

THE SOU'WESTER

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'God Forum' Lures Students

By Andrew Shulman
Staff Correspondent

Last Wednesday, the RSG's Special Committee on the Purpose Statement met in the Orgill Room to hold a forum for students to speak out on President Daughdrill's proposed addition to the mission statement.

The majority of students who spoke at the Forum were against the proposed addition. Many students felt that they were lied to by the college when they applied, since the admissions counselors gave them the impression that Rhodes was leaning more towards secularity than religion.

One student asked the other students to look at the "bullets" in the mission statement as what we all are and what we expect from the college. "Not everyone here serves G-D. The college is telling us what we should and should not believe in."

Another said that the reputation of the school has fallen in the past few years and that the addition would only make it worse. "I

shouldn't have to make excuses for the college that I went to."

Many students felt that President Daughdrill has a hidden agenda, and "his rationale behind it reflects [his] own agenda." Some students who were for the addition brought up the fact that everyone knew that Rhodes was a Presbyterian College, and mentions God many times in the purpose statement of the college.

A student responded to this by saying, "Just because a school has a church affiliation, means nothing. McCallister College has a church affiliation, and they are not religious at all."

Some students mentioned that Daughdrill was trying to re-establish the College's tradition, and that was all. They believed that the statement is the only thing that Daughdrill has on his agenda.

One student mentioned that Daughdrill's claim about getting more diversity with this statement was false. "We would be eliminating diversity because we are limiting the field of applicants to those who be-

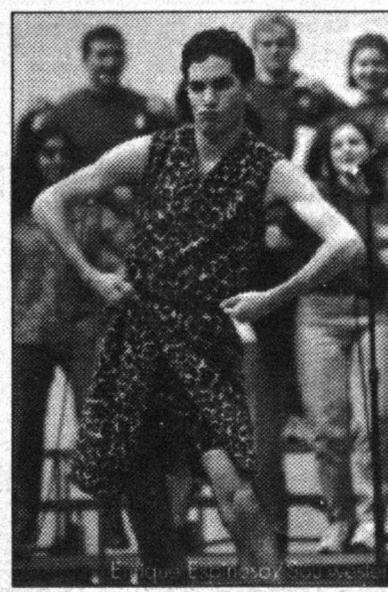
lieve in the Christian God."

Kristen Rauschkolb, chair of the special committee, said she met with President Daughdrill, and he said that he did not expect any opposition to the statement.

Rauschkolb mentioned that Daughdrill was willing to compromise in this statement. If the majority of the student body was against this, he would not go forth with the proposal, but, instead with an alternative. The students were split over a compromise. Some felt that it would be in the best interest of the students to have a compromise, while others felt that any compromise would not be in the best interests of the students.

Rauschkolb said that she thought that the forum was "a success in that it served as a great beginning to the dialog developing over the proposed change to the Mission Statement."

She added that she hoped that those who were in support of the amendment would show up at one of the resident hall/commuter meetings.



Shaking Down The Trees

Michael Faber, RSG President, poses as George of the Jungle in the Kappa Delta All-Sing Competition in Mallory-Hyde Gymnasium on Friday, Nov. 15. Proceeds from the event benefited both national and local charities. See related story, Page 4.

RSG Begins Club Visits

By Annie Shirley
Staff Correspondent

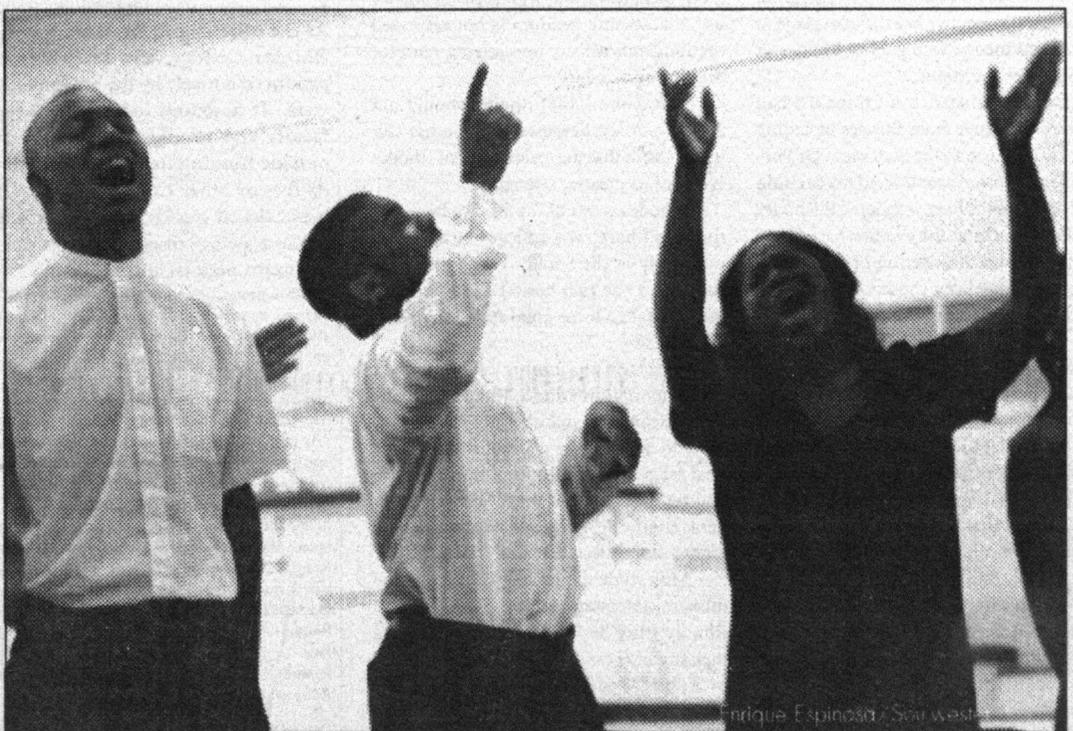
RSG has made a major change in the way they interact with campus organizations. Office hours are no longer kept, instead the senators will take active part in the groups themselves by attending the meetings. This attendance will allow a liaison between RSG and groups on campus.

RSG Outreach idea was a result of a deficiency seen in the office hours. Michael Faber spoke on these deficiencies: "RSG office hours had certain limitations and problems. Primarily, no students availed themselves of the office hours to come and talk to us. We decided that RSG should therefore take a more proactive role in seeking student input." The Administration and Finance Committee headed by Kate O'Leary took on the project which is not a

proposal but actually a revision of standing rules. The purpose of the revision states: "Liaisons will better facilitate interaction between student group members and RSG, ultimately fostering open, accessible diversity of thought among the Rhodes community."

The RSG Outreach will go into affect within the first month of the new academic year. All student groups will be offered the RSG liaison. The reports made by the liaisons to RSG will be entered into the Catalog of Student Voice which will act as a resource to RSG and to the campus in addressing reoccurring issues and finding more informed solutions.

Hopefully the active role of RSG on campus will encourage a communication and cooperation between the groups, administration and students themselves.



Participants in the BSA Gospel Extravaganza perform at Evergreen Presbyterian Church on Saturday, Nov. 16. Proceeds from the event help fund scholarships for African-American students.

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Editorial of The Sou'wester

Should We Be Resigned Already?

If, by some predictable injustice, we find that we must either resign ourselves to "serv[ing] God in everything we do," or transfer to another small, private liberal arts college, after the Board of Trustees decides the fate of the purpose statement next semester, no one will ever be able to say that the students of Rhodes College failed to put up a fight against what seems to be another unilateral decision by President Jim Daughdrill.

Students on both sides of the issue have responded by working for the Special Committee on the Purpose Statement designated by RSG, participating in the committee's open forum and submitting letters both to Editor of The Sou'wester and to the RSG website on Colossus. Their message to the president is clear: decisions on matters that directly impact the students should not be made without input from the students.

The relatively high number of students who attended the special committee's forum in the Orgill Room Nov. 13 was encouraging. In general, the opinions of the students who spoke at the forum tended to fall along the same continuum as the majority view of the Editorial Board of The Sou'wester.

We continue to oppose the addition of "to serve God in everything we do" to the College's purpose statement, because the connotations of such a phrase would constrict the focus of our liberal arts college, a focus that is supposed to allow for a wealth of perspectives and backgrounds.

Further, Daughdrill's rationale in his eight-point statement is enough to make almost anyone think that the breadth of the College's focus is at risk.

The addition will not only reinforce the peripheral status already assigned to certain groups on campus, as well as negate current efforts to expand campus di-

versity, but also should stymie Rhodes' attempts to become one of the world's finest liberal arts colleges.

A college in which service to the Christian God preempts the search for knowledge will never find itself among even the nation's finest liberal arts colleges.

Daughdrill has implied that he might be receptive to alternate wordings of his phrase, and several students at the forum offered less sweeping substitutes. Most referred in some way to a commitment 'to search for values'.

One cannot overlook the fine print: Daughdrill might respond favorably to suggested rewording from RSG, but we believe he might not react nearly so cheerfully to the outright rejection of his proposed addition. We advocate this latter option if we are to view the addition in the context of Daughdrill's eight-point rationale. The committee seems inclined to submit a reworded version of the

phrase which would be the lesser of two evils, and probably the more practical course of action, given the inflexible track record of the President and the Board. The president, though, appears so determined to inject his own kind of Christianity into the purpose statement that we seriously doubt whether he will allow a "search" to replace "service". We do not wish to imply that the special committee has sold out to the preferences of the president; rather, they continue their own earnest search for the majority sentiments of the student body on this issue, as they should.

Their final verdict may or may not concur with the majority view of this Editorial Board, but should reflect that of the students they represent. We urge students to facilitate the committee's mission by attending the hall meetings this week. And keep writing letters—breaking the silence is a prerequisite for change.

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All staff editorials published in *The Sou'wester* represent the majority opinion of the Editorial Board composed of section editors and executive editors. Opinions expressed in *The Rhodes' Star*, opinion columns, and letters-to-the-editor do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *The Sou'wester* Editorial Board. Letters-to-the-editor are encouraged; all letters must be signed and will be edited for clarity.

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Letters-to-the-Editor

With all respect to the administration and especially to President Daughdrill, I am very uncomfortable with the amendment as proposed. I am afraid that it will (regardless of how it changes day-to-day actions at Rhodes) make potential faculty reconsider Rhodes as an option, for many of "the best and the brightest" are not necessarily intent on serving the God of the Judeo-Christian faith. It may also discourage students of various faiths from applying to Rhodes. While the numbers may not go down overall, my peers seem to indicate that those of other faiths will become a rarity under the proposed purpose statement amendment. If Rhodes is indeed intent on improving the diversity of the student body and faculty, and so intent on becoming one of the finest liberal arts and sciences colleges in the world, then Rhodes will have to show respect to all of the faiths of a diverse campus. The term "God" may make not only those of other religions nervous, but also many people who have yet to find "something to believe in". By including this into the purpose statement, Rhodes says that we all believe in this common goal, when in reality, it is not this simple.

At the same time, perhaps an amendment to the Purpose Statement that addresses spirituality is needed. It would need to be inclusive (of Christian believers, believers of other faiths, as well as agnostics and atheists, for the reason that this official purpose needs to reflect Rhodes as a body of searching people), yet meaningful. Perhaps a wording to add as the fourth to the effect of "to encourage students (and/or faculty) as they search for personal (spiritual) values." I think that the faculty could be included, for this is a life-

long search, and the word "spiritual" could be added without offending many. If Rhodes is to continue with its requirements of Search or Life courses, then this wording complements that goal (and I do believe that the Search and Life courses are perhaps one of the most influential, and important experiences for students Rhodes has to offer).

It is with much prayer and thought, both being important, that I submit this suggestion.

Sincerely,
Emily Monroe

Dear President Daughdrill,

Your proposal is that we add to the mission statement that one of Rhodes' main goals is "to serve God in everything we do".

My first reaction upon reading your proposal was not positive. I and many other students who received a copy of this proposal were not happy with it.

Upon further analysis of your proposal I found it to be thoughtful and well-intentioned. Rhodes has always been affiliated with the Presbyterian church and has never hidden this fact.

Therefore, I see no justification in rejecting your proposal on the grounds that some students here are not Christian. Students know that the college has a Christian orientation when they enroll here. However, I disagree with the inclusion of such a statement on several other grounds:

The proposed addition to the Statement Of Purpose may discourage applications. Prospective students will see that Rhodes is Christian-oriented when they get admissions brochures which state Rhodes' affiliation with the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., and see that there are Christian stu-

dent groups such as Baptist Student Union. Students who do see the statement may think that Rhodes is an evangelical bible college rather than a liberal arts college. You may deem this narrow-minded, but I think that the word "everything" in your statement carries some strong connotations that there might be compulsion involved in this idea of serving God.

I think prospective students who drew the conclusion that Rhodes does not permit freedom of thought would be mistaken.

However, consider the fact that many prospectives are basing their first impression of Rhodes on admissions brochures. Not every prospective has the advantage of knowing someone who goes to Rhodes or visiting her overnight.

I am a Christian, but I think if I had received literature from Rhodes including the new addition to the Statement Of Purpose I might have reconsidered my decision to apply. I might have wondered if Rhodes would be teaching the evolutionary theories that are the foundation of my chosen major. I wanted my chosen college to be one which challenged me constantly with new thoughts and ideas. I wanted it to be the kind of place where I could meet people from all parts of the country who had different backgrounds and beliefs than mine.

I wanted it to be the kind of place that I think Rhodes College is.

I find that your statement about the GSA implies that the group promotes extramarital and homosexual sex, and this disturbs me. As a fourth year student here, I feel justified in stating that many students here do not need to be prompted to have sex. Students (including professed Christians and nonchristians) have already chosen whether or not to have sex and will not decide to do it simply because GSA exists. I have never had a GSA member urge me to have sex and I do not think that GSA was founded in order to encourage sex of any

kind. In fact, my observations of GSA lead me to conclude that the group is simply there to support its members and promote a more tolerant atmosphere at Rhodes.

Also, I think that the statement might discourage professors from presenting ideas that conflict with Christian doctrine. Christianity is based on faith, and sometimes faith conflicts with what reason tells us. This is one of the main things I learned in the Search program which receives so much well-deserved praise. Rhodes students have committed a great deal of effort to our education here and our families have made many sacrifices to buy a great education for us. If academic freedom is not respected then students will not be receiving value for their tuition dollars.

Last, I think that Rhodes should not seek to emulate Sewanee or any other college. I think that the uniqueness of Rhodes is one of its greatest strengths.

Rhodes is one of the few academically rigorous liberal arts colleges located in a major city in the South. We can take advantage of the rich heritage of Memphis. We have taken some good steps to encourage diversity.

Why emulate another college that, in my opinion, is inferior to Rhodes in many ways? Religious symbols and religious slogans do not take the place of real religion. Real religion expresses itself through faith and actions. I do not think Sewanee's students engage in less extramarital sex or have higher morals than Rhodes' students.

Most students probably do not read the mission statement anyway. I think that if Rhodes truly has a Christian atmosphere then students cannot help but be influenced by it and the addition of your statement is not necessary at all. If Rhodes is not truly Christian, then addition of a new line to the mission statement will not make it so.

Sincerely,
Alyssa Browning, '97

A Call For Decorum In The Current Debate



MARK CHENEY
THE CLAY POT

to act in the best interests of Rhodes, as he sees fit. When one considers the condition of this school before he became president, he or she would do well to at least consider what he says before dismissing it out of hand.

Likewise, students who support the Administration position are often ridiculed and treated with derision. The implication is that these people must be so unenlightened and unthinking that they are willing to follow the Administration's lead like a flock of sheep. Their opinions are not only denigrated, but open season is declared on the faith, world view, or philosophy that has led them to this position. These students also merit courteous and dignified treatment. One should try to understand their background and how they framed the question before making a caustic assessment of their state of mind.

All of the above are counter-productive. They breed hostility and divisiveness. They discourage discussion, and they hardly lead to the dialogue which is supposedly desired. Webster defines dialogue as "an exchange of ideas and opinions." I fail to see any room in this definition for the namecalling, backbiting, and bitter arguments which have characterized previous controversies on this campus.

Returning to the current debate, we must consider where we stand. While some of the negative aspects noted above have reared their ugly heads, there is also cause for hope.

An active effort to engage students in the discussion is being made by Rhodes Student Government in the form of open forums and on the Colossus at Rhodes.

I have also observed civil, open-minded discussions taking place. The level of student involvement is far greater this time around than in either of the debates concerning tenure or the GSA.

In the next few weeks, we have the opportunity to keep the deliberation refined and focused on the issue at hand. As educated members of an academic community, we must endeavor to take the high road of common decency.

And while it is easier to digress and engage in simple pettiness, we must strive to meet the challenge of taking part in a true exchange of ideas and opinions. The immediate benefit may be a resolution of differences in the Mission Statement debate; the more significant and permanent gain will be an increase in understanding, respect, and communication within the Rhodes community.

I know you're thinking, "Not another column in *The Sou'wester* about the proposed addendum to the Mission Statement." Well, you're in luck. This column isn't about my opinion of the Mission Statement. Rather, it concerns the negative tone of discussion on this subject in particular, and campus controversies in general. It is a phenomenon that, sadly, I have seen repeated over and over during my four years at Rhodes. I have witnessed the recurring tenure and GSA debates, and the current one possesses some of the same unfortunate characteristics as previous controversies.

The first act is to blow the issue way out of proportion; this has held true in the current debate. To hear some students tell it, President Daughdrill's next feat will be to hold revival meetings in the amphitheatre while orating thunderous sermons about sinners in the hands of an angry God, a la Jonathan Edwards. They seem to believe that President Daughdrill spends every waking hour seeking to impose his theological beliefs on everyone in the Rhodes community. He apparently engages in more conspiratorial plotting than even Oliver Stone could dream up.

As has been the case in other controversies (tenure, the GSA), opponents of the Administration position have had the loudest voices. A call usually goes out for Rhodes students to get out of their apathetic funk and engage in dialogue.

Yet what happens is that some students use this as an opportunity to air out every grievance they have with Rhodes. The discussion that does occur quickly degenerates into crass sarcasm and stereotyping of the opposing side's views. And for good measure, these same students offer some choice expletives for lack of anything else to say.

What is particularly distressing are the disparaging comments directed at President Daughdrill. Some students apparently feel no compunction in making vitriolic criticisms of his intelligence, character, or faith.

Whether or not one agrees with his position, he deserves to be treated with respect and civility. His goal is

Letters-to-the-Editor, continued

To the Indignant Masses,

According to a recent article by Tom Logue, a rotten smell has been emanating from Rhodes' campus for quite some time. Indeed, this is correct, but the odor's true source is not, as Logue suggests, the result of "a big empty space" between faculty and administration. The stench, instead, is not related to the seemingly interminable problem of the "Man," but directly attributable to the student body itself and the soiled diapers worn by almost every one of you. You might think these to be harsh words, but the predicament, unfortunately, is far beyond the level of pleasantries.

Of course, I'm referring to the recent diatribes regarding the potential addition to Rhodes' mission statement, but the true problem encompasses the much larger issue of misdirected angst. I've been listening to your various denunciatory offerings for nearly four years and have finally arrived at a striking conclusion. Aside from operating as an agent toward superior education, Rhodes is merely a conglomeration of pseudo-intellectual newborns. Your complaints are like the plotted motions of a baby learning to use its opposable thumbs; you grasp at anything that will make noise.

Now, I don't have the slightest clue what Rhodes' mission statement says, and I presume the majority of you didn't either before this "pressing" issue reared its head from the burrows of Rhodes' Presbyterian heritage. I can hazard a guess that it has an "and" in it, and a probable reference to Rhodes, but that's where my understanding of the mission statement comes to an abrupt halt. You see, the mission statement had no bearing on my decision to enroll, has no bearing on my role as a student, and will continue to have no bearing in my impending post-Rhodes days. It just doesn't matter as much as you think.

Rather than affording a careful consideration of the matter, you've simply jumped on the impulsive bandwagon of student action without a clue as to when you'll be able to jump off. I first witnessed this phenomenon with the advent of the tenure debate and it's being manifested again with regards to serving God. Embracing any concept that affords some degree of dissenting opinion, you attempt to emerge from the confines of your sophomoric minds, make critical evaluations, and form opinions. While this is an admirable endeavor in the quest for adulthood, the result at Rhodes, unfortunately,

has been somewhat the opposite. The voiced opinions against tenure and "serving God" do not represent an adult outlook, but only resemble the senseless whimperings of a baby looking for its pacifier.

For those of you who scoff at the presentation of this Christian commitment yielding "intolerance" and "[lacking] respect for any human being," as Jason Bishop has commented, I encourage you to grow up and make a genuine step toward the attainment of true maturity. Any objections you might have can be appropriately voiced by your self-removal from the Rhodes community. You're not under any kind of duress to study here, so do us all a favor and take your educational dollars and your mindless grievances elsewhere. The Rat's too crowded as it is.

If you must offer complaints, I invite you to direct them at my above comments and not President Daughdrill. After all, I just called you an intellectual infant and he's doing his best to look out for the school's interests, so who's the real "Man" here?

Here's Looking at You, Kid,
Brent Vanderzee '97

Religion Is More Than Symbols



BRADY POTTS
THE MACHIAVELLIAN

Like a lot of Rhodents, as I read the copy of the reasoning behind our esteemed president's newest brain-storm, I laughed, I cried, and then I sat back and stared at the thing.

One sentence in particular caught my eye.

"Recently I viewed Sewanee's admissions video, and I was struck by and envious of the symbols of their church-relationship that are so evident to the campus community every day."

Sewanee as the model of religious school?? President Daughdrill may have seen the admissions video, but I know a lot of students at Sewanee, and if they do have a religious commitment then Bacchanalian rites and Rastafarianism must be making a big comeback.

Granted, they do have a seminary on campus, but it's not for the undergraduates.

Sewanee is known among students throughout this region as a haven for bearded, pot-head drunks who do things like show up for the closing ceremonies of British Studies at Oxford too drunk to make it down the aisle, and have to be re-

moved from the chapel.

The "Cross Overlook, a spot important to the campus community" that Daughdrill seemed so impressed by is indeed important to the community, in the way that the back seat of a Dodge is important to a drive-in.

This is a campus famed for its "naked parties".

Of the students I've known who entered the school with a strong Christian commitment, they've come back down the mountain with a bong in one hand and a fifth of Jim Beam in the other.

Now, I'm not just using this space to write smack about Sewanee. I'm trying to illustrate a point.

Namely, that all of the religious imagery in the world doesn't mean a damn thing if the student body itself isn't committed to the religion.

And, despite what Daughdrill or the Board of Trustees may think, ours most certainly is not.

I'm surprised and fairly dismayed that our president has that distanced and unrealistic a view of our campus.

Take a look around the campus on a Saturday morning, which here means about noon, and you are going to see a lot of people who don't exactly look like they spent the night "serving god". Heck, I might be one of them.

The simple fact is that a large part of the student body, myself included, is not committed to serving this conception of the Christian god in everything we do - be it in our personal lives, academic work, belief systems, or politics - and adding that we are to the mission statement isn't going to change anything.

A symbol without meaning behind it isn't a symbol - it's a lie.

(This addition could, however, affect the type of incoming freshmen we have next year; which is an example of false advertising if I've ever seen one. But a night on campus ought to clear any misconceptions up.)

Perhaps the president has a bad case of pious envy, but Rhodes will never be a "Sewanee", which as far as I'm concerned is a great thing. I almost went to Sewanee myself and I utter sighs of relief every time I think about the choice I made.

I'm not morally offended by what happens there, but if there's one thing worse than institutionalized religion it's shallow institutionalized religion.

Do we want a "Christian commitment" that will be so hollow?

You can't institute a religious conviction; it has to begin on a personal level, and that is something that's between you and whoever is up there - Yahweh, Allah, Jesus, Zeus, Odin, or nobody.

Roundtable Targets Honor Council, SRC Issues

By Kathryn DeRossitt
Staff Correspondent

Last week's Roundtable on Nov. 14 examined the Honor Council and the Social Regulations Council (SRC). Seniors Bryant "Bear" Benson, Honor Council president, and Rob Robinson, SRC president, initiated discussion with a joint presentation.

The main topics of discussion included accountability for elected members, the election process, educating students about their obligations in the community, and the possibility of social or ethnic bias in the Honor Council and SRC.

The issue of accountability sparked considerable discussion among those in attendance.

"The Honor Council and the Social Regulations Council, although both very visible parts of campus life, are private entities when they are participating in the actual trials; thus, it is difficult to know how the elected members are performing," sophomore Honor Council representative Eric Johnson noted.

Sophomore Kevin Willoughby, questioned the danger of the subjective nature of the Social Regulations Council, suggesting the danger of "personal

vendettas" acted out on the part of the members. He raised this concern, keeping the theme of accountability.

He suggested that private nature fosters a lack of sensitivity on the part of members who are not held up to a standard by the community because the members' opinions are behind closed doors.

SRC President Rob Robinson responded by emphasizing the 3/4 majority vote required to find the party in question guilty.

He denied emphatically the notion that the SRC representatives have ever been motivated by outside agendas.

"With closed hearings, it is hard to see if the effectiveness of the councils. Whether or not the members are harsh or kind, rational or irrational, or doing a good job," Johnson said.

"If through the press [Sou'wester], we could simply interview the council members mid-year, that might shed light on the members' frame of mind and values, a way to know what the representatives are doing," he suggested.

Regarding the issue of low Roundtable attendance among student leaders, Johnson said, "Even a majority of the Honor Council Members didn't

show up. I think it is a general feeling of apathy. But when a violation occurs, we're blamed for not educating the public on the issues."

The election process for Honor Council and SRC members was another major topic of discussion.

Willoughby and Johnson expressed concern that the election process for first-year members in early September does not allow voters to adequately educate themselves about the candidates and suggested a number of election procedure reforms to improve the situation.

"The RSG elections committee would certainly be willing to work on these ideas," RSG president Michael Faber, junior, said.

Johnson reiterated the need for election process improvements, as he remarked, "The candidates are voted on in a period of two weeks. People look at the ballot and say, 'he seems nice,' and they mark his name. And I'm thinking 'If only you knew.' It is this lack of investigation on the part of the public into the candidates that could prove harmful."

Due to the increased concern for the fate of diversity on campus with the impending amendment to the Rhodes

mission statement, sophomore RSG senator Neeta Venepalli questioned Benson and Robinson about social and ethnic bias within councils.

In response, Benson said that the committee sought a balance, one that he does not want to see lost.

He emphasized his belief that the purpose is to have every social group, with a variety of opinions, represented at each trial.

"Diversity cannot be limited to ethnicity or social niches, or commuter or non-commuter, yet there is a desire to have different opinions, which would provide for a balance among the council and the council members," he said.

Sophomore RSG senator Jason Dunn questioned Benson and Robinson: "With the growing push for diversity on campus, do you see any change in SRC legislation?"

Robinson replied, "Anytime someone is attacked based on ethnicity, the SRC is bound to hold up the standards of the community."

One of the most volatile and difficult issues raised involved the education of the student body. Students questioned the methods by which the Honor Council and SRC educate the student body.

Robinson stated that the education process is improving.

He noted their signs around campus discouraging students from believing ignorance of the Honor Code and Social Regulations Code is an excuse.

Benson reiterated that sentiment, emphasizing the student's responsibility to respect the codes of the community.

"If someone made a derogatory comment towards a woman, the sanction may be to have him to community service with a women's group," Robinson said, noting that SRC works to ensure that sanctioned students are educated regarding appropriate behavior.

Such a sanction, he emphasized, would give the person an opportunity to learn from their mistake.

When Johnson suggested making the punishments public as a mean of education, Benson replied, "We don't want to emphasize the punishment. We don't want people to fear the Code. Rather, it is a focus on responsibility."

The Roundtable concluded with an update from junior Kristen Rauschkolb, chair of the Special Committee on the Purpose Statement, on the forum Nov 13.

Kappa Sigma Rubber Ducky Lounge Act Wins Another All-Sing Crown

By Melissa Anderson
Staff Correspondent

Playing to a packed Rhodes gymnasium, various students groups sang, danced and wrestled their friends



Enrique Espinosa/Sou'wester

TV Show Baywatch's Pamela Lee (First-year Burke White) saves a fellow Alpha Tau Omega at Kappa Delta's All-Sing

for a good cause during the annual Kappa Delta All-Sing for charity competition, the headlining Friday night event of Parents Weekend.

This year's extravaganza was a salute to favorite television theme songs, and at times, potential proof that violence on TV has had far reaching effects on particular Rhodes students. (Just ask the fraternity member who eventually visited the hospital after a rousing rendition of the Dukes of Hazard theme song.) While some groups approached the competition with an improvisational air at best, the majority of the contestants entertained with mindfully choreographed routines.

"All of the groups that participated... were very entertaining," senior Sheila White, All-Sing coordinator, said, "however, I was disappointed that some of the fraternities did not sing."

Reclaiming first prize this year were the Kappa Sigmas with a repertoire that included the Rubber Ducky lounge act.

Chi Omega won second place with, among others, an impressive song and dance routine to "Fame", while Alpha Tau Omega (and special guest Pamela Anderson Lee) landed in third.

The Black Student Association (BSA) earned the coveted "Most Entertaining" award with their funky spin on one of the great seventies sitcom families, the "Grady" Bunch.

Steve Thomas of the Brown Jug, Mary Summers, mother of first-year Callie Summers, and Cindy Deters, a Kappa Delta national officer judged the competition. White said that she was "very pleased with the success of this year's All-Sing" and believes it will "continue to be an enjoyable and charitable event" for many years to come.



Enrique Espinosa/Sou'wester

Junior BSA members Damon Norcross and Roblin Webb are grooving to become the "Grady Bunch" at All-Sing Nov. 15.

Students Provide Aid To Homeless and Hungry

By Elizabeth Nichols
Staff Correspondent

Rhodes students are extending beyond the comfort of the campus this Thanksgiving season in an attempt to raise awareness of the hunger problem faced by many Memphians and to invoke action so that the lives of those affected will improve.

The movement comes as a part of the National Hunger and Homelessness Week, taking place Nov. 16-22. Spearheaded by the Kinney program and coordinated by student Rob Marus, the week's activities allow Rhodes students to experience, however briefly, the challenges faced by those who are economically disadvantaged.

The week began with a Habitat for Humanity workday headed by Jeff Lekarczyk, in which volunteers aided with a VECA project in the surrounding community of Rhodes. On Sunday the activities continued with a Sleep-Out on Palmer Lawn. Students battled the cold and experienced the living conditions of many homeless by sleeping in cardboard boxes rather than in the safety of the residence halls.

The activities proceeded with the Souper Contact Banquet sponsored by St. John's Methodist Church on Poplar. Coordinator Kristen Fox described the evening as nicer than usual, when those present were treated to finer food, candle-lit tables, live entertainment, and fresh flowers. During the event the eighty bags of canned goods collected by the Halloween Treat and Feed project (headed by Jordan Schnipper) were distributed in anticipation of the upcoming holidays. Fox expressed a need for volunteers at the Soup Kitchen over Thanksgiving break, and encouraged Rhodes students to contact her if they could be of assistance.

On Wednesday, Nov. 20 there will be an Interfaith Circle meeting intended to foster dialogue about the religious call to social action, particularly as it relates to the homelessness problem. Students, faculty and community members will attempt to examine the role of personal faith in approaching public politics, social action, and initiatives for social change.

On Thursday, the Oxfam Inter-

national Hunger Program is issuing a call to Rhodes students to give up their evening meal at the Rat in order to raise money for the student-based hunger program. Participants will briefly experience the feeling of hunger while donating their meal money to the project.

The weekend will culminate in a campaign designed to foster continued involvement from the Rhodes community. "If you were homeless..." signs will be posted around campus, and students will be invited to sign up for action programs based in the Memphis area. Centered in the Briggs lobby and the Rat, the organizations present will include the Kinney Program, the Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness, the Final Net Children's Program, the Memphis Family Shelter, the Salvation Army, Souper Contact, and Habitat For Humanity, as well as many other worthwhile projects. Students are encouraged to examine the twenty-thousand dollar yearly cost of a Rhodes education in the context of America's economic disparity, and to become involved in one of the service programs listed.

Model UN To Compete

By Andrew Fairless
Staff Correspondent

This Friday and Saturday, Nov. 22 and 23, the Rhodes Model United Nations (UN) team will represent Belarus and Zimbabwe at a conference in Conway, Arkansas.

The Conway conference is only one of several meetings that Model UN attends every year. Next semester, the club will compete in St. Louis, Missouri and will host its own conference.

Like the actual United Nations in New York City, each participating school argues for or against proposed resolutions, depending upon their country's stance.

These resolutions can deal with a wide spectrum of international issues such as women's rights, educa-

tion standards, terrorism, AIDS, nuclear proliferation, and Third World development.

Kristen Rauschkolb ('98), who co-taught the Model UN class with Hunter Phillips ('99), says Model UN "really opened me up to the world... it makes you a global citizen." Her six years of participating interested her in majoring in international studies and possibly choosing a career in international law.

"It has influenced my major and my career choice, certainly," Rauschkolb says.

Model UN Club president Yohaam Demel's ('97) eight years of participation have taken him to international conferences in The Hague and Amsterdam. His experience has taught him that Model UN "helps debating skills and... is lots

of fun," which he cites as reasons for anyone to join the club.

Rauschkolb also encourages interested people to participate because Model UN, she says, "broadens your horizons [and] increases one's ability to see things from a different perspective."

Rauschkolb says that citizens of the United States tend to view international issues from a limited perspective and to misinterpret the motivations behind other nations' actions. Assuming the identity of other countries, she says, forces Model UN delegates to understand foreign cultures.

Demel invites anyone who may be interested in Model UN to contact him or attend meetings held on Tuesdays at 9 p.m. in Buckman Room 108.

President To Undergo Surgery

By Henry Murphy
Associate Editor

Recently, every Rhodes student received a small note in their mailbox from President James Daughdrill and his wife Elizabeth, informing them of Daughdrill's discovery that he has prostate cancer. He underwent surgery to remove the prostate gland yesterday.

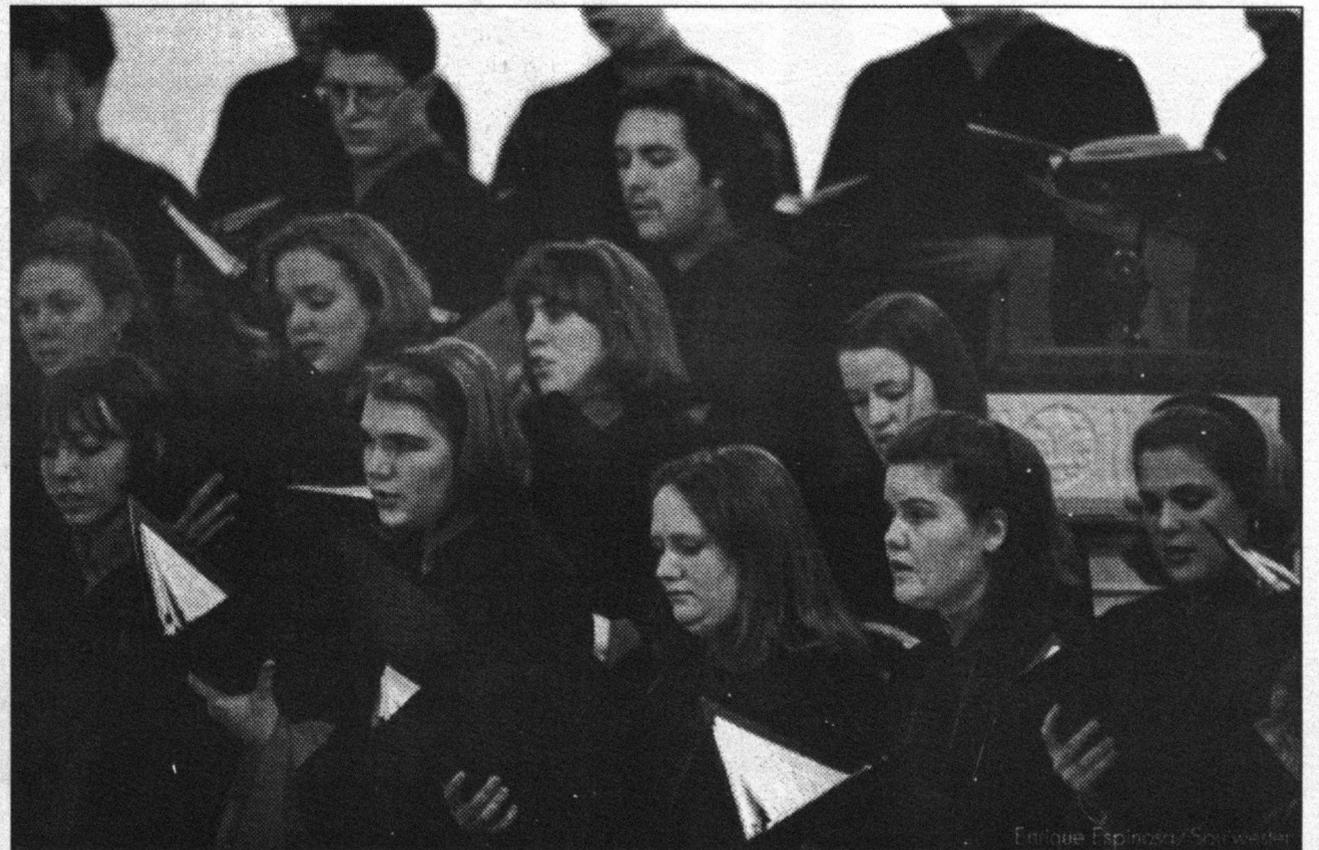
According to Chancellor Harlow (and the note), Daughdrill's surgeon, Dr. Mitch Steiner, is widely regarded as an expert physician in prostate cancer.

Daughdrill's absence is not expected to affect, to a significant degree, the daily machinery of the college, which is usually managed by Harlow. According to current pro-

jections, Daughdrill will remain in the hospital until Friday. The closing of the academic semester will afford him a comfortable period of recovery.

According to Harlow, Daughdrill was in "amazing" spirits: "He's ready for it... tremendous family support," said Harlow. "He's got lots of spiritual support to hold him up."

The Rhodes Singers perform at the Gospel Extravaganza held last Saturday night at Evergreen Presbyterian Church. The Rhodes Black Student Association (BSA) sponsored the event to raise money for its scholarship fund.



Enrique Espinosa/Sou'wester

Rhodes Hosts Three Events For World AIDS Day

By Melody Barnett
Scene Editor

Rhodes will host a series of events in observance of World AIDS Day from Nov. 18 to Dec. 2. These events offer Rhodes students and members of the community the opportunity to learn more about issues of HIV and AIDS on college campuses.

In commemoration of World AIDS Day, a new collection of artwork is currently on display outside the Clough-Hanson Gallery. This new exhibit consists of children's Christmas drawings, each individually mounted on a white banner.

While these drawings may look like the standard holiday display of any elementary school class, they actually hold a much deeper meaning. These drawings were provided by children working with Loving Arms, a non-profit organization that provides emotional and finan-

cial support to women and children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Members of the Rhodes community are invited to react to this banner in two ways. A basket of markers is provided for students to include their own pictures or thoughts in the vacant spaces of the banner.

Rhodes will also be collecting Christmas gifts for these children until December 6. Collection boxes are located in Clough (near the banner), the Briggs Student Center, the Moore Moore Student Health Center, and Burrow Library. This is more than an opportunity to learn about the effects of AIDS in the community -- it is an opportunity to act.

World AIDS Day brings the issue of AIDS closer to home, presenting it as something that can affect all students, not as something that only happens to "other people." On November

21, at 8:00 p.m. in Blount Auditorium, T.J. Sullivan and Joel Goldman will present "Friendship in the Age of AIDS," a program designed to teach students about the reality of HIV and AIDS on college campuses.

Sullivan and Goldman are fraternity brothers who never thought that HIV and AIDS could happen to people like them until one became HIV positive.

Their presentation incorporates both humor and harsh reality, providing a picture of what living with this disease is like. This event is sponsored by Rhodes Counseling and Student Development, Activities Board, Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council, and the Moore Moore Student Health Center.

Rhodes Assistant Professor of Art Carol Stewart, whose sculpture is currently featured in Clough-Hanson, will also offer

students an opportunity to respond to World AIDS Day. On December 1 and 2, from 2 to 5 p.m., Stewart will modify her installation in the gallery to commemorate World AIDS Day. Visitors are invited to participate in this modification.

The organization of these

World AIDS Day events by various campus groups demonstrates a high level of concern for AIDS awareness at Rhodes. Students are encouraged to participate in the dialogue facilitated by these events, and to use this opportunity to help the children affected by this disease.

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Arts & Entertainment

Wednesday, November 20, 1996

THE
SOU'WESTER

Page 7

"Bite Your Thumb": Luhrmann's New *Romeo and Juliet*

By Cynthia Marshall
Associate Professor of English

In *William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet*, Baz Luhrmann uses the filmic medium to capitalize on the speedy plot, intense emotionality, and lush language that have made the play a favorite for centuries of theatre-goers.

Set in a vaguely futuristic Verona Beach, in which guns are omnipresent and the circling police helicopters are suggestive of a particularly bad night in midtown Memphis, the film transforms the rival households of Montague and Capulet into competing business empires. Shakespeare recognized four hundred years ago that young men with more time than responsibility will attempt to prove themselves through competitive violence; in this production, corporate greed and corruption feed aggressive appetites.

Mercutio's "Rapier" is a handgun and so is Capulet's "Longsword," in a witty linguistic turn that accurately updates the self-consciously phallic weaponry of Shakespeare's play. Icons and religious images serve a

gaudily decorative function — guns and clothing are embossed with madonnas and Christ figures, Juliet's bedroom features a candlelit shrine beside her collection of dolls, and a tattooed cross spans Friar Laurence's back. It is an appropriately postmodern touch that the church, while ostensibly figuring so dominantly in the lives of Romeo and Juliet, serves in this film more as a fashion theme than a force of social order.

Luhrmann has, in one sense, remained faithful to Shakespeare's language: despite the updated setting, characters speak in verse drawn directly from the play. Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes, in the title roles, deliver their lines acceptably well.

Anyone familiar with the text will recognize, however, that quite a lot of lines have been cut. Some cuts here — for instance, the elimination of Friar Laurence's tedious reprisal of events at the end of the play — are unquestionably improvements on aesthetic grounds. Others work to speed up the main action, such as the removal of Paris's part in the

scene outside Juliet's tomb.

Overall, Luhrmann's pruning of the text is drastic enough to produce a stylized version of the play, and it is modelled around the figure of Romeo. Many of the cuts seem strategically designed to enhance his part, even at the expense of developing Juliet's character.

Juliet, for instance, simply makes a suicidal gesture rather than explain to Friar Laurence how, "rather than marry Paris," she would "leap . . . from off the battlements of any tower," and she reveals nothing of her terror before swallowing the sleeping potion in the "dismal scene" she realizes she "needs must act alone." Diminishing the part of Juliet's nurse (played by Miriam Margolyes) removes the sense of her lifelong intimacy with Juliet, a bond that reveals much about the Capulet family and about Juliet's character in particular.

Because Juliet is encased in the Capulet mansion for much of the play, while Romeo wanders the pool halls and amusement parks of Verona Beach, her character is largely dependent on the ballasting presence

of her parents and the nurse. Without them, she seems more ethereal and less fully realized.

Romeo, on the other hand, is ennobled by the embellishment of his part as active seeker-for-peace in the central fight with Tybalt (John Leguizamo) and by the resulting diminishment of Mercutio's role in that encounter. No likelihood here of the traditional suspicion that Shakespeare was forced to "kill off" Mercutio midway through the play because his character was absorbing too much of everyone's interest. If anything, viewers might wish to see more of Mercutio, played with crossdressed verve by Harold Perrineau.

The camera instead seems in love with DiCaprio's Romeo, and especially enchanted with him when his hair is wet. Where Shakespeare's text introduces a moonish, lovesick Romeo who must work hard to catch up with Juliet in terms of emotional intensity, Luhrmann evidently conceives of the film as a vehicle for the teen heartthrob DiCaprio.

With this starstruck purpose, the film stops somewhat short of achiev-

ing a completely satisfactory rethinking of the play for our age. Stylistically, it is heavily indebted to Peter Bogdanov's stage production of 1986-87 (the so-called *Alfa Romeo and Juliet*). But it will impress most audiences as fresh and energetic, and clever touches abound.

Especially nice is the Tarantino-esque sequence near the beginning — extreme closeups of a boot extinguishing a cigarette, a gun being exposed, complete with over-the-top sound effects — but these stylized references disappear as the film progresses into a more straightforward mode of presentation.

Yet ultimately the film is true to its era in denying any reconciliation between Montague and Capulet — a closural gesture that inevitably rings hollow, and one that the film's postmodern aesthetic makes unnecessary. Instead, a television news report is used as a framing device that appropriately undercuts the story's heroic pretensions by suggesting the banality of self-destructive teenage behavior in a post-capitalist police state.

Stewart Exhibit Explores Varied Themes, Mediums

By Kathryn DeRossit
Staff Correspondent

A born and raised Memphian, it was not until artist Carol Stewart returned to Memphis after several years in San Francisco that she truly began to appreciate the city. As Stewart said,

"I escaped [Memphis] and returned to it on my own terms."

Stewart attributes much of the inspiration for her art to a Southern heritage, and in her opening on Friday, November 8 she concentrated on themes that struck me as

basically....Faulkner-esque, with the modern, commercialized Graceland thrown in for a good twist. Yaaaaaaawn.

Not so fast. Carol Stewart's exhibition showcased a talent that is not as outwardly steeped in the patented "woe-is-the-racist-gothic-Bible-Belt" South as I thought it would be. In fact, I saw very little of these stereotypical elements.

As I perused the works I found that Stewart's many themes become more lucid only when an active participation takes place. Stewart indicates that she expects and invites

such interaction with her art. Using a medium of modern sculpture, mostly life-sized, Stewart forces the viewer to take in more than the recommended dosage. And this seems to be the way in which Stewart is accustomed to presenting her art: larger than life, representing a veritable carnival of themes.

Stewart's art is best appreciated not by standing and looking, but by hop-scotching between the varied works and making comparisons. Viewers runs their eyes up and down, sideways and underneath the art, and, more often than not, find

themselves drawn sky-ward, upward, and onward.

Of particular note were two sculptures, both part of a large collaboration Stewart produced between 1993-1994, entitled, "If you want to get to heaven when you D-I-E you better wear your coat and T-I-E." Both are pieces that suggest ascendance; they begin grounded on the floor and rise to their crest on the wall.

One of these vehicles to heaven is a stepping stone type of structure painted with a bright, seashell-like luster. Each step of the sculpture, which crawls higher and higher up the wall, has a different texture. Some are covered in a spindly-spoke type of surface, while others have more of an incongruous, boulder-face roundness.

Its ascending counterpart suggests an alternate vehicle to heaven, and begins with a wheel-barrow type of bottom that holds shards of glass. This structure is interconnected, but appears much less stable than its counterpart. As the piece rises heavenward to the ceiling, its method of ascension appears rickety with little foothold, and its appearance is much less inviting than the shellac-like luster of the previous piece.

Both of these works depict a rise to the afterlife, and one cannot help but wonder which vehicle Stewart is advocating. Does one opt for a safely connected tour through life, one that is mundane and drugged? Or should one choose a life of stepping-stone leaps, a path filled with danger but ultimate fulfillment?

It is such themes that characterize Stewart's labor-intensive art. Though it isn't always pretty or smooth, and is certainly not created with the marriage of a few divine brush strokes, Stewart's work suggests a passion for not only this approach to art, but also for this approach to life.

The second law of thermodynamics states that every system on the face of the earth tends towards disintegration and chaos. Carol Stewart answers the themes of life's disintegration and chaos indirectly, by exploring what comprises "the beautiful and the ugly, the attractive and the disgusting, the spiritual and satirical." By combining "what other people think is garbage and throw away," a ripe southern heritage and a fertile knowledge of her craft, Carol Stewart answers the questions of humanity out loud.

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Gunter, Day Leave Mark On Rhodes: Break Career 100

By Tanner Neidhardt
Staff Correspondent

For over 60 games and four years, soccer coach Andy Marcinko could count on two things from Rachel Day and Jenny Gunter: goals and determination. During that period, the duo amassed a total of 123 goals.

"If you look back over their careers, each one of them was consistently coming up with that big goal," Marcinko said.

However, it won't just be the tremendous amount of goals that Marcinko will remember about these seniors. According to Marcinko, their determination was second to none.

"I can think of numerous games the last two years that they have single-handedly stepped up and made a difference with their competitiveness and drive to win," he said.

Day says of her competitive spirit, "Through club soccer, I was taught to work hard and that's pretty much always been my attitude," she said.

But scoring 56 goals and having 35 assists (143 points) takes more than work ethic, and Marcinko says Day had the extra qualities.

"It was Rachel's deceptiveness and skill on the ball that got her so many goals," Marcinko said. "She has several moves that she uses to take people on, beat them, and get a quick shot on goal."

Day has not only had strong statistics. Marcinko calls her the team motivator who could "make everyone around her a better player."

"I think over the past two years we worked as a team and not as individuals. That's been one of our strengths," Day said. "My goals were created by the team, not by the individual."

Gunter also adopted the attitude of a team player in her junior and senior years.

"My first two years I set goals for how many goals I wanted to score, but the last two years, I set more

team oriented goals," Gunter said.

"With so many great players around me, I knew if I put the ball in front of the goal, someone would score," she added.

Gunter had a career total of 71 goals and 39 assists, both of which are team highs.

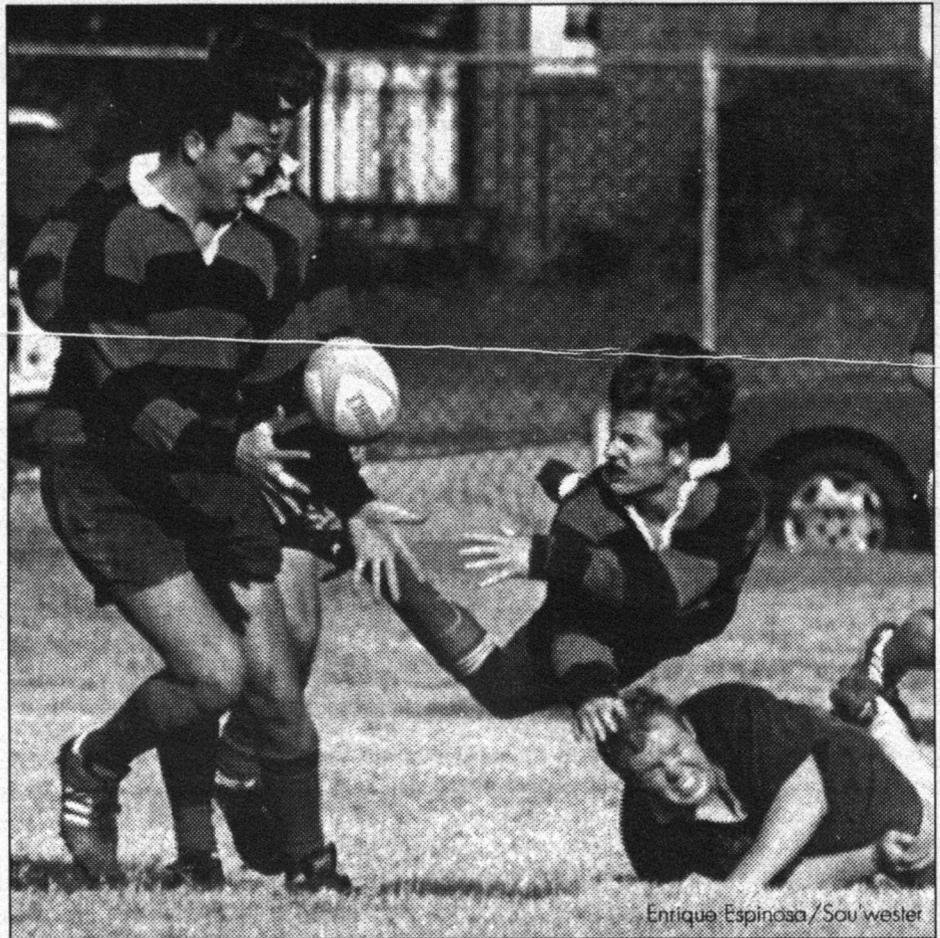
"Jenny was always the one who would never quit," Marcinko said. "She was the explosive player that could get through and get a goal at any time."

Gunter hopes that she won't be remembered as just a goal scorer, but as part of a team that brought respect to Rhodes Soccer. During the last three years, the Lynx have been ranked as high as No. 17 nationally and put together an overall record of 47-9-2.

"I want to think that my class made a difference, that we were the ones that really made the program," Gunter said.

Marcinko has already considered the future for Rhodes Soccer without Day and Gunter. His hope now is that he can develop the same qualities of grit and determination in next year's players as Day and Gunter gave him for four years.

"There's no doubt we're going to miss those two," Marcinko said. "They'll be a standard for our recruits and an inspiration for the girls still here for years to come."



Senior Dave Osler passes to teammate before getting tackled by University of Memphis players. Rhodes lost last Saturday's match.

Enrique Espinosa/Sou'wester

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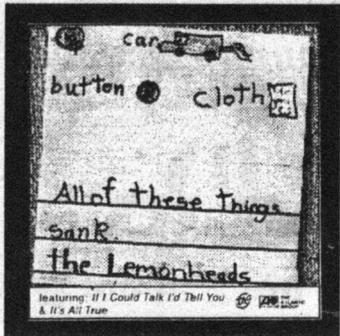
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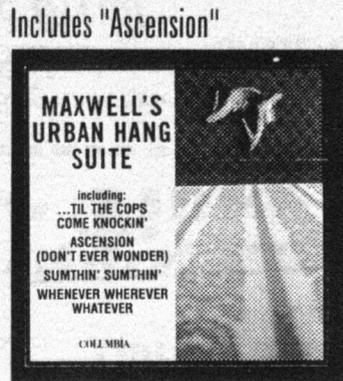
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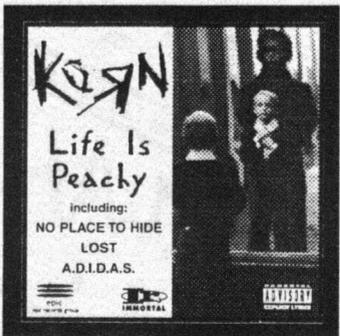


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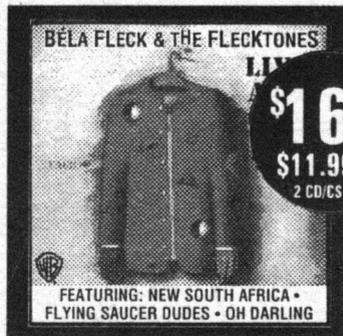
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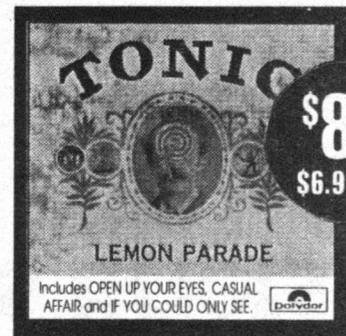
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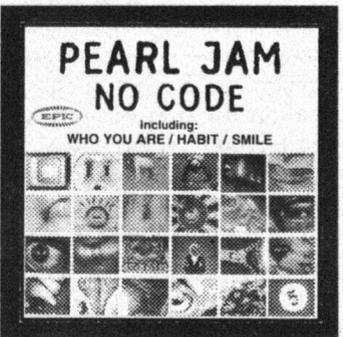
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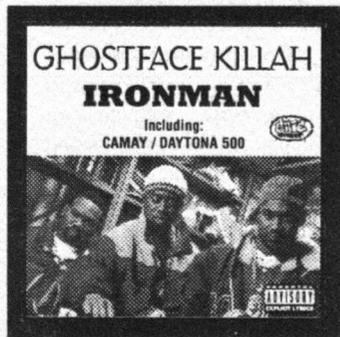
KORN...

As the often-disturbing lyrics and growly primal playing on LIFE IS PEACHY's 14 songs prove, the demons were not fully exorcised on KORN or even the band's 18 months of hard-core touring. There is, however, some slightly lighter fare on LIFE IS PEACHY. For instance, if you ever wanted to hear the opening of War's "Low Rider" played on bagpipes, LIFE IS PEACHY is the place to find it.

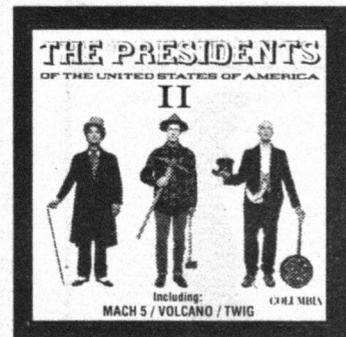


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Rhode'ster

Page 10

This Page is a Humorous Parody. Read at Your Own Risk.

Wednesday, November 20, 1996

Pike Body Signing: John Hancock meets Steeplechase

By Allison Rantissi
Rhode'ster Greek Correspondent

There are certain things to which one can look forward every year -- Christmas, a birthday, the changing of the leaves, a bad TV drama starring Tori Spelling in a truly deserved role, and the signing of the pledges of Pi Kappa Alpha. This year, of course, was no different. The evening of September 25th was filled with flailing body parts and light cardiovascular exercise.

In a philanthropic gesture, the Rhodes College chapter of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity stopped at nothing to ensure that each and every freshman girl was equally emotionally scarred. This activity, which has been known to wound the inner children of its spectators so much that they must seek counseling, is known as body signing. Its rules are complicated, and usually require multiple explanations.

First, it is necessary that the participant have a body, and a significantly low level of modesty. Transcendentals need

not participate. The second step is to procure a writing utensil of some sort. Felt tip markers are highly recommended due to the speed with which they glide over the skin. Shaving the area to be signed is helpful, but purely optional. Finally, the gatherer of signatures must cavort around the campus seeking out innocent(?) young women.

Strict time constraints and a keenly honed point system dictate a high level of competition and athleticism, as well as educate the young men in the art of persuasion. Even in their frenzied state, the astute pledges could be heard saying things such as: "You don't have to see it to sign it!" Surely no one can fault an activity which fosters such impromptu manifestations of brilliance.

When the final buzzer has sounded, it's time to tally up the points. One might think that the female role ends here, but never would the Pikes be so thoughtless. One active member offered his perspective on the continual inclusion of females in the body signing festivities.

"Never let it be said that the brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha have anything less than the utmost respect for the ladies of Rhodes," one Pike said.

Four or five lucky young women are chosen every year to count signatures, awarding points based on the frequency and location thereof. One of this year's lucky counters said "everything was fine until [she] got that guy with the hairy ass."

The distribution of signature value in the system is quite even. It does not at all relegate the men to having signed parts of their anatomy which would ordinarily be discretely covered. The back and chest are worth five points, the buttocks worth twice that much, and the beacon of procreatory bliss is worth a whopping thirty points. The very high amount of points awarded for having one's penis signed was justified by one of the young Pike pledges, "Hey, the brain is a very important organ! Getting it signed like this can cause permanent damage." At the end of it all, only one lucky man can be crowned the true winner, but the feeling of accomplishment that the sport promotes makes each and every participant a winner in his own right.

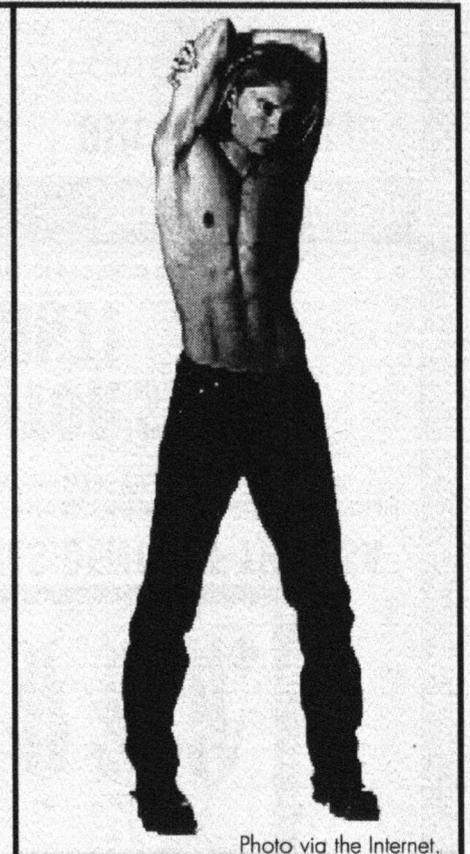


Photo via the Internet.

Pike members often do a series of "Drunken Calisthenics" before the Body Signing Competition. According to one source, "The workouts keep us sober enough to run from Humphries."

News Briefs

By James Spears
Old School

■ The Board of Trustees recently played their "Trump Card" in the continuing debate over the Mission Statement of Rhodes College by re-releasing *Prayers For Men* in a limited edition complete with a CD ROM multimedia presentation featuring a morphing James H. Daughdrill, Jr. performing interpretive dance to a soundtrack by Yanni, a texture mapped head of Chancellor Harlowe leading hymns, and a special introduction by Patrick Stewart in his role in the film *Jeffrey* "just to throw them liberals off."

■ The RSG has recently announced the creation of a new Ad Hoc Committee, tentatively called the "RSG Ad Hoc Committee on Ad Hoc Committees and Other Bureaucratic Devices Created With The Express Intent of Padding the Resume of Kevin Willoughby." The Committee is to be headed by Kevin Willoughby, with Kevin Willoughby, Kevin Willoughby, Kristen Rauschkolb and Kevin Willoughby as committee members. In other RSG news, RSG Vice-President Damon Norcross was arrested for attempted murder of Kevin Willoughby for proposing this committee.

■ Parents' Weekend turned into a bloodbath when Director of Campus Safety Ralph Hatley mistook the visiting parents for "invading forces." Hatley, who had apparently misread the Calendar of Events and thought Parents' Weekend was the following week, ordered the military style execution of over 100 parents,

grandparents, and siblings. One prospective student, caught in the crossfire of Hatley's "Napalm Jamboree" said that he was definitely reconsidering his application, but was glad to see God served in such a fundamental fashion.

■ A recent SPCA raid on Rhodes College turned up a motley yet highly sophisticated pack of well disguised fat dogs which had taken up residence on campus. The fat dogs had escaped detection until the raid by taking turns posing as the Lynx Statue. Also detained for questioning was Junior Henry Murphy, who is thought to have aided (fed) and abetted (watered) the dogs while they were in hiding. According to authorities, Murphy's only statement was, "You think the fat dogs were bad, just you wait until you see the rare birds!"

No progress has as yet been made in decoding this cryptic statement. The vermin were impounded at a special SPCA holding facility until released on bail to ARA workers under the direction of Tim Vandermeersch, who claimed to have a good use to which the fat dogs might be adapted. In other news, an Oriental food night at the Refectory will be held sometime next week.

■ Campus Safety was once again asked to don their riot suits and charge up the canisters of nerve gas when a group of alumni stormed the halls of Palmer, demanding retribution for the "Yearmagazine." Senior Allen Boudreaux, driven to the edge and armed with an M-16, stolen from Lloyd Templeton's secret arms cache, drove the mob into the cloister where he tossed them the dismembered remains of Yearbook Editor Jennifer Rezba, screaming "I wasn't even the fuggin' Pub Commissioner then! Go bug Veprek!"

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NeoPagan-RCF Conflict Leads to Abduction and Retaliation

By Elizabeth Nichols
No Relation to Mike (WTF?)

The weekly general meeting of the Rhodes Neo-Pagan Student Union was interrupted when a radical splinter group of the Rhodes Christian Fellowship infiltrated the premises and attempted to baptize the pagans present. Dressed in church attire and singing in unison to "Standing in the Need of Prayer," the students were thwarted by their inability to transfer the twenty-three pagans to the Mississippi River for a proper Baptismal service.

"It was bizarre," one Neo-Pagan member commented of the affair. "We had just finished our ritual when we heard this terrible singing."

According to the spokesperson, he only had time to exclaim "Dear God, What's that?" before he and his fellow "non-believers" were forcibly removed from the meeting and pushed into an unidentified vehicle. There were no witnesses to the abduction.

A student subsequently contacted Campus Safety with a possible vehicle sighting, but the evidence was deemed inadmissible when the car in question was later spotted sporting a Darwin fish on its rear bumper.

Fortunately the members of the group escaped soon afterwards on East Parkway. "We managed to break the back window using their copies of the New Oxford Annotated Bible. That's one hefty book, man!"

A representative from the RCF expressed some concern about the escape. "We were just trying to save their mortal souls. And besides, that bible cost me \$32.50 used at the bookstore!"

In an interesting turn of events, the Pagans retaliated by allegedly abducting an unnamed member of the Christian group for use in a sacrificial rite later in the week. She escaped unharmed at dawn when the Neo-Pagans retreated back to their coffins. "They seemed very agitated by the light. In fact, it was a response not unlike that of some computer science majors that I've seen emerging from the Math building at dawn."

A nearby member of an unnamed fraternity reports having heard the disturbance. However, he decided not to intervene at the risk of breaching the sanctity of the Pagan's ritual.

"I have to respect their ritual, man. It would suck if anyone ever found out what secret stuff goes on behind closed doors at our house. Especially about the live-in whore and... nevermind."

Many members of the Neo-Pagan group expressed indignation that they had been targeted. One spokeswoman for the group commented, "It's not like we hurt anyone, and we have a very close-knit community. I worship the ground that my friends walk on!"

Pledging to support their fellow students, and wary of any further conflict, members of the Rhodes

Fellowship of Christian Athletes committed themselves to standing guard at all future RCF meetings. One particularly capable looking volleyball player seemed unconcerned about the recent clashes. "What are they going to do, put a HEX on us or something?"

Strangely, this student was unavailable for further comment later in the week. She was later discovered Monday after a weekend spent aimlessly wandering the halls of Williford.

When asked about the experience she said, "I just wanted to find the exits, but it was like being in a labyrinth—I just kept hitting bathrooms! I can't believe that I escaped!"

Students had strong reactions to this recent outcropping of conflict between religious groups. A representative from the Rhodes Interfaith Circle said of the controversy, "I'm not really worried. We could easily take either the RCF or the Neo-Pagan Student Union in a fight— all twelve of us!"

The token Buddhist on the Rhodes campus responded cryptically to the friction: "If a tree falls in the middle of a forest and there's no one around to hear it, does it make a noise? Would it still be worshipped by the Neo-Pagans? What is the sound of one hand clapping? More importantly, what is the sound of one hand clapping at a Rhodes football game? Maybe I'll find out next weekend."

Editor's note: The "whore" is mine. She's electric.

THE RHODE'STER STAFF

The Rhode'ster stands for truth, justice and the American way. If elected, The Rhode'ster will put a hunk of tofu in every pot and a baby blue Caddy convertible in every garage.

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Erin Riches

Extreme Left

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James Spears

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Rebecca Anderson

Washington Insiders

Allen Boudreaux, Enrique Espinosa

The Rhode'ster supports the current regime. The Rhode'ster staff is composed of fine upstanding young citizens. The Rhode'ster is not a communist, Senator McCarthy. God bless America and especially the current power structure.

Reaching the Rhode'ster

Refer to Bill of Rights, First Amendment. Thank you and goodnight.

A Rhode'ster Prayer: To Serve God In All We Do

By Rebecca Anderson and James Spears
Sex Slaves of the Lord

Dear God,

(Of course "God" in this context refers to the Judeo-Christian deity because, in the context of this college, the aforementioned context of the term "God" is the only context that we currently care to credit with legitimacy.)

We humbly ask that you assist us in serving You in every thing we do, today and every day. Of course we are making the strongest effort to do so on our own, but we feel obliged to ask, and to ask humbly because of the extremity of Your glory.

Even with Your extreme glory compared to our own miniscule nature we feel justified in asking Your assistance because of our devout belief in the Divine Benevolence that is claimed in the holy text of "red, yellow, black and white, we are precious in your sight."

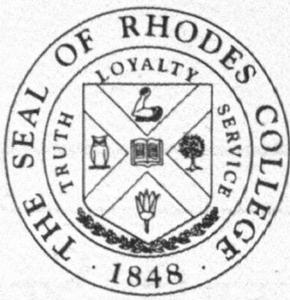
We also ask, O Great Being whose Name appears on the Almighty Dollar, in Your infinite wisdom, that you raise our president's salary because of his utmost desire to serve You in everything he does.

We also ask, Big Daddy-G, that You send your wrath (much like You did for the prophet Elijah, when You called bears from the woods to maul small boys) on the liberal relativists who plague our otherwise chaste halls and are responsible for perpetuating the rumor that Rhodes students have sex.

Keep mine eyes clouded, O Lord, so that I do not see the truth but rather look at holy statistics and allow me to continue to surround myself with outdated, yet religiously fervored Crackers that make up the Board of Trustees. Also, send us another copy of *Prayers For Men*. We need some smooth lines to pick up chicks and help them serve You in everything they do (wink, wink).

In conclusion, we ask that You guide our fair college in the moralistic, fundamental, neo-conservative path that every good servant of Yours follows right after listening to Jack Van Impe in every thing that he does every day.

In this we humbly pray,
Amen.



THE RHODE'STER

The Parody Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

This Page is a Humorous Parody. Read at Your Own Risk.

Page 12

The Rhode'ster Guide To Election 2000

By Rev. Brady Potts
Rhode'ster Whore

The votes have been cast and counted. The electoral college has pretended to actually have something to do with the election process and William Jefferson Clinton is spared from buying a house for another four years.

This year, like almost every election year, the prevailing sentiment among voters seemed to be "Why bother?" It appears that the voting American public just can't seem to get real excited about a choice between a mean old man with a withered arm and the (allegedly) non-inhaling paradigmatic baby boomer. So in service to our fellow Americans, *The Rhode'ster* humbly offers our suggestions for the ballot in 2000.

The Rhodes Comeback Kids...
Dr. James Jobs and ex-ADRL Joseph Kyle.

Let's face it, things just haven't been the same without these two, and if there's one place that good use a good dose of Aristotelian common sense, its the Oval Office. Jobs would run intellectual rings around any other candidate, and J.B. Kyle would handle any international disputes with the gusto that can only come from years of living in Glassell. Beruit would be a cake walk.

Anyway, Jobs could probably be persuaded to make *Babe* the Na-

tional Movie and would require any congressmen to explain the myth of the cave or Plato's *Republic* before even agreeing to see them.

Jackie Chan and Brandon Lee of the Crow

The main selling point of this ticket is the State of the Union address, which would probably be subtitled or dubbed, but at the very least a real hoot with lots of leap kicks.

If we're lucky James Earl Jones will do the voice over and we can hear Darth Vader say "By the Monkey, I will disembowel the son of your father if you do not graciously pass the flat tax."

Gingrich would learn to shut the hell up every once in a while or spend a lot of time in traction.

Teddy Kennedy would become the next "Drunken Master."

Also, assassination wouldn't be a problem because Brandon Lee would just come back from the dead and kick everybody's ass.

Rat Man Tim Vandermeersch and Security Guru Ralph Hatley

If anyone can save a buck by skimping on a few nonessentials, like dishwater soap and proteins, the Rat Man can.

He'd have the budget back on track in no time, and the White House would be officially called "The Rat Trap." VP Hatley would finally get to realize his dream of booting the Popemobile.

On the down side, the scurvy

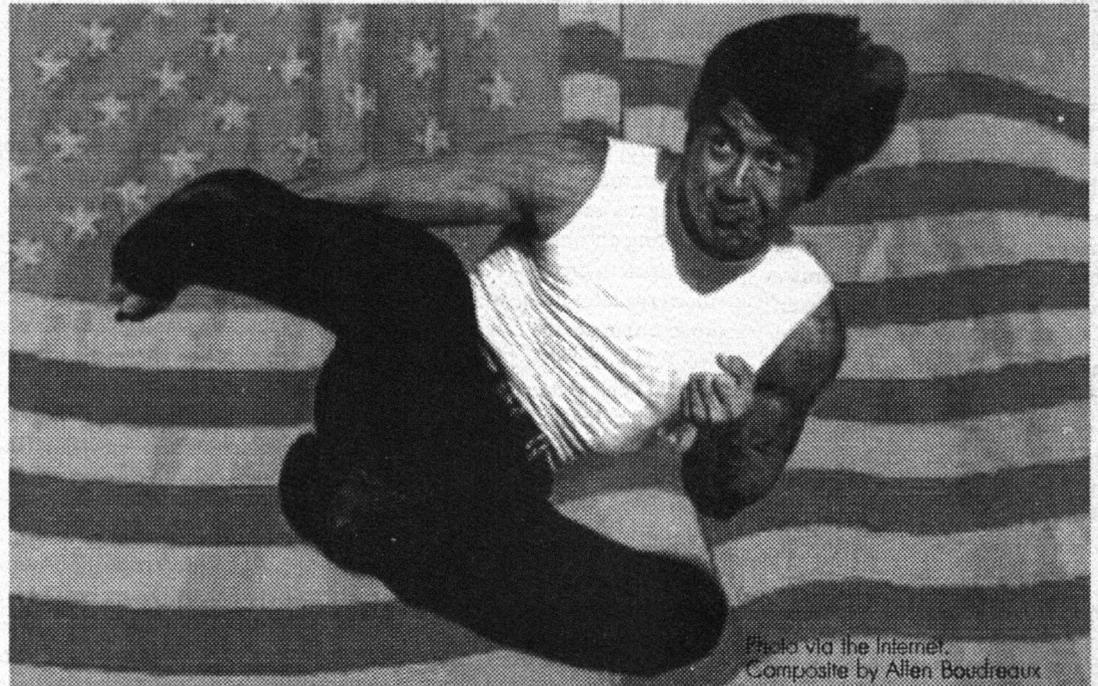


Photo via the Internet.
Composite by Allen Boudreaux

Rhode'ster Presidential nominee Jackie Chan demonstrates his plans for the White House in 2000.

rates will triple, and Hatley might have Pres. Rat Man meet with an untimely end by firing a 3-day old bagel from a grassy knoll in order to seize control of the government, institute an autocracy, and declare himself "Generalissimo Hatley del Lobo", changing the National Anthem to the Bobby Fuller Four's "I fought the law and the law won."

Bill Gates and Hootie and the Blowfish's Darius Rucker

Heck, Bill already owns every-

thing anyway. A presidential office might convince him to stop his plan to shut every computer on earth down in 1999 until Jennifer Aniston agrees to "download a program or two."

Besides, the profits from Windows '97 should be enough to pay off the national debt, and he could hack into "Pravda" and play with the headlines, setting off international incidents when it's revealed that Yeltzin and Mrs. Hussein like to play

pattycake in a hot tub in Minsk while drinking Stolty and singing "Back in the U.S.S.R."

As far as Darius, he'd probably be too busy to sing, which is a good thing.

On the other hand, he might have the National Anthem changed to "Old Man and Me," which is a bad thing.

Still, he'd probably throw a righteous Fourth of July kegger on the White House lawn.

Voorhies Fire Related to Serving God

By Rebecca Anderson
Rhode'ster Commander in Chief

Students were awakened, studies were disrupted and a large number of the Rhodes community got to see what a lot of people looked like in their pajamas the night of Monday, November 4.

A minor fire, apparently caused by a flaming pizza box in a Voorhies-Townsend social room, led to the dispatch of three fire trucks and the evacuation of the residence hall in question.

The fire was reportedly ignited when a resident dropped a lit crack pipe into a garbage can that con-

tained several empty Pappa John's pizza boxes. It is suspected that sparks from the pipe landed on the cardboard boxes and then burst into flames because of the motor oil that leaked off the pizza and onto the box.

A Voorhies R.A. stated that crack smoking is restricted to certain areas of the residence hall and the perpetrators were obviously "showing a blatant disregard for the rest of the residents by smoking crack in a place where not all could share in the experience. Besides it is questionable if the student was serving God at the time of the incident."

According to Assistant Director of Residence Life Lnn Crabb, the stu-

dents in question have been fined and will be brought before the Social Regulations Council on charges of "hogging the goods," a little discussed violation which carries a penalty of forced study of the Rhodes Mission Statement and President Daughdrill's explanation of each point included therein.

According to Campus Saftey records, a resident smelled smoke and reported it to the R.A. on duty. Once it was ascertained that the student was not merely noting the presence of Townsend R.A. Brady Potts, Campus Saftey and the Memphis Fire Department were alerted and three fire trucks were dispatched.

Upon inspection of the residence hall, the fire department declared the fire "a waste of a good slide down the pole" and confirmed that no damage was caused.

After rescuing a frightened first year student from a tree and convincing Chancellor David Harlow to give back the Fire Chief's hat, the trucks left and students were allowed to return to their rooms and continue serving God.

Even though no damage was caused and no injuries issued as a result of the fire, evacuation of the residence halls did disrupt several students. A Voorhies resident stated, "This whole fire thing really messed

up my night. I mean I was just sitting in my room doing home work and serving God, and all of a sudden, we had to run outside in the cold. Of course, the whole time, everybody was trying to serve God, but that's easier said than done when you're outside freezing in your bathrobe at one in the morning."

The editorial board of *The Sou'wester* witnessed most of the happenings due to their presence in the basement of Palmer during the event. However, the entire group's testimony as witnesses of was discounted for various reasons including the fact that none of the editors were serving God at that time.