

# Paranormal is duo's passion

By **JENNIFER ALLEN**  
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Aaron Leachman and Gil Kearney walk with one foot on the earthly plane and the other in a more undefined reality.

The two are the founders and lead investigators of Augusta Paranormal Investigations and Research, an organization they formed in 2006.

"I have always been interested in the paranormal," Leachman said, adding that he was fortunate his mother didn't discount the things he saw that were beyond the normal realm.

Then, at age 11, his sensitivity to the unseen became even more acute.

"I nearly drowned in the bathtub and had what is called a near-death experience," the long-time Thomson resident said. "I remember looking down and seeing my body in the bathtub.

"I didn't tell my mother for years even though I knew she'd understand. However, after that, everything heightened. I began 'seeing' things all the time."

Kearney also had a strong connection with the paranormal as a youngster.

"I have always been surrounded by it," he said softly. "However, unlike Aaron's mother, my parents told me it was just my imagination."

During his formative years growing up in Tifton, he

recalled frequently hearing voices call his name.

"I would go out of my room and ask my mother why she kept calling me," Kearney said. "She would always tell me she hadn't been calling me.

"Later, it would happen in reverse. My mother would hear me calling her name when I hadn't said a word."

Later, when Kearney and his parents moved from their apartment to a house, he recalled taking a last look up at the apartment as his family prepared to drive away.

"I saw someone or something waving to me from the empty apartment," he said.

However, unexplained events continued in their new home, and after his mother passed away, the activities escalated dramatically.

"I heard pounding in the walls. The phone would ring and there would be no one there," he said. "Machines would come on by themselves."

Paranormal activity followed both Leachman and Kearney no matter where they moved.

"Every house we have lived in had some type of paranormal activity," Leachman said. "My mother and I have seen full-blown apparitions."

Today, his ghostly colleague is a cat instead of the mist of a human's spirit.

"I can actually feel the ghost cat as it goes between my legs," he laughed. "You

just get used to it."

As adults, the two were drawn to join paranormal groups in east-central Georgia. After meeting each other, they decided to branch off on their own.

Their group is small - four members currently - but they prefer it that way.

"We are very drawn to the idea of teaching people about the paranormal rather than just being ghost-hunters," Leachman explained. "The unknown fascinates me.

Kearney agreed, adding, "I have never been frightened during one of our investigations, but I have left the home or wherever we were a couple of times to calm my nerves."

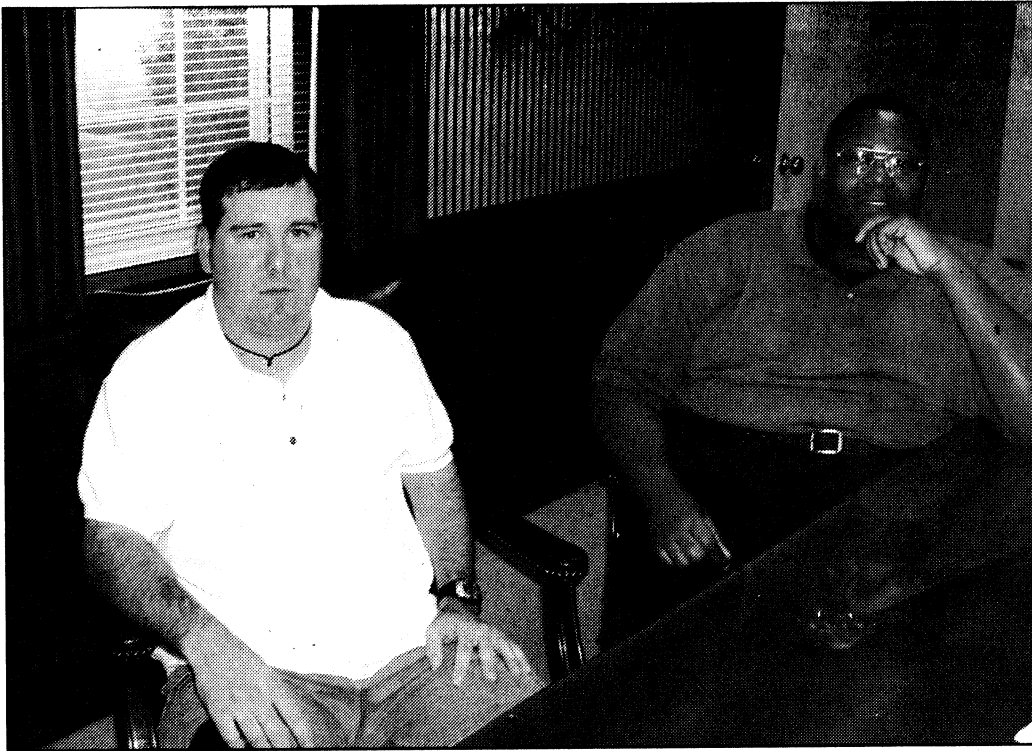
Many of the things he encounters defy explanation, Leachman said.

"I don't understand a lot of things," he said. "I still have many questions, but I think our investigations help people restore some calm to their lives."

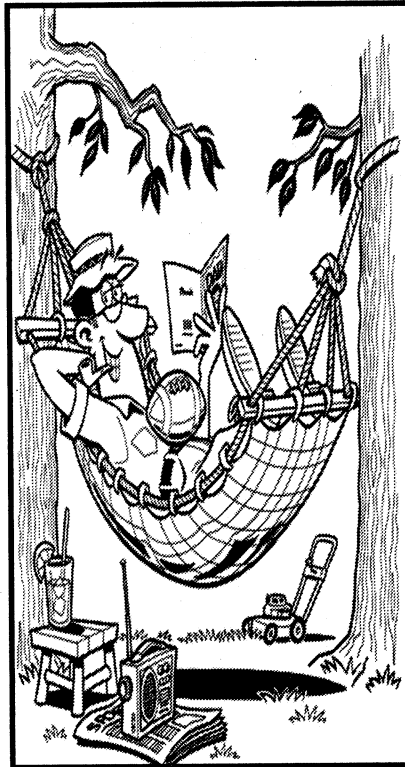
The Augusta Paranormal Investigations and Research team has currently completed eight investigations.

Both agreed their most exciting findings were compiled at the historic Wrightsboro Church and cemetery in McDuffie County.

For more information about the group and its work, contact Leachman and Kearney through their organization's website, [www.augustaparainormalinvestigations.com](http://www.augustaparainormalinvestigations.com).



Aaron Leachman and Gil Kearney



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