

The home of Cy Young and Woody Hayes . . .

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NHS graduate premieres on Travel Channel Nov. 30

When Newcomerstown High School graduate Lee Sandstead stood in the lobby of Middle Tennessee State University's agriculture building looking at the couch that could either be used for sitting or artificial insemination practice, he never thought his life would change forever.

But that was the very building where he took his first art history class; a class that showed him a world he never new existed. Ever since, Sandstead has been on one grand art adventure after another, scouring the world for great art.

But on Nov. 30, he starts what maybe his grandest art adventure of all — the first season of "Art Attack with Lee Sandstead" airs on the Travel Channel. And as he promises, this first season is one heck of a raucous ride through America's top museums. The premise of "Art Attack" is to visit museums and look at five must-see pieces in a high-impact, high-

energy fashion. Upbeat music, quick cuts, great camera moves — the show has it all.

When asked what this means to a small-town Southern boy, he laughs: "When growing up, I never saw myself as a TV show host — let alone one about art! I was raised in a house trailer, and we were certainly not sitting around talking about art and high culture. We were wondering if the water pipes were going to freeze during the winter or if an open oven door was a satisfactory work-around for a broken furnace!"

But, as he explains, with the support of a beautiful French girlfriend he met in college, he not only discovered art, he turned it into his career and highest passion.

"Looking at art is not one of the 'coolest' things a young man in Middle Tennessee could be doing with his time. And when my friends would visit my house, I would catch

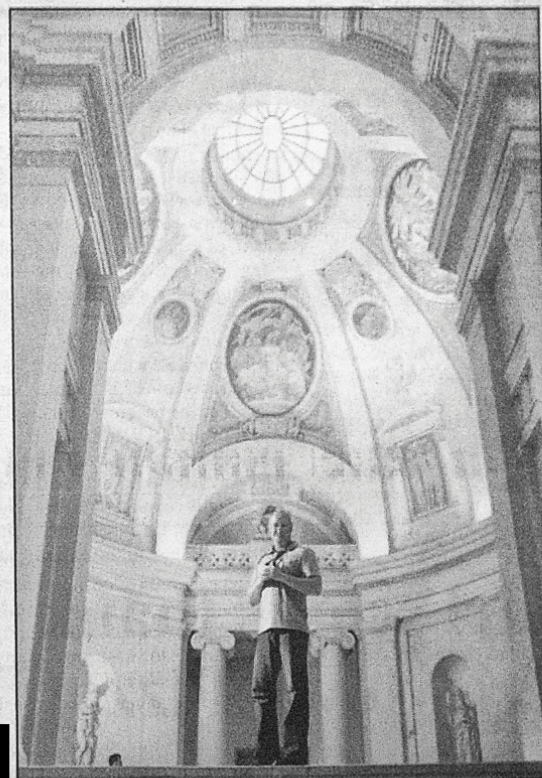
quite a bit of flack — because I covered the walls from floor to ceiling with prints of famous art works. Yep, down came the NASCAR posters and up went the Rembrandts! And that's were the support of my French girlfriend helped — she told me it was okay I was such a complete dork," he said.

And ever since, Sandstead has been entertaining his university students with these early stories from his life to persuade them to give art a chance.

Here's where "Art Attack" comes in. It is his own blue-collar, country background that Sandstead hopes will draw the average American and get them out to the museums.

Will the viewer like every single artwork on the show? "Heck no!" exclaims Sandstead. "But tune in, give art a chance, and I guarantee that I can get you fired-up for art!"

And all this from a guy, who doesn't even own a television.



Lee Sandstead stands in the classic entrance to the Museum of Fine Art in Boston, Mass.