

PRAVIDA

Volume I, Number 3

Montreat-Anderson College

February 23, 1995

MSB Home to Dangerous Radiation?

Bowers, Lassiter, Discover Uranyl Acetate Sample

by Zola Griffin

During early September, lab assistant Scott Bowers happened upon a 4 oz. sample of radioactive substance, uranyl acetate, in a storage room on the second floor of Morgan Science Building while doing an inventory for the science department.

Uranyl acetate is an alpha-emitting, low-grade radioactive substance used in physics labs for half-life experiments. Exposure to its radiation can be blocked by the skin at a distance of roughly one foot.

"Microwaves and video games give off more radiation than this stuff," explained Bowers.

When Bowers initially found the substance, no one actually knew very much about it. It has since been ruled out as a substantive danger. Bowers' supervisor, Dr. Mark Lassiter of the Natural Science Division conceded, "At first I was concerned, but now I feel a lot better

about it."

Although uranyl acetate emits only low-level radiation, regulations insist institutions must have certain permits to purchase it. The college apparently obtained the chemical before the laws went into effect.

In the past, the Natural Sciences Division has hired part-time Chemistry teachers, usually from A-B Tech. Because these adjuncts seldom used the storage closet, there had been no real effort to examine and catalog its contents.

As the Environmental Studies Program matures, new course offerings like Organic Chemistry and Toxicology demanded storage space and more frequent use of chemicals.

Bowers, as part of his work-study duties, was assigned the task of inventorying the closet: a room unexamined in over twenty years.

At \$4.25 per hour, Bowers is undertaking tasks normally performed by private firms at

costs of around \$50,000.

Lassiter stated that he was "frustrated about the condition of the room," but he is deeply pleased with the work that Bowers is doing in it now. The process of overhauling the room could take up to five years.

Most undergraduate students do not have the opportunity of classifying chemicals in this type of setting. Bowers has discovered quite a few additional unknowns, but all other materials in the storeroom have tested non-radioactive. The primary concern of the science department now is upgrading the chemical containers. Lassiter stated that there are approximately 300 chemicals which need to be repackaged at this time.

Since no experiments requiring radioactive resources are done on this campus, the uranyl acetate was moved last week from Montreat to the UNC-A Physics Department.

New Teams to Compete In Blue And Gold

By Christian Malone

Five new teams will compete under the Cavalier name in the 1995-96 academic year. Men's golf, men's and women's tennis, women's soccer and women's softball will be added to the already established teams.

Athletic director Steve McNamara announced the addition of the new sports as an attempt to up enrollment. Currently about 29%

of the college's enrollment are athletes. McNamara estimates the new sports will inflate the enrollment by an additional 40 students and will set in motion the means to further increase the size of the student body.

Until now, men were restricted to compete intercollegiately in soccer in the fall, basketball in the winter and baseball in the spring.

Women were limited even further, with the opportunity to play volleyball in the fall and basketball in the winter.

The renewal of the women's softball team will allow co-ed's to compete intercollegiately in the spring. Softball will balance the number of men's and women's teams on campus.

The addition of women's soccer has drawn a positive response. The college has recently announced of hiring the new soccer coach for the men's and women's team, John Garville.

Plans are being made for an off-campus field to be used by both the soccer and the softball teams.

McNamara rebutted the doubt about Garville coaching two teams during a given season, "Coach Chaplin coaches both fall ball and women's volleyball in the fall and has not had any problems. Garville is excited about coaching the men and women."

Sophomore Jon Abel, an avid tennis player says, "I am very excited this is going to happen. [The new sports] will bring students and commu-

see New Teams p. 2

Day, Sorrenson Quit Grooveshock

Band Adopts Image of Brown Root Seed Co.

by M. Janie King

Grooveshock, a band consisting of Montreat students, has recently been faced with the rumor they are breaking up. According to the lead singer of the band, Chris Sorrenson, "It is not true that the band is breaking up, we are just forming a different band."

Chris Day, guitarist for the band, is leaving. He states this is not for any personal reasons, he is "just too busy." Sorrenson also quit the band earlier this month, but when he was approached to rejoin by other members of Grooveshock, he did so willingly.

The band wanted to make some changes because the pressure of recording a live album, which they did last month, was too much to bear.

Cameron Thomas stated, "I think the change is a very good thing. We all have more fun at the personal side of having a band, like practicing and hanging out with each other. It's the business side that got to us. Making a live album was a pain."

Grooveshock will be changing their name to Brown Root Seed Co. They were in search of something "Biblical, yet artistic." According to Sorrenson, "The band is sowing some seeds and seeing what happens."

The band does not want to play for Montreat students until they feel like they are more "together." Chris Sorrenson boasts, "I know that a lot of people at Montreat like the band, but the problem is were all perfectionists. We want to have everything down before we play for Mon-

treat again."

The members of the band agree that a six-piece band that they had before didn't allow them to form the closeness they wanted to. They feel certain that having a four-piece band should allow them to do that. This will also give them a chance to get serious about their music. Sorrenson states that for him and the other members of the band, "music is what we want a career in."

Grooveshock's live album will be out in four or five months according to the band members. Their next show will be at 31 Patton on March 2, a country bar in Asheville.

Willcox Signs on with SPAS

by John Langer

Cary Willcox, Montreat-Anderson alumnus and current student activities coordinator, has been offered and has accepted the position of Program Services Coordinator with the School of Professional and Adult Studies.

Willcox's new responsibilities will include coordinating meetings, negotiating contracts, distributing books, syllabi and laptop computers. He will also be responsible for the maintenance of laptop computers.

"The position is not going to interfere with his current job in Student Activities," explains Dr. Isaac Owolabi, the Associate Dean of Adult Education. Owolabi and Student Services discussed whether the new position would affect his current position before SPAS offered Willcox

the position. Willcox predicts, "I will not have any trouble with both jobs and Student Activities will not suffer from the new job. I only work about fifteen hours a week in the SPAS job."

The job will not be declared permanent until the end of the school year, after SPAS decides whether Willcox will be able to fulfill SPAS' needs for the Coordinator of Program Services. Next year, it will be decided whether the position will remain part-time or become a full-time position.

According to Associate Dean of Students, Beth Wirtjes, the new resident director of M-A Hall and Howerton will fill the Student Activities position, coordinate intramurals and manage the Belk Campus Center.