

Gimghoul Opens Doors to Public

It was a festive atmosphere as the secret society ripped off the veil of secrecy and simply let it all hang out.

DOLLY DAGGER
Staff Riter

After 111 years of secrecy, the Order of the Gimghoul threw open its doors to the public Sunday.

Years of tradition drifted out the front door of Hippol Castle, as visitors were free to tour the enigmatic Chapel Hill landmark and home to the Order of the Gimghoul.

On the front lawn, clowns and jugglers entertained the students, parents and children who munched on hot dogs and potato salad.

"For a century, we have wished to remain a secret brotherhood," Thad Brooder, president of the Order of the Gimghoul told the crowd. "Today, however, we wish to include everyone, regardless of race, religion, sex, sexual preference or economic status."

Those interested in joining were given an application and a free Gimghoul coffee mug.

Brothers of the Gimghoul took turns telling anecdotes of the secret society's past and rituals to the crowd of at least fifty, not including the new-age Christian band "God's Turn to Rock."

"I think it's wonderful that these young men recognized the community's contempt for secret organizations and decided to air their dirty laundry," said Cindy Motter, a Chapel Hill housewife. Most of those gathered seemed to agree with her sentiments.

"I agree with her sentiments," said one woman.

GIMGHOUL, THE MAN

Sunday's open house put to rest rumors that have surrounded the Gimghouls for years. Contrary to popular belief, no one was ever shot in a

duel on the Hippol grounds, though the brothers swear that a Sasquatch was spotted in the nearby woods during the fall of 1979.

While the Sasquatch story may be suspect, the origin of the brotherhood is set in stone.

Sean Gimghoul was the son of an Irish immigrant who befriended the Order's founder, James Littlefield, then a UNC junior. The two loved collecting bugs and flowers and writing poetry.

Gimghoul died less than a year later after a fatal case of gingivitis.

The search for other friends who shared Littlefield's interests was difficult and fearing persecution from the rest of the student body, the new group of UNC students and friends created the Order of the Gimghoul.

A NEW HOME IN GLANDON FOREST

Though the Order's original home was the apartment that now houses University Massage, in 1926, the Order completed work on Hippol Castle in Glandon Forest, just east of campus.

Why a castle? "It's every man's dream to own a castle," said Brooder. "Here at Hippol, every member can be a king, or a queen, depending on their preference."

Glandon Forest had been home to a rare species of deer that was wiped out with the construction of Hippol. Today, the forest serves as a summer refuge for squatters.

INSIDE HIPPOL CASTLE

Despite the dreamy, fairy tale-esque stone facade of Hippol Castle, often called Gimghoul Castle, the inside is more reminiscent of the inside of a Taco Bell.

The walls are bright orange and yellow; the furniture is vinyl. Velvet paintings (Elvis, Virgin Mary, KISS, Che Guevara) hang in the living room.

On a wooden coffee table in the center of the room is a bowl of wooden fruit. Flies even hover near the bowl,



DTH PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/BRIAN FREDERICK

Gimghoul Castle has been a source of myth and speculation for years at the University. But the ghostly structure is a mystery no longer, as the Order of the Gimghoul has opened its doors to the public and allowed all of its vast history and long-buried secrets see the light of public scrutiny.

though they are attracted to the sticky remains of a spilled soda.

Upstairs is a transcendental meditation room, which it turns out, doubles as a room for the campus Krishna gang. It seems one of the Gimghoul brothers took a liking to the clan and offered the upstairs of Hippol as a refuge.

Downstairs is what else? A bowling alley. Another secret revealed Sunday was the deep-seeded tie between the Gimghouls and professional bowling.

Several Gimghouls have found success on the professional bowling tour. Current PBA champ Brent Steele is a UNC alum and proud Gimghoul.

"All my success as a bowler can be traced to my days in the basement of Hippol Castle," Steele told the crowd Sunday.

"There's something magical about this alley, this castle."

Steele kicked off an afternoon of free bowling for the public by throwing a

strike on the ceremonial first roll.

THE FUTURE OF GIMGHOUL

Ironically, now that the shroud of mystery has been removed from the Order of the Gimghoul, its future seems unclear.

With several public events slated at Hippol in the next few months, (a children's book fair, a student square dance, a homeless ball), one wonders how long a hundred year-old brotherhood that

was created due to the fear of public persecution will survive with open doors.

Brooder remains optimistic. "The brothers of the Order of the Gimghoul are much like Hippol Castle, itself. Sure, on the outside, we seem cold and moldy, but on the inside, we're warm and fuzzy."

"Now everyone can be a part of our special family."

Dolly Dagger cannot be reached.

Right Guard Opens Sweatshops in Asia

JEFFREY LEBOWSKI
Staff Riter

Pledging to eliminate the stink surrounding sweatshops, Right Guard announced Wednesday it would be re-opening several factories in Southeast Asia.

The once condemned factories will now produce Right Guard deodorant.

"None of our workers will have to worry about sweating," Right Guard spokesman Jim Alpine said. "They will receive all the deodorant they and their families need."

Alpine touted the unique opportunity producing deodorant in a sweatshop presents.

"We will no longer have to hire models to test the newest products," he said. "Now we can further utilize our workers, ultimately saving money for the consumer."

Sweatshops have recently come under fire because of the long hours,

low wages and unsafe conditions workers must endure.

Right Guard says it will pay its workers sufficiently.

"Our workers start at \$2 an hour, which is much higher than the average \$1.75 wage," Alpine said. "Plus, when you factor in the free deodorant, which runs about \$2 a stick, our workers are well compensated. And, they smell good."

The new factories will not have air conditioning, Alpine said some heat is necessary to facilitate perspiration.

Right Guard also used the occasion to unveil a new ad campaign for Right Guard Jungle. The new deodorant will be produced in the new factories and workers will be the first to test the new product.

Said Alpine, "Right Guard will continue to fight the war against perspiration."

Jeffrey Lebowski cannot be reached.

New Deli Caters to Vegans, Cannibals

IRWIN FLETCHER
Staff Riter

Serving dishes such as kidneys with kidney beans, Finger Food has opened its doors on Franklin Street.

Though it is the first restaurant of its kind, the two seemingly different cuisines of vegans and cannibals actually compliment each other well.

"We are proud to serve food that doesn't depend on the misuse of animals," said owner Yarbo Pooehli. "Our vegan customers are rediscovering the wonderful taste of meat. And the cannibals appreciate the fine sides of organically grown vegetables."

"I used to feel guilty about eating meat," said Daisy Lewis, a UNC junior

from Asheville. "I would think of the poor abuse of cows and chickens. But now, I can chomp on fresh meat without the guilt."

One man drove all the way from Green Bay, Wis., to experience the new deli.

"I eat a lot of sausage in Green Bay," said Butch Moore. "But this is the best bloodwurst I've ever had. And the liverwurst, wow."

"Even the Italian sausage is real Italian."

There is also a children's menu, which one Chapel Hill boy raved about.

"The potatoes have eyes," said Timothy Green, 5, with a laugh. "The corn has ears."

Pooehli said he has no plans to franchise his restaurant, yet. He is considering, however, an all-meat restaurant in Charlotte. "A lot of people, especially men, really prefer to do without the greens, they want nothing but meat, and I think we can give it to them."

Perhaps the top of Finger Food's menu best describes the new restaurant: "Finger Food is truly to die for."

Irwin Fletcher cannot be reached.

Local Man Throws His Voice, Kills Bystander

MAX POWER
Staff Riter

It was meant to be an innocent parlor trick. But it ended in tragedy. Lance Meyer, 33, was attempting to

amuse a group of co-workers at a local pub by throwing his voice to the other side of the room. Instead, the voice struck Tina Weill, a 24 year-old Carrboro office assistant, in the head, killing her instantly.

"It was hilarious," said Matt Coble, one of Meyer's co-workers. "I mean, not when the lady died, but when he threw it. I couldn't see his lips moving at all."

Weill's friends weren't laughing, though.

"It's a shame when human life takes a backseat to trickery," said Allison Pollard.

Authorities are still considering whether to charge Meyer with manslaughter.

As Meyer left the scene of the crime with authorities, he was silent, though "no comment" was heard from the other side of the room.

"Humor used with reckless abandon can be quite dangerous," said Art Downey, a professor at Slippery Rock College. "Just look at the pun tragedies that marred the 80s."

Other deaths have been attributed to whoopee cushions, exploding golf balls and dwarf-tossing.

One of Meyer's childhood friends says he feels somewhat responsible for the accident.

"When we were kids, Lance and I ordered some magic tricks from the back of a magazine," said Freddy Potts, of Charlotte. "Lance wanted to order the X-ray specs, but I wanted to be able to throw my voice and I won."

"I was never as good as Lance at throwing my voice," Potts said. "Though, in retrospect, I guess maybe I was."

Max Power cannot be reached.

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