UNSOLVED MYSTERIES

118 WEST SPRING ST.  
BY KELLY VICE

As Katherine Bloomer sips her morning coffee in her living room at 118 W. Spring St., the knob to her front door rattles, its creaky hinges squeak and the door swings wide open—only to reveal that no one is waiting on her front porch.

"The calm Miami senior gets up, shuts the door and mutters, "it must be Sybil."

Sybil isn't one of Bloomer's housemates, but the ghost that haunts her house. The investigation of a ghost at the house better known as 'Group Therapy' began when the six women living there noticed that a basement light persistently flicked on when the house was vacant. While looking for a faulty switch, the residents instead found the word "Sybil" etched eerily across one of the basement's brick walls.

The women had been in the basement several times before and never noticed the scrawling on the wall. "We asked the psychics lived here last year if they ever noticed it," Bloomer said. "But they swear that they never saw it—that it wasn't there when they moved out last summer."

Since then, Group Therapy residents began paying attention to the squawks, flickers and crashes that they previously blamed on the old age of the house.

One evening, as the six seniors discuss Sybil's recent hauntings, the light in the room in which they were sitting burnt out. The hanging lightbulb in Sybil's "room" often flashes, crashes come from the basement and objects fall off the walls when the ghost is mentioned in conversation.

"Deliciously frightened by the ghost, Bloomer notes, "the other housemates made an stop talking about it.""

Elizabeth Kendall, another resident, recalls a non-fictional movie about a woman treated for multiple personalities.

"Apparently the woman had 25-30 different personalities and the first one that emerged was named Sybil." Kendall said. "I've heard that the 'Sybil Syndrome' is common of people with multiple personalities."

Although they are not sure if their ghost is a victim of multiple personality disorder, the women at 118 W. Spring St. do believe that it is a spirit of somebody that died in the house.

"The basement is her territory."

Bloomer said. "We don't really have a theory of why she haunts our house. We just figure that someone died down there."

Although the constant flickering and odd noises can be chalked up to faulty wiring or noisy housemates, Group Therapy residents feel that the timing is too coincidental.

"One day after looking around Sybil's room we returned to the kitchen directly above it," Bloomer said. "It seemed as if she was upset that we were in her room because everything hanging on the kitchen wall fell, one object at a time, after we walked into the room."

As the housemates study together one gloomy October evening, Bloomer yells at Sybil for disconnecting her computer from the Internet.

"I don't know if there is ghost in this house," Kendall remarks. "But if there is, it gets blamed for everything.""

In the bathroom of the small house at the end of North Campus Avenue, tiny drops of blood are splattered across the wall, the light turns on by itself and inexplicable footsteps can be heard at all hours of the day.

The four male Miami students that live there matter-of-factly state that a ghost haunts their house.

"We think that our ghost is a girl," Brian Anderson, Miami University senior said. "Because she's always in the bathroom."

The residents noticed blood splattered on the wall and a larger stain on the mirror of their bathroom early in the school year.

According to the residents, no one in the house was bleeding or injured at the time, and no other people had been in the house at the time that the blood appeared.

Within the next few weeks more blood appeared. Although the stain on the mirror has faded, the stains on the wall are still visible.

The residents have not touched the stains, nor have they had them investigated.

According to the men, their female version of Casper walks around the house daily and is nosy when the weather is gloomy or when it's dark outside.

"At night when I'm alone in the house, I hear her going through drawers and walking around the house," Anderson said.

One evening while Anderson and another housemate were studying in the main room, the light in the bathroom switched on.

"We went to the bathroom to check if anyone was there," Anderson said.

"Everyone else in the house was asleep with their doors shut, and the switch to the bathroom light had been flipped up."

Despite the bloody wall, the residents believe that their ghost is friendly and note some strange coincidences.

"Every time we play the song 'Genie in a Bottle' we hear loud footsteps as if she's dancing," Anderson said. "And every time we play the song, our phone rings one time at the beginning."

At the north end of Oxford, this haunted house is located across from a building that is rumored to have been a saloon in the 1800s.

The men of the house believe that their ghost is a restless spirit of a woman who could have been killed from foul play surrounding rowdy and violent saloon atmospheres.

"It's easy to believe that our ghost is the spirit of a saloon girl of the 1800s," Anderson said.

The house's proximity to a thick-wooded area adds to its spookiness.

The students living there feel that the mysterious bloodstains and noises can only suggest that a ghost lives among them.