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English dept. humorist answers unusual letters

By Franne Robertson
 It doesn't happen often, but universities get letters that just aren't routine correspondence.

Like the poet who wrote to UN-L, asking the university to give him proof that he existed.

The inquiry was thrown to the English department, where it landed on Assoc. Professor Charles Stubblefield's desk.

Stubblefield had been singled out by his colleagues before to answer such letters, he said, as part of his duties in the department.

He also helped make selections for the literary magazine, "Prairie Scooner" and he bowls on the department's bowling team. Named the "Upper Hudson and Catskill Mountain Keggers" or "The Big Rips", they have won the Faculty Bowling League tournament three times in five years.

Edits newsletter
 Stubblefield also edits the English department newsletter, which yearly names a winner of the Estelle Sebastian T.S. award.

The award is supposedly named for a mink-coated woman who was blown off the upper deck of the U.S.S. Constitution. Due to the difficulty of turning the 190 foot ship around, the captain decided Estelle would freeze before they could reach her.

So the captain allegedly picked up a megaphone and shouted, "Tough S—, Estelle Sebastian." Hence the Estelle Sebastian T.S. award.

Stubblefield said last year's winner of the Estelle Sebastian T.S. award was a Colorado man, who, after much planning, had the felling of a huge cottonwood tree in his backyard worked out to a science so that it would not fall anywhere near the house. To his dismay, by some quirk of fate of error, the tree fell in the

middle of the house, crushing the roof.
Tall Texan

A tall, tanned Texan, with many interests, Stubblefield is writing a novel called *Lulu*, the story of an iron-willed Texan woman who lived during the Civil War.

He plans to finish *Lulu* on Bastille Day, 1976. He chose that deadline, he said jokingly, because he feels "the Bicentennial year would be so exciting" that July 4 would be about 10 days too early. So, realistically, he chose July 14.

Stubblefield's varied background includes stints as a professional Texas basketball player, a high school sports coach and a pilot and instruments instructor in the Air Force. He held jobs working for a Dallas cotton marketing firm, for the Texas Department of Agriculture and as a clerk in an all-night drive-in grocery store. Eleven years after he was graduated with a master's degree in education, he moved to Denver and earned his master's and Ph.D. in English at the University of Denver.

Humor noted
 Students and faculty have noted Stubblefield's humor. One student in his fiction writing class, Nancy McCleery, described his style as Faulknerian.

Humor comes in handy when it comes to answering letters, like the one from the Queens, New York man, who, having sent manuscripts out for publication for years, never received any response.

Stubblefield sent a four-page reply telling the poet, that he, M.K. Kulikowski, did exist.

This bit of advice was included for the budding poet: "Perhaps for its distribution in the Midwest you had better consider another title for your *Poems to Read on the Subway*. You see, we have to place to read it. Even *Notes from the Underground* has not sold well in Lincoln and Omaha since 1945 when the sod house came into general disuse."

Student's project awarded

A senior student in the College of Dentistry at UN-L, William Ursick, has earned national recognition for development of a project entitled "The Role of the Dentist in Hypertension Detection."

His project was awarded second place in the 1975 Student Merit Award for Outstanding Achievement in

Community Dentistry competition, sponsored by the American Association of Public Health Dentists (AAPHD).

Ursick, whose home is Pueblo, Colo., developed the project as part of a field education in community health and dentistry course during the junior year. He incorporated the taking of blood pressure

and other comprehensive physical examination procedures into a dental screening program at a Lincoln public health clinic.


His prize, a recognition plaque and subscription to *Journal of Public Health Dentistry*, will be presented during the AAPHD's annual convention in Chicago during October.

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