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**KRYSTLE CAREY**  
MANAGING EDITOR

Some students get their thrills playing the latest video game or picking out yet another new outfit to cram into their closet. Haley Cunningham finds that dull.

When Cunningham wants to get her blood pumping, she goes ghost hunting.

The 19-year-old mass communication junior has been fascinated with the paranormal since kindergarten. Nothing can make her day – or night – better than to prowl through abandoned houses or read spooky stories.

“All things creepy” have always appealed to the 5-foot-1-inch girl.

“I don’t think you could really call me a psychic, but I do think I am a bit sensitive to things that most people aren’t,” Cunningham said.

The intrigue induced her to get a video camera. Even if it meant doing it alone, she began traipsing about all kinds of shadowy places with her equipment. In December 2002, she said she recorded a full-bodied apparition, an image she still has on video. She said this is what really got her started on

See **Hunter** page 4



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY **HERSHEL SELF** | THE WICHITAN

## Abandoned hotel has tales to tell

**HALEY CUNNINGHAM**  
FOR THE WICHITAN

What makes a building significant?

Is it the fact that if walls could actually talk, they would tell stories so fascinating that they could only involve the Holly-

wood starlets and silver screen stars of the past?

Would they tell tales of building a town, then holding it together; legends of ghosts, murder and suicide that linger in abandoned hallways and once lavish courtyards? If these things

are truly what make a building significant, the Baker Hotel is just a story waiting to be told.

Nov. 22, 1929, two weeks after the great stock market crash, a soirée will begin at a newly built hotel in downtown Mineral Wells, Texas. Gas is

12 cents a gallon and the first ever Academy Awards were named a success. The Baker Hotel’s opening sparked a moment in Texas history that R. Burt Orndoff, vice president of the Baker Hotel Company and the hotel’s manager, stated as “the most

brilliant ever held in this section of the state.”

Despite its grandeur, its scale and its significance in the past, the Baker Hotel now sits in despair, rotting, waiting for someone to restore it

See **Hotel** page 4

## Bookstore remodel under way

**BETHANY BERRY**  
FOR THE WICHITAN

The Barnes and Noble bookstore in the MSU Clark Student Center is getting a well-needed facelift within the next three weeks, according to Jenny Duncan, bookstore manager.

Changes include a new color scheme, casual seating and moving Aramark’s Java City into the bookstore.

“The bookstore hasn’t been remodeled since the mid-80s and we want a more updated look,” Duncan said.

Normal operations were adjusted for staff and customers during the second week of October. Items were moved from the front of the store to the back, and a new entrance was made using the loading and unloading dock.

For students such as junior Darinique Johnson, it looked as though the store had closed.

“I heard rumors of changes, but wasn’t exactly sure about what was going to happen,” she said.

As a result of remodeling, asbestos had to be removed from the store first. Wichita Falls company Lambert and Associates directed abatements for the bookstore. The company has done abatements for Midwestern.

According to Keith Lamb, assistant vice president for student affairs, changes to the bookstore will make it more like Barnes and Noble stores, especially by including the coffee shop in the bookstore.

Lamb said it will make the bookstore more comfortable and also free up space in the Clark Student Center.

“I’m excited. It will be the new hangout,” Senior marketing major Minerva Bediako said.

Mass communication major Megan Pruitt agreed. “The school needs to be updated and the bookstore is a good start,” she said.

According to Lamb, the opportunity to remodel the bookstore arose

See **Bookstore** page 4

## Student takes byte out of computer hackers

**CRYSTAL LAND**  
FOR THE WICHITAN

It was 2:29 a.m. and silence reigned in Bolin Science Hall. One minute later that quiet was shattered by the electronic beep of a wrist-watch. Sean Wynn sat up slowly, his sleep interrupted. He staggered the few short steps to his computer. He glanced at the monitor, shook his head, and made his way back to the couch for another 30 minutes of rest.

Catching a few winks of sleep between study sessions isn’t unusual for college students, but Wynn, a computer science major, wasn’t there to study. Wynn, also a university employee, was fighting off a hacker on the MSU network.

“Hackers are always trying to get in,” Wynn said. “I see hundreds of attacks every time I check the nightly log files.”

Wynn had gone to work the day before thinking that it would be just another ordinary day in his office, but he was in for a surprise. Almost immediately after Wynn’s arrival, his supervisor, computer science instructor Terry Griffin, told Wynn that there had been a major hacker attack the night before. Griffin told him to wipe the hard drive and in-



Sean Wynn

stall a new server as soon as possible. He didn’t have all the details yet, but Wynn already knew that he had a long and daunting task ahead of him.

“The majority of the attacks are innocuous,” Griffin said. “In fact, 99.9 percent of the attacks are not threatening. The only threatening attacks are the ones that make it through the firewall and actually gain access to a computer.”

Wynn said the task took longer than he hoped, even though he was

expecting some difficulty. He began the job at roughly 11 a.m., going through the computer’s logs and directories to see what the hacker had been up to and preparing for the clean-up procedure. Wynn was left to make the decision on what to install on the servers. He stayed late so that he could begin the hard drive compression as soon as possible.

The compression process ended up taking 48 hours. Wynn never went home. He hadn’t brought his supper or any money with him since he hadn’t expected to be stuck on campus, so he went without food that night. A battered old couch stands at the far end of Wynn’s office and he made use of it. The couch, probably older than Wynn himself, originally belonged to Richard Simpson, an assistant professor in the computer science department, when he was young. The upholstery is rough and scratches the skin. Not even the most generous describer could call its two matching throw pillows as fluffy.

The sub-par resting conditions didn’t make much of a difference to Wynn since watching over the computer negated the option of sleeping for long.

“I’d set the alarm on my watch for 30 minutes, then sleep on the couch. My watch would beep and

I’d wake up, check on the compression, then go back to sleep when it wasn’t done yet,” Wynn said, scratching at the light stubble of his beard.

Wynn repeated this process throughout the night. His girlfriend, Amanda Alsup, brought him breakfast the next morning: scrambled eggs, Canadian bacon and wheat toast. Alsup was surprised to hear that Wynn had stayed at the school all night this time. The food helped Wynn focus on what he needed to do, but it was several hours before he could go home.

The trouble wasn’t over yet. Far from it. When he tried to move the compressed file into the external hard drive he’d been given, Wynn discovered that the file was still too large and wouldn’t fit. Griffin had to leave campus and purchase a larger external hard drive with his own money—the university would reimburse him later—before he could properly transfer and store the information.

Wynn still wasn’t done working. He estimated that he eventually spent between 100 and 200 hours repairing the hard drive and server.

Fortunately for Wynn and the university, hacker attacks are rarely

See **Hacker** page 4



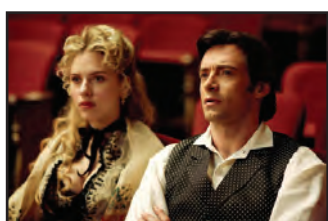
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INSIDE

### ‘The Prestige’

Viewers will not be misled with an illusion in this new suspenseful film.

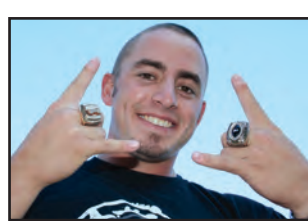
pages 5



### Former Longhorn coaches Mustangs

National Champion David Pino helps motivate the Mustangs team.

page 6



### MSU Rugby beat TCU

The MSU Rugby team beat TCU for the first time in three years with 20-18.

page 7

