

1096-01-1998 **Jonathan David Farley*** (jonathan.farley@morgan.edu), Department of Mathematics,
Morgan State University, 1700 E. Cold Spring Lane, Baltimore, MD 21251. *The Adventures of Lee
Lorch: What Two New Books by Barrett Brown, Edward Sebesta and Euan Hague Say about
Vanderbilt University and Black Mathematicians.*

Five decades before a black mathematician at Vanderbilt University fled Nashville under cover of darkness, making his way to the AMS meeting in Baltimore after receiving numerous death threats, Lee Lorch, a mathematician at the historically black Fisk University, tried to bring a group of black mathematicians to Vanderbilt's campus for an MAA talk. They were barred from attending. The speaker, Saunders Mac Lane, president of the MAA, spoke anyway, because he didn't want to be rude to Vanderbilt, he said.

In the book "University Presidents As Moral Leaders," Gordon Gee, the former leader of Vanderbilt University, described groups that celebrated the pro-slavery Confederacy as "old friends".

Two new books, one by Barrett Brown and another by Edward Sebesta and Euan Hague, are coming out about Vanderbilt University and this peculiar history. (Received September 17, 2013)