

Best of The Poop

Easton Shop is "Definitely Haunted"

Something is afoot at a local wine shop, and whatever it is, it's kinda creepy. Hair O' The Dog Wine & Spirits owner Ned Blugman **reports that his shop is haunted by a spooky apparition** that appears on the wall of the shop. The distinct image of a rodent with a glass in its hand appears only on sunny days, leading Blugman to speculate that perhaps it is the ghost of a desert rat that died of dehydration.



A technician scans the image.

"My working theory is that this is the spectral image of a rodent, possibly from the late Cretaceous Period, that lived in this area when it was a desert just before the last Ice Age", said Blugman. "I don't know why it haunts us. Perhaps we built our shop above its lair, or maybe it's seeking to slake its eternal thirst by tapping into our inventory. Ironically, alcohol's known diuretic properties would have the opposite effect, but I wouldn't expect a rat, especially one from the Cretaceous Period, to know that."

Experts from the **Center for Paranormal Research** recently subjected the image to Magnetic Anomaly Tracking and Identification System (MATIS) testing, and while technicians noticed "some very intriguing blips", full results will not be available for several months.

At the onset of testing, there was a brief period of hysteria when a technician noted what appeared to be stigmata on the image. Police were called to the scene to control a small, but growing crowd of pilgrims that were beginning to assemble in the parking lot. However, later analysis revealed the stains to be "centrifugal splatter, likely of a Pinot Noir origin". These were tentatively attributed to an unrelated prior incident involving an inattentive employee and a haphazardly-discarded banana peel.

Local skeptic J.R. Krump insists that there is no mystery at all: "These people are nuts. It's as plain as day that sunlight is reflecting off windshields in the parking lot, then projecting the store's logo from the front window onto the wall. Any fool can see that." Blugman, clearly flustered at this suggestion, labeled Krump a "hater" and barred him from the store for the foreseeable millennium.