

R.E.M.'s new *Monster* Shows That The Band Hasn't Lost Its Roots...page 5

The Sou'wester

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Rhodes 'Plan for Excellence' Root of Overcrowding Problems

by Chris Knight

Associate Editor

While residence halls have undergone changes that Dean of Admissions David Wottle deemed in a Sept. 7 interview as "overcrowding," the Rhodes College Plan for Excellence actually has dictated the increased number of students while providing for no additional residence area.

The Plan for Excellence, estab-

lished in 1978, prescribes that the school enroll 1450 full-time equivalent students in 1998. Thus, Rhodes has instituted a gradualized plan for increased enrollment each year.

According to Wottle, while the goal for newly enrolled students for the first-year class this year was to be 417 new students, 449 new students were actually enrolled, including 34 from the waiting list. This latest installment of students, one of the largest first-year

classes ever, brings the total enrollment to 1429, still 21 students shy of the goal.

Previous plans of Residence Life to downsize some of the tighter triples in Glassell and Bellingrath were abandoned last spring. Instead the larger triples in Glassell were transformed into quads.

In addition, two social rooms and three lounges in Williford have been

continued on page 3

Lynx Expose Their Worst In Homecoming Embarrassment

by Frank Feuquay

Sports Editor

On a beautiful Saturday afternoon, the Washington University of St. Louis Bears (3-2) whipped the Rhodes College Lynx (1-4) in a lopsided gridiron match at Fargason Field by the shocking score of 31-7, which gives the Lynx their fourth straight defeat.

The crushing defeat was witnessed by over 3000 alumni, students and fans who were anticipating a Lynx homecoming victory. But once again, the Lynx came up short.

The Lynx were without their usually effective passing attack.

Pre-season Division III All-American and All-Conference Jimmie Glorioso had his worst statistical game of the season. Glorioso could only connect on nine of 18 passes for 62 yards and one touchdown, but was inter-

cepted twice and was sacked three times.

The set up for the one touchdown pass which turned out to be the Lynx's only touchdown was a fluke. In the third quarter, first-year Michael Oakes played excellent position and intercepted a pass from Thor Larsen at the Bear's 32-yard line and returned it to the 3-yard line. On the next play, Glorioso zipped a pass to tight end John Dalton for the touchdown.

The third quarter interception and touchdown pass were the only bright spots for the Lynx. The Rhodes offense squeezed out 171 yards, whereas the Bears offense nearly doubled that tally with 312 yards. The Bears offense was tough to stop, especially on third downs as they covered the minimum ten yards on 10 of 16 tries.

The power of the Bears offense was apparent at the onset as they took their opening drive 70 yards in 16 plays

for the games first score, a nine yard touchdown pass from Larsen.

The Bears defense shined as they forced and recovered a fumble by Daniel Keel on his own 6-yard line. Soon after, the Bears scored their second touchdown which made the score 14-0.

The Bears kicking game was in top form as placekicker Adam Elegant converted on all four touchdown's point-after-attempts, and, in the third quarter, split the uprights from 32 yards. The third quarter field goal put the Bears up 17-0.

The Glorioso-Dalton touchdown pass made the score 17-7 and raised the hopes for a Lynx comeback.

The Bears defense shattered the comeback dream with two fourth quarter interceptions and the Bears offense swept the last remnants with two subsequent rushing touchdowns.

Controversy Disrupts Hurst Lecture

by Alan Dossey

Staff Correspondent

When Michael Hurst, of St. John's College, prepared for his Sept. 26 lecture on the political and social tensions between Britain and Ireland, he was probably unaware that Mary Kavanagh Dando would be in the audience. Dando, a journalist from Southern Ireland currently working on her masters at the University of Memphis, took the first amendment to its farthest degree when she repeatedly interrupted Hurst's speech, both attacking his opinion and insulting him.

Hurst spoke to an audience consisting primarily of IS majors and well-informed adults. Apparently, though, the analysis he gave of British/Irish relations was extremely biased, and it was impossible not to notice Mrs. Dando's constant bantering, mumbling and exaggerated sighs.

Finally, Hurst asked her to be quiet while he spoke. At this point, Dando took the opportunity to compare British and Irish tension to the Civil War era North and South tension in the United States. When he denied this, she called him a racist, and continued to banter with him. For a while, it was

as if Britain and Ireland had just carried their long-time conflict over to America. Dando's outrage shocked the audience.

The conflict was finally brought under control when a moderator stepped in, whereby Hurst's lecture was followed by a brief questioning period. Afterwards, both Dando and Hurst stayed to express their opinions and then exited from opposite doors.

Hurst is a fellow of St. John's College in Oxford, England. He is currently working on an analysis of British/Irish relations. The Office of British Studies sponsored Hurst's lecture.



Top- President Daughdrill hugs recently chosen Ms. Rhodes, Riddell Walcott, while the new Mr. Rhodes, Steve Smith, looks on. Bottom- The Rhodes Pep Band was present and in fine form at Saturday's Homecoming football game.

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KidsTalk To Support & Provide Insight Into Lives Of Memphis Children

by Dr. Marsha Walton

Associate Professor of Psychology

Rapid and sometimes frightening changes have been taking place in the world of childhood. The lives of many Memphis children include experiences quite different from our own.

KidsTalk is a program designed to help Rhodes Students come to a better understanding of what the world is like for children growing up in the neighborhoods of the 1990's. It is also designed to encourage children to tell their stories and to let them know that their perceptions and opinions are important.

How the program works:

Groups of four or five Snowden

students in the after-school program meet with small groups of Rhodes Students for an hour on Thursday afternoons. Different children will be invited to participate each week until all the children who want to join have had an opportunity. The program will start with children in grades three through six, and later extend to younger and older students if possible.

A facilitator will begin the discussion by asking the children some very general questions about their daily lives. They will be encouraged to talk about any issues that come up. The goal of these discussions is to better understand how the children perceive their world and to better see through the eyes of a Snowden eight or ten-year-old.

Past experience has shown that few questions are needed; the children soon talk and talk and talk. Rhodes students will not need to give advice or try to solve problems or try to teach anything; they just need to show interest and give their undivided attention for an hour.

KidsTalk is sponsored by the Department of Psychology and the Kinney Program.

Interested students can sign up for as many Thursday afternoons as they wish. Students will meet every Thursday from 3:00-4:00pm, beginning on Oct. 6. Sign-up sheets are posted on first floor Clough.

For further information, contact Natasha Westrich at x3303.

Campus Safety Activity Log

September 26 - October 2, 1994

9/26	
11:50pm	New/Robinson Hall - Fire Drill - ok.
9/27	
12:43am	MPD - on campus, courtesy patrol.
10:05am	University/Tutwiler. Suspicious Persons (Campus Safety checked - subject fled in gray or off white Dodge Ram pick up truck.
11:22am	Robinson Hall - Suspicious person outside. Campus safety checked - ok, visitor waiting on resident.
5:09pm	Glassell Bike Room. Theft - bicycle.
9/28	
1:27am	Bellingrath Quad - unauthorized residents camping. Dispersed according to policy.
3:10am	MPD - on campus, courtesy patrol.
7:50am	University/east side. Vandalized vehicle abandoned. Campus Safety report.
8:30pm	Off campus - Mignon Street at University (just northwest of campus) Robbery of an individual. MPD on scene. Neighbors notified Rhodes Campus Safety.
9/29	
4:00pm	Buckman Hall, outside - Theft of bicycle.
9/30	
6:00pm	White Hall, contraband seized. Investigation and charges pending.
10/1	
3:04am	Tuthill Hall, Lost property, report taken.
10:00am	Computer Center, Buckman - alarm. activated by mistake, ok.
10:10am	Library, Fire Alarm. Campus Safety checked, checked ok.
1:34pm	300 White, Fireworks shot from east window. Investigation and charges pending.
7:30pm	Briggs Loading dock, Vehicle accident - report taken.
5:20pm	Stewart Hall, fire door activated. Reset, checked ok.
10/2	
8:14am	Sorority Row drive "Y", curb damage, origin unknown.
Statistics	
Visitors: 70	Parking Citations: 94
Accesses: 156	Alcohol Violations: 0
	Car Jumps: 10
	Escorts: 26
	Propped Doors: 13

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The Sou'wester is the official student newspaper of Rhodes College. The Editors and Staff of The Sou'wester publish 22 times yearly throughout the fall and spring semesters, with the exception of holidays and exam periods. The Sou'wester office is located downstairs in Palmer Hall. The phone number of The Sou'wester is (901) 726-3970. Staff meetings are open to the college community and take place every Monday evening at 8:00 pm in Room 103 of Buckman Hall.

Student publications at Rhodes are under the aegis of the Student Publications Board, which is composed of the editors of all campus publications as well as class representatives and at-large representatives of the student body.

All business inquiries should be directed to David Humphries, Business Manager, who can be reached at (901) 523-9151. The deadline for submitting advertising for a Wednesday issue is the previous Friday. National advertising representatives are CASS Communications and American Passage.

Roundtable Discusses Tenure and Diversity

by Meredith Long

Student Affairs Correspondent

Last Wednesday, Sept. 28, Chancellor David Harlow held this year's first President's Roundtable, an opportunity to open the lines of communication between students, faculty and administration. The question for discussion centered on the continuing challenge of providing quality education

and the role students play in meeting that challenge.

Harlow opened the meeting with a few comments concerning the new seating arrangement for the Roundtable. Developed with input from Student Assembly president Clyde Henderson, the different format provides more chairs in a bigger circle, part of a plan to provide better discussion among more members of the Rhodes

community. Harlow hopes to "get more people, get the word out on campus" in time for greater involvement at the next meeting, set for Nov. 30 in the Orgill Room.

Dean of Academic Affairs Mark McMahon opened the discussion with a presentation about tenure. Explaining the basic policy "to tenure those faculty better than we are," he cited the recent statistic that the average Rhodes

faculty member is in the seventieth to eightieth percentile of a national group that uses the same evaluation system as Rhodes. The ideal teacher should be "a facilitator in learning, a scholar in his or her field, an advisor and a mentor." McMahon believes that students play an integral role in determining the teaching effectiveness of faculty members by completing the Student Instructional Report, an evaluatory questionnaire given to a random sampling of students. However, the return rate of some written questionnaires is only about 50%, a figure McMahon calls "criminal." He urged all students to take SIR's seriously as the most important contribution they can make to quality education.

In one of the few active pieces of discussion at the meeting, Roundtable members debated the student perception of SIR's. Faculty representative Katheryn Wright commented that "SIR's bother faculty because students sometimes don't know enough about them [the teachers] on a semester-basis," adding that sometimes it seems more like "a popularity contest" than the evaluation of teaching it is.

Senior Doug Duncan retorted, "A teacher worth tenure should be popular, shouldn't he?" However, most of the faculty concluded that a good teacher is not always a popular teacher, with the relative ease of making good grades in a class often being a more of a factor than it should be. Clyde Henderson attempted to turn the tables

on the faculty by stating that his negative thoughts about SIR's came only from faculty members, who infect students "with distrust of the system."

Changing the direction of discussion, Student Assembly representative Jacob Abraham approached the Roundtable with a copy of a resolution from Sept. 1992 in which the faculty had decided that focused efforts were needed to promote diversity among the teaching staff. Abraham asked the faculty representatives how they feel now, a question greeted by silence by almost all the faculty representatives present. Only Stephen Wirls, a recent addition to the political science department, addressed the issue. Based on similar experiences at other institutions at which he has taught, Wirls thinks the effort to recruit minorities "will bear fruit only after five, six, or seven more years" when more minorities with Ph.D.'s are available to schools like Rhodes.

Harlow stressed that "we will go the extra mile" to attract diversity at this point, citing the Minority Fellows program here at Rhodes. This program offers an entry-level salary for a course taught by a minority teaching assistant working on his or her Ph.D. as an incentive for future employment. According to Harlow, the program will be funded even if it is not in the budget.

Any student wishing to submit a topic for discussion at the next President's Roundtable should contact Clyde Henderson.

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Campus Overcrowding

continued from page 1

converted into rooms, doubles in Robinson, Trezevant and Voorhies have been expanded into triples, and space above the refectory has even been converted to residence area.

Construction of a new dormitory, however, remains secondary to a Campus Life Center, the construction of which will not begin until this spring and will last at least two years.

According to Dean of Administrative Services Allen Boone, an additional \$4-5 million will be required for the first phase of the new residence hall, following construction of the Campus Life Center, for which all funds are not yet secured. At best, the construction of a new dormitory re-

mains several years away.

The Plan for Excellence, largely the project of President Jim Daughdrill, envisions 1450 students as "the optimum size for faculty growth and physical plant," said Wottle.

Wottle has cited a goal of 395 new students for next year, while the Rhodes Class of '95 contains only 305 students.

Rhodes begins its search for new students in the summer of each year by mailing literature to 60,000 prospective students. Viewbook and application mailings follow in August, as well as additional financial aid and personal mailings throughout the fall.

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Oh For a Decent Debate on Abortion

Now that the United Nations conference on population is done and over and safely buried back under the international language of bureaucracy that spawned it, I am once again safe from the one thing that most hurts my ears. However, I am now aware that my ears are truly safe from this thing nowhere in the world, because whether it is in English, Arabic, or Italian, it is the same. The thing is abortion debates.

No issue creates more hullaballoo, more rampant emotionalism, more annoying slogans, more discussion killing ideologues, or less intelligent debate. And now I see that this mind slayer is international.

I am an abortion agnostic. I have, in my past, been fervently pro-life. I have also been tacitly pro-choice. I am now undecided. I can think of good arguments for and against each side. I can describe the statements necessary to convince me one way or the other. I even have decided that abortion is probably immoral as a personal choice. That, however, is not certain, and even if it was, the step between immorality and illegality is about as monumental as any ever taken.

I also seem to be one of the few

people in the world to whom the above paragraph, or even part of it, applies.

Let's look at the pro-choice side. Spearheaded by Planned Parenthood, an organization I am occasionally tempted to like, and NOW, who succeeds in alienating more women than men every time it makes a statement, the pro-choice side of the argument refuses to look at a few things that are inconvenient to them.

One, never have I heard a choice advocate even address the question of whether or not the fetus, at any stage before viability, is endowed with a rational nature approximating that of an infant. If the answer is that a fetus does have such a nature, then the argument for keeping abortion legal is somewhat more difficult.

Second, choice advocates have a nasty habit of refusing to acknowledge the basic human dignity of their opponents. They are almost never referred to as "pro-life" but instead as "anti-abortion" or "anti-choice." They are portrayed as right-winged, fundamentalist rabble-rousers who believe that all women should wear veils and raise the kids, preferably many of them, without shoes or driving licenses.

Third, the leaders of the choice crusade are making an art of the SLAP suit, a legal action that attempts to shut someone up by threatening him or her with court costs, legal fees, undue inconvenience, etc., despite the fact that the action has no chance of winning in court. The implicit statement in this strategy is, "We don't care who is right, we want to defeat the opposition. Truth is the servant of

not support restrictive laws on abortion (The Book of Discipline, 1988, 71-G). The other problem is that religious belief, no matter how wise or well-founded, cannot by itself determine law. Yet they offer no reasons that are legally viable as to why choice should be restricted.

Also, this side, if somewhat less prone to stereotyping than the pro-choice group, is particularly guilty of name-calling. The number of times I have heard the word "baby-killers" thrown at someone is somewhat greater than the number of times I have heard my own name called. More than annoying, the phrase is just technically not valid. Even if a fetus is a viable legal entity, it is still a fetus.

Finally, the movement has inspired some of the most annoying civil disobedience ever witnessed in our country. Operation Rescue fancies itself as the inheritors of the civil rights movement, but I doubt King or X would stage events like the clinic sit-ins.

And the greatest hypocrisy of all, the taking of life in the name of advocating life, comes from this movement. Though this abomination to all who feel called to be servants of God has only been committed by two and championed by a handful, this handful is not being cut-off or condemned by many claiming to be moderates.

Neither side is very attractive in my eyes. It is possible that one reason I refuse to take a position on abortion is that I loathe to be known as either a



Jim Turner

Rationale

victory."

The other side, however, has not been as angelic as their stated aspirations. For one thing, it has been my experience that pro-life advocates often base their arguments on a few scattered verses in the Bible. There are two problems with this approach. One is that other verses in the Bible can be interpreted just as easily as being pro-choice, and many good Christians are pro-choice. The United Methodist Church, possibly the most conservative of the main-line protestant churches, officially states that it can-

Diversity, Here We Come

Professor Dickerson has been granted tenure. An entire roomful of people showed up at the year's first Gay-Straight Alliance meeting. And we call our freshpeople "first-year students." Is Rhodes on its way to that long-awaited goal called "diversity"? Maybe.

Or maybe not.

Kudos to the appeals board who gave Vanessa Dickerson what she rightfully earned, the courageous souls who showed up in 105 Buckman, and the few on campus who use "first-year student" without a cynical sneer—but do they represent the climate of this college community? In terms of progress, yes. Undoubtedly all



Karen Jones
For What It's Worth

of these accomplishments are signs of willingness to grow, and they are certainly appreciated steps in the right direction.

But let us not mistake progress for completion. It seems the minimum achievement becomes a place for complacent loss of passion in many movements. Traditionalists set against change resist it successfully for so long that when they finally give an inch it appears to be a mile. Those striving for change see one step in the right direction as a place to sit and rest.

If this were to happen to the movement for diversity at this school, it would

not only stop progress short of its goals, but begin an inevitable backwards spiral toward the ways of old. The measures of acceptance Rhodes has extended to its minorities thus far are commendable, but they by no means constitute an awakening of liberalism on campus. This is a campaign to correct not just individual situations but an overall environment of exclusion and elitism. It should not be thwarted

by apathy produced in the aftermath of success.

This is not a cynical position, or a reprimand of our college community. It is a cautious congratulations and a conditionally optimistic forecast for the future. We are getting

there, slowly but surely. Hopefully these changes will perpetuate the attitudes that brought them about and facilitate further success.

Still, no one could argue with a straight face that this campus is entirely comfortable with its new wave of political correctness. The environment has evolved from one of hostility to one of awkwardness. Open dialogue is the obvious cure for that ailment, and open dialogue is the epitome of everything the advocates of change are asking for. They must be careful not to stop asking now that a few requests have been answered.

Letters to the Editor

I don't know whether there are more smokers on campus this year or whether they simply care less about the beauty of our environment than in other years. One of the things I enjoy about working at Rhodes is the serene and lovely atmosphere. To my dismay, more and more people are ruining that by disposing of their cigarette butts outside on sidewalks and grassy areas. Not only is this visually disturbing, but I can only imagine the effort it would take for physical plant workers to try to pick up each and every cigarette butt. Nearly impossible! Please, dispose of your cigarette butts responsibly! Thank you.

Terese Buscher
Associate Dean of Admissions

New professors, get ready...you, too, can receive tenure. All you have to do is ask.

Well, maybe not just ask. Better yet, get a bunch of students to do it for you. And be sure to use the word "injustice" and "unfair" a whole lot.

See, you new students and faculty missed all the fun last semester. When tenure review time came around, a couple of the professors who were up for tenure were turned down.

And, as usually happens here, all hell broke loose.

A group of enraged students began crying foul, putting up racially inflammatory signs (ever heard of "Step 'N Fetchit?") and having meetings where they sat around and talked about how angry they were. All this effort was made in support of Professor Vanessa Dickerson, who, incidentally, is an African-American woman. Oh, by the way, no one ever even squeaked for Professor Clifton, the white male professor who was also denied tenure. I'm sure we all understand the situation here.

Appeals were made, teeth were gnashed, letters written, and here we see that due to extremely vague considerations (like, maybe the threat of a lawsuit?) Professor Dickerson has been given tenure after all. Who woulda thunk it?

I've never had Professor Dickerson for a class. I've heard good and bad things about her teaching ability, but I have no firsthand experience with her. I did notice that something was mentioned about problems with the evaluation process, such as "personal bias" affecting SIR evaluations (there's a race/gender card if I ever saw one), but at the

pro-lifer or a pro-chooser.

I occasionally watch a "debate," assuming the definition is broad enough to accommodate this, on CNN. I see two mixed pairs facing each other with Larry King or Bernard Shaw or anyone else positioned between them. They step on each other's words. They attack each other personally. They threaten. They call names. They invoke curses. They do the unpardonable: they quote slogans. They force me to go away and hope that I never hear the debate again.

Just once I would like to see two calm, rational people debate the subject. My dream is that two people would face each other, state an argument, take turns rebutting and criticizing the subtleties and implications, then take a few questions from observers. When it was over, they would shake hands and go out for coffee.

Instead, what I see happening is the caustic style of the abortion blood-letters leaking into other issues. Environmental policy, free trade, even Federal Reserve policy (thanks to Rep. Henry Gonzales) are becoming arenas rather than forums. It seems that only our policy toward the Balkans is immune.

Maybe it is a function of an immediate-gratification society. When answers don't come easily, and they never do, we get much more gratification rattling off slogans and encouraging an us-versus-them attitude. Unfortunately, we never get to the truth. We never even get a decent debate.

Respectfully,
Jeb Hoge



Interested parties are strongly encouraged to write letters to the Editors. Submissions can be made (1) via the Sou'wester folder on the Academic Server, (2) by sending your letter via DECmail to "Souwester," or (3) by sending your disk or printed copy of your letter to the Sou'wester through campus mail. All letters must be signed and must include the author's phone number for verification. Any letter for publication may be edited or rejected for clarity, length, and/or libelous content.

R.E.M. Proves Why They're "Monsters" of Rock...

by Sarah Hopp

Staff Correspondent

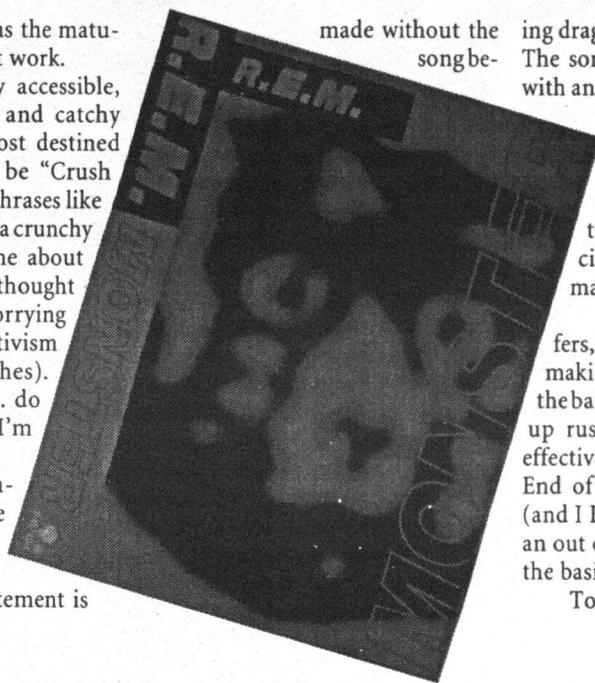
Just when R.E.M. was getting a pretentiously stale flavor, they snap back to fresh 'n' tasty bubblegum rock with their latest release, *Monster*. Not only does *Monster* definitely rock (in contrast to *Automatic for the People*), but Michael sings about crushes and obsessive call-and-hang-up phone games and ruined love, themes which I would have assumed he considered hopelessly bourgeois.

I see this album as good pop music. In an era when pop is otherwise sucking its last breaths, succumbing either to "socially relevant" political themes or a creative outlet for Joey Lawrence, R.E.M. maintains

the pop form and yet has the maturity as a band to make it work.

This album is very accessible, full of guitar "hooks" and catchy rhythms. The song most destined for single success may be "Crush With Eyeliner." Sweet phrases like "I am smitten" sail above a crunchy rock melody in this tune about infatuation (and here I thought Stipe was too busy worrying about stuff like social activism to have common crushes). Since when does R.E.M. do unironic love songs? I'm liking it, though.

In "King of Comedy," they get a bit more high concept while the song retains an easy-to-listen-to quality. A statement is



made without the song be-

ing dragged down in its dead weight. The song seems to be about greed, with an ambition theme not alien to many Rhodes students: "Make your money/ Make it rich/ Make it young and make it quick." The song actually refers to the way musicians are used in the ruthless machine of the music business.

For "Star 69," (the title refers, of course, to the method of making a phone call untraceable) the band uses that distinctive mixed up rush of words effect that was effective in such songs as "It's the End of the World as We Know It (and I Feel Fine)." The device gives an out of control confusion that fits the basic concepts of both tunes.

Toward the middle of side two,

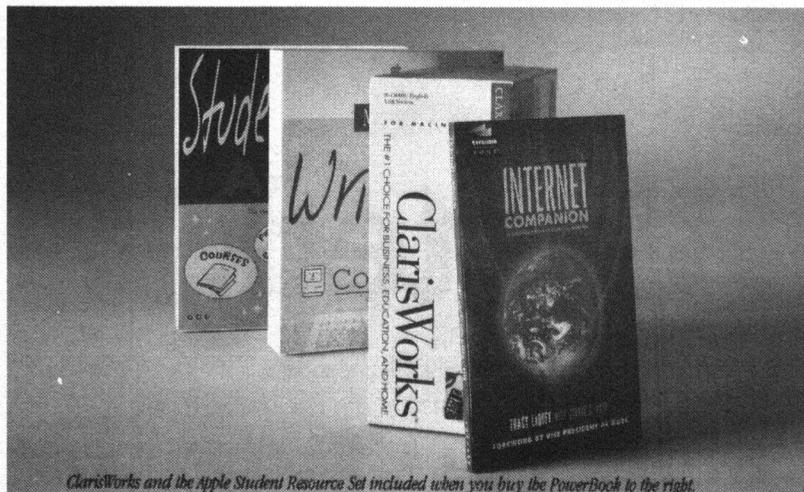
the album takes a strange, not entirely pleasant turn to a monotonous wall-of-sound tone. These songs are interesting in their own right, but do not necessarily belong in the album. Perhaps the band is making a last minute effort to show that they're not getting mushy; "Let Me In" and "Circus Envy" are anything but light and zippy.

In "Let Me In," Stipe provides a contrast to the idealized romance of the other songs with a sad monologue about trying, and failing, to reach someone emotionally. "Circus Envy" is just weird. Even if I don't understand it, I can surmise it's not a happy tune.

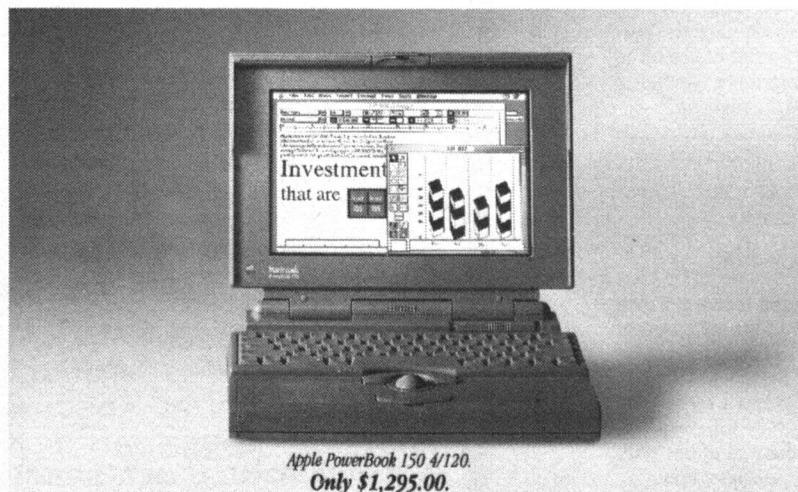
No matter what you expect from R.E.M.'s latest, even after reading this review you will be taken by surprise.

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Jeff Coons

Pulp Fiction

It's time for my confessional. I'm a closet reader. In saying this, I don't mean to imply that I shiver with ecstasy whenever my History professor assigns 500-page tomes on *Feminist Perspectives In Post-Duvalier Haiti*. Rather, my addiction is fed by the Stephen Kings, Anne Rices, and Michael Crichtons of the world. I'm talking about pulp fiction. Airport reading.

The chief competitor of pulp fiction is popular cinema. Why read *Jurassic Park* when you can go see Steven Spielberg put on a forty million dollar puppet show at the local multiplex? I'll tell you exactly why. Pulp fiction is played out in the theater of you own mind. There are no ticket lines, seven dollar boxes of popcorn, or disappointing plot omissions. Most of all, you are never forced to picture Julia Roberts or Keanu Reeves as characters. In the theater of the mind, they're the ones who scrape up the gummy bears off the floor when the show is over.

Embracing one's love of pulp fiction does NOT necessarily mean that you are abandoning the teachings of this 80,000 dollar intellectual boot camp. On the contrary, having a critical eye for literature means that while the duped masses are busy mopping up the puddles of their own tears over Robert James Waller's latest geriatric Harlequin, you can see him for what he truly is, the literary anti-Christ.

This column will focus on a new book each week, trying to give an overview of all points good and bad. I pledge never to reveal crucial plot twists and/or secrets. I'm still stinging from the Commercial Appeal reviewer who informed me prematurely that Luke and Leia were siblings in *Return of the Jedi* (Wherever you are today, you scarred my childhood, and I curse you for it.) Ratings will range from one cup of coffee (pitiful) to five. Especially horrific books will be given the BOMC designation (*Bridges of Madison County*). Let the pages roll.

Midnight In the Garden of Good and Evil

By John Berendt

Random House

\$23.00



It is said that truth is stranger than fiction, and no where is that more evident than in John Berendt's *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. Set against the backdrop of Savannah, Georgia's social elites and misfits in the early 1980's, the book tells the story of the murder trial of Jim Williams, a prominent Savannah socialite.

Berendt's fascination with Savannah began when he discovered that bargain airfares to many Southern cities were cheaper than an evening of dining in his native New York. A weekend trip to Savannah exposed him to the history and eccentricity of the city where he would spend the greater part of the next seven years.

Broad, colorful characters dominate Berendt's narrative, creating an atmosphere similar to a Southern version of *Twin Peaks*. This dizzying parade of personalities carries the reader from start to finish with few, if any, lulls. One does wonder, though, if the characters aren't playing up their mannerisms and eccentricities to impress their newfound carpetbagger friend from the Big Apple. Even so, non-fiction has rarely been so entertaining and escapist as this. Berendt's book is one of the more compelling and entertaining reads of the past few years.

Available in the Rhodes College Bookstore
Coming Soon: Stephen King's *Insomnia*, P.J. O'Rourke's *All The Trouble In the World*.



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The Thrill Inside

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This Week In Brief...

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p>4:15 Pm Fiction Reading by Gerald Duff Orgill Room</p> <p>6:00 Pm Student Assembly Tuthill</p> <p>6:30 Pm Study Abroad Forum Orgill Room</p> <p>7:00 Pm Mortar Board Meeting Frazier Jelke D</p> <p>8:00 Pm Faculty Concert Series: Marsha Evans, piano Hardie Auditorium</p> <p>9:00 Pm FCA Tuthill</p>	<p>4:30 Pm Presentation by Hyde Award Winner Amy Taylor Blount Lecture Hall</p> <p>5:30 Pm How to Find a Job - Panel Discussion Orgill Room/Clough 201</p> <p>7:00 Pm Sex? Drugs? Abstinence? Learning to Live Safely in the 90's Blount Lecture Hall</p> <p>7:30 Pm Talk by Professor Brent Morris of NSA Buckman 110</p> <p>8:00 Pm <i>The Glass Menagerie</i> McCoy Theatre</p>	<p>7:30 Pm Rhodes Film Society Film Series, <i>Four Weddings and a Funeral</i> Blount Lecture Hall</p> <p>8:00 Pm <i>The Glass Menagerie</i> McCoy Theatre</p>	<p>8:30 Am Admissions Open House</p> <p>8:00 Pm <i>The Glass Menagerie</i> McCoy Theatre</p>	<p>12:00 Pm Women's Soccer vs. Oglethorpe Soccer Field</p> <p>2:00 Pm <i>The Glass Menagerie</i> McCoy Theatre</p> <p>2:30 Pm The Memphis Flute Society Meeting Payne Recital Hall</p> <p>4:00 Pm Rhodes Chorale Performance Holy Communion</p>	<p>5:30 Pm Rhodes College Civic Orchestra Rehearsal Hardie Auditorium</p>	<p>7:30 Pm Society for Creative Anachronisms: Curia Orgill Room</p>

McCoy's Menagerie is a Thing of Beauty

by Henry Murphy

McCoy Correspondent

The McCoy Theatre started its season with a stellar production of Tennessee Williams' classic *The Glass Menagerie*. Directed by visiting professor Henry Swanson, this production features marvelously gifted (and trained) actors and a gorgeous set, designed by Swanson.

The play concerns the Wingfield family, living in St. Louis during the thirties. The son, Tom, works at a warehouse to pay the rent; the mother, Amanda, sells magazine subscriptions; and Laura, the daughter, really does nothing at all. She is supposed to be at business school, but we discover later that it made her too nervous.

Amanda is locked in the past, struggling to maintain her hold on reality and hold on to customs of the Old South. She talks endlessly of "gentlemen callers" and the days of her youth. Laura, stricken with a limp, wanders ghostlike through the house, speaking little, polishing her collection of glass animals constantly. Tom goes out every night, "to the movies," he says, but we find out otherwise. Life, for this family, is tenuous; they live on the brink of poverty, and Tom and Amanda constantly bicker.

On its simplest level, this is a biting domestic comedy, sharply funny and surgical. At another level, it is a harrowing depiction of desperation, delusion, and denial. Each character seems to be in its own little world (except for the gentleman caller in the last act, who is an intruder from the real world).

Every person in the family hangs on to life and reality with whatever method they can. Tom and Laura are close, but they never really seem to completely understand one another, and of course, no one can understand Amanda, lost in her own world. Which is not to say these people cannot relate to other people. When the gentleman caller arrives for dinner, they can carry on normal conversation and such. They're not visibly, completely insane. But their subtle quirks betray their larger psychological deficits.

These parts are played superbly. Marla Rolfs as Amanda is smooth and effortless in her role. She imbues the character with a faded resilience, but also a dark shadow of hysteria, subtly portrayed, which cannot be easily done. Mark Carapezza as Tom has a tough job: keeping a chronically bitter character fresh and engaging. He puts as much spin as possible into his lines, has the most energy of anyone on stage,

and does a terrific job playing Tom both at home and as the subdued narrator. Jenny Hall, with her ravaged makeup, convincing limp, and spare, tentative diction, makes Laura tender, sad, and beautiful all at the same time.

Shea Flinn as Jim the Gentleman Caller is bouncy and ingratiating, a welcome change from the majority of the play, which is fairly depressing, even when it's funny (as it often is). There's more to this than just the characters, of course; Williams' shattered lives are the fabric of the twentieth century: dominated and devastated by the past, devoid of spiritual anchor, and isolated within relationships. They have no one to turn to.

Only at the end, after the interruption of Jim, and Tom's departure, do Laura and Amanda become close, and then they are only pathetic comfort to each other.

In this apartment, there are no real lives, only shells, and this production is a superb evocation of that realization. Start the year off right and see this play and get a subscription as well; if the other productions are anywhere near as good as this one, it will be very much worth the price.

Laura Canon provided the savvy lighting, David Jilg the costumes, and Amanda Bethall the excellent sound.

Cross Country Makes Strong Showing at Vandy

by Felix Vazquez

Sports Correspondent

Last weekend, the Rhodes Cross Country teams traveled to Music City USA to compete against eleven schools (mainly Division I squads) in the Vanderbilt Invitational. The morning was gloomy, but turned out to be a good day for running, as the Lynx, inspired by the weather, handled the hilly course and their opponents quite well.

The Lady Lynx, led by first-year Diana Blythe, showed their strength and depth by winning the Division II title. Among the Rhodes top-ten finishers were B.A. Snodgrass, Charlotte Turnipseed, Lara Harkins, Jennifer Farringer, Amy Ledbetter and Meredith Neer.

On the guys' side, Senior Welch Suggs, a three-year All-Conference runner, by crossing the line in sixth place, provided the leadership needed for the team to finish second in a very competitive race. Sophomore Brendan

Scores for the meet:
Women: Rhodes 32, 1st place.
Diana Blythe 20:25; Charlotte Turnipseed 20:49; B. A. Snodgrass 20:59; Lara Harkins 21:31; Jennifer Farringer 23:18; Pam Baugus 23:18; Amy Ledbetter 23:35; Meredith Neer 25:05; Cindy Curtis 25:11; Allison Whittle 25:12; Abby Smith 27:57.

Minihan and junior Felix Vazquez ended in seventh and ninth places respectively.

Coach Shankman, SCAC Coach of the Year for the past three years, was pleased with the effort put forth by both teams. He attributed the good performances to his new training program, which includes, among other things, multiple repeats of hills.

The prospect of making Rhodes history by taking both the women's and men's conference titles looks brighter than ever.

In addition, what once seemed almost an impossible goal—winning the men's regional championship—is becoming very attainable. One of the reasons for this outlook is due in part to the fast recovery from a knee injury of last year's number one runner, Jon Michael Morgan.

The Cross Country team will take a two-week break from racing. In the meantime, the Lynx runners will prepare for the Rhodes Invitational to be held on Oct. 8 at Shelby Farms.

Men: Rhodes 45, 2nd place.
Welch Suggs 28:15; Brendan Minihan 28:21; Felix Vazquez 28:33; Jon Michael Morgan 29:26; Mike Rosolino 29:45; Myles Bogner 29:49; Dave Speas 30:05; Kerry Knox 30:21; Erik Berry 30:49; R.J. Milnor-Beard 32:09; Scott Wottle 33:19.

The Rhode'ster

Volume 82, Number 5

The Product of Too Little Sleep and Too Much Caffeine...

Wednesday, October 5, 1994

The More You Ignore Me, The Weirder I Get, Part II

Ok, this is it. This is what happens when no one writes for Rhode'ster, and I, your illustrious, hard-working, witty, yet oh-so-humble Rhodes'ter editor must cover 44 inches of column space, which would otherwise be filled by articles that actually have a semblance of continuity, cohesiveness, and coherence (again, note the awesome command of the English language with the artistry of alliteration), but now are filled with mindless (that is quite an understatement) drivel, rife (wowie, whatta word!) with pent-up anger, irritation, and a myriad of other stuff that

would lend quite nicely to some rather Freudian interpretation.

In an amazing combination of extreme sleep-deprivation, rock-climbing fatigue, post-boogie-ing down trauma, and my first shot of caffeine in three years, I stumbled into the *Sou'wester* office, teeming with panic (Actually, I had just broken all but two pieces of dishware on my Rat tray and my pacemaker had shifted into over-drive.), and confronted the illustrious editorial team of Moberly and Bogner (sounds like one of those TV law offices that will help YOU if you are involved

in an accident) with my predicament: my brain was non-functional.

But (as you may have noticed from this RATHER free-form, stream-of-consciousness-esque article), the omniscient (read: "know-it-all"), omnipotent (read: "at least they think so") editorial staff felt that a fragile mental condition such as mine should not hamper any creative writing process in the least. Nay (oh no, not Parliamentary English), I was encouraged to channel any semblance of thought into the written word, in hopes that something remotely humorous would result.

My point is this: When you are hanging by an 11-mm thick rope and some eclectic knots about 90 feet from the ground, one doesn't care about writing or creativity or anything remotely academic. No, I believe the most prominent thought running through such a person's mind would be along the lines of "Holy mackrel, how did I get into this fix?" or more specifically, "How the heck do I get OUT of this mess?"

In short, don't tell your parents when you start jumping off cliffs and never, ever eat the Rat roast beef.

In a non-related segue, I thought about many things while holding myself into the face of a rock by a pinkie. One of which is how it would feel if I wasn't hooked into any safety system and fell. Would I make a thud, crunch, or plunk sound when I hit the ground at a bazillion point two-five kilometers per second (calculated with care under the auspices of taking "Physics For Crazy People"), and of equal importance, would anyone care? (I suppose COMMUNE president Enrique "Slug Boy" Espinoza would shudder at the bad publicity for the group....)

In the light of these and other pressing questions, I began to wonder how my dear friends would react to my untimely demise.

Emily Flinn, with her international affinity and flair, would probably see to it that my two-dimensional remains were shipped off to some random South American country to fertilize the waning rain forests.

My roommate Rachael Rack, who

is as cool as "Ice," would, of course, freeze me in cryogenic sleep, reviving me every few semesters to reinstate that groovy 4.0 G.P.A. that we all would give our left arms for.

John Rose, in his best Doogie Howser imitation would make sure that I'm laid out in state, complete with "purty" (sic) red hair, but not before attempting to see what exactly killed me and what the effects of going from zero to a bazillion kilometers per hour are on any remaining internal organs.

Bascially, no one would care. And why not? Because I'm not really dead. (But then again, they haven't read this article yet....)

(Editor's Note: We are still in the process of finding Jill's brain. It is obvious, from this extended piece of, well, you know, that we have yet to find it. Please bear with us over the next few weeks as the search progresses, and if you have any clue as to the whereabouts of Jill's brain, or if you would like to save us and the students of Rhodes in general from the kind of pseudo-humor found here, then by all means, submit articles to the Rhode'ster via the Academic Volume. Place articles in the Sou'wester folder, in the folder entitled "Put Rhode'ster articles here!!!" It couldn't be any easier than that. The only requirements are that you put your name on your submission (so the editors can laugh at your folly), and that you insult (in a funny manner) at least one person or organization at Rhodes College (excluding, of course, the Sou'wester). Thank you, and have a nice day.

Unsafe Activity Log???

September 18 - September 25, 1994

9/18

- 12:55am Pike house, public drunkenness; people laughed
06:15am Glassell Hall, north side, recovered lingerie returned to Williford
02:30pm Robinson, Caffeine violation - Admitted to local detox program
03:00pm Stewart Quad - Theft - Bike; Campus Safety "Tour de Rhodes" participant seen riding off into the sunset
11:53pm Evergreen Church playground: Campus Safety located suspicious person sleeping in playground area behind church. President Daughdrill was awakened and politely requested to leave area. MPD not called.

9/19

- 11:20am Buckman Lot: Suspicious Person - Faculty member called Campus Safety to report a suspicious person and vehicle "cruising" the lot. Male driving a grey Buick Roadmaster, TN license #SLIMJIM. Campus Safety responded; however, Professor Andrew Michta had already "taken down" the perpetrator with his Stealth "We Are The World" firearms.
11:40pm Stewart Hall, Fire drill - everyone ran into the street

9/20

- 11:45am Briggs, Illness - Campus Safety/Health Services cleaned everything up

9/21

- 04:00pm Campus, Memphis Police Department - Courtesy Patrol, complete with Krispy Kreme Krullers.
10:00pm Williford Hall, Fire drill - minor complications. Several residents became lost in third floor bathroom/hall complex; security called to retrieve residents.
10:30pm Voorhies-Townsend, Fire drill - ok; everyone stopped, dropped, and rolled.

9/22

- 12:29am Bellingrath Hall, Fire drill - ok

9/24

- 04:30pm Tutwiler, Malicious Mischief, film at eleven

9/25

- 03:00pm Palmer Hall, Fire drill - Chancellor Harlow fined \$40 for possession of incense with intent to burn, and not exiting the building in a timely fashion (elevators weren't fast enough).
05:53pm Outside Chemistry building, Delicious Mischief - Yogurt cone smashed into face of student - perpetrator ran like hell.

Statistics:

Visitors: 4.2 per room	Students found "parking:" 174	Alcohol Violations: 4421
Random accesses: 159	Jumping cars: 10	Escorts: 26
Escort services: 2295	Propped Doors: 3	Propped escorts: 331

It's Fun! It's Exciting!

(It's something to do when you're eating by yourself and you want to look like you want to be eating by yourself!)

It's the

RHODE'STER SCAVENGER HUNT!

Find the following items in the Sou'wester!
Race your friends! It's loads of fun, really.

- 1 Misquote of President Daughdrill
- 2 Token females on staff
- 3 Prolonged, beaten, hackneyed debates on issues long-past resolved
- 4 Friends of *Sou'wester* staff quoted
- 5 Ads for bad pizza
- 6 Pleas for more staff (read: RHODESTER!) writers
- 7 Self-congratulatory articles about the Publication Center
- 8 Pictures of self-congratulatory editors to accompany articles
- 9 Typos
- 10 Egomaniac editorials