

In the spirit of Halloween,
we present...

These
haunted
halls

Texas A&M's Own Ghost Stories

By Danya Day '99



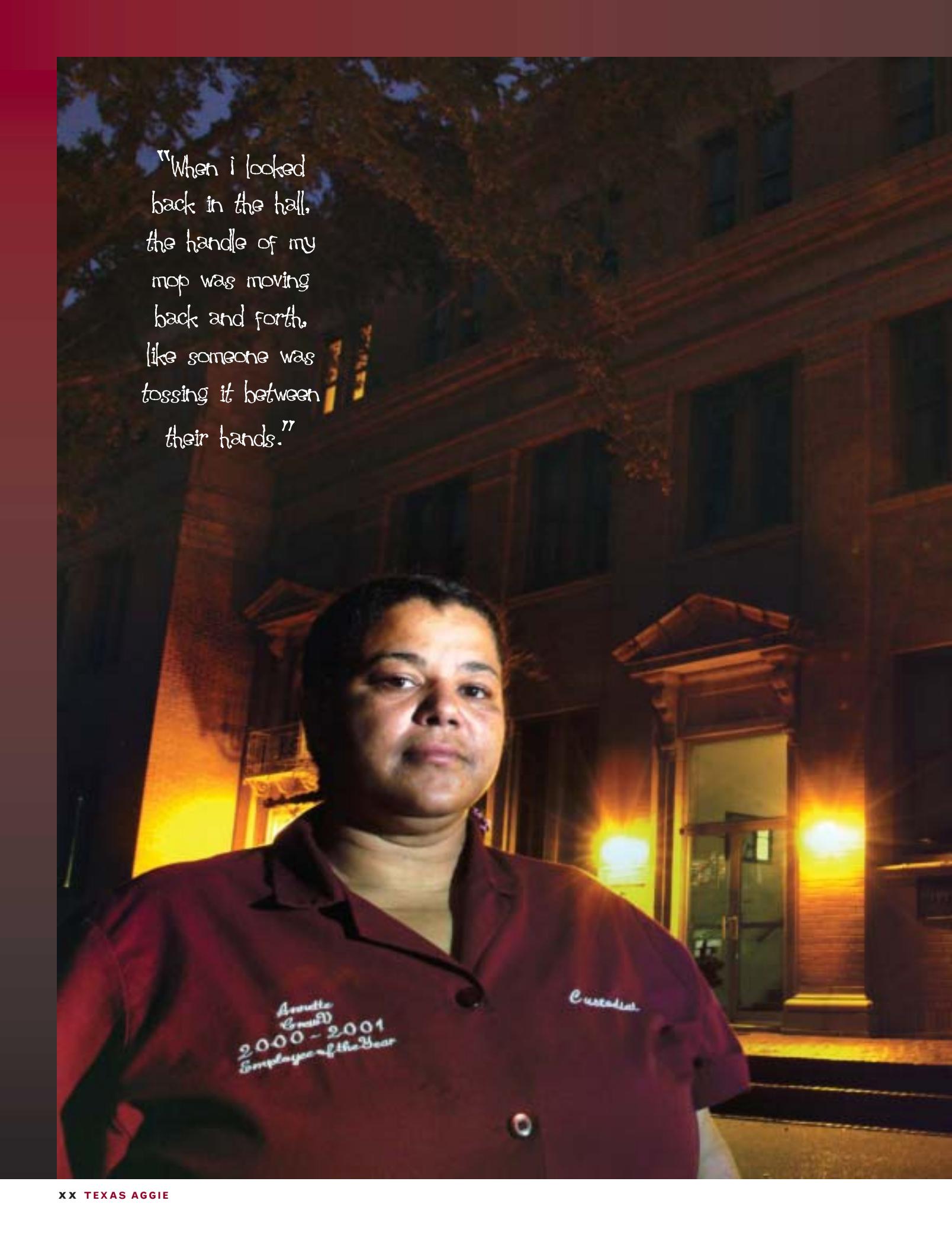
Tales of ghosts, unexplained noises, and unusual sightings have long been told the world over. Texas A&M even has some ghostly stories of its own. Certain locations and buildings on campus are the setting for mysterious accounts of restless spirits from years past.

Animal Industries Building

The building was opened in 1931 and was the original home of the animal science department.

In 1965, the meat laboratory manager in the Animal Industries Building was doing some routine meat cutting one weekend afternoon. He was not wearing a cutting apron, and on the third slice, he cut straight through the meat and into his leg, severing his femoral artery. The man bled to death and, according to legend, his ghost has haunted the building ever since.

Reports of the sound of footsteps in the halls or doors opening and closing loudly have become common. Ed Rhodes '02, an RLEM graduate, recalls his experience in the building: "One night I was studying in the second floor conference room at probably 10:00pm or later. As I was studying, I kept hearing the elevator 'ding' and the doors open, but there was never anyone in the hallway entering or exiting." Rhodes says numerous faculty members throughout the years have testified that they have heard screams in the hallways late at night. Many department employees that have heard these noises and will not stay in the building past 5:00 p.m.

A photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a maroon uniform with a name tag that reads "Cassandra" and "2000-2001 Employee of the Year". She is standing in front of a building with large, illuminated columns at night. The image has a dark, moody tone with warm lighting from the building's exterior.

"When I looked
back in the hall,
the handle of my
mop was moving
back and forth,
like someone was
tossing it between
their hands."

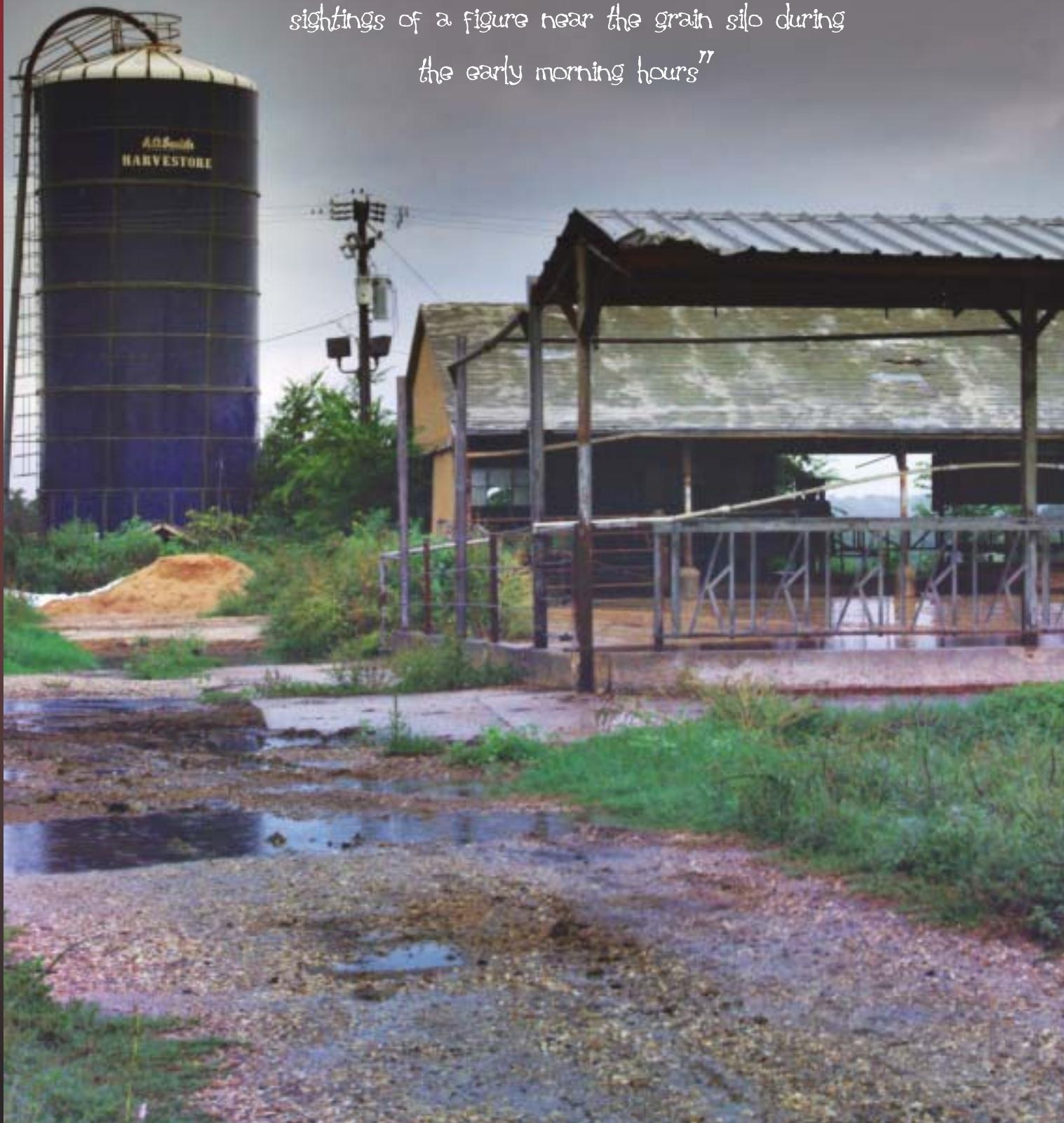


Francis Hall

Fhe site of the original veterinary school, has also been rumored to be haunted for many years. Much of the activity in this building is reported to occur in the early morning hours, often between 4:30 and 6:00. At these times, the only people present in the building are members of the custodial staff, several of which have recounted numerous supernatural occurrences.

One former worker claims that her cleaning cart would be moved from its original location when she would return for it. Debbie Richardson, a custodian in Francis, believes that she has experienced several ghostly encounters while on her morning shifts. "I went into a classroom to clean a chalk board only to look into the hallway and witness the handle of her mop bucket moving back and forth on its own." Richardson also heard strange noises in the hallways and stairwells. The sound of someone coughing loudly, the doors of the 2nd floor bathroom stalls squeaking and slamming shut. One particular morning, Richardson and one of her co-workers were outside the building just before unlocking it when her co-worker claimed that she saw a shadowlike figure passing by in the hallway. Richardson saw the figure as well, but after going inside to investigate, they found no one there.

"Reports of ghostly activity are commonplace at the Dairy Science Center where witnesses report sightings of a figure near the grain silo during the early morning hours"





Texas A&M
Dairy Science Center

Reports of ghostly activity are commonplace at the Dairy Science Center where witnesses report sightings of a figure near the grain silo during the early morning hours. Lights turning off and on by themselves and radio stations change without explanation. Nearly every employee who has worked at the dairy has some unexplained report to share. One worker visited the dairy late one night, walked from one room into another, then moments later, walked back into the room only to find all of the cabinet doors standing open.

Such spine tingling tales are sure to surface on any campus rich with history, and our beloved Texas A&M is no exception. Whether you believe in the spirit world or just consider ghost stories an entertaining Halloween diversion, these intriguing, mysterious, and sometimes unsettling tales abound in Aggieland. We provide them here as fodder for conversation and contemplation at your next Aggie event. Happy Halloween! ■