

Smoking Faces A Challenge

page 3



Mens' Basketball Reloads for 1995-96 Season

page 6

THE SOU'WESTER

THE WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION OF RHODES COLLEGE

Vol. 83, No. 6 • October 25, 1995

Students Express Concern Over Faculty-Student Ratio

Dean McMahon Addresses Questions At RSG Meeting

By Jeff Millings
Staff Correspondent

Recent decisions by the administration and the Trustees of the College over faculty, tenure and student-to-teacher ratio have raised concerns among the students and faculty alike. The problems stem from a cap that limits the number of professors at Rhodes to 115.

As a result of the changes in enrollment patterns of the students, the position currently occupied by a German professor will be terminated at the end of the semester, and a spot for a new professor will be added to the Biology department. There is also speculation that a spot that has remain unfilled in the International Studies Department in the past two years will not be filled, and a new position for a faculty member will be added to the English department instead.

On Wednesday, Oct. 18, Dean of Academic Affairs Mark McMahon attended the Rhodes Student Government meeting in Tuthill Hall to answer questions about the recent changes. At the meeting, students raised many questions about the issue. McMahon said the limit was in place to keep the tuition down for the students. According to the dean, the cap is not as stifling as it sounds, because it does not apply to part-time faculty, which gives the College a way to get around the limit.

In the last three years, the student enrollment has increased slightly, though the number of professors has stayed relatively constant. As a result, the faculty-to-student ratio has increased from 12:1 to nearly 13:1, and the average class size to nearly 19. This ratio is derived from a formula that multiplies the number of students by fourteen and the number of professors by nine, assuming that the average student takes fourteen hours a semester and the average professor teaches nine hours.

The average class size is currently 18.75, and

it will probably rise to around 19 in the near future. Dean of Admissions David Wottle said that, if it rises above nineteen, it will hinder the school's ability to recruit students. As a solution to the problem, many professors have been teaching overloads, which does not truly alter the ratio, but it does lower class sizes.

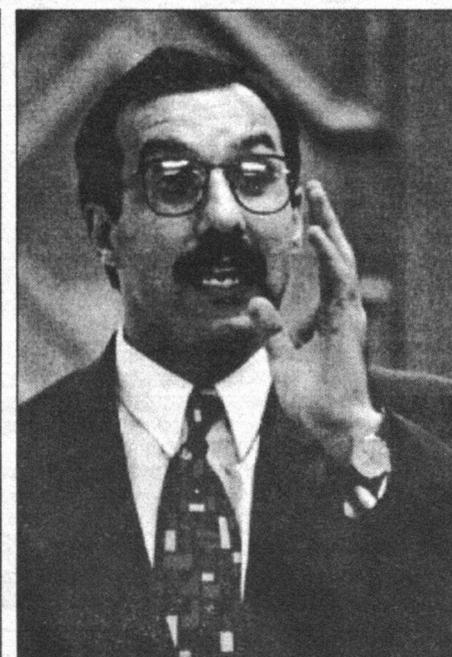
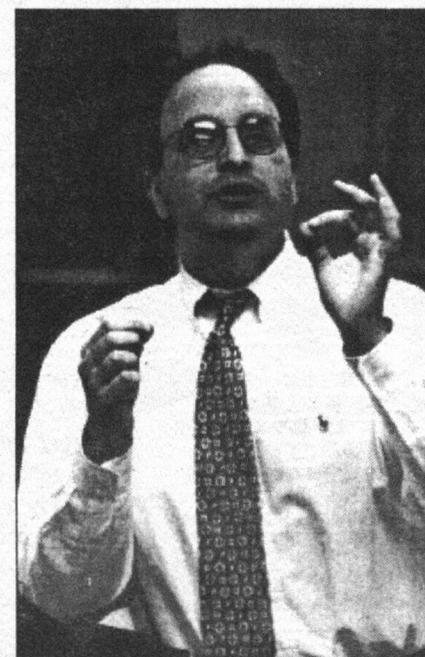
McMahon noted that Rhodes is recruiting additional students without hiring additional faculty in order to avoid an increase in tuition costs. Additional students create more revenue for the College, meaning that tuition costs can be held constant. Were Rhodes to hire additional faculty, according to McMahon, the fixed costs of running the College would increase, which would necessarily be reflected in a tuition increase. This results in a struggle to maintain the best possible learning environment with the lowest possible costs.

McMahon also revealed the College's intention to allow enrollment to continue rising to a cap of 1475 full-time-equivalent students in the next several years in order to continue raising tuition revenues.

First-year senator Ford Baxter brought up the problems that would inevitably arise with student housing, which many students think is already overcrowded, if the enrollment were allowed to increase that much. McMahon indicated that there were measures being taken to insure that that would not be a problem.

Director of Planning and Institutional Analysis Bill Berg also attended the meeting, saying that improvements in technology could possibly alleviate some of the problems in the long run. Ideally, traditionally larger classes that rely heavily on lecture, such as Introduction to Economics, could be taught using computers, reducing the need for faculty. In addition, some language courses could be taught using computers.

Dukin' It Out...



Andrew Niesen/Sou'wester

Professors Frank Mora and Mehran Kamrava punctuate their points with gestures at their debate over Israel and the West Bank.

Rhodes Falls In Rank According To US News & World Report Survey

By Andrew Niesen
Layout Editor

After placing Rhodes in the first tier of liberal arts schools last year, *US News & World Report* has once again given Rhodes a second tier rating in its annual survey of American colleges.

Rhodes has historically been ranked among the second tier of liberal-arts colleges in the poll ever since it first appeared in 1989. The annual poll rates Rhodes among other small liberal-arts

colleges based on several criteria: incoming students' SAT/ACT scores, incoming students' high school class ranking, rate of acceptance (the percentage of students who were accepted out of students who applied), student-to-faculty ratio, yield, per-student expenditure by the College, first-year student-retention rate (the percentage of first-years who return for their sophomore year), graduation rate (the percentage of students who, having matriculated as

first-years, actually graduate), alumni-giving rate (percentage of the College's living alumni who have donated in the previous year) and a more vague category called "academic reputation."

Officials in College Relations blame Rhodes' drop from last year's first-tier ranking of 37th to this year's second-tier ranking among the schools ranked 50th-75th as a result of a change in the evaluation process by *US News*. They claim that more emphasis was placed

this year on freshman and sophomore retention rates, and that hurt Rhodes in the rankings. Officials do point out, however that Rhodes is still ranked "Highly Competitive" by *Barron's Guide to the Most Prestigious Colleges*; that the College has been rated by the *Fiske Guide to Colleges 1996* as a "best buy", and that Rhodes still is ranked in America's top 50 liberal-arts schools according to *The National Review College Guide*.

Letters to the Editors.....4-5
Rigoletto.....6
Rhode'ster.....8

Career Services Sponsors Career Awareness Week

This Week In Brief...

By Pat Donohue

Special to The Sou'wester

In order for students to have a chance in today's competitive job market, Career Services has lined up a number of informative activities for Career Awareness Week.

Career Awareness Week begins Monday, October 30 and runs through November 3. All students are encouraged to participate in the spectacular events which include:

•"Careers in Advertising" on Tuesday, October 31 from 11:30-12:30 in the Alburty Room of the Rat. Greer Simonton, Executive Vice-President of Archer/Malmo, the largest advertising firm in Memphis, will discuss the various career options in advertising and how to get your first job in the field.

•"Put Your Best Fork Forward," a dinner etiquette program for seniors, will be held in the Alburty Room of the Rat on Wednesday, November 1 from 5:30 to 7:30. The event is already sold out. Tim "Ratman" VanderMeersch will give students dining tips from the appetizer to the dessert.

•"Life After Liberal Arts: How to Market Your Liberal Arts Skills to Employers" will be held on Thursday, November 2 from 6 to 7PM in Buckman 108. Alumni will discuss how their major and leadership skills related to their job search. The alumni, their year, major and employer are Angela Kreuter, 1995 (English, Andersen Consulting); Kimbrelle Barbosa, 1995 (Religious Studies,

National Bank of Commerce); Laura Locke 1994 (Political Science, ALSAC/St. Jude); and Thuong Nguyen, 1994 (Art, State Farm Insurance). A reception for the alumni and students will be held at 5:30 PM in the Buckman lobby.

In addition to programs, there will be a drawing for the Career Survival Kit, which includes a pen, portfolio, rolodex, calendar, resume paper and envelopes, and breath freshener. Career books will be displayed in the Burrow Library and the bookstore.

Also, watch your mailbox for the "Don't Be a Pumpkin Head" campaign flyer. You'll be rewarded with a tasty treat for participating in Career Awareness Week.

AIDS Author To Speak

By Henry Murphy

Staff Correspondent

Dr. Abraham Verghese, professor of medicine and head of the departments of infectious diseases and geriatrics at Texas Technical University, will speak on Thursday, October 26, in Evergreen Presbyterian Church, at 7:30 p.m. Verghese is the author of *My Own Country: A Doctor's Story of a Town and its People in the Age of AIDS*. The memoir tells the saga of Verghese's treatment of some 50 AIDS patients in the small town of Johnson City, Tennessee, and the problems, and triumphs, that resulted from that treatment. Often, Dr. Verghese was the only medical officer who would provide treatment for the patients, because of the stigma of the HIV virus. *My Own Country* has been highly acclaimed around the nation.

Dr. Verghese was born in Ethiopia, in 1955, and completed his medical-school internship and residency in

Johnson City. In 1985, he returned from Boston and began working at the Veterans Administration Hospital, where he cared for a wave of victims of HIV, many of whom were coming home to Johnson City to die with their families. Dr. Verghese was forced to battle the socially and politically conservative attitudes prevalent in the community in order to care for the patients.

After five years, he took a "cooling-off" period and moved, with his family, to Iowa, where he established the AIDS Team and the University of Iowa's outpatient AIDS clinic. While in Iowa, he also obtained an M.F.A. from the respected University of Iowa Writers' Workshop.

Dr. Verghese finished his book with these words: "I have faith in the town and its people. I remember the acts of human kindness that illumine our world." The talk is free and open to the public.

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Wednesday

6:00 pm
Student Senate Meeting
Orgill Room
8:00 pm
Campus Green Meeting
Buckman 108

Thursday

7:30 pm
Abraham Verghese "My Own Country"
Evergreen Presbyterian
8:00 pm
Black Student Association Meeting
Tutill

Saturday

Football vs. Trinity University
Fargason Field
10:00 am
Women's Soccer vs. University of the South
Soccer Field
12:00 pm
Men's Soccer vs. University of the South
Soccer Field
7:00 pm
Gospel Extravaganza
Evergreen Presbyterian

Monday

8:00 pm
Sou'wester Staff Meeting
Buckman 103

THE SOU'WESTER



The Sou'wester is the official student newspaper of Rhodes College. It is published 22 times yearly throughout the fall and spring semesters, except during exam periods and holidays.

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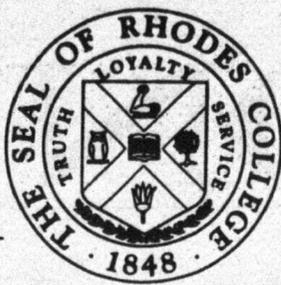
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All Sou'wester meetings are open to the college community and take place every Monday evening in 103 Buckman Hall at 8:00 p.m.

All student publications at Rhodes College are governed by the Publications Board, composed of the editors of all campus publications, class representatives and at-large representatives of the student body.



THE SOUTHWESTER SCENE

October 25, 1995

SMOKING FACES A CHALLENGE

By Adele Hines
Staff Correspondent

For the last couple of years, smokers have had to fight for their rights. In an age when people are becoming ever more health-conscious, cigarette smoke is deemed as the enemy. Many restaurants, airlines, shopping malls, and other public facilities have been especially hard on smokers, limiting smoking to certain areas, specific times or banning it altogether.

Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), a national charitable anti-smoking organization which has been extremely vocal in its effort to curb smoking, has worked to ban not only television and radio commercials for cigarettes, but to establish smoking restrictions in many public areas as well. Recently, this group, which claims to be supported entirely by tax-exempt contributions, has showed its support for the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) plan to help protect children from becoming smokers.

President Bill Clinton has also given his support to the effort to keep children from smoking. He wants people to be required to show positive identification to prove that they are old enough to buy cigarettes, as well as prohibit the sale of cigarettes through vending machines. Clinton plans to limit those cigarette ads which have

President Clinton, Rhodes Speak Out

an impact or influence on children, such as the cartoon character Joe Camel, a leading figure in cigarette advertising.

Although smoking is challenged in many areas, it is permitted at Rhodes. However, it is restricted to certain areas of campus which are clearly outlined in the Student Handbook:

"Certain public areas of the campus are designated as 'smoke-free.' Classified as 'No Smoking' areas are auditoriums, the bookstore, classrooms, conference rooms, corridors and hallways, counseling centers, elevators, gymnasiums, health center offices and reception areas, laboratories, lecture halls, libraries, public restrooms, recital halls, West and North Halls of the Refectory and stairwells. Campus areas in which smoking will be permitted are the public entrance/lobby areas of Buckman Hall, Clough Hall, Frazier Jelke Science Center, Halliburton Tower, Hassell

Hall, King Hall, as well as the foyer of Hardie Auditorium; Briggs Student Cen-



ter Lobby, Pub and Rhea Lounge; the Cloister of Palmer Hall; South (Neely) Hall of the Refectory, and all social rooms in residence halls."

Organizations such as the FDA continue to attack smoking in the United States and last summer proposed regulations restricting the sale and distribution of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco products to protect children and adolescents.

The proposed regulations would reduce the apparently easy access of children and adolescents to cigarettes and smokeless tobacco and decrease the amount of advertising which specifically attracts children. Also as a part of this campaign, new regulations would seek to establish the federal minimum age of purchase at eighteen years and would prohibit cigarette vending machines, free samples, mail order sales, and self-service displays. Retailers would have to verify the ages of their customers before sales of tobacco are made, while advertisements would be restricted to text only; hats, tee shirts, and other items carrying the name and logo of cigarette brands would also be banned.

In addition, sponsorship of events such as professional sports games would be limited to the corporate name only. Proposed regulations also call for the establishment and maintenance of a national public education campaign aimed at children and adolescents to reduce the appeal to tobacco on the part of the tobacco producers.

A national campaign called "A Commitment to Our Children" has been launched, resulting in bipartisan support of the FDA tobacco regulations. It is currently backed by ten Democrats and ten Republicans in the House of Representatives. A letter writing campaign, spearheaded by ASH, is underway to encourage the support of the FDA proposal on the part of more Congressional leaders and reflects the ideals of the "Commitment" campaign:

"Whereas more children alive today will die from tobacco use than from any other single cause—including AIDS, alcohol, car accidents, murders, suicides, illegal drugs, and fires combined. Whereas child smoking rates are rising, with the number of eighth-graders who smoke increasing 30% between 1991 and 1994. Whereas every day, another 3,000 American children will start to smoke, nearly 1,000

of whom will die from lung cancer and other diseases caused by smoking. Whereas the tobacco industry spends over \$6 billion a year on advertisements and promotions that, whether intentional or not, have the effect of encouraging children to use tobacco products. Whereas over 85% of the children who smoke use one of the three most heavily advertised cigarette brands (Marlboro, Camel, or Newport).

Whereas state and local laws restricting tobacco sales to minors have been largely ineffective. Therefore, I commit to support the common-sense goal of decreasing tobacco use by children by reducing the access and appeal of tobacco products to children and to oppose efforts to enact legislation that would weaken or delay the President's proposal to decrease tobacco use by children."

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) offers some interesting facts concerning smoking and its trend in the United States:

- About 50 million Americans smoke cigarettes and another six million use smokeless tobacco products.

- Approximately three million children under the age of 18 are daily smokers.

- Between 1985 and 1994, smoking among college freshmen increased from 9% to 12.5%.

- Tobacco products are the cause of 400,000 deaths annually due to cancer, respiratory disease, heart disease, and other health problems.

- Smoking accounts for 83% of lung cancer and 30% of all cancer deaths.

- It aggravates high blood pressure and is the primary risk factor for heart disease and chronic lung disease.

- Economically, smokers tend to miss more workdays than non-smokers and have higher medical bills.

- Smokers spend between \$300 and \$500 a year on cigarettes.

When asked about smoking and the Rhodes policy, Sarah Frierson, a sophomore who smokes, said, "I have no problem with the policy. It is an inconvenience, but it's only fair." Frierson added, "I'm upset because there aren't as many smokers as there were last year. Who am I supposed to go to [for a cigarette] in my time of need?"

However, like many Americans, some students at Rhodes also look down on the habit. First-year student Nancy Brown, who is a non-smoker, said, "I think smoking is a vile habit, and I choose not to participate in it. As far as others go, they may choose to smoke or not to smoke." Kenny McGhee, a non-smoking member of the Class of 1997 offers advice. "Smoking makes your teeth look nasty, so don't do it."

Cloudy Skies In Gender-Role Land

By Henry Murphy
Staff Correspondent

A uniquely-titled publication greeted students in the Rat on Monday, Oct. 16. Scattered among the tables of the Rat, an underground pamphlet called *Bitch Slap!* made its formal debut at this school.

Written and edited by Amy Lawrence, Carrie Ann Rohrscheib, Laurie Sansbury, Mary McCoy, Molly Houser, Sabine Schmidt, Scarlett Caldwell and Shaila Mehra, *Bitch Slap!* featured several editorial style essays, a poem, statistics about violence against women, and a rough-hewn, underground type layout. The pamphlet was very popular, and the few copies disappeared quickly.

The next day, a one-page pamphlet entitled *Dick Slap!* was discovered in the main dining room of the Rat. Openly composed as a response to *Bitch Slap!*, *Dick Slap!* was a criticism of the motives and backgrounds of the women who created *Bitch Slap!* and featured a similar layout, but different images and a different message.

These latest clashes in the gender wars have caused some action in

the college administration. Dean of Student Affairs Mel Hokanson stated the possibility that the author/authors, of *Dick Slap!* is/are liable to prosecution for sexual harassment because of the anonymous nature of the publication. Dean Hokanson said that Chancellor Harlow will release a memo to all students next week, stating that the College "does not condone in any way" the behavior of the author(s) of *Dick Slap!*

Women's Forum member Sarah Beth Larson was upset about the reaction to *Bitch Slap!*, saying that "it was made to be for women, by women," to serve as a public forum for women's feelings and thoughts.

Laurie Sansbury echoed this sentiment in the introductory letter to *Bitch Slap!* as she says, "We're here to give a birth to a female voice that has a whole lot of things to say....the purpose of this newsletter/zine/forum is to be an outlet....for women (and men) to tell how they feel."

The strong reaction to *Bitch Slap!* is a sign that some people have not taken the publication at face value, and see it mainly as an attempt to insult men. Most of the articles were

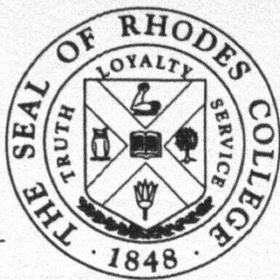
very general, and it is apparent that the staff want to discuss issues of sexual conduct and gender roles.

The main criticism from *Dick Slap!* is that the newsletter proposes to lump all men together into a category of rapists/perverts/exploiters. However, as mentioned above, the articles are general and only half the newsletter is about rape.

Sabine Schmidt's article on feminism in Germany offers a new, worldwide viewpoint on the issues, and the tone only darkens near the end of the publication, as Molly Houser's poem about rape, and a page devoted to statistics about violence against women, show.

Overall, the writers stick within the parameters of the introductory letter by Sansbury: "We need a place where we are validated, where we are taken seriously" she writes. The presence of *Dick Slap!*, with the timbre of its quotes and the author's apparent attitudes, seems to defy the desire for that because of the anger expressed in the work.

Bitch Slap! figures to be a regular publication, and is coming out again next week.



THE SOU'WESTER OPINION

October 25, 1995

Readers critical of publications

To the editors:

As a member of the class of '94 and '96 (Master of Accountancy), I feel I have an unique perspective in writing this opinion. I remember in days long ago, the early '90's, when The Sou'wester was a publication where different views could be expressed in a public forum. The students would eagerly pick up a copy in the Rat to read with their dinner. The articles and opinions often started controversy and debate about the pro's and con's of life, the world and our experiment in reality: Rhodes. Sometimes these articles provoked change—whether that change was good or bad is open for debate. However, sometimes it did not. "Today's" Sou'wester would charge apathy. I prefer to think we practiced common sense and realized that somethings were only worth debating about over dinner in the Rat.

Don't misunderstand me, Rhodes is not perfect. The administration and its policies need constant monitoring with feedback. Call me left-wingist, I just believe this feedback should take the form of constructive criticism. The Sou'wester's constant criticisms of President Daughdrill, the administration, and their policies are upsetting. I have been attached to this school for six years. You up to four. President Daughdrill has been here since 1973. I think he might know a little about running this school. Though you need to approach him and his policies with a healthy dose of professional criticism, I think I'll give his ideas a little more weight than yours or mine. Again, the extremist in me! To be fair, I have seen one positive opinion written about President Daughdrill this year. There may have been more, but I could have lost them in the constant bombardment.

I hope my point has been made. I don't want a paper that is the equivalent of Rhodes Today, or whatever the hell that thing is. Nor do I want Daughdrill's Underground Plots Weekly. Give us simply a forum to discuss, debate and exchange (-gasp!) ideas. You at The Sou'wester are neither Woodward or Bernstein and Watergate is not under our noses. Practice professional skepticism and due diligence, but temper it with common sense and a healthy dose of sarcasm. I find that this is approach is more effective with people. I know it makes more interesting reading.

With the Highest Regards,
Mark L. Strickland

To the editors:

In light of the literature recently amassing on our daily lunch tables here at Diamond Jim's Gothic playground, I felt compelled to step away from my own theatrical, literary, and social endeavors and assume the role of critic, to extol the virtues of the publications which affected me on the deepest, richest levels. Hence, here's to the "Dick Slap."

"Dick Slap" is searing, sensitive, and ultimately deeply moving on its many levels of exploration of phallus torture. Its plea for stable masculinity amid the din of feminist opposition cries in a voice too loud, too poignant to be ignored. The author's use of a stream of consciousness technique in his search to name both the crime of which he has been falsely accused as

well as his oppressive female accusers in fact symbolically carries the readers on his own painful search to find a name; the search goes without fruition and the author remains nameless, thus establishing him as a monolithic symbol for the oppression of every phallus.

While "Dick Slap" offers to indeed symbolically "slap" the male genitalia erect and alert to the problems which plague him as a victim of all thinking women, it also affects the sensibilities of the respectable woman in a number of other realms, forcing her to confront the true torture that her sisters have brutally heaped on a seemingly phallicentric society. (I can't speak for others, but I went home and burned all my Margaret Atwood novels, then remodeled my pagan earth mother shrine to honor Hugh Hefner and Andrew Dice Clay.) The angry, man-hating troupe of girls who comprise the "Bitch Slap" staff need to realize that the impassioned male cry of "Dick Slap" is right, they will get nowhere by biting the hand that feeds them, and furthermore, that they cannot publicly discuss issues such as rape, harassment, stalking, battering, or really anything that affects them personally as women. To take action like this is to accuse every male when only a few are to blame; the proper course is to, as the author says, "know when to shut the fuck up." Perhaps if the "Bitch Slap" crew had any self-esteem, they could learn to love all men, even those that beat and rape women, since it is really the stupid twat's fault anyway.

In conclusion, I want to personally recommend "Dick Slap" not only as intelligent social commentary, but as a work of great literary potential. Its rich language and fearless bitterness are, in fact, a scream in the night for an end to the threat of the thinking woman, an end to the ongoing stream of that irritating and unnecessary polyolithic feminist discourse. "Bitch Slappers," get back in the kitchen where you belong, because we stand at the brink of a grand new era for the Great American Dick.

****note to Mr. Dick Slap(s): This is a little technique called SATIRE. I realize that you might have indeed been suffering from a nasty head cold the day they covered that in tenth grade English, but you really should explore this avenue before you print your next edition. For that matter, though, you also might want to try really reading your object of ridicule prior to attempting either an intelligent or ironic critique thereof, for "Bitch Slap" was not even about YOU, though you seemed to think it was. If you want dialogue, if you want to speak out against what you feel is wrong, that's wonderful; however, your anger has rendered you literarily retarded. If you want to offend me as a feminist, take a number, but please don't ever offend me as a writer and humorist with shit like that again.

Carrie L. O'Dell

To the editors:

I am writing this letter in response to the letter by Jenni Hass published in The Sou'wester on 18 October. First I would like to thank Jenni for the tone of her letter; given the heated dialogue (if some of it can even be glorified as such) in the past week and a half, I commend her attempts at calm, open, and respectful exchange.

Secondly, I would like to clarify what I see as an error in Jenni's understanding of the title of the newsletter that came out last Monday. A "bitch slap" is an open-handed slap, as opposed to a closed-fisted punch. It originally meant a slap that a pimp delivered to a prostitute. It has subsequently come to signify a "wimpy" slap, one that a man would deliver to another if he were

not a "real man." (Were he a "real man," he would punch instead, according to our understanding of the term.) To my knowledge, the term

has never been defined as a slap that a "bitch" (i.e. a woman) performs on herself or anyone else. Therefore, I suggest that in this context, punching and "bitch slapping" exist in a hierarchy of violent force that is understood to occur between men. When the term "bitch slap," seen as a less important or less powerful method of violence against women, is applied to the realm of violence against women, the term denigrates the seriousness of this violence. We come culturally and socially to deny the severity of violence against women because we measure its punches or "bitch slaps" on a scale derived from levels of violence that men perform on each other. To "bitch slap" a woman is then less "harmful" than to punch her. If a man merely "bitch slaps," he can be seen as less guilty of what we consider violence to be — often we excuse such actions because slapping does not fall into cultural contexts of real violence.

As I see it, then, when women use the term "bitch slap," they necessarily perform an act of renegotiation by exposing the assumptions behind the term. Primarily, the appropriation of this term by women reveals it to be a male-defined term applied to a context of violence against women. This is an extremely important distinction to make, because it discloses that if the construction of our cultural vocabularies are not continually revealed to us, users of language (ie. all of us) risk falling under the same contradictions that Jenni mentioned in her first paragraph. ("Will they [people's responses] show that we're contradicting ourselves?")

Secondarily, when women appropriate the term "bitch slap," given that "bitch" commonly refers to women, use of the term can be seen as an act of empowerment — a nonviolent way to "slap" with words and make women's experiences and viewpoints known to others. This is certainly a step toward diversity, if nothing else. When language is appropriated by those whom it is supposed to define, we as culturally constructed beings are taken on a valuable journey

to investigate exactly who is using language and upon whom language is being used. We can then begin to look into systems of power and see what roles we play in those systems. I hope this clarifies the term "bitch slap," both in its accepted context and as I read it in its appropriation.

Moving to the next part of Jenni's letter, I am now going to add fuel to the fire — I'm going to talk about rape. I'm going to talk about our reluctance to talk about rape. I'm going to say something scary: rape is about gender. It is about power. It is about the control of women through violence, and it is about gendered people not questioning this control. So when I talk about rape, I am talking not only about specific incidents of rape (which we all know occur on this campus, and if we don't know this we should get our heads out of the sand), but also about the fact that existing power structures enable rape to be used as a tool of subjugation. I don't waste my time with blanket blame, but whether or not "It is not all men who rape, but one man" is irrelevant; the fact that even one rape occurs by that "one man" should be a concern to all of us. I do think that we need to talk about why rape happens and how we can stop it, and those who would accuse me of generalized stereotyping need to examine their fear of discussing this issue. Once they do, maybe we can get to a point where both women and men can "comfortably express themselves" as both Jenni and I want.

This brings me to the end of Jenni's letter, and to a sticky issue both philosophically and politically. Jenni claims that she "think[s] it is taking the word 'feminism' too far to consider oneself a woman before considering herself a person." Philosophically, then, she is discussing the universal subject called "human" and the universal subjectivity that we call "humanness." This is an enormous issue, and one that I have neither the room nor the complete knowledge to exhaust in this letter, but I do want to address this assumption because it is one that I once held and now realize that I cannot. It all goes back to language. What is our definition of "human?" What gender/race/class is "human?" What power do we have as "humans," and how is that power attained and used? And if we truly are all "human," then why are some of us on this planet treated as less "human" than others? It all goes back to language. If we want to get away from a strict gender issue, I can bring up the existence of apartheid in this country and others as an example of the de "human" izing of "humans." The reason why I keep putting "human" in quotation marks is to illustrate that it, too, is a constructed term. It all goes back to language. If we can understand that we both construct language and employ previously constructed language, we can begin to get at the limitations of language. And when we use the term "human," we must ask to whom specifically are we referring? I leave these questions up to all of us; but our answers are hugely revealing.

So finally, I arrive at politics, because theory without practice, and practice without theory, is pointless. What, politically, is the danger in taking the universalist, humanistic angle? Why can't we all think of ourselves as people first? Because the bottom line is that no one else thinks of us in this way, and they won't without radical change.

Children's Literature Misses Women

AMY HALL
BIG SPENDER

Okay, this is the thing that is ticking me off this week. Here's the situation: I got lucky in Tunica last week and decided to buy a little girl who is my type of pseudo-niece a good book. This girl is six years old now and I thought it would be really easy to find her a nice storybook that she would enjoy.

Since Miss Sophia happens to be female, I thought it would be appropriate to get her a book that would perhaps chronicle a little girl's adven-



ture or something along those lines. Boy, was I in for a surprise at the bookstore when I got a jolt of just how male-centric and pro-patriarchal children's literature still remains in our age of supposed gender/cultural inclusiveness and PC "domination." I went up and down the aisles trying to find a book which:

A) Did not have all-male starring roles

B) Did not just have a token, starring female character who was a mere prop in the story and contributed nothing substantial to the course of events

C) Did not have women characters whose personalities and behaviors were COMPLETELY limited to the traditional stereotypes and roles of females, such as passive cookie

bakers, big time groomers, marriage/romance candidates, loving mummies, and disempowered wives.

All I wanted was a simple little book which might feature a little girl accomplishing some real life feat, such as saving a kitten from a tree, winning first place in a race, or perhaps overcoming a dilemma more substantial than losing earrings. I instead discovered a massive number of stories which were written only about the exploits of male characters — both in stories of humans and animal characters. Please know that to me the male experience is dandy subject matter. I'm just disappointed that girls don't get equally positive and abounding coverage. Think about this small listing for a moment and feel free to remind me of any exceptions

in them:

1) Clifford the big red dog is male

2) The entire cast of Winnie the Pooh is male except for a pretty dry mummy character

3) Watership Down is predominantly male

4) Curious George and his owner have male genitalia

5) Dr. Seuss is male as well as most characters in the series

6) Spot the dog is male

7) Mrs. Berenstain Bear is "matronly" and all, but.....

This list goes on and if you don't believe me, go into the children's section and find books for me (I'd appreciate it) that have two female bunnies lost in the woods and with their own wits make it back, or a little girl

who can experience an adventure similar to Treasure Island status. The only seemingly empowered women characters I could find were mostly mythological fairies with wands in hand or sinister witches out for everyone's heads. Gee, what down to earth examples for all the little girls I know to emulate!!!

Well, for your information, I finally, after much searching, found a book that was basically what I had in mind for Sophia. It was about a young female bat that got separated from her mother and had to learn to fly her own and figure out how to get home. The only problem I had with this story was that the bat was a fruit bat and thus white instead of your standard black. I'll let you think about that one on your own.

To use a common example — one of the key questions asked upon a child's birth is its sex, so much so that technology produced the sonogram in order to have this information prior to the birth. Why are we invested in the answer to this question? Why, to use a more topical example, are sororities composed of women, and fraternities of men — why is the Greek system gendered? It seems like a strangely basic question to ask, so basic that we don't ask it. Obviously, we have some kind of cultural investment in maintaining distinctions between genders. We can't begin to think of ourselves as "human" first, both because of the problematic nature of the term "human" that I articulated in the above paragraph, and because we are too invested in gender to see past it. In order to get past genders, we will have to accept the fact that we are not there yet.

The logical conclusion of not accepting this fact is the active endorsement of all forms of violence against all women, everywhere.

Thank you,
Shaila Mehra

To the editors:

The appearance on campus last week of an anonymous publication titled "Dick Slap" should give each of us cause for concern. Ostensibly written in humorous response to the first issue of "Bitch Slap," which called for serious discussion about the issues of gender and sexuality at Rhodes, the retort ignored any such plea by opting for a belligerent, condescending, and quite frankly, violent tone.

How does one begin to respond to such animosity and naked aggression? It would be easy to let "Dick Slap" sink of its own stupidity. However, the issues are too serious to pass over in silence. By failing to engage in an open dialogue with the authors of "Bitch Slap," who, I might add, had the courage of their convictions and signed their work, those who published "Dick Slap" seem content to perpetuate ideological violence. In refusing to sign their publication, the author/authors chose to engage in an act of terrorism equivalent to the burning of crosses on the front lawns of people of color. Clearly this is a warning. It tells women not to articulate their sense of alienation, fear and concern about sexual abuse and stereotyping. By dismissing any discussion of rape as simple male bashing, it condones an act of extreme brutality that uses the

rubric of passion to gloss over the very real issue of power and its abuse. Furthermore, it suggests that female sexuality (gay or straight), is, and should be, subservient to an outdated construction of heterosexual male pleasure.

I am deeply troubled by the appearance of this publication for several reasons. As an historian of visual culture, particularly that pertaining to the body in modern art, I am quite aware of the power of representation to uphold insidious ideologies about race, ethnicity, gender and sexuality. I am also sometimes painfully aware of how difficult it is to dismantle debilitating stereotypes. As an historian who is also a teacher, I find the refusal to engage in honest and open debate to be an unacceptable act of cowardice, particularly at a school that requires each of us to stand by our own work.

If another issue of "Dick Slap" is published, I hope that the author/authors will have the courage to take responsibility for their misogyny. Somehow I suspect they will not.

David McCarthy
Assistant Professor of the History of Art

To the editors,

I am in a dichotomy. I honestly just don't get it sometimes. I mean, one day I can feel really good about living at Rhodes. I see change, progress, and optimism in the air. Then there are other days when I just wish this whole place would be swallowed into a black hole and somehow we could just start all over. I won't pretend that the majority of your readers are concerned too much with what I have to say, but that's never stopped me before. Some good news first...

I attended the second GSA meeting for this semester Monday, October 16 and was duly impressed. There were 51 people present at our meeting—the highest turnout ever for a GSA meeting on this campus (guess we are "recognized" after all)—and the diversity among the audience was eye-opening and heartwarming. Everyone seemed to be highly supportive of the agenda, and it was indeed a breath of fresh air. Congratulations, GSA, and thank you to all of those who were present.

Well, yes, this makes me feel good. Nevertheless, I should have known that my bubble soon would burst, and I would be left irately confused.

I'm unsure how many people got a chance to see the ever-so-ingenuous Dick Slap: for those of

you who didn't, be thankful. Whoever came up with this Dick Slap idea (whatever a "dick slap" is), let me commend you on your stellar attempt to shoot down the efforts of Women's Forum by circulating a piece of thoughtless, sexist garbage that was barely worthy of sticking to the Rat tables. And, and you forgot to put your name on it. How modest. At least the editors of Bitch Slap were women enough to claim their work. How's that for "security and self-confidence?" Of course, I suppose it is rather difficult to fess up to anything that could so easily be construed as sexual harassment (it's the whole "anonymous, yet offensive, aggressive, and threatening" thing that bothers me), and you better be thankful that no one has accused you of just that.

I can't help but chuckle at the fact that you obviously took Bitch Slap so personally. I read the first issue of Bitch Slap from cover to cover, and there are exactly zero occurrences of pointed accusations against the male gender; what you do find in Bitch Slap are the facts, my friend, and one of those facts is that there are over one million women assaulted and battered by men in this country, and that in itself is an absolute mockery of what I consider to be "manhood." Whether this applies to you or not is unimportant; what is important is that awareness and activism on this campus—regarding a LOT of issues—need to be increased, and it takes people with guts (read: the Women's Forum, the GSA, and other noteworthy organizations) to do just that. These women aren't trying to castrate you; they're trying to get you to THINK. They're trying to get straight women on this campus to realize that they don't need you to be happy. By George, you just don't get it, and neither do many of the women on this campus, e.g. a girl I heard saying that she couldn't go to homecoming because she "felt like such a loser because she didn't have a boy to take her." Why didn't I go to homecoming? Well, if I had brought a date, I would have been lucky to come out alive.

No, dear editors of Dickhead, I really don't think you have a clue as to what these women feel, what they're thinking. At least to some extent, I can relate to what the women behind Bitch Slap feel. When someone calls me faggot or makes derogatory statements about homosexuals, I know what it feels like to be loathed and made to feel shameful for a part of you that you are truly proud of, a part that is beyond your control. This happens to me on this campus entirely too often. You wanna talk about hate? When

someone gets beaten to death because of who they are, because of social diseases that just won't die, I am sorely reminded of the fact that I—along with one million women, millions of gay individuals, and millions of ethnic minorities—am a prime target for violence and bigotry. There are times when I am nauseated by the ways in which some people on this campus contribute to prejudice, homophobia, racism, and sexism, just to mention a few things that we as members of a growing, respectable educational institution should be making every effort to annihilate.

I don't think the authors really know what the debut of their little Penis Pamphlet communicates; let me help them: "We want to communicate to Rhodes women that we don't give a damn about what you think, and that we don't care that there are one million battered women in this country, so shut the hell up and sleep with us like you're supposed to. 'Don't bite the hand that feeds you.'" Notice that Women's Forum has made absolutely no response to this literary excrement; I'm sure they have better things to do.

Muses, grant me coherence, for I am vexed. Consider my testosterone perspective for a moment, if you will. Bitch Slap was one of the best things that has happened to this campus since...um, well, yeah. The feathers ruffled by Bitch Slap only prove how much this campus needed to be made aware of women's issues, along with tons of other things. If anything, it HELPED Women's Forum immensely, because it gave them publicity, and that is exactly what they wanted and needed. So on behalf of Women's Forum, even though I am a man (not to be confused with a "dick slapper"), kudos to Dick Flop. Face it, there are women on this campus, believe it or not, who are quite aware of the fact that they are not inferior, and somebody just can't stand it.

Will the real insecure individuals with low self-esteem please stand up? Oh, there you are.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bishop

The Sou'wester welcomes letters to the editor from all members of the Rhodes community, including alumni, parents and friends of the college. All letters should be submitted with the name(s) of their authors.

The editors reserve the right to edit letters due to space limitations. The opinions expressed in letters and opinion columns are not necessarily those of The Sou'wester staff.



THE SOUTHWESTER ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

October 25, 1995

Memphis Opera's *Rigoletto* entertaining, meaningful

By Brady Potts
For The Sou'wester

Opera, in general, is a lot like the French language. It's often hard to understand, usually requires a translator, scores serious brownie points in high society settings, and at times makes little sense at all. (Ex: A man is stabbed. Rather than screaming, crying, bleeding, etc., he sings. Loudly and in perfect key, in fact.) But however easy it can be to deride *Les Miserables*, *The Marriage of Figaro* or, in this case, Verdi's *Rigoletto*, the Memphis Opera's production was enough to make this particular audience member consider buying a French/English dictionary, and maybe even eat a few beignets while I'm at it.

First, the basic storyline: Rigoletto is a hunchback, a court jester who is laughing on the outside but downright malicious on the inside. So, he spends most of his time ridiculing the courtiers that surround the Duke, his employer. The Duke, a shameless lecher who makes Don Juan look like a priest in a cold shower, is busy seducing a nobleman's wife. Rigoletto takes this opportunity to humiliate the nobleman, who then hurls a curse on the hunchback. Rigoletto, disturbed by the old man's curse, goes home, bumping into a freelance assassin on the way who utters—actually, sings—a few cryptic words about his services.

Back in the Duke's court someone spreads the rumor that Rigoletto has taken a mistress. At home, we discover that the beautiful young maiden in question is in fact his daughter Gilda and that she, in her walks back and forth to church, has attracted a suitor. When Rigoletto leaves, the suitor (the Duke himself, claiming to be a poor student) arrives and bribes the maid to be let in, where he professes his undying eternal love for Gilda, who is duly flattered and returns the thought. He then leaves and later that night all of the courtiers trick Rigoletto into helping them kidnap his own daughter.

The next day, the Duke learns of her kidnapping and, unaware that she is being held in his own court, bemoans the fact that this woman who would have possibly induced him to virtue has been taken away. His court-

iers clue him in and he happily runs in to see and seduce her. Rigoletto, in the depths of despair and sadness, berates the courtiers for taking away the one source of happiness in his life. She is given back to him and they quickly leave the court of the Duke, with Rigoletto singing about revenge.

A month later, Gilda is still in love with the Duke despite seeing him with a prostitute. What she doesn't know is that the woman in question is actually the sister and business partner of the assassin that Rigoletto met earlier and has since hired to get rid of the Duke and that as soon as the royal oats are sown and he falls asleep, he will receive a sword in the back. She discovers this when she overhears an argument between the assassin and his sister, who is now enamored of the Duke, and begs her brother to kill someone else and trick Rigoletto. He gives in, saying that the next person to knock on his door will serve as a "body double." Hearing this, Gilda decides to knock out of a mixture of shame for courting this sleaze after her father told her to stay inside and then lying about it as well as her love for the Duke. Rigoletto comes to pick up the body and toss it in the river, but decides to open the sack for one last look at his enemy and sees what has happened. He and Gilda, who hasn't quite expired yet, have one last father-daughter song and she dies. The Duke gets away scott free, and Rigoletto is crushed.

Confusing? Luckily, the program included a synopsis. But, convoluted plot aside, the opera never failed to deliver. The costuming was great, the singing was better (though every now and then I wondered if Rigoletto had a head cold), and the orchestra was equally spiffy. Even so, the real strength of the production was Verdi's script. For the classical fan, *Rigoletto* addresses the themes of father-daughter relationships, love, and revenge. Themes aside, the plot itself is interesting. The Duke, a Renaissance Buttafuoco, provides some especially humorous moments when he gives his philosophy on women and love. In the most politically incorrect (and also the funniest) moment in the show, the Duke explains how he perceives love and women in general, eliciting stifled

giggles from the male theatergoers and amused, though slightly annoyed, chuckles from the ladies in the audience. Where in some venues it is hard to merge both light entertainment and deeper merit (*Nell*, *Dumb and Dumber*. I rest my case.) *Rigoletto*

succeeds easily.

Future productions of the Memphis Opera include *Fiddler on the Roof* and *The Marriage of Figaro*, and if *Rigoletto* was any indication, they will definitely be worth seeing. A little culture (aside from the bacterial kind)

never hurt anyone, and most likely you will find yourself enjoying the production. And even if you don't, I ran into three professors at Saturday night's showing and it never hurts to show your appreciation for the fine arts.

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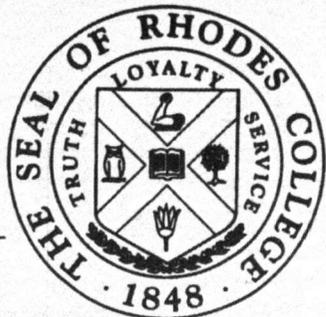
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THE SOUTHWESTER SPORTS

October 25, 1995

Lynx Volleyball Delivers The Hits In The SCAC

By Erin Riches
Sports Editor

Lynx volleyball has quickly emerged as one of several October success stories in Rhodes athletics. Although the players and their coach dismiss the label, "overachievers," the team's performance at the SCAC Cross-Divisional Tournament in Jackson, Miss., Oct. 13 and 14 symbolized a turning point of sorts as they served up four quick victories over SCAC East opponents, every win in three straight sets.

"The eastern portion of our conference is really weak," senior hitter Jamie Roeling said. "We maintained a high level of play the entire tournament. . . it carried over this past weekend at Washington University in St. Louis."

After a solid weekend at the Washington University Tournament Oct. 20 and 21, the Lynx boast a 25-13 overall record and a 6-1 conference record. They are second in the conference behind Trinity and sixth in the region.

"Our goal last year was to win 30 matches, which we did," senior Hillary Keller, setter, said. "We only have five or six left this year, but we have doubled the difficulty of our schedule. Last weekend, we played Washington University, the national champs for four years straight."

"At Washington University, we upset William Woods College, beat Centre and lost to Washington and Thomas Moore, the number one and two teams in the region," Joe Gravois, head volleyball coach, said. "The scores weren't indicative of our play. We had trouble scoring, but the matches were long and hard."

An explosive offense, which exploits the talents of their five hitters, has aggravated opponents this season.

"Two weeks ago we had five hitters in the top 20 in hitting percentage," Gravois noted. "We have five hitters who are nationally ranked and a setter doing a great job. Other teams cannot shut down one player and stop us."

"[First-year] Sally Mercer is now leading the team in hitting percentage at .407," Gravois said. "Five weeks ago she was number five on the team.

She is eliminating her errors and taking advantage of opportunities.

"[Junior] Kelly Mallett ranks second on the team; she was fourth five weeks ago," he added. "She has an uncanny way of finding holes, and she puts the ball in the holes every time."

Roeling, he said, has distinguished herself as the "spiritual, emotional and physical" leader of the team and is critically important to the team's preparation for the SCAC Postseason Tournament in Austin, Tex., Nov. 3 and 4.

"She always finds a way to win," Gravois said. "She's the stalwart who has always been there for us."

Roeling has already organized several team building activities during the season and plans to follow up with a few more along with a team dinner before the tournament.

Pre-conference tournament practices consist primarily of fine-tuning and poring over scouting reports, as well as maintaining competitive intensity.

"We have continued building on our offense," Mercer said. "We have added more plays."

"We are getting a little predictable," Keller explained. "The other teams at conference have already faced us."

The team will open against seventh-ranked Millsaps at the conference tournament. Hendrix (sixth) and Southwestern (third) will follow. The top two teams in the bracket will advance to a final four in the tournament.

A win over Southwestern (already a victim of the Lynx this season) is imperative to the team's quest for an automatic NCAA tournament bid.

"If we beat Southwestern, we'll be fourth in the region, and we'll get in," Gravois said. "We'll definitely get in if we beat Southwestern and Trinity."

Earning their own way to the NCAA tournament on the court is paramount to the Lynx.

"We'll know that we deserved it, and we'll do that by winning the SCAC tournament," sophomore Kate Maffei said.

"I would much rather settle it on the court than on the phone," Gravois said. "It's up to the girls to earn it or



Alan Barrett/Sou'wester

First-year Rob Cooksey works a stretch of the men's 8K race at the Rhodes Invitational at Plough Park Oct. 14.

not. It is going to be more special when we get it. It's not going to be politics—it's going to be volleyball."

Meanwhile, the Lynx will play at Lambuth Oct. 28 at 6:30 p.m. and will play their last home game versus Christian Brothers at Idlewild on Halloween at 7 p.m. The game will fea-

ture an honor ceremony for the seniors.

"Realistically, I'd like to have a big crowd and a good solid win—blow them off the court," Roeling said. "It's a feeling of a rite of passage—it's time to go onto something new. . . There are a lot of emotions tied up in that night."

Men's Basketball Reloads For 1995-96 Season

By John Langdon
Staff Correspondent

Winning. The last five seasons of Rhodes Lynx basketball have been one of the most productive periods in the history of the program. During this period, the Lynx have won two SCAC championships, participated in the NCAA Division III Tournament, and have an overall record of 93-33.

So on Oct. 23, when the Rhodes men's basketball team began practice, head coach Herb Hilgeman preached the same team goals he has in the past: 20 wins, a SCAC Championship and a NCAA tournament berth.

Coach Hilgeman says that the past winning puts no real pressure on him this season. "The reality is when you have good kids who work hard on and off the court that means you have a strong program."

Senior guard Albert Johnson agrees. "I don't look at the historical aspects too much. The last few years have been great but I need to concentrate on the present right now."

Last season the Lynx went 18-7 and finished tied for second in the conference behind Millsaps. They beat four teams that made last season's NCAA Tournament. Even though the team failed to get a NCAA Tournament bid, Coach Hilgeman was proud of how his team performed last season.

"We were not expected to do well last season (picked seventh in the SCAC) but this team came together and worked hard and it produced wins, said Coach Hilgeman. "Unfortunately, people around the South Region never were convinced that we were a good team."

This year's edition of the Lynx roundballers is one of the most experienced teams that Hilgeman has had in his 20 years at the Lynx helm. The Lynx will be led by four seniors this season. Johnson is a potential SCAC MVP and All-American candidate. He has been a starter since his first year and averaged 19.2 points per game and led the conference in assists. Forward Scott Brown will be counted on as a force inside the paint. He is a two-year starter and averaged 12.4 points and 8.4 rebounds per game. Brown was the top rebounder in the SCAC. Guard Duane Robichaux is also a returning starter who averaged 7.9 PPG. Guard David Parker averaged 7.7 PPG and was the top sixth man in the conference.

Last season, three teams from the SCAC went to the NCAA Tournament and this season, every team in the league returns at least three starters.

Editor's Note: A preview of the women's basketball team will appear in the next edition.

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THE RHODE'STER

THE WEEKLY JOKE PUBLICATION OF RHODES COLLEGE

This page is a humorous parody. Read at your own risk.

'Zine mania sweeps campus

Though Rhodes College may seem to be a backwater of old ideas tenaciously clung to by an aging system of outdated beliefs, there appears to still be a porthole to the outside world. This porthole has given birth to the recent "fanzine" explosion, an explosion that began years ago with the *Rat's Ass*, added to this year by *Cap'n Swank* and *Bitch Slap!*, and has most recently turned up the genius bastard child zine, *Dick Slap!*.

Students have gathered in response to this new trend and formed the Coalition Against Antagonistic Collections of Antagonized Artisans, or CAA-CAA. CAA-CAA has created a set of guidelines to help budding fanzine editors take a serious turn for the better and become another *Dick Slap!*. The following is an excerpt from their guidelines:

"—To begin a fanzine, one must have a theme. So far, the themes for fanzines already produced include philosophy and clip art, Japanimation and the concept of "swank," feminism, and what seems to be beautifully-written ignorance and sexual harassment. Find a niche, and exploit it.

—Deciding on whether or not to use pseudonyms or no name at all in

lieu of using one's real name is a choice that some fanzine producers face. Writing anonymously can sometimes save one from the repercussion of being looked down upon because of one's own intrinsic beauty and lack of tolerance for others, as in the case of *Dick Slap!*. Using pseudonyms that can be easily recognized, or using one's real name, will insure that everyone knows you have the responsibility to take credit for your work, but that you have nothing important to say.

—Remember, in a fanzine you are your own boss. The First Amendment guarantees freedom of speech, especially if that speech is slanderous to another person, and harasses another person. For examples of quality slanderous material, see *Dick Slap!*.

—Learn grammar and punctuation.

—Be creative. Learn how to degrade women in new and bizarre ways.

—Above all, have fun. Writing a fanzine is an interesting and fun way to get across your personality and your views. Note: It is recommended that those who have intolerant personalities and ignorant views should write a fanzine, as the world needs another *Dick Slap!*"

JS

Rhodes begins form of survival school

Rhodes College has adopted a plan of "realism" in lieu of the liberal arts curriculum. A spokesperson behind the new change commented on the school's having to get realistic about the new economy for the 21st century.

"Really, what good does the old education do? So far, all these kids we teach this liberal arts stuff to whine about things we in the real world couldn't care less about," the spokesperson said. "These kids need to stop being so open-minded and need to become more egocentric. A white male in an executive position in business is the highest paying occupation out there. Just look at the President if you need proof of that. We want to make our students, females and minorities too, into white men so they can run things the way they ought to be

run."

The change to this "realist" curriculum began last year with the dismantling of the history department's other views of history outside the white male's.

But now it is going one step further. According to the new board, students must have the tenacity and morals of a barracuda. The new courses being offered will prepare the student for the white man's world.

Embezzlement will replace Business Ethics, Aggression 100 will replace Yoga, and Athiesm and Amoralism will replace all Life courses.

Finally, all faculty and students who do not agree with the one way of thinking present on this campus will be shot.

JS

You might have noticed that everything on this page is written by "JS" who should not be confused with JS who is probably off somewhere climbing a rock. Rumors that "JS" is first

cousin to "YBS" are completely BS. You probably figured by now that "JS" is intent on ticking everybody off and is bitter that his obnoxiousness was stolen by the staff of DS

YD



Even the incredibly cool Jules Winfield is getting suckered by the MAN. Winfield refused to comment on what he was going to do about the exorbitant fees collected under the term "Dorm Damage," but promised that it would be nothing less than completely messed up.

Dorm damages are tools of the "MAN"

Dorm damages have been mailed out by the Bursar to students this past week. Things like puking in the hall, the setting off of fire extinguishers, and breaking windows have garnered fines for several students living in the residence halls. Several innocent students.

Secret Agent for the *The Rhode'ster* John Allison went undercover to find out who was responsible for these damages, after his editor was fined well over ten bucks for things he had absolutely no part in.

Allison spied on several of Campus Safety's "Top Brass," and learned that students were being unfairly taxed. The real culprits were not the residents, but are the result of Campus Safety's and Physical Plant's revelry in a little game they like to call "Pin the Bill on the Student."

The object of the game is to commit an act of vandalism, get the residents fined, and compare bills. Whoever comes up with the most expensive and most creative bit of damage wins.

Campus Safety and Physical Plant have been playing this game for many years now, each one costing students hundreds of dollars that could have been invested in things like books, food, donations to the Salvation Army, feeding starving children in Kenya, or buying a pack of smokes at Oil City USA.

As usual in this place, there is a motive. That motive is to propagate the belief that students commit acts of vandalism and cause their "friends" to

pay for damages they themselves are too embarrassed to admit to, or prove that they can be jerks, not wanting to admit to their deeds and not caring that their floor has to pay money, sometimes badly needed money, for their stupidity and irresponsibility.

While there are some on this campus who would be fooled by Campus Safety's chicanery, your ever-faithful piece of Watchdog Propaganda, *The Rhode'ster*, knows the truth.

The dorm damages keep students from having disposable income, forcing them to not be able to do things like go out to eat, meaning more meals consumed in the Rat. And, with the new policy of "no outside cups" in the Rat, students are forced to use the disposable styrofoam cups provided for the students' "convenience." These cups, however, are not provided merely so that students can take a tasty beverage outside of the Rat, but instead are bugged with little transistors, allowing the MAN, Campus Safety and Friends, to keep an eye on you.

However, Campus Safety's plan will not work because it is common knowledge that no student on this campus is so shallow that he or she would allow others to pay for their mistakes, nor would that student be able to live with a decent conscience if they were not fingered for the crime. Doing something like that would be a breach of personal integrity, not to mention breaking the trust that your friends place in you.

And, most students do not want

to run the risk of being found out by a certain cranky student who cannot afford a pack of cigarettes to get his nicotine fix because someone was quite the rowdy little boy in his hall over fall break.

Editor for *The Sou'wester* Chris Knight plans to find out how many laws Campus Safety violates with their little game, and then run a bunch of stories on it and bring in a bunch of mad Catholic nuns to make the culprits do penance for throwing rocks and smashing things, as well as attempting to brainwash the student body.

To make sure that innocent students are allowed to spend their hard-earned money on things other than plots of the MAN, it has been suggested that everyone keep the intense paranoia of being told on, and, at the same time, tell on as many people as possible to make sure he or she will not be the next to have to pay the entire charge, even if it is the student's own fault. This way, things will still appear to run as they have before, but there will actually be jerks on campus who do not pay for fines when they should, and it will not be a ploy by the MAN to subjugate the student. After all, if people are going to be blamed for being stupid, they might as well be. It is not like it would do any good to instill morality and responsibility in people. That cuts into good drinking time.

JS