

The Sou'wester

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New Registration Process Proposes More Equity, Less Work. . . But For Whom?

By Heather Tyler

Academic Affairs Beat

The Academic Affairs Office and members of the committee that devised the new registration program eagerly await students' responses on March 25. Over the last several months, committee members darted between planning and organizational meetings for the new system and informational meetings for the staff and faculty.

With its "choice tree structure," the new registration procedure is the development of eight staff and faculty members: Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs Kathleen Laakso, Terri Lindquister, Steve Haynes, Chuck Orvis, Glenn Munson, Rankin Payne, Sue Hall and Charles Lemond.

Laakso explained that the main drive behind the initiation of a new registration procedure was that the administration wanted to create a "system that was fairer across the board," allowing students to get more of their classes. She said that the top two reasons that the administration decided to pursue the new system idea stemmed from feedback from parents and stu-

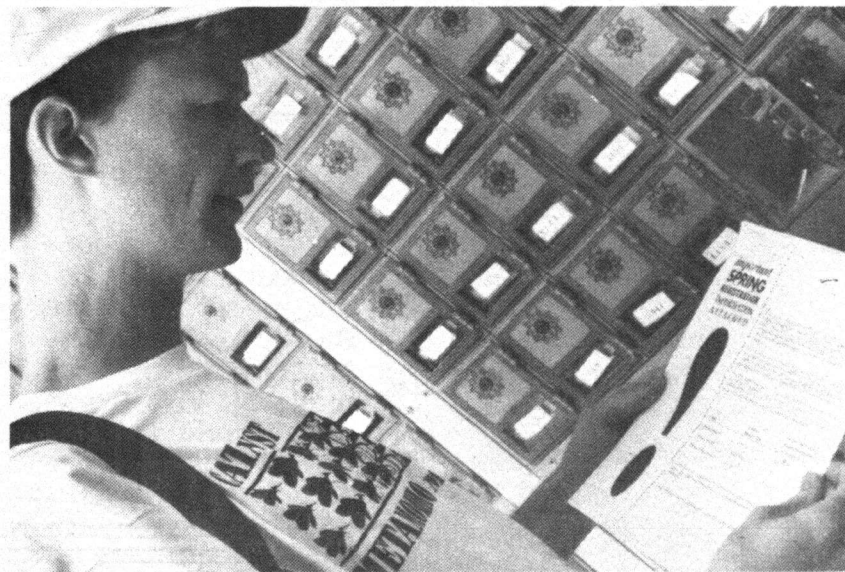
dents, (i.e., "My child can't get this class.") Another purpose of the new program was to alleviate the problem with the advisers who were willing to rush to school at 7:00 in the morning so they could enter their advisees' schedules into the computers. Laakso asserted that the purpose of academic advisers won't change; advisers will still advise.

The new system has a unique quality. Before the computer actually assigns anyone a class, it will go through all schedules and produce a printout of every student's first choice class. This is a big advantage, remarked Associate Professor of Psychology Robert Strandburg, because it "gives departments the opportunity to alter enrollment (in order) to be sensitive to the first choice." With the old procedure, Laakso said, "There was no way to measure what the actual demand was."

Strandburg held a meeting with his advisees last week to work through the tree worksheets and give some words of advice. He said the response was (surprisingly) not too negative. He did admit, "I've had a number of disgruntled seniors." But that was mostly

because of a mixup with the preregistration policy, he explained. Now, if students preregister for a class, the computer will pass over them for as many runs as classes for which they have preregistered. (The preregistered classes count as first-choice classes.) Strandburg's junior advisees, however, indicated that they felt it was going to be a good thing.

Most students feel it will be a good program in the long run, but many upperclassmen feel they are getting "shafted" in the meantime. Rising senior Shea Flinn commented, "We've been waiting three years for the hierarchy to take these classes." The new scheduling hopes to eliminate the previous "hierarchy" by starting off with a fairer, more equitable system in the



Senior Brett Goldston surveys the packet explaining the new registration process... (photo by Andrea McDowell)

first place. Administration recognizes that seniors will be hurt the worst, but if it wasn't the seniors of '94, it would just be the seniors of '95 or later. "There's no totally painless way to institute a new system. We hope we've allowed them to maintain some of that advantage seniority has left them," Laakso said in speaking of the fact that the computer will begin with the seniors for every new run.

Laakso asked that students both approach the new system with patience and remember that it may seem overwhelming at first, but it's not really that confusing.

"The new system has been time consuming for everyone," Laakso explained. "Our goal was not to develop some time-consuming, bureaucratic process. It was to give students more classes."

Mock Trial Team Wins National Championship

By Will Seay

New Technology Beat

On February 26th and 27th, Des Moines witnessed an overwhelming clean-up in the American Mock Trial Association's annual competition. 186 schools nationwide sent their best to compete in the Gold and Championship flights, determined from regional runoffs earlier this year.

Rhodes offered a team in each section: Gold flight headed by Robert Browning and consisting of Gina Yannitell, Kevin Wiley, Trent Taylor, Andrea Moseley, Paul Guibao, and Ryan Feeney, and Championship flight headed by Trey Hamilton and consisting of Sam Woods, Caprice Roberts, Emily Pouzar, Karen Jones, Mike Hart, Eric Dunning, and Melissa Berry.

Rhodes' past history of competition includes National Championships in 1990 and 1991 (when only one flight competed). A slight drop in 1992 brought in a seventh place finish, then in 1993 with the new double-flight system the team rebounded to fourth on each level. The trend was continued as

both Trey and Robert's teams brought home first place. The Gold flight team entered the final round with a running

record of 7-1, and defeated 1992's National Champion University of Maryland; the Championship flight team penetrated finals with an 8-0 record and defeated Bellarmine College from Kentucky.

Each team planning to compete receives case facts in November or December and from then until the regionals organize case theories. This year the case, always hypothetical, involved a hate crime brought against Rev. Patrick Bobson, a fundamentalist minister,

who is accused of encouraging violent crimes.

Peer Assistant Program Renewed

By Meredith Long

Staff Writer

The office of Student Affairs is preparing to renew the pilot peer advising program instituted this year by offering approximately forty leadership positions for the 1994-1995 school year.

Rising sophomores who exhibit a balance between strong academic performance (minimum 2.8 g.p.a.) and social involvement are eligible to apply. Each peer assistant advises a small group of new students from the first day of Orientation until the end of May, easing the transition to college life with group activities and one-on-one contact when needed.

According to David Hester, director of student activities, the qualifications for peer assistant positions ensure that those selected will be able "to teach others the secrets of their success."

Loosely based on a similar program at the University of the South, the peer assistance program was created last year in response to a need for continued contact after Orientation. A survey taken by the then-sophomore class revealed that, while Rhodes excelled in recruiting, communication over the summer, and Orientation activities, many students felt stranded when their first school year swung into gear. Thanks to the hard work of current peer assistants, the program has enjoyed a successful first year filling this gap.

Some improvements are slated for the 1994-1995 program, including special groups for both transfer and international students. Completed peer assistant applications should be returned to the Office of Student Affairs by March 21.

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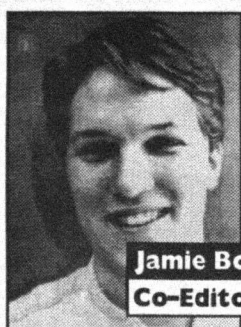
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Harlow Creates Alternate To Registration For Gay-Straight Alliance



Jamie Bogner
Co-Editor-in-Chief

On Friday, February 25th, after consultation with various members of the Rhodes community, the decision was made by Vice-President David L. Harlow not to allow the Gay-Straight Alliance to register with the Department of Student Affairs. Cited as reasons for the decision were conflicts the group's registration would have had with the college's religious affiliation with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and with the college's values and principles as a whole. Instead, Harlow gave the group the right to reserve meeting space and post signs without being registered.

The Gay-Straight Alliance was founded in the beginning of the Spring semester this year. Senior Jason Briggs Cormier, after thinking over the previous summer about why Rhodes did not have such a group, decided that he should start a group to allow Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Straight people to come together and discuss issues of importance to them, and pave the way to a greater understanding of each other's lifestyles. After consultation with Dr. Libby Robertson, the head of the Counseling Center, Jason decided to hold a meeting. Before he was allowed to advertise the meeting on campus, however, campus regulations as outlined in the stu-

dent handbook specified that he and his group must register first with the Department of Student Affairs. Such registration allows a group to reserve campus facilities for meeting spaces, to advertise meetings by placing flyers around campus, and to apply to the Student Activities Fund Allocations Board for funding for student events. The application for registration was completed and sent through the proper channels until it reached Vice President Harlow.

Harlow took time to research the Presbyterian Church's position on homosexuality, as well as to consult various members of the college community. Harlow said "Then I started discussing it with various people- talked with students on both sides of the article... I talked to some alums, talked to trustees, talked to staff members, I talked to some faculty-just got a feel for things, and as I expected I had people who were absolutely no-question-at-all this would be perfect, absolutely not, and a whole lot of people in the middle saying 'I really don't know how I feel about it.' So I wrestled with it, tossed and turned, talked to as many people as I could, and I finally said I'm going to come up with a solution that I hope will satisfy what I heard Jason say."

Harlow then came to the decision that he could not allow the Gay-Straight Alliance to register. He said he believed this issue to be "Right at the core of what we are as a Christian college," and could not allow a group that he thought went against the principles of Rhodes College to register.

Rhodes is one of the two colleges in the "Nifty Fifty," which are the colleges that Rhodes is most similar to in terms of price, size, and applicant pool, that does not have a

Gay-Straight group similar to the Gay-Straight Alliance. Even fellow Presbyterian school and arch-rival Davidson has a group similar to the one proposed for registration at Rhodes. When asked why then Rhodes did not officially recognize such a group, Harlow responded, "Because Rhodes College is doing it the way Rhodes College thinks it has to do it." Harlow shied away from comparisons with other schools, preferring to assert Rhodes' individuality, which he believes sets Rhodes apart from other schools.

Although many claim that the rights of homosexual students have been violated through this decision, Harlow insisted that he reached a compromise that benefits both the college and the Gay-Straight Alliance, by allowing them to reserve campus facilities through the computerized system, and by allowing them to post flyers for their meetings. He said "What the

person making the application told me he wanted was defined, and I made it so he could have those things. I made it so he could meet- organize, meet, and advertise. I met his expectation and he's satisfied with it, so why is someone else not satisfied?"

Harlow, however, placed the stipulation that all flyers or other publicity for the group must include the phrase "Rhodes College does not sponsor,

endorse, or officially recognize this organization." No other group on the Rhodes campus is required to operate under the same restrictions.

Student response to the refused application of the GSA has been mixed, although a larger number of students than one might expect have been critical of the decision to deny the GSA's registration. Many students, regardless of personal beliefs, have expressed the opinion that the group should be allowed to register in the name of equality. Senior Michael Bowen said "I think that if they're going to let other groups register and they don't let this, then it's an infringement on... their rights."

Junior Brett Goldston said "If you ask me it's a senseless thing, like prejudice against them..." Junior Welch Suggs' opinion was that "It's really an embarrassment to the school... because when especially socially conscious prospective students look at Rhodes, and look at another school which has so much more diversity, and so many more cultural and ethnic groups, which are they going to choose?"

The atmosphere on campus in regards to homosexuals is perceived as being hostile. Vice President Harlow made the point that after this group's application was publicized in the Sou'wester, he was worried for Jason's safety. Jason, however, has not felt that he has been in danger. The more upsetting thing for him and many other students involved in the Gay-Straight Alliance is the thought that such a negative atmosphere exists. The purpose of the GSA as outlined in their registration application is, as Jason said, to "Bring together students interested in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual issues for discussion and to increase awareness of these things on campus." It would seem then that denying that registration would simply perpetuate that atmosphere of hate that VP Harlow admitted exists and that Jason is trying to combat.

There is no official college policy towards homosexuals and bisexuals. The Student Handbook, which contains the official policies concerning the formation of new groups, does not deal specifically with the topic of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Section 6-B-3 concerning election to membership of a student organization states "Every organization at Rhodes College must present clear evidence that it's membership is not closed to any student on the basis of race, creed, or national origin." Not included in the section is any mention of sexual orientation.

In light of this adversity the Gay Straight Alliance presses onward. Their third meeting was held Sunday night upstairs in the Briggs Student Center. The attendance was modest, and the signs advertising the meeting bore the required disclaimer. The group plans to continue with it's mission of education and promoting unity within the system that has been created for them.

Selected Quotes...

Jason Briggs Cormier-

"I see what has happened as progress- even though a lot of people think it's not... Rhodes has been here almost one hundred and fifty years, and we're just finally, well, not being recognized, but being permitted... we have recognition de facto but not actually, and honestly I think in time that will change and the only way that can change is if the group starts now."

VP David L. Harlow

"This one was right at the core of what we are as a Christian college."

"This one was unique because of what kind of place Rhodes College is, and what kind of place people expect Rhodes College to be."

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 9:00 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 Thomas Gieselmann, Business Manager, who can be reached at (901) 726-3486. The deadline for submitting advertising for a Wednesday issue is the previous Friday. National advertising representatives are CASS Communications and American Passage.

New Dean of Development Arthur Criscillis Takes Office

By Jennifer Larson

Campus Features

Rhodes College welcomed new Dean of Development Arthur Criscillis to its administration on March 1. He succeeds Don Lineback, who relocated to Furman University, and Paula Jacobson, the acting dean, in the position of Dean of Development.

Assuming this post means that Criscillis will supervise and direct Rhodes' many fund-raising programs as well as works with the Director of Alumni, since the alumni program has close ties with the fund-raising program.

As the Dean of Development, Criscillis is a member of the administrative cabinet in addition to his other duties.

Criscillis was formerly the executive director of development at Centre College in Danville, Kentucky. For three years, Criscillis directed a very successful fund-raising program at Centre, and he hopes to bring such success to what he already sees as a strong, solid development operation at Rhodes.

Criscillis stated that Rhodes offered him an unexpected opportunity;

he would not have left Centre for many places, but Rhodes has a strong reputation and momentum that proves it to be a college on the move of which he wanted to be a part.



Dean Criscillis at work in his new office... (photo by Andrea McDowell)

"Everyone here has been so gracious and so hospitable," Criscillis said and went on to add that he was impressed by the people with whom he

works.

Because Rhodes has a strong program of development already, according to Criscillis, and many people seem to have a vested interest in its future, he believes that, together, they can enhance the college.

Coming in as a new member of the administration in the middle of the year does not seem to bother Criscillis. "Development is an ongoing, twelve-month-a-year program, so everyone is always in the middle of something," Rhodes is already in the midst of an intensive fund-raising effort with the 150th Anniversary Campaign, set to conclude in 1998, and this is one of Criscillis's new primary responsibilities.

Criscillis is enthusiastic about the future of his responsibility of fund-raising at Rhodes. Money from fund-raising has a definite benefit for students, directly and indirectly, because it aids the entire liberal arts education experience, which Criscillis sees as crucial. Fund-raising, according to Criscillis, is not just about dollars and cents; it has an educational purpose. "Liberal arts education is very important; it's about avocation: educating the person."

Make Way For Silk Stockings

By Diane Clark

Associate Prof. of Music

At long last, women students at Rhodes will have the opportunity to participate in a barbershop ensemble! On Sunday evening, March 20, the Rhodes community will be entertained by "Notoriety," a women's quartet from the Greater Memphis Chorus of Sweet Adelines, the local women's barbershop chorus. Professor Diane Clark, who is also a member of that chorus,

will host the program and will show a video tape describing "Young Women in Harmony," the international barbershop program for women students. Everyone is invited to enjoy the music program, and women students who want to learn more about the proposed barbershop ensemble are urged to attend and make their interest known. Those interested in singing, but unable to attend on March 20, should contact Prof. Clark for further information. Depending on the amount of interest, the

new ensemble could take the form of a quartet, a double quartet, or a small chorus.

The guest appearance of "Notoriety" is co-sponsored by the Department of Music and the Wool Socks, Rhodes's own double barbershop quartet, who have delighted Memphis audiences since 1988. The program will take place in the Shirley M. Payne Recital Hall of Hassell Hall on Sunday, March 20, at 7:00 p.m.

editors note...

From Brent-

Room draw this year was extremely chaotic. I'm not one who enjoys large crowds as a whole, and I think seeing the entire student body of Rhodes college assembled in one spot at the same time is rather pathetic. Maybe that's why I don't like rights of spring-masses of inebriated people were never my cup of tea.

I suppose I should feel good because, as an upcoming Senior, I'm sacrificing some of my classes and potentially my ability to graduate so that others can get the classes they want and perhaps graduate on time. I just wish somebody had done the same for me sometime in my last three and a half

years at Rhodes, because, if they had, I wouldn't be in the fix I'm in now. Yes, I agree that in the long run the new registration process is substantially more fair than probably all past registration processes put together, but it's hard to feel all that good about it, especially when I have this uneasy feeling that the long run begins long after I graduate and that I'm stuck in the short run until then and, in the short, I get the short end of the stick.

From Jamie-

Well, I'm not quite so sarcastic in my whiff, but I would like to explain a few of the changes that we've made to the paper. Obviously, the layout is

much different than is has been in the past. If you like it, that's great. If you don't like it, we'd appreciate your comments, which can be sent through DECmail to "Sou'wester".

I hope you find the new layout easier to use and understand. We've tried to incorporate elements into the paper to make it more enjoyable to read, such as graphic elements and a more unified use of type. We've decided to pursue a more modern look because, well, we wanted to.

Bear with us for the first few issues as we dive into this pool of no return. And always remember, we're doing this to learn. If we already knew everything about journalism there is to know, we'd be getting paid for this...

The In's and Out's of Rhodes' Tenure Process

By Aparna Murti

Student Affairs Beat

Recently, faculty tenure has been a big topic of discussion around campus. Many students seem to know which professors have received tenure contracts and which haven't. However, there still seems to be a great deal of confusion surrounding the actual selection procedures. I was able to talk with Mr. McMahon, the Dean of Academic Affairs, and learn about the levels and criteria of the tenure process.

There are three levels of faculty evaluation: annual, third year and finally sixth year or tenure. At each of these levels, the professor is evaluated by selected peers, tenured faculty and students in several aspects of his/her performance. The most important of these categories being teaching, scholarly activities and finally service.

The annual evaluations are relatively standard and are intended to make the professor aware of areas in which he/she could improve. The third year surveys are significantly more important and are handled through the Dean's Office. Dean McMahon referred to this stage as a means for the college to consider the faculty member's progress. Also preliminary decisions on need for tenured faculty in different disciplines and possible candidates for those positions are considered.

The final step is tenure. At this point, professors undergo a rigorous evaluation process. Criteria which in-

fluence this decision include those employed in the third year review as well input from faculty at other colleges who are familiar with the candidate's work. This process is initiated by the Faculty Committee on Tenure and Review, which consists of elected, tenured faculty. Their decision is delivered to the Dean who, in turn, reports his decisions to the Executive Vice President. After this, the President contributes his evaluation and finally the Board of Trustees makes the final rulings on which faculty are awarded tenure. Dean McMahon stated that, "At each step of the process, the question is asked if the individual meets the criteria at that level."

Dean McMahon also explained that there are some important reasons why a very qualified faculty member might not receive tenure. He mentioned that the Board of Trustees has recently begun a new campaign to "increase productivity." He pointed out that this would involve placing limited resources in departments where there was the greatest student demand, thus possibly eliminating tenure positions in some areas. He also indicated that about 67% of full time faculty could be tenured but stressed that this figure has not to date affected individual tenure decisions. Dean McMahon also said that there was another reason for this limitation, with respect to the permanence of tenure: "For the sake of the students, there are some limits on tenure in order to adjust to changes."

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Registration: A Senior Perspective



Welch Suggs
Editor Emeritus

Unsurprisingly, a very large portion of the senior class ranges from annoyed to outraged over the new registration process. Since the new procedure only allows seniors priority in one course selection rather than in all course selections, a great many people are worried about fitting in core requirements and those last few courses needed to graduate.

However, all the moaning, groaning and whining over the new registration procedure pales in comparison to the week's other major news from the Academic Affairs office: two outstanding professors were denied tenure.

While the seniors' problems may seem major to them, the difficulties caused in students' lives by such things as a new registration procedure are infinitesimally insignificant in comparison to the major life upheavals to be faced by these professors and their families. So, to all members of the college community, including myself: please try to keep things in perspective...

Before getting into the practical problems with the new process, there is a very deep theoretical concern which

the Academic Affairs office seems to have overlooked in creating this system. Are we supposed to apply some sort of cost-benefit analysis to our schedules, or are we supposed to be considering classes in terms of their intrinsic merit to us?

If we're supposed to be living in a community designed to foster intellectual growth, how are the inhabitants of Palmer's second floor asking us to order our Academic Affairs?

For example, I need to complete two core requirements, but I'm also two classes short on my minor, English, in which classes rapidly fill up. Should I gamble on being able to get into Global Change and prioritize an English class, or should I place Global Change first since it is of paramount importance to my graduating next May? Apparently, I should not risk the science class, but in prioritizing it I have to risk not being able to fulfill my minor requirements. And I really would have liked the English class.

One question arises immediately upon reading the packet: was anyone from the student body consulted? The new system obviously makes life easier for advisors, since the brunt of the work has been shifted from advisors to their departmental secretaries and students.

Furthermore, the new system eliminates the advantage realized by students whose advisors came to school early on registration days. However, there is little obvious advantage to this system for those for whom it is intended, namely, the students.

The major disadvantage is, of course, to seniors, who are in the position of having to pray to get into classes

required for their majors or for graduation itself. One can be relatively sure of getting into one class, but what about the second? Or third? For anyone lacking more than one core requirement, life will be very much on edge until the lists of numbers we filled out come back to tell us whether or not we're on track to graduate.

Many seniors are complaining that since they've had to wait three years in order to get scheduling priority, the new system discriminates against them. The problem with this argument is that whenever a new system is implemented, regardless of the context, some group will suffer from the implementation itself. In other words, life is tough. Get used to it.

However, some people have suggested that the school could have applied the new process to first- and second-year students only while maintaining the old process for juniors and seniors. Since Academic Affairs made no such gesture to upperclasspeople, we can only assume that they did not take the upper classes' situations into account.

Is there a compensatory advantage for underclasspeople? One would assume so; the information packet indicates that the new system intends to ensure that freshmen and sophomores get into "at least one" class of their choice. However, why does the hypothetical first-year woman need this advantage to get into introductory political science and international studies classes?

Were they to choose classes using the old process, the only people who would have even chosen those classes

would be upperclasspeople who needed them to fulfill core requirements, i.e., people who deserved priority ahead of her. So is this really an advantage?

Dean Laakso and the other designers of this new registration procedure seem to have forgotten the main reason for separating registration into classes by seniority: seniors have only two more semesters—chances—in which to fill their requisites for graduation, juniors have four, sophomores have six, and first-year students eight. Thus, there is a very real sense of need for seniors to get into the classes they need.

There were certainly problems and inequities in the old registration process, but the Academic Affairs office seems to have created enough problems in the new process to make the old way seem eminently logical. Why, for example, didn't they allow seniors two (or even three, if we could play our cards right) classes before searching underclasspeople? And why didn't they hold some sort of information session to get student reactions before announcing the new process as a fait accompli?

In sum, there are some very significant problems with the new registration process, and more to the point, there are some even more significant problems with the manner in which the Academic Affairs office implemented it. While there are much greater problems facing the school at the moment, this little episode indicates a certain callousness toward the very people that the Academic Affairs office is supposed to benefit: the students.

TESTING OUR PATIENCE: THE INFAMOUS TREE

By Chris Palazollo

Kinney Beat

All I've been hearing lately from my peers is "this tree thing is absolutely absurd!" If you can't already tell, this is an obvious and unveiled reaction to the new registration system. In reviewing some of the other voiced comments concerning the new registration (which will hereafter be referred to as THE TREE), many feel that this supposedly more efficient registration process will end up as a bureaucratic mess of immense proportions.

As for myself, THE TREE is rather annoying and complicated to understand. Having gotten through one of the trees, I felt rather victorious. The thought of completing the final two trees, however, found me trudging once again through academic agony, trying to find alternate classes and being sure not to include any schedule conflicts.

Before anyone beats me to it, I realize that THE TREE is in essence supposed to increase my chances of receiving my first choice of class (in spite of the fact that I need more than just that). Furthermore, I understand that THE TREE was established in such a manner that it would, in fact, benefit my first-year class. That's fine and dandy, but try and tell this to a first-year student who's struggling to comprehend the various loopholes of a process that he or she will have to endure for another three years.

I suppose after the hullabaloo has dwindled, everyone will begin to slowly become masters of THE TREE. This will just take a while. Of course, there will be those who continue to disagree, and feel they'll never quite understand the process. Once students, however, see that this is perhaps a fairer way to hand out classes, we will lighten up (though I'm not promising any miracles!)

As for now, having been suddenly thrust THE TREE, I find it somewhat engulfing and overbearing. All the numbers and letters are sure to confuse me somewhat longer. Even if I and few of my fellow first-years don't quite understand the process yet, we'd better learn fast and get used to it, since we will have to endure it for another three years!

College. Professor Dickerson deserves a tenure position. This incident makes me question whether or not I am getting a quality education when the people on the review board fail to reward the professors whom strive for excellence from their students.

I am enraged about this situation. I attend this college on the premise of getting a quality education; However, the people who develop the curriculum feel that diversity is not an element worth adding. This is my opinion since the faculty is comprised of a very small number of people from various ethnic groups. The students at Rhodes demand a quality education and failing to recognize outstanding professors is a slap in the face to students that want the best.

Demanding the best,
Delores D. Patterson '96

Letters To The Editors

Dear Editor:

The recent tenure denial of Dr. Vanessa Dickerson, associate professor of English, leaves me upset and highly disappointed with the Rhodes College Tenure and Promotions Committee. As a senior English major and three-time student of Dr. Dickerson, I can honestly say she goes above and beyond her call of duty and has proven herself a great professor. Dr. Dickerson, who received her B.A. from University of Virginia and Ph.D. from Princeton University, combines an expertise in her field with a genuine concern for her students to create a teaching style that challenges her students to question their assumptions about literature and life. This teaching style should be expected and appreciated in a college classroom, especially at a liberal arts institution such as Rhodes College.

To say that Dr. Dickerson goes above and beyond the call of duty is almost an understatement. Not only has she shown excellence in the classroom as an instructor, she has proven herself to be a great literary critic, having published three books and presented countless papers to colleagues at academic conferences.

I do realize many factors must be considered when making a decision as important as awarding tenure. The professor's qualifications, his/her abil-

ity to teach effectively, and, most importantly, his/her commitment to excellence are of extreme importance. Dr. Dickerson, an African-American woman, has labored to introduce new and diverse ideas to a conservative campus. With all these things considered, there should be no question in awarding Dr. Vanessa Dickerson tenure. She has earned it. It is that simple.

In the early eighties, shortly after the name change from Southwestern at Memphis to Rhodes College, the institution made a commitment to diversity and excellence. By making the commitment to recruit more minority students and faculty, Rhodes was making an "attempt" to become a first-rate liberal arts institution. Not only has the number of African-American students at Rhodes remained stagnant since then, in the college's 150 year history there have only been four full-time African-American professors, with Dr. Dickerson being

the first to be considered for tenure since the College's "commitment" to excellence and diversity.

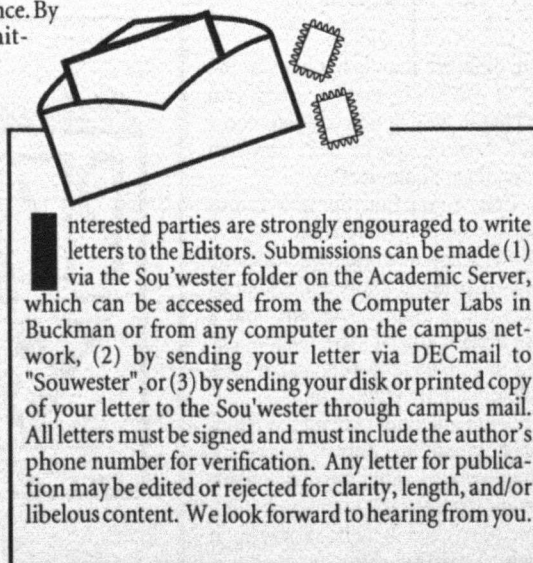
So as a solution to the problem, I am not demanding the decision be overturned, although it would not be unreasonable. I am simply asking that the College show true face. Why constantly claim to be an institution devoted to the promotion of diversity when, on all accounts, it fails miserably? Understandably, when an injustice is done, it cannot always be corrected. However,

it is the responsibility of those affected to address the injustice and offer a solution. This is my attempt.

Sincerely,
Erick L. Johnson
Class of '94

Dear Editor:

Upon entering Rhodes College my freshman year, I was filled with respect, honor, and pride at my admission to a school that is based on giving their students an education they could brag about wherever they may travel. I did not really appreciate this gift until sitting in Vanessa Dickerson's Writing 151 class. In this class we read a multicultural text to extend our horizons past the European-American and African-American pools. She stretched our young minds into the rainbow of ethnic groups that enhance our world. She expected more than a body in a chair. She wanted minds willing to expand beyond the black and white page. I am a former student of Professor Dickerson. I would like to continue to be so in the future. She is dedicated to the students, expects the students to work hard, and incorporates a degree of multiculturalism into a plain curriculum. I know that Professor Dickerson has very good credentials or she would not be a professor at Rhodes



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, which can be accessed from the Computer Labs in Buckman or from any computer on the campus network, (2) by sending your letter via DECmail to "Sou'wester", 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. We look forward to hearing from you.

Tex-Mex provides cultural experience for Rhodes students

By Rachael Rack

Staff Writer

Forty students roughed it in Mexico this year on the annual Spring Break Tex-Mex trip. After flying down to San Antonio the group drove over the border to the Colonia of Puertes De Cristo and entered a world far different from life at Rhodes.

The students stayed at a Presbyterian church without electricity or hot water. They ate authentic Mexican meals cooked by the women of the church.

The group worked from 9:00 to 4:00 each day at many different activities while in Mexico. The main project was the construction of two playgrounds, of which each had a tower, monkey bars and four see-saws. Some students also helped a group from Louisiana that was building a medical clinic

by cementing the roof. Also, three people a day went with a nurse around the colonia to give medical treatment to those who needed it.

The students got to have fun after work as well, going out on the town on Tuesday and Thursday and going to the market in Reynosa on Friday to bargain.

The trip went well except for the seven people who got sick. Also disturbing were the Mexican drivers, who seemed to not notice the lines dividing lanes on the road.

On the way back to San Antonio one of the vans broke down, causing a layover of about three hours in a small Texas town.

The best part of the trip was interacting with the children, who despite language differences enjoyed playing with the Rhodes students.



Anxious glances abound as Senior Vimal Shah and Junior Andrea McDowell put the finishing touches on one of the two playgrounds constructed by Rhodes students during the recent Tex Mex spring-break work trip. Shah, McDowell and 38 other Rhodes students gave up the usual spring break pleasures to help the less fortunate.

Baptist Student Union Spends Break On Inner-City Mission

By Ginger Crouch

Special to the Sou'wester

Twenty-four members of the Baptist Student Union spent the week of

Spring Break at the Christian Activity Center in East St. Louis. This was the fourth time that BSU has gone to East St. Louis as their SPOTS (Special Projects Other Than Summer) Mission Trip.

The students spent the week working as well as playing at the Center. The mornings were spent cleaning, doing odd jobs and painting, including a huge mural of Disney characters in one of the Center's offices. The students also worked at the nearby Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, scraping, painting, tiling and cleaning.

The students spent their afternoons with the kids who come to the Center. Children ages kindergarten to sixth grade stayed at the Center from 3:30 to 5:00. The kids and the Rhodes students played pool, basketball and other games, and the students enjoyed just holding the smaller kids as well. Rhodes students also helped with the tutoring program. On three afternoons they held short Bible studies. The middle and high school students came to the

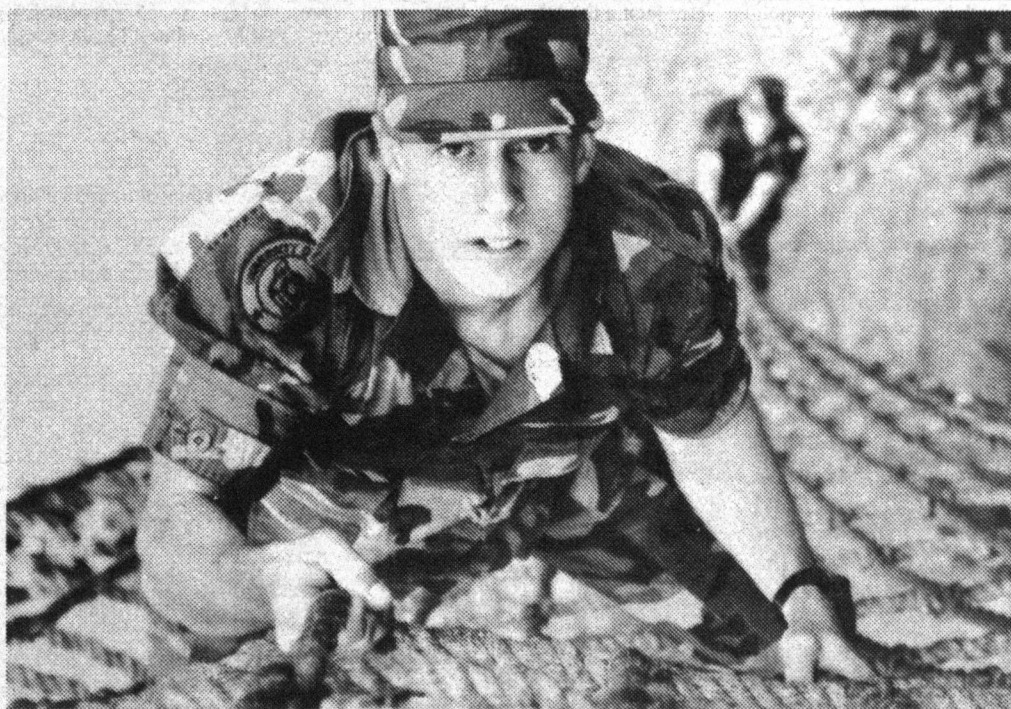
Center from 5:00 to 7:00 and enjoyed playing pool, ping pong, basketball and talking with the Rhodes students.

Students participated in various evening activities as well. The Reverend from Bethlehem Baptist led a discussion with the kids and the Rhodes group about whether it mattered what race Jesus was. The guys from the mission group played the Center's basketball team in their newly built gym, losing both times but having fun nonetheless.

The group found East St. Louis to be really not as scary a place as some people make it out to be. In fact, since the Christian Activity Center opened, crime in the Gompers area of East St. Louis has decreased significantly.

The most disappointing part of East St. Louis is that it is a city lacking hope. The people there see the conditions that their city is in and see no point in trying to make it better. The Rhodes students, however, tried to make things a little better by bringing a little hope to these people who had very little.

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Model UN Club Begins Spring Break in St. Louis

By Emily Flinn

Associate Editor

Students in the Rhodes chapter of the Model United Nations started their Spring Break early by trekking up North for the St. Louis Model UN conference. The students spent five days sharpening their skills in international relations.

The club sent two delegations to the conference this year. The delegation for South Africa included Ann McCranie, Heather Moore, Yohaam Demel, Russell Wallace, Mike Dowdy and Kevin Gideon. Rossanna Punzalan was Head Delegate.

The delegation for Lithuania included Dawn-Renee Powell, Chris Ledford, Julie Bhattacharya, Allison

Wannamaker, Gretchen Crowe and Vimal Shah. Shane Willerton was Head Delegate.

Delegates split into committees, which included Social and Humanitarian, Economic and Financial, and Legal. Committee members then debated resolutions that were submitted to the committee. Resolutions that were ratified were then sent to the General Assembly, and debated there on the last two days of the conference.

Kevin Gideon received an Honorable Mention for his work at the Conference.

The International Studies Department sponsored the trip, and Rhodes is hosting the Mid-South high school Model UN conference later this week.

Has the Rhodes "Tradition of Excellence" Forgotten the Arts?

By Herman Wilkins III

Art, Drama, Music, Film Beat

The true voice of a liberal arts college should call for a diverse education in both the arts and sciences. The aim of colleges and universities everywhere should be to make each and every student a "Renaissance man." But, are we receiving this traditional education? Just how important are the arts here at Rhodes College?

Over the past two years at Rhodes it has dawned on me that the arts, while not nonexistent, are in a severe slump. By slump, I mean, the Arts by no stretch of the imagination, are not as impor-

tant as they should be at liberal arts college. Nor are they as important as they would be at any other liberal arts college. Whether this is because of the allocation of funds, interest of the students, or the level of importance to the Rhodes College decision makers, there is, beyond the shadow of a doubt, a problem that must be rectified. Arts of all kinds are in serious neglect. In music, theater, visual arts, and dance (what's that?) Rhodes is far behind its counterparts.

While visiting Sewanee, over Spring Break, I dropped in to see a play. I was amazingly impressed with the level of their production. And, after

talking to one of their makeup designers, who was also a film minor, (what's a film minor?) I felt that Sewanee had a level of excellence in their arts that Rhodes College has yet to achieve. Sewanee, smaller and more remote than Rhodes could ever be, has a theater department that is so far advanced that the experience humbled me.

Many people at Rhodes share my sentiment about the arts here. Those I spoke to said that they knew the arts were lacking, but couldn't say why. Nick Hingel '96, the drummer for The Kings Horseman, says, "The arts here are pretty damn weak. I knew this before I came, but I don't think there is enough

money or support. For example, look at the music library, look at its hours." This feeling was held by many of the students that I spoke with. Even those students not concentrating in the arts in any way feel the same way. Jennifer Farringer '96 says, "No, they (the arts) aren't as important. At other colleges they're a pretty big deal, but not here. I think they're just as important."

Amanda Waller '96, a theater major here says, "In light of the sports facility that's costing \$17 million, arts, and academics for that matter, are being neglected financially."

Student Interest also plays a role in this problem. Kristy Gunn '96, a

history major says, "There are things you'd like to do, you just don't have time. We [the college] should be more involved. We should be more artistically and academically inclined. It bothers me that there is so much financial support for sports here at Rhodes, when that shouldn't be the emphasis at a liberal arts college."

Whether or not the problem is financial or a lack of interest, we have a problem. The students of Rhodes College are the only ones who may call for a change. This situation must be taken care of in order to really live up to the "Tradition of Excellence" that is so boasted here.

"Reality Bites" Doesn't Suck

By Herman Wilkins III

Art, Drama, Music, Film Beat

Finally a movie for our generation. "Reality Bites," starring Winona Ryder (The Age of Innocence, Dracula, Mermaids) and Ethan Hawke (Dead Poets Society), is an honest look at what life is like for Generation X'ers in the "real world." This story of four college graduates addresses many of the problems facing the eighteen to twenty-something age group, such as drugs, AIDS, unemployment, credit, and employment at the Gap.

Accolades chiefly to Winona Ryder who proves that she can carry a movie, both artistically and at the box office. Her performance is heartfelt and en-

dearing. Ethan Hawke, who stars alongside Ryder, does a fine job as an unemployed musician searching for the meaning of his life. His performance was good, albeit subdued, but Hawke does little to tear himself away from the teen heartthrob image he seems to have acquired.

This movie should be seen. Not only does it have a great soundtrack (with a special appearance by the lead singer of Soul Asylum, David Pirner) and commendable acting, but you'll enjoy this humorous, bittersweet film because after seeing it, you'll know that every other Generation X'er in America has the same problem as you. You will be entertained and uplifted.

Rhodes Diamond Boys Stomp Opponents

By Lewis Franklin Feuquay
Sports Editor

The Lynx baseball team is swinging and throwing its way to becoming the most powerful baseball squad in the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.

As of March 6, the Lynx posted the best overall record in the conference with a 7-2 mark and are tied for the Western division lead with Millsaps, which has a 2-1 record. Oglethorpe leads the Eastern division with 3-0; however, they only sport a 4-8 overall record.

The reason for the outstanding performance of the Lynx becomes clear when comparing the teams' statistics. Out of five categories, the Lynx lead three: batting with a .293 average, runs scored with an average of 6.8 per game, and pitching-strikeouts to walks, with a ratio of 1.83 to 1. Millsaps leads pitching-ERA (earned run average) with 3.44, and Oglethorpe leads fielding average with .946.

Three sluggers who rank in the conference's top eight batters lead the Lynx's impressive batting: Jason Rauls ranks third, averaging .429 hits per at

bat; Joey Thomas ranks seventh, averaging .389; and Jason Turns ranks eighth, averaging .379.

Rauls, junior catcher, also ranks second in hits with 14 and is in a seven-way tie for third in doubles with three. Turns, sophomore first baseman from Nashville, also is tied for third in stolen bases with five, is fourth in runs with 10, is tied for first with one triple, and is seventh in RBIs (runs batted in) with eight.

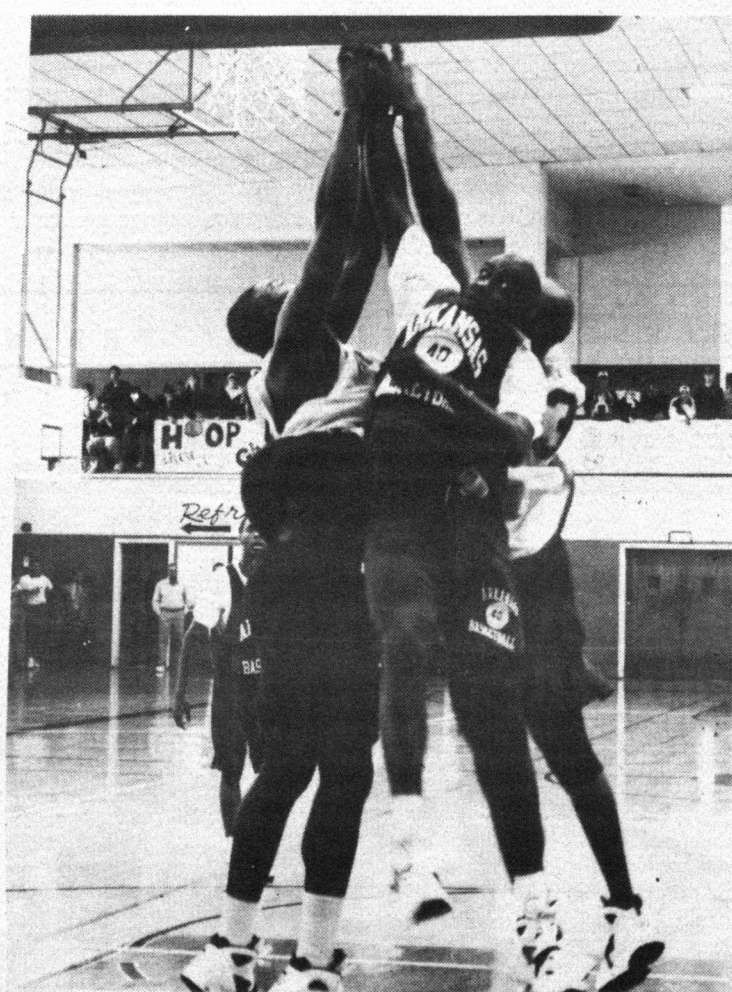
Another outstanding performer is co-captain Scott Franklin, senior outfielder, who is in five of the top eight individual statistics. Franklin leads the conference with 12 walks and eight stolen bases. He is tied for first in triples, third in doubles, and fifth in runs scored.

Pitcher Steele Ford is another feather in the Lynx cap. Ford, a sophomore, was named Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference Pitcher of the Week for the games from Feb. 12 to March 6. On March 5 against Hendrix, Ford pitched a flawless complete game no-hitter. His record is 3-0 with a 2.25 ERA in 20 innings. Ford leads the SCAC in winning percentage and has the second highest strikeout total.

Photos by Andrea McDowell

Right - Some of the best: More than 150 Rhodes students packed the Mallory Gymnasium last Thursday morning to watch the Arkansas Razorbacks prepare for last week's SEC Tournament. The Tournament, which took place in the Pyramid, attracted top ranked college basketball teams from all over the Southeast. The Kentucky Blue Devils practiced in the gym later Thursday afternoon.

Below - Some of the not too bad: The Pikes square off against the SAE's in Rhodes intramural basketball competition. A total of thirty-five similar intramural teams have taken to the basketball courts recently. The teams are divided up among five divisions, which include men's, women's and coed competition. Some Rhodes faculty also participate. According to Matt Dean, Rhodes' intramural director, basketball is one of the most popular intramurals at Rhodes.



March 16, 1994

Happenings
The Sou'wester



This • Week • In • Brief

W ednesday	T hursday	F riday	S aturday	S unday	M onday	T uesday
1:00 pm Rhodes Baseball vs. Sewanee, at Rhodes' Stauffer field. 6:00 pm Room draw for underclassmen in the North Dining Hall. 7:00 Bonner Scholars meeting in FJA 9:00 FCA in Tuthill	4-6 pm Reception to honor the Mock Trial team. Buckman lobby. 7:00 pm Spring Fling organizational meeting. 108 Buckman. Potential team leaders & interested parties please attend. 8:00 pm Moss Lecture- Robert Storr, curator of Painting & Sculpture at the Museum of Modern Art. At Evergreen Pres. 8:00 pm Student Voice Recital, featuring Rachel Wortham. In Payne Recital Hall. 9:00 BSU in Tuthill	12:00 Catholic Lunch in the Brooks Room 7:00 pm Women: Celebrating Ourselves. A Women's History Month film & video festival. At the Memphis College of Art Main Auditorium.	10:00 am Women's & Men's Tennis vs. Millsaps at Rhodes 10:15 am Track vs. Washington University, Milikin, Carthage, and Missouri-Rolla at Fargason Field 12:30 pm Women: Celebrating Ourselves, continued. 1:00 pm Rhodes Baseball vs. Hendrix at Rhodes Stauffer field.	1:00 pm Men's Tennis vs. Coe at Rhodes. 2:00 pm Rhodes Four Mile Classic beginning at the Mallory Gym. Registration forms are available in Gym, cost is \$11.00 in advance, or \$13.00 day of race. 6:00 Campus & Community Worship service at Evergreen Pres. 9:00 Gay-Straight Student Alliance meeting	8:00 pm Women's History Week film- "I Heard the Mermaids Singing," followed by student panel discussion led by Professor Mark Winokur. In Blount. 8:30 Sou'wester Editor/Beat meeting 9:00 Sou'wester general staff meeting. All students wishing to write for the Sou'wester are encouraged to attend.	8:00 pm Faculty concert featuring Patricia Gray, piano, Carole Blankenship, soprano, and Bradley Kroeker, baritone. In Payne Recital Hall.

Classifieds

Wanted-

Student/Faculty/Staff classified ads for the Sou'wester. If you would like to place a classified ad in the Sou'wester, the charge is 3 dollars for twenty five words or less, and a dollar per additional line after that. All classified ads should be sent either through campus mail to the Sou'wester, or through DECmail to "Souwester". Accompanying each ad submitted for publication must be the name, phone number, and VAX user name of the person placing the ad.

All types of classifieds are encouraged- from for sale notices to personals to job offers- as we will accept anything that traditionally would be considered

a classified ad. However, the editors and business staff retain the right to edit or refuse any ad that does not live up to the standards of the paper.



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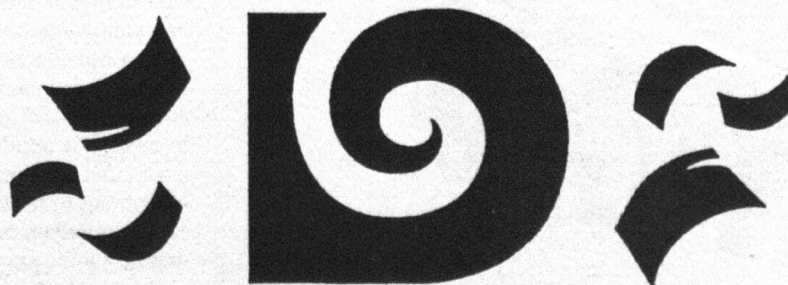
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The Rhode'ster

Volume 81, Number 17

And You Think We Smell Bad?

Wednesday, March 16, 1994

Rhodes Announces New Equality Policy

Coinciding with the new computerized "complicated for your convenience" registration system that equalizes students' chances to get a class regardless of class and in spite of common sense, Executive Vice President David Harlow announced on Monday that this controversial registration procedure (in that everybody except the people who invented it hates it) is actually a small piece of a larger policy to make all Rhodes students completely equal.

"I am so SICK of people coming in here wanting different minority and special interest groups started, wanting different kinds of people given tenure in the faculty, wanting diversity, or wanting recognition based on achievement at the college, blah blah blah," said Harlow. "This registration process is the beginning of a long-term policy to make everybody exactly the same. Maybe now I won't have to empty three bottles of Mylanta each day."

"We just assign everybody numbers and have them fill out complicated NCAA basketball brackets, statistical flowcharts, and various Venn diagrams. Then we throw all of that crap out and put the little snots into whatever classes we feel like," said Registrar Glenn

Munson of the new process. "Look at how much equality we've started already. Nobody understands what to do, everybody thinks the administration has screwed them, and the entire campus has experienced mild depression and crying jags for the past three weeks."

No students were able to comment on the new registration system, because most students found out about it last week.

Those few students who did know of the system were unable to comment as they were too busy slamming their heads into walls in a vain attempt to induce unconsciousness.

The next thing to go, according to those on the equality task force policy, will be room draw, which the administration hopes to replace by issuing everybody tents and having all students sleep in the Rat.

The Admissions staff will also make appropriate changes to their recruiting policy based on the new philosophy. "As of 1996, we will only recruit white males with monosyllabic Biblical first names," said Dean of Admissions David Wottle.

The new philosophy represents the administration's desire to approach the

high ideals maintained by the Communist nations around the world. Efforts are currently underway by the international studies faculty to purchase a newspaper subscription of any type for the administration in order to bring them into the twentieth century.

The new registration process, entitled USSR (Universally Stupid and Substandard Registration), has surprisingly received the highest acclamation from the faculty. "This is great," said International Studies Professor and Soviet Specialist Dr. Andrew Michta. "Never have I had a more perfect model of the inefficiency of a communist administration. All the elements are there. The citizens aren't involved in any decision making processes, every body is universally unhappy with or uninformed about the program, and no changes are being made to an obviously flawed system due to the complete and utter lack of foresight of those who are in charge."

Despite the move towards a more equal and unpleasant society, students continue to pay \$20,000 a year for the privilege of remaining on the collective, in order to pay for general upkeep, and to speed the construction of the Vladimir Lenin Campus Life Center.

JC



Junior RA and Sou'wester columnist Jim Turner shares his opinions on the new registration system. No butts about it, he's looking for the bottom line... (photo submitted)

Students "Treedy" Off At New Room Selection Procedure

This week, Rhodes students will be finding another yellow booklet in their mailboxes. The administration, upon the awesome response and enthusiasm to the "tree" method (kinda "leaves" a lot to the imagination, hmm?) of class registration, has devised a new plan for the room draw procedure.

This new "tree" method of room

draw (they really "branch" out in the naming of these methods...) is thoroughly elucidated in the new 15 page novella specifically designed to take students through the rigorous room selection procedure.

Essentially, this "tree" method of room selection (getting to the "root" of the problem, as it were) involves deciding where you want to live before you actually draw a number. As explained in the example room registration, students should pick first, second, third, and so on choices for rooms, then pray really really hard. (This IS a church-affiliated college, you know).

For example, if Suzie is a first-year student going through room draw and she and her roommate pick

numbers, say, in the 300's, then their tree method flowchart (from whence all our problems "stem") will work like this: Preferred Room = Voorhies 204, second choice: Trezevant 311, third choice: Stewart 208, fourth choice: cardboard box at 2000 North Parkway. However, if the computer cannot handle any of these options, then it will promptly spit out the data and go on to something easier to process, like townhouse room draw.

Much like the tree registration (I think they're "barking" up the wrong tree), room draw will completely randomize the classes, with resulting situations such as seniors in Stewart and sophomores in Voorhies. Needless to say, many rising seniors are rather miffed. Said rising senior Jodi Grace, "I am so miffed. I mean, here I struggled and clawed my way to the top of the heap, mucking through the pits of Stewart — and for WHAT? Just to have some computer randomize a lowly sophomore into MY super-duper, uncarpeted, teeny-tiny shower-stalled room in Voorhies?? This educational institution is just NOT meeting MY needs as a student. That's all I have to say about it."

In response to student dismay at the new room selection procedure, Rhodes College housekeeper Rosie Mae Love (the real "official" people were too busy playing Mario Brothers on this new computer system purchased to randomize room selection) commented on the situation from a non-student perspective. "Well, I guess this means we'll have to clean bathrooms for a new set of people next year... But we do that anyway." The ramifications of this radical system are simply mind-numbing.

JS

Rhode'ster Top Ten

Top Ten Things You'd Rather Do Than the Tree Method Of Class Registration

10. Ram ice picks under your fingernails.
9. Write an article for the Sou'wester.
8. Be an editor for the Sou'wester.
7. Tree method of room draw.
6. Get a G.I. from Nurse Gill.
5. Read Daughdrill's anthologized poetic works.
4. KD Dance Marathon.
3. Eat Rat food.
2. Cook Rat food.
1. Clean the "Yak-O-Lets" at Rites of Spring. (#1 is the outset of #2&3)

POETRY CONTEST

Write your own poem in free-verse style (verb usage optional) about Rhodes College and any idiosyncrasies therein. First place winners receive *free* admission to the 1995 KD Dance Marathon!!

Excerpts From Last Year's Winners:
(Courtesy of the Southwestern Review's Waste Basket)

The Great Ice Storm of 1994
By James H. Daughdrill, Jr.

Amid silent phones, dark computers,
Cold halls,
A cheery greeting.

Eerie, glistening ice
Bowing quietly,
Reflecting.

Sleeping bags and blankets
Lining the floor,
Waiting for sunlight.

Sounds of chainsaws
And generators
In the winter stillness.

Students walking gingerly,
Arms balancing.
All else is calm.
A broken tree limb
Falling

On a bed of pansies.
Deep breaths floating away
On the cold breeze
From tied workmen.

A smile
Illuminated
By a flashlight.

Students smiling,
Patient, positive,
But tired and weary

Ode to the Tree Registration
Method
by Ann Onymous

I think that I shall never see
A schedule
Lovely as a tree.

Its limbs floating idly
Preregistered classes
Are never free.

Seniors glare at the people upstairs
In Haliburton Tower.
All the students stop and stare
At those who have the power.

Oh, why, why do they mock
Us geniuses much like
New Kids On the Block?

Our schedules they make us splice,
Not unlike bad episodes of
Miami Vice.

Why, why can't they see
They've destroyed our
seniority?

I think that I would never see
A schedule
Warped into a tree....

Why don't they just use shrubbery??