

# The Sou'wester

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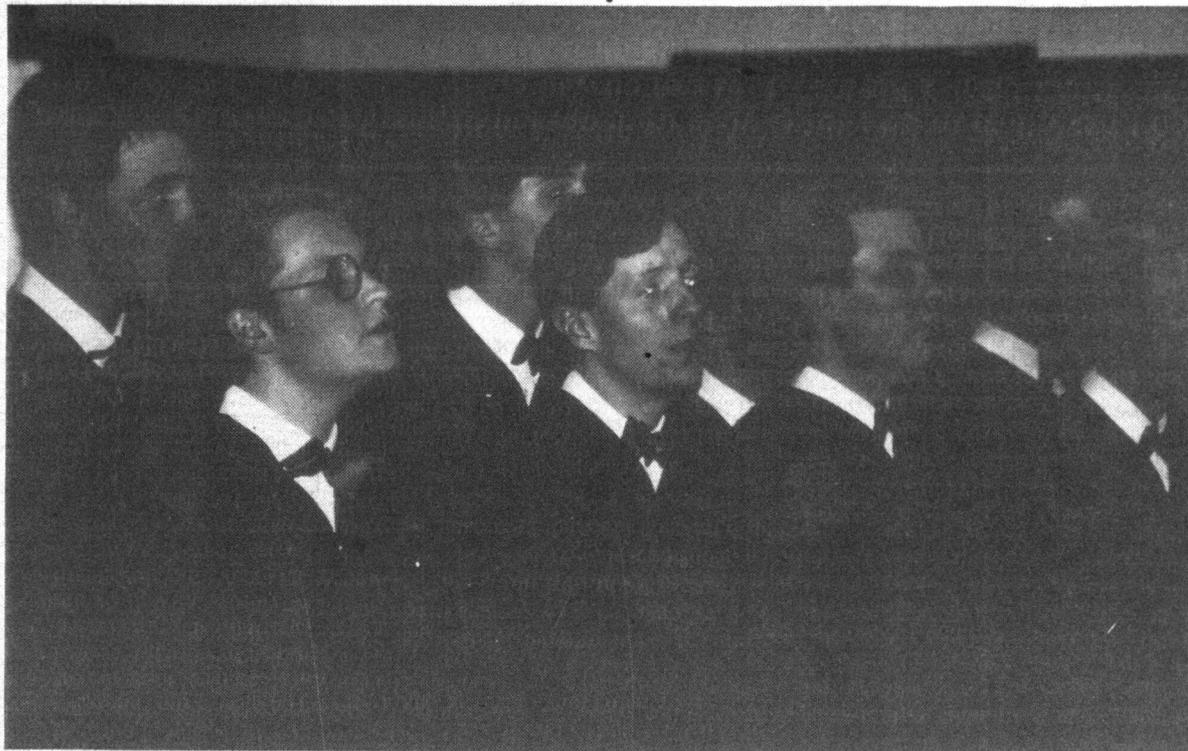


Photo by Elizabeth Timmons

The Wool Socks are caught in a rare serious moment at their annual Christmas concert Friday, December 4th.

## Bug-Eyed Grin Said To Have Violated The College's Religious Purpose

by Brent Moberly  
Campus Editor

The senior pictures are a beloved tradition at Rhodes. They give the seniors a chance to express what they consider most important about themselves and their experience at Rhodes. Seth Adams, however, will not get this opportunity. The administration, headed by Dean Shandley, Dean of Student Affairs, ruled that Adams' picture will not be included in the yearbook because it "violates the religious purpose of the College."

"I feel like I've been singled out," said Seth Adams. "There have been pictures in other yearbooks that I think were far worse than mine. There was a picture in the 1987 yearbook of a sword through a Bible."

Another picture was brought before the Publications Board this year but Adams' picture seems to have been singled out because of its religious content.

The picture depicts Seth Adams on a cross. His hair is pulled down under the crown of thorns. Blood flows from the wound in his side. His face is contorted into what some have described as a "bug-eyed grin."

"I wasn't trying to make people mad," said Adams, "and I wasn't trying to challenge anybody's beliefs, and I wasn't trying to make any sort of deep symbolic statement. It was something I wanted to do. As an English major, I have a certain appreciation for non-conventional depictions of Christ. A lot of the stuff I like to read and write is about that."

"What upsets me," said Adams, "is that they provided no sort of creative guideline. They never told me that I could or couldn't do anything.

I want to know what criteria I was judged by."

That criteria was Elizabeth Young, the editor of the *Lynx*, who thought Adams' picture to be a "mockery of Christian symbolism." She brought the picture before the Publications Board. "I would've done the same thing," she said, "if he did it with a Buddhist symbol and I knew what he was doing."

The Publications Board, however, voted unanimously to include Adams' picture.

Chip Brian, another member of the Board, supported the picture. "I think it is relevant to consider that the picture plays with the religion of the dominant culture. I would feel differently if the picture were a take on the minority religion. Show me a Christian at Rhodes who will feel threatened by this representation."

"I think it's offensive," said Juni Ganguli, yet another member of the Publications Board, "It has no place in a college publication like the year book. It's blasphemous almost." This member did not attend the Publications Board meeting.

The picture was then brought to the administration.

"I felt," said Young, "that the picture could be received by the administration as a mockery of what the college was founded on."

"I don't understand why she brought the picture to us in the first place," said one member of the Publications Board, "if she was just going to bring it to the administration. It negates the purpose of the Publications Board."

Greg Palmer said that he suggested

that Young take the picture to the administration because "of the number of members present (only half were present) and disagreements in the past between the administration and the Board."

The administration, headed by Dean Shandley, overruled the Publications Board. The picture, it ruled, would not be printed because it "violates the religious purpose of the college."

Elizabeth Young agrees with the administration's decision. "Every one who comes to this school comes here with an understanding of its religious background."

Dean Shandley was unavailable for comment, but members of the Publications Board say that he ruled that pictures submitted for the yearbook are subject to the Publications Board and, beyond that, to the administration.

Shandley's decision has upset several members of the Publications Board. "I think that the administration is not really looking toward the students," said one, "because the majority of the Board voted to print it. The school is just using the Publications Board as a figure head. If we make a decision that the administration agrees with, then they endorse us. If not, they overrule us."

Chip Riggs said that the administration's decision "encourages censorship."

"When I joined the Board," said Riggs, "I had no idea that I'd be under the approval or disapproval of Dean Shandley. I understand that we are all a part of a college community and that we are all subject to the whims of the administration, but Shandley's logic bothers me."

Elizabeth Young said that Adams is going to submit another picture.

## Sigma Nus Recolonize

by Gayla Bassham  
Editor

The recolonization of the Sigma Nus is a promise of better things to come for the Greek system at Rhodes. When the Sigma Nus were finally removed from campus last year, few students were surprised. Already considered a "problem" fraternity, their party privileges had been pulled earlier in the year. They owed the national chapter of Sigma Nu over seven thousand dollars. Their conviction on charges of harassment of a college official, alcohol violations, and hazing was the final straw. "All they had really become," says Trey Clark, now the chapter adviser for the Sigma Nus, "was a social drinking club."

Some at Rhodes believed that the removal of the Sigma Nus from campus pointed to a deeper problem with the Greek system. The alcohol policy hit Greek organizations hard. As Bill Jordan, then-contributing editor of the *Sou'wester*, wrote last February, "The (alcohol violation) penalties are too stiff for many of the groups to remain on campus . . . Other groups will attempt to stay on campus, try to outwit the campus police . . . and then accept their penalties until they become too much of a financial strain." Students and faculty alike began to speculate that the Greek system was on its way out. "It's on its way out at Harvard and other Ivy League schools," said one student. "Usually what happens at Harvard trickles down to schools like Rhodes."

But the Sigma Nus are on their way back. Although their national chapter stood behind the college's decision to remove the Sigma Nus from campus—typical of any national fraternity, according to Clark—it reduced significantly the debt owed to it and created a payment plan for the remainder. Members must also sign individual promissory notes for the national organization, read (and sign that they have read) the risk-reduction policy of Sigma Nu, have a new candidate program approved, and rewrite the Rhodes chapter's by-laws. In

January, sophomores, juniors, and seniors will re-initiate; then they can begin thinking about pledging new members.

Clark blames many of Sigma Nu's problems last year on student leadership. However, while he believes that the leaders are responsible for much of the damage, he added that "it takes a lot of people to put someone in a leadership position." The problems with the Greek system go deeper than just one fraternity. "I think all the fraternities have hurt the Greek system," said Clark. "First-year students come through and say, 'Why do I need to join a fraternity? I can drink with these guys any time.'"

The challenge for Sigma Nu, and for the Greek system as a whole, is to redefine itself. Clark would like to see fraternities and sororities provide more services for junior and senior members, such as closer relationships with alumni that can help provide contacts in the world beyond Rhodes. Now, says Clark, "the climax for members . . . is Pledge Day. From there on it goes downhill." (Additionally, he would like for Greek organizations to try to see themselves as others see them: "How diverse are you really?" he asks. "You're an all-white sorority, an all-white fraternity . . . see it through someone else's eyes. These are issues we have to look at.")

Most students today believe that the Greek system will be here at least as long as they will. "But it has to change," said one fraternity member. "It has to get away from being just a social outlet." Although he believes that his fraternity is "pretty diverse," he added, "The reason you join a fraternity in the first place is so you can be with people who are like you."

The Sigma Nus are back. Their members, according to Trey Clark, "did inherit a mess, but . . . they have a great opportunity to do a lot with it." The same could be said of the Greek system as a whole. Few people at Rhodes want to see either fail.

## Book-Signing At Rhodes For New Book On Eastern Europe

The Rhodes College Department of International Studies honored its own with a reception and book-signing to salute the publication of *Postcommunist Eastern Europe: Crisis and Reform*. The book-signing party was held October 2, 1992 in the lobby of the Buckman Hall.

Andrew Michta, Buckman Chair of International Studies at Rhodes, is co-editor of the new book which focuses on the highly unstable region of East-Central Europe following the 1989 revolutions there. Another member of the Rhodes faculty, international studies instructor Katherine Owen, contributed a chapter.

*Postcommunist Eastern Europe: Crisis and Reform* consists of analyses

by leading authorities in the field. Michta, who co-edited the book with Ilya Prizel from Johns Hopkins University, wrote the chapter on Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary. He also co-authored the book's concluding chapter, probing what the future may hold for all of Eastern Europe. Michta, an associate professor at Rhodes, is also the author of *Red Eagle: The Army in Polish Politics, 1944-88* and of *East Central Europe after the Warsaw Pact: Security Dilemmas in the 1990s*.

The book was published by St. Martin's Press, New York, in association with the Johns Hopkins Foreign Policy Institute.

## Non-Violence Week Highlights Multicultural Pacifism

by Trent Taylor  
Staff Writer

In this world of hate and violence, the late Mohandas K. Gandhi and his teachings of love and nonviolence are increasingly looked to as a ray of hope shining through the sometimes dark despair of our globe. Last week, students here at Rhodes, and people in the Memphis community, got a chance "to increase (their) general awareness of Gandhian principles, especially regarding nonviolent solutions to conflict," according to Prof. Lynn Zastoupil, Assistant Professor of History here at Rhodes, and teacher of the Gandhi class, which put on the events of the week. The week began on Monday night with a Public Reading from some works on non-violence in the Orgill Room at 7 p.m., followed by a reception. The first reader was Professor Robert Byer, Assistant Professor of English, who read from the works of Henry David Thoreau about civil disobedience and nonviolence. He was followed by Sunanda Gandhi, wife of Arun Gandhi whose grandfather was the Mahatma, who, of course, read from the works of Gandhi. The event was concluded with a reading from the works of Martin Luther King, Jr., by the Reverend Billy Kyles from Monumental Baptist Church. A short discussion period followed the readings. This event set the stage for the entire week by introducing the theories of non-violence and some of its chief advocates.

Tuesday night was Indian food night at the Rat, where students enjoyed cuisine from India while increasing their international awareness. Wednesday night's event was entitled "An Evening of Prayers and Hymns from

Around the World", and it was held in the Voorhies Social Room at 8 p.m. Students from such religious traditions as Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, Jewish, African-American, and Baptist faiths were represented, and the representatives from each faith recited prayers and sang some of their religious songs. "The evening of prayers and hymns from around the world attempted to demonstrate one of Gandhi's primary teachings, namely that respect for all religions is essential to the easing of tensions and violence," said Prof. Zastoupil when asked about Wednesday night's event. He also added that Gandhi himself often read prayers and sang religious songs from a variety of religions at his own ashrams.

Thursday was proclaimed as a day of fasting and hunger awareness, the former being a tactic often used by Gandhi, for both spiritual and political purposes. This day reflected Gandhi's own lifelong devotion to the poor and downtrodden, according to Prof. Zastoupil. Food donations also were collected on campus on this day. On Friday, an event entitled "Gandhi for Children" was held in the Orgill Room at 4:30 p.m. The idea for this event came from one of the students in the Gandhi class, Robyn Williamson. Storytelling, skits, and interactive games for preschoolers and elementary children were held.

The final event of the week, a workshop on nonviolent conflict resolution, was held on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the Orgill Room. "This event was intended to expand public awareness of the creative ways in which nonviolent solutions to conflict can and must be discovered," Prof. Zastoupil responded when asked what the purpose of this

event was. Lectures, scenes from the movies "Gandhi" and "Eyes on the Prize," and role playing in this workshop were designed to show that nonviolent solutions to problems can become a part of everyone's daily life. Near the end, the nonviolence theories were shown how they can apply to problems in the Memphis area, particularly racial tensions, as Pamela Bradley and Caroline Head from the Institute for Healing Racism came and showed some creative ways to reduce these tensions in a nonviolent manner.

And so the week ended. The Gandhi class' week of attempting to expand public awareness of Gandhi and his teachings was a resounding success, in that their events covered a wide range of Gandhi's ideas, and they portrayed a different one each day. The idea for last week's events grew out of the idea of just a nonviolence workshop. "As I recall, it was the idea of my students to expand the workshop to include a week of different events, all devoted to the ideas and principles of Gandhi," Prof. Zastoupil said. He also added that, "As far as I know, this is the first week-long set of events devoted to Gandhi and the nonviolent tradition (in the Memphis area)." In conclusion, while Prof. Zastoupil said that they are no more events planned on campus, he mentioned that if students are interested in Gandhi and his teachings, they should contact the M. K. Gandhi Institute at C.B.U. (725-0815). "Gandhi and the Nonviolent Tradition" was sponsored by Social Commission, Dean of Academic Affairs, Chaplain's Office, the Departments of History, Philosophy and Religious Studies, and the Asian Studies Program.

## Student Assembly Concludes Fall Semester

by Paul Guibao  
Staff Writer

December is almost here, and Student Assembly is bringing their fall activities to a close. What still seems to be a major topic of these meetings is this proposal of a International Studies masters program. After relaying some of the student body's negative feedback on the subject, the assembly got a report from its treasurer Rob Jarrett, who is also one of two students involved in a special committee which is weighing the viability of a successful new graduate degree. This panel recently met with Vince Davis, the director of the Patterson School of Diplomacy of International Commerce, located at the University of Kentucky. After meeting with Mr. Davis, Rob seemed to feel that, while the idea is altogether feasible, the com-

mittee will recommend further research before a decision is made, as there is a very delicate balance that must occur if a graduate and undergraduate school are to successfully work together in the same location. This makes it very unlikely that the board will resolve this matter at its next meeting at the start of 1993. However, this issue is nowhere near being signed and sealed. If you have a problem with this idea, or if you want to support it, please go to the Student Assembly meeting (every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.). Voice your opinion, and if you don't want to bring this up at a meeting, talk to your class representative. The Assembly is trying to remain active in the process of investigating the new program.

Also discussed at the meeting were some upcoming events, sponsored by

the Student Assembly. December 8 is a special day at the soup kitchen, the Religion Commission is trying to help spread Christmas cheer to provide to people who really deserve and need it. In addition to toys and blankets, the "R.C." is collecting books, and is hoping to build up a library for all the children who come to the soup kitchen. Besides children's books, students are being urged to bring old paperbacks they might have. If you have any of these items (and I know you do), please call Nikki Thomas (# 3137) or Erik Moratzka (# 3328). Also, coming up on January 23 is a weekend retreat. With the theme, "service and awareness," the commission is promoting a better understanding of all religions, and is hoping for a diverse crowd.

## Kappa Sigma Chapter 4th Nationally In Scholarship Awards

by Welch Suggs  
Associate Editor

At the Kappa Sigma District XXI Founder's Day convocation, eight members of Rhodes' Phi chapter of Kappa Sigma walked away with substantial financial scholarships in recognition of academic, extracurricular, and fraternal achievement.

The Endowment Fund trustees of Kappa Sigma International award

over \$100,000 in undergraduate Scholarship/Leadership awards each year.

Among all chapters nationally, Phi ranked fourth in the number of Scholarship/Leadership awards garnered by brothers, a substantial achievement considering that chapters at state schools are usually much larger than that at Rhodes.

Phi chapter brothers receiving

awards included Josh Almond, Michael Bowen, Jason Carmel, Rob Jarrett, James Lacy, Richard Miller, and Chip Riggs. Award amounts varied from \$250 to \$1,000.

In addition to these, Welch Suggs from Phi and Houston Davis from Epsilon-Pi chapter at Memphis State were awarded Ray F. Weir Scholarships as Outstanding Sophomores for District XXI.

## Model UN Travels Country, Wins Awards

by Emily Flinn

The Rhodes College Model U.N. has been busy lately attending conferences and winning awards. Two trips were made this semester, with more trips as well as other events planned for next semester.

Delegates from Rhodes attended the Third Annual American Model U.N. in Chicago on November 19-22. The members of the delegation representing Canada were John Little, Stephanie Rogers, Judd Peak, and Debbie Glenn. They won the award for Best Delegation in the General Assembly. The delegation representing Somalia consisted of Laura Benson, Vimal Shah, John Lott and Russell Wallace. John Lott and Debbie Glenn were selected for the Staff at this conference.

Delegates attended another Model U.N. in Conway, Arkansas. Rossanna Punzalan was the Head Delegate. Others who attended this included Bryan Cones and Laura Lindley, Legal Committee; Heather Moore, Social Humanitarian; Ann McCranie and Sarah Wolford, Economic and Financial Committee; Phil Darnell and Mike Dowdy, Ad-Hock Committee; Trent Taylor, Political Security; and Kim Vu and Thu Hoang, Special Political Committee. Also, Shane Willerton and Stanley Burke represented a case in the International Court of Justice between Senegal and Guinea-Bissau. The Legal Delegation

won an award for Best Delegation, and Rhodes got Honorable Mention overall.

The Model U.N. has many things already planned for next semester as well. They plan to hold U.N. Awareness Week January 25-31. Activities for this week include a quiz competition, with question sheets being available in the Rat and prizes awarded.

February 12-14, Rhodes will host the Mid-South Model U.N. for Memphis area high schools. They predict participation from 20 local schools, with 75 countries being represented.

March 3-6 Rhodes delegates will be in St. Louis for the Mid-West Model U.N. They will have a delegation representing Cuba as well as a court case between the United States and Canada over acid rain.

The club is currently exploring the possibility of getting corporate sponsors so that they may attend the National Model U.N. in New York City over the Easter Break.

The Model U.N. will be taking in new members in January. Anyone interested should go for it—no experience is necessary, and you don't need to be in the Model U.N. class to be in the club.

Address Your Letters  
To The Editor

## Weekly Crossword

"Santa's Helpers"

By Gerry Frey

ACROSS  
1 Wizard of Oz lion  
5 RBI's e.g.  
10 Bridge coup  
14 Baseball's Matty  
15 Santa's Helper  
16 1st down 10 yds

17 Study  
18 Rose oil  
19 Word following home or class  
20 Dead Sea  
22 Door Frames  
24 Top  
25 Santa's Helper  
26 Wine ingredient  
29 Adjustable-rate Pref.  
30 Pester  
34 Phillip \_\_\_\_\_:Author  
35 Mr. Whitney  
36 Santa's Helper  
37 \_\_\_\_\_, amas, amat  
38 Santa's Helper  
40 Environ. Prot. Agcy.  
41 Santa's Helper  
43 Needle fish  
44 Louisville Sluggers, e.g.  
45 Type of preview  
46 Society freshman  
47 Popular song of yesteryear  
48 N. Y. & London neighbor-hoods  
50 Cato's 7  
51 Sweet \_\_\_\_\_  
54 Singing in a light manner  
58 Land measure  
59 Building wing  
61 City of Lot's refuge  
62 King \_\_\_\_\_  
63 Christopher \_\_\_\_\_  
64 \_\_\_\_\_ James  
65 Rugby scores ?  
66 Group of RR cars  
67 Negatives in Glasgow

4 Santa's Helper  
5 Bum with steam  
6 Tykes  
7 Qty.  
8 Fortune teller's tool  
9 Strip of leather  
10 Long steps  
11 Diving bird  
12 Full of excitement  
13 Mothers  
21 Prevaricate  
23 Ravi's instrument  
25 Cows  
26 June honorees  
27 Word before nose or numeral  
28 Expiate  
29 \_\_\_\_\_ mode  
31 Beforehand  
32 Seven:Comb. form  
33 Obliterate  
35 Deviate  
36 German "the"  
38 Type of tea  
39 Hack

42 Furniture wheels  
44 Santa's Helper  
46 Santa's Helper  
47 Petroleum  
49 \_\_\_\_\_ and Soul  
50 Santa's Helper  
51 Pepper's relative  
52 Skater  
53 Cat Scan e.g.  
54 Mr. Strauss  
55 Mite  
56 Mr. Hale to friends ?  
57 Coup de \_\_\_\_\_  
60 Teacher's org.

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**LETTER FROM THE UNDERGROUND**

**Nietzsche's Superman and the Holiday Blahs**

by Clay Combs

We history majors are always trying to connect up historical events. If we're looking at period's economy, we consider the effects of the political climate. If we look at the art of a period, we consider the effects of the prevailing artistic theories and social, political, ideological, whatever kinds of factors. In short, we like to think we can understand the past by seeing how things affected one another. It allows us to hypothesize (and let's not forget the value of *that* exercise—it's our *raison d'etre*) about what were the most significant influences in the course of human events. It ain't a bad approach. There is a certain interconnectedness to things. But let's face it—anyone with half a mind for critical thinking and an entry-level course in rhetoric could come up with a hare-brained thesis on the Causes of the Third World Whathaveyou. Provided he or she presented it in a well-documented, readable and scholarly

package, we'd all lose our heads and proclaim it the Next Great School.

In the spirit of the scholarly dialogue conducted by historians everywhere, I present my thesis on Nietzsche's concept of the Superman. You expect me to connect it up with the political machinations of the relatively-young late nineteenth-century German state. Even more important, you expect me to attribute the *Übermensch* partly to Nietzsche's disillusionment with organized religion and his contempt for its bourgeois adherents.

We don't need no erudite study to understand Nietzsche's concept of the Superman. It's really very simple.

Here's where the Superman really came from. Picture young Nietzsche. Freddy was different kind of kid, probably a Sensitive Guy. He may have been a nature-boy, spending lazy afternoons lounging on grassy hillsides and thinking Deep Thoughts. He grew

up in tune with the changing of the seasons, developing a peculiar attachment to cyclical relationships. It would seem natural, then, for Nietzsche to place a great deal of emphasis on the coming of the most joyous of all seasons, the Holiday Season. In fact, we might say he lived every year of his life looking forward to that time of good cheer when people whistled "O Tannenbaum" in the streets. Whatever the exchange of gifts symbolized for Freddy—in early life it may have been a wooden horse to play with, later in life perhaps a fifth of kirsch—it was clearly a kind of holy grail, something to be sought after with the coming of each new year.

It was the eternal recurrence of the Holiday Season he hoped for. We have confused this with an actual recurrence of time, some sort of cosmic loop where time's end and beginning are spliced together in a cyclical continuum. Nietzsche never propogated

such a theory. It's silly, and he knew it just as well as we do. What der Fredmeister was getting at was the eternal recurrence of the *holidays*.

Of course, the holidays, for all their ability to cheer the faint of heart, *do* have their down side. But we can be sure, human nature being at its core the same in any age, there were similar manifestations of the Holiday Blahs in Nietzsche's day.

Little children would wake up on Christmas mornings and check their

stockings. Then there would be a big feast and all the family came to visit and everyone felt great. Hey hey Christmas time again.

The next day, no hype. Everything was quiet and dull, and not just for the kids, but for their parents as well. (Then again, the parents were really hung over and they *wanted* it quiet.) It was the Holiday Blahs. Anticlimax. And if there was a big New Year's celebration, it was just more of the same, hype and anticlimax.

(Continued On Page 6)

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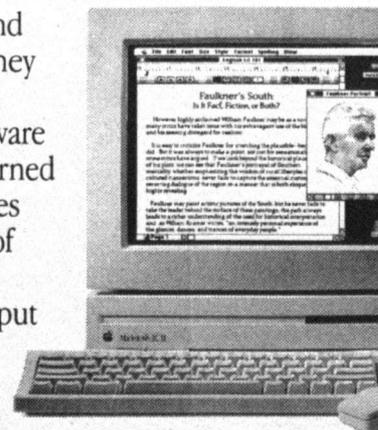


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# My Interview: Toad the Wet Sprocket

by Chris Pollette  
Arts Editor

"Rex Stardust, lead electric triangle with Toad the Wet Sprocket, has had to have an elbow removed following their recent successful world wide tour of Finland," goes the Monty Python routine. I bought their first album, *Bread and Circus*, in 1989 because I assumed any band that would take a Monty Python sketch and turn into their real name had to be good. I was right. This Santa Barbara, California band's unusual name is also gradually becoming a household name. Their new album, *Fear*, has been very popular, and two singles, "Walk on the Ocean" and "All I Want," have done very well. You might remember "All I Want" . . . it was in the Billboard Top 10. Anyway, on November 17, Toad the Wet Sprocket came to the Orpheum here in Memphis, and I had the privilege to interview Dean Dinning, the man who plays with the band. Dean is a nice guy, and he had a lot to say about himself and the band. Here's what he had to say.

**CP:** I'd say that Toad has a pretty distinctive sound. What do you consider as your influences?

**DD:** God. Too many, really, to mention, you know? It's just, I think out sound is more made up of, like, what we can't play. And so, the songwriting kind of sprung from our limitations more than our real abilities, and we just kind of went from there, and as we got better, the songwriting progressed. And I think a lot of it is just from learning how to play together, the four of us at the same time. We're listening to each other. But I mean, if you want to talk about influences, I think, the first band that I remember all of us listening to at the same time (we all went to high school together) and the first band I remember that we were all listening to at the same time is U2. Probably about that *Unforgettable Fire* period, you know, and that was kind of like, probably the first time that any of us noticed that to be able to make music like that, that actually meant something, it must be pretty cool. You know, "God, it must feel great to be in a band like that. God, the lyrics and the music's so great, and it's not throwaway at all," you know? I think that pointed us in the direction that we ended up going in. But we all listen to different things. Glen (Phillips, lead vocals, guitar, mandolin) listens to a lot more folk stuff than any of the rest of us, I listen to anything that comes my way, Todd (Nichols, guitar, vocals) listens to a lot of alternative stuff, and Randy (Guss, drums) listens to anything, you know, just like me. We just, we never know what we'll pick up.

**CP:** We were noticing that there are a lot of Rhodes students that have been talking about this concert for weeks. Seeing as how you had a self-produced album (*Bread and Circus*) come out three years ago, what do you think about all of the sudden you having a following?

**DD:** It hasn't seemed all that sudden to us, because you know, we've been touring ever since the first record came out, I mean, the record company put us out on the road when the first album came out, and we toured the

2nd one, and we've been on the road for this one practically since it came out. Over a year we've been out here now. From our standpoint, I mean, things always seem a lot bigger when people are looking at it from the outside in, but for us, everything's just, the crowds are getting bigger, but it's like, it's been going since January, it's been kind of a gradual thing. You know, people *recognizing* us all of a sudden. Now *that's* weird. Being in the lobby of your hotel, waiting for a cab, and having fourteen-year old girls and walk by you and go (he gasps and giggles), that's the part that hasn't happened before, and that's the part that you go, "wow, that's really weird, you know? Do I look that funny?"

**CP:** So have you been attracting alternative people, or a general crowd, or . . . ?

**DD:** Mostly, since "All I Want" has been on Top 40 radio, we've been attracting more high school kids, and even like, junior high kids and stuff like that. Our audience has gotten younger, as a result of the exposure, because we started out getting played on college radio, but college radio never really got that behind us. We were always a little bit too "Poppy" for them, you know, and we weren't weird enough. So, when we finally got played on mainstream radio, all the kids were listening, and it was like "Oh! Toad the Wet Sprocket!" You see a lot more kids at the shows.

**CP:** The band said in an early interview that you were most afraid of "ruts." Now that you're at this point in your career, would say that that's changed any, or is there a new greatest fear?

**DD:** Now we're in one, and it's called "touring for too long." We had been on the road for eight months before "All I Want" was even released to mainstream radio, and we had been building up a live following and we were selling out shows all the time, even before that song got on the radio. And so our goals haven't changed, they've just sort of been realized and we've realized that now we can take this thing further. Having success happen is kind of a relief, you know? 'Cause it's like, back in the beginning, we got out of the rut for a while, and we're gonna kind of do this band thing, and we were all in college, and just doing everything sort of the normal way. But you know, I asked myself if I'd stayed in college, there's no guarantee that I'd even have a job now. Everybody's losing their jobs, and they've got college degrees. I'm not saying that to discourage you or anything, or get you to join a rock band or anything because, it was very reluctantly that I left school, or any of us did. But now, I think this will allow us to go further, to keep progressing.

**CP:** Randy has said, talking about fear, that "this album is almost a celebration of the fact that things are changing." How do you see yourselves changing as a band and what do you think the future's going to hold for Toad?

**DD:** Well, when we were talking about that, when we were talking about things changing, it was because this record is the first thing that we've done since we've been out of school



Toad the Wet Sprocket members Glen Phillips, Dean Dinning and Randy Guss pose with members of the Rhodes Amnesty International Chapter November 17 at the Orpheum. (photo by Elizabeth Timmons)

and this whole thing has been like, our life. And we're still getting used to it. If anything, the next change that will happen will be maturing within this life, you know? That's kind of the way I'd like to keep it. The last thing I want to end up with is an album next time around with ten songs all about the road. We've got to make sure that we have enough chances to live our lives that we can put all that experience back into the music, so that things can sort of stay the same, and the music can stay true. I think that I just went off the subject, but I'm not sure. I hope I didn't.

**CP:** Do you like being classified as either an alternative band or a pop band? Specifically, do you like having your lyrics understood or do you like having that enigmatic thing about you?

**DD:** I think we like to keep things open enough so that they can be interpreted by as many different people in as many different ways as are possible. And it also allows us to keep playing the music for different reasons as we mature, you know? The songs are open enough that they change what they're about for us along the way. So it serves both us and the people listening that it's open that way.

**CP:** I wanted to ask you about *fear* as opposed to your previous releases.

I wanted to ask you if you liked planning things out more rather than going in the studio and just doing it "studio live."

**DD:** Well, in answer to your question, I think what we're going to do when we make the next record is do things a lot more like *Bread and Circus* and *pale*. We got way into the plotting out and the exactness of making the last record. And this next time I'd like to just kind of go into the studio, and plug in and you know, just kind of close our eyes and feel it more, you know, together. I think we're gonna try to strike a happy medium between the sound of the *fear* album and the feel of the first two.

**CP:** What are your personal backgrounds? You said you didn't play bass when you first started.

**DD:** No, I was like, classically trained on the piano when I was a kid, and I picked up all kinds of various instruments on the way, I played clarinet in high school, and I learned how to play the saxophone for *one song* on *Bread and Circus*, "Always Changing Probably" and you know, the other guys have taken a few guitar lessons, but nobody really went that serious into it.

**CP:** So everybody's pretty much self-taught?

**DD:** Yeah, for the most part, on the

instruments that . . . I don't think Randy's ever taken a drum lesson in his life. Which is pretty amazing.

(At this point, I mentioned that I'd asked all my questions, at which point he said, "let's see," and grabbed my notebook out of my hands. He found "what are your "favorite bands"")

**DD:** Let's see, who are my favorite bands? Who do I like right now? I like the Who. I seem to like the bands that have great bass players, like the Who and Led Zeppelin, and stuff like that. But I mean, I think your influences are more what you listen to when you're a kid, that what you listen to now, 'cause that's when your musical sensibilities are shaped. What were you listening to when you were twelve? I listened to a lot of, like, I picked up *Tumours* by Fleetwood Mac on CD the other day. That's a *hell* of a record, okay? I got this great 70's Preservation Society thing that had "Baby Come Back," by Player, and some stuff . . . it was just great. A lot of people, when they think of the 70's, which is definitely when I grew up, they think of everything as being the soundtrack of (the TV show) "CHiPs" (He sings) It's not, and there's some good stuff.

**CP:** We were also going to ask about the butterflies (that are many inside the *fear* cover—there's also a song with that title.)

**DD:** You know, they just symbolize change, and going from the ugly to the beautiful, and metamorphosis, and growth, and all those kinds of things.

We exited the tour bus, and went to get out tickets and backstage passes, and this was when we found out that we would take the band's picture with the Rhodes Amnesty International chapter. It turns out that Toad the Wet Sprocket is pretty active in world affairs, and since we had the only chapter in town, we had our name represented when Glen called out during the show that our chapter was in the lobby recruiting. It's refreshing to find people who'll take time out to care.

## "This Day" Proclaimed by Rhodes College Singers

by Jason Briggs Cormier

On Sunday, December 6, Rhodes College Singers, under the direction of Tony Lee Garner, performed along with various members of the Memphis community in the presentation of Ralph Vaughan Williams' (1872-1958) Christmas cantata, *Hodie*, "This Day," to a packed house at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

The work by Vaughan Williams was written in 1954 and combines text taken from the scriptural account of the birth of Jesus and from homilies taken from texts by various English poets, including Milton and Hardy. *Hodie* was written while England was experiencing a revival of interest in its musical heritage and the music reflects the curious influences of English folksong. Protestant chorales and the sacred music of J. S. Bach. It utilizes a large chorus, a children's choir, soprano, tenor and bass soloists as well as an orchestra to convey the message of joy at the celebration of the coming of Christ.

The Rhodes College Singers were joined by the Whitehaven High School Chamber Choir and other members of the Memphis community to compose the chorus, which along with the soloists and the Memphis Symphony Orchestra were conducted by Tony Lee Garner. The soloists were noted Memphis performers, JemmiLou Rye, soprano; Randal Rushing, tenor and Charles Billings, bass. The children's choir, conducted by Susan Van Dyck, was made up of the Rhodes Music Academy Children's Chorus and the Memphis State Campus School Children's Chorus and was accompanied by David Ramsey.

The primary goal of this project, which was developed by Garner with the help of an advisory committee, was to provide a forum for an experience of music which was intergenerational, interracial and ecumenical, allowing both those involved and attending to share the common spiritual threads of Christmas, rejoicing in the coming of the Christ through magnificent music.

Several churches and schools, as

well as a few individuals in the Memphis community committed to this project, bringing together a diversity of skill, talent, interests, backgrounds and beliefs for a commemoration of Jesus' coming.

It is likely that this will develop into an annual program. Rhodes College Singers and the Memphis City School Division of Music are committed to this end, allowing this celebration of peace and love to be shared by more, becoming a wide-spread experience for the community.

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**THE BIRD'S EYE VIEW**

by Chip Riggs  
Sports Writer

Rhodes played host to history during its first home basketball game of the season, as Melissa Burden of Savannah (Ga.) College of Art and Design became only the second woman in NCAA history to play in a collegiate men's basketball game. Her accomplishment is in no way diminished by the score, a 104-36 Lynx rout, or by the fact that S.C.A.D. is likely to lose some games by similar scores this season.

The 5-7" senior guard is much more than merely an historical novelty. She is a fully functional point guard and an essential part of her team's offensive and defensive effort. Her coach, Wally West, told an interviewer that "this is not a hype thing. She works hard out on the floor." And, watching her play, I would have to agree with him.

She simply is the best point guard her team has. She reacted well to constant pressure by the Lynx defense, giving up only a handful of turnovers against a team that prides itself on taking the ball away from opposing guards. And she served as an emotional geyser on a team badly in need of some emotion. It's hard to stay excited when your team is behind

**Melissa Burden: Making History With Class**

by huge deficits, but her enthusiasm and hustle kept the Bees pumped despite the score.

I got the chance to talk to Melissa for a few moments after the game. She is surprisingly down-to-earth, considering the magnitude of what she is undertaking and the constant pressures that go with it.

As a player of historical significance, she has to face the media after every game, whether it be an unknown sports editor for a school newspaper (such as myself) or a reporter from the local paper.

She said that constantly dealing with the media has made her tougher. "It doesn't bother me as much anymore," she said. "I try to make it a positive thing, not a negative one." She said that she was intimidated by all the hype surrounding her at the beginning, but that it is now "not a big deal."

As for her contributions purely as a basketball player, she feels that, as a point guard, she "brings some structure to the team," as well as leadership. As I watched her on the court, I realized that these are two areas in which she excels. When she is on the court, her teammates depend on her as a point guard and a leader; they depend on her to get them the ball and

play defense, as well as keeping them pumped and excited.

As for S.C.A.D. basketball, Burden believes that the Bees can be a solid team. It's going to be rough going for a while, simply because of the fact that this is only the team's second year of existence. The team is going to endure some beatings, but she believes that "we're going to pull together," because, she said, "as you play against better competition you get better. Rhodes has a very, very tough team, and we don't have the experience (they) have. But, we will get better."

Despite all of the notoriety she has received, Melissa remains focused on her final goal. "I've always wanted to be an artist," she said. She came to Savannah because of that goal, and because "it has one of the best design programs in the nation," not to play basketball. As a graphic design/illustration double major, she has to put in a lot of work to reach her dream. The same work ethic that allows her to be successful in the classroom also allows her to be successful on the basketball court. Her success comes not in terms of points, rebounds, or even victories, which may be few, but of heart, hard work, dedication, and class — which, for her, are immeasurable.

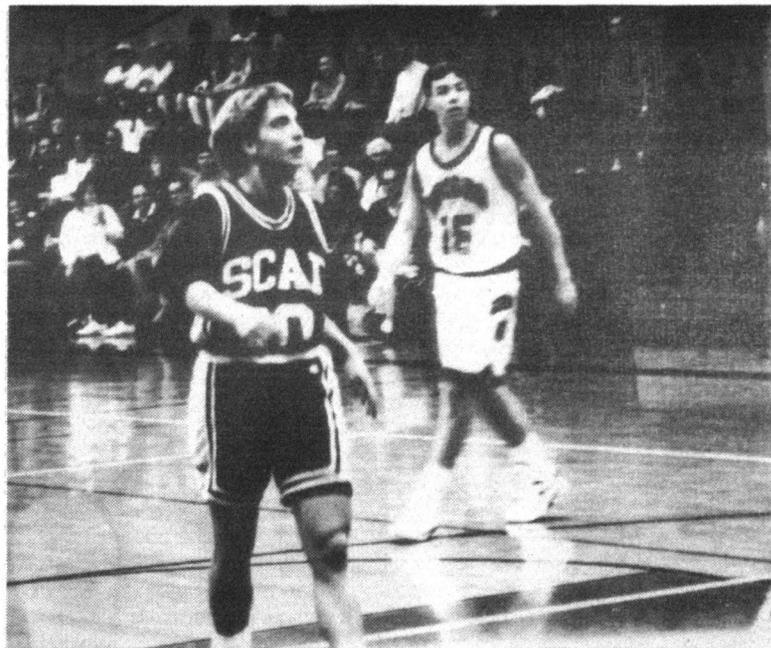


Photo by Chris Pollette

Savannah College of Art and Design point guard Melissa Burden watches a shot fall through the hoop. The Bees were defeated by Rhodes 104-36.

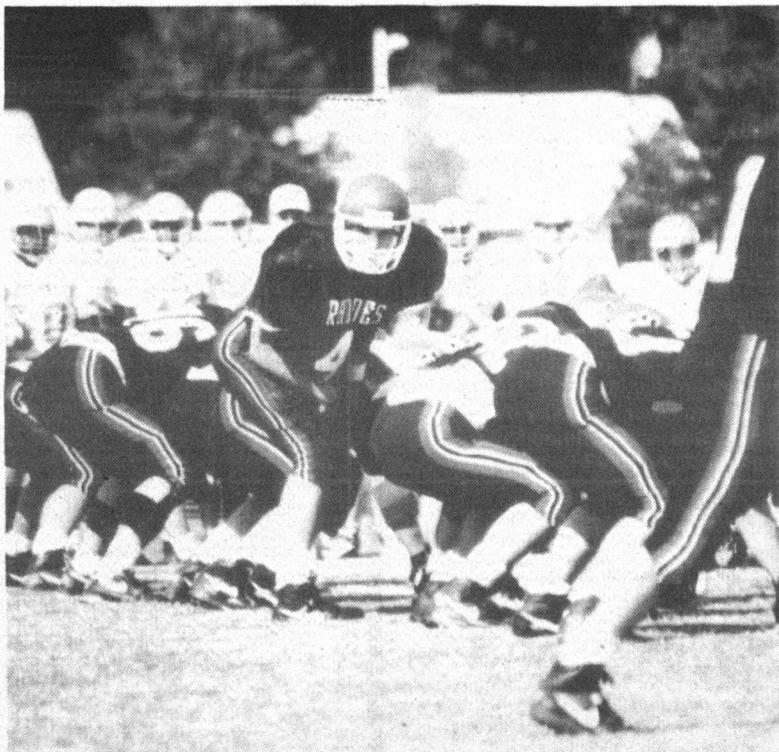
**Rhodes First-Team SCAC All-Conference Members  
Football and Cross-Country**

**Football**

- Drew Robison—Senior
- Brian Tierney—Senior
- Brian Vandegrift—Junior
- Demetri Patikas—Senior
- Greg Ritter—Senior
- Ryan Mire—Senior

**Cross-Country**

- James Westphal—Senior
- Eddie Dieppa—Sophomore
- Bancroft McMurphy—Freshman
- Felix Vasquez—Freshman
- Billie Ann Snodgrass—Freshman



SCAC Player of the Year Drew Robison (4) prepares to lead the Lynx into action.

**Robison Named SCAC Player of the Year**

by Chip Riggs, Sports Editor

Rhodes senior quarterback Drew Robison has been named the SCAC Player of the Year for his performance on the gridiron this season. Robison set school and conference records for completions and passing attempts in a season, completing 216 of 411 passes for 2,438 yards and 14 touchdowns. Junior receiver Brian Vandegrift also set a school and conference record for receptions in a season with 78.

Robison and Vandegrift led the Lynx delegation on the SCAC all-conference first team. Also on the first

team were senior running back Greg Ritter, whose 1,126 rushing yards made him the first Lynx player ever to run for over 1,000 yards in a season; senior wide receiver Demetri Patikas with 54 receptions for 780 yards; senior linebacker Ryan Mire, who recorded 87 tackles and led the Lynx with four interceptions, including one return for a touchdown; and senior center Brian Tierney.

The Lynx offense set several conference records this season, including most points scored in a season (230), total offense (3,809 yards), and touchdowns (30).

**Basketball Update**

by Thomas Johnson

The Rhodes College men's basketball team opened its season last week playing five games in six days, but the only game anyone cared about was the one against Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD). SCAD, of course, features female Melissa Burden at point guard, the only woman playing men's college basketball this year, and only the second in the 100-year history of the sport. Everyone at Rhodes was dying to see how Burden would do against Coach Herb Hilgeman's talented squad; however, the Lynx had other, albeit less important, business to take care of first.

And that business was in the form of the Maryville Tournament hosted by Maryville College located in Maryville, Tennessee. Rhodes beat the Asbury Eagles of Kentucky in the first round by a score of 96 to 74, but then fell to the host Fighting Scots 100-92 in the final. History majors Ronnie Robinson and Thomas Johnson both represented the Lynx Cats on the all-tournament team. SCAD also played in the Maryville Tournament, losing twice, leading up to last Sunday's showdown at Mallory Gymnasium between the Bees and the Lynx.

The pregame hype for the Melissa Burden game was incredible as students, faculty, staff, alumni, and even media wanted to catch a glimpse of the only female playing men's college basketball. (For the record, Rhodes does have a women's team, but this team generally plays only against other women.) Even former Lynx Cat greats such as Eric Teal turned out for the game, as Teal, who had not originally planned to attend, said that he "would not miss it for the world" when he found out that a

female was playing. Jason Peters was glad that he quit basketball for fear that Coach Hilgeman would have dressed him up like a girl in order to counter Melissa in something of a Division III basketball chess match. Coach Hilgeman for his part took a slightly hostile view into the SCAD game, saying "Again, it's one where I think it's ridiculous" and "She (Burden) has no business playing college hoops." At any rate, almost everybody was looking forward to the game.

Going into the game, SCAD coach Wally West started Melissa Burden at point guard for the first time all season, in an effort to take advantage of Burden's senior experience against Rhodes freshman point guard Albert Johnson. And the ploy did work as Burden outscored Johnson in the game one to nothing. However, the rest of SCAD's players were no match for the rest of Rhodes, as the Lynx jumped out to an early 28-2 lead and coasted to a 104-36 victory. Incidentally, in addition to Melissa playing, the SCAD game featured three important milestones for Rhodes College players. First, the new Lynx Cat dance team, known as the Pussy Cats, made their well-publicized debut as the half time entertainment for Rhodes College fans throughout the season. Second, wingman Mike Gonda got off enough shots in the game to score his 100th career point for the Lynx Cats.

UPDATE: Since the time that this article went to press, Rhodes men's basketball team lost to the Rose-Hulman Engineers by 20 points and defeated the Maryville University Mo's again, this time by 50 points and has run its record to 5 and 2. At the same time, Melissa Burden and her SCAD teammates lost to the Millsaps Majors by 2 points, pushing their record to 0 and 4.

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## Editorial:

## 1992: The Year In Review

by Gayla Bassham, Editor

In many ways, 1992 was a year of progress. A Democrat was (finally) put in the White House. Women and minorities were elected to the House and Senate in record numbers. The economy appears to be improving, at least slightly. The presidential campaign (practically the only news story of the entire year) was not quite as negative as in years past; there was no Willie Horton of 1992, and some substantive issues were discussed. Daryl Gates resigned. *Thelma and Louise* won an Oscar. Rhodes College got an alcohol policy that is at least a little better than the one we had before.

But it is always easier to list the negatives than the positives about any year. And 1992 seems even more depressing than other years. 1991 was a year of one shock after another. News flash: The United States is at war. News flash: The Soviet Union is disintegrating. News flash: Clarence Thomas has been accused of all kinds of things, and one of the men questioning him has a nephew who was just indicted for rape. 1992 was quieter, but more frustrating. Nearly everything about it felt inevitable and catastrophic at the same time.

1992 proved beyond any doubt that people simply cannot live peacefully together. In March, Rodney King asked, "Can we all get along?" The rest of the year was his answer. Serbs and Croats cannot get along in the former Yugoslavia. Black Americans and white Americans cannot get along — the riots caused by the acquittal of King's police-assailants proved that. Men and women cannot get along — look at the Tailhook scandal. In Germany, neo-Nazis have committed nearly two thousand acts of violence against foreigners. In Somalia, warlords take food meant for hungry children. In the United States, at the Republican convention, Marilyn Quayle talks about the "essential nature" of women and Pat Buchanan indulges in Presidentially-sanctioned gay-bashing. No, Mr. King, we cannot all get along.

1992 was not a logical year. No where was it more illogical than Rhodes College. We bought a new house for a man whose current home has room for "only" eight guests. We created a master's program in accounting, and possibly one in I.S., yet insist that the Asian studies and Japanese minors may have to go. The administration assures students that we are listened to and that our opinions really do count in tenure decisions—and then denies tenure to two of the best and most popular professors on campus.

Nationally, Ross Perot criticized the Democrats and Republicans for negative campaigning and then accused the Republicans of trying to smear his daughter Carolyn as a lesbian and planning to disrupt her wedding. The Bush Administration assured Americans that it was committed to freedom of speech; the President then vetoed a bill that would have repealed the "gag rule" forbidding doctors in public clinics to discuss abortion—even if a woman needed an abortion to save her life. Not only can we not get along, we can't even make sense while we're fighting.

With the end of every year comes the hope that the next will be better. There were good things about 1992, but they were outweighed by hatred and unnecessary violence all over the world. The problems of 1992 have deep roots, and many more years will go by before they are solved. There was some progress in 1992, but many more people will die before there is enough.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

I would like to express my frustration and disgust regarding last week's "review" of *The Fantasticks*. I feel that you failed to perform your duty as editor by allowing cruel and unnecessary garbage to be printed in your paper. A fine line exists between constructive criticism and hurtful insults, and your contributing editor, Mr. Cormier, failed to distinguish this critical boundary.

Comments were made in the review that went beyond the boundaries of an acceptable criticism. The reviewer failed to limit his contribution to an expression of his opinion of the production, itself, and instead resorted to unnecessary personal bashing and tacky metaphors. Perhaps this was a product of his biased opinion of the show, a result of his participation in *Cabaret*. One would expect tension to exist between cast members of two productions competing for rehearsal time in the theatre and, inevitably, ticket sales.

I am not alone in my feelings toward Mr. Cormier's pitiful attempt as a critic of the arts. There is something to be said about common courtesy, even in the press. I would like to ask Mr. Cormier, "Is having your

## Nietzsche Superman

(Continued From Page 3)

How do you start the New Year knowing you have to go around another full year before you get to feel good and be nice to people again? I'm sure he saw it in his students when they came back from Christmas break, bummed out about having to get back to work, still stinging from the anticlimax of the whole holiday experience. What Nietzsche did, rather giving his students a doctrine of the Holiday Season and its attendant semester break and Holiday Blahs, the best students, the Supermen (and, we suppose, Superwomen) would overcome the Blahs and return to school refreshed and ready to take on another semester.

So if you feel the Blahs and can't get psyched up to come back to school, remember Nietzsche and how he was there to help people like us. I'll bet he was really a nice guy. Happy fun Nietzsche.

Happy holidays. See you in January.

amateur composition printed in the *Sou'wester* actually worth the bitterness and hurt feelings that you have created?" Lastly, my advice for Mr. Cormier: You are not a vocal expert, therefore should not take it upon yourself to be a vocal critic. Stick to your job, Mr. Cormier.

Amy Hill  
(Editor's Note: Ms. Hill is a member of the cast of *The Fantasticks*.)

To the Editor:

I would like to address the fact that my senior picture has been denied publication. My senior picture was an unconventional depiction of the crucifixion of Christ. Dean Shandley describes the picture as "not only offensive, but a direct affront to a sacred symbol of any religion—". In addition to this less than pleasant description, Dean Shandley also decreed that my picture "by appearance and message, is an opposition to these institutional values and should not be a part of what is an official student and College publication." Let me begin by stating that my intentions with this photograph were not to anger people or to challenge anyone's religious views. The motivation behind this picture is purely personal and has existed since I was a *Freshman*. Upon being contacted for my senior picture, the day before it was to be taken, I was given no guidelines for the subject matter of my picture. From what I gathered anything that I wanted to do would be allowed. It is true that there must be some restrictions for subject matter but on reviewing some past yearbooks, I felt that my picture was no more controversial than some I had found in

past yearbooks. For some very interesting senior pictures try Steve Getmon in 1987, the sword through the bible and the "Gay Satanists on Acid" sign. Though this is a controversial picture, it was allowed. When I asked Dean Shandley why this picture had been allowed and not mine his only reply was "That was before I began working here." After showing an additional picture to the Dean of an actual RA photographed with marijuana paraphernalia, taken while Dean Shandley had been here, I was told "Well . . . I had only been working here a few months." So far the only reasons that I had received for this sudden change in creative control were that Dean Shandley wasn't here or hadn't been here long. Nice try, Tom. I have been told that my picture was put up to a vote by the Board of Publications and was voted unanimously to be allowed publication. Only after the special attention of Dean Shandley was this picture made an issue. This raised the question into my mind whether the picture was objectionable to everyone or just objectionable to Dean Shandley. Unfortunately this problem won't be solved by the deadline for senior pictures, how convenient, but I do feel that there is some sort of personal element to my senior picture refusal. Having never appeared in a Rhodes College yearbook before this was my last chance to make an appearance before I graduate but unfortunately due to the Rhodes "Creativity Police" I will remain faceless in the annals of Rhodes College.

Seth Adams, Class of '93

## The Sou'wester

The *Sou'wester* is the official student newspaper of Rhodes College. It is published every Wednesday throughout the fall and spring semesters with the exception of holidays and exam periods. The office is in the basement of Palmer Hall. Staff meetings are held there each Monday night at 9:00 and all students are welcome to attend.

Interested parties are encouraged to write letters to the Editors, which may be delivered to the office or sent via campus mail. All letters must be signed and include the author's phone number for confirmation (not for publication). 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 are those of the editors and contributing writers and do not necessarily represent the official viewpoints of The *Sou'wester* or Rhodes College.

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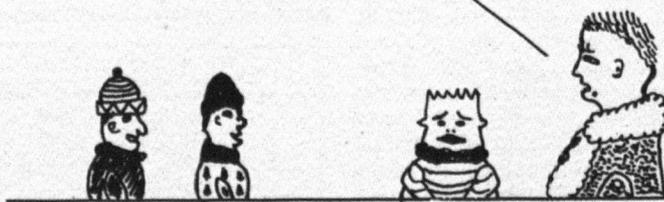
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picture taken with  
the Pope, little boy?

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The  
Scandalous  
Chronicle



Jason Briggs Cormier

As I sit down to write this, my last editorial of 1992, I realize that the subject I have chosen is an old one. There is no doubt in my mind that everyone on Rhodes campus hasn't already read an opinion piece on the holiday spirit, once and probably two or three times.

I have written it anyway because I believe that the message is very important; it is one that is true. It also seems like it is fitting for my last column of this semester. I have taken my readers on a long ride through many different and sundry places, some light and some dark, hopefully challenging many notions and ideas held dear.

Now, I feel the need to write something which doesn't really challenge so much. We all need a break from that approach. And so, I write . . .

The Christmas season is upon us, Thanksgiving is just past and while Easter is a long distance away, the New Year is beckoning just ahead. Each holiday represents a special attitude, a certain spirit that is vital for the well-being of humanity.

That is, after all why holidays developed—to celebrate common and shared experiences, needs, hopes and fears. The most primitive of holidays developed around the migrations and breeding of animals and the harvesting and planting of crops. As early cultures tried to deal with the parts of life that they didn't understand.

As civilization increased and people began developing the concept of the divine, holidays shifted from a purely nature and physical orientation function to a spiritual and emotional purpose. In our post-industrial and extremely

## The Reason For Holidays And Their Importance

modern society, all too often, holidays have become little more than a marketing experience geared around business, money and greed rather than home, hearth and love.

Just think about the way that holidays are used and abused. Nearly every store that has a marketing agent worth his/her salt, has a sale for each of the holidays that come around. The holiday is used to sell, sell, sell. This attitude is carried quite easily to every member of the community. How many children understand this rather than the original spirit of the holiday looking forward to the candy and gifts rather than the symbolic importance? How many adults get caught up in the whole whirl of the holiday that they lose sight of its meaning?

This is not to say that everyone loses sight of the true spirit of the holidays. There are many who never do. Just think of all the people donating time, energy and money to volunteer organizations, especially around the holidays, trying to help their neighbor. Think of the college student, who looks toward the holiday as a time to be with a loving family and friends, sharing memories and good times.

A tragedy concerning people today, at least in the United States of America, is that though many never understand the spirit and attitude behind the holiday, even fewer don't maintain this attitude throughout the year, as should be the case. While this is generalizing somewhat, it is nevertheless true in many instances. How much of a better place would the world be if we all lived in the spirit of the holidays the whole year round?

In a society which is becoming evermore informal, we hear the words "thank you" less and less frequently. It is therefore a miracle that Thanksgiving even exists. In spite of the loss of a generally polite society, Thanksgiving is perhaps the one holiday that gets treated with the most respect regarding its content. While there is some commercialization of it, nearly everyone spends at least a few minutes at this time of the

year, reflecting on the things for which s/he is thankful.

Life, however, would be so much more rewarding if everyone were more thankful in their everyday lives. There really is a lot for which to be thankful. Think about how much we take for granted about life and the world about us. Perhaps the greatest is a healthy life. How many happier faces would there be if we looked at the warmth of the sunlight with joy each morning?

Then there is Christmas, which is more than just a celebration of Jesus birth. Christmas' spirit is one of love and goodwill, which is at the root of the Christmas story. "For God so loved the world . . ."

This is why "giving" is the theme of the Christmas season. Charities report much greater contributions at this time than at any other. It is a sad thought that this doesn't continue throughout the year, for obvious reasons. One only has to look at the number of organizations which help others and the number of homeless in Memphis to see that there is a need for this type of concern for one's fellow (wo)man. Maybe we'd have less hunger in the U.S., if we felt a little of the Christmas spirit in March, June and September.

New Year is the time when resolutions come about, when people promise themselves, their families, God, whomever that they will do this or that in order to improve their life. It is a revelrous time of the optimism and idealism of humanity.

This attitude is also one which we should have about us at all times. It would allow us perhaps to try new things, to permit ourselves to take risks and enjoy the feeling of a new situation, thought or idea. It is an attitude of experimentation and growth, of branching out and expanding horizons which could only improve day-to-day life.

Easter is perhaps the most favorite holiday of them all as it should be. Easter rejoices in God's forgiveness of humanity in spite of its shortcom-

ings. It is the culmination of the Christmas gift. It is also a time to rejoice in life itself. Easter is the spring festival, and like spring festivals in other religions, it expresses the concept of rebirth and renewal.

If this attitude of promise and hope were maintained for any significant period of time, the world would be a much happier and positive place. We should remember during particularly hard times that there is always that period of renewal and resolution, when the difficulty passes and only light and beneficial things remain.

It is unfortunate for us that these simple truths aren't practiced by all. Most if not everyone accepts that these attitudes are good and positive and make living with other people better, but people generally give them only a cursory glance once a year when the appropriate holiday arrives.

If we would begin practicing these tenets, we would be happier and better fulfilled in our own personal lives. This in turn, would allow us to share this sense of peace and joy with others. This makes a chain. Attitudes and approaches to life are things that are shared by the community at large. In some sense there is a *spiritus mundi*, whereby all members of a society are linked. Attitudes of some sort prevail over others within a group. Wouldn't it be better if more positive attitudes dominated our culture? If rather than greed and selfishness, concern and sharing shaped our world view?

This isn't some impossible and ridiculous dream of an idealist. That one person merely has to decide for him/herself that s/he won't continue to live life the way that s/he has always done so. S/he has to decide to appreciate things like the moon and stars and dew more. As the feeling of love and compassion grows, others will see the difference between that individual's life and his/her own and s/he will decide to follow the example of that one person who decided to live the spirit of the holidays the whole year round.

## 13, 16, 18, 21, 65, and Death

I turn 21 this week, and I feel old. My feelings of oldness began this summer at the summer camp I work at during a conversation with a ten-year-old boy. I was trying to make pleasant conversation with the little whippersnapper and I casually made a reference to Chewbacca from Star Wars, one of the greatest movies of all time. He looked at me with open mouth and wrinkled brow and said, "What's Star Wars?" After a few frantic questions, I realized that this child had nearly reached puberty without seeing Star Wars. I was shocked. I was outraged. I was getting old.

In "As You Like It" Shakespeare writes, "All the world's a stage and all the men and women merely players; they have their exits and their entrances, and one man in his time plays many parts, his acts being seven ages." He goes on to describe in seven steps the processes of life from birth to old age. The way our society treats birthdays falls in similar lines. In terms of birthday there are five steps and most of them are relatively close. The five ages of man and woman are 13, 16, 18, 21, and 65. That pretty much sums up life on earth. There are arguments for other birthdays. For example, 40 seems to be the age which many people believe opens the door to old age. This is the time when some quit smoking, lose weight, and try to figure out where all the time went. Those arguing for 40 being on the list just want to have another important birthday along the road to dusty death. Five is the limit.

Thirteen is the first pivotal birthday. You have reached the teenage years, and are now ready to put the fear of God into your parents by turning surly and emotional for the next few years. This is more than likely your first coed party, and to

your parent's dismay you refuse to have the party at the local pizza joint which lets you make your own pizzas. After your birthday you spend most of the time wishing you could drive, which brings us to the second step.

The sixteenth birthday is monumental, because you can now drive legally. This means you can get away with carousing in places you probably shouldn't be. Your parent's interest in the fact that you were obviously born with the ability to drive a stick shift since you have "never" driven before eventually fades.

The next big one is the eighteenth. It lets you vote, be tried as an adult, serve in the military, and buy handguns. If you are still in junior high during this birthday, you can now drop out without your parent's permission. I'll never forget the guy in my eighth grade P.E. class who was on the verge of turning 18. When we played battle ball, he could throw the ball so hard that dents were put in the concrete walls of the gymnasium. You can imagine what that would do to a thirteen-year-old head. He turned 18 midway into the semester and quit school. I think he turned pro in battle ball. His legend is still lauded at the junior high.

The next great step is 21. The twenty-first birthday marks your first taste of alcohol. Whoops, I mean first legal taste of alcohol. It also means if you're in college that you have to figure out what you're going to do with your life after college, because there is a lull of 44 years before you reach the next step.

44 years is a long time to wait to be considered legally old. For this birthday you get Social Security, Medicare, and retirement if you're eligible. And what is to follow? Death. Boy, am I looking forward to my sixty-fifth birthday.

Maybe I'll get a coffin. Something in charcoal gray with a nice silk lining with central heat and air.

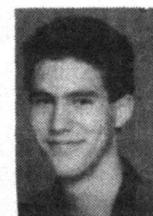
Perhaps, I'm being a little pessimist, but I'm worried about getting old. In a short essay I was able to outline all the important birthdays in a lifetime, and I've already lived through four of them. I've spent an inordinate amount of time thinking about how I could avoid growing old.

First, I dealt with aging scientifically. I saw an episode of the Twilight Zone one time in which an old man in the future uses his life savings to purchase a new body for himself. He looked good. He felt great. The procedure totally nullified the aging process. The problem in the episode was that he didn't have enough money for his wife to also have a new body, so he gave up the new body. I don't think I'd want to live as a machine anyway. I'd know I wasn't really young.

Secondly, I read a lot of fantasy novels when I was younger in which a magician would wave a wand and shed years off of someone's life. Perhaps I could find a book which contained the proper incantations. Yeah, right.

Third, I thought with proper dieting and a workout program at least I'd look and feel younger than I was as I grew older. This is a possibility, but too much exercise can kill you too. You don't see too many pumped-up 75-year-olds down at the gym.

Fourth, I've found that while I'm asleep then I don't worry about getting old. But after twelve or thirteen hours of sleep, I've found I have to get up to use the bathroom. Usually, I just stay up. Besides avoidance of a problem by sleeping is too much like being dead. Finally, I decided to try to take aging as a matter of course. It's



### Thoughts

Matthew C. Hardin

best to "to suck the marrow out of life" as Thoreau wrote and not spend too much time worrying about aging. It's going to happen no matter what. It's best to relax and enjoy the trip.

On that note, I'd like to recommend everyone on this campus watch "It's a Wonderful Life" sometime during the holiday season. Don't watch the colorized version. It takes the romance out. Movies are an interesting phenomenon in that the people on the screen never age from viewing to viewing. Forty-six years later, Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed look just as good as they did in 1946. Maybe I'm reaching here, but they have in a sense found immortality. "It's a Wonderful Life" is my favorite movie, because it outlines the positive effects one individual, George Bailey, has on the lives around him. Many people seem to take for granted that their lives are unimportant, yet you never know how you may have touched another person's life. I think my real problem with aging is that I don't want to die and be forgotten. I've now reached four of the five life hurdles in terms of birthdays. I've cleared the first four. Now it's the open stretch in between the fourth and fifth hurdle that I have to worry about to make sure I don't catch my foot on the edge of the fifth one and fall down. Such is life in terms of birthdays.

# The Rhode'ster

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A new group has formed to promote the child in all of us by reading "Twas The Night Before Christmas."

## The Rhode'ster Editorial

This, thank God, is the last paper for the semester. Christmas is almost here and I am getting ready to enter the world of the finals. At least classes will be over. And then, it's time to go home.

If you will recall, my last editorial was about the Do's and Don'ts of the Dysfunctional Family Thanksgiving Dinner. The editorial will be sort of a follow-up on that. Being in a dysfunctional family, it is often hard to pick out Christmas presents for those special people, those people that you love so much and hate at the same time. Here are a couple of Christmas gifts which have worked for me and those which have caused me to be locked in the cellar without any food for a couple days.

Dad, the alcoholic: I once bought him alcohol. He loved it secretly, but kept slapping me with the bottle saying "I am not an alcoholic. I can put this down any time I want to." So, I learned from that and bought him a keychain. He keeps getting locked out of the house, so he appreciated that.

Mom, the enabler: So far, everything I ever bought her has seemed to please her. She never complains. But I think she likes it when I buy those Bibles best of all.

Sis, the suicidal: She's never satisfied with anything. But I have learned not to get her anything sharp.

This year I am planning on getting everybody gift certificates at Wal-Mart. They've got everything and I'm tired of guessing. I've been saving up to buy a gun and by the way that things have been going since I have been in college, it looks like I'm going to need it.

## Santa To Visit Rhodes

A special visitor will be appearing at Rhodes next week. Santa Claus will make his first appearance at Rhodes thanks to Career Service. The famous jolly old man with the red suit will land just inside the fence at noon on Monday, December 14. He will first eat lunch in the Bell Room of the Rat, while Physical Plant workers park his reindeer.

Campus Safety is training its best "Rambos" to guard the precious travelers. According to rumors, Todd Bryant, the Rat Man, is making extensive plans to swipe one of the famous animals for a new recipe he is working on. It is not yet known which reindeer Todd has ordered the hit on, but one of the Rat workers has come forward with a confession after being found snooping around behind the Physical Plant, drawing a map of the layout. "I don't know which one he wanted," the worker admitted. "All I was supposed to do was to check the place out and find out where they were going to keep them. I don't have anything to do with the actual kidnapping. But, I think I heard him mention

about how fit and muscular that Rudolph must be in. And what a great Christmas decoration his nose would make in the Rat."

While this investigation is going on and security on campus is being beefed up, Career Services is planning Santa's speech. "We hope to get him to talk about how he became Santa clause and what the students can do to achieve such a position as St. Nick," said Sandi Tracy, Director of Career Services.

According to outside sources, Santa is excited about coming to Rhodes. "I really have a lot to do," he said during a phone interview, "but I will be glad to take a break and see what goes on in the real world."

On the agenda for Santa's visit is the speech and a visit with the reindeer. He will also provide an exclusive for the Rhode'ster and will make an appearance to let everyone sit on his knee and bring their wish lists.

Santa will be staying in the President's new house and will appear at a Christmas party there which will be open to the campus. TS

**Don't have time to do your Christmas shopping?  
Don't have a car to get off campus?  
Good, you're just what we're looking for.  
We've got you trapped.**

The bookstore is having its annual Christmas sale. You will get a discount of ten percent off of everything in the store. Because we are sponsoring a great Christmas this year (it doesn't matter which Christmas program we are sponsoring, so don't ask), we will take that ten percent that you save and donate it to this needy program. Even though you will still be paying that ten percent, it won't be part of what you are paying, it will go to the needy. Confused? Just trust us.

**So, stop by the bookstore if you're trapped on campus. You're what keeps us in business.**

## "'Twas The Night Before Christmas" —Too Sissy For Rhodes College?

The Christmas season is upon us and the clubs, fraternities, sororities, and various other groups are getting ready for the party season. A new group, spawned by the annual Evensong, has formed to promote the childlike qualities of the Christmas holidays. As of yet, the new club has not picked a name, but they will be voting on names such as Visions of Sugar Plums and New Group for Christmas Childlike Qualities.

Unfortunately, like all new things on the campus, this club has sparked controversy. Because the new club is promoting the youthful Christmas spirit, its main activities will be an old-fashioned story-telling hour of "'Twas the Night Before Christmas," and

drinking of such favorites as eggnog and hot chocolate. Many have attacked the club, saying that it ruins the real Christmas spirit of getting neat presents and getting drunk. Says the President of the club, "How can we defend ourselves against that? Who can we possibly be hurting? I can understand why the condom machines and the President's new house would cause controversy on campus. But this? It's just a book and hot chocolate. We're not forcing people to come."

The organization giving the club the most problems is Campus Safety. "We've gone out of our way to work with the Alcohol Policy to give these brats privileges to drink alcohol, and dammit, they're going to drink!" TS

## Freudian Corner CHRISTMAS EDITION

Friends, schizophrenics, and bipolar mood disorder sufferers, welcome to my last column of the semester. No, don't be sad that you won't have my helpful advice for nearly a month. Instead, look forward to the chance to spend some time observing people more pathological than you: your families. I'm sure we'll have a lot of things to talk about once you get back.

This week's corner has two parts. The first is a bit of a critique of my colleague Dr. Carmel. Oh, Jason, is that all you could dig up about me? You didn't even address the aggressive aspect of my Oedipus complex. Was it not obvious that besides the normal latent oral-stage desire that are normally associated with the Oedipus complex I also feel the compulsion to kill my mother? You even missed the entire necrophilia connection there.

Another thing, I had no evidence that Brent was a male prostitute (or any kind of prostitute). Jason, doesn't that little factoid clue you in on anything? Could you not see that little possibility in the personal tone I took with Teri or the fact that my first victim, I mean subject, was my roommate? And you call yourself a psychoanalyst!

So much for "Dr. Carmel," if that is his real name. NOW for the second part of this week's corner. This is my little Christmas gift to all of you: A Freudian analysis of "'Twas The Night Before Christmas."

Let's start with a little analysis of the family before Santa arrives. It begins "'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse." I get the feeling that someone just wacked off the entire family on Christmas Eve in some desperate attempt to get all the presents. Now I know this guy didn't kill his family, but maybe he wanted to.

Next, it describes how the children have "visions of sugar plums" dancing in their heads. Dreams are attempts at wish fulfillment. The kids are dreaming of food. They're wishing for

something to put in their mouth. The kids are therefore in the oral stage. Sad.

"And Mom in her kerchief and I in my cap, had just settled down for a long winter's nap." I don't know about you, but I'm under the impression that the one he calls "Mom" is actually his wife. And they say I have an Oedipus complex? This guy has it so bad that he calls his own wife Mom. So either he has fulfilled the Oedipal wishes and actually killed his father and married his mother or he has taken such violent measures against his wife in order to force her into the form of his mother that the poor frightened woman now even answers to "Mom."

Either way, this guy is not the ideal children's book writer.

Once Santa appears, we immediately notice an omission by the author: Rudolph! Rudolph is the navigator for that chuckling old coot in the back of the sled, but he's left out of the poem. Could it be that Rudolph's long snout with a shiny red tip is just a little too phallic for our author? Yep, it appears that this particular writer is suffering a bit of avoidance when it comes to Rudolph the Red Nosed Phallic Symbol. Probably "stems" from that fact that he has a house, a family, and he's still sleeping with Mommy.

The avoidance is because he still has an acute castration anxiety despite the fact that he managed to get rid of Daddy.

Well, I hope I haven't been the Grinch who stole Christmas, even though I could write a really good one about him. Remember, Christmas is a time when we all get together and suppress all of the anxiety and conflict in our families better than we do any other time of the year, and that deserves celebration. So stoke up the fireplace, pour some eggnog, take note of the shape of the Christmas tree ornaments, and have yourself a manic little Christmas.