

THE SOU'WESTER

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

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Faculty Submits Resolution To Board

By Erin Riches
Editor-in-Chief

After taking a week to deliberate, the Rhodes faculty reconvened in a special faculty meeting, specifically for the purpose of reconciling a controversial award of tenure to a junior faculty member. Approximately 65 faculty - enough for a voting quorum - attended the meeting, which was held in Blount Auditorium.

Controversy and gridlock, precipitated by a statement addressing an administrative decision to grant tenure over the summer without a formal review of the candidate by the Tenure and Promotion Committee, caused the monthly faculty meeting on Sept. 18 to escalate to a two-hour marathon that ended only when attendance had disintegrated to the point that there was no voting quorum. Steve Gadbois, associate professor of math and computer science, submitted the original statement.

The faculty decided at that meeting to delegate the second half of the statement, which pertained exclu-

sively to the issue, to the Tenure and Promotion Committee for discussion.

Originally, last week's special faculty meeting was to include the report from the Tenure and Promotion Committee, which would then submit a resolution to the faculty for a vote.

The resolution proposed by the Tenure and Promotion Committee had asked that no resolution be sub-

mitted to the Board of Trustees and that the faculty instead "authorize the committee to investigate possible

procedures for the granting of tenure and promotion under extraordinary conditions and to make recommendations to the faculty concerning such procedures."

However, the Faculty

Executive Committee (FEC) chose to examine the tenure issue in question as well and developed their own alternative. See Faculty, Page 3

The FEC resolution submitted to the Board of Trustees reads as follows:

"Whereas, in carefully delineating a rigorous process for gathering and reviewing information prior to granting tenure, the Rhodes College Handbook of Policies and Procedures appropriately demonstrates the importance of tenure for the institution as well as for the individual faculty members;

Whereas, the value of tenure is not only in its conclusion, but also in its process whether that process is conducted at Rhodes or in rare circumstances at a previous college or university;

And whereas, arbitrariness in the process, as defined by the Handbook, whether it leads to a positive or negative tenure decision can diminish the strength of the institution;

Therefore, be it resolved that, we the Faculty of Rhodes College, urge the President to recommend and the Board of Trustees to award tenure only to individuals who have undergone a formal review in adherence to established procedures."

Ad Hoc Committee Begins Work

By Benji Hughes
Staff Correspondent

In an effort to address questions and complaints posed by faculty, administration, and students, the Rhodes Student Government voted Thursday, September 19, to commission a group to investigate and advise upon a reorganization of the Publications Board, within the RSG. This ad hoc committee is being headed by Kevin Willoughby, '99, and is currently considered open to all Rhodes students. No student Senators are in the group.

The specific purpose for the committee, according to Willoughby, is to take a long look at the relationship between the RSG, the Pub Board, and other boards under Rhodes Student Government, and to make necessary changes in the relationship.

These changes are to be made both in official and unofficial relations. There is the possibility of altering both the Publications Board Constitution, unchanged for three decades, as well as those parts of the RSG constitution relating to the board.

Willoughby hopes to, in this process, create a greater sense of accountability and responsibility in publications staffs, specifically in relation to complaints which he says were made by administrators concerning bias on the part of Rhodes student newspaper, the Sou'wester.

Publications Commissioner Allen Boudreaux is less concerned with the committee's investigating internal affairs, and more interested in redefining the exact role the various publications have in student affairs, and in the context of other organizations.

As he puts it, "Our supposed peer boards, Allocations and Rhodes Activities, have executives on RSG. The Pub Board has no representation."

In essence, this amounts to a one-way flow of control and information, from student government and Rhodes administration, which, the committee seems to agree, hampers journalistic freedom, and the purpose of any publication.

Beyond this larger question, the Ad Hoc Committee is also set to look at the future of the Rhodes Yearbook, the possibilities of school-sponsored training in journalism, and a motion to begin a policy of financial compensation for publication staff members.

Meetings will be held on Friday afternoons, and a final draft of the committee's proposals is scheduled to be presented in March.

A Day At The Mid-South Fair



Visitors enjoy sites at the fair.

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First Roundtable To Meet Thursday

By Andrew Shulman
Staff Correspondent

On Thursday, Chancellor Harlow will be holding the first of four Chancellor's Roundtable discussions at 5:30 p.m. in the Orgill Room of Clough. Established in 1989, the purpose of the Roundtable is to facilitate better communication within the Rhodes community. The Roundtable is for discussion only. It does not recommend nor legislate.

The roundtable is made up of ten students, ten faculty members and ten administrators. The students are chosen by the Rhodes Student Government, and include the Presidents of RSG and the Social Regulations Council, as well as the editor of the Sou'wester. The Dean of Academic Affairs nominates ten faculty

members. The Chancellor appoints the ten administrators, eight of whom are members of the Cabinet, and two additional administrators.

The focus of this Roundtable is on the Food Service at Rhodes. Tammy Parks ('97) and Karl Dzelzkains ('98) will be presenting this topic. Tim VanderMeersch, head of Food Service at Rhodes, and Dean Allen Boone will then present facts and figures about the Rhodes Food Service.

Chaplain Newton will lead an opening prayer, and Chancellor Harlow will field questions before the presentations begin. The meeting is open to the campus community and all members of the community are encouraged to attend. The Roundtable is expected to last about 90 minutes.

Examining Our Liberal Arts Curriculum



NEETA VENEPELLI
BLITHELY MUDDLED

A few official words: "an informed understanding of the world... a comprehensive personal philosophy... the task of developing the whole person, the whole life..."

According to the Rhodes Mission Statement, these are the qualities that characterize all Rhodes students, formed through the four year liberal arts process that begins with the core curriculum taken by every first-year student.

The Search and Life programs at Rhodes invest every student with two years of extensive interdisciplinary study of Western Civilization and/or the Hebrew-Christian Tradition.

Regardless of which direction their individual interests later guide them, every Rhodes student departs from this common ground, and often, this core curriculum serves as the primary introduction of most students to the liberal arts tradition, tangibly and indelibly affecting their formation of "comprehensive personal philosophies" and "informed understanding of the world".

Consequently, the potential of these classes in impacting students necessitates the greatest concomitant responsibility on the curriculum's part to be as exhaustively inclusive as possible. But the question is, how comprehensive and informed of a 'whole' world view can any student be expected to form with two years of study of intensive Western and particularly Christian civilization? Of course, there are conflicting views of our Search curriculum.

On the one hand, it is arguably one of the most extensive, most celebrated studies of Western civilization at any college in the country. I don't dispute the quality of education in our program, or the obvious relevance of such curriculum at Rhodes, where the majority of students and faculty are of this religious and/or ethnic background. Critical study of the familiar can only challenge, forcing the emergence of critical thought processes in students.

On the other hand, in presenting limited material canonized by one part of society (i.e. by those historically powerful enough to set the standards for acceptance) the curriculum implicitly overlooks the marginalized, the powerless of that

society. Of course, this is an unavoidable result of historic process-the 'common culture' we study in our Search/Life classes necessarily reflects that society's main values, often values to which not everyone has had an equal right to contribute to, to benefit from, or to access.

But I question the extent to which the curriculum prioritizes the contributions of these marginal groups. For students to truly develop "the whole person, the whole life", a much greater priority should be placed on study of those excluded by the 'common culture'; the voices of the 'other' should be acknowledged as more central, less peripheral.

I also question the appropriateness of the nature of such a core curriculum when I think of the future of Rhodes College, with the desired and projected increase in students of color and various ethnic heritage-will more and more students find themselves underrepresented, viewing themselves as detached from a remote and elite core curriculum?

Accepting that the study of the past is vital in the understanding it provides of the present, what will the new appearance of our cultural identity be when the current white majority is no longer dominant?

Most importantly, how will this change be reflected in our educational institutions? Whose point of view will be presented; whose history and literature will be canonized and taught as the 'common culture'?

But my brief critique of the Search/Life core curriculum is not meant to be interpreted as a militant battle cry of "hey hey ho ho, western culture's gotta go", or even a complete condemnation of the Search/Life programs.

After all, it was my Search professor who first convinced me that a liberal arts education was truly "an education of freedom, befitting the free", one creating self-consciousness, and fostering the development of critical thought and spirited inquiry. In retrospect, my first-year Search class proved to be one of my most revelatory-one of my experiences at Rhodes to date most responsible for initiating my critical thought processes.

And it is this same critical thought process which enables me to question now the adequacy of the curriculum for what Rhodes aspires to be-one of the 'best liberal arts colleges in the world'.

Ultimately, all education is political, and knowledge is a battlefield for power, and we, as liberal arts students, must always consider the implications of this, as we study and as we question.

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

All *Sou'wester* meetings are open to the college community and take place every Sunday afternoon in 103 Buckman at 3 P.M. Student publications at Rhodes College are published under the aegis of the Student Publications Board which is composed of the editors of all student publications, class representatives and at-large representatives of the student body.

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Our Newest Ad Hoc Committee

As the ad hoc Committee on Diversity entered its second year of existence at the College this fall, Rhodes Student Government recognized the formation of another ad hoc committee last week, the Committee on Student Publications. Although its articulated objective is to examine the relationship between the student publications and RSG within the context of the Rhodes community and how this alliance can be strengthened, the committee emerged from a desire among several members of student publications staffs to comprehensively increase the quality of student publications at Rhodes, specifically as it pertains to the level of content in *The Sou'wester*.

Indeed, one of the key issues the committee will address is the possibility of compensation, financial or otherwise, for members of student publications staffs, and its ramifications for individual performance standards, overall publication quality standards, and fiscal year budgets.

On a more theoretical level, the committee will have to discern the relationship between compensation and increased quality of student publications.

Regardless of one's perspective, compensation is a sensitive issue, particularly in light of the controversy in recent years over protocol for the allocation of student activity fees to campus organizations. Five of the six student publications are still the recipients of these fees; *The Sou'wester* is not.

Related to the issue of compensation is revision of the Publications Board constitution, to which all six student publications are subject. Publications Board has already committed to the task of redrafting the constitution, viewed as inadequate and inappropriate, this year. The ad hoc Committee on Student Publications is eager to facilitate this process.

The committee will also address the availability of instructional opportunities for members of student publications staffs at a college with no formal journalism program, and the inability of the Lynx Yearbook to retain a staff sufficient in size for production of the most modest yearbook in recent years.

The six-member Committee on Student Publications functions independently of RSG and contains no current RSG members. The committee's final recommendations will be just that-recommendations that will carry no actual weight in RSG. Given this fact, the committee will be charged with the duty of developing solutions so applicable and so efficacious that its recommendations cannot be disregarded by any effective member of the student publications staffs or RSG.

Faculty Submit Tenure Resolution To Board Of Trustees

Continued From Page 1

granting of tenure and promotion under extraordinary conditions and to make recommendations to the faculty concerning such procedures."

However, the Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) chose to examine the tenure issue in question as well and developed their own alternate resolution; hence, there were two separate resolutions on the floor.

"We convene every Monday-it was not a special session of FEC," Mark Pohlmann, chair of FEC and professor of political science, said. "But, we decided to forgo the regular agenda items, because the committee as a whole perceived a need for action on this issue. After the previous [general faculty] meeting, there was a sense that we did not want to struggle through that again. Also, a number of faculty members

wanted a proposal to vote up or down.

"We wanted to help facilitate that by restructuring the proposal so that faculty who wanted to vote on the issue would have that chance," Pohlmann said.

At the time the committee met, faculty members were already aware that the proposal devised by the Tenure and Promotion Committee would not allow them to vote to send a resolution before the Board of Trustees. The faculty examined the second FEC resolution in lieu of the first resolution, revised it, and took a vote. The revised version of the FEC resolution was submitted to John Planchon, Acting Dean of Academic Affairs, and will be included in the agenda packet at the monthly Board of Trustees meeting Oct. 17-18. The reso-

lution calls for strict adherence to the formal tenure review process outlined in the College Handbook 1996-1997. Professor of chemistry Robert Mortimer, who spoke on behalf of the committee in the absence of committee chair Michael Nelson, professor of political science, asked that the original resolution be referred back to the committee for further discussion. Permission was granted.

"I'm glad the second resolution passed," Gadbois said, "but I wish it could have been brought up on its own merits so that we would have had a chance to discuss both resolutions."

Other faculty were less than pleased with the faculty's approval of the second resolution. "We're making decisions on information we don't have, or I don't have," Dan Cullen, associate professor of

political science, said at the meeting.

Opinions regarding the state of tenure in general at Rhodes are mixed.

"It's a combination of things of different weights," Pohlmann said. "The sum total seems to suggest tenure is being devalued. In this particular situation, a number of faculty seem to feel that factors other than teaching and research seem to have been overvalued. If there are going to be exceptions, there should be an exception clause."

"Every institution where I have worked prior to coming to Rhodes has had provisions, as I believe Rhodes does also, for acting in cases of tenure calling for a quick resolution of the problem. I think it is very important that institutions maintain that flexibility," Planchon said.

Marus: I'm Out



ROB MARUS
THE MOOSE
IS LOOSE

still pretty much in denial for the first three years of my Rhodes career. But, that's understandable, because it's not like my beliefs changed overnight. It took longer than that for me to go from being a pro-life, antigun-control, pro-Jerry Falwell right-winger (circa 11th grade) to being an anti-censorship, libertarian, pro-choice left-leaning moderate. But it happened.

And the really strange thing is that it happened, in part, because of Rhodes. Many of my fellow liberals on this campus bitch and moan all the time (often in the pages of this very publication) about how conservative Rhodes is, how backward and Eurocentric and patriarchal it is. Well, it can't be all that bad, now, can it? I mean, look what a Rhodes education has done for me.

You understand that this is not easy for me to admit, being a white, middle-class Southern Baptist from Arkansas. It goes against everything — well, almost everything — that I've been raised to believe. And, as if to confirm my worst fears about this decision, when I admitted my true political leanings to my friend Lamar Stone (an arch-conservative if there ever was one) this past weekend, he was so flabbergasted that he couldn't bring himself to talk to me the rest of the day. My parents took the news a lot better. It's tough being a liberal nowadays.

But, when I think about it, I guess my core beliefs really haven't changed; they've just evolved. I still believe as much as I ever did in individual rights, in religious freedom, in private citizens doing their best to better the state of humankind. Looking back on all of it, the progression in my belief system seems more or less inevitable — the result of a good education and a good family.

And who cares anyway? I mean, I'm definitely not alone. On this campus, there are more preppy-lookin', Skoal-dippin', bourbon-drinkin', Greek letter-wearin' good ol' boys (and girls), who also happen to be liberals, than you might think. Try looking for us sometime.

Care For A Tasty Beverage?



GRANT GANDY
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GANDYMAN

The beer industry is ablaze with microbrews of all sorts that contain raspberries, oatmeal, licorice, etc., but few people notice the multitude of flavors in the soft drink market. Aside from the standard Coke and Pepsi offerings, there exists a small but proud group of drinks to satisfy every possible want.

Below is a selection of some of these soft drink microbrews, gleaned from The Store, on Route 1 in Hurricane Mills, Tennessee. After you pass through the extensive array of mesh hats, thimbles from all fifty states, and country music souvenirs, you come to one of the best stocked refrigerators in Tennessee.

Chocolate Moose(TM) Premium Chocolate Drink: Bottled by the North American Beverage Corporation in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, this drink instructs the drinker to "chill and shake well before opening." Upon doing so, it delivers a rich chocolate taste that lives up to its self proclaimed label of "premium." It exceeds the chocolate taste of the industry giant Yoo-Hoo, and led the folks at NABC to patent their rich beverage (#783807). Despite the presence of the name "Moose" and a cute, sunglasses-wearing, slightly overweight moose on the can, Chocolate Moose is ideal for those watching their weight. It is fat free, has the words "High Energy" below its nutrition table, and contains real milk. Final Verdict: Choose the Moose.

Raspberry Citrus Orbitz Natural Fruit Flavored Beverage: This new beverage sheds light on the sad fact that crack has reached Canada, be-

cause the folks at the Clearly Canadian Beverage Corporation were smoking it when they came up with this one. The company takes pride in itself for having defied gravity by placing pea-sized gelatin balls that mysteriously hover in their sweet, non-carbonated drink. They don't go up; they don't go down, they just hover. I was intrigued with the balls' reluctance to move, but all science aside, this beverage is awful.

The excessive amount of sugar is probably what keeps the "tasty little orbs," as the company describes them, from moving too far. I visited the company's homepage (www.orbitz.com) and read how this product was created by "Orbitzians" from a planet without gravity. Even the company doesn't want the blame for this liquid monstrosity. Final Verdict: If you want a lava lamp for under a buck, stick an Orbitz on top of a light bulb. If you want something to drink, go elsewhere.

Kick Citrus Soda: This is an offering from the Royal Crown company. It caught my eye because of its display, which offered a pair of boxer shorts (get it? "Kickboxers?") that had "Is that a can of Kick in your pocket, or are you just excited to see me?" printed on them; only \$4.99 with two proofs of purchase. I ignored the print on the can that said, "Warning: contains stuff you don't even want to know about!" and "Warning: Do not taunt, provoke, or aggravate this product" and imbibed anyway. This drink quenched my thirst, but it is nothing special. After a sip or two I was asking "Where's the kick?" It has a very weak citrus taste, little after-taste, and not enough caffeine to make me notice. Bland but quenching. Final Verdict: If you are running low on boxer shorts, buy two cans and send them in.

Big Red: It's big, big, big (20 fluid

ounces) and it's red, red, red (red #40, to be exact); that's why they call it "Big Red." This red soda has been made by Big Red, Inc. of Waco, Texas, since 1937, and is the mascot of Montgomery Bell Academy in Nashville. I usually associate the color red with a cherry, strawberry, or fruit punch flavor, but this time the red dye conceals a cream soda. Big Red goes down smooth and is not too sweet, with only twenty-five grams of sugar compared to Kick's forty-nine grams. This drink is not to be confused with the long-lasting cinnamon chewing gum of the same name. Final Verdict: Dig the Big.

Royal Crown Draft Premium Cola: Personally, I consider Coca-Cola to be the best cola on the market, which may have to do with the fact that I am from Atlanta, where the caramel colored nectar practically flows from the tap. I was interested in Royal Crown's attempt to shed their association with Moon Pies, through this "premium cola."

It comes in a handsome dark brown bottle and a label that emphasizes the word "draft" over all other words, and could easily be confused with a microbrewed beer. My particular bottle had gone flat due to some unknown circumstances, but I gave it a try anyway. It was better than I expected from the company whose drinks are usually found at bait shops, rather than upscale supermarkets, but I don't think that for the higher price I am getting a much better product. It goes down smooth (especially without carbonation), but leaves a rich syrupy after taste that is more like Aunt Jemima than a soda fountain.

Final Verdict: The "pure cane sugar, only the finest kola nuts, and pure filtered water" claims evoke an image of a quality product, but for great cola taste, you can't beat the real thing.

Voice Mail System Comes to Rhodes

By Maggie Granger
Staff Correspondent

It has happened to us all—the voice mail experience. We have checked for the infamous stuttering dial tone, punched in a zillion buttons, and accessed our mailboxes.

No one would dispute the pleasantry in the sound of “You have ‘X’ new messages,” and be they good messages or be they bad, they are products of the voicemail system.

During its first few weeks of use in the Rhodes Community, the voice mail system has received a variety of responses. Some students love it, some despise it, but most are somewhere in the middle of the road.

With many colleges and universities already employing the use of voicemail on their campuses, a need arose for Rhodes to adopt a system in order to “catch up.”

Since many people expressed a desire for a voicemail system, a committee was formed a year ago to look into the issue. Bursar Richard Huddleston was assigned the task of handling the process and instigating the acquisition of a voicemail system.

The campus has generally responded favorably to the system. While answering machines must be shared by the other occupants of a room or suite, the voice mail system of-

fers each student the privacy of a personal account. The convenience of being able to access the messages from any location is also a favorable aspect to the system. Still, very few deny that the system has glitches.

The phones which stutter when there are no new messages and the complexity of the process in which many buttons must be punched have prompted complaints.

In accessing the mailboxes, Huddleston says that if every student had their own extension number, the process of entering mailboxes would be much simpler. However, the adding of approximately 600 new extensions is not feasible at present.

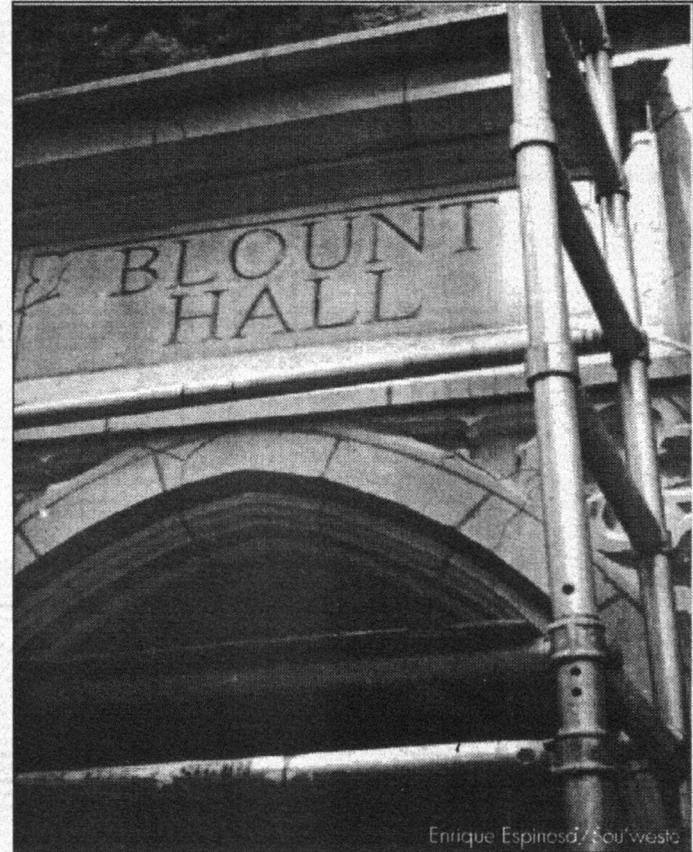
Voicemail at Rhodes is free to all students in the Rhodes community, even though several other colleges and universities charge fees for mailboxes.

The universal usage of the system is convenient for both students and faculty. Commuters also enjoy the benefits of mailboxes.

There is no way for commuting students to have stutter notification, but they are encouraged to call the system periodically to check for messages.

If a student does not know or has forgotten his or her voice box number, this information can be found in Faces on-line.

Naming New Hall



Enrique Espinosa / Sou'wester

Stonecutters finished carving the nameplate for Blount Hall. For ten years the building has been known simply as New Dorm.

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The GSA And The Presbyterian Church At Rhodes

by Henry Murphy
Associate Editor

What does it mean for Rhodes to have Presbyterian affiliation? In the spring of 1994, the Gay-Straight Alliance discovered that it meant, among other

things, that the college could refuse to recognize their organization - which also meant that the college could refuse them financial allocations.

Since that time a new category for student groups has been placed in the Student Handbook, which outlines col-

lege neutrality (and therefore non-recognition) towards certain groups, including the GSA, Rhodes College Democrats, and Rhodes College Republicans. But the main reason for the refusal of GSA recognition was a clash between the school's church affiliation

and the primary purpose of the GSA, which was the promotion of dialogue about homosexuality, bisexuality, and the social issues that arise from those sexual orientations.

The GSA has survived, sometimes exploiting its outsider status, sometimes decrying it, and always hoping to eventually achieve inclusion within the official student organizations. Last year, the group was listed in the Rhodes Viewbook, which goes out to high school students on the college's mailing list. Over the years the GSA has kept a relatively high profile in the college community through activities and discussion.

On Wednesday, September 25, further developments in the nature of the Presbyterian Church's attitude towards homosexuals were the focus of a GSA meeting. Chaplain Billy Newton, who attended this summer's Presbyterian General Assembly, brought new information to the group and initiated a discussion of the connections between contemporary religious institutions and homosexuality. According to Newton, the issue of homosexuality is a divisive force in almost every major church today.

In an official statement to its "congregations, sessions, and presbyteries," the General Assembly called for "dialogue in which there is a 'climate ... that is open and non-incriminating, and would not result in jeopardizing the reputation or standing of any partner in dialogue.'"

The current official position condemns homosexual behavior, but not

the orientation. One conflict, according to Newton, is whether or not to treat the Bible as containing a "holistic message," a sum of many ideas, or as a textbook, with each separate line containing the power to be used by itself, the most common method of proving the sin of homosexuality. This issue traces back to one of the most hotly debated and ceaseless discussions in contemporary Christianity: scriptural authority, and the infallibility (or lack thereof) of the Bible.

The Presbyterian Church's current statement on the inclusion of homosexuals within the faith dates from 1979. According to this statement, there are to be "no restrictions whatsoever on the inclusion of homosexuals" in the church. But recently the pressing issue of ordination of homosexuals as ministers, as well as the larger issue of legal gay marriage, have opened new rifts.

The issue of gay marriage is also a problem in society-church relations. How will the church act towards society? How does the Rhodes community deal with possible changes in Presbyterian stances? Newton stated that he believes Rhodes will benefit because of the Presbyterian call for dialogue, but Jason Bishop '98, co-director of the GSA, is less optimistic.

"I think that Rhodes and the Presbyterian Church in general don't seem to be going in the same direction on the issue," Bishop said.

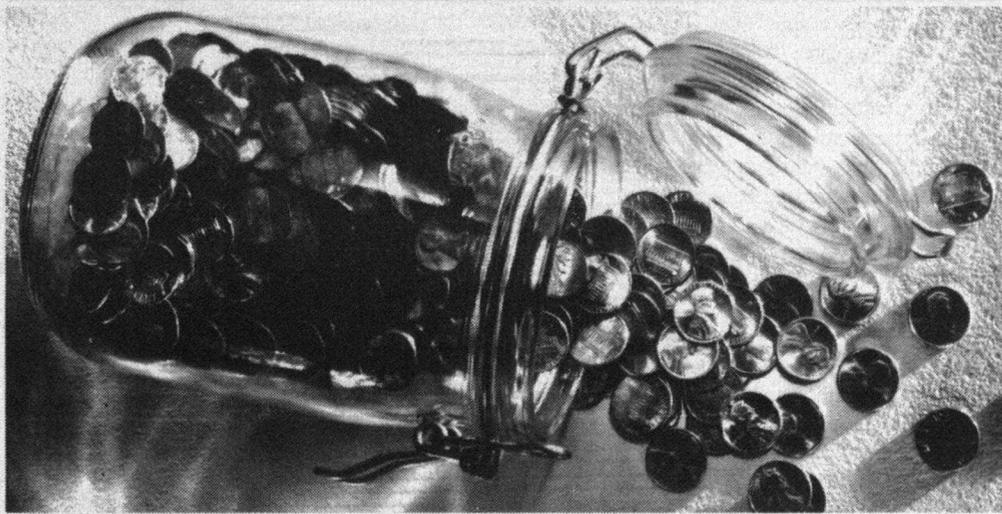
Bishop also noted that many of the people at the meeting were not Presbyterian, and therefore not personally or religiously affected by the Assembly's statement. One of these students is Tom Wallace '97, a Religious Studies/Biology double major and committed Episcopalian. Wallace does not regularly attend GSA meetings, but this particular meeting interested him. In the course of his academic career, Wallace has studied homosexuality from several different points of view, including the perspective of scrupulous scientist and the perspective of devoted Christian.

"I don't think [the General Assembly] is going to provoke the students of Rhodes to discuss the issue with renewed interest," Wallace said.

The problem is the actual nature of the relationship between the college and the church; it is correlational, as opposed to hierarchical. The church has little specific influence on the policies of the college, and the school's affiliation seems to be more of an official "leaning" than anything else, which leaves the matter of discussion and change up to the students.

Will student organizations step in and attempt to further the dialogue? Will the responsibility rest on individual students? Dialogue is a first step, but before that must come a questioning, committed mentality.

PRINCIPLES of SOUND RETIREMENT INVESTING



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Spitfire Grill Offers Another Perspective Besides Hollywood's

By Steven Perry
Staff Correspondent

At first glance *The Spitfire Grill* may appear to be just a Northern rendition of *Fried Green Tomatoes*. *Tomatoes* transpires in rural Alabama while *Spitfire* is set in the equally backwoods town of Gilead, Maine. They both bring with their country setting all the signs of down home goodness: life lived out simply, scenic rural vistas, a feeling that everybody knows your name, and so on. Both movies feature women establishing cross-generational relationships, women who must "spunk out" life's problems themselves with no help from the menfolk. Both movies also end with a note of tragedy.

But to call *The Spitfire Grill* another *Fried Green Tomatoes* would be unfair, despite the similarities. *Spitfire* lacks *Tomatoes*' sense of sarcasm, and while that might not make it quite as humorous, it does make it much more realistic, and in the end, much more moving.

This might have a great deal to do with the movie's rather interesting production background. Not your typical low-budget independent film project, *Spitfire* could be considered an unusual product of the times. A Catholic parish in Mississippi, tired of what it deemed (probably correctly) to be empty and worthless tripe coming out of Hollywood, decided to make a movie with mature subject matter and a lesson to be learned that could be aimed at adults. The parish raised almost all the money for the movie's production. This showed in the credits, with the director (Lee David Zlotoff) and the story's central actress (Alison Eliot, as Percy Talbott) both making their first forays into the movie world.

This background doesn't make *Spitfire* particularly conservative, though. The town conspicuously lacks a church of its own, and religion in general is hardly referred to, with the main exception being the town's name.

The movie unfolds with the arrival of Percy. She's a Southern girl, complete with Southern hospitality and a handbag full of Southern colloquialisms ("You can say that twice and mean it" being the most abused). She brings more than just her Southern charm, however; it is quickly revealed that Percy has spent the last five years in prison for manslaughter. Word gets out about this in the town, and the rest of the movie examines the various ways in which the citizens react to her.

These citizens and their relationship to Percy, along with a mysterious hermit, an essay contest, the small town environment, and the whole question surrounding Percy's true identity come together to

form an extremely interesting story. While not particularly fast-paced, it does move fairly well, allowing itself to stop on occasion to revel in the mountain scenery. All in all, the plot holds together, successfully bringing the viewer to the intense conclusion.

This doesn't make *Spitfire* perfect. It has its share of excess sentimentality, possibly more than some can take. There's nothing wrong with a little emotion; applied incorrectly, however, it can detract from the realism that such a movie as *Spitfire* needs to convey its moral. Considering some of the subject matter it deals with, though, *Spitfire* deserves some credit for not becoming mired in overwrought feelings and acting.

The movie has other faults, albeit minor ones. The director allows the soundtrack to take over far too often. This is not necessarily a bad thing, unless the soundtrack is wretched - which, in this case, it is. No one save the sheriff manages to pull off an accent that shows any kind of origin in upstate Maine, either. The movie also has its share of plot lapses, the most obvious relating to the essay contest around which much of the story revolves. None of these lapses, however, are particularly flagrant, and the movie survives with its story intact.

While *The Spitfire Grill* may be a hard movie to love, it is an even harder movie to hate. Though at times a bit too sentimental, it is nonetheless a very touching film, bringing well-orchestrated drama and powerful emotions together in the needed places to have a lasting impact on the viewer. Whether or not the viewer enjoys watching *Spitfire*, he or she will have a hard time forgetting about it. Do not let the end of summer serve as an excuse for letting *Spitfire* slip by; it is a movie worth your attention with a lesson worth hearing. I can say that twice and mean it.

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Memphis' New Daisy Knows 'Where It's At'

By James Spears
Managing Editor

On Wednesday, September 25, Beck played the New Daisy Theatre with special guest Dirty Three. Beck's tour is in support of his new album, "Odelay," his third national tour since "Mellow Gold" and Lollapalooza.

Beck's performance was tight and skilled, a great improvement over his first national tour, which was critically considered sloppy, unpracticed, and disjointed. Beck's Lollapalooza tour was a more refined version of the "Mellow Gold" tour, but lacked any touches of personality that his New Daisy show contained.

Beck opened the first part of his show with most of the tracks off "Odelay," moved into an acoustic set which featured songs from his independent release "One Foot in the Grave," and finished the show with a mix of "Mellow Gold" and "Odelay."

Beck's musical style can be likened to a post-apocalyptic melange of four or five musical styles, such as bluegrass, country, hip-hop, rap, and rock, all of which are held together by use of synthesizers, electronic effects, and Beck's own, often quite odd, personal touch. Beck's performance skills have also improved, and by the end of the encore, the entire audience was grooving along to "High 5" while Beck flopped around on stage. Disco lighting and an assortment of high-tech samplers and effects machines added to the smooth flow of the sets. Songs like "Beercan" and "Devil's Haircut" were improvised upon and added to, making the show fresh and enjoyable for Beck fans.

Beck's concert marks an end to a disappointing concert series, in which very few recognizable or out-of-town acts have played in Memphis. Both the Pyramid and Mud Island Amphitheatre draw the biggest names in the music industry (R.E.M., Alanis Morissette, The Grateful Dead, The Sex Pistols), but for lesser known bands, and gold (as opposed to platinum) artists, places like Barrister's and Newby's do not offer enough in the way of space or setting to draw interest.

The New Daisy, on the other hand, holds over a thousand and has a stage big enough for a full complement of musicians. But, to the disappointment of many live music fans, it is the only such venue in town. So, when acts are looking for a place to play in this area, Nashville, with its many venues, is the most logical place.

Memphis' tourist industry is one of the strongest sources of income for the city, but it offers little in the way of attracting outside entertainment. Many residents find Memphis to be a boring, lackluster city, and without better clubs and venues, their claims are well-justified.

Besides Beale Street, The Exposition Center, Graceland, and the Civil Rights Museum, Memphis has little to offer in the way of cultural and entertaining activities. Theatre, film, and music all suffer under the tourist industry here.

However, with adequate planning, venues like the New Daisy can become productive, viable places for the residents of Memphis to go and enjoy themselves and watch a good show. If more bands like Beck come and are well-received, Memphis might not be as "dead" as some people tend to believe.

October A&E Events

Oct. 1-20 - *Steel Magnolias* at Playhouse on the Square. Call 726-4656 for ticket information.

Oct. 1-26 - "Brad McMillan: Recent Works" exhibit at Cooper St. Gallery. McMillan is a '68 Rhodes graduate. Call 272-7053 for details.

Oct. 3-20 - *All in the Timing*, a collection of six one-act comedies, at Theatre Memphis' Little Theatre. Call 682-8323.

Oct. 4 - *10 November*, a musical drama about the wreck of the *S. S. Edmund Fitzgerald*, opens at Circuit Playhouse. Performances run through Nov. 3. Call 726-4656.

Oct. 11-13 - Arts in the Park '96 at Memphis Botanic Garden. Call 761-1278 for hours and ticket prices.

Oct. 13 - Faculty Concert Series performance at 8 p.m. in Payne Recital Hall.

Oct. 18 - Entry deadline for Rhodes Homecoming Banner Competition. Open to all college groups. Contact Alumni Office at 726-3845 for details.

Oct. 22 - Organist Jane Gamble, of Rhodes Music Academy faculty, opens the 1996-97 Evergreen Concert Series at Evergreen Presbyterian Church. Free performance at 8 p.m.

Oct. 24 - Closing reception for "Lawrence Anthony Retrospective" in Clough-Hanson Gallery, with appearance by the artist. Reception is 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Oct. 24 - Faculty Concert Series performance at 8 p.m. in Payne Recital Hall.

Oct. 25 - CrossRhodes Series features chamber music in Palmer Hall Cloister at 5 p.m.

Oct. 29 - Presentation by performance artist Janine Antoni at 8 p.m. in Hardie Auditorium.

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Men's Soccer Wins Big in Regional Games

by Tanner Neidhardt
Staff Correspondent

Coming off three key wins in a one week blitz, the Rhodes men's soccer team tried to keep their momentum going as they took on Washington University Saturday at Rhodes Soccer Field.

Down 2-0 with under 30 minutes to play, the Rhodes men used a high-pressure attack to overcome nationally ranked Washington U., 5-3, in front of a crowd of over 400 at Rhodes Soccer Field Saturday.

By upsetting the #2 team in the region, Rhodes, currently ranked 5th in the region, moves into a favorable position for NCAA post-season play.

"It's a big win for us in our drive towards getting back to the tournament," Coach Andy Marcinko said. "I'd suspect we'd move into the top four in the region."

Rhodes set itself up for this weekend by beating regional opponents Maryville on Saturday and Webster on Sunday.

In the Webster game, Rhodes had to come back twice and finally took the lead and victory in overtime.

"We had a hard time starting off strong," Junior Bobby Lessentine said. "After making a few mistakes, we woke up and started playing as a team."

With Rhodes down 1-0 Freshman Jason Pierce scored a blazing shot into the top corner off a pass from Freshman Kevin Carlucci.

With just eight minutes left in regulation play, Senior Neil Brunetz headed Sophomore John Templin's corner past a diving keeper to tie the game and send it into overtime.

"We started to gain a little composure and possessed the ball more," Marcinko said. "I think that is what got us through the game."

Rhodes dominated the overtime period, getting off 11 shots to Webster's two. Brunetz pulled the Lynx ahead on a penalty kick when Carlucci was dragged down just inside the 18 yard box.

Brunetz then assisted Pierce in the 115th minute, giving Rhodes the 4-2 win.

"Digging down inside and getting over being tired was what helped us pick up our game and do the job we needed to do," Wildman said.

Rhodes had an easier time the day before, beating Maryville College 5-0.

"Out of the last three weeks, that's the sharpest we've played," Marcinko said. "That's what we need to get back to doing—we have to play the possession game that is our style."

Brunetz scored twice, the first

one on a penalty kick 21 minutes into the game. Freshman Matt Prigmore served up a pass to roommate Carlucci for his second goal of the season. Sophomore Tanner Neidhardt assisted Pierce for the fourth goal and Templin rounded out the scoring off a ball from Senior Jimmy Renehan.

Rhodes got its first win of the week on Monday in a sloppy and rainy match with cross town rivals Christian Brothers. Neidhardt assisted Brunetz on the only goal of the game.

"We were really pleased with that result," Marcinko said. "It wasn't a pretty game, but for us to be able to adjust to those conditions was really good."

In the first half of this past Saturday's game the polls looked accurate as Washington U. shutout Rhodes and took a two goal lead.

However, Marcinko used the half time break to challenge the Lynx to step up their individual games.

"I was real disappointed in the first half," Marcinko said. "We played with hardly any intensity."

The second half was a different game as Rhodes got on the scoreboard in the 65th minute.

Senior Andy Wildman beat a Wash U. defender down the right line and hit a cross to sophomore

John Templin who scored off a diving header.

Rhodes could not keep its momentum for long as Wash U. scored two and a half minutes later, bringing the score to 3-1.

"We were deflated," Marcinko said.

"To pull within one brought the momentum to our team. I was pleased we didn't lay over and die after their third goal."

Just as quickly as Wash U had shot down Rhodes' hopes, the Lynx rallied for their second goal. At 67:30, senior Neil Brunetz headed a cross from junior Bobby Lessentine into the corner netting.

"We wanted that win," Lessentine said, "And we went out and got it."

Brunetz scored again in the 82nd minute on a penalty kick to knot the game at 3-3. Still the Lynx did not stop their comeback.

Freshman Kurt Rapp gave Rhodes the go-ahead goal less than a minute later.

"Talking about an adrenaline rush, I couldn't believe it," White Station grad Rapp said. "I didn't want to mess up. I just turned and cracked a shot as hard as I could in the direction of the goal."

Brunetz passed Rapp the ball and praised Rapp by calling his efforts "one of the best runs of the year on that goal."

Freshman Jason Pierce delivered the final blow to retreating Wash U. Off a pass from Senior Jimmy Renehan, Pierce beat two defenders and gave Rhodes its final goal.

"It was unbelievable, especially to have such a large crowd," Senior keeper Charlie Brightwell said.

Brunetz agreed, citing the boost the Rhodes crowd gave the team.

"It was great to have them there," he said. "Everybody knew someone that was in the crowd somewhere and that made everything better."

The Men and Women travel to compete against SCAC teams Centre and Sewanee on Oct. 5-6, and will play Oglethorpe at home on Oct. 12.



Rhodes' Andy Wildman Beats Defenders to the Ball. Rhodes beat Wash. U. 5-3.

Photo by Enrique Espinosa

Athletic Staff Profile

Name: Alan Reynolds

Age: 37

Position: Head Equipment Manager, Assistant Football Coach, Assistant Baseball Coach

Birthplace — Memphis

College — U.T. Martin

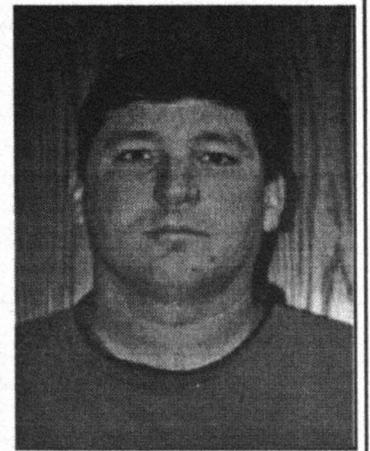
Degree — Recreation Administration from Memphis State.

Sports — NCAA All American in Baseball.

Noteworthy -- Played football at Ridgeway High School under Coaches Clary and Ellingsworth.

Recreational Sports — hunting, fishing and golf.

Favorite Part of Job — "I love working with the staff... it's a big family here."



Reynolds Comes Equipped

On the football team — "We're fixed to turn the corner, if they'd realize how close they are. We should have won the game [against Carnegie Mellon University on Sept. 28 in Pittsburgh]."

Reynolds and his wife Joslyn have two daughters, two-year-old Allie and ten-week-old Cassidy.

Rhodes Sports Scoreboard

Compiled by Dave Spears

September 22 - 28	Record: 5-2	Women's Soccer	Cross Country	Rhodes with a personal record of 26:58.
Men's Soccer	Rhodes 5	Rhodes 0	Men	Women
Rhodes 4 (2 OT)	Washington University 3	Washington University 2	First Place: Rochester University	First Place: Calvin College
Webster 2	Goals Scored by: Neil Brunetz (2), Kurt Rapp, Jason Pierce, Tempkin	Record: 5-3	Rhodes finishes 17th of 25	Rhodes finishes 14th of 20.
Goals Scored by: Neil Brunetz (2), Jason Peirce (2)	Record: 6-2	Football	Field included 9 nationally ranked teams	Nicole Horvath runs first for Rhodes in 18:50 for 4th place overall.
		Rhodes 0	Brendan Minihan runs first for	
		Carnegie Mellon 17		

Rhodes Political Organizations Mobilize Students For November '96 Elections

by Elizabeth Nichols
Staff Correspondent

As the 1996 Presidential campaign begins to build momentum nationwide, the two major candidates seem to be consistently finding ways to place the ball in their opponents court. Bill Clinton recently spoke on the rosy economic situation that the nation is enjoying; Robert Dole countered with a scathing attack on Clinton's failure on the teenage drug use front. Dole lauded his plan to implement an across-the-board tax cut; Clinton cited Dole's lack of commitment regarding environmental issues.

Such issues stand to have a substantial impact on college-age

Americans, and the candidate's zeal has increasingly been perpetuated by some of their most essential supporters: the nation's young voters.

Students at Rhodes have begun to answer the call of Clinton and Dole. Both the College Republicans and College Democrats have established a strong presence on campus and have an intense commitment to affecting the outcome of the November election.

Although support for the political groups has traditionally been lacking in years past, both are revitalized with the start of the new academic year and the promise of the election, and both are recruiting for support on campus.

Mark Cheney, President of the

Rhodes College Republicans said, "We want to get Bob Dole elected President. We would also like to see more students involved in the political process, either voting here in this area or voting by absentee ballot back home."

Cheney also stressed the importance of student involvement in local campaigns, citing work at rallies, phone banks, and mailings as some of the primary activities of the College Republicans.

Jenny Greene, President of the Rhodes College Democrats spoke of similar concerns: "We want to help all the Democratic candidates in greater Memphis in any way that we can. We hope to have every member of our organization working for a candidate until November 5th. We want to get the organization running full force in the election year."

Greene also expressed her hope that the current momentum could be maintained in the months that follow: "We don't want enthusiasm to die off after election day. We must ensure that young people stay motivated." She said that the exceedingly strong officer team will help to accomplish that goal in the coming year.

Cheney also appealed to young voters for a lasting commitment.



Democratic U.S. House of Representatives candidate Harold Ford, Jr. addresses the Rhodes College Democrats in Tuthill Sept. 29.

"Several issues that we'll have to deal with twenty-five years from now, such as Social Security and Medicare will be undergoing major changes in the future. Unless we're involved now, we'll have to live with the consequences of what our President, Representatives, and Senators are doing in regards to those issues."

Cheney also said that "It's important for students to realize that the money that they're putting in now will basically disappear by the time that they reach retirement age."

One of the most important items

on the Democrat's agenda is educational reform, specifically increasing the academic standards of the nation's schools. Jenny Greene felt that the National Education Association's endorsement of Clinton was an indicator of his commitment to the issue.

History shows that the collective strength of the young vote can and will make a difference in shaping the nation's future. Students interested in getting involved with the campus political organizations should contact Jenny Greene or Mark Cheney.

CAMPUS SAFETY ACTIVITY LOG September 22-28

- 9/22 12:04am Loud noise reported (downstairs Ellett) by student. RA on duty notified and requested to investigate. RA reported unusual smell coming from 2nd floor Ellett. CS officers dispatched. Investigation revealed burning of incense. Report filed by RA.
- 3:50pm Suspicious person report received, matter investigated and results forwarded to Director, Campus Safety.
- 6:30pm Two perimeter doors of CLC found ajar, doors closed and builded checked clear.
- 9/23 1:00pm Theft of CD storage case from room 2nd floor Bellingrath. Report filed.
- 4:55pm Student with allergic reaction to bee sting transported to Baptist Minor Medical by athletic trainer. ADRL Crabb notified.
- 9/24 10:25pm Fire drill Williford.
- 9/25 1:06am CS officers dispatched Glassell, suspected use of illegal substances. Illegal drug paraphernalia confiscated and in custody of Resident Life personnel.
- 11:08pm Fire drill Robinson/Blount Halls
- 9/26 2:35am CS officers spotted suspect car theft in progress at McLean/Tutwiler while on patrol. MPD called. Suspects apprehended with burglary tools in hand.
- 6:50pm Report filed on theft of unsecured bicycle from in front of refectory.
- 9/27 12:45am Student reported fire alarm sounding Blunt Hall. CS officers dispatched to investigate. System panel indicated alarm 3rd floor of dorm. Area checked. All pull stations in correct position and no sign of fire. System reset.
- 9:00pm Traffic accident Phillips lane. No personal injury. Single Rhodes student involved in accident. Report filed.
- 9/28 8:10pm Fire reported Briggs Student Center. Fire extinguished. Suspect cause of fire, lighted cigarett in plastic trash container. Burnt carpet removed from area.

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