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Paranormal workplace investigations: Haunted or Halloween Hoax?



Photo: Rainer Topf

This month, many people will believe that their home or workplace is haunted—even though most of these so-called hauntings can be explained away by natural occurrences (like banging noises caused by heat coming through the pipes). And this Halloween fever is exactly why Missouri-based Premiere Paranormal Research does not conduct investigations at all during October. But when the work of these ghost hunters resumes after Halloween, they will have plenty of investigations to work on—including many that occur in workplaces.

Premiere Paranormal Research founder Cassiopia Demars says that during her group's investigations, they will find two kinds of hauntings: residual haunts and intelligent haunts. Residual haunts, which she says are the most boring for a paranormal investigator, are just the impression of someone's spirit and won't interact with you at all. On the other hand, intelligent haunts occur when a spirit is actually at a location. These types of hauntings are what we are used to dramatically seeing on television shows and in movies. These ghosts will move things around and speak to you because, unlike residual haunts, they are aware of your presence.

During their investigations at workplaces, Demars says that she has found several cases where intelligent haunts were taking place. Some businesses will use their hauntings as a money-making opportunity, while others do not want that kind of publicity. Some business owners want to sweep it under the rug and forget about it and others want to know what they can do about a haunting at their place of work.

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Despite what we see on television, Demars says that her group's investigations do not end with a grand ghostly event like an exorcism, where the earth moves and the spirits are commanded to leave.

"You can have an exorcism of a person, but we as a group do not believe that you can have an exorcism of a place," said Demars. "A ghost is not going to cross over until it's ready. You have to know what the ghost wants and if the ghost is even a human ghost or some sort of a demonic haunting before you can decide how you're going to cross it over. If it's a demonic haunting, you're in trouble because it can do whatever it wants."

Haunted or Hoax?

If you're reading this story and you think everything that is written here is bunk, Demars says that's a good thing.

"You should question everything," she said. "You can't take what you read on the Internet and automatically believe it. That's why when we watch paranormal shows on television, we sometimes will try to recreate what they say to see if it is true or if they are just making it up to be the more interesting paranormal group."

This article originally appeared on my Workplace Communication Examiner page on October 15, 2009.

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