

**Harlow Clarifies
Rhodes' Position
on Sexual
Harassment**
...page 2

**Students and
Faculty Welcome
New Dean Of
British Studies**
...page 3

**Interracial
Support Group
Opens Memphis
Chapter**
...page 3

**Texas'
Southwestern
University To
Join SCAC**
...page 7

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Lenac, Sigma Iota Rho Plan Croatian Relief Trip

By Chris Palazzolo

Upon seeing the images that the media delivers to us, none can be so startling as those of the war and suffering that are presently occurring in the former Yugoslavia, where disastrous fighting and killing have now been coupled with the ravages of a frigid winter, making such suffering all the worse.

After seeing these horrendous images, one wishes to reach out and make a difference in the lives of these casualties of war, but we often do not know how exactly to individually confront the worsening problem.

However, one Rhodes student has found a way to take a stand and as a result is actually travelling to the newly independent republic of Croatia. Caroline Lenac, a senior from Tucker, Georgia, and a member of the International Studies honorary organization, Sigma Iota Rho, will be travelling with a local Memphis doctor to the war-torn areas of Croatia.

Her trip is being sponsored by the newly founded International Children Hearts Foundation. She is travelling with Dr. William Novic, a cardiac surgeon at Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center, who has already gone twice before to

perform needed corrective cardiac surgery in the city of Zagreb. It is too dangerous to go to Bosnia, where fighting is much more intense.

Lenac's mother is Croatian by descent and Caroline is fluent in the Croatian language.

Ironically, Lenac's involvement in the trip came at first as a surprise to her. The aforementioned International Children Hearts Foundation, was looking around the Memphis area for someone who was fluent in Croatian and who as a result could accompany Dr. Novic in order to make communication somewhat easier.

They had found a student at Memphis State University who was Croatian but was leaving before the scheduled trip. Looking to Rhodes as a last ditch effort, the organization got in touch with Ms. Marjorie Stoner, the director of the Language Lab, who right away directed them to Lenac.

This is not the first time, however, that Lenac has gotten involved in the Yugoslavia affair. In Atlanta, she helped out with visiting doctors from Croatia who had been brought over to learn new techniques in pediatric and cardiac treatments in the U.S.

How Can I Help?

The people of Croatia are in need of various essentials easily obtained here in Memphis. This provides an opportunity to make an individual difference in an international problem.

Most needed items are

- vitamin supplements
- shoes
- warm clothing and coats
- hygienic items (toothpaste, etc.)

To make a donation, contact Caroline Lenac or another member of Sigma Iota Rho before January 26.

Well, the weather outside is frightful...



...But Rhodes is so delightful when it snows like it did at 10:03 a.m. on Friday. Students enjoyed a fresh change of scenery and cold noses despite the meager accumulation during the storm (photo by Stephen Deusner).

After years of being ignored by Memphis radio, the young adults of Memphis finally have a station of their own

"Not A Loud, Fast Talking Radio Station In A Green Polyester Suit"

By Jamie Bogner

Hitting the airwaves the middle of last December, the new "Modern Rock" station 96 X has taken Memphis and Rhodes by storm.

The station was conceived as a musical source for the younger 18-34 year old crowd, which previously wasn't really being served by existing radio stations. It was realized under the auspices of Rock 103 Station Manager Sherri Sawyer, who serves now as the Station Manager of 96 X as well. Program Director Tony Williams was brought from Dallas to head up the musical side of the endeavor.

Williams classifies the music they play on 96 X as "Modern Rock." He shies away from the term "alternative" for several reasons. "The term

'alternative' leads to different ranges...once you classify yourself as an 'alternative' station you are limited to that kind of music...we want to be a station on the edge," said Williams.

While that claim may seem a little strange to make for a station which currently has no DJ's or ads and is only playing a lim-



ited selection of songs, Williams said he hopes "that people listening understand (what they hear now) is only a sampling," and that as soon as the staff, members of which are being brought in from around the country, arrives, the station "is going to change."

That change, which Williams said is coming soon, will of course mean new DJ's on the air for 96 X, as well as a greater

variety of songs which will be played on the station. In addition, listeners should expect several specialty shows showcasing different types of "Modern Rock."

Student response to 96 X has thus far been overwhelmingly positive. Students are generally glad to have a station that plays, as junior Eddie Dieppa said, "new stuff that people our age are listening to." Although some have voiced concern for the lack of diversity in the music that is currently played, such concerns will surely disappear when the station gets up to full force.

How will the addition of 96 X impact Memphis? Time will tell, but as Williams said, "I believe the music scene is really going to change."

Rhodes' Position on Sexual Harassment and Assault

By David L. Harlow
Executive Vice President

Rhodes College is committed to the maintenance of an environment free of any behavior that could diminish the dignity of any member of our College community. This commitment includes the prevention and, where it occurs, the punishment of sexual harassment and sexual assault.

As stated in the Student Handbook and College Handbook, our policy on sexual harassment is clear and explicit. Sexual harassment in any form is unacceptable and it will not be tolerated. Sexual assault, including what has come to be known as "ac-

quaintance rape," is not only repugnant, it is a criminal offense subject to prosecution under the law. It has no place in a civilized society, let alone in a college community. This administration is committed not only to broad-based educational efforts to address these issues on campus, but also to aggressive pursuit of disciplinary action against those who choose to violate the rights of others, including the right to say "no."

Over time, the College has implemented a variety of measures that address these problems. The policy defining and prohibiting sexual harassment and assault has recently been

revised and improved. An escort service has been established. Campus lighting has been evaluated and improved. The administration has aggressively investigated reported incidents and, where appropriate, has initiated corrective and/or disciplinary procedures. The Counseling and Student Development Center has given particular attention to educating the campus about the destructive effects of sexual harassment and assault and provides counseling and referral services to victims of this indefensible behavior. A Sexual Harassment and Assault Advisory Commit-

tee has been established to provide individual and confidential information regarding College policy, reporting options and resources.

These measures, by themselves, are not enough. The administration, working with concerned students, faculty and staff, will continue to evaluate our current practices and procedures. But our experience indicates that the problem cannot be dealt with by delegating responsibility to any limited group or individual. Rather, the problem must be recognized and acted upon by all members of our community. As a community, it is our collec-

tive responsibility to educate ourselves about the College's policy, including what behaviors could be considered sexual harassment or assault. It is also our responsibility to assist with the prevention of such damaging acts on campus and, where necessary, to intervene.

We begin with this clear statement of commitment and move on to that mixture of preventative measures, educational programs and disciplinary actions that will maintain the sense of personal security and mutual respect that are essential to the well-being of our Rhodes community.

The Pro-studs are coming! (to this year's Symposium)

By Kris Hurst
Admissions

Prospective students will soon be descending on the Rhodes campus in huge numbers as the eighteenth annual Symposium approaches. Approximately 200 pro-

studs will arrive on campus Thursday, February 3 - Friday, February 4, 1994. The annual Symposium program is the largest admissions program held throughout the year and it offers prospective students the chance to live a "day in the life" of a Rhodes student.

The "new and improved" Symposium will provide prospective students an opportunity to stay in the residence halls overnight, speak with leaders of student organizations, attend classes, and compete for fine arts

awards. Pro studs will be on campus Thursday evening only rather than over the weekend as in past years.

In the next few weeks, members of ARO (Admissions Representative Organization) will be soliciting your

help with Symposium. Please consider acting as a host to at least one of our pro-studs for Thursday, February 3. Symposium 1994 will be a program enjoyed by visiting students as well as the Rhodes community.

THIS WEEK IN MEMPHIS

Wednesday Showing through March 6 at the National Civil Rights Museum is the exhibit "Images of Hope and History," focusing on youth involvement in the civil rights movement.

Thursday "The Famine Within-Part 2", Blount Auditorium, 7 p.m.

Appearing at the New Daisy Theatre is Back Doors, a Doors Tribute

Jeff Altman appears at The Comedy Zone through Sunday

Friday The Grapes play at Six One Six

Sunday The Village People play at Six One Six

Wednesday Dead Milkmen play at The Antenna

compiled by Liz Overholser, Local/National Editor

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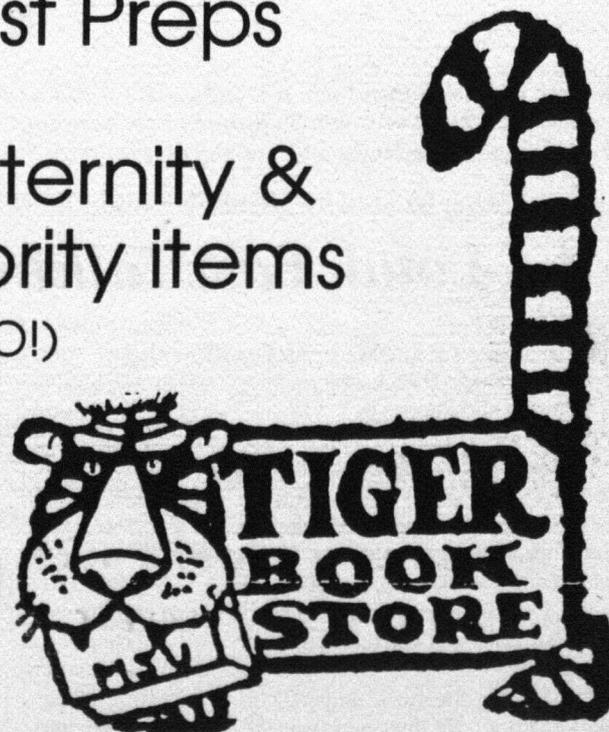


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Eating Disorders the Subject of Upcoming Campus, Community Events

by Emily Flinn
Campus News Editor

Eating disorders are the subject of a number of upcoming events at Rhodes and in the community at large. The Counseling and Student Development Center is working with several different groups to address this issue.

On January 19, 20, and 21 the Women's Forum will be presenting, in the lobby of Briggs Student Center, student submitted photographs and articles that help to support the unrealistic expectations that the media present to women and men about their bodies. According to Lynn Dunavant, this display should "make us aware of subtle and not so subtle messages that color our beliefs about our selves and the superficial beauty myths that foster self-dissatisfaction and an unhealthy obsession with thinness."

On January 20 the Counseling Center, Panhellenic, Women's Forum, and Women's Studies are co-sponsor-

ing the follow up to last semesters program "The Famine Within". "The Famine Within" is a film that looks at the obsession with body image and how different cultural, social, and religious forces encourage this negative goal of thinness. At 7:00 in Blount Auditorium the last half of the documentary will be shown, followed by a discussion of anorexia nervosa and bulimia. A panel discussion led by Dr. Robertson and Professors Ackerman, Wetzel, McEntire, and Corrington-Streete will encourage audience participation and discussion.

Mid-South Hospital and the Memphis Mental Health Association are sponsoring a community wide event on eating disorders. On Monday, January 24 and 7:30pm a panel of experts will answer questions and provide information about the symptoms of eating disorders and resources available in the community. This event will be held at Evergreen Presbyterian Church.

"The Famine Within": Tomorrow Night at 7:00, Blount Auditorium

Interracial Relationship Support Group Opens Chapter in Memphis

By Liz Overholser
Local and National News Editor

With Martin Luther King Jr. Day just behind us, racial issues are at the forefront of many people's minds. One hot topic in race debates as well as television talk shows is interracial dating and marriage. If not already present, the prescience of this topic of interracial relationships has arrived in Memphis as a new chapter of the interracial relationship support organization, A Place For Us, has recently opened in Memphis.

The nonprofit organization, A Place For Us, aims to support multicultural relationships and families through counselling, group discussions, networking, social gather-

ings and community education. According to cofounder, Ruth White, "We want to teach acceptance of who a person is rather than what society perceives them to be."

The group's primary goal is to break down the prejudicial barriers that interracial couples and families face and to lead an acceptance of multicultural relationships. The group works with chapter members in planning outings, parties, workshops, and discussion groups but it is also active on a national level. For instance, A Place For Us has created The American Spirit Youth Summit in which celebrities such as Arsenio Hall, Kevin Costner and Jay Leno have participated. Both Founders and members have appeared on national news pro-

British Studies Welcomes New Dean

By Will Seay

"Smoking of the vile weed of tobacco is forbidden," reads the sign tacked to the door of Dean Leslie's office. Though a remainder of the late Dr. Yerger Clifton, the notice still takes full effect.

As I knocked on the doorframe and poked my head inside, a smiling face framed by a bushy red beard and matching wavy hair jovially greeted me. Michael Leslie is Rhodes' new Dean of British Studies, the program which exposes students and teachers alike to British culture and academics through a summer of study and travel. He is also an active member of the English faculty, currently teaching a course entitled "Text, Images, and Illustrated Books" which is cross-referenced in the Art department.

Dean Leslie's resume is nothing short of impressive. He obtained his first degree 1976 from the University of Leicester, followed by his doctorate from the University of Edinburgh in 1981, both in English Literature. His teaching career began at the London University and soon after moved to Sheffield University, consisting mostly of classes in 16th - 18th century literature, but also ranging from classes involving literature and science to literature and the visual arts.

An interest in information tech-

nology tends to seep into much of Dean Leslie's work as well, where he finds the use of the computer immensely helpful. Over the past six years he has been serving as Project Director on a team editing the surviving works of Samuel Hartlib (a 17th century polymath whose surviving papers run to more than 2,500 pages), where the text is key to the images used. Working on the largest current research project of its type in England, Leslie and the team will produce their work in CD-ROM format keying texts and images of documents to give readers access to the fullest information possible. The final product will occupy approximately 1.8 gigabytes of information (that is, nearly 20 million words, plus the picture images). The Rhodes computer center has recently added this technology to its labs, and undoubtedly the work will soon be available for interested students.

Leslie has accomplished research in other related areas, having published a book on 16th century literature, edited another on literature and agriculture, written many published essays on 17th century intellectual history, and numerous articles and chapters of books of various topics in the literature field. He is also the current editor of two journals, "Word and Image" and "Journal of Garden History."

In 1991 Rhodes invited Michael Leslie to spend a semester here, and he taught an English survey class and co-taught a class on Renaissance Poetry with Professor Entzminger. He

returns this year as the Dean of British Studies, replacing Dr. Clifton, who passed away last summer.

His immediate goal is to rejuvenate the British Studies program, which he feels has fallen into a slight slump due to economic and other reasons, by putting into effect plans made with Dr. Clifton and to confirm and to consolidate its position as one of the premier overseas programs for students in this part of the U.S.

Leslie's compelling figure comes further to life as he explains the purpose of the program is to enhance the experience both faculty and students have of British culture and academics, and enable them to get access to the facets of England no common tourist could have. He hopes the curiosity and intensity he sees in the Rhodes student body, one reason he was drawn here, will serve as a catalyst for the program, which has indeed already received more applications this year than last.

Though his work and research takes up the majority of his time, Leslie spends his spare spare time with his two young children. He also noted an interest in cross-country skiing, but his eyebrows made acquaintances as he tried fruitlessly to list many other hobbies or interests outside the demanding rigors of his career, which is what obviously interests him most. He did, however, mention a newly acquired skill in transporting baggage overseas, and is currently still juggling his personal items and teaching aids somewhere across the Atlantic.

R.A. Applications Available Soon

By Jim Turner

Very soon the staff of Residence Life will once again begin the long process of selecting the resident assistants for the 1994-95 school year. The multi-page application for the RA job will be available in the Deans of Student Affairs office on Tuesday, January 18 and will be due at DOSA on Friday, February 11.

In related residence life news, Eddie Dieppa was chosen to be the new resident assistant on second floor Stewart North. Dieppa, who will be stepping in for outgoing RA Steve Stanley, was selected after completing an accelerated version of the normal RA selection process.

Due to a sudden attack of modesty, we are not including a staff box in this issue. This unfortunate condition is expected to pass momentarily.



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Hollywood, Escapism and Stagnation

Everyone in America watches films because this media is readily available to the masses, allowing even people of lesser means to enjoy something artistic and recreational. With the many films produced by Hollywood and elsewhere available for the American public to see each season, some are, naturally, more widely seen than others.

Different people view films for different reasons but the most common reason that an individual in American society will go to the cinema is to indulge in a form of entertainment, namely escapism.

While many people, not giving the matter serious thought think of "escapism" in a less than positive manner, it is not in itself a negative thing. Every society needs vents for the release of steam built up by the pressures which plague its era. The films which are most popular for as a means of escaping the harshness of reality, are those where Good triumphs over Evil; where black and white are clearly delineated; where the conventional values of today's society are reaffirmed and nurtured.

Two particular examples are *The Firm* and *The Pelican Brief*. In both films, the protagonists face the dangers of the mob and some of their own internal fears and in the end succeed. The movie version of *The Firm* actually offered an ending substantially different from that of Grisham's novel so that truth and justice would prevail.

Another example, not yet released, is *Interview with the Vampire*, a novel by Anne Rice. It seems that the screen adaptation will lack the homoerotic element which Rice established between the lead character and his maker. The reasoning is twofold. First, the star of the film (who isn't even playing the novel's lead character) is Tom Cruise. The other reason is that the executives fear that should the slight homoerotic element remain within the screen version, it will lose something which the audience demands causing them to lose money in the bargain.

While this type of reasoning behind films is not a "bad" one, *per se*, it does leave something to be desired. The viewers who only seek reaffirmation of their own ways of thinking are limiting their individual experiences in ways which could be detrimental to society as a whole. The society and culture whose art merely reflects the con-

temporary modes of thinking faces stagnation. Some directors come along attempting to bridge these two ideas of escapism and provocation, including *Batman Returns'* Tim Burton.

Other movies, such as *Schindler's List*, directed by Spielberg doesn't attempt to whitewash its statement(s). A fear, however, is that the movie will only be an acclaimed success in the movie industry and among the elites of this country. It is highly possible that the typical movie-goer will not see this film at all or be disenchanted with it and discourage others from



Delusions Of Grandeur
Jason Briggs Cormier

seeing what promises to be one of the more important works of our time.

Another fear is that *Philadelphia*, directed by Demme, will not attract much of an audience. Many have wondered why Holly-

wood waited so long in the first place to create a major motion picture dealing with AIDS. In its favor, is the fact that it stars Tom Hanks and Denzel Washington and is being hyped as a courtroom drama.

Why is it, however, that our society is so

afraid of difference and newness that it seeks continually to only reaffirm the old? Why is it afraid to set itself challenges? Why does it resist the efforts of even big names like those above?

One mustn't think that I am suggesting that all of the old is bad and needs to be ditched. We cannot live in the past, however and must continually press onward. We must accept that change is essential to our survival. Along with technological advances come changes in thought and values. Some values will hopefully never really disappear, such as the value of human life. At the same time general social conventions need to constantly be reappraised and challenged, as our societies continue to evolve and grow.

How Much Do The Republicans Pay This Guy?

First, let me establish my bias: I am generally against anything said or done by President Clinton. Just in case anyone has not been able to discern that yet, I wanted to be sure that everyone knew exactly where I am coming from. Once again, though there are a few exceptions that I am not afraid to note, I do not think Bill Clinton has done many good things in his career, and I do not think this will change any time this century.

I said that because I realize that this bias may affect how I perceive the issues in this week's column, and this is one time that I would like to be objective. What I want to do is objectively examine the fact that Bill Clinton will have no toes left by this summer if he keeps shooting himself in the foot at the present rate. Let's start with two things that our President is doing a fair job at.

The best thing that Bill Clinton has done as President is to push for the passage of NAFTA. In fact, Clinton has not done a bad job of promoting free trade. True, Mickey Kantor has yet to realize that he probably shouldn't approach his job as trade representative like a prosecutor in a murder trial, but all in all the administration has supported free trade when it counts.

One other area where the President is not doing a bad job is his Russia policy. Though his

RATIONALE,
Jim Turner

active support of Yeltsin and the reformers may not be the perfect strategy, it could be worse. Furthermore, the "perfect strategy" towards Russia is something I doubt anyone really knows.

That being said, why is the President about to ruin the two things that actually work for him? This week, President Clinton began pressuring Yeltsin to establish "voluntary export restraints" on Russian aluminum. Aluminum exports are the bright spot in Russia's economy at the moment and are providing two desperately needed things for Russia: hard currency and the experience of success on the world market. However, Russia's success has caused a plunge in aluminum prices, which benefits every person on earth except those who work in the aluminum industry.

If Clinton succeeds in using his leverage on Russia to reduce aluminum exports he will do three things that I don't think he wants to do: First, he will damage Russia's economy. Second,

he will reduce the amount of free trade in the world. Third, he will cause Russia to reinstitute state controls on its industry. This contradicts everything Clinton has said or done on these issues. In fact, the only pattern it follows is Clinton's apparent destiny to destroy his administration.

The pattern should be quite clear to us now. The reason he gave for dropping Lani Guiner was, "Whoa, I finally read her stuff! How could I have picked her?" He cheerfully noted deficit improvement that occurred in 1992 as evidence that his economic plan is working. He preached fiscal discipline, then openly lobbied against a bipartisan spending reduction bill. He took nearly a week to finally come out and put to rest the ridiculous allegations of the two Arkansas State Troopers last month. The only thing in the legendary Whitewater documents that could damage him more than his poor handling of the case is if the papers contained proof that he shot JFK. And finally, he is about undo most of the good he has done towards free trade and towards Russia, as well as undo much of the good inflation news we have had, because he wants to please the people in one industry.

Sometimes you just wonder, "How much do the Republicans pay this guy?"

THE HAUNTING SNOW

By R. Trent Taylor
Editorial Page Editor

Snow. The gentle, yet so very brutal, snow that fell in the dreary night. So peaceful, yet so violent, with the numbing ice-wind whispering unspeakable acts. So very evil. And the train. A faint rumbling, then a roar. The big, black train chugging, huffing, and puffing. So LOUD! It screams as it brings its load into the station like some wounded, howling animal.

The snow and the train. Those are the images that haunt me the most, the ones that fill my nightmares and pierce my heart. For the snow was not really snow. It was ashes. Not just any ashes. The ashes of thousands upon thousands of Jews incinerated after being gassed at Auschwitz. And the train. Not just any train. This train was filled with Jews, simply shadows now, stocked as if there were farm animals on the big,

black train. In a way, they are like farm animals, farm animals being led to their slaughter. And the looks on their faces. Not really fear. Not really sadness. Not really even pain. Just a numbness, and a resignation, and a question, *the Question*: why?

These images appear in Steven Spielberg's epic about the holocaust and Oskar Schindler, "Schindler's List," that recently opened in Memphis. The movie is powerful. It punches you in the stomach and kicks you in the face. It shocks you. Ultimately, it makes you FEEL the Holocaust, no small accomplishment.

Some cried at the graphic, horrible, utterly unspeakable crimes that took place. I could not. I was numb, almost in shock. I know about the Holocaust and have always been sickened by the Nazis' actions, but it is so much more horrible when you know the people who are being beaten

and murdered. When you know their names, their backgrounds, their families, their hopes and dreams, when you know them, it is so much more horrible.

I walk outside the theater and see the snow on the ground. It had snowed earlier in the day in Memphis, a snow that strangely resembled the snow at Auschwitz in the movie. Only later did I realize that they are one and the same. For the Holocaust is not over. Its snows still cover the ground all around us with its evil presence.

And though we think it snow because it looks like snow, feels like snow, even tastes like snow, it is not. Just like in the movie, it is ashes. There is still a Holocaust going on, and nobody seems to care. Bosnia. Ring a bell? You might have heard something about it. Something about some war going on over in Europe somewhere. And something about war crimes or 'ethnic

cleansing' or something like that. But, you know, that's not really our problem, you say, let those Europeans take care of their own problems. Besides, we have a lot of our problems of our own. And those people over there are Muslims, not Jews. It's not the same, you say. It's different.

No, it is the same: the systematic genocide of a group of people because of their ethnicity and religion. Of course, it is almost too late. We have almost let Milosevic and his henchmen get away with what Hitler tried to do, but couldn't. Destroy an entire country and its people. Eliminate people of a certain religion. Cleanse a region of a certain ethnicity. Supposedly we came up with ways to keep the Holocaust from happening again. The United Nations. NATO. Human rights organizations.

And yet there it is again. The first time the

When Violence Comes Close to Home...

We have a big problem. You and I have a big problem. It is far more menacing than stat homework or staying awake in Search lectures. We are all here at Rhodes for our future. Some way or another, we are all planning our future while here in Memphis. Whether it be a mere formality to get a degree to inherit Pop's business or find a good husband, or just to be a simple country C.P.A. we're here to help solve these problems.

One day, a high percentage of us will have children. (Some of us are trying like hell while they're here, but that ain't my problem. Just remember: after the dance you have to pay the fiddler. He doesn't accept Visa.)

61 children died in Chicago last year. Their were 350 murders in Baltimore, and shootings in malls and restaurants are up an alarming amount. People are bombing ex-girlfriends' families and pipe bombs are exploding in K-Mart. These are all bad things.

Our society is drifting toward an incredible state of fear. People are buying handguns for protection. Companies are making bullets that will travel through three or more New York City phonebooks.

At this rate, my calculations are that approximately enough of your friends will have something done to either them or their loved ones that you will get a good use out of that black suit you bought just for your child's funeral. Well, in my opinion, that's very bad.

What will it take? I don't even know where to begin. Hang all drug dealers, murderers and rapists? It's too late to ship them to Georgia or Australia, they all have the same problems already. But we have to do something. Anything. Prisoners on the whole don't do anything after they are convicted. They get a warm bed, three meals a day, all the sex they can stand, and all the time in the world to get little weightlifting in. Maybe we sought to bring back that Roman Gladiator thing. The A.C.L.U. might object.

I think we need to begin to give a damn. It starts here. I think a lot of things that go on here on our little battleground are sheltered from the real war. If while at Rhodes someone violates a law, they are punished; but if they aren't caught, you aren't adversely affected. Really though, what is \$2.14 at the end of the semester



for dorm damages?

What happens when people around you begin to lose more than a bicycle or a calculator? What happens when you go home to spend your vacation and you see the picture of one of your old buddies from the high school yearbook on the TV screen who was allegedly murdered by the man pictured next to him walking out of jail? Suppose one of your friends is kidnapped, taken to the woods and shot because his car would be good to commit robberies in. What then? Get ready, ladies and gentlemen, cause this will hit you like a ton of bricks dropped from the top of Halliburton Tower.

The last time I was home a couple of bodies were found about a mile from my house, a mother and son shot by a couple because it seemed like the thing to do. What will happen this weekend when I go

back home? It scares me to think about it.

How easy is it to commit a murder here? So easy it will make your head spin. Say you want to waste somebody on Jackson Avenue. All you have to do is buy a gun, steal a BMW from Rhodes with Georgia plates (there seems to be a nice selection) and find your target. Shoot to kill (with a semiautomatic weapon, accuracy is optional), then abandon the car, take out the seats to make it look like a strip job, and head back to the local bar where you have a bunch of good friends who hated the guy you rubbed as much as you did, so they'll be glad to testify that you were there the whole night. Perhaps a little refinement is needed, but not much.

Now think for a minute. Did the above crime weapon get purchased from a licensed respectable gun dealer? I don't think so. It was probably purchased out of the back of a car; for \$100 in cash, you got a hot gun, a box of stolen cartridges, and your choice of a side order, to go. Credit requires collateral. Thanks for playing.

If we eliminate guns in America, via

the ever-efficient and omni-effective Washington bureaucracy, will that prevent crime? Will people who kill for money, drugs and revenge be silenced because of no access to guns? PLEASE.

I'm becoming a big fan of vigilante justice. Crack house? C-4, a box of dynamite and a battery, ask questions later. Catch a murderer, lock him in a room with the corpse for a week, beat him within an inch of his life, then make him split rocks for the rest of his days. Might be a good start. (Don't worry, this is only a hypothetical situation. The P.C. movement will be glad to know that .ie may be substituted with she. It's a cruel world now that the knife cuts both ways. Remember that.)

Then maybe rappers won't rap about killing people because it seemed like the thing to do. I don't care who or what any group of people has done to you, killing just ain't the answer.

On the other hand, if somebody murders my little girl, beware. You had better get caught doing something wrong in prison and stay there. Because if you ever get out, I'm going to Rhodes to steal a BMW with Georgia plates and then....

Deck the Halls with "Family Values": Christmas and the American Family

T'was the night before Christmas and all thru the 'burbs
Yards glowed like an airstrip, right up to the curbs,
As in every house, under part-blinking trees
Waited bow-adorned boxes, hoping to please:
"TO: MOM, FROM: SANTA" (something "just what she needed!")
And Amy's Barbie Corvette—one-speed and two-seated,
For Dad, on CD, all the music he grew up on,
And for Billy, a Barney that he'll soon throw up on.
And after the fruitcake, and sing-songs, and cheer
Dad's still paying bills way into next year...

... Yeah, yeah. It's the same every year. Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Joy Blah Blah Blah Blah Good will toward men Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Christmas Pageant Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Burl Ives Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah "Gee, thanks for the shoe-horn, aunt Bertha" Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah egg nog Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah "Here's the receipt" Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Auld lang syne.

Like a tinsel-covered broken record, it never changes. It's all been part of the Seasonal canon for as long as we can remember, and will probably stay that way long after we're gone. But beneath all the false white beards and bed-sheeted angels there's an underlying focus during the holiday season that few people call direct attention to—the family.

The Christmas/Hanukkah/New Year season isn't just menorahs and

mistletoe. It's my 78-year-old grandfather taking a leak in the parking lot after a December 22 dinner, because he didn't feel like going back inside the restaurant; it's not wearing your earrings for a week so that your grandmother won't think you're bound towards a life of crime; it's sleeping on the floor, in sleeping bags, with all your (younger) cousins; it's shoveling the front walk with any other available siblings; and it's taking time to talk with a few people that mean very much to you but don't get a chance to see very often.

Anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved-one knows that the holidays are the most difficult times to cope. And the holiday season brings more suicides than any other time during the year. Why? Because so much of the (especially) Christmas tradition places a huge emphasis on the "traditional" family and the important roles of each individual member. The children are there, decked out in Winnie-the-Pooh footed pajamas, with the important duty to hang the stockings before going to bed (and later waking the parents at some insane hour). The mother is there to organize all the gift-giving and to keep track of all the thank-you notes needed to be written later. And every Dad's basic Christmas duties are, essentially, to take pictures and pay the bills. Oh yeah, it's also important that all persons involved maintain an extremely cheerful disposition, regardless of circumstances.

Now, all in all, that might be a

pretty nice Christmas—if it were feasible. The problem is that the "ideal" family Christmas is not a reality for most American families, and consequently does more harm than good. For instance, tradition tells us that if one or more family members are missing from this Christmas picture, it is, in some sense, "incomplete" or even "dysfunctional." Or God forbid if your family is dealing with difficult issues that might overshadow a little of that holiday cheer.

Then there's industry. Toymakers from Nintendo to Sharper Image tell parents that if they can't give their children everything they want, they rank right down there with the parents in Idaho that left their three children at home while they went to Bermuda. Jewelry manufacturers tell couples that a diamond says a whole lot more than a rose or something you constructed yourself.

Hell, even Coca-Cola says that on Christmas eve, if you aren't standing somewhere in a Christmas tree-formation, chugging a Coke, holding a candle and singing in perfect harmony with a choir composed of multi-ethnic children, you're basically lifting your leg on world peace.

So how do you amend the picture of the "traditional" family Christmas?

The first step is a re-definition of the word "family."

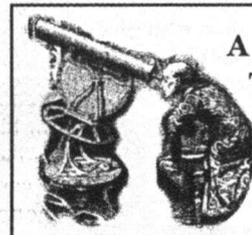
During the '92 presidential elections, if you didn't hear the term "family values" at least 12 times you were either

living an isolated area of Montana or you're Dan Quayle. "Family values," despite being the most ambiguous political term in recent years, with no concrete definition, was one of the most salient issues during the presidential election. The term alone carried enough weight to either make or break a candidate. (Example: "Goddam, if that Clinton feller ain't for family values he sure as hell ain't got my vote.")

Now, when I first heard the word "family values" I went to great lengths to determine its meaning. Finally, after careful deliberation, I encountered possibilities based upon two pieces of information: (1) George Bush advocates "family values." (2) K-Mart claims to have "values for the whole family." Therefore, I narrowed it down that either George Bush was trying to push the old "Ozzie and Harriet" family model of an un-divorced mom and dad, 2.5 straight kids, a dog, and a cat—all in the mechanical, relentless pursuit of capitalistic happiness (despite alcoholism, sexual abuse and battery)—or Bush was telling all of us to buy Toughskins jeans and take advantage of blue-light specials.

To this day I haven't figured it out.

Anyway, the important thing here is to understand that the only criteria for a family is that it be composed of one or more persons and there be lots of mu-



A Cynics Guide To the Galaxy

Chris Robinson

tual love and support. Screw biology. It doesn't matter if you have a single mom,

just a brother, two moms, two dads, an adopted son, two cats, one python, or someone close to you that doesn't remotely resemble any role in the "traditional" American family model.

And to those individuals fortunate enough to have both a firm biological family base (even in the "traditional" sense) as well as a strong contemporary, or non-biological family, treasure those ties but don't over-inflate their value. You can be just as close to a "non-family" member as you can to a "family" member. Otherwise we'd all be marrying our brothers and sisters.

So during next year's final holidays, act any way you want to, and give anybody anything you want to—just make sure it's from the heart. Pick and choose the best aspects of the holiday season (peace on earth is a good one, Rhino Records' *Blue Christmas* is another). And even if you wind up next Christmas Eve all by yourself in some end-of-the-world town with no one you know for miles, go down to a local bar, find some other people spending the holiday by themselves, and call yourself a family.

Just remember to drink a few for old George in his Toughskins.

A response to Jim Turner's column: "Will the Real Liberals at Rhodes College Please Stand?"

"Groan..." screech [sound of chair being pushed back]

By Welch Suggs
Editor and Social Critic At Large

Everyone is probably expecting this piece to be a great diatribe against my great and good friend Jim Turner and his wicked and immoral political agenda (*Rationale*, December 8, 1993). I'm sure y'all think that O can find something nasty to say about someone who says, "The things I see being done in the name of liberalism are a far, sad cry from the proud achievements of liberalism in this country in the past."

Well, I'm sorry to disappoint everybody. What Jim is saying is that there isn't any coherent political or moral agenda behind what we consider the left wing of American politics, namely, the Democratic party. This is very true. The Democrats as we know them today are best known for centrist politics and an inclusionist policy toward members of minorities, as well as a basically interventionist attitude on issues such as gun control and health care. These are not bad politics to have, but they don't express a really clear ideological basis. They're more of a reaction to opposite policies proposed by the Republicans.

Furthermore, Jim's column implies, I think, that the word "liberal" means nothing in today's politics. This, too, is very true.

Last summer, I had a conversation with Larry Kirwan, an Irish playwright and

lead singer of the band Black 47. A self-avowed former Marxist, Kirwan said essentially the same thing, namely that there wasn't any real left-wing alternative for people in this country. To hear this coming from both sides of the political spectrum indicates that there's some truth to the idea.

Jim declares himself to be a "true liberal, assuming the 'classical' definition of liberal." Interestingly enough, the term "libertarian" comes from the same root as "liberal," although the two terms have opposite meanings in contemporary political parlance.

Ultimately, libertarianism boils down to an affirmation of individual rights. What this means in political theory is an assertion that "every adult with normal mental capacity has the ability to take care of himself or herself and [to] clearly see the moral course for his or her life," in Jim's words. Thus, all people have the right, it is said, to live their lives however they choose as long as they do not interfere with others' rights to life, liberty and property.

This all sounds really neat. And at first glance, it sounds like just the ideals upon which this country was founded. And most importantly, it's coherent. No Democrat or Socialist could make such a comprehensive claim that would sum up the party's position so well, which is why there is no left-wing ideologue to match the persuasiveness and appeal of Rush

Limbaugh.

Limbaugh has turned libertarian whining into an art form, and as much as the notion horrifies me, he has become a rather powerful force in the politics of the American people. His success results from his ability to simplify issues to the lowest common denominator, and from this point he can make pithy little statements that sound just wonderful.

Americans are terribly fond of dichotomies, of trying to reduce things to black-and-white terms. To wit, conservatives have tried to reduce most political issues to questions of being "American" or "conservative" or "Communist."

While I hate to support this trend—when you think about it, most issues are a tad more complex—I think that the proper dichotomy in politics is starting to become "libertarian" versus "communitarian" rather than "Republican" versus "Democratic" or "conservative" versus "liberal." While the libertarian theory of individual rights espoused by Jim is an attractive one, it's pretty idealistic: "...if we have a moral society at all, people will act morally on their own accord."

Unfortunately, people are 'no damn good.' The vast majority of people operate on the basis of self-interest, and they really don't care about other people. In other words, they're too willing to forget what they owe to society, and they carry

that debt with them to their graves.

So doesn't it make sense to convince and maybe even coerce people into contributing to the common good? This runs counter to the libertarian theories of individual rights, but it's a much older idea: remember Aristotle's idea of the polis? How about Christ saying, "Sell all you have and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me" (Luke 18:23)? These sorts of lessons point to the necessity of a cohesion in society, which requires the efforts of all members of it.

Who are we to say that we're only in it for ourselves?

So what's communitarianism? I really should wait until after this semester to tackle that one, since I'm doing a project on the subject. But I feel I can comment on this much: if libertarianism is a theory of individual rights, then communitarianism is a theory of community rights. Namely, what responsibility does a person owe to the communities to which he or she belongs?

Think about it.

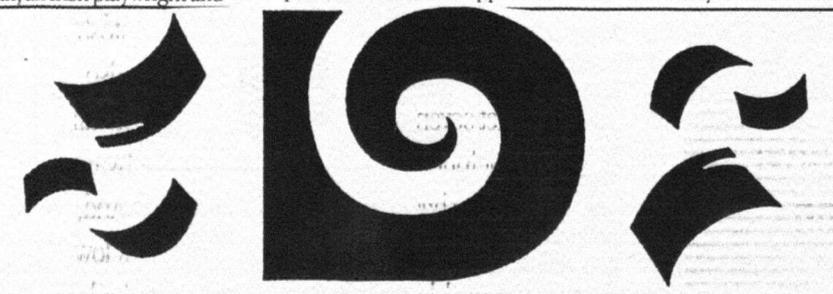
Continued from page 4

Holocaust happened, the world in the end decided to come to the Jews' rescue and defeat Hitler (although we did that less, much less, for the Jews' sake than we did for our own safety). So when you go and see "Schindler's List," don't you dare say "Never again!" Don't say "We've learned from our mistakes." Instead, go and read some of Zhirnovsky's speeches over in Russia. Or look at the increasing number of neo-Nazis in Germany. And most of all, look at Bosnia, if you dare. Look at the faces of those people and ask them whether the Holocaust will ever happen again.

The snow (or is it ashes?) continues to fall all over the world, and

will always fall unless the world one day decides to take action and prevent such occurrences, unless we have the courage to one day stand up and say "Enough!" Until that happens though, the snow, once thought to symbolize purity, serenity, and peace, serves only as a reminder that we are all guilty, guilty of ignorance and inaction.

Perhaps fifty years from now, some superstar director will make another "Schindler's List" this time about the Bosnian Holocaust. And people will say, "Never again!" They will wonder how the world could let something like that happen and cry for the murdered Bosnian Muslims as we today cry for the murdered Jews.



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Rhodes Welcomes Coach Srnka

**By Eddie Dieppa
Sports Editor**

Scott Srnka is joining the Rhodes athletic department as strength and conditioning coach and defensive coordinator, replacing the late Leland Smith.

Srnka is not new to Rhodes, however: he graduated from Rhodes in 1987 with a degree in Art. After graduating, Srnka went on to Ohio University on scholarship, where he was awarded a Master's Degree in Corporate Fitness.

Originally, Srnka was going to complete his studies in Art, but then realized that his true love was for coaching and athletics. Srnka recalled that his love of coaching was fostered by Coach Clary and the late Coach Smith, his football coaches at Rhodes. He felt that they were the main rea-

sons why he is now in coaching today.

His primary interest is in strength training. Srnka served as defensive coordinator for one year at Urbana University, in Ohio. He then moved on to Baldwin-Wallace College in Cleveland, a perennial Division III contender, where he remained for four years.

Srnka filled several roles on the Baldwin-Wallace football staff. He coached offensive backs as well as holding the position of the strength conditioning coach. Off-season, Srnka coached the women's softball team.

Concerning the future, Srnka lives "for the moment," and has, as his goal, to be the best coach possible that he can be. He has already met the football team and was very positive about what he has seen so far.

As a coach for Rhodes, he would like to engineer a "sound, technically skilled defense," as well as to have fun and to provide a good example for the players. Srnka will also be assisting with the track program as its strength conditioning coach this semester, as well as coaching the sprinters and throwers.

SUBWAY HELPS RHODES STRIDE TO SUCCESS
 The Summer Avenue Subway Sub Shop is entering into a special partnership with the Rhodes track team to help our athletes achieve their goals for the 1994 season. For every 12" submarine sandwich bought by Rhodes students, Subway will donate \$1.00 to the team, and for every 6" sub bought, Subway will donate \$.50. Just show your Rhodes ID...and get 10% off!

SCAC Regains Teams from Southwestern

**by Chip Riggs
Sports Editor**

One of the reasons that Southwestern at Memphis changed its name to Rhodes is the number of other schools named Southwestern.

One of those schools is entering Rhodes' conference: Southwestern University of Georgetown, Texas, has accepted a bid to join the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC) following the fall meetings of the SCAC.

Southwestern's membership is effective immediately and athletics participation will begin with the 1994-95 academic year.

"Expansion with this fine institution gives us an added valuable member of the conference," said Dr. Sam Williamson, vice-chancellor and presi-

dent of the University of the South and current chairman of the SCAC Board of Directors (presidents). "It further affirms the distinctive quality of the conference and it will certainly enhance athletic competition within it."

Southwestern's addition to the SCAC restructures divisions for baseball and women's volleyball. The Eastern Division will feature Centre, Millsaps, Oglethorpe and Sewanee while the Western Division will be comprised of Hendrix, Rhodes, Southwestern and Trinity.

Fisk University of Nashville will terminate its membership with the SCAC following the 1993-94 academic year but will retain an open invitation to rejoin the conference.



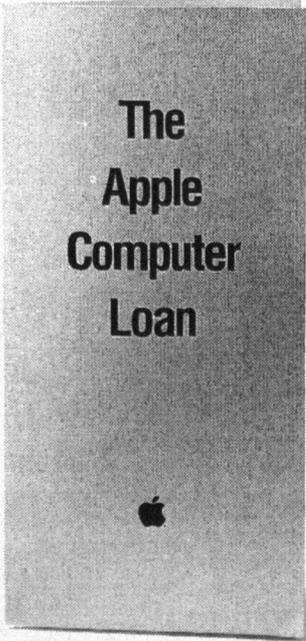
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Rhodes Awards Honorary Degrees at Graduation

By Jason Carmel
Aquarius

In conjunction with the winter graduation ceremonies, the Faculty and Staff of Rhodes awarded several surprise Honorary degrees to members of the Memphis community and elsewhere who have made outstanding contributions to the college.

The first degree, and one that has been long neglected if you ask this ace reporter, was bestowed to Silky O'Sullivan, owner and proprietor of the establishment bearing his name. President James Daughdrill gave the legendary creator of the diver and "man we all try to emulate in one way or another" his honorary degree in Physics, followed by a gruff hug that brought tears to more than this reporter's eyes.

"We don't get that many Physics majors around here for some reason," said President Daughdrill in an interview following the graduation party at Silky's. "So, I figured since we had a few extra physics diplomas lying around, why not give one to a man that everybody loves, especially on Thursday nights."

"I'm truly touched," said O'Sullivan during his address just before he announced a slight increase in the cost of pitchers to \$112. "This little framed thing will look just peachy right over the Pit Fighter video game that nobody ever plays."

Also given a degree was musician Billy McLaughlin, who's recent album *The Archery of Guitar* won critical acclaim from almost all of the students who actually purchased a copy at McLaughlin's last Pub concert almost a year ago. Those students that merely taped McLaughlin's

album from their friends thought it was pretty good too.

Mr. McLaughlin was nominated for the award by Rhodes Social Chairwoman, Catherine Cuellar. "Well, I figured since he comes to Rhodes more than most of the actual students, we should at least give him something that shows how much we appreciate him."

McLaughlin's degree engendered some controversy, however, when Executive Vice President David Harlow brought strong evidence before the nominating committee that McLaughlin did, in fact, have long hair. Cuellar, in a brilliant diplomatic move, averted the crisis by suggesting that Mr. McLaughlin receive a degree in Art. "Oh...well...that would be OK then," said Harlow.

Cuellar is suspected, however, of nominating the guitarist simply to encourage him to charge a little bit less for his concerts. When confronted with this accusation, Cuellar informed me of what I could do with my accusation.

Madonna was very nearly given a degree, but then the college realized that no dance degree was actually offered at the college. In an attempt to save embarrassment, the faculty offered Madonna a tenure-track position of being the person to pose nude for the Life Studies class in the Art Department. Unfortunately Madonna declined the offer, stating that the offer, while prestigious, did not allow her to be naked in front of as many people as she would like to. Negotiations are currently taking place to up the Life Studies enrollment to 12,000 students.

Disoriented Students

Migrate South After Blizzard

By Hank Marchal and Jason Carmel
Arctic Correspondants

It was a Friday morning much like any other blustery winter day at Rhodes College. The students bundled up and shuffled off to class, suspecting nothing. Then, it happened. At the stroke of ten the skies opened up and the cold fury of the gods swirled down upon the heads of unsuspecting Rhodents.

Most students walked obliviously on to class, noting the snow only momentarily. The rest, however were not so fortunate. Having never seen snow before, the poor victims cackled wildly, ran onto the icy lawns and tried to compact snowballs out of the mushy dirt and grass. Not knowing what to do next, their instincts told them to flee south.

"The sky is falling! We're gonna die!" were some of the intelligible phrases from those fleeing to escape the assumed advent of the next ice age. Some took cars, others left on bicycles, and a few just ran wildly on foot, their instincts pointing them deeper into the heart of Dixie.

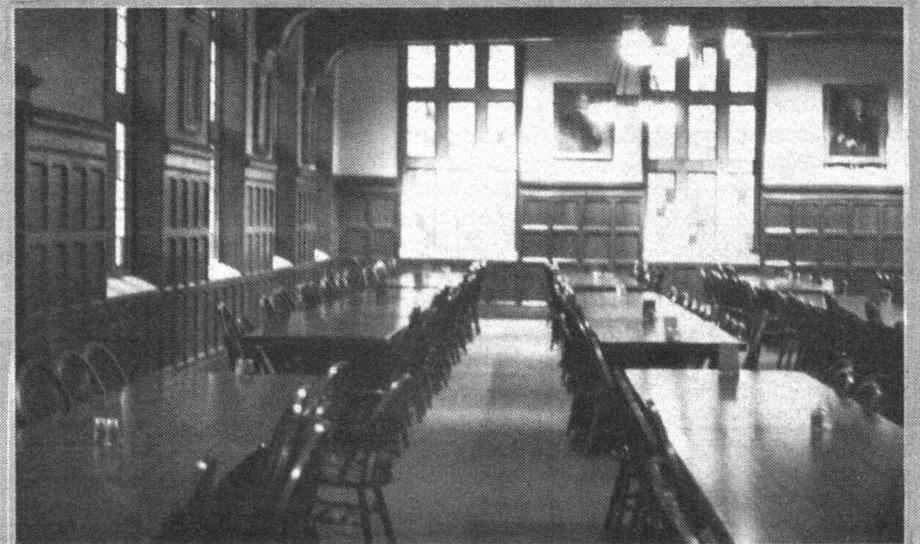
Some of the lucky ones were apprehended

before they could get very far. Some were struck by passing cars on North Parkway having been momentarily stunned by the glare of the approaching headlights. Still others were seen running as far south as Tunica.

Northern Sophomore Ned Crystal, unaffected by the weather, was quoted as saying "This is \$%#!ing stupid. I'd like to take these wussies up to Greenwich and show them some REAL snow." Ned was seen later that day clad in shorts, carrying a lacrosse stick en route to the swimming pool.

Eddie Dieppa's door froze shut, keeping the new Stewart RA away from Williford for almost 23 minutes.

Dean of Student Affairs Tom Shandley was seen in the back 40 shouting "Weeeeeeeeeee!" and waving his hands around like a helicopter. He then slipped and suffered a multiple fracture on his coccyx and severe hypothermia before the new Moore Moore St. Bernard "Lumpy" saved the dean's life with an emergency salt water infusion.



Students expressed resentment and horror following the 90° reorientation of the tables in the main dining hall, thus causing cliques and fraternities that had begun to fossilize to break up and flow randomly around the room. (Photo by Stephen Deusner)

Students Slow To Recover From Rat Table Tragedy

By Joe Sankey

As I'm sure all of you know by now, terrible tragedy has struck the Rhodes campus. In the midst of an otherwise tranquil holiday break, a terrorist organization known as T.O.D.D. managed to rearrange the tables in the Burrow Refectory. The results were predictable: mass chaos, floods, earthquakes, dogs and cats sleeping together - really traumatic stuff.

Chris Robinson was even quoted as saying, "Hey... What's up with the tables, dude?"

There was initially talk amongst the staff of the Sou'wester about calling in the National Guard to keep the peace, but the situation has deteriorated far too much for any effective show of force. Student Assembly, which has taken on responsibility for negotiating with the terrorists, is looking at possible ways of dealing with the terrorists. One representative proposed a Sit-In with lots of candles and catchy chants like, "Hell no, we won't go!", "Just give peace a chance" and "Man, this table setup really sucks!!" but apparently this representative was bludgeoned about the head for his stupidity almost immediately after voicing the idea.

Nancy Turner, resident Grand Poobah of Student Assembly, was much more direct in her response. "There is no question in our minds that drastic action is by all means necessary. We are definitely going to have to form another committee."

While there is no word on the present location of this terrorist group, there has been a statement released on the rationale for this vicious attack on the sanctity of our beloved Rat. It reads, "We believe that this change in the placement of the tables in the dining facility provides a welcome change of scenery in an otherwise painfully routine environment. We chose to implement this change for the betterment of students' dining experience and to provide a new perspective."

This obviously disgraceful attempt to expose Rhodes students to something new has infuriated the populace, strengthening the argument of the more extremist elements who have said, "Change sucks. Let's nuke 'em!"

As this situation warrants such immediate and concerted efforts, the staff of the Rhode'ster will be on call around the clock to keep you updated on the situation.

Photographer!

With extraordinarily bad taste needed for the Rhode'ster. Preference to those whose work offends Catherine MacKinnon. Please see Eric Dunning for more information.