



Chapel Hill's Gimghoul Castle is the Tar Heel's contribution to the legends and mysteries of North Carolina

DTH/Matt Plyler

he reportedly declared to his horse, "Take me in a winner or take me to hell." At that, the horse dug his hooves into the ground and threw him into a tree, killing him instantly. And the four hoofprints are still there today. Every time someone tries to cover them up they are found uncovered the next day, as a reminder of the curse the man put on himself and his horse.

Chapel Hill also has its own spooky tale — when ghost stories are mentioned around here, the legend connected with Gimghoul Castle is sure to come up.

Located at the end of Gimghoul Road, the 16th century-style castle was built in 1926 by the Secret Order of Gimghoul, a clandestine fraternity founded by Edward Wray Martin, who had the original dream of the castle's reality in 1891. But the legend connected with the castle concerns Dromgoole's tomb, a large rock on Piney Prospect Hill near Gimghoul castle. The story behind it is filled with lost love, heartbreak and death.

In 1831, Peter Dromgoole was a student in Chapel Hill from Virginia, who fell in love with a beautiful girl named Fanny. Unfortunately, Peter's

best friend also fell in love with Fanny, and although she did not return the friend's affections, Peter was consumed with jealousy. The two friends had a confrontation, and a duel was set up on Piney Prospect Hill.

Peter was fatally shot in the duel. One version of the story says that the seconds at the duel were so shocked and scared that they dug a shallow grave beneath the rock on Piney Prospect and buried Peter's body there, promising never to mention what had happened. According to the other version of the legend, Fanny arrived after her love had been shot, and he died as she held him in her arms. Fanny is said to have returned often to the rock at Piney Prospect to mourn Peter; eventually, red streaks — actually deposits of rusted iron ore — appeared on the rock.

If these tidbits of ghostly happenings have given you a hunger for more, you can find these and many other spooky North Carolina stories in the North Carolina Collection at Wilson Library, in books such as "Tar Heel Ghosts" by John Harden, and in clippings from North Carolina newspapers.

## Now this sounds like a real bash! Halloween night at East Carolina

By **ELIZABETH ELLEN**  
*Arts Editor*

"Chapel Hill parties on Halloween, but Greenville throws down."

So said Patrick Slocumb, a veteran of both Chapel Hill's Franklin Street activities and the outdoor revelry that ensues every October 31 in downtown Greenville. For students at East Carolina University and other community members, Halloween is one of the major social events of the year.

The main thrust of Halloween activity in Greenville occurs downtown on 5th Street, a long thoroughfare comparable in many ways to Franklin Street. Starting near the town's edge, 5th Street

is lined with large oaks in the campus area. It then runs past fraternities, sororities and the chancellor's house and into the downtown area of shops, restaurants and bars. The street's close proximity to campus — and the fact that it's the location of much of the town's nightlife — makes 5th Street a logical focus for partying.

On Halloween, 3,000 to 4,000 people converge on a small section of 5th Street, and traffic flow completely stops. "We section off four blocks downtown on Halloween," said Greenville's interim police chief Randy Nichols. "Basically, it is a big outdoor party."

Most of the revelers are ECU students, Nichols said. Local res-

idents, ECU alumni and visitors from many places in the eastern part of the state augment the number of people at what Nichols called "a big-time event."

In recent years, city police have had few problems with the merrymakers. "We have to break up a few fights, but other than that, we don't have a lot of trouble," Nichols said. Even alcohol violations pose few obstacles to the police. "As long as everyone is having a good time and not blatantly violating laws, we are not too worried," he said. "We don't go and card everyone there."

Nichols said he does not expect any special problems this year.

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