

University of Kansas, fraternity sued in fatal auto crash

by Tony Rizzo
Knight Ridder Newspapers

The family of a Lawrence, Kan., woman killed by an intoxicated teen-age driver sued the University of Kansas and a fraternity house where he allegedly drank.

The lawsuit, filed this week, also names as defendants the teen-ager and his mother and stepfather, who allegedly provided him with alcohol.

Felicia A. Bland, 39, was killed Sept. 16, 2000, when a car driven by Sean M. Scott, 16, collided with her car in western Johnson County, Kan.

In March 2001, Scott pleaded no contest in Johnson County District Court to a charge of involuntary manslaughter. He served about five months in custody and is now on probation.

His stepfather, Lawrence Rieke, was recently charged by Douglas County, Kan., prosecutors with supplying alcohol to a minor on the night of the crash.

According to the lawsuit, Rieke and Scott's mother, Dana Rieke, allegedly provided beer and shots of tequila to Scott and other minors at a Lawrence bar.

Daniel Church, the lawyer representing Bland's family, said there was no information to show that the bar's owners knew minors were being served alcohol.

At his mother's instruction, Scott, who was

"visibly intoxicated," turned his car keys over to another person before leaving the bar, the lawsuit contends. But that person also was a minor who had been served alcohol by the Riekes and was "not in proper condition to safeguard" the keys, the lawsuit alleges.

After drinking at the bar, Scott and other minors allegedly drank more alcohol at the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity house in Lawrence.

"Members of the fraternity ridiculed Sean Scott for not drinking enough and taunted him to drink more of the alcoholic beverages they were providing," according to the lawsuit.

Scott was able to get his car keys back and "after hours of drinking" began driving his 1992 Chevrolet Camaro at speeds of 90 to 100 mph, the lawsuit alleges. Eventually he lost control of the car and swerved into the path of Bland's vehicle, the lawsuit contends.

"As an intoxicated minor driving a high-powered sports car, Sean Scott was a danger to any motorist in his general vicinity and the public at large," according to the lawsuit.

The lawsuit does not seek a specific amount of money in damages.

Spokesmen for the university and the fraternity said Monday that they had not seen the lawsuit. The university spokesman said the school's policy was to not comment on pending litigation. The Riekes, of Shawnee, did not respond to a telephone message asking for comment.



March 19th

Junker Center,
Penn State Behrend
College

Tickets go on sale
Feb. 20th
at the RUB Desk
7:15 am. for Behrend
students - \$20.

Tickets go on sale Feb.
21st at Dig Dios and RUB
Desk for the public
8 am. - \$24.



Sales declines force reassessment at Gap

by Dina ElBoghady
The Washington Post

Shannon Hartnett used to shop at the Gap at least once a month, figuring it was a pretty reliable stop for basic turtlenecks, T-shirts and a good looking pair of jeans.

Until two years ago, that is, when the jeans became too low-slung for her taste and the sweaters, cropped to expose the midriff, started appearing in "hideous colors."

"I bypass the store now," the 33-year-old Alexandria, Va., resident said. "They're trying to be too hip."

The San Francisco-based chain is the first to admit it has lost its way. And it has the numbers to prove it.

This week, Gap Inc. reported a 16 percent drop in January sales, marking the 21st consecutive monthly decline for stores open at least a year, including those in sister chains Old Navy and the

caused Gap to veer in a different direction with its fashions. Ultimately, it drove away its core customers.

Exacerbating matters was the soft economy, which prompted consumers to pinch pennies.

The fix starts with the Gap's spring line, which brings back the classics (think khakis and oxford shirts) that made the brand famous, MacLean said.

"But we're going to update it," she said. "We're going to bring a new flair."

Some industry watchers are skeptical. Doubts about an imminent recovery prompted Moody's Investors Service to downgrade Gap's unsecured debt last month to a notch above junk level, making it tough to renegotiate a \$1.3 billion credit line that comes due in June.

The company's weakest link is its low-end Old Navy unit, launched in 1994 as a cheaper version of the Gap with fun clothes for moms, teens and kids.

aging director of Reach Marketing, a Connecticut research firm.

Sustaining the higher rents at some of the 4,100-plus stores became challenging when sales at all three chains began sliding simultaneously over the past two years, Flickinger said.

Particularly hard hit was Old Navy, which experienced a 20 percent decline in same-store sales in the fourth quarter, compared with a 12 percent drop the previous year.

One reason is that Old Navy faces too many thriving competitors. When the chain was conceived, Kohl's Department Stores was a little-known midwestern brand. Today, the superstar retailer has expanded and cut into Old Navy's bid for the value-and-quality-conscious family, Flickinger said. So has Target.

Meantime, Wet Seal and American Eagle Outfitters, both teen-oriented, cut into Old Navy's appeal to young America.

"A lot of younger people are telling us Old

Some students' history exams score comic relief

by Marja Mills
Chicago Tribune

Never underestimate what college students hazy on the facts can come up with when faced with the exam-time panic of an empty blue book and a ticking clock.

Anders Henriksson, dean of history at Shepherd College in Shepherdstown, W.Va., has made a sport of compiling his favorite bloopers from what he swears are real history exams and term papers, such as:

"Hitler's instrumentality of terror was the Gespacho."

"The Civil Rights movement in the U.S.A. turned around the corner with Martin Luther Junior's famous 'If I had a hammer speech.'"

More recently, during the Carter administration, according to another student, the U.S. faced the "Iran Hostess Crisis."

"It must have been the squiggle on the cupcake," Henriksson said dryly. A specialist on czarist Russia, Henriksson is a veteran teacher of freshman survey courses.

He gets a kick out of another gem sure to send educators around the bend: "Joan of Arc was famous as Noah's wife."

And: "Christianity was just another mystery cult until Jesus was born."

"You talk to anyone who has taught and they have read this kind of prose," Henriksson said. He stitched hundreds of such gaffes into a slim volume, "Non Campus Mentis: World History According to College Students," which has sold briskly in the few months it has been out. In December, the book made the top ten on the New York Times Advice, How To and Miscellaneous bestseller list.

Despite students who write that "The airplane was invented and first flown by the Marx brothers" or that "Judyism has one big God named Yahoo," Henriksson, 53, does not conclude that this illustrates a decline in education.

"I don't really see a difference over time ...," Henriksson said. "I would be so bold as to say you could go back to the 1930s and find stuff like this."

Moreover, Henriksson said, his collection of absurdities is no snapshot of the typical university student's knowledge of history.

"This is not a scientific sample of what the students know. This is a harvest of the most creative bits of inane writing," he said.

"You're talking tens of thousands of papers and we got 600-odd funnies out of them."

"We" is Henriksson and the professors he tapped at another two dozen universi-

ties across the United States and Canada. Some are friends and former colleagues. Others are professors who learned of Henriksson's blooper collection and offered favorites from their classrooms.

So how does he make sure all the gaffes sent to him are authentic?

Henriksson said he personally records some of the sentences straight from blue books and term papers submitted at his own college. "I have a lot on the computer. When I grade exams, I sit with a yellow legal pad next to me and write them down. Sometimes, if they're really classics, I'll Xerox them."

"Many (others) come from people I know and trust. I don't ask to see the originals but you develop an eye for these things. I have a sense of what students do write."

Such as: "Dim el Sum ruled as 'Head Coucho' of North Korea. China has so many Chinese that forced birth patrol became required. This is where people are allowed to reproduce no more than one half of themselves."

Henriksson doesn't attach students' names to the gaffes. For the most part, he is sympathetic with students who unintentionally provide their professors with reason to laugh, or moan.

"These are mostly blue book excerpts and we all can remember that time when we were staring at that blue book and didn't know how to fill it and you write something like 'During the Dark Ages it was mostly dark' or you write about 'Chairman Moo' because you can't quite remember."

Other historic figures that surface in the collection of bloopers: "Franklin Eleanor Roosevelt" and "India Gandy."

One generational change Henriksson does see is an increase in the numbers of student whose gaffes indicate they have not read enough to realize that they have misheard common expressions.

"I don't know how many students said 'took it for granite.' It's what they've heard."

"Or they'll take a common catch phrase and do the wrong thing: 'the final straw in the camel's pack.' Society was 'turn to thunder' instead of 'torn asunder.'"

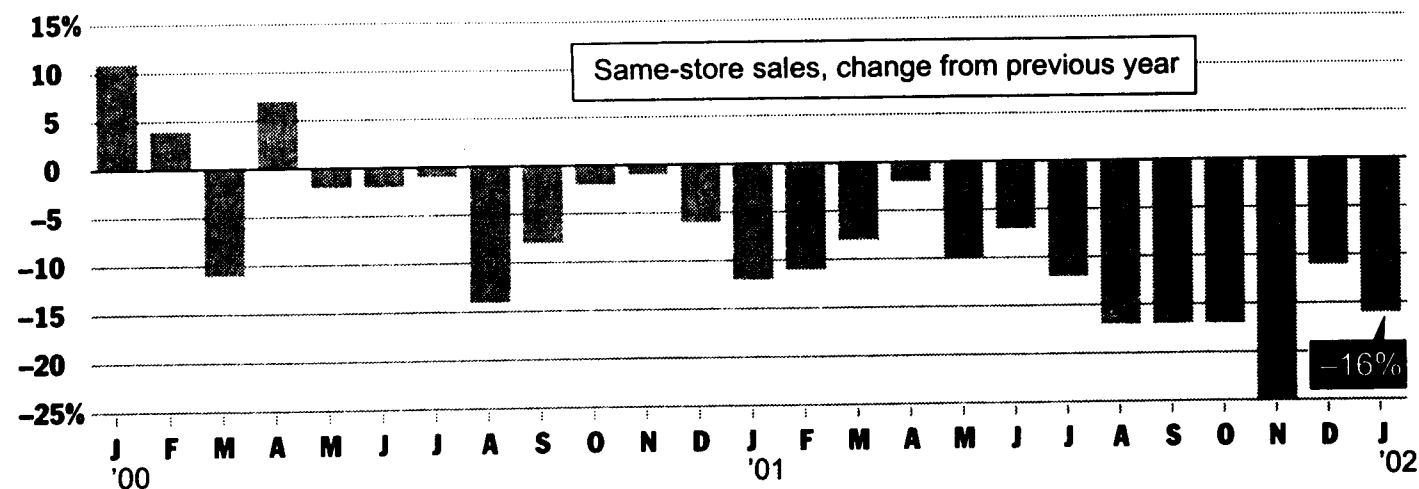
Computer spell checkers don't pick up those mistakes anymore than they spot "their" mistakenly being used for "they're."

The main purpose of his book, Henriksson said, is simply to give people a laugh.

But one warning for those history students who will be winging it come next exam time: Henriksson is considering a sequel.

Falling at the Gap

Plummeting sales have sent Gap Inc. into the worst financial spiral in its 32-year history.



SOURCE: Company reports

more upscale Banana Republic. The company also said it expects to post a loss for last year's fourth quarter when it reports earnings later this month.

Gap's stock has lost more than half its value over the past year. And the company has amassed \$2 billion in debt.

After two years of soul-searching, Gap officials say they've pinpointed the problem: just about everything.

The mix of clothes. The clothes themselves. The layout of stores. The size of stores. And the company's spending habits.

"We need to fix it," said Stacy MacLean, a Gap spokeswoman.

How did this happen? The company's simple style was such a hit that it inspired copycats. That

The chain was meant to build on Gap's stellar success as a purveyor of classic styles cool enough for the college crowd and smart enough for thirtysomething professionals.

Already in the Gap family was Banana Republic, a safari and travel clothing company purchased in 1983. The brand was transformed into Gap's higher-end clothing line, aimed at slightly older shoppers.

The three-tiered approach worked for a while, especially in the more casual workplace of the last decade.

But through the boom times, the company expanded aggressively into some of the highest-rent locations in the highest-cost cities, including prime space on Madison Avenue and Broadway in New York, said Burt Flickinger III, man-

aging director of Reach Marketing, a Connecticut research firm. "There are a lot of places now where they can get things similar to what Old Navy is selling at vastly reduced prices."

Yet Old Navy, and even the Gap division, pursued teens with a fervor. Gap fashions, in particular, failed to excite the fickle younger set and downright alienated older, more loyal customers.

Also, there were so many stores that they started to cannibalize one another's sales, said Lori Wilking, an analyst with H&R Block Financial Advisors.

By November, all these troubles came to a head when the company reported a 25 percent drop in same-store sales, its biggest falloff ever.