

Ghostly figures seen, poundings heard, dishes smashed in home

By RALPH BORMET

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WINTER PARK—Unwanted guests appear/disappear to be staying with three new residents renting in the city: Linda Rodriguez, 22, Bill Croissant, 23, and Ed Migliaccio, 23.

The trio just moved into the area from upstate New York. Apparently, they brought some ghosts with them. Or, perhaps more accurately, Migliaccio did. He said that he never had any previous experiences with ghosts, goblins or ghouls until this summer when he moved to Monticello, N.Y., from Long Island.

Migliaccio worked with Croissant and Croissant's father at their boat marina after trying his hand at a Hovercraft rental business.

Rodriguez, originally from Hollywood, Fla., met Croissant and moved with him to Monticello in May. They became friends with Migliaccio and the three decided that the warmer clime of Winter Park was preferable to the cold of New York State.

Strange occurrences began happening in Monticello. For example, garbage flew up out of a kitchen trash can at Croissant's house

one day when Migliaccio visited him. The pair laughed it off, however.

But about 10:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 12, while the trio slept in the Magnolia Ave. house they rented for the past three weeks, things really got scary.

Not yet able to ship furniture down, Rodriguez and her fiance Croissant were sleeping on a blanket in a corner bedroom when she heard a fierce pounding on the wall behind her from the room in which Migliaccio was sleeping.

On the opposite wall, the vertical blinds covering a patio door began to blow wildly outward. Suddenly, she saw the figure of a woman in her 40s wearing a light-colored dress with a flower pattern walk from the bathroom, which is next to the blinds, toward the bedroom door to the hallway. The figure stopped at the foot of her blanket.

Rodriguez said she closed her eyes and began to pray fervently. When she opened her eyes again, the figure was gone. All the doors and windows to the room were locked.

Then a loud crash came from the kitchen area.

Shaking, Rodriguez got up from

her bed, went to her bedroom door, unlocked it and went into the hallway to peer into Migliaccio's bedroom and ask him if he had pounded on his bedroom closet wall, which abuts Rodriguez's bedroom. But he was lying asleep, she said.

While going into the hallway, said Rodriguez, she "felt" the presence of someone behind her.

By this time, Croissant and Migliaccio were awake. Migliaccio's watchdog Peaches, which is part pit bull and part German Shepherd, had not barked. Normally, the dog barks if someone just pulls into the driveway. When the bedroom door was unlocked,

it ran inside and cowered under Croissant's arm.

The three went into the kitchen and found a ceramic dish and kitchen plate smashed on the floor. All cupboard drawers and all doors to cupboards, oven, dishwasher, microwave, clothes dryer and closet were open. One dinner plate had been removed from the cupboard and was sitting on the edge of the counter.

A sliding glass door into the kitchen area was the only entryway to the house that was unlocked, and Rodriguez firmly believes that it was locked earlier in the evening.

After police arrived and were told the trio's story, Rodriguez said

that the previous night a similar experience had occurred. She had seen a man in a long, dark, French coat, wearing a tall dark hat walk from her bedroom bath past her to her bedroom door. At the time, she reacted by closing her eyes, praying, then opening them to find he was gone. Again, all bedroom doors had been locked.

On Monday night, Migliaccio was sleeping when a water ski that he had placed three weeks earlier in a corner of his bedroom hit him on his head.

"From where Ed was sleeping, there was no way that the ski could have slipped and hit him in the head," Croissant said.

Asked why they do not simply move out of the house, Migliaccio said, "Considering the things that happened upstate and happened here, probably, if we moved somewhere else, this is going to happen again."

Neither Rodriguez nor Croissant will ask Migliaccio to move and take his ghost with him.

"What can I say? They love me," Migliaccio joked.

Rodriguez has started to regularly read a Bible given her some time ago by a friend. When advised of the happenings at the house, that same friend suggested she call a priest, minister or good Christian lay person to come bless each room of the house and ask whatever spirits are there to leave.

Will she take the advice?

Rodriguez bit down slightly on her lower lip and said, "I'm thinking about it."