh and added a big red star to the door. Protesters waved Viet Cong flags while burning the American flag and chanted "Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Minh! The NLF is gonna win!" The so-called peace movement was really a victory movement working for the success of our enemies. That is not patriotism, it is treason. They were blind and lacking in common sense because they couldn't see what a Communist victory would mean: the tragedy of the lost people, genocide, and continued war as Hansi pursues further expansion. Soviet aircraft and warships now use the bases at DaNang and Cam Ranh Bay which were built by us. Weiss is apparently still blind if he can ignore all that has happened to that poor land since it was "liberated." He should talk to some of the refugees as I have done and bear their horror stories. It might open his eyes. The opposite of war is not peace, it is slavery.

2) Weiss must have a low regard for the young if he feels that fear is the dominant influence on their politics. Many in the protest movement thought that the "counter-culture" was to preserve their childhood forever

by shielding them from the real world, but they were a minority in their generation. Most students went to class, found jobs, raised families and, if their country called, went to war. They did not envy Vietnamese any more than their fathers enjoyed World War II, but they recognized that as citizens they had a duty to something larger than themselves. Psychologists report that the draft dodgers who ran away are still suffering guilt and shame for their cowardice. Remember, Nixon carried the youth vote against the "peace" candidate McGovern. Polls showed that there were always more people who wanted to win in Vietnam than lose. It was the liberal political elite who failed in Vietnam under Johnson, then pulled the plug on Nixon to ensure defeat.

3) The sports comparison Weiss introduced is quite inappropriate. There are no adverse consequences to losing a game that compare to the costs of losing a war. That is why Reagan's military superiority is so important. An "upset" victory by the Soviet would be fatal to millions and would collapse civilization. A nuclear strike on our currently undefended population is not a trivial concern. That is why Reagan's support for a missile defense system and Mondale's opposition to such a system is the most vital issue of the day. Being Number One is a matter of national survival. Since we have the economic and technological means to provide for our own security, only an irresponsible leader would fail to act.

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Every vote counts

Don't forget to participate in today's mock presidential election sponsored by the SGA. Vote in **ELECTIONS** Heth or in the post office. More importantly, don't forget to cast your ballot in the national, state and local elections Tuesday, Nov. 6.

