

This portrait of a dog was one of the many animal paintings contained in the recent Clough-Hanson exhibition by Chinese artist Chen Xiong-li.

The Kinney Retreat will be held Friday, Feb. 2, and Saturday, Feb. 3. The group will leave for Pinecrest at 5 p.m. on Friday and return by late afternoon on Saturday. There will be a cookout for dinner on Friday, a hayride, a "killer" of a game or two, two great meals at the camp, lots of fun, and all this for only \$10. For more information and to make a reservation, call Steve Musick at 3804, or come by the Counseling Center, 301 Briggs.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) is offering two scholarships to sophomore and junior Presbyterian students attending Presbyterian related schools. The first is for \$1000 and requires memorization of the shorter catechism of the Westminster Confession along with writing a brief essay on an assigned topic. The other is for \$1500 and requires designing and im-

plementing a volunteer project to be carried out over an entire academic year (or one Summer full-time). Both scholarships are competitive, the field being all other Presbyterian sophomores and juniors at Presbyterian related schools, are to be supervised by the college chaplain. For more information call Steve Musick at 3804.

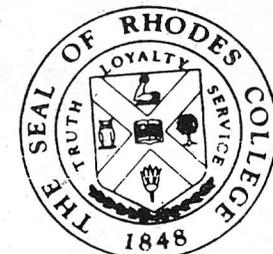
Concerns on Stage, an organization founded to produce theatre dealing with issues of socio-political importance will present Thomas Disch's "The Apartment Next to the War" at Theatre Works on February 1st, 2nd and 3rd. The event is a fundraiser for Concerns on Stage and the cost at the door is a \$1 donation. Showtime is at 8 p.m. on all three nights. For more information call Augusta Palmer at 323-3150.

# The Sou'wester

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Rhodes College

Thursday, January 25, 1990



## This School Needs An Enema!

by Jonathan Smoke

It hit me Friday night while watching *Batman* for the twentieth time. Though I'm not the Joker, and this is definitely not Gotham City, I'll go ahead and say it: This school needs an enema. Or at least the government of the student body does.

Go ahead. Think about it. Can you think of all the great things that the students of Rhodes have accomplished through their governing bodies over the last few years? Please don't strain yourself.

We have Roundtable. We didn't have it two years ago. That was a great idea. Students get to tell the administration what they are feeling. Or do they? The answer is no. Ten students are hand picked by the selection committee of Student Assembly to serve on this body. Take a look at who these students are. R. A.s., student assembly officers, honor council members — you know, your regular, average Rhodes student. If you the average student, wish to say something, you must pass a note to one of these people, or attend the ODK input forum. Yeah, attendance is always great — fewer than in your average Robb-White-Ellet commons event.

Don't get me wrong. The students on Roundtable are all good people, but even they don't have too much say as to what the agenda will be. But hey, at least someone like us gets to talk to Daughdrill, or was he even at the last meeting?

Okay, so maybe not Roundtable. How about Allocations Board? We were all real happy about that new tax put upon us weren't we (activities fee)? That system cannot be just for distributing funds no matter how you look at it — it's hard to find anyone who would run for allocations board

who isn't also involved in some way with some group applying for a bid. Then they, the Allocations Board, aren't happy that Student Assembly reviews their judgements. Then they aren't happy that Rhodes is a private, church affiliated institution. Then they happily accept the idea that all political groups are federally banned from receiving funds from non-profit institutions, yet we students never see the code that spells this out.

We students don't need proof. We students don't need to review their decisions. After all we did vote for them. They are our elected officials.

Sure, our elections always insure the best candidate wins. Of course every election is decided by the issues involved, and students know all about the people they are electing. Yeah, and Elvis is alive and is a special studies student at Rhodes. Let's face it, the person who usually wins is the one with the coolest party pic glued to his or her 4" x 6" card. Candidates can really get into ideas and issues on one 4" x 6" card.

Don't get me wrong. Our system isn't all bad, and neither are the majority of people involved. But, we need to look into serious changes in the way things are done around here, and the place to begin is with the elections themselves. Let's have a forum so candidates can voice their ideas and maybe even promises to do something. Let's stop the apathy regarding student government on the campus. Then and only then will we start to become the committed instead of the complainers.

Modifying social commission's theme, let's shut up and do something. The system doesn't need throwing out, but it does need some rewiring in a few places. And maybe we could change a few blown bulbs along the way.

## Roundtable Discusses Code of Conduct

by Beverly Burks, Co-editor

The President's Roundtable had its first session of the 1990 academic year on January 16. The topic at issue: the attempt to formulate the "Standards of Student Responsibility" which will serve as guidelines for student behavior at Rhodes, and thus help enforce the controversial Code of Conduct, and the more general subject of financial aid.

The Dean of Students' office furnished a preliminary draft of the standards of student responsibility which will most likely be used in accordance with a pledge, much like the Honor System. Once a consensus has been reached on the wording of both the list of standards as well as the pledge, and the system is implemented, students will sign a statement agreeing to abide by all social regulations. Violations of the Code of Conduct will be referred to the Social Regulations Council just

as violations of the Honor Code are handled by the Honor Council.

The draft presented to the Roundtable stated its aim as "to encourage students to develop responsible judgment capable of directing their conduct with a minimum of specific prohibitions." The document then listed nine instances in which a student would be subject to disciplinary actions. These included physical and sexual assault, damage to College-owned property, disorderly conduct, unauthorized entry into locked or restricted College property, and violation of handbook rules.

The debate centered on the question of how specific the rules of standards needed to be. Many Roundtable members seemed to feel that the notion of having a specific list of types of conduct which were deemed unsatisfactory was counterproductive, or ineffective at best. Professor Jeter suggested that the list of standards

"should be proposed on the positive end." He pointed out that it was impossible to list all of the instances which could conceivably arise which would require disciplinary action and stated that the ideal "standards" would be just that — a code of conduct outlining proper behavior and not a mere listing of improper behavior. This view was echoed by Professor McEntire. Other members felt that the list of infractions should be confined to the student handbook. Student member Kristen Murray suggested that an explanation of the Code of Conduct be included on Rhodes applications, just as information about the Honor System is given there now.

The general consensus of the committee members was that the draft was unsatisfactory. The Dean of Students' office will attempt to correct those problems before the proposal goes before the board of trustees in April.

## Moore Moore Townhouse "Focuses On Future"

by Jason A. Parrish

Townhouses, the specialty housing provided by the college in order to promote special interests and to allow students with similar interests to live together often revolve around academic topics. Not all of them share this type of focus, however. The Moore Moore townhouse chose the theme "Focus on the Future" to demonstrate their common interests in children and volunteering. Specifically underprivileged children are a main concern for the group.

The residents, Monica Allie, Kathy Coe, Amy Culpepper, Johanna Kahalley, Sarah Loyd, Emily Newsome, Kathy Rae, and Denise Vaughn, have completed many different activities in pursuit of their goals of helping underprivileged children. Kathy Coe volunteers with

North Side Infant Care, which helps adolescent mothers with children, while Kathy Rae works with the Girl Scouts. The Muscular Dystrophy Telethon and the Memphis Day Shelter have also benefited from their activities. In addition to this, several of the residents tutor. The townhouse also plans to schedule speakers on the subject of underprivileged children for the entire campus.

Their most ambitious project, however, was the adoption of a family. Arranged through the services of Porter-Leath, an organization involved in areas such as tutoring, group homes, and day care, the adoption involved a single parent family with five children, ages eighteen months through twelve years of age. Thanks to donations from the campus, they raised \$330.00 so that the family could afford to have a Christmas. They pur-

chased both toys and clothing for the children, purchased a coat for the children's mother, and bought a food certificate from Kroger's. The townhouse also throws a birthday party for each of the children, and arranges campus visits for the family. "I enjoyed getting to know the family," said Kathy Coe, "and I think that they're benefiting from our sponsorship."

The Townhouse plans to go ahead with more activities in the coming semester, as they feel that what they are doing is very important. Junior Denise Vaughn summed up this feeling, saying, "When we originally planned the townhouse we knew it was unusual because of its non-academic focus; but we also knew it was a worthwhile pursuit because it will help the Memphis community."

Thursday, January 25, 1990

## EDITORIAL

## What's The Matter Here?

by Beverly Burks, Co-editor

I went to cover the President's Roundtable last week for *The Sou'wester*, something I hadn't yet done in my tenure as co-editor since I had a conflicting class last term. I tried to go in without any preconceived notions, because I really do think the concept of the Roundtable — that is, "opening lines of communication between the students, faculty and administration" and "providing an open forum for discussion of issues facing the College community," to use some of the jargon normally associated with this kind of thing, is a noble one and the group deserves our admiration for its efforts. However, once I got to the meeting, some nagging suspicions that I had been trying to ignore were confirmed.

Picture this: All the participants really do sit at rectangular tables forged into a kind of circle. Each has a placard with his name in front of him. The day I was present the main topic being discussed was the infamous (can we call it infamous? Yeah, I think so. Anybody who has heard of it has some kind of strong opinion on the subject) Code of Conduct. The Dean of Students' office had presented a draft of what they called the "Standards for Student Responsibility" to the group, who in turn were attempting to supply helpful and constructive praise and criticism. So far the situation seemed the very model of productivity, of open-minded and non-hostile dialogue by a group working together for the common cause. That's how it seemed, but not really how it was. In the course of the meeting, the dialogue degenerated into a pointless round of questions and quasi-explanations. What could have been a stimulating and helpful discussion lost almost all relevancy. The Roundtable is a forum for discussion and problem-solving, not for posturing or blowing off steam. Okay, that said, let's examine in more detail just what was discussed at the Roundtable meeting last week.

Some background info: As the situation currently stands, students in upcoming years will most likely be required to sign a pledge stating that they will abide by social regulations just as they now sign the pledge to abide by the Honor Code. That part's pretty much a done deal. What's at issue now is determining what exactly to have students pledge they won't do. Or will do. See, the Student Affairs people put together what I'm sure they felt was a good and reasonable list of prohibitions — things like not damaging College-owned property or committing physical or sexual assault — instances in which a student may be subject to discipline. The problem with this list, though, seems easily apparent to the most casual observer. It is impossible to list every single act of objectionable conduct that could conceivably occur. The standards would be as thick as a dictionary and students would live in fear of violating one they didn't know about. And here's another problem. Doesn't the term "standard" imply something that needs to be lived up to? What's on the list are prohibitions. The draft was the right idea, wrong execution. If we have to have this onerous Code of Conduct, let's keep it simple, like the Honor Code. I mean, we're all big people here. We all know that we should treat others and their belongings with respect (an element that seems to have been left out of the proposal entirely). I personally would be more inclined to try to live up to a real set of standards (spelled out in glowing, inspirational language), to read them and think, yes that's the kind of person I want to be, than to take seriously a list of no-no's, none of which I'm about to do anyway. Part of the reason we abide by the Honor Code is that we like to feel we're honorable people, at least when it comes to "cheating, stealing or lying in official matters." Why couldn't the same simple idea apply to a social code as well?

## VREDD KOEBALD: Anarchist



## LETTER TO THE EDITORS

To the Editors:

"Look Junior, this picture was taken at the Homecoming Sock Hop in 1958. There is your dad, Aunt Sue, and that fellow with her . . . ."

The dreaded nostalgic saunter down memory lane had started again and everybody within one hundred yards scanned the nearest exit — "there goes that old bag talking about her childhood days again; as anybody if cares."

But she cared and that was all that seemed to matter.

Yearbooks, annuals, whatever you want to call them, always seem to stick out of the shelves at home, as if they were beckoning someone with a forgotten name, the face of an old flame, or just an old-fashioned uplifting.

Now, I kind of resent all my yearbooks. Whoopedee! Only old and sentimental people keep it on the coffee table, whereas mine can stay at the bottom of the cardboard box with all the other books I have never read.

But maybe, just maybe, I will some-

day want to look up the picture of that freak who ran over the Cabana's security hut or a date (dates would probably be more appropriate) that told me the quickest way to walk home.

That is why I was startled to learn last week that the 1989-90 annual — I don't know the name of it — is only going to cover events in 1989. To me, that is disappointing.

Sure, it will have everyone's picture and organizations and football scores and nice little candids taken in the Quad of three girls with differing geometric shapes on the sweatshirt doing some Panhellenic bonding.

And that is all well and fine. But to block out an entire semester of the school year? Why?

Someone told me that the annual would be ready by the end of school — barely. So what? How much trouble is it to mail out the books to seniors? Besides, knowing the budgetary elves around this place, WE pay for it anyway.

And as I attempted to point out earlier, the difference between a few months is not going to kill a 21 year old human being who is unable to, gasp, not look at his yearbook. (That

is unless, of course, he/she does indeed get killed during that time and no doubt dies rather sad due to this deficiency. Oh, but why am I giving the other side ammunition?).

I am not attacking the present editors of the publication. I know nothing of the circumstances that surround the decision. I have little reason to believe that this yearbook is any worse than the ones that preceded it.

But I am questioning their judgement on covering only half of the year. If the yearbook is having a problem with attracting quality people — or even just semi-warm bodies — then the school needs to review its status.

Close it down if it is going to be done in a manner that is not up to par. Just make a nicer copy of FACES at the end of the year and give it out to everybody. It would also save the school money, a facet that they are well aware of around here.

Yet that idea should and can be avoided. Try to attract students that are really interested in the yearbook. Maybe a little more money would help. Perhaps the school could free them to sell ads.

But do something.

Frank Howell

## To the Editors:

Three days after we commemorated the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., I went to see Shen Tong, another leader for freedom, when he spoke at Memphis State during their Perspectives of Freedom speaker series. The presence of Shen Tong alone reflected his peace. As one of the students who was violently suppressed by the Chinese government for their demonstrations in Tiananmen Square, Shen Tong, a twenty-one-year-old student of biology, spoke eloquently of the student movement and its interrelation with the rest of the world. I was reminded of the time back in May as I watched the demonstrations in Tiananmen Square on television. I remember the contrast of the Beijing students to American students was striking. They were fighting for their lives for the freedom of speech and we have a democracy and so readily take it for granted. Because we have the "so-called" freedom of speech in our country does not mean that our struggle is over. I believe with Shen Tong as he quoted Martin Luther King, "Injustice for one is injustice for all."

Although this same ballroom at

(Continued on Page 7)

## To the Editors:

Several students from Rhodes attended Shen Tong's lecture on Freedom for the 90's which was part of the Memphis State Perspective series. Each of us had our own reaction to the peaceful young man's comments but all of us were touched by Shen's ability to make connections between Chinese history, the American civil rights movement, music, leaders

of the 60s, recent political events, and his leadership in creating a political movement. We felt somewhat guilty as we realized someone our age had actually changed the course of world events far into the future rather than just dress radically and complain about the problems. Movement similar to his was initiated in our country by students in the sixties. Why was that

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## The Sou'wester

The *Sou'wester* is the official student newspaper of Rhodes College. It is published every Thursday throughout the fall and spring semesters with the exception of holidays and exam periods. The office is #10 in the Briggs Student Center. Staff meetings are held there each Tuesday night at 6:00 and all students are welcome to attend.

Interested parties are encouraged to write letters to the Editor, which may be delivered to the office or sent via campus mail. Any letter for publication may be edited for clarity, length, or libelous content.

Student publications at Rhodes are governed by the Publications Board — the Editor-in-Chief and Asst. Editor are the elected representatives of that Board. The opinions expressed in editorials and featured columns are those of the editors and contributing writers and do not necessarily represent the official viewpoints of Rhodes College.

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The Sou'wester  
Rhodes College

2000 N. Parkway • Memphis, TN 38112

726-3970

## SUBURBAN Saw

So you say that the dead of winter's got you down. Hard, cold light that makes everything look dry and brittle is enough to make you scream. Winter need not be a horrendous experience. Why suffer through the down time of the year when you can put the time to good use in sharpening your Skills o' Evil? By the time the first thaw comes, you can be Chock Full o' Satan—a good thing to be at times.

Without a doubt, the best way to start exercising your powers of darkness is by playing "Drive Yer Roommate Crazy." An amusing little game with dark implications, DYRK is a favorite from way back. Couples do it to become uncoupled. You yourself had some of the best training in the world if you had a younger brother or sister.

"But wait," you say in unison. "We are the bestest roomies in the whole world. We do all kinds of stuff. We like the same things. We compromise. Living in the same room in

## HOW TO BE EVIL, Part I by Web Webster

### Fun and Games in the Dead of Winter

bliss."

Hah. No Way. Forget it. Nosireebob.

Who better to drive to the absolute brink than the alien in the bed above? They live with you so you know everything about them. Their weaknesses, their soft points, their little tender nery places that you can poke with a blunt dental probe—there are beaucoup de things that you can do to drive your roommate crazy. Doing so is a wonderful way to pass cold winter months when the only thing better to do is watch soaps or study.

First, change your laundry habits. If roomie's a neatnik, embrace slobbery with both arms and legs. If she irons T-Shirts, state "I love wearing things wrinkled. Wrinkledwrinkled-wrinkled. Love it. Mmm-hmm sure do." Past experience has shown that letting your laundry go two weeks before washing it is a surefire way to start your roomoid on his or her way to one of the finest peptic ulcers

available anywhere. Huge piles of sporting equipment in the bathroom work too. When your roommate asks you "How do I look?" look at him/her briefly, then look at a point just above their shoulder. Say "Fine."

Music is another important annoyance point. Whatever your roommate listens to, you should be prepared to listen to it's absolute antithesis at all hours of the day. Combinations like R.E.M. and Hank Jr. or Classical and Wrathchild U.S.A. are surefire indigestion cause-ers. Be prepared to go out and buy a Walkman and listen to it all the time. Hum the most bothersome part of the song. Over and over. Badly.

In no time flat, roomuloid will be in tears.

Erase messages on the answering machine. The more important the message (those concerning money and members of the opposite sex are a big favorite) the more imperative it is that you erase it. When asked about it reply

## How to handle the news of a death in the family

by Jason Files

I sat  
with my  
crossword puzzle  
and  
filled in  
the answers  
with a  
black pen  
in the  
black spaces

with a blank stare, then continue to read a magazine or book he or she hates.

Leave the windows open. Or set the thermostat to "Causes Wool to Shrink," whichever is the more intensely annoying.

Play the Door Game. As your roommate babbles on about boring things and boring people, close a sliding glass door on them, pantomime style. Look away as you slide the door shut. I've had this done to me. It is, without a doubt the most psychologically incapacitating thing that you can do.

Mastery of this one is an essential skill to master if you will drive your roommate as crazy as he or she is capable of being driven.

When your roommate's current love comes over, flirt with her. Give her a big hug. Shoot your roommate a "Hah hah you weak girlie-man" look. Forget to flush.

Leave cups of tobacco spit on the night stand.

Set your clock radio for six. Learn to sleep through it.

If your roommate walks the straight and narrow, consider taking up a life

## LIVING TOGETHER: Code of Conduct Blues, Part 2

by F. Grant Whittle

Dean Shandley heated up the Code of Conduct debate last week by presenting a draft to the Roundtable and to the SRC. I thought it appropriate to take another look at this controversial subject.

**Out of the blue, into the frying pan.**

I quietly attended Steve Ham-buchen's ODK Input Forum and there it was: a draft of the Code of Conduct. This object of speculation and intrigue had suddenly become something real and concrete and not altogether comforting. It descended upon us like a hawk from above, and looked like it thought it was the received truth. Needless to say I didn't like it. Instinctively, I hate the idea of a Code of Conduct. But since it has materialized out of thin air, there is probably nothing we can do to make it go away. What we can do is figure out how to make it better.

**Are employees of this college not part of the community?**

I didn't get past the first line of the draft before I was angry. It referred exclusively to students, and as far as I can tell, this Code is not intended to apply to anyone but the students. Of course, what this implies is that students don't know how to act and should be told so, while everyone else at Rhodes does know how to act and it would be stupid to remind them.

I think this is condescending and as you all know I can stand nothing less than being condescended to. Look, if we have to have a Code of Conduct, it should be good enough to apply to anybody, not just students. Anyway, the nature of the document should not be telling people how to act because they don't know. I should be reminding people of standards that we all accept as valid in the Rhodes Community. When I think of our community, I don't just think of students. I think of everyone who lives and works here. We're all in this boat together and it's

up to all of us to make this school a great place to be.

Not only should students have to agree with the Code, everyone at Rhodes should agree with it. It should apply freely to everyone. I have heard arguments that this Code is for the SRC and that the SRC has no jurisdiction over anyone but students. I think differently though. While the Code may be useful to the SRC, it should be a statement of principles that would be useful to everyone, not just as a way to prosecute people who leave chicken parts to dry for days in a social room.

**Just what is a Code of Conduct, anyway?**

I think a basic question has been neglected far too long. Why should we have a Code? Dean Shandley tells me that the SRC wants a Code so that it can say to socially offensive people, "Look, you fools, you agreed to this from the start and you can't plead ignorance because you signed this piece of paper." That's all well and good, but in order for such a document to be of use in that respect it would have to be long and specific. It would have to be a handbook of some sort. If that's what we want, then look at the Student Handbook. What, for God's sake, is that? The draft even refers to the Handbook on two occasions because if can't figure out how to get around it.

The best thing to do in this respect is to take a long hard look at the handbook. Get someone who knows what he's doing to run through it, organize it, cut out the deadwood, write a decent index, and make certain that all the stupid little details about not urinating on the carpets and drinking beer in front of the Assistant Dean before 3:30 p.m. without offering her a can are there and are easy to find. If that's what the SRC wants, then we need not concern ourselves with a Code of Conduct at all.

Lets rethink our purpose for having a Code of Conduct, then. What should

a Code of Conduct be? First, it should be an agreement among all the members of Rhodes College about what ideals we all agree upon when it comes to living together. It should have nothing to do with rules, since those are covered in the Student Handbook. Second, it should be a document phrased in positive statements, detailing things that we should do rather than things we should not do. Third, it should be as brief as possible, realizing that people can't digest information readily. Its purpose should be



to inspire, to give us something we can stand behind (like the Honour Code).

**The kids are all right, aren't we?**

The way some people talk about it, it sounds like all the students at Rhodes are asocial reprobates who don't bathe and are just looking to make everybody else's life a living hell on a donut. Wake up, people! Most of us are pretty swell. We know how to act and we act that way. We're good to each other for the most part and we respect our elders if they're worth respecting. When I said "Treat other people's things as you would treat your own," someone asked me about those people who like to pour beer into their stereo systems? (That may not have been quite what he said, but that was the gist of it.) I say, Look, I really don't think there are many people like that, thank you, and if you do, then you have a pretty crummy perspective of Rhodes students and that makes me really sad. Anyhow, if someone used that as an excuse at an SRC trial, he should get kicked out on his butt and soon. You underestimate most of us (granted, there are excep-

tions: people do vandalise property and abuse each other, but it happens everywhere, not just at Rhodes) when you tell us that we have to be told how to act towards one another.

**A Code of Conduct even F. Grant could live with**

My purpose in writing the following Code is to offer some alternative to the draft which was presented last week. It is phrased as a pledge and states positive actions instead of making negative rules. It has been my purpose to write a Code we can all agree with and a Code we can all stand behind. (Lord knows if I succeeded.) Further, I have tried to emphasize a spirit of respect rather than concretely defining activities which are socially offensive since it is the purpose of the Student Handbook to lay down those rules, and further, it is the job of the SRC to interpret them. If it can't be "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," then why can't it be something like this?

In order to promote harmony at Rhodes College:

I pledge to treat the members of the Rhodes College Community, that is, anyone who lives, works, or learns here, with conscientious respect, honour, kindness and even-handedness.

I pledge to respect the property of other members of the community, treating all such property with care equal to or greater than that I would wish accorded to my own property. Further, realizing that the communal property of Rhodes College, that is, its buildings and grounds and all encompassed within, serves to benefit all members of the community, I pledge to act in such a manner as to preserve this property for others to use after me.

Remembering that the reason Rhodes College exists is to promote the intellectual development of the members of the community, I pledge to help create an en-

vironment that encourages reasoned discourse and action, acting in a way that promotes this intellectual pursuit for every member of the community.

**For best results: involve the students.**

I know the administration has been trying to involve the students in the formulation of a Code of Conduct, but the efforts have not been strong enough. Dorm meetings are pretty useless way to go about it. (Who goes to dorm meetings, anyway? Just geeks like myself. All the smart people live off campus). We need to slow down—there hasn't been enough discourse on campus to warrant a draft being handed down by the administration. I think that if all possible we need to elect a committee of students and other members of the community to draft a Code of Conduct.

Further, what happens after a draft is created? First take it to individual meetings of small groups of students. Try to include everyone. So what if it takes a little more time? Get them to refine it further. Have the elected committee collate these suggestions and produce a final draft and then have it subjected to a line by line vote by everyone at Rhodes: students, faculty, administrators, security guards, housekeeping, everyone. This is the only way I can see being able to get behind any Code of Conduct and support it wholeheartedly.

And even after the Code is implemented, at the beginning of every year, every member of the community should sit down once more in groups and talk about what it means to live together harmoniously. They should discuss what the implications of the Code are and how to make sure the spirit of the Code is respected by everyone on the campus. This will encourage awareness and awareness will encourage us to act responsibly.

I think it is especially appropriate to end this column by saying Peace.

## CSPA Sponsoring Political Singer

In an attempt to promote community building and bring together many factions on the Rhodes College campus, the Committee for Social and Political Awareness (CSPA) is sponsoring a concert and workshop by Fred Small on March 21 and 22. Fred is a singer, songwriter, lecturer educated at Yale and the University of Michigan law school. He gave up his career at law school to pursue his musical interests and became a success worldwide. His concert will consist of songs about various political and social issues, and about "people of courage, gentleness, and toughness, and love, who inspire us to move forward" in spite of the complexities of life today. His workshop will deal with male socialization. Fred will help participants "examine the assumptions and pressures that too often keep men locked in the traditional masculine roles of provider, worker, soldier" and how this influences male and female relationships.

CSPA believes that Fred's visit will help challenge the entire community to reflect seriously on the multitude of social and political dilemmas facing America—at a time when American college students are being criticized

for their apathy when compared to students leading revolutions all over the world. As well, the Greek organizations' sponsoring of a talk by Mark Muesse on a male socialization last fall, the formation of a student run women's action coalition, and the approval of the formation of a Women's Studies program all seem evidence that Fred's focus on feminist issues and male socialization in his music and workshop will be an appreciated addition to discussion on campus concerning these topics.

You or your organization's support, however, will be crucial to making Fred's visit a success. Currently CSPA has \$800 to spend toward the concert, while \$1500 is needed. We are asking for donations, as small or large as possible to cover the costs. As well, we need the names of interested people who might be able to house Fred while he is here, who would enjoy eating and talking with him during his stay, and who would be interested in attending his workshop. Please send Lynn Tiede or Kai Lee your donations (by January 31) and/or name and area of interest in working with CSPA to make this a community strengthening experience.

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EO / AA

## Countdown to Earth Day - Part II

by Tony Britten

As we count down to Earth Day 1990, students at Rhodes can reflect with pride on their environmental activism through Campus Green's recycling program.

With this commitment we have recycled over 700 pounds of aluminum cans, which means 17,500 individual acts of environmental awareness. It adds up. Over 95% of the energy required to manufacture aluminum from ore is saved by recycling cans. According to a publication of *Recycle!Nashville*, recycling just one can is the equivalent of 6 ounces of oil saved.

If this figure is correct (and one must be careful with oft abused environmental stats) then we have saved a total of 820 gallons of oil. This is enough to keep one 100 watt light bulb burning 24 hours a day for six years. Imagine, you could go through your entire education at Rhodes plus two years of Grad school studying non-stop under the same damn light

bulb! Even if one uses more conservative figures, the benefits of aluminum recycling are apparent.

The paper recycling program has been an equal success—by the time you read this article, Rhodes will have recycled over 700 pounds of computer paper. According to Earth Care, a recycled paper company, "Producing one ton of paper from discarded waste paper uses half the energy, half the water, results in 74% less air pollution and 35% less water pollution, saves 17 pulp trees, reduces . . . waste . . . and creates five times more jobs than producing a ton of paper from virgin wood pulp."

Campus Green also buys recycled paper, which helps create consumer demand. Low demand is one among many reasons that recycled paper is more expensive than virgin pulp—an article in itself. Suffice it to say that it is not enough to recycle unless we also buy recycled. The quality of the recycled paper is not a problem at all—it looks great! The student and

faculty Energy Committee is looking into College purchases of recycled paper. Campus Green can take a lead role in consolidating student orders for recycled paper so we can buy in bulk at a lower cost. Creating the demand is up to you! (Contact G. Shirley 3188 or T. Britten, 278-2528).

Together, we have made a difference and will continue to make a difference. There is no doubt we can double and triple the amount recycled at Rhodes. We have already exceeded last year's totals for aluminum and computer paper. The response to recycling thus far has been so great that we simply can't keep up. Campus Green sincerely apologizes to students in dorms where cans have piled up. We are solving this problem by asking that one student on each dorm floor becomes a Campus Green representative. If we share the load, keeping up the boxes takes as little as five to ten minutes per week. The more energetic members can help load the Rhodes van every couple of weeks.

## On A Dead Train Station

by Stuart Chapman

As you drive south on Second Street downtown, the first thing that you notice are the churches. These sturdy, reverent, decorative buildings dot every corner determinedly, remnants of some past time when Memphis was a rivertown. It was a time when every citizen's worth depended on that mile-wide, muddy swath of power. Everything was of or from the river: if the Mississippi dried up and disappeared, so would Memphis. The church members are dwindling now, but still they cling to that time when they were the center of the river town.

You continue riding south on Second, where before you is the green mansard roof of the Exchange Building and its eternally fixed clock hands. You look off to Court Square on your right where the only animated thing among the stark black trees is the spouting, arched fountain. The people sitting around the fountain stare blankly at its flow. Later you know that there will be the clopped stamp of the horses moving over the cobblestones, but now in the gray winter day there is nothing of that.

You pass the Peabody and then turn right and again left and find yourself driving south on Main past the Orpheum where the people are pouring in under the brilliant marquee. You continue down South Main past the low, flat-facaded line of shops and small hotels and cafes. The buildings are plain, simple, unpretentious; everything straightforward, directly before you, creating (unintentionally, of course) an atmosphere in which even the notched pediments and couchant corbels do not seem out of place.

You take the small bend in the road, and suddenly, there before you is the train station, rising saliently out of the modest district. Your eyes follow its strong pilastered facade upward, to the slightly recessed area of offices which climb for five stories or more. You pull up across from the train station and

stop your car.

Chiseled neatly in the stone at the top of the facade, the letters CENTRAL STATION stare down at the sidewalked entrance. Fifty years ago, when eighty trains were running daily, a person standing out at the entrance would have been accosted by persistent newspaper boys and adamant hotel wives and trampled upon by ladies of the evening. Now, fifty years later, it is empty and there is nothing. The mayor and the city are talking about razing this worthless building, this expenditure of space. These orators speak volubly of the need for bringing business back to the depressed South Main area. They rant and rave about how the train station must come down, even though lots to the west and south hold nothing but weeds and a few shards of glass. A shoulder budge opens the door, spraying dust everywhere, and then there are the steps up to the waiting room. No one sits on the rows of scrolled wooden benches; only the pale yellow and green flakes of fallen paint from walls and roof decorate the wine-colored benches. A placard of "Chicago" still rests in the slots for departures and arrivals.

There is little extraordinary about the building. It is the same unadorned interior from the 1920s which you still see sometimes in churches and old lodge halls. But it is special because it is an indelible mark on Memphis history, the first sight of Memphis many people had after they had made the wide sweep of the city before coming in along the river to the station where they disembarked and checked into the Ambassador Hotel or Frank James Hotel.

At the end of the waiting room is the curved counter where tickets were sold. On both sides of the counter are double doors leading up to a set of stone steps. Water stands in stagnant pools on the steps and a broken-necked bottle of Wild Irish Rose sits next to

the rail. Through the antechamber with pigeon shit and broken glass is the platform where people used to gather while they waited for the train. Five thick metal barriers stand side-by-side in front of a platform, the last obstacle in halting a still-moving train. From here the waiting passengers used to board the train. Now they cannot board the train from here. The tracks do not run from the platform. Only weeds and pieces of track and spikes.

There is a picture in my room above my desk. It is a picture of the old train station in Birmingham. You almost cannot believe that it is the Birmingham station, because, for one thing, it reeks of erudite Byzantine architecture and for another, it is gold, almost bronze. There is nothing of the black coal which poisons the air and makes breathing difficult. And I could tell the address: the 2700 block of 2nd Avenue North. But you could look all day and never find it, for it was razed when a new highway was needed to speed people to and from the suburbs. The Birmingham station is no more, and once the pictures are gone, it will be efficiently erased from our memory. It is history, our history, the building from which many visitors gained the first glimpse of Birmingham. You might say, "Yes, but why keep it? It was wasteful, no longer needed. Are all ancient decrepit buildings to be kept up? What about Progress? What about amelioration?"

Admittedly, we are a country bent on striving ahead, determined to be first in everything, willing to demolish anything which might serve as a deterrent to this modern-day Manifest Destiny. We do not know the word "Permanent."

My only plea is that we step back, think it out, take some time in consideration before allowing that fatal steel ball to destruct the irreplaceable special monuments and creations of those who have gone before.

# NUCLEAR ARMS

## Brainchild of the Extreme Left

by S. Stinson Liles

There is a global running joke in international relations and it is based on the speculation that the best thing a country can do for its economy is to lose a war with the United States. With the ensuing protection and support that these countries receive, they can rebuild with newer and better methods and materials to the point that the final product is a worthy (if not superior) competitor. It's amazing that there are any countries out there that would want to win a war with us . . . but there are. This realization has sent the United States on an understandable crusade to prevent any such attempts. The result is an ungodly stockpile of enough nuclear weapons to destroy the world countless times.

If anything, we should be lessening the amount of nuclear arms that we hold for deterrence purposes (presumably all since there are no plans to the best of my knowledge for a United States first strike any time soon). The threat that we felt during the cold war is diminishing. Dramatic changes in East Germany, Poland and Hungary are symbolic of the declining Eastern threat. Richard Nixon wrote earlier this year in "Foreign Affairs", "(Gorbachev) has substituted the wiles of diplomacy for the threat of force as his chosen instrument for foreign policy conquests."

The shrinking likelihood of a nuclear threat does not, however, insure that a conflict will not occur. What if we reduce our weaponry only to find Gorbachev out and a crazed Soviet Hitler in his place? Proponents of this argument fail to explore the fact that this tyrant will have fewer weapons, also. Let's make the cuts now while there is a receptive Soviet leader. Also, should such a leader ever gain office, the last thing we would want to do is provoke him or her (maybe Raisa) with a huge number of intimidating warheads. This brings me to the issue of the provocative nature of nuclear deterrence.

Stockpiling nuclear weapons for use as a deterrent may intimidate a foreign leader into complying with our wishes . . . but it could also very well instill an anxiety that could lead to disaster. We have been in the nuclear age for next to no time and this has already come close to occurring. During the Cuban Missile crisis, this practice on

the parts of both superpowers proved far from preventative. What Kennedy thought to be a sound defensive move led Krushchev and other Soviet officials to protect themselves and Cuba from what they saw as American challenges (e.g. developments in Europe and Turkey). Both powers, through "deterrence", brought about rather than prevented a critical situation. In a recent reunion of Soviet and American officials involved in the crisis to discuss the events that took place with new freedom, all of the Russian delegates agreed that these developments as well as "assertions of strategic superiority exacerbated Soviet strategic insecurities."

If the government is bent on the steady fattening of our military resources for deterrence, the best alternative would be conventional. Nuclear weapons rarely comply with what are called "The Laws of War." These laws dictate that weapons be discriminating, protective of non-combatants and not particularly inhumane ("Critique of Nuclear Deterrence," Adam Roberts). There few laws governing the use of nuclear weapons. We may think that we have things under control, but the same is true for nuclear power. On paper, nuclear is clean, safe and highly productive; accidents (Chernobyl), however, do happen. Is such a heavy reliance on nuclear weaponry an invitation to disaster?

Finally, nuclear research gobbles far more money than most conventional buildup. The Catholic Church, which supports nuclear deterrence to moderate degree, agreed at a bishops' meeting in June of 1988 that

The cost of the arms competition is a continuing indictment of its role in international politics. The Distortions in resource allocation by the superpowers and other nations—large and small, rich and poor—fit John Paul's description of a "structure of sin."

He rightly describes present global patterns of military spending as a process leading towards death rather than development.

The heavy reliance we put on our nuclear arsenal is self-destructive. The U.S. needs to swallow its pride for a few moments and make a decision that benefits its own people as well as those of the world.

## From the Middle of The Fence

by Mark Albright

Okay. Nuclear arms. We all hate 'em. Right? I mean, I sure don't want to live in constant fear of imminent and complete destruction. So get rid of them All of 'em.

Of course, I don't like those Russians, either. I mean, the last thing we need is a bunch of Communist aggressors breathing down our neck in Europe. I'll just bet the minute we let our guard down they'll come rolling in with those tanks and it'll be so long freedom, justice, and the American Way. That does seem to be the most important thing on their minds, right? No inner conflicts to deal with at all. The truth of the matter is, there's only one way to stop them: scare 'em. Threaten them with complete, unconditional destruction of the Earth for them and their children and every generation to come. That'll stop them.

On the other hand, do we really want to actually use all those nukes? What would be the point? Would they ever use theirs on us? Why can't we all just get rid of them? I mean, I thought whenever you stopped throwing snowballs and started making slushballs, you usually just pack the whole game in and go have some hot chocolate. Of course, I don't have much experience in these matters.

On the other hand, why did we let ourselves get behind in the conventional game to begin with? Why do we have to keep spending more money on nukes anyway? I mean, you can only blow up the neighborhood once. I'm generally not impressed by people who threaten to blow it up more times than I can. So why can't we just be happy for a while with blowing it up once, and spend more money on conventional weapons. I mean, I'm not naive enough to believe this is going to be a completely peaceful world we live in.

On the other hand, you never know.

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## Light From the Far Right

by Kenneth Geers

To what depths of naiveté, with history in all its ugly entirety as a witness, are we still willing to sink on the question of human nature? Deterrence is not only an intrinsic and necessary part of NATO strategy, but it is something we all must live with every day of our lives. It's what keeps folks from knocking you on the head with a tire iron and taking all your goodies.

The first and foremost thing that I ask you in this era of good feeling (Azerbaijan?) that has recently been ushered in is that you not get carried away. William Sloane Coffin, one of America's most prolific advocates of "no-nukes" strategy has said that Russian "reformers come rarely and rarely last long. It behooves us to . . . sign as many arms-reduction treaties as we can in the coming months". Looking past the initial gaping holes in this line of argument, it is precisely for this reason that we should not adopt such an inane policy. The Soviet Union has something like sixty thousand tanks. That is enough to fill the enrollment of the University of Texas and our beloved school combined, with some left over. Our defense against this extraordinarily numerous menace is the nuclear battleground weapon, with which we pick them off, groups at a time. Remember that it is all-important you understand this concept without which NATO strategy appears somewhat farcical.

Not so very long ago, this question of disarmament was initiated by none other than the good ole USA. We offered to cut all nukes with a range of 600 to 3500 miles. After long deliberation they saw us and upped it from 300 to 600, and now wish to eliminate them entirely. All out of the goodness of their hearts. Well (of course), not really. In doing so, by playing upon

the tender hearts of Westerners bored to no end with their freedom, Gorbachev is methodically removing deterrence. Remember the tire iron and the goodies? And no matter how much you like Gorby (I do too, you know), you can't forget that, just as your liberal ally Mr. Coffin has conceded, the Soviet system is shaky enough that if perestroika doesn't succeed, he won't get to enjoy the fine wine and caviar of the Kremlin for long.

Another major point not to lose sight of is that of verification. Let's suppose that we didn't know that the Soviet Union had cheated on the SALT I, SALT II ABM, and chemical and biological agreements we have made with them in the past. We still can never be sure, especially in a closed society such as the one we're dealing with. The only way we know how many SS-20's they have now is through our own aerial reconnaissance, and what they tell us—which are two different numbers. Still yet another is that no matter what we say or do, the knowledge of how to make nuclear weapons will still exist. Common sense tells us that just because two countries agree to do something, doesn't mean that a third, or the hundred and fifty-second, or some silly yet potentially lethal individual will follow suit. A decent parity, however difficult to attain, is far, far better than utter chaos.

Bear in mind that the cause of our frustration is the intent to use a weapon, any weapon, and not its physical being. This applies to a slingshot as well as an ICBM. The nuclear weapons that we have are serving a good purpose. Take them all away, and we have no defense against an incredibly inconsistent government with more tanks and troops than Massachusetts has liberals.

## Suburban Scrawl

(Continued From Page 3)

of pseudo-sin. (Let it be SAFE pseudo-sin. These are trying times.) This is, without a doubt, the Grandiosimous Huge Big Thing to do to bother the doo doo out of your year-long live-in couch potato.

Two things can happen. Your roommate takes it without a word, in which case you should give up completely. You're not effective as an evil person if you haven't driven them to the end of their proverbial rope within one-half semester. Give up and take up mis-

sonary work. I think the Osmonds need a tour manager. For those of you determined to completely insane-ify the troll, make the pseudo-sin into a real-live, up-til-hours-unholy-goin'-to-hell-see-you-there sin. Two Weekends. Good bye.

Plain old evil things are fun to do. Leave for the weekend and take her car. Smoke in bed. Blow the smoke towards the top bunk. Infect his MacIntosh with an Evil MacVirus. Rearrange the room when she goes out

drinking. Put old bananas in the closet. However, these hardly require the subtlety that these more delicate tortures do. Doing these heinous little things is wonderful because you can't be pegged with anything. An innocent "Who Me? Jeez. What a temper" look is enough to get you off the hook most times.

Try some of these things. There is a perverse pleasure in bothering your roommate. All of the things mentioned here are tried and true methods and available for use to the public. You might combine two or three of them in a Comprehensive Plan for Evilness.

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## War Sucks, The New Message From Fourth of July

by Thomas Layfield  
Movie Editor

Commercials, cover stories, and interviews — we've been glutted with publicity for **Born on the Fourth of July** ever since it was released just in time for Oscar considerations. Director Oliver (Platoon) Stone's adaptation of the Ron Kovic story has proudly displayed its "Big Event" button for over a month now, while proclaiming gushings from jubilant reviewers nation-wide. All this surprised me just a bit. From what I could tell, the film didn't promise to be particularly touching or patriotic, and now that I've seen it, I can say that it is neither of those two, nor is it a particularly good movie. But maybe none of this matters. After all, **Born on the Fourth of July** is "a very big picture," as Richard Corliss has decreed, and he's right. A big-name director, whose last film was a big success, has teamed with a big-name star (Tom Cruise) and a big script to create a long movie (well over two hours) with a message in all caps: WAR SUCKS. It may well be the cinematic equivalent of John Holmes.

Cruise plays Ron Kovic, a naive, robust, God-fearing, Catholic good citizen who volunteers for the Marines after a recruiter speaks to his senior class. Ron wants to go to Vietnam, to "stop the spread of Communism," and his mother agrees that it is "God's will" that he should go. A few years later, at age twenty-one, Ron returns from the war with a severed spine and

the knowledge that he will never walk or father a child. Gradually, he develops sympathies with the anti-war protestors, but only after a long period of alcohol, anger, and fights with his family and anyone else who will listen. Ron becomes a member of the Veterans Against the War and eventually is invited to speak at the Democratic National Convention in 1976, where the movie ends.

From its opening slow-motion scene of a 4th of July celebration, the film is overpowering by means of sheer volume, both decibel- and content-wise. John Williams' score is both grandiose and deafening; in its majesty, it even drowns out the dialogue at a few points. The script (written by Stone and Kovic), meanwhile, is a failed attempt at an epic. Characters who seem important for a time often disappear from our sight. After an argument at home in which Ron, in a drunken rage, screams the word "penis" because 1) he has a catheter instead of one, and 2) his mother has forbidden him to use that word in her house. We never see his mother or the rest of his family again. Ron's high-school girlfriend shares this disappearing fate; after an altercation between the police and anti-Vietnam students at her college, Ron apparently never sees her again. Even though the movie lasts nearly two and a half hours, it doesn't have enough time to develop completely most of what I think it wanted to accomplish.

Of course, it's not easy to decide just

what **Born on the Fourth of July** wants to be. Its goal is definitely more than that of a biography, because clearly there is a political message involved here somewhere. I'm just not sure exactly what the message is. Stone avoids in-depth considerations of the wrong motives of Vietnam in particular, but the sentiment is certainly anti-war. Unfortunately, Stone fails to focus much of any attention on either the student activists or Kovic's Veterans Against the War. Perhaps they weren't loud enough.

Cruise's performance is admirable, but a far cry from exceptional. While there's no denying the power of his many gut-wrenching scenes, the reason most of these are affecting is that Stone forces the audience to watch what we generally regard as "unpleasant" events. Cruise is best when conveying Ron's anger and frustration with his impotent condition. In fact, the hero's loss of manhood seems to constitute the film's primary concern at times.

I think I liked this movie more while watching it than on reflection. In its most impressive moments, Stone's film tells an important story and forces consideration of important events. But at its worst, it is more manipulative than a Spielberg film. Excruciatingly overblown and a bit sloppy, **Born on the Fourth of July** doesn't nearly live up to the hype. But I doubt if this will be recognized by the majority of its audiences who have grown accustomed to the maxim that bigger is better.

## The American Dream Wakes Itself

by Steve Hambuchen

**Roger & Me**, a feature-length documentary/comedy on the rise and fall of a one-time industrial boomtown, is just the thing to disillusion anyone who thinks that corporate practices are always moral and ethical. The film opens with black and white family films and snapshots, accompanied by a narrator who becomes the semi-star of the story among a totally random cast (including Pat Boone, Bob Eubanks, Ms. America and a cameo appearance by Ralph Nader). Michael Moore, a native of Flint, Michigan, tells us the tale of the American Dream, a dream realized by the citizens of Flint thanks to the American Industrial Revolution and General Motors. Practically Moore's entire family worked for GM in Flint,

in some division or another, and by blue-collar standards were able to live quite comfortably. All was well and good until a few years ago when GM realized that more immediate profits could be made where the labor is dirt cheap . . . It leaves the dreamers in Flint shaken to a rude awakening: nearly 50,000 jobs are lost and the economy is left to wither and die in the wake of the factory pull-out.

Roger of **Roger & Me** is GM corporate head Roger Smith, the guy Moore believes is most responsible for the lay-offs and whom Moore is trying to interview throughout the film. Moore tries to find him at a number of places, including yacht clubs and health spas, but no luck. Between the detective sequences Moore gives accounts of the real citizens of

Flint, fired from their jobs and evicted from their homes. One of the most well done portions of the film is where Smith's Christmas Eve good tidings speech is spliced together with footage of someone being evicted from their home on that very day.

Moore has never made a film before and knew practically nothing about how it's supposed to be done. Nevertheless, this insightful work has won a tremendous amount of critical acclaim and has been placed in the top ten of the year by many well-respected movie reviewers. He shows amazing insight in delivering an often humorous punch of reality. Moore shows us the people who paid for the success of an international corporation and how they did it: with their jobs, their homes and their dreams.

## Brooks Museum Reopens

by Crickette Rumley  
Arts Editor

Now is as good a time as any to complain about one of my pet pees about the art world. Many times museums, which claim to be completely accessible to the public, insist on using complicated ideas and phrases in their publicity campaigns without explaining them to the average person. Case in point — the recent reopen-

ing of the Brooks Museum of Art used the theme of "American Modernism Inside and Out." The phrase refers to both the renovation of the facade, the interior design and the exhibition of the Phillips Collection, a collection of the work of some of the most well-known members of the modernism movement.

Now the phrase is indeed catchy. It sounds good. But what does it mean?

In the brochure about the exhibit, it is well-explained, in layman's terms, just what modernism in art is about. No problem — read the brochure, and you know what to look for.

But what about the other half of the phrase, the "Out" part? Just what is so different about the interior and the facade of the building? What was the original building? Can we see some blueprints, some floor plans, some before and after shots?

The directors of the Brooks Museum

## A Review of John Kennedy Toole's The Neon Bible

by S. Stinson Liles

On March 26, 1969, a thirty-one year old John Kennedy Toole ran a piece of garden hose from the exhaust pipe of his running car into one of the rear windows and locked himself inside. Toole ended his life parked just outside of Biloxi, Mississippi, unpublished and in a deep depression. In an introduction, W. Kenneth Holditch tells of the extraordinary story behind **The Neon Bible** (Grove Press, 161 pp, \$15.95) and the life of its New Orleans-born author . . . a story as interesting as the novel itself. After college and graduate school, Toole finished **A Confederacy of Dunces** while serving in the army in Puerto Rico. He took the novel to various publishing houses until Simon and Schuster agreed to work with him on revisions. Toole did gradually revise the work as he fell deeper and deeper into a state of depression. He finally disappeared from his home and his teaching job at New Orleans College and contacted no one until a suicide note was delivered to his parents by the police upon finding the body.

John Kennedy Toole had always lived with his mother and invalid father at home where his salary helped cover the family expenses. As an only child, he became the subject of his mother's deep devotion and the blow of his death sent her health into a steady decline in the following years. One day she stumbled on the **A Confederacy of Dunces** manuscript but, as eight publishers rejected the novel, she began to despair that the world would never recognize what she knew to be her son's brilliance. When Thelma Toole learned that Walker Percy was teaching at Loyola University, she barged into his office with her son's manuscript and announced that it was a masterpiece. Percy was impressed by her adamant approach and agreed to read it. He was amazed at what he found and had the novel published by Louisiana University Press. In 1981, **A Confederacy of Dunces** won a posthumous Pulitzer for Toole and has since been translated into more than ten other languages.

Thelma then remembered that another manuscript existed. When he was sixteen, John had written the manuscript for a novel titled **The Neon Bible** for a contest. Louisiana law, however, presented a problem. Napoleonic Code entitled Thelma's husband's brother and his children to half the rights. Needless to say, they weren't as eager to surrender these as

they had been for **Confederacy**. After years of legal battles, in 1987, a New Orleans judge ruled that the book should be published . . . despite Thelma's freezing of her half of the rights in her will.

The novel itself is no less remarkable than the story behind its release. The story is told from the perspective of a young boy David who, while growing up in a small Southern town, witnesses the judgemental, cruel behavior of the town's society. The attraction of **The Neon Bible** is that David makes the reader understand what he is unable to understand. The voice is curious, but also realistically innocent. David's only true friend (after his father loses his job and they are forced to move into the hills) is his Aunt Mae. The vaudevillian Aunt Mae is in her sixties and, since leaving the stage, has yet to change her ways. Her flamboyant dress and flirting quickly become the talk of the church-dominated town and, as a boy of four and five, David first witnesses the stigma of being on the wrong side of the church and its dues-paying members. As he grows into young manhood, David witnesses the town's coldness and bigotry towards its citizens who have fallen out of favor (even if only for their inability to pay the church dues). The resentment towards Aunt Mae because of her "loose" behavior, the patronizing David receives at school by his teacher (the preacher's wife) for his poverty, and the absence of sympathy for families of World War II casualties like his slowly lead David down a path of realization to the point that he can't stand what he sees.

David's voice is consistent as well as evolving. The language is simple and in keeping with his age and lack of education but is also often sharp in its speculations. On these rare occasions, Toole lapses into cliché and sentimentality and the reader feels a bit manipulated rather than convinced into believing David's observations.

The rest of the work holds together exceptionally well (especially considering the age of the author at its writing) and vividly paints coming of age in a closely-knit, xenophobic Southern community. This makes for light yet very moving and poignant reading. **The Neon Bible** gives us another peek into the too-soon extinguished fire of John Kennedy Toole's potential and an unfulfilled thirst to follow the growth of what would have most certainly been an even more phenomenal career.

of Art spent a great deal of time, effort, and money to remodel the museum. They paid for an extensive and elaborate advertising campaign. But then they got lost somewhere, somehow forgetting to explain the single most obvious change in the museum. And they leave the average person wondering what it was about the new and improved Brooks that he/she was supposed to see.

In actuality, the new Brooks looks good. The Dunavant Rotunda, which

is the entrance, is huge and bright, and echoes magnificently, just like great old museums do. The architects did a great job of incorporating skylights that naturally light the museum, yet are hidden from direct view. The works of art are well-lit and accessible.

There are still a few problems with the museum. The architects were unable to get rid of that gloomy feeling of the bottom floor. Although the rooms are huge and spacious, the gray  
(Continued on Page 7)

## Lynx Endure Tough Trip to Trinity

by Brad Todd  
Sports Editor

By the time the Rhodes College Lynx hit the floor to take on the Trinity University Tigers Saturday night, the weekend had already been excessively long and frustrating. The Tigers soon added to Rhodes' frustration, though, with a 63-60 College Athletic Conference upset victory.

When the game got underway, the Tigers (4-8) stormed out to a 29-22 halftime lead. That advantage swelled to 13 points early in the second half before Rhodes could put together a rally. The Lynx, spurred by the defensive play of junior Taylor Curtis and freshman Callan Nokes, fought back to take a 5-point lead with just over three minutes left.

Trinity's Tom Gerhardt then drained a pair of 3-pointers to put the Tigers up 61-60. Trinity hit two free throws down the stretch while Rhodes went scoreless to make the final 63-60.

Rhodes head coach Herb Hilgeman said poor free throw shooting caused

Rhodes' comeback to fall short. "We missed five front ends of one-and-one situations which could have made the difference."

Hilgeman said that he was not disappointed in his team's performance in light of the circumstances. "It was an extremely long delay two days but they played their hearts out," said Hilgeman.

Hilgeman said that the loss may prove costly to the Lynx down the stretch since it drops Rhodes' record to 10-5. That leaves the Lynx little breathing room if they hope to make their NCAA Division III cutoff point for tourney invitation. "This was a big loss, it was crucial in that respect," Hilgeman said.

James Burden led the Lynx with 21 points while David Fallin came off the bench to score 11 and Taylor Curtis chipped in 10.

**NET NOTES:** Rhodes players are definitely more familiar with the Little Rock airport after this trip since they spent almost 7 hours there Friday.

The Lynx were scheduled to fly out of Little Rock instead of Memphis due to cheaper fares on Delta Airlines flights. After arriving at 1:30, the team checked in and was told that their flight, scheduled for a 3 p.m. departure would leave at 5 p.m. due to a small plane crash in Atlanta that had tied up several Delta planes. Just before the team's plane was to take off at 5:00, a small plane crashed at Little Rock and knocked out the navigation equipment. The airport was closed for the night at 8:30 and the team checked into a hotel in hopes of leaving early Saturday morning. When the airport did not re-open Saturday, the team drove back to Memphis to catch a Northwest Airlines flight to San Antonio. That flight was then delayed 35 minutes and got into San Antonio just in time for the team to go directly to Trinity's campus.

**RHODES (60)** Burden 21, Fallin 11, Curtis 10, Lewis 9, Webb 3, Nokes 3, Harrison 2, Henry 1. **TRINITY (63)** Gerhardt 18, Dussling 13, Smith 12, Janecka 8, Cottingham 8, Gardner 2, Almquist 2.

## Lady Lynx Trounce Sewanee As Culpepper Scores No. 1000

by Jason Parrish

The Rhodes Lady Lynx soundly defeated rival Sewanee Sunday in a 77-28 romp. Using a well-balanced attack, Rhodes never allowed the Lady Tigers an opening. Holding a 53-12 advantage at the half, they never looked back as the raised their record to 11-3 while Sewanee dropped 1-8. Amy Culpepper led the team with 20 points, followed by Trista Branick and Ellen Thompson with 12, and Betsey Greiner with 10. All of Thompson's points came from three point range, where she shot 80% on the day. Trista Branick led the team in rebounding with ten.

The game was exciting for Rhodes besides gaining a victory. Amy Culpepper became the first junior and only the fourth player in Lady Lynx history to score 1000 points. Culpepper needed seven points going into Sunday's game. With less than six minutes elapsed in the first half

Culpepper hit a layup for her 1000th and 1001st points. She is now fourth on the all-time scoring list, behind Melissa Hayes, Lee Walton, and Michelle Henkel. Only approximately 300 points now stands between and the top of Rhodes' all-time scoring list.

The game was stopped as an appreciative crowd cheered and threw toilet paper onto the court at the landmark moment. The newest member of the 1000 point club was presented with roses and a balloon before things settled down and the contest was allowed to continue.

Culpepper said later, "It felt good to score 1000, but that is just a part of my role on the team; some people rebound, some people handle the ball. Now I just normally score." She was also "glad that it happened at home, and not on the road." The Lady Lynx take to the road this weekend to face Sewanee again (Friday night and Fisk (Saturday)).

## Lynx Tied For Second Place in CAC

Rhodes' Saturday night loss to Trinity dropped the Lynx into second-place tie with Fisk in the College Athletic Conference standing. The Lynx have another conference road trip this weekend with games at the University of the South on Friday and at Fisk on Saturday.

Rhodes dropped out of the top six in this week's Division III-South rankings but still received votes. The Lynx

had been ranked sixth last week. That poll will become more important as the season goes on since the CAC lost its automatic bid to the national tournament this year.

If the Lynx are to qualify for the tournament, they will have to do so on their own and the poll is a good indication of where they stand. Typically, five teams from the South region get bids to the national event.

## Brooks

(Continued From Page 6)

stone walls left over from the remodeling in 1950s are more like dungeon walls. Even the lighting doesn't help the situation that much. Furthermore, the museum is still really hard to navigate. There are a lot of corridors that lead to nowhere, and the exhibition rooms do not naturally flow into one another.

At this time, paintings from the Duncan Phillips Collection of American Modernism are on exhibit. The Collection includes the works of such artists as Georgia O'Keefe, Man Ray, Arthur Dove, and other artists. However, this exhibit has been criticized as not containing the works that are most representative of the modernism of the artists. It has been labeled too conservative by many critics.

All in all, the Brooks does have a lot to offer. It has been called one of the best regional museums in the south, and they are going to continue expanding and renovating.



David Fallin goes up for two against a Millsaps defender.

### College Athletic Conference Standings

TEAM	C.A.C.	OVERALL
Centre	3-0	2-1
Rhodes	2-1	10-5
Fisk	2-1	3-8
Sewanee	1-2	4-8
Trinity	1-2	4-8
Millsaps	0-3	5-8

### NCAA Division II South Poll

1. Randolph-Mason	14-2
2. Emory	12-1
3. N.C. Wesleyan	12-3
4. Averett	10-5
5. Washington & Lee	10-4
6. Christopher Newport	12-5

**Others Receiving Votes:**  
Maryville, Ogelthorpe, Rhodes, Stillman

## Letters

(Continued from column 3)

MSU was packed to standing room only when I attended Maki Mandela's speech, the audience in attendance to hear Shen Tong barely filled a quarter of the room even with latecomers. I was embarrassed for our generation. I knew that this speech wasn't well publicized. I knew that MSU was charging us Rhodes students five dollars to be there. Still, I wanted to show him that we mourned the death of his friends, and I wanted him to know that his suppressed movement was not all for naught. Students, friends of Shen Tong, perhaps friends of some of us, died in Tiananmen Square. We are not truly free until massacres like this no longer occur.

Words like homeless, battered women, institutional racism, and the ozone layer are becoming almost

(Continued From Page 2)

cliche to us but they are important issues about people who need help and the environment which is our responsibility to protect. The efforts of Shen Tong and his friends from China are a guide to us all. Shen Tong remarked that his generation of students have more freedom than any other generation in China, yet he and his friends still saw the need to do more. We (especially those of us privileged to go to a school like Rhodes) have more freedom than anywhere else in the world. I think we should actively participate and look for more ways as citizens that we can use our democracy to better the lives of all people.

Jane Wallace

(Continued from column 4)

generation so effective in bringing the issues to the forefront of public attention? Maybe the problems today are a

result of many splintered political groups working simply for their own interests as opposed to working collectively for the interests of the whole. But it seemed in the sixties that a great political force was tapped into but never utilized to its full capacity. In the nineties with our experience in CSPA (and with other political groups on campus), we have lacked the "people force" and commitment to act on the issues that should concern Americans today. It is kind of tragic when a once in a lifetime speaker like Shen Tong comes to speak and only a few Rhodes' faculty and students can find time to inform themselves about the price of freedom. Shen Tong's words must be an inspiration for us: "injustice against one human is injustice against all humans".

Kai Lee and Lynn Tiede

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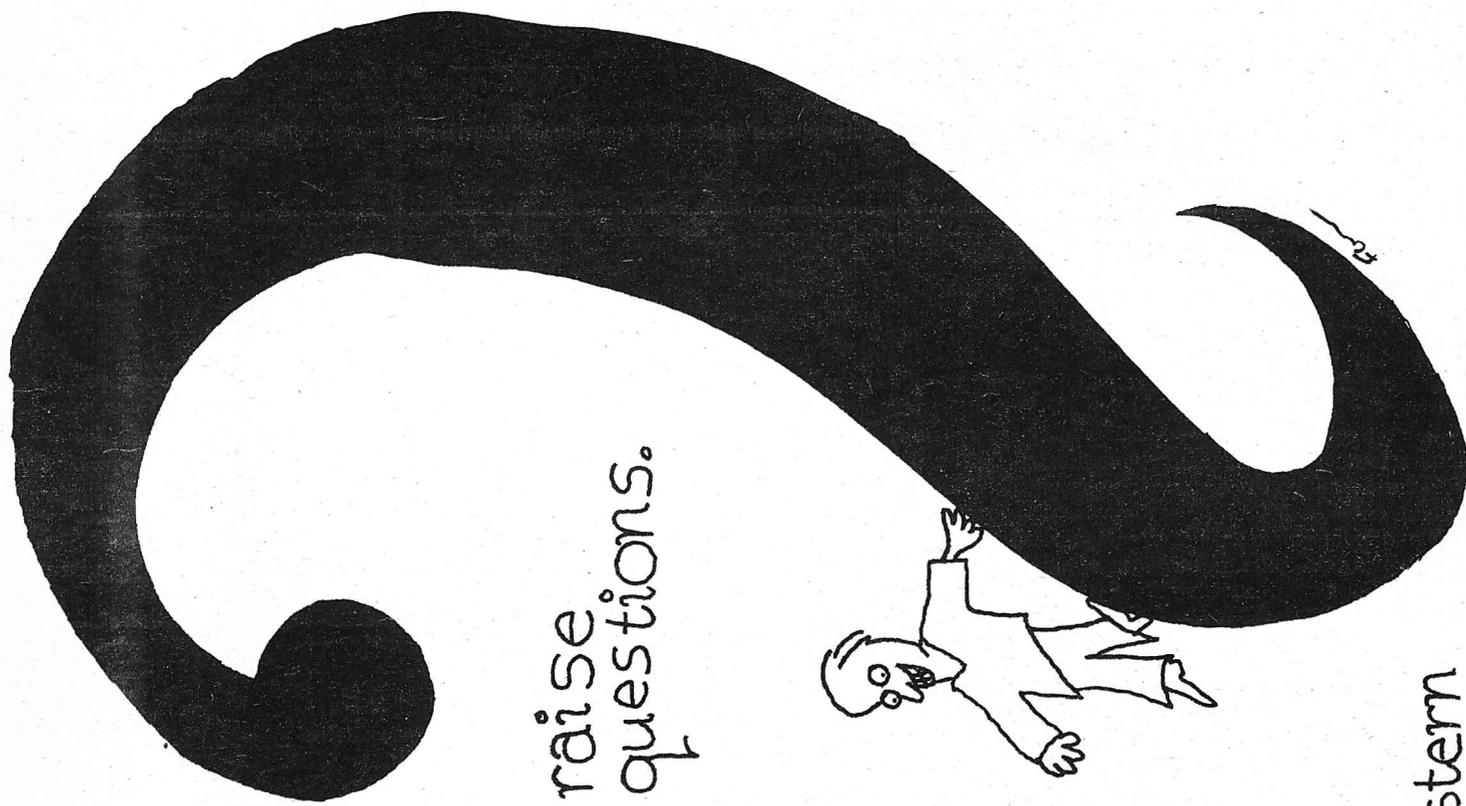
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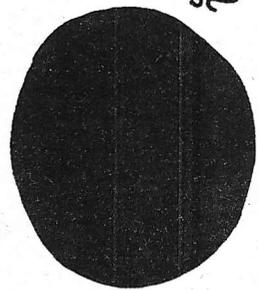


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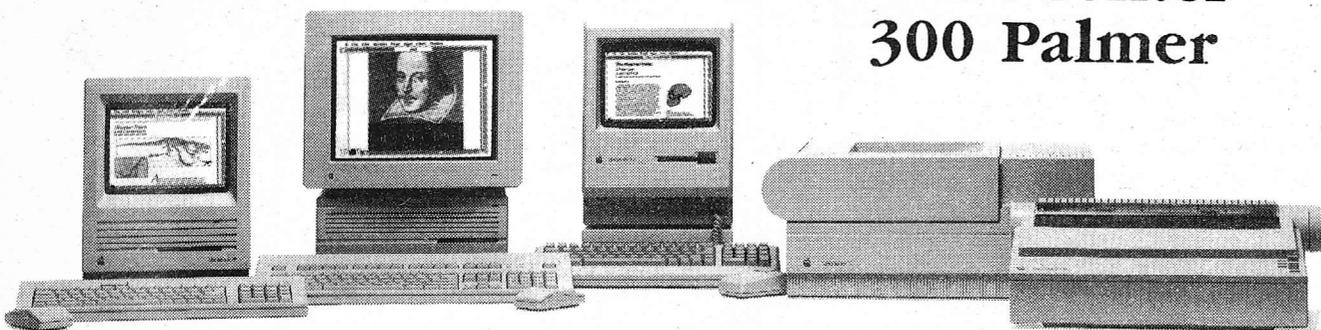
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