

Taking The Plunge

by Dan Devlin, Jr.

So far this has been an interesting experience for me. Almost a month ago, I was just another student attending Methodist College. Now I'm the Editor-in-Chief of a college newsrag. I'm scared out of my dagburned mind. In the last three weeks, I have edited scores of submitted material, approved and disapproved pictures, and given executive pointers to those who have been doing this since high school. Now they say I have to write an editorial... or something. "Tall order," I thought, but I did survive Ken Collins' contemporary philosophical thought class last semester. I can do this. Here goes.

If you don't know me already, my name is Daniel D. Devlin, Jr. I am the son of military parents from rural North Dakota. I've lived around the world and seen many cultures. I have been a Fayetteville resident since July of 1988. I graduated from Pine Forest High in 1991 and live with my parents and younger brother Rob. I'm a junior majoring in physical therapy, a major not currently offered at Methodist, so I'll just spin my wheels a little longer.

Right now, I'm here at Methodist and the editor of Small Talk. My journalistic experience consists of being a staff writer for my school newspaper in Germany, and I was also the editor of that school's literary magazine, as a freshman. In the last few weeks, since my assumption of power, many newsworthy things have happened, both nationally and locally. First, the Brady Bill was passed. That's important. Second, Beavis and Butthead and Guns 'N Roses released controversial albums. That's not really THAT important, but people are talking about it. Lastly, one of our students was arrested and charged with murder. For some reason, that hasn't been addressed here... until now.

The first two news stories are not incredibly important to Methodist. The passage of the Brady Bill means that you'll just have to wait five more days to put that shiny .45 caliber pistol under the Christmas tree for the kids. No big deal--smell that, it's sarcasm.

Beavis and Butthead are just a couple of cartoon characters (read as morons) who think fire, destruction and big-chested women are cool. Anyway they influence young children to burn down houses and kill people, and they just happened to put out an album full of songs by their favorite artists, bearing their crude commentary.

Guns 'N Roses' new record, entitled "The Spaghetti Incident," contains their versions of old punk rock staples and an unlabeled track originally written and recorded by one Charles Manson. For every million copies sold, according to record label estimates, Charlie will get a fat royalty check in the amount of \$60,000. Live with that when you give "Chef Boy-ar-dee" to someone you love this holiday season.

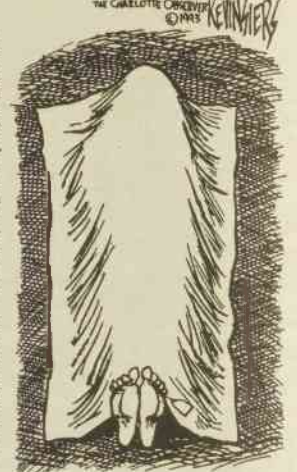
The last story affects this school directly, even though it didn't occur on campus. I'm appalled at the amount of moralistic division our printing



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FLORIDA
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of this story has caused in the ranks of the faculty, students and staff of Small Talk. I thought that writing for the school newspaper was supposed to train journalists to cover the news. I also understand that a private institution, such as Methodist College, has the right to control what is published in the paper. (Thanks, Mr. Bloodworth. I did pay attention to your media law lectures.)

When one of our own does something that will affect the lives of others residing in this "safe" city, I don't think we can afford to hide our heads in the sand like ostriches. Ignoring the situation and hiding it from those attending Methodist is not only unethical, it's immoral. How many others on campus have guns? Think about it.

Random violence is unfortunately on the rise in the U.S., not to mention Fayetteville. In the past months, stories about this city (such as the Luigi incident) have been top priority in many news agencies. The fact that you can be singing in your car and get blown away for looking at someone is a little unnerving, even for someone as open-minded and cultured as I am.

That's why the Brady Bill is so important. If you are fired from your job (unfortunately, this is on the rise too), you may feel like blowing your boss away. The bill will necessitate a cooling off period.

As editor, I can assure you, if something occurs involving this school, its faculty, staff, or students, and its broadcast is important to the safety of those assembled here, that something will find its way into the paper.

This is a newspaper in which things of importance and public interest will also find their way onto these pages--music reviews, columns, and other shenanigans. But this is not only our paper; it's your paper too. If you have comments, suggestions, questions, gripes, anything, drop me or the staff a line in the Small Talk (please help us change this name) Basket in T203. Leave a number and I'll get back to you personally. And I'm not talking about romantic evenings with the editor either.

Rename Small Talk And Dine With Dan--Or Not

The identity crisis of the campus newspaper has yet to be resolved. The negative connotations of the word "small" have brought into question the title of our illustrious paper, and we are asking our loving readers to help ease the burden of this laborious chore.

To the brilliant mind who creates the winning title, we will offer dinner for two at Oh! Brian's as announced. But wait! That's not all! Not only will you experience a most pleasurable culinary experience, but you may also choose to have our charming, and somewhat warped, editor-in-chief join you in your feeding frenzy (or not--your choice.).

Should you choose to submit a suggestion, simply staple it to a staff member's forehead or drop it in the Small Talk basket in T203. (This contest is open to faculty, students and small woodland creatures.)

Small Talk

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