Belief in angels increasing

by Patti Ludwinski

A recent Time Magazine survey showed that the majority of Americans believe in the existence of angels. In putting the survey to test, the Lindenworld newspaper asks, "Do you believe in angels?"

Angels are often depicted as heavenly bodies who carry peace and goodwill to all man. They are an important part of many holidays. An angel is placed on top of the traditional Christmas tree.

Along with Valentine's Day comes the angel of all lovers, Cupid. The Christian Easter story tells that an angel rolled the stone away from Christ's tomb.

With all this peace and goodwill, few people remember that Satan himself is an angel turned sour. His name is Lucifer, "the morning star." Perhaps people prefer to see only good. In this age of violence, that certainly seems understandable.

From this, a new question arises. What are angels? Are they supernatural beings created as God's messengers, the souls of the dead, God in disguise, or merely fictional characters created to tell a story? No one answer can be agreed upon. However, most people will agree that they exist. Christians, Jews, and Muslims all believe in angels, and angels are a part of Buddhism and Hinduism as well.

Many people believe that they have a supernatural counterpart, or a guardian angel, to protect and comfort them in time of need. Have you ever thought there was someone behind you, but there wasn't? The feeling is eerie. Perhaps it was your guardian angel.

Ghost stories of angelic nature have circulated throughout the world for centuries. When the motion picture, Three Men and a Baby, was released, stories about a young child's ghost captured on camera became the highlight of the movie world. The City of St. Louis holds the key to unlocking the mysteries of the Lemp Mansion (now a renovated, fine dining restaurant). Lindenwood itself has its own spooky stories. Perhaps the ghosts that haunt the Lindenwood campus are the spirits of its dead founders.

Cheryl Jaspersen, the director of Sibley Hall, claims to have heard "really awful moaning" coming from the upstairs rooms. She said it sounded like someone was dying. "Also, things come up missing all the time. It's like a game," she said. Specifically, her glasses or her contacts have been missing in the past.

Debbie Craig, a junior living in Sibley, gave a vivid description of a spirit she saw as she passed by the doors of the lounge late one night. "It was a pale blue mist in the shape of a man, but I could see his face," she said.

When asked if he believed in angels, Professor Alan Meyers, Ph.D., of the religion department, responded, "Yes, I've seen them all the time. Whether there are supernatural angels, I don't know." He explained further saying that anytime someone gives him a kind word of advice, he interprets it to be our angels working within us. He believes that angels connect us to our God.

Mike Mason, the chaplain of the college, has had a number of people speak with him about their own experiences with supernatural angels. Although he is unsure about the existence of angels, he is positive that these people believe in their own minds they have had celestial encounters. "It is probable or possible for God to work through people," he said. However, Mason specifically said that he "does not trust those who go searching for angels."

Belief in the existence of angels has increased steadily in recent years. In today's world of constant death and violence, many people need an escape. The possibility of angels among us is a fascination that takes over this harsh reality and gives us hope.