

# THE SOU'WESTER

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

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Wednesday, January 29, 1997

## Trustees Vote To Add God Trustees Go Against Student Recommendation

By Henry Murphy  
Associate Editor

On Friday, January 24, the Rhodes Board of Trustees voted on the recommended additions to the college's purpose statement. Narrowed down by President James Daughdrill from a long list of proposals, all of them alterations of Daughdrill's original "To serve God in everything we do" addendum, the two additions sent by Daughdrill to the Board Directions and Leadership Committee differed greatly in tone and complexity.

Proposal A stated that one of the purposes of Rhodes was "to help students develop a personal philosophy in dialog with Christian beliefs, in an academic environment of freedom of expression for all."

Proposal B stated that "The Purpose of Rhodes is to serve God by," followed by the current purpose statements.

The RSG Ad Hoc Committee on the purpose statement addition recommended Proposal A after an intensive and extensive survey of student attitudes and ideas. The Leadership Committee, however, endorsed Proposal B, and the Board as a whole voted unanimously for that amendment.

The students present, Rob Marus '97 and Michael Faber '98, both spoke about the support for Proposal A. According to Marus, two trustees "could see that I was disappointed with the outcome... They asked me why the students and I supported version 'A'..." Describing the trustees as "stone-cold silent" during both his and Faber's speeches, Marus, a student member of the board, expressed disappointment at the choice.

According to Kristen Rauschkolb '98, who was in charge of the RSG Committee, RSG will release a state-

ment regarding the decision in next week's *Sou'wester*. For further comments from Rauschkolb, see her guest editorial on the Op-Ed pages.

Faber pointed out that certain board members informed him, after the session was over, that they were personally impressed with the activities of the RSG, and the behavior of the student body as a whole.

President Daughdrill announced similar sentiments during the session, on more than one occasion. The gist of Faber's comments to the board was that although a universal consensus of the student body was impossible, he felt that "people who were alienated" by Daughdrill's original proposal would probably be alienated by this one.

"The dialogue we had was very productive," said Faber, referring to the process as a whole, begun months ago. The question, however, remains: Is the dialogue over yet?

## Pub Board Revamps Constitution Ad Hoc Committee Looks To Update Constitution

By Andrew Shulman  
Staff Correspondent

The Publications Board's constitution is undergoing a major change. A RSG Ad Hoc Committee on Student Publications was formed after RSG Vice-President Damon Norcross met with several publications editors who asked that the constitution be revised in order to assist their publications. The Ad Hoc Committee is made up of members from student publications and RSG Senators.

The old Publications Board constitution was over thirty years old, and was written by an administrator, not by the students who would abide by the rules. One of the main sticking points for the publications editors was the fact that the publications board was not independent of RSG. Its job, according to its current con-

stitution, was to act as "liaison between the publications and the Student Government and the Administration."

According to Committee Chair sophomore Kevin Willoughby, several new positions have been created to reflect the changing times.

Most important of these new positions is that of the Information Systems Administrator who "will better support publications in this day and age." The editorial guidelines are also being changed to be completely consistent with the *Sou'wester's*.

According to *Sou'wester* Editor-in-Chief Erin Riches, sophomore, the "new publications board constitution basically translates into more independence for *The Sou'wester* staff." Riches also said that the new constitution allows for *The*

*Sou'wester* to keep its profits from ad/subscription sales at the end of the fiscal year, assuming that the paper finishes in the black. In the current constitution, if *The Sou'wester* made an profit, the profits would have subsidized the College's activity fund.

"Since we have not received funding from the College since 1991, the old[current] policy effectively authorized the College to steal from our income account," said Riches.

Riches thinks that the new constitution will allow *The Sou'wester* to take the steps to make it a reputable weekly college newspaper. Said Willoughby, "I would like to see student publications enjoy a higher respect and importance."

RSG will vote on the new constitution and other recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee Thursday, Feb. 6.



Enrique Espinosa/Sou'wester

Dignitaries and special guests of the college were present for the dedication of the Bryan Campus Life Center on Thursday, January 23 at 10:30 am. Though not quite finished, the building stands as the largest building on campus.

## Kamrava Leaves Rhodes

By Steele Means  
Staff Correspondent

As of December 21, 1996 Dr. Mehran Kamrava, associate professor of international studies, was no longer occupying a teaching position here at Rhodes. His departure has sparked controversy and speculation among the students and faculty, but the administration has not revealed the specific details surrounding Kamrava's absence.

"Dr. Kamrava is on a leave of absence effective Dec. 21 until Aug. 21. He will not be coming back. I don't know where he is. I have heard that he is Memphis, but I don't know what he is doing," Chancellor David Harlow said.

Both Planchon and Harlow de-

clined comment in regard to Kamrava's reasons for leaving.

Kamrava was unable to be reached for comment.

Steve Gadbois, associate professor of mathematics, "fingered" Kamrava on the campus Alpha system Dec. 20 and found this plan file:

"If you haven't seen me by now, it's already too late. As for the person who promised to check, I hope you're happy!"

When Gadbois fingered Kamrava on Dec. 23, the user name no longer existed on the Alpha.

When Harlow was questioned about the removal, he replied that it was common practice to remove user accounts from the Alpha immediately after a position is vacated.

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# Opinion

THE SOU'WESTER

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## EDITORIAL OF THE SOU'WESTER

As a member of the six-publication consortium that comprises the Student Publications Board, for years *The Sou'wester* has operated unquestioningly under the Constitution of the Student Publications Board that appears in the Student Handbook. Respect for the institutions of this College notwithstanding, this Editorial Board must now admit that our willingness to publish under this constitution is a failure in its own right, for this document is, and has always been, nothing short of a journalistic atrocity.

Perhaps such words seem unnecessarily harsh when used to describe the work of the college administrator who drafted the constitution, but any self-respecting student or professional journalist would have to agree that our assessment is more than accurate. The tone of the current constitution is punitive and reflects its author's distrust for student journalists.

Among the many blunders of the current constitution, there is one that supercedes the rest—the estab-

lishment of Publications Board as a subordinate body of Rhodes Student Government. And, this subordination is of the worst kind for the wording does not allow for Publications Board to have any sort of representation in RSG, but it does ensure that Publications Board will remain a satellite indefinitely.

Just how dangerous is this arrangement? Well, consider that *The Sou'wester* is subject to the authority of Publications Board, and thus, indirectly accountable to Rhodes Student Government.

Fortunately, *The Sou'wester* has somewhat of a safety since we have received no funding of any kind since 1991, the argument being that at least no one could threaten to withhold funds. This safety, along with the strong will of this Editorial Board, has allowed us to investigate most of the issues that have begged coverage in the last year.

But these circumstances are not suitable for operating a reputable, let alone objective, college newspaper. We have done the research—our voluntary poverty and subsidiary

status to the student government make us an exceptional case among college newspapers at comparable liberal arts colleges.

The Constitution of the Publications Board damages *The Sou'wester* in other ways as well. Its articles attempt to restrict the actions of this Editorial Board wherever possible. Indeed, it was no small victory when we finally began publishing the standard staff editorial a year ago.

Similarly, we find ourselves subject to the Dean of Student Affairs; virtually no other college in the nation must contend with an adviser who is an administrator rather than a member of the faculty. It may seem a small point to dispute, but it is actually a significant conflict of interest since an adviser who is also a dean must toe the party line of the administration in many instances.

Ultimately, *The Sou'wester* is the loser. Some administrators want to restrict our activities, yet these same people never hesitate to demand directly or indirectly why mistakes occur or why *The Sou'wester* seems a

generally subpar publication. Further, students apparently want us to ask the hard questions, but we often find ourselves at a loss to get straight answers. There is an end of sorts (or rather, a beginning) in sight, though. RSG used its authority over Publications Board to create the revolutionary Ad Hoc Committee on Student Publications last semester.

One of the committee's chief tasks was the drafting of a new Publications Board constitution that would provide an appropriate replacement for the old one. The new constitution will make it impossible for RSG to create another such committee in the future—by making Publications Board, and hence, *The Sou'wester*, independent of RSG. Equally as important, the new constitution will have provisions that will allow us to fulfill our responsibilities as journalists without repression. Perhaps with a little breathing room, this Editorial Board would have the independence to employ more innovative tactics to push *The Sou'wester* closer toward a quality college newspaper.

We all know that negative editorials that are sometimes offensive to the administration are part and parcel of any unfavorable response to a change in college policy.

However, Mr. Seidman's letter makes no reference to the effort of the RSG Special Committee. Anyone involved in the dialogue can attest to the fact that all aspects of the Committee's proceedings, from the student forum to the hall meetings and Web Page, were marked by organization, rational discourse, and the utmost care to work with, not against, all students, administrators, and Board members. Rather than praise the RSG for creating a model for future student-administration interaction as many have already done, Mr. Seidman lumps everyone who questioned the President's proposal in the same category as the "zealots." We are not radicals or extremists; we are thinking individuals who are concerned about the future of our school. I believe we, the students, deserve the ear of not only the administration, but also the Board of Trustees.

The RSG Constitution reads that the body is "vested with... the power to make studies, reports, and recommendations advocating student rights, needs, and interests to the college community, administration, Board of Trustees, and the public."

Not only is it our duty to assess student opinion and articulate those sentiments to the President and the Board, but the implication is also that the student voice is significant and should be considered when important decisions are made.

The antithesis, which Mr. Seidman seems to be advocating, is that the student voice is not important—that we should merely attend class, join a few clubs, and

This is a letter from Board of Trustees member P.K. Seidman to President James Daughdrill, released to the editor of *The Sou'wester*.

December 16, 1996

Dear Jim:

Earlier I furnished my FAX selection (copy attached) on "Purpose" alternatives. By way of dictum, it just has the one word pronoun change from your Code A original. But now I feel constrained to comment on the frivolous student outburst of protest.

It is astounding that the Christian purpose of Rhodes, firmly established some one hundred fifty years ago, is now on the "auction table."

Students should not dictate "charter policy". This is a duty devolved to the College Trustees.

As far as I can determine, generations of students have come to Rhodes to obtain an education. Most come with the knowledge that the school is church related. But there are those who can now claim otherwise and had no reason to inquire. Even so, once on campus they knew it. If they rise up in protest, it is just to cause the administration embarrassment.

These dissenters apparently were satisfied yesterday that Rhodes was furnishing them with their sought after, excellent liberal arts education.

But now defining "service" in the standing Purpose, suddenly, to them, taints this education.

Obviously announcement to the students of the Purpose clarification had a deleterious result. It immediately became a soap box platform, the trigger finger for a group of zealots, to harass the administration (and I hope it does not impede your surgery recovery).

There is no need to degrade this to what may be a delicate waltz with these zealots, Let's stop appeasement. Also stop trying to sputter soft alternative wording. God

is God. And without apology, when coupled to "service" it is all the venerable mission statement really needs.

Neither the administration, nor the Trustees, should be seen marching to a drummer not our own. The beat should be to that of the U. S. Marine Corps motto—SEMPER FIDELIS.

Always best wishes and abundant joy for the holidays.

Cordially,  
P. K. Seidman

**Editor's Note:** The Board of Trustees voted Jan. 24 to change the College Purpose Statement to the following:

The Purpose of Rhodes is to serve God by

•helping students to lead lives of genuineness and excellence,

•expanding the horizons of knowledge and scholarship, and

•living as a community of truth, loyalty and service in an atmosphere of academic freedom, open inquiry, and freedom of expression for all.

### KRISTEN RAUSCHKOLB GUEST EDITORIAL

**Editor's Note:** This editorial was written in response to Mr. Seidman's letter.

As Chair of the RSG Special Committee on the Purpose Statement, I take particular offense to Mr. Seidman's letter to President Daughdrill. But whether or not you were involved in the discourse regarding the amending of Rhodes' Purpose, all students should be concerned with the ramifications of his sentiments.

The President's announcement of his proposed change to Rhodes' purpose generated concerns from students, faculty, and even administrators. In response, the RSG created a committee to assess student opinion. President Daughdrill suggested the RSG Committee develop some alternative wordings to his initial proposal. This was a

noble gesture on his part because, as Mr. Seidman suggests, the Board could have unilaterally made the change, regardless of student concerns. I suspect that if the Board took this course, it would have generated an even greater outcry than we have seen and the "zealots" would have an even bigger platform from which to shout their protests.

Instead, the proposal was circulated to the students and alternatives were solicited to present to the President and the Board. From our perspective, this was the right thing to do. Our country's government is based upon compromise. Each party has differing view points on major issues, but the willingness to debate their positions and reach a solution compatible to both sides results in effective conflict resolution and legislation.

Likewise, at the heart of the liberal education for which Rhodes is famous is encouragement to question ideas. We would hope Mr. Seidman would have been more concerned if the students had not reacted to the proposed changes, thus displaying apathy for an issue that affects our education and the future of Rhodes.

Contrary to Mr. Seidman's letter, students did have legitimate concerns. A survey of the student body indicated half of the students opposed the original "to serve God in everything we do" proposal. Yes, we all know Rhodes is a church related college, but we also know it is a premier liberal arts college because it successfully couples that relationship with an atmosphere that encourages students to embark on their own search for values and meaning.

It was never the intent of the RSG to cause the administration "derisive embarrassment." Rather, we sought to foster a meaningful dialogue about the issue. Evidently the Trustees received copies of editorials written in the *Sou'wester* about the Mission Statement, which prompted Mr. Seidman's letter.

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As the official student newspaper of Rhodes College, *The Sou'wester* is produced entirely by the students on staff. It functions independently of faculty and administration with no outside funding from student activity fees or other College sources. It is published weekly throughout the fall and spring semesters, except during exam periods and breaks.

Staff meetings are open to the Rhodes community and convene in 103 Buckman every Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. *The Sou'wester* is a member of the Student Publications Board, a six-publication consortium that includes the editors of all student publications, class representatives and at-large representatives from the student body.

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 Rhodester*, 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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TOM LOGUE  
DOUBTING THOMAS

## Work Hard with Opinions to Reach Truth

Peppered along the roads from Jacksonville, Florida, to Memphis, are institutions possessing a mind-boggling collective intelligence. Somehow they have managed to remain largely secret organizations, accepting only a select few people and shunning the world in general.

I speak of gas stations. Not the big gas stations, the huge, shiny, well-lit Racetracs and combination Amoco/fireworks store/Dairy Queens.

No, I mean the little gas stations, the ones located two exits before and two exits after those behemoth monstrosities.

These little gas stations seem to have one thing in common: the Brain Trust, the four to seven men, and occasional woman, who sit outside, eye the infrequent customer, and discuss the world. They don't debate; they already know all the answers.

Very rarely, these people will open up and, if you pass the initial screening, talk at you for a while. The two questions I've had used on me most to determine my eligibility are: "Do you believe in Jesus, boy?"

and "Is that a '66 Mustang?" I say yes, and I'm in! (Who cares what I think of Jesus, or that it's a '65?)

Well, not completely in, but I get to listen without suffering the "you gotta problem?" stare. And when I can listen, what I hear is this:

-Bill Clinton has no idea what he's doing, and if he did, he'd do it wrong anyhow.

-the government is everywhere.

-the world is going to hell in a handbasket.

-Jesus is crying for us.

Sometimes it's a combination, sometimes just one element. But every single topic is dealt with easily — just reference the government, religion, or a general downfall of society. And the great thing is, none of the Brain Trust is ashamed to publicize his or her view. They feel secure with each other and with their thoughts, and by golly, it doesn't matter how ludicrous a CIA-communist-media conspiracy sounds. Point is, there is one.

When I first started listening to these conversations, I was appalled at the "close-mindedness" of these people. That evolved into a sort of amusement. Now, I admire them.

This is not to say I agree with them. I don't think the government can be blamed for everything, and I don't think Jesus — whose existence is assumed for the sake of this sentence — cares at all what's going on on Earth. Also, I do think a communist plot would be a pretty good idea. I think the Gas Station Brain Trust is often wrong and usually misinformed.

But I admire their ability to speak what they consider true. They have no fear, no uncertainty in their eyes when they speak; they have heard the facts, and they are ready to pass judgement. Part of this stems from having a group of like-minded people around them, but they also have an unparalleled confidence in their analytical abilities.

Compare that to your standard open-minded Rhodes student, and I think you'll understand what I mean. Open-mindedness and subjectivity are healthy approaches to life. I'm convinced of that. However, they can also be crippling, debilitating approaches, if they make you unnecessarily compromise your opinions or sacrifice your convictions.

There are times when compromises and sacrifices are required, and sometimes being open-minded can keep really stupid or offensive remarks from leaving your brain, thereby saving you some embarrassment.

But what about the times when you're right, or at least you feel you're right? Isn't your opinion just as valid as anyone else's? Especially if they're being openminded?

If you get caught in this trap, you are a lost soul. You become afraid to voice your thoughts, and aggressively critical in listening to others. You become frustrated and frustrating. Or maybe you snap and become a complete jerk. Regardless of outcome, any time the issues of open-mindedness or subjectivity come up, you're walking on a very thin wire far above a very deep, dark chasm.

So don't be too self-conscious about being open-minded. If you think something, and you strongly feel that it is not at all asinine, say it. Have the courage to say it. You may not have a group of six or seven like thinkers around you, but that doesn't mean you have to second-guess yourself constantly. Just as impor-

tantly, have the courage to listen to other people talk and not get offended by what they're saying. After all, maybe you're wrong.

And when you think you're up to it, there's a gas station 37 miles from Bucksport where you can fill up with unleaded, buy a Twinkie and a Coke, and enjoy a big hunk of some plump, chewy truth. It may taste a little funny, but it's good for you.

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keep our mouths shut. This raises some important questions about the role of the student voice in decisions that affect the college.

Throughout this entire process, President Daughdrill and Chancellor Harlow have truly sought student opinion on the issue, and our recommendations carried a lot of weight with them. I thank them for their willingness to work with us and to present to the Board some alternatives to the initial proposal. But Mr. Seidman's letter seems to be indicative of a philosophy that student input is not valuable. We do not demand that our recommendations be accepted. Nevertheless, we hope that the Board will consider proposals from the students as it weighs important decisions. After all, the students of today may be the Board members of tomorrow.



BRADY POTTS  
THE MACHIAVELLIAN

## The Liberal Arts Freedom to Challenge

I didn't want to write this column. Not that I don't enjoy turning this stuff out; God and RSG willing, I might even start getting paid for this, which proves that Camus was right about a few things, at least. But I've been avoiding writing this column. I have enough p.r. problems as it is, having been referred to as "the guy who's trying to get rid of God" to a prospective student.

But now that the campus climate has returned to its usual tepid state I feel more comfortable about addressing something that I think needs to be discussed, something brought up during the latest flap on campus, and something that found expression in a letter written to *The Sou'wester* editorial offices during the "God" question.

I'm not referring to the one we regularly question and critique in Search, that flagship of our college academic program, but rather the Mission Statement Addendum. And no, before you skip to the Campus Safety Log, this is not a column about the amendment. What concerns me more than anything that the Board of Trustees and various administrators have to say about the ostensible "mission" of the college is

the mindset that produces a letter which defines "true maturity" as "your self-removal from the Rhodes community," a mindset that favors expressions like "The voiced opinions...do not represent an adult outlook, but only resemble the senseless whimperings of a baby looking for its pacifier."

(Disclaimer: This is not a personal attack on Brent Vanderzee, the author of said letter, which was published in the last issue of *The Sou'wester*. I have better things to do, trust me. There is an invitation at the end of the letter to direct complaints to the writer, and as he has since graduated, I direct it at the ideals expressed in the letter, ideals I encounter regularly on campus. You know who you are, so listen up.)

Besides the obvious irony of a letter calling for maturity indulging in so much name-calling, it is the "love it or leave it" mentality that proves most disturbing. Let's be Socratic, shall we?

We don't know jack. Besides that basic principle of wisdom, we are college students, the vast majority of whom come from upper and middle class backgrounds and have never operated in the "real world," with a

few exceptions and largely living within the fence. If there can be a more clueless state of mind, I'd like to find it.

So if we've accepted the fact that we don't know everything, then it follows that since we are at a school we should try to learn as much as possible, even though we'll never know it all. And, according to the majority of our professors and the admissions office as well, learning is not rote memorization but a dialectical process involving dialogue between those involved, a discussion. Further, if this is a liberal arts college, the learning addresses the nature of both the world around us and within us.

Consequently, I think it's fair to say that an active and civil discussion about issues that might have a bearing on our lives, here or anywhere, is a fundamental part of the education that we are supposedly seeking. To not do so is perhaps excusable, if in poor taste, but to take the attitude that "objections...can be appropriately voiced by your self-removal from the Rhodes community" is to take a stance that directly opposes the concept of education. If anything should be absent from the

Rhodes community, it is that attitude. Regardless of the outcome of any issue, the benefits from the process of discussion offers more in the way of learning than any possible solution attained.

So sure, we might resemble infants who are grasping for a pacifier. That's not the point. The point is that infants who grasp at pacifiers will one day grasp pens, typewriters, and computers, and that there is no environment better suited to this "reaching" than a college, our primary concern being, ideally, learning. And if someone accidentally grabs a sensitive spot, then more power to them.

This is the one time in our life that we can question authority with near impunity. Despite my mother's fears, Dean Weeden (a just and wise soul whom I respect greatly) is not going to yank my grant if I refer to the administration as goobers. We can voice nearly any opinion we want, something that I think is mentioned in the Constitution, and can both teach and learn at the same time.

I don't mean to imply that we columnists and editors are flawless and have never jumped on an issue,

but by and large these are *issues* that we leap upon, not bandwagons. Our editors do read this stuff and they do, unfortunately, look at our arguments. And our willingness to accept criticism is shown by the mere fact that we printed a letter that refers to our diapers as being stinky, a condition I never let my shorts attain for fear that I'll be in a car wreck.

We're college students, we're naive, and our diapers stink. Big deal. This is the place where supposedly we'll get potty-trained, as it were. Even the author of the letter that set me off in the first place admits that its "an admirable endeavor in the quest for adulthood"; however since he doesn't think it works well, he would have those who take on that quest with less than his definition of success leave the college.

Instead, I think we should not only stick around, but be vocal about it in a respectful and civil discourse. Not just about the "God" statement, but any issue, and we'd all be the better for any discussion. It's why we're here, and this kind of intellectual conservatism is absent from any true concept of scholarship.

Hell, in 20 years we'll all probably be Republicans.

# Saferides Shutdown

By Rebecca Anderson  
Rhodes'ter Editor

After almost five years of service to Rhodes students, Saferides has been forced to temporarily abandon operations. This hiatus from service came about recently because of a conflict between the purpose of Saferides and the mission statement of the Red Cross who supplied the van used by the organization.

According to Nancy Roth, Organizational Vice-Chair of Saferides, the administration of the Red Cross changed hands within the past year which led to an evaluation of all programs funded or supported by the Red Cross, including Saferides. Saferides was denied continued use of the fifteen passenger van that allowed them to provide their services because the Red Cross deemed that Saferides did not coincide with the Red Cross's mission statement because, according to Roth, Saferides "served a specific, limited area of the community" and therefore conflicted with the Red Cross policy of "Universality."

The Mission Statement of the American Red Cross, as published on The Internet states that, "The American Red Cross, a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by its Congressional Charter and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Movement, will provide relief to victims of disasters and help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies." The Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross Movement are defined by this same statement as "Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity and Universality."

During the suspension of Saferides' operations, members of the group and Campus Safety both advocate the use of Care Cab, a taxi service provided by the College through Campus Safety. According to Campus Safety Sergeant and Crime Prevention Officer, Sherry Sasson, Care Cab allows students to order a taxi from any location through Campus Safety. Care Cab does operate slightly differently than Saferides, however. The student must call Campus Safety, who in turn call the taxi company. The student may only use this service to return to Rhodes campus and the cost of the taxi is billed to the student at a later date. However, this service, like Saferides, is confidential.

"Never have we ever issued an alcohol violation to anyone using Care Cab," said Sasson.

Sasson is confident that Care Cab can fill the need left by the absence of Saferides, stating that she would like to see "more people make use of the Care Cab system."

Saferides, as a campus organization, is officially unrecognized, and therefore unfunded, by Rhodes College. Roth attributes this to the high cost of insurance and high risk of liability that such an organization necessarily carries. She also speculates that a second factor in the unrecognized status of Saferides is the false assumption of the College that the organization "permits underage drinking" by offering services to students who are unable to drive home because of intoxication.

Roth discredits this reasoning by stating that underage drinking is "nothing new" and that Saferides "helps out a problem (drinking and driving) that's going to exist."

Since use of the Red Cross van was denied, Saferides has been looking into options for another source of transportation. Roth said that "a lot of people are brainstorming" about possible solutions and Saferides is currently counting on a turnover of officers to bring in "fresh ideas."

While Roth said that all members of Saferides "understand the concerns" of liability and potential legal action that she believes may have contributed to the cessation of Red cross support, she believes that the Red Cross is underestimating the organization.

"I don't think the people at the Red Cross have any way of understanding the importance (of Saferides)," she stated. "It's difficult to see because they don't live in the Rhodes community and don't have a full understanding of how needed it is. I wish we had some way of showing them how needed it is."



Enrique Espinosa/Sou'wester

**Students meet in discussion at the Martin Luther King Forum in Blount Auditorium on Sunday.**

# Students Discuss King Legacy

By Kate McWhorter  
Staff Writer

Seats were scarce in Blount Auditorium Sunday afternoon as members of the Rhodes community and the Memphis community gathered to examine the "Life and Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr." Sponsored by the Public Issues Forum, a non-profit organization in Memphis, the panel discussion featured Adele Hines '99, Neeta Venepalli '99, Damon Norcross '98, and Rob Marus '97 of Rhodes, as well as students from Christian Brothers University and LeMoyne-Owen College. The panel discussed whether Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of harmony between races and equality of opportunity has been realized in Memphis and in America. If not, why not? and how can the people of Memphis come closer to living King's dream?

The moderator began by asking the panel what race they would choose to become, if they had to change their race. Eight of the nine participants answered that they would not choose to be any other race because they were proud of their respective backgrounds and cultures and felt that every race has advantages and disadvantages. Specifically, one participant said that the struggles the black race has experienced have made them "a stronger people." Rob Marus responded that if he had to choose, he would choose to be African-American because the difference between the two races is not as great as it appears to the media-influenced public.

The panelists affirmed the moderator's suggestion that Memphis exists as a polarized community, separated by color. According to the panel, reasons for this polarization are not only the tendency of individuals to associate with other individuals who share common backgrounds and experiences, but also the different economic statuses of blacks and whites in Memphis.

The African-American students on the panel explained that being in the minority has made them more sensitive to the prejudices of American society, as one student said, "more conscious of what I'm thinking and what others are thinking." For some of these students, it is a struggle to overcome a "deep-rooted mentality" of inferiority and oppression. Even today, they strive to carry on King's vision of a balance of power and privilege among different ethnic groups.

When asked about their reactions when confronted with stereotypical or racial remarks, several students said they try to ask the person making the remark to think about the statement, or they point out exceptions to the biased generalization. All stressed the importance of interfering with racist thinking by tactfully calling attention to it, rather than perpetuating it by keeping silent.

Overall, the panelists communicated hope for the future and offered suggestions for improving relations between the races. Positive exposure can begin with changes in education both in schools and in homes. Ideally these institutions will celebrate differences rather than scorn them. Panelists unanimously agreed that change must begin with the individual, so that each individual shows respect for others, not only with their words, but also with their actions.

Audience participants echoed the need to celebrate and learn more about different racial groups and showed an interest in ways they could facilitate change. The Public Issues Forum and the Memphis Peace and Justice Center provide opportunities for participation in the effort to unite Memphis' diverse community.

Sunday's panel discussion was one of many attempts Memphis has made to lessen the tension and disunity of the city. Moderator Leslie Saunders felt that the program was successful because the students on the panel emphasized the need for individuals to take responsibility for changing their attitudes toward racial issues. With their tolerance for other opinions and willingness to discuss difficult issues, Saunders said, the panel communicated hope for continued progress in closing the gap between different ethnic groups.

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## Non-Alumnus Makes \$1 Million Donation

By Andrew Shulman  
Staff Writer

The name Julian Robertson was not known to the Rhodes community until recently. On December 18, Robertson, founder, chairman and chief executive of Tiger Management Corporation, a Wall Street investing house, gave the college a \$1 million contribution in honor of Robert McCallum. McCallum is a Memphis businessman and Rhodes life trustee.

Robertson knew that McCallum was interested in Rhodes, although neither man has attended Rhodes. McCallum has an honorary degree from Rhodes and a distinguished service

medal. Robertson and McCallum have been friends for about 35 years, and McCallum has been an advisor to Robertson.

McCallum, who had come to the college expecting a small ceremony in honor of his recent donation for a scholarship fund, was in a "state of shock" when he found out the real reason for his attendance. President James Daughdrill stated the donation "was such a surprise to me." The donation will go towards the Robert D. McCallum scholarships.

## Retention Rates In Question

By Jill Peterfeso  
Staff Writer

A topic of discussion on campus these days addresses the issue of Rhodes' retention rate; that is, the percentage of students who choose to continue their education at the college as opposed to transferring. Some students believe that a large number of Rhodes students are unhappy with the college, resulting in a lowered retention rate.

Over the past three years, the average percentage of first-year students returning to Rhodes for a second year is 86 percent, with a high of 89 percent and a low of 84 percent.

When these figures are compared to a study done by the National Institute of Independent Colleges and Universities, the institution reports that 71 percent of first-year students at all independent institutions return, making Rhodes's numbers 15 points ahead.

Another statistic to consider is the five-year graduation rate, meaning the percentage of students who begin and end their education at Rhodes and graduate within five years; Rhodes reports a three-year average of 72 percent.

A 1996 study by the Higher Education Research Institute on all colleges and universities in the United States gives a six-year graduation rate of 45 percent. As can be expected, when looking at "very capable students" (which describes the majority of Rhodes students), that number is much closer to Rhodes': 69 percent. Like its fellow prestigious institutions, Rhodes' retention rate is relatively high.

Yet, if students are concerned about these figures, they must be aware of problems on campus that make people consider changing schools.

Mindy Markiewicz, a first-year stu-

dent, explains, "My biggest problem with Rhodes is that the academic department heads and admissions people do not tell you everything up front; I'm having a lot of problems with my major that I had not anticipated. In addition, this is a very cutthroat environment, it can be claustrophobic being at a small school, and there is a real lack of school spirit."

Elizabeth Wells, a junior who has considered transferring, says, "The faculty are very dedicated, but I do not think the administration cares for the students."

Other grievances of Rhodes students include the Greek system, the conservative southern environment, the cost of living on campus, and lack of diversity.

However, the main complaints students voice coincide with results found by Student Affairs; if a student decides to withdraw from Rhodes, the Office of Student Affairs conducts a survey and a personal interview. According to the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, Charles Landreth, students' top reasons for leaving Rhodes include financial reasons; academic reasons, ranging from poor grades to a change of major; and geographic reasons, including the size and location of the school as well as its distance from loved ones.

So, what can Rhodes do to make students "happier" and improve the already high retention rate?

From an administrative point of view, the answer is straightforward: William Berg, Director of Planning and Institutional Analysis, said, "An institution is limited in what it can do to change a retention rate; there will always be students leaving and for reasons out of our control. All we can hope to do is continue to improve what we do have control over."

## King Birthday Celebration Reflects Lasting Legacy

By Elizabeth Nichols  
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Despite the recent impassioned debate regarding the place of the Christian-based community at Rhodes, it is difficult to find those who truly reflect such ideals in day-to-day life.

Yet, On January 21, a group of Rhodes students and community members gathered to venerate the constructive legacy of one who embodied and espoused the concept of Christian community until his untimely death: the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

The birthday celebration honoring the revered civil rights leader was equally solemn and triumphant, revisiting the troubled society of days past and at the same time exhibiting how much the situation has been transformed for the better.

The featured speaker of the program, which was organized and led by the Rhodes Black Student Association, was the Reverend Harold A. Middlebrook, current pastor of the Canaan Baptist Church of Christ in Knoxville and a native Memphian. The Reverend has earned national distinction as a result of his leadership roles within the Baptist community; he served as associate pastor of Greater Middle Baptist Church alongside Reverend Benjamin Hooks, the former Executive Director of the NAACP, and has acted as field secretary for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Reverend Middlebrook's dedication reflects the first-hand influence of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Middlebrook served as assistant to both King and his father when they acted jointly as pastors of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta.

Middlebrook's stirring and resounding speech honoring Dr. King, whom he called "the prophet of this century," delved deep into the troubled past of racial relations in Memphis. Middlebrook stated that one of the chief reasons why he

wished to come to the Rhodes campus was to assure himself that "there really are African-American students on this campus." Recalling a time when blacks were not allowed to enroll at Southwestern, he marveled at the extent to which the situation has changed.

Rev. Middlebrook likened King's integral role in this transition to that of the Old Testament character of Joseph. Joseph, Middlebrook maintained, was "a dreamer," one who was persecuted and sold into slavery for proclaiming his dream to others.

Middlebrook illustrated King's revolutionary importance by quoting John Oxenham, saying that in a world in which "the high soul climbs the high way, and the low soul gropes the low way" there are too many who remain content to reside in the benign middle ground.

But Martin Luther King, Middlebrook proclaimed, did not "drift to and fro" aimlessly, as it would have been easiest to do, but instead insisted that blacks could "travel the road that they dared not travel." In the words of Middlebrook, King stated "I will not support the system that oppresses me" in a time in which it was virtually unheard of to challenge the white majority.

Furthermore, King carried out his revolution in a way that made the violent acts of his opposition seem all the more abhorrent. His movement was so successful because it upheld the tenets of non-violent resistance, a tactic grounded, in Middlebrook's words, in the scriptural call to "love your neighbors and love your enemies."

Most importantly, King was resolute in his willingness to face the consequences of such open rebellion, including jailing and death, if necessary. This remains so significant, in Middlebrook's booming charge, because

"Any person who has not found a cause worth dying for has not really found a reason to live."

Kenneth McGhee ('97) and

Roblin Webb ('99) upheld the sentiments of both Reverend Middlebrook and Dr. King in their opening student's perspective. Webb lauded King's ability to "go against the status quo and rise up against the power structure of the time." McGhee said that King's dream has had an unparalleled effect on the aspirations of he and his people:

"Before [King], African American people were not allowed to have the dream of being doctors or lawyers... the jobs that are promised to us by this American dream."

Rhodes student Adele Hines ('99) was particularly struck by the speaker's message. As the niece of the Reverend Middlebrook, Hines gave the introduction at Thursday's celebration, stating that he has inspired many by his courageousness. Hines also said of her uncle:

"His commitment to community and church-related activities has been an inspiration to me."

Musical selections included the Black national anthem, "Lift Ev'ry Voice And Sing," which was led by Black Student Association president Thomas Jackson ('97) and a closing chorus of the significant hymn "We Shall Overcome."

Thursday's program was a fitting tribute to a man whose legacy still holds implications for the Rhodes community. In the words of Chaplain Billy Newton, Dr. King's most significant message was his

"call to race reconciliation, and reconciliation of differences in faith, political opinions and lifestyles in just and non-violent ways. This is the heart of what Rhodes is struggling with right now, and we must face it if we are to move ahead."

BSA president Jackson also emphasized the universality of Dr. King's call and its meaning for future generations:

"[King] encouraged everyone to help bring his dream into fruition. It wasn't a dream just for African American people. It was a dream for all people."

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## African-American Students At Rhodes: In The Minority

By Steele Means  
Staff Correspondent

Racial diversity. Multiculturalism. These are the catch phrases of our time. The fact that they have become clichés is significant. Americans, as a whole, have become accustomed to dialogue and action on these concepts. However, in a city that is today inhabited by many African-Americans, there exists a small college where evidence of "racial diversity" or "multiculturalism" is virtually non-existent.

Why? Why, at an institution such as Rhodes, which claims to be progressive and forward thinking, is there still a specter of the past, a specter that reminds us of a time when institutions like Rhodes did not even allow African-Americans to set foot on campus? Of course, we have moved past the time of legal segregation, but the central problem remains. Several students as well as representatives of the administration gave their opinions concerning the reasons that there are so few African-Americans at Rhodes and that which can be

done to remedy the situation.

Many students feel that the administration is not doing enough to recruit African-Americans. Beth Guerra, coordinator of STARR (Students Talk About Race Relations), pointed out that many other small liberal arts colleges employed one person specifically devoted to recruiting African-Americans and that Rhodes should do the same. Adele Hines went on to say that Rhodes, for example, needs to expand the recruiting process to more aggressively target those schools in Memphis which are mainly attended by African-Americans.

"There has been a typical Rhodes student mold and the Administration has not searched for students who do not fit the mold," said Hines. Hines added that, while the diversity situation is still not good, it is at least better than it has been in the past.

Debra Jones-Jobe, Director of Multicultural Affairs, has conducted a minority student recruitment effort with the Black Student Association in Memphis and reported that Rhodes does not

have a good reputation within the African-American community here. To remedy this, according to Jones-Jobe, Rhodes must cultivate a better relationship with the African-American community in Memphis.

Roblin Webb, another coordinator of STARR, had much to say about the problems which African-Americans face when they do decide to come to Rhodes.

"The social life is given to Caucasian students," said Webb. "They hear about parties, they can go to surrounding bars, they can become Greek, they have plenty of things to do on the weekend. But the weekend is completely different for the African-American student, we basically have nothing to do, unless you are originally from Memphis, you usually don't know a lot of other African-American peers and you definitely won't find them on the campus of Rhodes College."

Michael Thompson, Rhodes' only African-American first-year student, also commented on the issue.

"Before I came, I knew about how

non-diverse it was," said Thompson. "But I said, why not come anyway, because I can start a change. Because it is not going to help the problem for me not to come." Thompson went on to say that he felt that it is a positive thing to be the only African-American first year student because "it is a motivation, a stepping stone."

Many students acknowledge that academics and personal growth at Rhodes are still limited by the dearth of multiculturalism. Webb pointed out that everyone would benefit from a surge in enrollment of non-Caucasians.

"They [Caucasians] are forced to interact and learn from these people [minorities]," said Webb. "I was forced to interact with many Caucasian people when I came to Rhodes and I learned a great deal about myself and others as well."

Guerra and Hines agreed that the student body should also be more open to cross-cultural activity.

"Students should open their eyes

and get involved with campus issues," said Guerra.

"There is only a small group of students concerned about diversity and multiculturalism," said Hines. "Students should open themselves up to other cultures."

Lauren Utterback, Assistant Director of Admissions, addressed the Admissions Office's role in recruiting African-American students.

"The Admissions Office is working very hard in conjunction with the BSA and the Multicultural Affairs office to increase the minority population on campus," said Utterback. These efforts include setting up specific scholarships for African-American students, correlative efforts with the BSA to phone prospective African-American students to encourage their interest in Rhodes, an African-American Student Visitation Program, and contacting area high school counselors to identify African-American students who may be interested in Rhodes.

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# Arts & Entertainment

Wednesday, January 29, 1997

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## Music Academy Faculty Recital Boasts Amazing Performances Despite Small Rhodes Turnout

By Melody Barnett  
Assistant Managing Editor

On Sunday, January 19, at 3:00 p.m., The Music Academy at Rhodes featured a faculty benefit concert in Payne Recital Hall. The results were tragic.

The music was amazing: the instruments and selections featured offered more variety than anyone could ask for in a single musical event. The performances were near-flawless, offered by the teachers of the arts themselves. The most grievous thing about the performance was the fact that there were only three Rhodes students in attendance, myself included.

Here is my lament: A free concert of excellent quality was held within less than five minutes walking distance from any dorm on campus, yet Rhodes students did not attend. We spend a lot of time around here complaining that there is nothing to

do on campus. We pile into cars and desert the place, spending money every weekend in our attempts to find activities. May this review serve as a warning to all of you: Don't miss another opportunity to enjoy what you already have.

The concert featured selections ranging from Chopin to Copeland to Schubert. Highlights included John Ross' intricate guitar solo, "Capricho Arabe" by Tarrega, as well as a flawless, effortless performance of "Fair Robin I Love" from *Tartuffe* by soprano Carole Blankenship.

My favorite performances, however, were delivered by Catherine Scarbrough Fletcher, Director of the Music Academy, and her brother, Ernie Scarbrough. Both serve as faculty members of the Music Academy and the Music Department, and played short piano sets composed by Scarbrough. These pieces conjured

harmony from almost discordant notes, and, with precise delivery of complicated phrases and rests, masterfully descended upon the audience like chapters from an unfinished book. The best description I can give can be summarized in five words: You should have been there.

While Rhodes students take music lessons through the college's Music Department, children and adults from the Memphis community take private lessons through the Academy. These students and their parents comprised the majority of the audience at the benefit recital. Although the concert was free, donations were accepted at the door as part of the Academy's fund raising plan. These donations help to offset the costs of the Academy's extensive community service projects, through which over \$8,000 is spent each year teaching music to Memphis children who can-

not afford private lessons.

"We have received several grants from Memphis Arts Council to take teachers out into day care centers," said Fletcher, of one of the Academy's numerous service programs.

The benefit recital is the first of 1997's fund raising programs for the Academy. An honors recital, pre-

sented by students of the Academy, is scheduled for Monday, February 17, at 7:30 p.m. in Payne Recital Hall. Faculty members of the Music Academy and the Music Department also present recitals throughout the year. Do not miss another opportunity to hear these talented performers here on the Rhodes campus.

## Clough-Hanson Exhibit Displays Varied Medium, Subject

By Jeanne Hamilton  
Staff Correspondent

The exhibition of Don Estes, Nita Jones, and James Cooper, currently featured in the Clough-Hanson gallery, is a display of blanching whites, stretched, skin-like fibers, and striking bronze and metal bowls with gold-leafed insides. The feeling evoked by such a juxtaposition is that of a calm and lightness and, though one might perceive a sense of simplicity when examining the works from afar, this perception is immediately erased once one examines the pieces closely.

Don Estes' works on prepared paper or board are executed with graphite, acrylic, and oil stick, and are compositionally sound and similar, each containing a single diagonal. Estes' color palette consists primarily of earth tones mixed with opaque white. However, the effect of these paintings is strengthened when the deeper reds, greens, and brown-blacks are utilized; they almost cause the paintings to catch one's interest.

In the smaller gallery, a series of eight lesser-sized paintings with much the same compositional strategy as its counterpart, entitled "Delta Suite," is much more engrossing. After reading the titles while examining the

works one begins to sense a story unfolding. A palette of blanching color is still present but medium blues and greens pop up periodically.

Nita Jones' primal structures are of hand-made paper with natural fibers incorporated. These membrane-like sheets are stretched taut across vertical willow armatures, which gives the overall appearance of skin and bone. Others look more like savage kites.

The cast bowls of James Cooper are striking because of the stark, forged-iron stands that take the shape of stick figures. The gold-leafed insides of the bowls, which measure approximately four or five feet across, attract one's eye, as does the slender stem of each stand that guides it down to the limestone base. A distracting element on each of one such structure's three stems, is a crucified Christ, one figure painted in gold and two in half black and white.

Overall, the Cooper/Estes/Jones show is effective because of the logic present in its curation and organization; the continuous verticals and fair color values provide the viewer with a pleasantly buoyant feeling.



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FEBRUARY 22-23: BALLET MEMPHIS PRESENTS ENCORE- FOUR FAVORITE BALLETS

## A Day Long Awaited: Bryan Campus Life Center Dedicated

By Brendan Minihan  
Sports Editor

Representatives of the Rhodes community gathered at 10:30 a.m. on January 23 to dedicate the Bryan Campus Life Center in the name of Catherine Wilkerson Bryan. Relatives and friends of the Bryan family, including Anne Landers, and other benefactors, faculty, staff and students joined President James Daughdrill in the beginning of what he calls, "a new chapter in the story of Rhodes."

Though the building, which has been in construction since the spring of 1995, is not complete, Daughdrill and other speakers at the dedication enthusiastically showed their satisfaction with the facility.

Daughdrill referred to the C.L.C., a \$22.5 million project, as "the most ambitious building project in the history of the college."

The project was entirely funded by contributions from alumni, trustees, corporations and foundations, with most of the contributions coming from the Bryan family, Carolyn and Wynton M. Blount, Weetie and Harry J. Phillips Sr. and L. Palmer Brown III.

Daughdrill also referred to the C.L.C. as a beacon of our "majestic new life" here on Rhodes' campus.

Dr. Stephen Wirls, assistant professor of political science, took dramatic liberties in illustrating his love for the facility, which he says, "speaks in an ingeniously graceful way [to its neighboring buildings]."

Wirls, though grateful for the

new squash courts in the renovated Mallory/Hyde gymnasium, is more impressed with the physical splendor of the building. He said, "every building in its proximity takes on a new life," and referred to the 140,000 square foot building as emitting a "stream of delights to the eye."

Mike Clary, athletic director, expressed a similar delight, though not as poetically, with the interior of the complex. "We loved that grand old building," said Clary, referring to the Mallory/Hyde Gymnasium, "but we were glad to see it get a beautiful facelift." Clary believes the C.L.C. will have a considerable impact in the recruitment of prospective student-athletes.

Junior Michael Faber, president of the Rhodes Student Government, remarked on the benefits of the fully developed individual and a complete understanding of one's self, which he said are direct attributes of a student life center.

Faber jokingly called the C.L.C. "a physical representation of a Rhodes education," with the punchline of his joke being that they both take four years to complete.

The Bryan Campus Life Center is expected to be completed soon, although the date of final completion continues to extend further into this spring.

The L. Palmer Brown III Lynx Lair, where the dedication was held, has a completion date ranging from early February to March 1, according to college officials.

Portion C, the eastern most portion of the facility, which holds the

Lynx Lair, ballroom and indoor track, is the only portion of the building which is not complete.

Portion A, the renovated Mallory/Hyde Gymnasium, houses a new varsity basketball arena, racquetball and squash courts, classrooms and locker rooms.

Portion B, known as the Athletics Building, houses offices for the athletic staff, training room and fitness center. The outdoor pool will not open until this spring.

Shortly after commenting that the Bryan Campus Life Center is the finest recreational center in

America, Daughdrill compared the C.L.C. to Bryan sausage.

"[Bryan sausage] is wonderful," said Daughdrill, "but you don't want to see it being made."

All this reporter has to say is, "Hot dog, we got ourselves a gymnasium."

## Men's Basketball Blows Out Top Ranked Sewanee

By Tanner Neidhardt  
Staff Correspondent

"We protect our turf."

Those words rolled out of Coach Herb Hilgeman's mouth almost as quickly as he congratulated his players following his team's 79-56 win over The University of the South, (10-3), Friday night.

"They came to Mallory and we're 5-0 at home," Hilgeman said. "And we've got seven more here."

However, the win was more than another home court victory to add to Rhodes' overall 10-4 record. Heading into the game, Rhodes had split four conference games while Sewanee sat alone atop the SCAC standings at 4-0.

Moreover, the Tigers came into the game ranked second in the regional rankings. The victory puts Rhodes back into the conference race and gives the team a strong case for NCAA tournament consideration.

The Lynx enthusiasm began in the opening minutes of the game when the team jumped out to a 9-4 lead behind five points from post Brendan Beehan who finished the game with 17.

Rhodes expanded the lead to nine by halftime, 37-28.

"Our defense was incredible," Beehan said, "And we had great scoring distribution."

In the second half, Zack Moore took over, scoring 14 of his 17 points while playing tough defense on Sewanee's top man Ryan Harrigan.

"There were two keys to the game: we had to stop Harrigan who had 35 and 17 points last week. Zack did that," Hilgeman said. "And we had to stop [Turner] Emery. [Dave] Norton did a real good job on him." While holding Emery to just 4

of 14 shooting, Norton scored big on the offensive end, finishing with 16 points himself, including five free throws down the stretch to ice the victory.

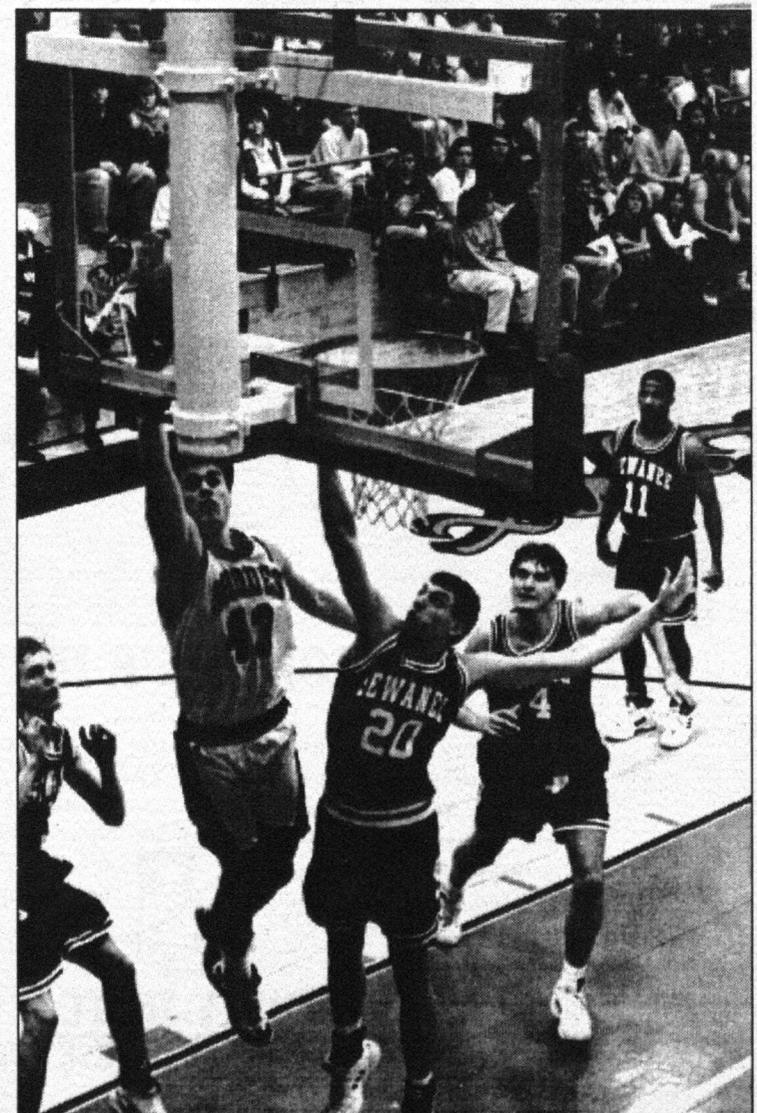
Rob Thompson and Josh Cocherham added 13 and 9 points respectively, Eric Fares got 3 and Patrick Yoder and Mark Cheney

each had one bucket to round out the Lynx scoring.

"This win is huge. We came out and played forty minutes of defense," Moore said. "They couldn't stop us on offense."

"We had to raise the roof," Beehan added.

"It was falling on us."



Enrique Espinosa/Sou'wester  
Sophomore Rob Thompson gets the ups on Sewanee defenders in Rhodes' 79-56 win.

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