Students tell of their ghostly encounters

By Cara Latham
Staff Writer

Ghost stories are a reality for many students. Some have encountered ghosts, either around campus or at other places. Freshman Erica Pasquin has encountered many experiences with the supernatural.

"The one that sticks in my head the most occurred at the house that my family rented every year in Maine," she said.

The cottage that Pasquin stayed in was old and had belonged to a former mayor of the small fishing town who was very disliked. Many citizens of the town were trying to remove him from office, and he apparently distraught by this, hung himself in the very attic of the house that he was renting, said Pasquin.

"The skeleton key that was given to us was able to open all of the doors in the house except the attic," she said. "You could turn the key and it would not work or a handle and lock but you would not be able to get the door open, and from time to time, you could hear the rocking chair moving in that room," she said.

As if that wasn't frightening enough, when her mom was cooking, sometimes things would be moved, including the time she put bread on the table next to while her cooking. When she needed it, she reached to get it but, Pasquin said, it was all the way at the end of the table.

One night while she was sleeping, the sheets were suddenly ripped off of her and pulled to the end of the bed, according to Pasquin.

"The sheets being pulled off was the scariest for me," she said. "I don't remember our family going back there since that time."

Because she has had other encounters with ghosts, Pasquin said that she finds the supernatural something that occurs when someone is receptive to it.

"If you are open to it, it will happen," she said. "But when you really want it to happen, such as receiving a sign from a lost one, it most likely won't happen right away."

Freshman Mike Taylor had a similar odd experience. One day, while he was sitting in his living room, after having just cleaned the entire kitchen, he said he heard something violently fall to the ground.

"I got up, knowing that I had just put down all of the utensils inside the drawers," he said. "And I saw a fork just laying in the middle of the floor."

This was not the only time something bizarre occurred. "Another time, I was watching television when it suddenly turned off. Immediately after that, the radio turned on," he said.

Despite these weird occurrences, and the fact that recently his phone conversation was abruptly interrupted and his music simultaneously stopped in his residence hall, he said he is not frightened by these things.

"Ghosts are everywhere," said Taylor. "But it doesn't really scare me. I don't mind it."

Although most spiritual encounters are classified as frightening, sometimes a visit from a deceased family member or just his or her presence can be relieving. Sophomore Caitlin Matt said that she recently became aware that her mother was still present in the lives of her family members. After her mother had passed away last summer, her father later began seeing her.

"The books in my father's room flew off the shelf and the cover to the light on the ceiling fell off," said Matt.

Figuring that her mother was unhappy with the new woman's presence in her father's life, Matt said she saw the event as meaningful.

"Sometimes it is just really good to know that she's still around and with us," she said. Remember, it may not be too weird to think that the television turning off is something supernatural, rather than just a power failure.

"It will come when you least expect it," said Pasquin.