



A supplemental section of Sidelines
volume two • issue two
October 1997

Faces, places and issues of interest to MTSU students

Lusipher's Peril

David Hayes uses his own
life as inspiration

A Review of "Poison Elves"

Helping Hands

The untapped resources of
our elders

Learn where to volunteer

Seduce Your Muse

Can You Control the Muse Within?





From the Editor

So, I over-extend myself. Many, many college students are workaholics. Why should I be any different?

However, I do know my limits, regardless of how many times I cross them. I

know when I need help.

I have to thank my friends, who have pulled through for me when I needed them, but they have their limits as well. You just can't ask too much of people.

So, I don't think asking college students to sit down and write about something they care about is too much to ask.

There are people on this campus that have strong opinions. They run for offices, serve on committees and write letters to the editor. They are not afraid to express their opinions. They are always there to catch

mistakes and to criticize. But, how do they contribute? Where are you when I need you?

If you've never written an article, don't worry about it. I treat everything as a learning experience. Nothing and no one is ever perfect.

Another bit of advice comes from my good friend Christi Underdown, in this very issue (on page 3). It's a how-to article of sorts: How to activate your muse.

You could tackle a review article, like Bill Bacon did (page 4). He's a comic geek, so he knows what he's talking about. It works.

My article is aimed at getting people involved — a common theme of mine. It's a standard feature (though not one to emulate), on page 6.

So, read, but understand, we are students still learning our trade. We aren't perfect, but at least we try.

Heather Hybarger

PM Submission Guidelines

The first thing you need is an idea.

Then you can figure out how you want to write it all down. You decide who you are going to talk to, and see if they are willing to talk to you. Then talk to me.

We will discuss things like what kind of art we have to go with the story, how long the story should be and when the story should be due. Remember, **PM** is almost a monthly publication. December and March **PM** is not scheduled for production.

Now the tricky part — how to reach me. There are several ways, and one of them will work eventually, I promise. Call me at home, 904-0234. Email me, m_c_00b1@frank. Mail me, 910 S. Tennessee Blvd. Apt. D-5, M'boro TN 37130; or MTSU PO Box C-949, M'boro, TN 37132

Now you have no excuse.

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Seduce your muse

By Christi Underdown

She grabs me by the depth of my soul and drags all my love away. She is a passionate and possessive lover. She is my eternal illness and happiness. She is all the endless ideas drawn into one being. She is my Destiny, my Death, my Destruction, my Dream, my Desire, my despair and most of all, my Delirium. She is my Muse.

Most writers can relate to this imagery. The muse is the personification of the driving force behind placing word in the just the right order on the page. She is the solitary thing which makes you do what you do. If someone ask you why you write, you can't answer, "Because I like it," or "My mom said I would be good at it." A true writer, one who has fallen in love with words can only answer, "I have to or I will not be able to live."

All school children must learn to read before they can write. It is in between the covers of the Dick and Jane primers that a great majority of writers get their first taste of the drug called literature and immediately want more. Virginia Woolf outlined the step-by-step process in her novel, *Orlando*.

"For once the disease of reading has laid hold upon the system," she wrote. "It weakens it so that it falls an easy prey to that other scourge which dwells in the ink pot and festers in the quill. The wretch takes to writing."

No escape or cure has been found for this glorious infliction, only temporary bliss in the arms of the muse.

"I hate poetry," said Julia Vinograd, an American poet. "The way a junky hates the fix he can't afford and will have to hustle for and often enough won't even get a rush from, just keep off the horrors for another hour."

Every writer has his or her own individual force that drives them. You can not capture a muse and force her to favor you, although many artists have tried. Erato, Thalia, Urania, Calliope, Terpsichore, Polyhymnia, Euterpe, Clio and Melpomene - the Greek goddesses of inspiration, learning, the arts and culture - were smart women and liked their freedom. If you want a muse you have to court her and win her love. You have to draw her in, so she will never want to let go. Once she has come, neither of you will ever be free.

If you have friends who write but have never experienced the art of shaping phrases, you will have a difficult time understanding the suddenness of inspiration. Although everyone's force or muse is different, all of them seem to work in similar ways. She begins to speak and the poet or storyteller is spellbound by her voice and the obsession to find any kind of writing implement and a scrap of paper. In frenzy he or she searched for a cure to end the madness that the voice gives. Putting the words in print is the only medicine

to soothe these fits of ecstasy. The heart is racing and the writer is making love to the phrases that dance from the brain down the arm and onto the blank page.

A writer can not live without words, thus they are telling the universal stories time and again. Thomas Berger defined the life of a creator, when he commented, "Why do writers write? Because it isn't there."

The muse is the most jealous of lovers. If she speaks, she will be heard. If she commands, she will be obeyed. You must comply with her demands or she will leave, a tragedy that is worse than death. An important thing to remember is, like in all relationships, you must make time for your partner, in this case your muse. You must write to become a better writer.

Many despair when they can not think of ideas about which to write or their thoughts become muddled and they have words "on the tip of their tongue" but can not get them out. These are common occurrences and should not be a source of anxiety.

When the ideas are hiding, the muse is sleeping. It is at those times that writers must work without insanity and create their own magic. In Cheryl Sloan Wray's book *Writing for Magazines*, she suggests making lists of personal experiences, acquaintances, hobbies skills personal roles, general interests, talents and gifts that one possesses to generate ideas. Whether for freelance articles or creative works, putting life in print can bring a new perspective to thinking. Sometimes while you are working like this, the noise of your thoughts may wake

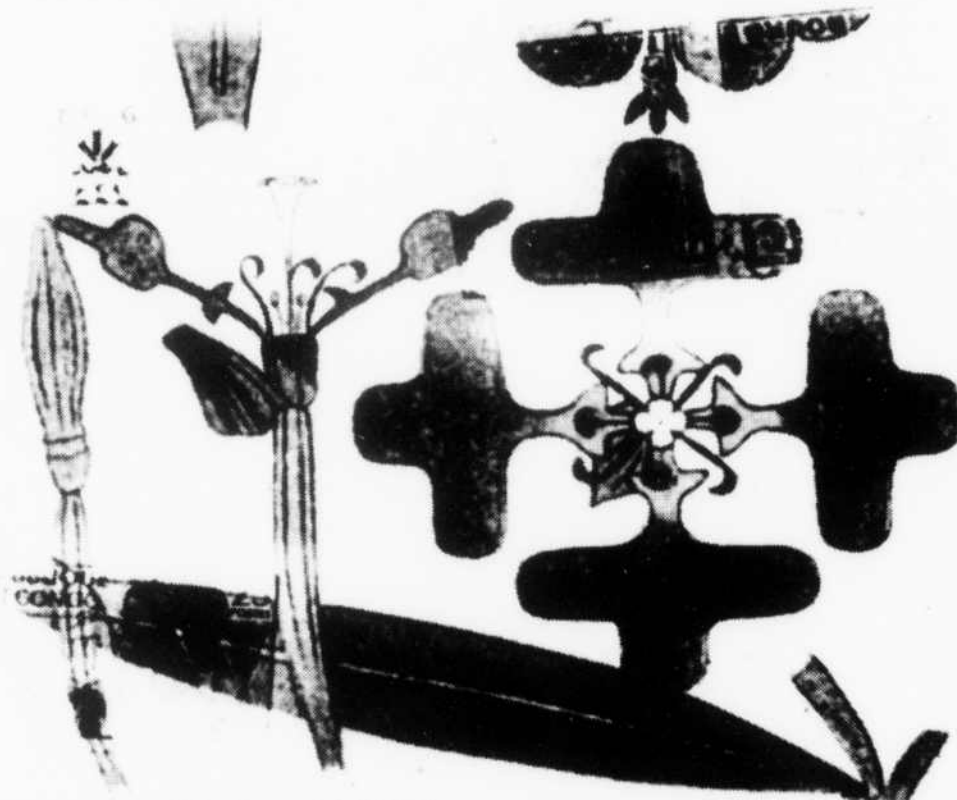
the muse and she will supply what was wanted.

As for the words that are there, but will not come, one just needs to give her time. The muse speaks when she wants and never before. She's probably just teasing. She's a terrible flirt.

Whether the words are written on your phone bill or a junk mail envelope, remember to never throw anything away. Organize your notebooks and filing cabinets. Ideas can be rewritten and reshaped. There are no words which have no value.

"Nothing is thrown out. Nothing. Everything is saved," said Jack Kerouac, author of *On the Road*. "Usually when I finish, I have more ideas left over than when I started."

The individual has to establish his or her own relationship with the art of writing. As William Zinsser, author of *On Writing Well*, write, "For there isn't any 'right' way to do such intensely personal work. There are all kinds of writers and all kinds of methods, and any method that helps you to say what you want to say is the right method for you."



Erato, the lovely, is the muse of love poetry according to Greek mythology. According to Hesiod's *Theogony*, Zeus lay with Mnemosyne, or memory, for nine days and gave birth to the muses.

"He who laughs last, is
he who cries first."
Ben Harper

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Lusipher's per... POISON ELVES

Drew Hayes uses his own life as inspiration

By Bill Bacon

The world of Drew Hayes' "Poison Elves" is filled with mages, elvish assassins, inter-dimensional traveling creatures and insane police officers, set in medieval times with a few anachronistic items thrown in to make things even more interesting.

With material that seems to be pulled from Hayes' own experiences "Poison Elves" is a compelling book that contains many of the standard plot devices found in most fantasy/adventure stories, except with an emotional sincerity that is frankly honest.

The reader can almost see into Hayes' life through the story of Lusipher, a dark-haired, wise-cracking, tattooed elf. Lusipher is an assassin by trade, but most of the times this is not the central driving force in the stories. "Poison Elves centers" around the interaction of its characters.

Hayes started "Poison Elves" in 1991 with a book called "I, Lusipher", self-published by Hayes under the name Mulehide Press. After seven issues he changed the name to "Poison Elves." The name change was prompted because Hayes felt that low orders were due to the fact that people thought the book was about Satan.

Hayes continued to self-publish until issue 20, when the book was picked up by Sirius publishing.

"Poison Elves" is told through the journal and recollections of Jace, Lusipher's closest friend. The current storyline revolves around Lusipher's connection with a group of thieves and assassins known as Sanctuary.

Hayes' ability to portray emotion in the comic is most evident in Lusipher's relationship with Cassy, a red-haired elven assassin. Over the course of 25 issues Lusipher learns to love and be loved, and then has Cassy ripped



away from him when she kills herself to protect him from the police.

Lusipher's relationships with women parallel Hayes'. In the Mulehide series Hayes deals with his divorce through Lusipher's dealings with his ex-wife, Hyena. In the Sirius run Lusipher gains and loses a girlfriend and so did Hayes - except his girlfriend didn't kill herself, they just broke up. Time can only tell what Lusipher's love life will be like in the future.

The head of the police force tracking sanctuary is another well crafted character. Vido is a drug-addicted madman whose driving goal in life is to bring down sanctuary.

Hayes' art is sometimes wonderful and other times terrible, although the art has improved immensely overall since the Mulehide days. While there are times when it is two-dimensional and hard to follow, it can also be astoundingly expressive.

Anyone wanting to find the Mulehide run had better be prepared to spend a small fortune, however the entire series except for numbers 19 and 20 have been collected into three trade paperbacks.

"Poison Elves" is a rarity in a comic-book market filled with big breasts, big guns and little in the way of stories. It is a well written, well drawn book that is well worth the \$2.95 cover price.

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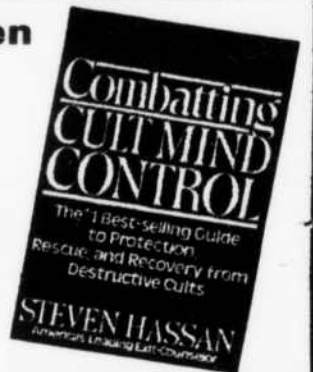
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Helping hands

The untapped resource of our elders

By Heather Hybarger

Society has placed a fear in the minds of this country's youth. We never want to grow old.

We stay as far away as we can manage from hospitals, nursing homes and those that we would consider "old." It is an unhealthy and irrational fear, for aging is a natural part of life.

Besides, "old people" can be pretty interesting once you get to know them.

There are nine nursing homes listed in the yellow pages for Rutherford County. Each of those has programs for volunteers. There are opportunities to lead group recreational activities like birthday parties and exercise groups. People are needed to read books and newspapers, or just to sit and chat.

These people have seen, heard and lived a lot in their lifetimes. They are worth listening to.

National Health Corporation (NHC) HealthCare of Murfreesboro has more than 175 patients, according to Nancy Truett-Snook, NHC HealthCare's activity director. Of those, she says, 130 to 140 are long-term care patients.

"Most of the patients living in the facility are here for the rest of their lives," she says. "It really helps enhance and give the patients a better quality of life.

"And they enjoy young people. They enjoy music," she adds. "Consistently, as long as I have been here, if a student has felt hesitant at first or has never been in a nursing home before, they have been able to connect with at least one person while they were here."

Volunteers need only come to the receptionist desk in the office on University Street (across from Middle Tennessee Medical Center) and apply. Truett-Snook says the experience is not one to be missed.

"There's always an opportunity," she explains. "We offer lots of different things from assisting with departmental duties to coordinating activities and delivering mail. We have an in-house pharmacy and beauty shop, so there's lots to do."

However, Truett-Snook contended there were guidelines to follow when dealing with patients. In literature given to every prospective volunteer, the advice is to listen.

"He is an adult - NEVER treat him like a child," it says. "He has a lifetime of experiences.... Remember that everyone who has lived 65 years has many interesting experiences - ask about them. Respect the patient as a person, respecting his point of view, and his privacy. Be sincere."

In most cases, the patients need only someone to talk to, someone who will listen. They have stories to share.

Jonathan Lingle, recreation director at AdamsPlace, says volunteers do things as simple as serving ice cream to the patients on Tuesday afternoons.

"Volunteers have led bingo or horseshoe pitching," he says. "We've had students come out and lead socials. One brought trivia games and on Monday and Friday mornings a lady brings her 2-year-old daughter and leads the morning exercise."

AdamsPlace is adding an in-house radio station and putting together a 16-page newsletter for the residents to which anybody can contribute.

Lingle says he has use for volunteers with special talents and interests. Bridge,

Rook, checkers, chess, domino and poker players can lead clubs. You can start workshops for quilting, ceramics, wreath making, painting or any other craft.

"Volunteers find it very rewarding to be able to share their talents with the residents based on their own personal interests," says information from Lingle given to those interested in the volunteer program.

Once again, you need only pick up an application from the front desk of the building on Memorial Boulevard, or call Lingle at 904-2449.

Volunteers are wanted all over town, for programs like Meals on Wheels or the Nurse on Duty program at the St. Clair Street Senior Center.

Not only will you be helping someone, you'll be learning about times past. You will come to appreciate what it was like to live 40, 50, 60 or 70 years ago. You will hear first hand accounts of events you've only read about in history books. You will make a friend and develop an appreciation for growing older.

Where to volunteer

Boulevard Terrace Rehabilitation & Nursing Center
915 S. Tennessee Blvd.....896-4505

Cambridge Medical Center
200 Mayfield Drive.....355-0350

NHC HealthCare of Murfreesboro
420 N. University Street.....893-2602

Northside Healthcare Center
202 E. MTCS Road.....849-87489

Stones River Manor
205 Haynes Drive.....893-5617

Tennessee Veterans Home
345 Compton Road.....895-8850

AdamsPlace
1929 Memorial Blvd.....904-7100

Peachtree Center
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