

# THE SOU'WESTER

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

Vol. LXXXVII, No.1

Wednesday, August 25, 1999



Photo By Susan Hughes

## Woodstock At Rhodes

First-year students and Peer Assistants go back to the garden and take a break from the rigors of freshmen orientation to enjoy the sloppy fun of mud games.

## Students Save Faces

By Blake Rollins  
Op/Ed Editor

The future of *Faces*, Rhodes' campus directory, was brought into question this summer, as college officials considered removing the photos from the directory.

The issue arose as a result of a consistent and sustained number of potentially dangerous incidents every year related to inappropriate use of the directory.

Along with photos, *Faces* also includes personal data on students, faculty, and staff. The combination of such information and the photos translates into security risks if the directory were used by off-campus individuals. Abuse of free access to information also occurs internally.

According to Associate Dean of Student Affairs and *Faces* editor Charlie Landreth, most colleges and universities only provide freshmen directories with names and photos of the new students.

Because of the dangers presented by the inclusion of photos, Landreth

decided to remove the photographs, though, as he explained, there was no increase in *Faces*-related security incidents in the 1998-99 academic year over previous years.

In response to Landreth's decision, a group of concerned students led by Wes Meador ('00) requested a meeting with Landreth and President William Troutt. The parties discussed the extent to which *Faces* contributes to community building versus how much it threatens Rhodes safety.

Landreth said he understood how upperclassmen regard the distribution of *Faces* as a Rhodes institution that is repeated at the beginning of each year and greeted with anticipation. He also acknowledged the social significance of the publication.

"*Faces* helps you get to know people—that is indisputable," said Landreth. "Yet it is ironic that information published by Student Affairs turns around to cause [us] problems."

The Office of Student Affairs clearly intends the directory to circulate internally. As the first page of *Faces* states, "Any use of *Faces* for so-

licitation or public dissemination is prohibited."

Additionally, *Faces Online* and *Colossus Faces* are accessible only within the confines of the Rhodes campus network.

President Troutt chose to facilitate a discussion between students and Landreth. Troutt said that he had no "preconceived notions" about *Faces* and hoped to learn more about the character of Rhodes through the discussion between the two parties. Namely, he hoped to gauge the students' sense of responsibility towards the school.

As a result of this discussion, both parties agreed to continue to include the photos in *Faces* for another year while studying the use and misuse of the directory. As Troutt said, continuation of portraits in *Faces* depends on "good stewardship" on the part of students.

It is Landreth's hope that students will come to rely more heavily on the online directories where those outside the Rhodes community cannot freely access the information.

## Residence Life Solves Housing Shortage

By Valerie Witte  
News Editor

An unexpectedly large student population has prompted the residence life office to implement some changes in the residence halls this fall.

According to Director of Residence Life Carol Casey, the housing shortage was a result of two major factors.

First, more upperclassmen are living on campus, either by choice or due to the residency requirement.

"More rising juniors put down housing deposits than in the past," explained Casey, who said that the Class of 2001 placed 85 more deposits than the class of 2000. Also, the residency requirement for first- and second-year students left many rising juniors without a room. Consequently, about 90 students were placed on a waiting list for housing.

"We asked these students if they needed Rhodes assistance in helping find off-campus housing," explained Casey, "and at least half said they did." Residence Life spent the next few months trying to accommodate these students and notifying all students on the wait-list when housing on campus became available.

"All that remained were housed by July 15," Casey said.

In addition to the high number of current Rhodes students in need of housing, Rhodes found itself welcoming the largest freshman class ever. Casey and Dean of Admissions Dave Wottle stated that the goal for the new class was 432, but the number currently stands at 475.

The number was "completely unanticipated," said Casey. As Wottle explained, the admissions yield, or the percent of students who wanted to

attend Rhodes, increased three percent this year. As a result, a housing shortage was unavoidable.

In search of space, the Residence Life staff decided to relax the housing requirement for sophomore students, offering them \$500 and a return of their housing deposit to move off campus. Approximately 30 students accepted the offer. However, that still left several students homeless.

"We started looking for where we could create that space," said Casey. One decision was to make some of the doubles in Glassell Hall—the largest double rooms on campus—into triple rooms. 72 students reside in these rooms and two new triples in Trezevant Hall.

The students in the triples will receive \$300 coupons for use in the bookstore or the Lynx Lair. Although they cannot use the coupons to pur-

chase books because of financial aid reasons, the students can purchase Rhodes apparel, food, or any other supplies.

After placing men in the triples, the office needed to find a comparable amount of space to house women. They turned to Blount Hall, making the second floor a women's hall.

"We thought it would be best for the men and women in a new co-ed environment to put them in rooms with suite baths as much as we could," said Casey.

These students received letters in the mail regarding the new housing situation. Casey has received no comments about the change from these students or parents thus far.

Some of the study rooms in Williford Hall have been converted back into dorm rooms, though the smaller social rooms remain. Also, the

offices of Neely Hall have been converted into dorm rooms and now house nine women.

This is not the first time students have been housed in these areas; the rooms served as student housing in the '94-'95 school year as well.

The Residence Life office is currently looking for ways to accommodate the growing number of students at Rhodes.

"We hired consultants in May to look at our housing situation and what our needs might be," Casey said. The consulting team will be talking with students, particularly members of Rhodes Student Government, to determine how the needs of the campus can best be served. Faculty and staff will also be consulted.

According to Casey, a new residence hall could be ready by the fall of 2001 at the earliest.

# Opinion

THE SOU'WESTER

## EDITORIAL OF THE SOU'WESTER

Well, we're back. It has been a not-so-long, hot summer, and *The Sou'wester* staff finds itself once again in the "Underworld" of Palmer, in the space known as the Pub Center.

Some things never change.

Books still cost too much. Lines are too long, and there are fines to be paid from semesters past. Parking becomes more scarce as the days pass.

Peer Assistants are still smiling and wearing shirts that invite freshmen to "Ask Me!"

Fliers with directions to Mud Island are still mysteriously being slipped under freshmen's doors. Who knows how they got there....

Freshman still wander aimlessly around campus trying to distinguish one Gothic building from the other.

Faces still has faces, which is quite a relief to those of us who heard that we might be receiving a directory lacking in faces, entitled something like "Faces Without Faces" or "The Directory Formerly Known As Faces," or even "Where Have All The Faces Gone?" Not that anyone on staff spent any time thinking up titles of any such publication.

However, quite a lot is new this

fall. Cindy Pennington, former Director of Student Activities, has left, and her responsibilities has been split between two positions. Marie Lindquist is the new director of Orientation and Leadership programs. Joe Petri is the new Director of Student Activities.

Orientation looks somewhat different this year as well. Gone are the opening convocation and Daughdrill's joke that you could be sitting next to your future spouse. Cruise-in was the first night of orientation instead of the last. All this change is mind-boggling.

People are living in the Rat and we have a co-ed dorm, despite what any ARO tour guide might tell you. Men and women sharing the same door dec. What will the Presbyterians say?

Most dramatically, we have a new President. Dr. William Troutt joins us after seventeen years as President of Belmont College in Nashville. With Troutt's arrival, the coming year promises to be an exciting time for the Rhodes community.

One of the most significant changes that the new leadership is likely to effect is an improvement in student-administration rela-

tions. There is already evidence of this change.

Take, for example, Troutt's approach to the student protest over the omission of photos in the student directory. When a number of students directly approached Troutt concerning this issue, he initiated a dialogue with Dean Landreth that led to a quick solution. As a result, this year's Faces will, indeed, include photos, as earlier mentioned.

Troutt has also made a general effort to meet and establish a good rapport with the student body. By speaking with students in meetings, at lunch, and simply in passing, he has demonstrated a will to listen to student concerns whenever possible.

And if Troutt is willing to listen, then we should all be willing to make ourselves heard. We, the staff of Rhodes' own *Sou'wester*, promise to provide a platform for those voices and to offer a clear view of the developing issues here at Rhodes in the year to come. And not necessarily just at Rhodes.

Life at Rhodes is important to us all, but there is undeniably plenty of life outside the gates that impacts all of our lives. In the past *The Sou'wester* has focused prima-

rily on campus-wide issues, and, while this continues to be a vital part of *The Sou'wester's* mission, we will strive to expand the scope of our reporting.

We believe that the quality of *The Sou'wester* can be boosted by providing coverage of local, national, and international events. The 2000 presidential election, for instance, is certainly a topic that will merit our attention.

We also intend to expand our reporting on happenings in the arts, particularly in the Memphis area. Our city has a rich artistic tradition, and it warrants more space in a Memphis publication. In short, we would be doing a disservice to the Rhodes community to ignore outside events.

Furthermore, we would like to see our stories and columns provoke discussion within our pages and beyond. For this to be achieved, we need committed people to ensure that no voice goes unheard and no significant issue ignored.

Above all, however much we turn our attention to the outside world, we are still a campus newspaper. We are firmly committed to providing a forum for student coverage of the life of this college.

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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. 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 Tuthill 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 Rhode'ster*, 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.

### REACHING THE SOU'WESTER

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<http://www.students.rhodes.edu/sw/>  
 Member, Associated College Press (ACP)

NEWS  
 ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT  
 CAMPUS EVENTS  
 SPORTS  
 FEATURES

Writers needed for all sections

Photography and Layout positions also available

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First Staff Meeting:  
 August 29, 1999  
 3 p.m.  
 105 Buckman

FIND OUT WHAT YOU CAN DO THIS YEAR AT RHODES AT:

The Annual Kinney/Activities Fair on

Thursday, August 26, 1999 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the Amphitheater

## Back To School Advice

BARRET HATHCOCK  
HANGDOG



Freshpeople, you have finally arrived. Hopefully, this advice will make things easier.

Don't drink unidentified punch. It's just not worth it. Really, would you usually eat/drink anything served out of a trash can? Don't let the excitement of new places and their new people lower your standards that much. However, like telling one's dog not to drink out of the toilet bowl, this, too, is futile advice.

You will all get fatter. You should all learn to love yourselves because there will be more of you around in a few months. You could exercise, eat well, and drink tasty beverages in moderation. But my advice is to start looking for new clothes.

Respect Physical Plant and Housekeeping. (For those of you who haven't figured it out yet, "Physical Plant" is a euphemism for "Maintenance"). These people clean up/fix our mess—to an extent. I don't fear the end of the world; I do fear the day that the Housekeeping and Physical Plant

staff both decide that enough is enough and walk out on us. And there we are, left to tend to our own bathrooms and broken fuses. (Campus Safety is also included here, which should really be a given. It's a bad, bad world out there, but it's a bit better with a safety hut and a bike cop. I promise. Get lost in Midtown a few hundred times and see what I mean.)

In relative academic terms, your freshman year will be the easiest here. So don't choke.

For those of you with a hometown honey or a long-distance lover, I wish I could give you good, hopeful advice. But I won't spoil your optimistic mood.

For those about to rush...a friendly reminder. Brotherhood and Sisterhood are good and noble ideals, but real friends don't require a secret handshake (or a check).

Don't play video games. Some people say that there is only time to do three things here, while the opportunities just keep growing. For instance, there is really only time for sleep, class, study; or possibly sleep, drink, study; or drink, sport X, sleep, etc. and so forth. My point is: don't waste one of those time slots on video games. In hindsight, my freshman year would have been better spent do-

ing drugs. I'll take a few hundred dead brain cells over the high score in Dig-Dug and a thumb blister any day.

Turn off the TV. Between the Alpha e-mail system and Faces, it's a miracle we actually get to class; and now that we have cable, (yes, Freshpeople, this is new, so be thankful) I don't know how we will survive the throes of procrastination. Besides the fact that daytime TV is complete crap and has evolved into the equivalent of watching a colored candle sway behind a pane of glass, there are a million other things to do at college that are much more fun and educational—drugs, sex, et al. Remember, it's all about time management! (A footnote to this piece of advice: though many of you upper, under, overclassmen might not know this, our beloved Faces was almost thrown to the dogs over this past summer. I don't know the sticky details, but thanks to a few unnamed students and our wonderful new president (major cool points for the Troutt, here) our Faces retained it's faces. I think they were going to do away with the actual photographs, which would have eliminated such great games as, "Who's that gimp in my Poli Sci class?" or "Who's that guy with the good butt?" So, hold your brand new Faces to your breast and say a little

prayer for those who rescued our fun.)

Communicate with your roommate. Residence Life might still be doing those roommate agreements where you promise such silly things as not to try on your roomie's clothes without his/her permission and not to play with their food. But the real issue that must be addressed without any further delay is shacking. A few simple steps will eliminate much embarrassment and interrupted fun for the rest of the year to come. First things first, establish a sign; make it a blue tack, a white flag, a skull and cross bones painted in fingernail polish on the doorknob—anything, unless you want some company. (And there's nothing wrong with that, now is there.)

Another friendly reminder: today's academic arena holds possibilities for study in areas that your parents know nothing about. This can be both good and bad. You can wow them with your dialectical discussions of cultural materialism. But Daddy's gonna be pissed if this means you aren't still a Republican. Which leads me to...your parents will change. Never again will they be the loving and doting couple that has nourished your every move. Granted, their ratio of change will

be directly proportional to the number of kiddies left in the house when you leave. But, if you're the last of the coup to get drop-kicked out of the nest, you will soon discover that your parents will obtain these odd things called "hobbies" and will explore lives that don't have anything to do with you. They might take that vacation to the Bahamas that you always wanted—minus you; or move without calling you until after they have renamed your new room the "guest room"; or worse—they might try to get in shape. Come home to your parents in Spandex, that's a complete horror. I should point out, though, that the parents might not change nearly as much as the children will. Part of the pleasure and pain in college is that (if you are thinking even just a little bit) whatever you thought was the Truth before you arrived will mutate by the time you go home. Of course, this will become more pronounced as time goes by. You won't really notice it until sometime in sophomore year when you look around at your relatives and lovingly think to yourself, "These people are whacked." You will learn that your parents, like you, really have no clue, and this is both comforting and sad.

And my last piece of advice: don't take anyone's advice. It's a crapshoot. Do well.

## A Momentary Lapse Of Reason

JEREMY MUNGLE  
FAC MUNDUM  
ROMAM



apparently, i was insane last semester. i conscientiously took my antidepressants and received regular psychiatric care, but it must not have been enough this past spring semester. i never noticed any problems with my mental health, but insanity is the only reason i can think of that would have led me to choose to live with two guys on the third floor of Blount.

i have not spent many nights with my new roommates yet, but i am worried already. before i moved in with these guys, i thought i knew them. they seemed perfectly well adjusted and benign to me as i walked with them into the inner sanctuary of the residence life office to choose our triple. the past few days i have spent with these two guys, however, have revealed to me just how wrong i was.

roommate #1 seems to have made it his mission in life to destroy me with sound. i am serious about my musical tastes, and people whom i have deemed as having bad musical tastes really annoy me. roommate #1 has an unhealthy and juvenile obsession with the world's most arrogant rock band, K.I.S.S.

our room probably has the largest collection of K.I.S.S. memorabilia on campus. at least one K.I.S.S. album can be found in the CD changer at all times. i do not think i can take listening to the B-sides from Peter Criss's solo album much longer. every morning when i wake up, the first thing i see is the official K.I.S.S. "psycho circus" screensaver on roommate #1's computer. it really is too much of a bad thing.

roommate #2 does not like K.I.S.S. very much either, but he is way too into comics and his plan file. this guy is more excited by the newest issue of "Daredevil" than he is by the freshman girls living one floor below him. our room boasts an extensive collec-

tion of all the finest comics, and as the word gets out, the number of people in our reading room grows. roommate #2's other passion in life is his plan file. he puts a lot of effort into it and has a surprisingly large number of regular readers. every month he has a quote contest, and i live in constant fear that someday i am going to say something really embarrassing about the size of my penis or something even worse and he is going to broadcast it to the Rhodes community over his plan file.

besides my roommates, there are things about my room and the dorm itself that make it clear that i was not in my right mind when i chose to live here last spring. to begin with, my room is on the third floor. for some reason i did not think that this was a problem. i guess i thought the 800 pounds of plastic dorm crap i bought at Target would magically carry itself up the stairs and put itself neatly away in my room. there is nothing like three flights of stairs that can drive even a flaming materialist like myself

to the most austere lifestyle. every little "necessity" that i thought i would need this year, like glassware for 10 and a box of stuff that i did not even unpack last year, became heavier with each step i took. it required some careful planning to make sure i was absent when it was time to bring up our large and cumbersome couch.

considering the elevation of my room, you might think it would be a dry arid place not unlike the top of a mountain. this could not be farther from the truth. my room has the authentic feel and smell of a tropical rainforest. it is so humid and musty in there that i swear i have seen short men in loin cloths hunting parrots.

Blount used to be a haunted dorm. it was not haunted by ghosts, but people who thought they were ghosts and vampires and other such fantasy creatures. i have been told that these people turned the third floor, with its storage closets and study room, into some sort of hotel

for people who had trouble separating themselves from their role-playing characters. worst of all, my room was the headquarters for these people and their activities. i can only guess at what went on in my room during those times. the reports of the paint crew that painted the room following its last year of service to these people describe weird furniture arrangements, unusual carpet stains, and an unpleasant stench. all of this is more than enough fuel for my overactive imagination to spook myself out. even the laundry room has its own stories to tell.

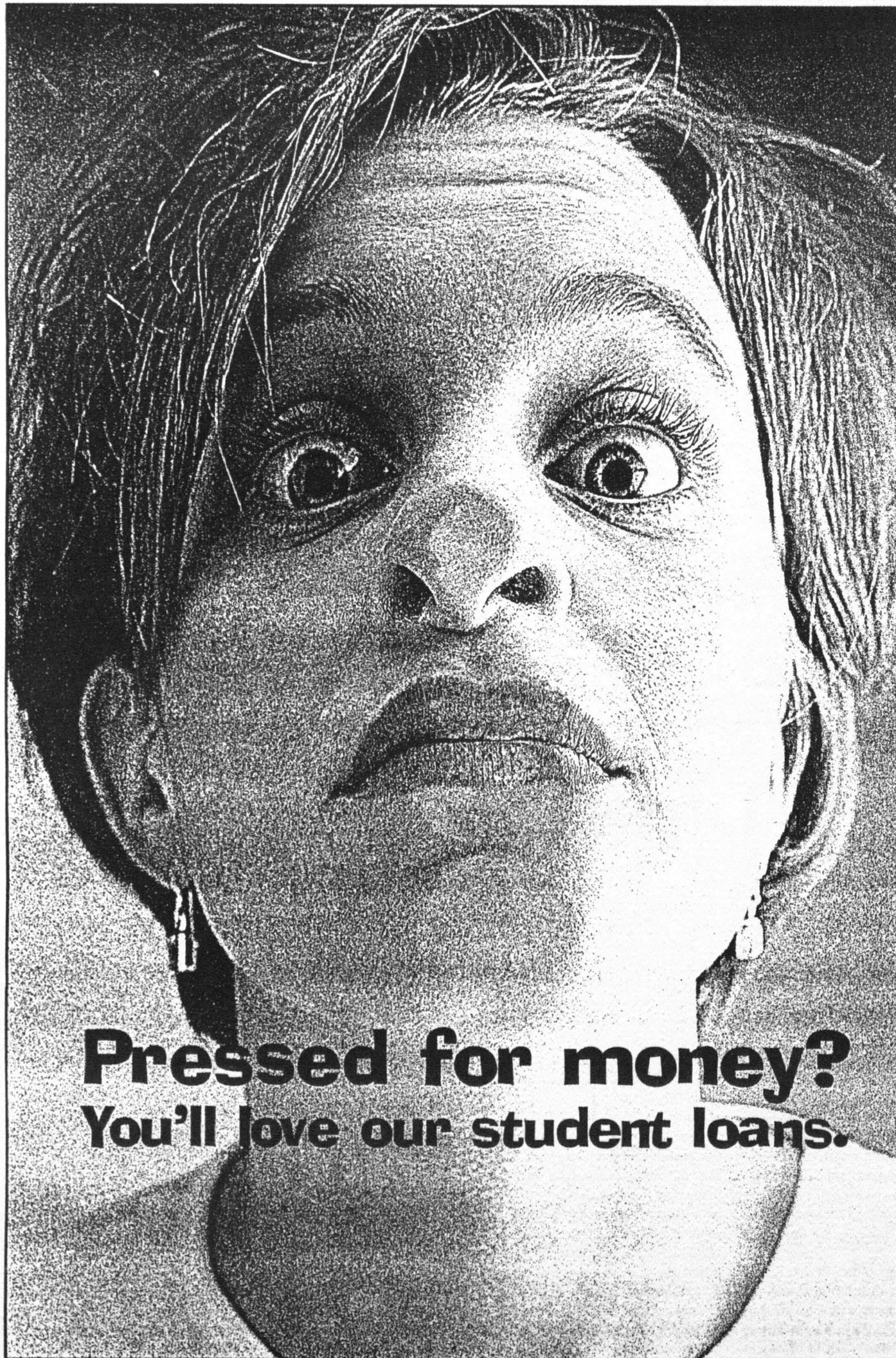
it is clear to me now that i probably could have made better choices last spring about my residence for this year. in the future i think i am going to have all my choices for living accommodations evaluated by independent second- and third- party accounting firms, but, for now, at least my roommates don't drink blood, and at least i don't live in Stewart.

# News

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Wednesday, August 25, 1999



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## Cable Installed In Most Dorm Rooms Over Summer Break; All Dorms Wired By Next Fall

By Steele Means  
Associate Editor

One of the most significant capital improvements to on-campus housing to greet returning and first-year students alike is the provision of cable access in each dorm room.

According to Allen Boone, Dean of Administrative Services and the person with whom the final decision on capital improvements to the college lay, work on this project began this past summer.

The college negotiated a contract with Time Warner to install the cable and Time Warner subsequently hired a separate cable contractor to do the wiring.

The capital outlay for this enterprise was somewhat over \$100,000, also according to Boone.

While this undertaking has not yet been completed, as Blount, Robinson, Williford, and Glassell halls still lack cable connection, each on-campus resident will enjoy access by the beginning of the fall se-

mester of 2000.

Boone stated that work will continue during the academic year and that the contractors should finish their task at some point next summer.

According to Charlie Landreth, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, those sections of the Administration involved in the initial deliberations concerning whether or not cable should be installed included Dean Boone, Student Affairs, and the Chancellor's office. Residence Life participated as well.

There was no student representation during the course of the discussion, but Landreth pointed out that the impetus to consider room-by-room cable installation in the first place came from vocal student interest therein.

"We had the desire to improve the quality of life [for on-campus residents]," said Landreth, adding that it was thought that room cable connection would make on-campus housing more attractive as a resi-

dence option for students.

Boone added that he felt that providing cable to students was a worthy endeavor due to "increasing interest on the part of resident students for individual room connections to cable tv."

Housing costs did not rise this year as a result of this improvement venture. Commenting on this subject, Carol Casey, Director of Residence Life, stated that it would not be fair to raise costs for all students this year when only some are benefitting from the increased expenditure.

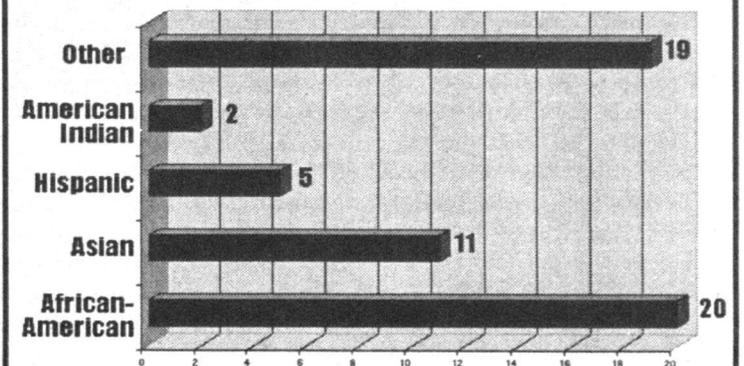
Nevertheless, she does feel that the price of on-campus residence is due for a rise next year anyway.

Boone concurred that it is possible that housing costs will rise next year, though he stated that it is too early in the budget process to be sure at this point.

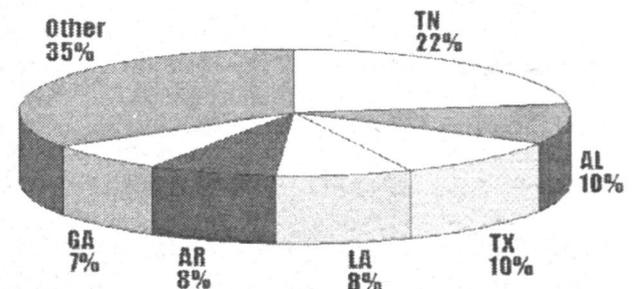
He went on to say that the last time those rates were raised was in 1996, when they rose \$112 from those in 1995.

## Breakdown Of Enrollment In The Class Of 2003

Class of '03: Minority Enrollment



Class of '03: Where They're From



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# Arts & Entertainment

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## Gran Torino Returns To Rhodes

By Matthew Shippe  
Editor-in-Chief

Gran Torino, the pop-funk group hailing from Knoxville, TN, is playing Rhodes on Friday, August 27, at 9:30 p.m. in the Amphitheater.

Those of you who were here or are able to remember anything from Rites of Spring two years ago should recall Gran Torino as the band that closed Friday night's festivities that year.

During their set at Rites, Gran Torino showed themselves to be a high energy live act. Their horn-driven melodies and jams played well to the rowdy beast that is the Rites crowd. Their set that year was tight and funky, and longer than an hour, something that cannot be said about that year's headliners, The Smithereens.

The group has released one album, 1997's appropriately titled *One*. To be perfectly frank, I have always been slightly apprehensive about studio albums from groups like Gran Torino. Rarely is a fun-loving, funk

group able to transpose their material from the live arena to disc without losing the adrenaline that made the music enjoyable in the first place. However, on *One*, Gran Torino is able to capture, for the most part, the freshness of their live acts on their debut album.

The album kicks off with the tight instrumental "Dopamine." The song exemplifies what a good rock instrumental should sound like. It is based on a solid hook and it clocks in at 2:44, so it leaves no room for tire-some noodling.

The track also serves as a good example of the group's instrumental sound. The music is propelled by the group's horn section, comprised of Jason Thompson, Dexter Murphy, PJ Alexander, and Scott Pederson. The group is anchored by Whit Pfohl on drums, and his drumming is consistent enough to hold the song's structure together.

The album really hits a good groove with the next three tracks.

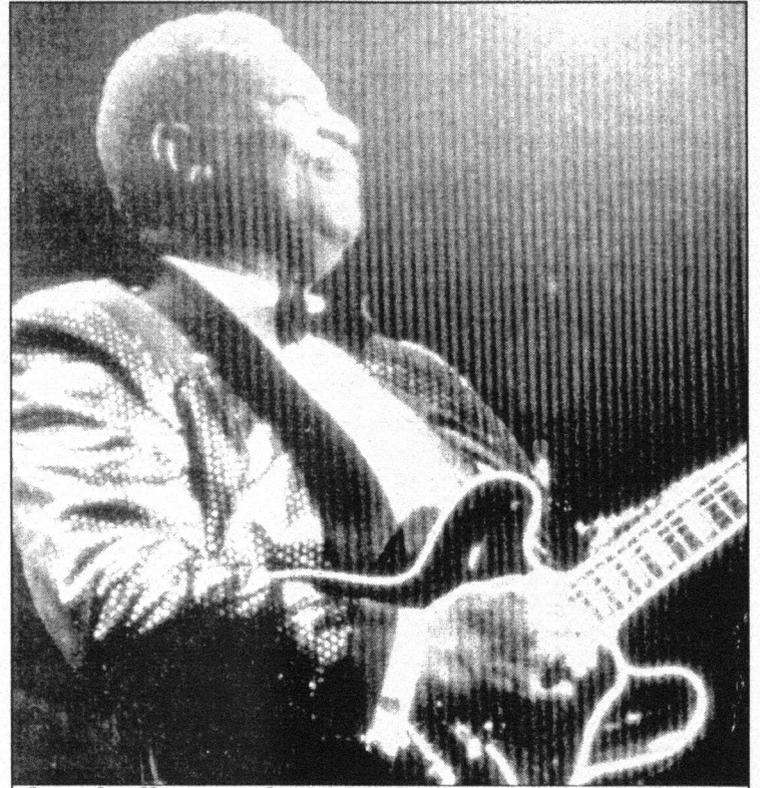
"Telenova" and "Push" are really the stand-out songs. Both of these songs have great hooks, and Chris Ford's somewhat scratchy vocals help make both of these funky treasures.

Hearing the group on record, one can easily tell the group's influences. The group definitely pays homage to Stevie Wonder. Bits of *Songs in the Key of Life* float throughout this record, but Gran Torino could pick much worse artists to emulate than Stevie Wonder.

The record has a few slow spots and, at times, Torino's sound gets a bit repetitive. However, they are able to maintain their energy for the majority of the album.

The only time the album slips is when singer Chris Ford starts rapping his lyrics. When this happens the songs sound like 311 b-sides. However, all said, *One* is a fine record.

Gran Torino hits the stage at 9:30. The show is being sponsored by Rhodes Activities Board.



The Thrill Is Back

Photo courtesy of B.B. King's Blues Club

**B.B. King will be playing at B.B. King's Blues Club on Aug 30th. For Ticket Information call 524-5464.**

## Summer Films: In With A Whimper, Out With A Bang

By Steve Perry  
Staff Writer

Given the pathetic amount of attention it got, it's only appropriate that this overview of summer films begin with *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace*, a film so big it could transcend real world problems and normal financial expectations to seize our national consciousness, at least for a month. Unfortunately for the film, it could not similarly transcend basic standards of good taste, making *TPM* a pale successor--excuse me, predecessor--to the original trilogy of the Star Wars saga, which, thanks to *TPM*'s pat plot robbing, is now original in more ways than one.

The film should have been a profound tragedy. After all, despite the seeming triumph, the foundation for the Republic's fall is laid, and it is done by what the good guys themselves do, in a blind attempt to be ready-made heroes. Lucas probably felt that if he emphasized that point too strongly, the audience would have realized that the planet-hopping and the taxation of trade to outlying colonies was all basically pointless. But this is *Star Wars*. We already knew that it had no point.

A smarter film would have done numerous things differently, but, first and foremost, it would have emphasized the tragedy by being less catty about its catty villain. But Lucas wanted to sell toys, so

he quickly brushed aside a potentially intelligent villain in favor of a baddie who jumped and spun a lot, with convenient red-on-black coloration to denote that he's just not bad, he's an archetype, which is another way to say that he is a painted villain with paint-by-numbers characterization.

The toy factor no doubt did much to unravel *The Phantom Menace*. Young Anakin saves the planet by complete accident, and why not? Little boys may sympathize with superheroes, but they'd only be jealous of a boy their own age blessed with supernatural gifts, so Lucas made Anakin more or less a bumbler and stumbler, ensuring that all those Darth Maul skateboards and Pod Racer games would be quickly bought up. Lucas is the Barnum of our times, suckering us all to see an event simply because it is an event.

It is most unfortunate that Stanley Kubrick died. I would have much rather seen Lucas die before his film opened, even if that meant depriving me of the satisfaction of seeing him endure critics excoriating his movie's pseudo-mythology for the intellectual fraud it is. At least then Lucas would not be around to force two more of these films down our throats.

Furthermore, Kubrick had actual talent, and, despite the problems

with *Eyes Wide Shut*, that talent was once again evident. The direction was luminous; the film had room to breathe, as conversations were allowed to go their natural length, and Kubrick imbued his setting with dream-like otherworldliness.

Then came the end. No doubt Kubrick would have done more to repair some of the film's pacing problems (he edited *The Shining* after it was in theaters, even), but it is hard to imagine how he could have repaired his film's lack of a clear message. Was Kubrick, at heart, a stodgy old family values fart? Then why the last line that seemingly cheapens that? Kubrick directed this film a little too well; it is hard to appreciate what he is saying about the relationship between men and women when most of the film feels like a lushly done spectacle that, however well shot, amounts to little more than *Porky's*-style voyeurism seen through a fog of chanting and incense.

The fact that the most noteworthy thing about this summer is two major disappointments speaks volumes about the state of movies in America. These films showed that hype and prestige can only go so far. If a film, no matter how well hyped, wants to survive the onslaught of summer competitors, it might just have to bother to be good.

*The Blair Witch Project* hasn't gone over that well simply because it's a bit spooky. It does what a film is supposed to do by sucking you into the world of the characters, not only through its directorial gimmicks and method acting, but also because the story proved to be less about a witch than it was about three students living out a nightmare before us. Perhaps the most disturbing thing about this film is that it manages to have better dialogue and a better sense of storytelling than other films that were actually working off scripts.

Similarly, *The Sixth Sense* was so refreshing not because of any spook factor, but because the film treated its audiences with a little respect. The film is a bit boring in spots, and I am not sure that the idea of "I see dead people" is much of anything compelling, but the movie adds up beautifully. Scenes actually had relevance to each other, and, in the end, they all connected to a plot twist that a handful, at best, saw coming.

Last summer's *There's Something About Mary* did much of the same, with a clever plot that made the film endearing, at least to me. It apparently endeared itself to Hollywood, however, through its occasional gross-out gags about bodily fluids that did more to distract and shock than they did to provide humor.

But Hollywood ran with that anyway. *American Pie* was more or less an excuse to show a boy having sex with a pie on screen. *South Park* had fantastic musical numbers, but it's hard to respect a movie that passes itself off as fresh and intellectual for saying that parents are mean and censorship stinks. *Summer of Sam* fashioned itself as a study of the dichotomies that exist within us all, but Spike Lee interpolated in that "Baba O'Riley," some cutesy Seventies nostalgia, and a lot of sex, all surrounded by a plot full of stupid people acting stupidly, leaving a mess of a film.

Lowest-common-denominator movies took turns holding onto the top of the box office, each for one week before passing it on to their fatally flawed successors. At first that suggests that the American public will simply lap up whatever is handed to them. Perhaps that was true in the past, but it is becoming less and less that way. After movie companies shove hype down the throats of the public, of course audiences will pile in to see *The Haunting* or *Wild Wild West* for one weekend. But they will all leave understanding how truly execrable those films are, rendering these movies box office non-factors by the next week. A sucker may be born every minute, but not even a sucker is going to pay \$8 to see Kenneth Branagh on a mechanical spider.

## The Twenty Top Places To Go In Memphis

By The Sou'wester Staff

For those of you who are new to Memphis and for returning students who have led very sheltered lives since you've been at Rhodes, *The Sou'wester's* staff has compiled a short list of Memphis hot spots for your consideration. There's more to Memphis than Beale Street and the Wolfchase Galleria.

1. **The Arcade Restaurant**, 540 S Main St., 526-5757: A Memphis landmark, the Arcade is great for unique pizzas and Southern cooking.

2. **The Cupboard**, 1495 Union Ave., 276-8015: The best source for down-home, artery-clogging, inexpensive Southern cuisine. There is not a permanent menu, rather a certain number of regularly rotating specials (typically a main meat dish with choice of vegetables) are offered every day. Cornbread, rolls, and fried chicken, this is why we live in Memphis.

3. **Ernestine & Hazel's**, across from the Arcade: A former brothel, which offers a dark, bluesy, melancholic atmosphere. It is a bar first and foremost, though the staff cooks up wonderful "Soulburgers" as well. As if this place didn't already have enough ambience, the second floor of E&H usually becomes a "piano bar" on weekends.

4. **The Center for Southern Folklore**: This is a great place for you kiddies who may not be old enough to get in to the bars on Beale Street. With all of the character expected from a Memphis blues joint and performers like Mose Vincent, this is the perfect place to unwind with a cup of coffee and dessert.

5. **Have A Nice Day**: Ready to groove to the sounds of the Bee Gees, ABBA, Michael Jackson, and the B52s? Check out the newest dance club on Beale Street, where you can dine at Smiley-face tables and drink Happy Bowls, fish bowls filled with a fruity drink of your choice. Black lights and a room-size mural featuring such classic performers as John Travolta, Elvis, and Elton John complete the atmosphere.

6. **Imperial Lanes**, 4700 Summer Ave., 684-5224: Old, classic bowling alley with lots of character. Don't miss late night bowling, 9-12, cheap!

7. **Memphis Pizza Cafe**, 2087 Madison Ave., 726-5343: Located in Overton Square (worth exploration), this place offers great pizza in both standard and unusual styles.

8. **New Daisy Theater**, 330 Beale, 525-8979: Another Memphis land-

mark, hosts a wide variety of acts, but tickets go fast. Bob Dylan's own Memphis pick!

9. **Fino's**, 1853 Madison Avenue, 272-3466: This is a very popular spot with Rhodes students, as well as the entirety of Memphis, apparently. Fino's is both an Italian grocery and deli, which serves possibly the best Italian-style sandwiches to be found in a 500 mile radius. They are that good, trust us.

10. **Quick-Check**, 2462 Summer Avenue, 458-1998: Despite appearances, this convenience store is a premier sandwich-making facility. The muffettas are phenomenal. Extraspicy available.

11. **Side Street Bar & Grill**, 31 S. Florence, 274-8955: Right next to Overton Square, the Side Street offers unsurpassed cocktails (the martinis and Old-Fashioneds are heavenly), cigars, and tasty, though somewhat expensive, cuisine. The small size of the Side Street and its intimate, sophisticated atmosphere make it a great choice for a "special" occasion, as well as for regular gatherings of friends.

12. **Owen Brennan's Sunday Brunch**, 6150 Poplar Avenue, 761-0990: A good cajun-style restaurant in its own right, but the jazz brunch buffet on Sunday mornings is just exquisite. A flat charge buys all one can eat of breakfast fare (including made-on-the-spot omelettes, eggs benedict, and waffles), cajun dishes, and desserts. Unlimited mimosas as well. Expensive certainly (around 17 dollars per person), but worth every penny.

13. **McAlister's Deli**: Poplar Plaza, 3482 Plaza Ave.: The sandwiches here are huge, the baked potatoes are the biggest you've ever seen, and the sweet tea is perfect. It's great for a lunch or dinner, especially in the spring or fall, since they have (somewhat limited) outdoor seating. McAlister's is a family-friendly establishment, and lots of people go there for parties or big get-togethers.

14. **Young Avenue Deli**, 2119 Young Ave, near the corner of Cooper St.: The Young Ave. Deli is another fine place to eat. To be honest, though, the place is really more of a bar than a deli. It has pool tables, video games, and the occasional live band. The food is very good and the service is friendly. They do a good job of giving their food a special touch, so the sandwiches that you're familiar with are usually spiced up somehow.

15. **Pancake Shop**, 4838 Summer Avenue: Mixing a powerful blend of chopped bananas and Godfather-crushed walnuts, the Pancake Shop packs a mighty wallop for the money. The pancakes are warm and rubbery, the butter doled out in self-sealed packages, and the water is still served in miniature, scratched plastic cups. But the proximity on Summer Avenue determines the Pancake Shop charm. And yes, they re open 24 hours for your experimenting first years.

16. **Burke's Books**, 1719 Poplar Avenue, 278-7484: A very cozy bookstore with an excellent selection. The categorization and separation of the books is a bit haphazard, but that is part of its charm. Comfortable easy-chairs are provided for your browsing pleasure.

17. **Cinema Showcase 12**, 5117 Old Summer Avenue, 763-3456: This cinema is notable for several reasons. One is the fact that during late afternoon to early evening hours, it offers an inviting special. One low price buys the cost of admission, a bucket of popcorn, and a drink. It also is one of the few places in Memphis to see foreign and independent films.

18. **Otherlands Coffee Bar**, 641 S. Cooper, 278-4994: Located in the trendy and hip Cooper-Young area, Otherlands is a stellar coffee bar and cafe. Your standard selection of espresso drinks and tea is available, along with tasty bagels and other small snacks. Good music and a relaxed atmosphere await you. Attached to the coffee bar is a gift shop, which sells exotic and quirky items. Be forewarned though, the opening hours are somewhat short.

19. **Cozy Corner Restaurant**, 745 N. Parkway, 527-9158: Forget Corky's and Rendezvous, this is THE place in Memphis for good barbecue. It is located near Rhodes and is in a relatively dingy area, but it offers stupendous barbecue sandwiches and plates, as well as a genuine, "non-touristy", atmosphere.

20. **Overton Park** (during the day), located along Poplar Avenue, by the Brooks Museum: Why not? Once you are sick and tired of all this indoor entertainment, head over to the park with friends and play frisbee and enjoy the fresh air and sunshine. Or go alone and catch up on your "non-school" reading. But this is also the place to avoid should you decide to go for a walk at night, unless you feel like testing your new skills learned at kickboxing aerobics.



Photo by Val Witte  
Jeremy Boyd ('01) helps Matt Reed ('02) get back on his feet as part of the Late Show during orientation for first-year students Saturday night.



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